

AGM Newsletter 2020/21

Message from Hussein Syed Interim Chairman

The last 18 months has been unprecedented for our charity. With the agreement of the Charity Commission, we were allowed to waive our 2020 AGM because of Covid-19 restrictions. We are pleased to say we have scheduled this year's AGM for the 15th September 2021 at 4:00pm at the Hotel Du Vin, York, if Covid-19 guidelines allow.



August 2021

Despite government help through the furlough scheme, we unfortunately had to make our Volunteer Manager & Administrator (VMA) redundant in November 2021. We are indebted to the professional advice and help we received from David Scott of Hetheringtons solicitors in guiding us through this process. With a drastic drop in income the trustees had to ensure the safeguarding of the charity's assets and consequently they have undertaken some of the responsibilities of the VMA. The situation is being kept under constant review especially as we have found the role has evolved and we now see it incorporating more fund raising and IT responsibilities.

While we have lost some trustees and our President, we have recruited 2 new trustees and are actively seeking more as part of our succession planning policy. For the moment, we are leaving the post of President vacant until we feel we have the right person to fulfil this mainly ceremonial role. During the year, the new Archbishop of York kindly agreed to be our Patron.

Our volunteering capacity was severely limited by the pandemic. This led to several of our volunteers deciding to retire. Our numbers have fallen from a high of 140 to about 80. We are in regular touch with the Trust regarding existing and new roles which will need filling as well as ensuring all necessary infection control training for our volunteers. The Trust now operates some services at the new Stadium and our volunteers are providing support there.

We have been providing funds for various innovative projects during 2019/20 which are shown later.

A new fundraising subcommittee has been formed with exciting ideas for bringing in funds. We continue to have a strong team of Trustees who, like our volunteers, give of their time willingly for the furtherance of the charity and I would like to personally record my thanks to everyone who helps to make our charity such a success.



Hussein Syed
Interim Chairman

A word from Sue Symington

The Trust Chair

No one needs reminding what an incredibly difficult year this has been: it's been challenging for each one of us in different ways.

Our Trust has treated 2,780 Covid patients since 19th March 2020 – 2,167 of these patients were discharged from hospital but very sadly, 612 died. The pandemic has put a great strain on the NHS, on our staff, on our premises and on our patients.

Nevertheless, as well as being a time of great challenge and strain, it has also been a time of extraordinary generosity, warmth and support.

Who can forget clapping at the garden gate on Thursday evenings, the rainbows drawn by children popping up in windows on every street and the remarkable support shown to staff?

We were grateful to the Friends of York Hospitals for the kind donation of £20,000 which funded care boxes containing refreshments and treats for all of our staff. Our Trust has truly benefitted from the kindness of strangers. The outpouring of warmth and generosity shown to the NHS during the pandemic allows us all to know that the spirit of giving and support really is alive and kicking. The public want to support their local NHS and they want to support the staff who work there. If we needed encouragement to believe in the absolute value of charitable engagement, there are no greater signs.

At the Trust our efforts are focused on 'Recovery' – how we recover the services we are proud to offer to our patients and the communities we serve and recovery for our staff who have been through such a challenging time. No doubt this is a period of recovery too for the Friends of York Hospitals, as you regroup and return to providing volunteers to our Trust and funds to support the experiences of our patients and their families and our staff.

We wish the Friends of York Hospitals a full recovery in the year ahead, encouraged by the very obvious commitment of the public in York who have sought to support the Trust in so many ways.

Our thanks as always to you all for your ongoing support for which we are always truly grateful.

Sue Symington
Trust Chair



Our volunteers

Without a doubt this year has been a most unusual one where the work of our dedicated Volunteers has been absent in most areas. We continue to be guided by the Trust Management, Occupational Health Department & Infection Control as to the safety measures required. We have been helped enormously by the Trust's Volunteer Management with whom we work in tandem and for which we are extremely grateful.

Earlier this year as the Phlebotomy Clinic moved to the Stadium at Vangarde Park it was suggested by the Hospital Volunteer management that, as almost all of the volunteers were from the Friends, we should take over the management of this Volunteer group. As other clinics moved to the Stadium, it was suggested that this volunteer group now assume the name Out-patients Volunteer. The help provided by these volunteers has been remarked upon by NHS staff especially during the transition period.



There are some clinical areas where Volunteers have been able to continue to work and that has been welcomed and much appreciated by Hospital staff. We applaud you all!

I have received thanks from many Ward and Clinical staff for the help given by our Volunteers and want to pass on their praise to you all.

There have been many changes in the year to ward locations and specialities, ward staff and new procedures to learn which has resulted in regular updates but we are doing our best to keep everyone informed.

We are proud of all of our Volunteers and delighted to present the following Long Service Awards for their loyalty and commitment:

Silver

Delia Hebblethwaite
Lorraine Ineson
Ginny Mason
Ilona Woodhead.

