



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2012

We were all very sad to hear the news of the death of Howard Redding in the autumn. He had worked as an Associate Specialist in the Casualty Department at Stamford for over 20 years. He ran a first class service that was greatly appreciated by all who used it. The feedback of patients attending the Casualty Department at Stamford Hospital has been consistently high, with virtually all patients describing their experience as "excellent". Howard can take much of the credit for that, along of course with the outstanding nursing and ancillary staff who all play such key roles. He was a good doctor and a good man and will be greatly missed. Our sympathy and best wishes go to his widow and two children.

The committee is reviewing our Constitution with a view to bringing it up to date, and we will be presenting the revised version to our next AGM on 4/4/12 for consideration and approval. One of our principle objects is **"to mobilise, encourage, foster and maintain the interest and support of the public in the work of Stamford Hospital"** and in the current financial squeeze this remains of crucial importance. We were alarmed at the closure of the Van Geest ward, but are greatly reassured that it was a temporary closure, and pleased that the much needed improvements have been made and the ward is now reopened. We continue to work closely with the management of the Hospital and the Trust, and we give a high priority to reflecting the strong views of local people in their support for the Hospital. We also aim to influence and inform local politicians and commissioners, and we have strong support from many local councillors and had a very productive meeting with our local MP, Nick Boles, and we are due to meet the Chief Operating Officer of the newly formed local commissioning group soon.

We are keen to attract more members, and to help achieve that we are developing our own website which will describe what we do and how to join. I will report further on this at the AGM.

Another of our objects is **"to raise funds for the purpose of supplementing in such manner as the Friends think fit, the resources of the Hospital, including subscriptions and donations, and also gifts of property, whether subject to any special trust or not"**. Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of local people we continue to attract a good income, which allows us to provide new equipment and facilities. Recent examples include the creation of a new space in the out patients department for the testing of vision and new recliner chairs for patients undergoing procedures. We have been the beneficiary of two donations from the Big Society fund of the Lincs County Council, each for £1000, and are grateful to Councillors Brailsford and Trollope-Bellew for nominating us. The funds will be used for equipment in the eye department.

The Friends of Stamford Hospital were founded in 1962, and this year is our golden jubilee. To mark this we are planning to publish a history of the Hospital, which will draw heavily on the two previous histories published in 1872 and 1978 and will include a new section on the last 34 years.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will take place in the Large Meeting Room (previously the dining room) at Stamford Hospital on **Wednesday, April 4th, 2012 at 7.30 pm.**

Our speaker will be **Colonel Andrew Cope TD, FRCS, FCEM, L/RAMC**, who will give a presentation entitled "Trauma in Afghanistan". Mr Cope has been a consultant in the Emergency Medicine Department at Peterborough for 25 years and has had several tours of duty overseas, returning recently from his latest trip to Afghanistan. He has been a key figure in the development of emergency services not only in the Peterborough and Stamford area, but also nationally.

All members of the Friends, guests and others interested are welcome to attend (there will be no tickets issued).