

Supporting the Youngsters

A common theme runs through the majority of the projects supported by the Friends of York Hospitals in recent months – they have all directly benefited children.

We have funded additional sets of scales for the Community Midwives Service so that they each have a set to weigh the newborn babies they help bring into the world.

We have also helped to fund the refurbishment of the nurses' station in the Children's Ward, creating a much more welcoming and colourful reception area for the young patients. The staff liked the designs so much that they have had hoodies made with them on!

The children's playroom waiting area in the Head and Neck Department is also being given a makeover. Young outpatients who have appointments with audiology, speech and language therapy, orthodontics and ear, nose and throat staff will benefit. This was why we organised a successful Black Tie dinner in October, which was addressed by our patron John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York. A large number of very generous people also sent donations to support this cause, as did Ross De Vere (son of our Chairperson Derek) who raised a magnificent £772 to support the project by running the Yorkshire Marathon.

Meanwhile in the Children's Centre (outpatients) we now have an enthusiastic team of Arts and Crafts volunteers who attend regularly to keep the children in the main waiting area occupied in a very creative way. We have also used Jane Tomlinson Appeal funding in the Children's Centre to buy toys and play equipment worth nearly £3000 for the Paediatric Speech Therapy team.

It is our privilege to be able to help where we can.



Derek De Vere of FOYH with Midwifery staff – and baby Annie

The Friends of York Hospitals have received more than £25,000 from the legacies of the late Keith Daggett and the late Brian Burns – both of York. We have also received funeral donations from local people amounting to nearly £1000 since last Summer.

These thoughtful donations at sad times for the families are warmly appreciated. They enable us to continue to fund equipment and services that cannot be paid for from core NHS funds, and to continue to support the work of our hospital volunteers. They are a very practical way of remembering and being remembered – sincere thanks to all concerned.

Consulting our Members



This year our Autumn volunteers' coffee morning was combined with a members' consultation event. 37 Friends attended, and we had 2 visitors - Deputy Lieutenants of North Yorkshire, assessing us as possible contenders for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Apparently they went away saying nice things about us, even if we did put them to work folding up raffle tickets! (the raffle raised £86 – a record!).

The consultation element was organised through 4 breakout groups, each chaired by a Trustee or Team Leader. The groups discussed 6 key questions facing the Friends of York Hospitals. A representative from each group then fed back their responses to everyone else after a buffet lunch. The feedback was then summarised and converted into an action plan.

Volunteer's Eye View

Shortly before the Coffee Morning Consultation Hussein Syed from the Trustees joined Margaret Clowes (L.), Hazel Stevens (R.) and the rest of the Wednesday team for a morning shift delivering library books and newspapers around the wards





Hussein Syed and Derek De Vere introduce the feedback reports from the break-out groups

The main difference between the Coffee Morning consultation and the 'Awayday' consultation in 2013 was that this time the members were happy with the organisational structure and management priorities of the Friends. Most of their responses were about practical issues, like the lack of wheelchairs at Main Reception and the need for some written guidelines for volunteers on hospital procedures and boundaries.

The thorny suggestion that FOYH should take part if the hospital Trust sets up a post-discharge home visits scheme was discussed and given cautious support. Some of the ideas from the breakout groups have already been put into effect – eg. we now have volunteers helping in the Eye Clinic, on the renal and gastroenterology ward (33) and on the gynaecology ward (G1).

A full record of the various points raised at the Coffee Morning Consultation may be obtained from Andy White on request.

Diary Dates... Diary Dates...

- ✓ Fortnightly Corridor Collections at the hospital have restarted
Could you spare a couple of hours on a Wednesday evening sometime over the next few months?
Contact Jenny Hildyard on 07763 766421 or email her at jenniferhildyard@talktalk.net .
- ✓ **Tuesday 26th April 2016 - Spring Stall**
Table top stall in the Main Reception foyer at York Hospital. Please pass donations of sale and home-made craft items to Andy in the office. Some plants would be nice...
- ✓ **Tuesday 28th June 2016 - St Crux**
Café and table top stalls at a church hall right in the centre of York - the junction of the Shambles and Pavement. All helpers welcome!

New Trustee for Friends of York Hospitals



Mark Clegg



Formerly a RAF officer, Mark is now a consultant in risk and crisis management to private and public sector organisations in the UK and overseas. In his spare time, he enjoys running and other fitness activities. These sometimes involve being sponsored... and getting muddy!

The Friends now have a generous supply of new collection boxes. Many have chains attached so they can be left more securely. Do you know a local shop which might be willing to take a collection box for the counter? Could you exchange it for a fresh one after 3 or 4 months have gone by? Then open it up, count the change and pass it to Andy White to record and pay into the bank? We can supply official thank-you letters for the shopkeepers to display if appropriate.

Two of our Trustees, Jenny Hildyard and Hussein Syed, have been trying this scheme out. The donations in their first 10 collection boxes totalled £198.17 – an average of nearly £20 per box. If a sizable number of Members look after a collection box in their local neighbourhood, the amount of money raised to help the hospital will be significant. Please let Andy know if you would like to give a box a home!



Our Collection Boxes Need Homes!