



## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

Dear Members,

I hope you remain well and I am sure you are all greatly looking forward to the promised relaxation of restrictions over the next few months. We hope that in the near future we will again be able to hold meetings and the Bill Packer lecture. For now though we can only meet remotely and the committee has continued to use Zoom to discuss FoSH business.

### **Activity in Stamford Hospital:**

The pandemic has had a major impact on the way all Hospitals function. It has been the Trust's aim to keep Stamford Hospital free of Covid, and hence some services have been curtailed. Particularly the Minor Injuries Unit has been closed for a year but there are clear plans to reopen this much valued service later this year. Clinics, out patient procedures, day case surgery, investigations and phlebotomy have all continued, albeit in a restricted way so as to avoid virus transmission.

Perhaps one good thing that has come out of the pandemic is the high level of acclaim received by NHS staff, and we fully endorse that. Buildings and facilities are of course very important, but it is great staff that make a great Health Service, and the staff at Stamford Hospital have always been kind, attentive and highly skilled.

### **Future developments of Stamford Hospital:**

The sale and demolition of the west end of the site have been agreed with a developer with the intention to build a nursing home on the site. The sale includes the original Grade 1 listed Hospital building, opened in 1828, which must be preserved and will be incorporated in to the developer's plans.



Staff at Stamford Hospital bidding farewell to the original Hospital building

Completion of the contract has been delayed because of issues relating to the important historic archeological artifacts underground. English Heritage is showing a keen interest. The planned two-storey car park will not go ahead until this is resolved.

The demolition of the old Nurses' Home has been delayed because of resident bats in the roof. Once this is resolved then the plans after demolition are to build a "Medical Centre" on the site, which amongst other uses could provide space for the proposed urgent treatment centre. These plans are provisional and not complete, and we will do what we can to encourage them as they do provide the possibility of an exciting future for the Hospital.

The Medical Director of the Hospital Trust is planning to organize a careful review of the clinical services offered in Stamford to ensure that the best possible use is made of the Hospital. We look forward to hearing

more of all these plans at the next Stamford Hospital Development Advisory Committee.

### **Grants for equipment in the Hospital:**

We have not made any significant grants in the last few months but we do expect over this year to again start receiving applications from staff members. As always we are keen to support new and innovative services where we can, and also extra items that help improve the experience of patients.

### **John Hale: 1941- 2021**



We were very sorry to hear of the death of John Hale early this year. He had been ill for some years. He was a well known figure in Stamford , including as Headmaster of Stamford School, Captain of Burghley Golf Club and President of the Stamford Burghley Rotary Club. He served on our committee for many years, including as secretary from 2003-2011, and was a keen and enthusiastic supporter of the Hospital. He was a good and decent man who touched the lives of many people. FoSH was the chosen charity at his funeral and we have received several generous donations in his memory.

### **Membership:**

Our constitution states that our principal aim is **“to mobilize, encourage, foster and maintain the interest and support of the public in the work of Stamford Hospital”**

To help us achieve this we need as large a membership as possible. We are looking at ways in which we can recruit new members and we do hope that existing members will encourage friends and family to join. If you have ideas about how we might attract more members please do get in touch. The Trust is genuinely interested in the views of local people and in supporting valued services, and by joining the Friends you have a good way of letting your views be known. Please also have a look at our website ([www.friendsofstamfordhospital.org](http://www.friendsofstamfordhospital.org).) and if you feel this can be improved in any way please let us know.

### **Annual General Meeting:**

We were unable to conduct an AGM last year but did contact you all with reports and invited comments. It will not be possible to have a public meeting when the AGM is due in April 2021, and we will instead post on our website the agenda, minutes of the last meeting and financial report, and invite comments.

With all good wishes,

Michael Dronfield [Chairman, FoSH]