

The Friends of the Hospital at Rye

Newsletter Autumn 2019



Farewell From Your Chairman

I have been your chairman for two years now and it is time for me to move on, as I am going to live abroad for part of the year.

I have been privileged to be chairman at a most interesting and important time in the development of the hospital site. It has been fascinating to see the planning for the buildings themselves and all that goes into the furnishings and decoration.

I have also been able to help with fundraising events and my congratulations go to the committee and chairman Jennifer Grenfell in all their very successful efforts, enabling us to buy some useful items of equipment for the hospital recently, including three Aura Seat Cushions for falls prevention, two Hybrid mattresses + pumps, two replacement TVs and a fridge for the Occupational Health in-patient assessment kitchen.

I am handing over to Paula Riley as the new Chair of the Friends and am confident that she will have every success.

Gillian Roder, departing Chairman of the Friends



Introducing Your New Chairman



Having recently retired from my post as a Podiatry lecturer, and having been a member of the fundraising committee for many years, I was delighted to be asked to take on the role of Chairman of the Friends and of the Fundraising Committee. We

hope the amalgamation of these two roles will cut down the number of meetings that need to be attended and help with communication.

I would like to thank Gillian Roder and Jennifer Grenfell, who will be very hard acts to follow. We will miss Gillian, as she is sadly moving away, but I am delighted that Jennifer has agreed to stay on the fundraising committee.

With the Hub on Rye Hill almost complete, it is exciting times and we are now starting to plan events for next year.

We are certainly very lucky to have had such dedicated people over many years serving the hospital in a voluntary capacity and we hope that we will continue to be supported by you all.

Paula Riley, new Chairman of the Friends

Board Report



It is a pleasure to thank Gillian Roder for her service as Chair of the Friends and to welcome Paula Riley into the role. There will be a busy agenda coming into the New Year of support to our hospital and its services and we wish Paula and her team every success.

Our development programme moves ahead. The utility connections are complete to the Care Home site and Greensleeves will commence building construction of the sixty-bed facility early next year and complete in September 2021.

The Hub on Rye Hill is on target for completion in January 2020 and this exciting facility has already attracted a great deal of interest from several organisations within the community, as Sally Compton reports below.

Barry Nealon, Chairman of the Board

The Hub on Rye Hill

HELP US RAISE THE FINAL £12,000

It has been exciting watching the Hub take shape, with roof and windows complete, and flooring and electrics now progressing well. The furnishing team have been busy selecting furniture and lighting, others are working on the implementation of security, WiFi and electronic systems, and our gardening team on a landscaping plan. Lots more to do, but the building should be finished at the end of January, and open soon after.



We are in discussions with several health-related charities, including St Michael's Hospice, Sara Lee, Rye Day Care Centre, Action in Rural Sussex, and with physio and occupational therapists, counsellors and other groups and event providers.

We are very grateful to the community who have generously supported our Buy a Brick fundraising scheme. You can make donations on the Hub's JustGiving page via the website www.hubonryehill.org.uk or email fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk or phone 01797 223810.



Sally Compton, Vice Chairman of the Board

bringing services closer to home

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Open Gardens

We were delighted to be asked to provide teas for the National Garden Scheme on Sunday 16th June. Eleven gardens opened across Winchelsea and The Friends provided homemade cakes, biscuits and buns along with tea, coffee and soft drinks. Thank you to Winchelsea Open Gardens for their support in this event and we were thrilled to raise £927.76.



Hospital Fete

The sun shone and the sky was blue all afternoon for the Rye Hospital fete. The bunting fluttered and the Pimms and food stalls were buzzing. The dog show attracted lots of families – many thanks to Pontins for competing this.



The car park held more cars than ever before, so thanks to the Rotary Club for managing this huge task. Pat Hughes kindly ran the community bus and music was provided by the fabulous Rye Bay Crew.

Dragon Boat Race

We did it! For the first time ever. The Hub on Rye Hill competed in the Bewl Water Dragon Boat Race to raise funds for the Hub's Buy a Brick campaign.



What a day it was. Sixteen people agreed to take part and paddling to the beat of fabulous drummer Fran Thomson a staggering £2,000 was raised.

We would like to thank The Old Borough Arms for sponsoring the entry fee and Gusbourne Vineyards, Ryebay Ebikes, Rye Retreat, Rye Arts Festival and Rye Chocolates for supplying fantastic raffle prizes.

Golf Day

Once again the annual charity Golf Day was a huge success. Many thanks to Sarah Jempson for helping to organise the event and to Rye Golf Club for the venue and all their help in preparing for the day. Over £9,000 was raised for the Hub on Rye Hill.



Thank You Jempson's



The Jempson's Foundation generously donated £250 towards the Hub on Rye Hill.

We were also delighted once again to be asked to run the Bank Holiday Boot Fair at Jempsons in Peasmarsh at the end of May, raising an amazing £602.17.

We will be there again next year on Monday 25th May, so please come along and support us.

Our thanks to Mayor Mike Boyd (*far right* with Hospital Chairman Barry Nealon) who set the afternoon in motion with a great opening speech.



Also thank you to all those who supported this event and helped to run it. The Friends made over £4,500 profit and the Hub could be seen in its building stage (*left*).

Film Night

Thank you all for coming to support the Hub on Rye Hill at the outdoor screening of *Bohemian Rhapsody* on Wednesday 11th September. Over 150 people watched this amazing film in the beautiful surroundings of Mountsfield. Cocktails were sipped and popcorn munched to the music of Queen as the story of Freddie Mercury unfolded. Thank you to Lord and Lady Amptill for allowing us to host this amazing event at Mountsfield, raising over £2,000 for the Hub.



Christmas Cards

Richard Adams has kindly designed a new Christmas card for the Friends. "Christmas Charabanc" is on sale in the hospital reception and Adams of Rye at £3.99 per pack. Please email fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk if you would like to place an order to be posted.

