



League of Friends

Spring 2012

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Registered Charity No: 200656

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Committee News

We would like to welcome new members Bob Montieth, Penny Bradley, Dee Young and John Orr to the League of friends committee and bid farewell to loyal members Fay Foster & Anne Colles. Fay Foster our vice chair who has been with us since 2001 was also an invaluable help with the newsletter. Ann Colles joined in 2004. She was a staff nurse on night duty for 18 years at the hospital. She has always helped with garden, she pushed the trolley and still takes her dog Basil in as PAT dog. Our thanks go to both formidable women for their hard work over the past decade.

Chairman's Report 2012

The transfer of responsibility for providing community health services at Haslemere Hospital, and elsewhere in West Surrey, from Surrey Community health to Virgin Medical was to have taken place on 1st January but did not occur. One of the reasons for this was the failure of Surrey PCT to sort out what would happen to the ownership of the properties it holds on behalf of the government when it ceases to exist in 2013 - assuming that the bill currently before the House of Commons is ratified and becomes an act before the end of the parliamentary session.

Fear of what might happen to the hospital when this happens was the reason that the League of Friends began to research the possibility of helping to set up a public trust that could take over the head-lease of the hospital for a peppercorn rent for as long as the site was used for health purposes. This idea seems to have been scotched by instructions issued by the Department of Health and conveyed to the League by Minister for Health, Simon Burns MP that all such properties will be centralised in a body known as NHS Property Services Ltd. This will be responsible for ensuring that the buildings are maintained to a proper and satisfactory level and hopefully will do it better than its previous keepers. Under the bill responsibility for commissioning community health services at Haslemere Hospital will be done by clinical commissioning groups (CCG) in Surrey and adjoining counties. Haslemere GPs are members of the Guildford and Waverley CCG and are of course only a small minority.

For Haslemere Hospital to continue to provide services at its present level – let alone at a higher one as Government policy to treat more people in the community rather than in acute general hospitals demands – GPs will have to be convinced that their patients want to be treated at and in Haslemere Hospital rather than elsewhere. That is where the friends of the Hospital come in – they have to convince their GP that when there is a realistic medical option they would prefer to be treated or seen by a specialist at Haslemere rather than elsewhere.

In the autumn of last year the League of Friends realised that a lot of people knew less about their local hospital than was good for them or for the continued existence of the hospital. Some who would have benefitted from it had no idea that Haslemere Hospital has a minor injuries unit that would enable them to avoid going to Guildford for treatment that required more skill than was available at home – or needed a professional eye – but did not need the full panoply of the A&E department of the Royal Surrey County Hospital.

Even fewer knew how wide a range of Consultant outpatient sessions there are at Haslemere which could remove the necessity of them travelling to Guildford. So we decided to carry out a survey with the challenging title "Use it or Lose It" that many of you will have read about in the local press. Some 5000 leaflets were produced and distributed throughout the hospital's catchment area which covers not only South-West Surrey but quite large chunks of East Hampshire and West Sussex. In addition

to the leaflets we have been fortunate enough to get our questionnaire published in most local parish and church magazines. The response rate has been very encouraging and I am currently carrying out a preliminary analysis of the first 650 replies we have had. Those from the first 150 received via our web page are shown below. Whilst all this has been going on the League has continued to help improve the lot of the staff and patients already attending the hospital by purchasing equipment for which there is a need but not the funds from the NHS to buy it (separate item). It has also put aside money to equip a small laboratory that will enable a limited range of diagnostic tests

"Use it or Lose It"

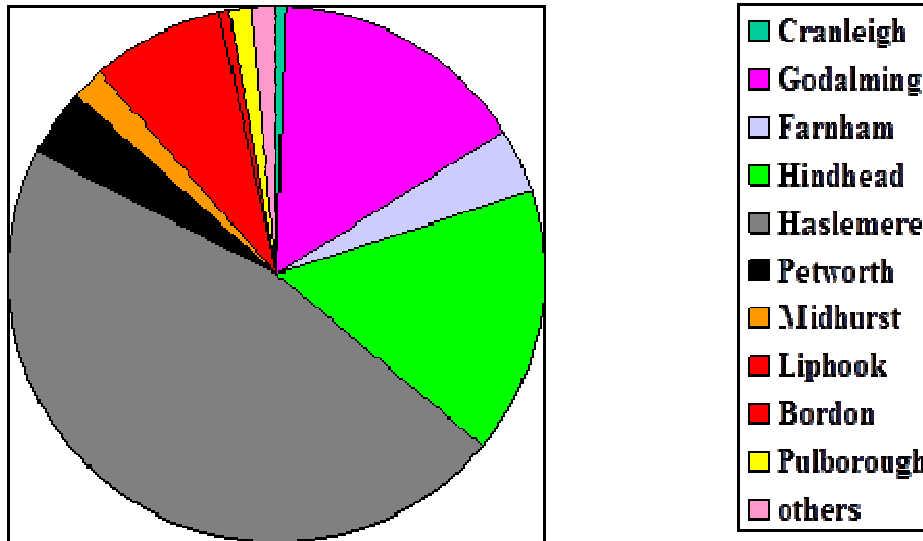
to be performed immediately and locally once our new provider is properly in place.

