



# THE FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITAL AT RYE

Spring 2021 Newsletter—Centenary Edition

## Our Centenary Celebrations!

It is 100 years since Rye Hospital was first built back in 1921 so we will be marking this historical milestone with a series of events which we hope the whole community will enjoy.

Jo Kirkham will be continuing her fascinating history of Rye focussing on the Hospital with updated Centenary copy for distribution later this year.

On 24 and 25 September we will be holding a series of Tea Parties at the Hub on Rye Hill with

refreshments, entertainment for all ages and a chance to see the permanent historical exhibition usually housed in the Hospital's foyer which will include additional items of interest. Further details will follow over the coming months.

We will be holding a special Centenary Memorial Service on Thursday 11 November with an invitation to Friends included in our Autumn newsletter.

Our Centenary Grand Raffle Prize draw will be held on 19 November as part of an evening event at the Hub on Rye Hill to

include an auction and supper. Details of when tickets will be available will follow so please check our new website (going live very soon!) and social media for further details or email [fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk).



## Message from our Chair

What a long winter this has been with another extended period of lockdown and our hospitals under huge pressure from the large number of Covid-19 patients. The staff at Rye continue to do an amazing job. Support for the staff has been provided from the Nurses Fund through the kind donations of former patients and their relatives. We have been in contact with the Friends of the other hospitals (Hastings, Bexhill and Eastbourne) and are joining with them in supporting the creation of murals which will record the incredible contribution the staff have made during the pandemic.

Christmas card sales under exceedingly difficult circumstances did well and our thanks go to Richard Adams for his wonderful design and to Adams of Rye for printing and selling the cards.

A specimen fridge was purchased for the sluice from a bequest, and we have purchased a new Thera trainer (exercise bike) and had the broken one repaired for the Physiotherapy Department.

We will be selling raffle tickets throughout the year and the draw will take place at the Hub in November as part of the Centenary celebrations.

We look forward to an exciting year celebrating the Centenary of Rye Hospital and hope you will join us at our various fundraising and social events.

### Paula Riley

*If you would like to join our Volunteer team or help at one of our fundraising events, please contact [fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk)*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 31 May  
Boot Fair at Jempson's Peasmarsh

Thursday 3 June  
Late Spring Fashion Show in partnership with Niche at the Hub on Rye Hill

Saturday 21 August  
Rye Show

Wednesday 1 September  
Golf Day

Friday 24 September  
Afternoon Tea Party at the Hub on Rye Hill

Saturday 25 September  
Morning and Afternoon Tea Parties at the Hub on Rye Hill

Thursday 11 November  
Centenary Memorial Service at the Hospital

Friday 19 November  
Supper, Auction and Raffle Prize Draw at the Hub on Rye Hill

***Bringing services closer to home***

## Message from the Chairman of the Board

Covid-19 has remained with us since our last newsletter and we have conscientiously followed the Government's guidelines during the lockdown. Access to the Hospital has been restricted and the Hub closed since Christmas.

We are, however, delighted to plan the reopening of the external patio area of the Hub on 12 April and the interior on 17 May, introducing our new Chef, Paul.



The overhead wires on the Care Home site have been put underground and construction of

the 60 bed Care Home is due to start in June with completion scheduled for September 2022.

Another exciting development is the potential for having an echocardiogram service for the Outpatient area of the Hospital, providing we can support the NHS by raising the £40,000 capital for the purchase. To date we have £25,000 committed, so our target to achieve through fundraising and donations is the remaining £15,000. We believe this is a very important opportunity for Rye.

In January two of our Board members, Sally Compton (Vice-Chairman) and Ben Chiswick stepped down having been very active for nearly 30 years between them! We wish Sally and Ben all the best and thank them very much

for their hard work, dedication and sound advice over the years. Sally will be continuing as an elected member of our Friends Committee so she will remain a familiar face!

Three new members were welcomed to the Board – Jo Posnette, Brenda Baker and Ian Potter (whose name most of our Friends will already know as a former Mayor of Rye). Jo, Brenda and Ian bring with them a wealth of clinical, adult social care and legal experience and will be looking at ways to improve the services that both the Hospital and the Hub on Rye Hill can offer the local community.

**Barry Nealon**

## Hospital News

After a difficult start to 2021, I am pleased to say that the Spring weather has brought with it renewed brightness and energy on our ward. A huge vote of thanks goes to all our staff who have persevered through extra busy periods due to staff shortages and absence. Their continued hard work and dedication is so greatly appreciated. The nourishing hand creams bought by the Friends from local supplier, WiDEYE, certainly soothed weary NHS hands. The Friends also provided our patients with essential items for use during their time on the ward.

Our Rehab Team welcomed back the repaired Thera trainer with the addition of a brand new second machine. In a very short time both machines were up and running with a cycling challenge set to pedal 196.3km



Our Rehab Team put our patients through their paces ...

to Marston Moretaine in honour of Captain Sir Tom Moore. Progress is being reported on Twitter through Rehab@RyeMemorial-ESHT. All funds raised will go directly to the Hospital's charity and anyone wishing to donate should email [fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk) or call 01797 228842.

Our patients have also enjoyed the company of Iris Leung, Activities Coordinator from Bexhill, who has been sharing her crafting skills with

great success. Iris spends time with our patients on a one-to-one basis and is keen to expand the range of activities she can offer.

One of the Hospital's longest serving Nurses, Kay Kinkaid, retired in January and worked her final shift on Saturday 23 January. Kay had clocked up 47 years of continuous nursing service; 18 years of which were spent on our ward. It is a great loss to us and to the profession, but we wish her every happiness in her well deserved retirement.

**Diana Carter, Matron**

