



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

Welcome to the edition of our Spring newsletter 2024. As notified in the Autumn newsletter, the format of our AGM this year will be slightly different. We will hold the business part of the meeting first and then hold our Memorial Lecture in memory of Bill Packer and Mike Dronfield. Those of you who have been members for many years will know that Bill Packer held the position of Secretary for many years. Mike was Chair from 1994-2022.

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 16 April 2024, 6.30 for 7.00pm

**To be held in the new Education Centre at Stamford Hospital
(behind the outpatient entrance, on the left)**

Dr Sarah Mitchell

National Clinical Director for Palliative and End of Life care, NHS England



“Dying to Know: What we all need to know about Palliative and End of Life care but might be too afraid to ask”

We do hope that you will be able to attend. Please feel free to bring along family members and friends.

TRUSTEES - Once again we are making a plea for committee members! This is not an onerous job – we meet four times a year to discuss the business of the Friends and have our AGM in April. The current committee has five vacancies. If you are passionate about the healthcare carried out by our hospital and would like to support the work currently provided and planned for the future, you would be most welcome to join us.

VOLUNTEERS – We are delighted to report that David Baxter, FoSH Trustee, was voted Outstanding Volunteer of the Month in December 2023. This was in recognition of David’s work on the Stamford Hospital Museum. David has spent years digitising archive documents dating back to the opening of the hospital, preserving objects collected from the cellars, cupboards and attics of the hospital and displaying these in cabinets in the hospital museum. Funding is available for a new and permanent home for the museum but finding a suitable space for this is proving troublesome. However, work will continue on this important topic.



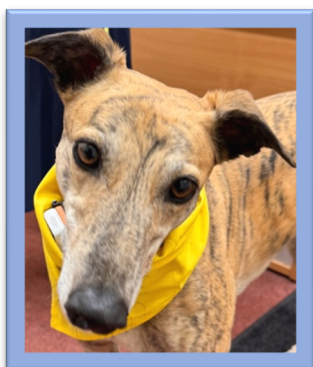
TRUST CHAIR – In November, the committee met with Steve Barnett, together with Callum Gardner Medical Director, to answer questions we had regarding the value of Charities within the Trust and how we can support developments. It became clear from our discussions that Charities, such as FoSH, are still relevant and important contributors to the work of the Trust. Not only providing funding for items, large and small, but also as a link between our members (and any members of the public) and the Trust management to provide feedback and support for services and staff. With these reassurances given, we agreed to meet with the other charitable groups supporting the Trust.

NEW TREATMENT CENTRE – You may have seen in the Stamford Mercury plans for the proposed new Treatment Centre. This will be built on the site of the old nurses home and will replace the current day surgery unit/Dronfield suite located in what was Greenwood Ward. It will provide state of the art facilities for day case procedures. Subject to planning agreement, work on the new centre should commence later this year ready for opening in late 2025. Exciting news indeed!



FUND RAISING – Thanks go to our Trustee, Trish Mason, for her continued magnificent efforts with book sales. In the two years following the pandemic, nearly £3,500 has been raised. In the years prior to the pandemic, over £3000 was raised per year, so it looks as if things are once again going in the right direction.

The 2024 Captains at Burghley Park Golf Club have nominated the Friends as their Charity of the year. We are most grateful to Karen Collins and Steve Coultas as we know their activities for the year will greatly add to our coffers and benefit patients and staff enormously. Many thanks!



PAT DOG- Trustee and Deputy Mayor, Marion Pitt, has adopted Wiggie, a retired greyhound. After three years in kennels, Wiggie now lives with Marion in Stamford. Wiggie has now qualified as a PAT (pets as therapy) dog. It is hoped that the Trust will welcome Wiggie and Marion into areas where patients would benefit from the company and comfort of a dog visiting them. Looking at that face, who could say no!

As a member and supporter of FoSH, we do hope that you will be able to attend our AGM. The committee members continue to assist the Trust and its staff and we would be very pleased to meet you on the 16 April to share news and perhaps welcome you to our committee!

Best Wishes.

Kay Hircock - Chair