Replies were received from the whole of the hospital's catchment area. Slightly under half were from Haslemere itself. 20% of the replies were from East Hampshire (mainly Liphook) and West Sussex which indicates the hospital's importance to residents living outside the county. Nine of the 150 respondents – 4 of them from Haslemere - did not know that there was a minor injuries unit in Haslemere and two didn't answer the question. 147/150 (98%) people who answered question 2 would prefer to come to Haslemere rather than go to the Royal Surrey, Frimley Park or St Richards for minor injuries that could be dealt with locally especially if the opening hour were extended.

A surprisingly large number, no less than 48 respondents, did not realise how extensive outpatient facilities are at Haslemere in response to question 3 or that they can be seen in Haslemere rather than at the Royal Surrey if they wish. In reply to question 4 only one person said they would

prefer to go to the Royal Surrey for an out-patient appointment. Two thirds of our respondents (99/150) half of whom live in Haslemere did not know that that our hospital has two sex segregated wards with modern bathroom facilities for the treatment of patients suffering from conditions that can be

properly dealt with in a community hospital. In reply to question 6, all but 2 people were fervently in favour of keeping in-patient beds open in Haslemere hospital for people too sick to nurse at home but not sufficiently ill to need high-powered care in a large acute general hospital like the Royal Surrey.



Pie chart showing Origin of replies to questionnaire received via webpage

The reasons given for making this choice varied but the most common was proximity to family, friends and neighbours, facilitating visiting and hastening recovery. Others included a belief

(almost certainly correct) that it costs the NHS less than any alternative providing a comparable standard of care.

A cursory glance at the remaining 500 completed questionnaires suggest

that the email responses are pretty representative of the collective response which will be analysed in detail when the trial ends at the end of April.

What do we buy?

Recent purchases have been as varied as cups with built in straws to a bladder scanner. From a microwave to a Wii! From a digital sound level meter to an iPad.. Staff submit a purchase request and after committee members investigate prices and suppliers and any on-going financial commitment by the League of Friends, a decision is made as to whether we buy or not. We are currently planning the purchase of new chairs for the staff and patients dining room. More information is available on our website. www.haslemere.com/hospitalof/

Thank-you

To all shops, businesses and individuals who assisted us with the questionnaires for our "Use it or lose it" survey. We were overwhelmed with the community spirit and support shown by local shops, surgeries and businesses for our wonderful local hospital.



LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF HASLEMERE & DISTRICT HOSPITAL

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

Wednesday 23rd May at 7.30pm

To be held at Marjorie Gray Hall, Grayswood Road, Haslemere

AGENDA

- APOLOGIES
- MINUTES OF THE AGM 2011 – To approve & matters arising
- CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- TREASURER'S REPORT
- ADOPTION OF REPORTS
- ELECTION OF AUDITOR
- ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN
- ELECTION OF TREASURER
- ELECTION OF OTHER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE
- HOSPITAL REPORT
- ANY OTHER BUSINESS

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE MEETING

COMMITTEE

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FORM

If you have not already paid this year's subscription or arranged payment by banker's order, please complete the standing order mandate below or it would be appreciated if you would

Send your donation (suggested amount £15 to £25) for 2012 to:

Mrs. J. Steward, The Hon Treasurer, League of Friends, c/o Haslemere Hospital, Church Lane, Haslemere, GU27 2BJ.

PART A

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Telephone.....

Email address.....

Signed.....Date.....20...

Gift Aid

Gift Aid allows us to reclaim basic rate tax on every £1 donated at no extra cost to you, helping your donation go further. Please make the Gift Aid declaration below if you can.

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and pay an amount of income and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount that will be reclaimed on my donation in the tax year. I want this donation and any further donations I make to you to be treated as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise. If you are a UK taxpayer please tick the box

If you are not a UK taxpayer just leave the box blank

Note: If setting up a Standing Order please complete both parts of this form. A & B

PART B

STANDING ORDER

To: Manager

.....Bank/Building Society.....(Branch)

[Your bank]

Address.....Postcode.....

.....My Account number.....

Sort code.....

Please pay from my account detailed above to the League of Friends of Haslemere Hospital the sum of £.....(state sum in words).....

on (Date).....20..... and on the same day every year thereafter unless this order is cancelled in writing.

Credit: League of Friends of Haslemere Hospital, HSBC Bank, Haslemere, Surrey

Sort code 40-23-15. Account number 20531529