



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013

It may not seem like spring as I look out at the deep snow, but it is the end of March and time for the “Spring” newsletter.



A highlight of last year was the celebration event we held in November to mark the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Friends of Stamford Hospital. It gave us an opportunity to look back at what has been achieved in the last 50 years and to acknowledge the initiative and foresight of those involved at that time. The NHS has of course changed

greatly and the role of the Friends has too, but we still make a valued contribution by providing funds for innovations and by articulating the strong support there is locally for the services at the Hospital.

It was a pleasure to see so many members of the Friends at the celebration evening, and also members of staff. I was pleased to put on record the appreciation we all have for the high quality of care delivered by all the staff at the Hospital.



Other successful events included the Bill Packer Memorial Lecture delivered by Professor Robert Forrest, the Coroner for South Lincs, who gave a fascinating talk on forensic medicine and the role of hair analysis.

The Christmas Quiz was again well supported and enjoyed by all. The winners were “The Pathillogicals”, a team from the pathology department who always perform well in the quiz. It was good to welcome them, particularly in view of the closure of the Pathology Lab at Stamford last year.



The publication of the new business case for Stamford Hospital, which follows on from the wide consultation about the Hospital's services, has been delayed. This delay is because Monitor, the regulator for Foundation Hospitals, has appointed a Contingency Planning Team [CPT] to look at the clinical, operational and financial sustainability of the whole Trust, which of course includes Stamford Hospital. It is hoped that the CPT will report in June and it is thought to be inappropriate to make plans for Stamford Hospital until then. We will be looking closely at the proposals when they are published.

Our fund raising remains strong, and the list of equipment we have purchased can be seen on our website [www.friendsofstamfordhospital.org.uk]. We are particularly grateful to the captains and members of Burghley Park Golf Club for their generous donation which has allowed the purchase of a bladder scanner for the out patient department, which will be most valuable in the assessment of patients in several clinics.

We also remain very grateful to the volunteers who work in the Hospital reception area and do so much to help patients when they arrive at the Hospital. They also sell a lot of books making a substantial regular contribution to our funds.



Looking ahead, the Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 23rd [St Georges Day] in the Meeting Hall, [old dining room], 7.00 for 7.30 at Stamford Hospital.

The guest speaker will be Dr Richard Griffiths MD, FRCA, Consultant Anaesthetist at the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Trust. The title of his talk will be: "Your life in their hands: are anaesthetics safe?"

Dr Griffiths has been doing anaesthetic sessions at Stamford for many years, and is a strong supporter of the work done at the Hospital.

I hope we will see you at the AGM. Please do encourage family and friends to look at our website and hopefully join the Friends.

Michael Dronfield

Chairman, Friends of Stamford Hospital