Bronze

David Broadhead
Lisa Clarke
Margaret Cooper
Rosie Dickens
Eleanor Dreyer
Alan Hawley

As is normal during the Summer-time we have said goodbye to many of our student Volunteers who have finished their educational courses in York and moved away. We look forwards to welcoming new faces in the Autumn.

We are fortunate to have more than 80 Volunteers, many of whom are waiting patiently to resume their roles and all of whom will be warmly welcomed back. You are all Ambassadors for the FOYH, providing assistance, reassurance and a warm welcome for patients.

Ann Taylor
Lead Trustee – Volunteer Liaison

Projects we have funded

Care Packs

FOYH funded £13,000 towards care boxes for staff in the hospital. Over 200 boxes of essentials were packed and delivered to keep staff going at busy times. The boxes included basics such as coffee, tea bags, hot chocolate, squash, porridge, cereal bars, biscuits, sweets, soups and snacks. Some have toiletries, and many were treated to donated KitKats and Easter eggs.

Feedback from staff

"I would just like to say thank you very much for the kind donation to the admin teams. It is very much appreciated and was a lovely surprise."

"A huge thank you on behalf of all the Therapy staff for your lovely care packages we received. They were much appreciated."

"Thank you, thank you and thank you! We are very pleased with our Care Box and appreciate being thought about during this time."

"We would just like to say a big thank you for thinking about the post room. The gifts inside are great! We are enjoying them very much."



Community Stadium Artwork

We funded £8,125 for an art project to brighten up the NHS departments based in the Community Stadium - giving a more contemporary feel, they are now more inviting and visually pleasing.

The artwork helps to make the environment feel less clinical and more welcoming, in areas which are the patient's first port of call and where they could sit here for some length of time.





The artist Russell Hughes created the abstract landscapes, suggesting North Yorkshire's rolling hills and colourful fields.

Within the landscapes the series of lines also represent a direct relationship with the local environment and are derived from the artist's research process, which involves creating and using relevant data.

Specialist Microscope

We provided £9427 for the replacement of a 30-year old specialist microscope in the ENT's Outpatients Department.

The new microscope is particularly useful for children requiring grommet surgery and patients requiring examination under anaesthetic to assess if more serious operations are needed.



6th Form Shadowing Project

For the third year running we funded the successful consultant-led initiative of a 6th Form Shadowing Project.

The 12 students are first year A level students from state schools who are encouraged to enter medicine with this project giving them the opportunity to hear from a variety of clinicians and patients about their experiences. This takes place one afternoon a week over a nine-week period. It also gives advice, support and encouragement on the process of applying to university to study medicine. Most of the sessions were delivered virtually but the students did get into the hospital for a clinical skills session which they thoroughly enjoyed.

The project is always in high demand so for the first year, a shortened summer session has been provided for those students who were unsuccessful in the first round.



Feedback from the students:

“As for my thoughts on the course I loved it, I've done quite a lot of courses and work experience, but this was by far the best one. The course allowed me to strengthen and refine skills that I will put in practise now and later in medicine as well as educating me on parts of medicine such as speech language therapy (which I knew about briefly but now have a much deeper understanding of.)”

“All the lectures have been really interesting, especially the multi-disciplinary team one and meeting patients, this gives us things to reflect on in our medical school applications like the multidisciplinary nature of the NHS, the life changing impact surgery can have and the importance of patient-centred, holistic care.”

Music Therapy

We have funded £22K to part fund 12 hours per week of a music therapist for a period of two years. Jessie’s Fund, a Charity set up to provide music therapy, is contributing the remaining 50% of the funding. The music therapist would work with children with life limiting or life- threatening illnesses, either on the ward or in the community.

The project will be progressed once the Covid-19 guidance allows.

York Hospital Radio

We awarded £2850 to York Hospital Radio for upgrading the technology needed to keep the station broadcasting. We were happy to help them as both our organisations enhance patient care in the hospital in their different but complementary ways.



Fundraising

The impact of Covid has inevitably been felt in relation to fundraising activities. In 2020, our annual fundraising events including St Crux and the Christmas raffle were unfortunately cancelled. We still explored innovative ways of raising funds.

During the first lockdown from March 2020 Tom and Max Bell offered a curry delivery to residents in Kelfield, to support the community and raise funds for FOYH, amongst other charities. A huge thank you to Tom, Max and the Bell Family.



In November 2020, we recognised the need to kickstart fundraising initiatives and established a Fundraising sub-committee including three Trustees: Rachel Martin (Chair), Hussein Syed and Ann Taylor. A fundraising strategy was defined and we now have a renewed sense of purpose. If you would like to be part of our Fundraising Sub- committee we really welcome your support and ideas, so please email Rachel.martin@foyh.org.uk

Since January 2021, a range of creative fundraising initiatives have been undertaken, raising much needed funds for FOYH and serving to promote FOYH more widely. We were fortunate to have the temporary support of York St. John University student Kelly Weatherburn, who kindly helped promote FOYH through different social media channels.

Get Kelfield Buzzing

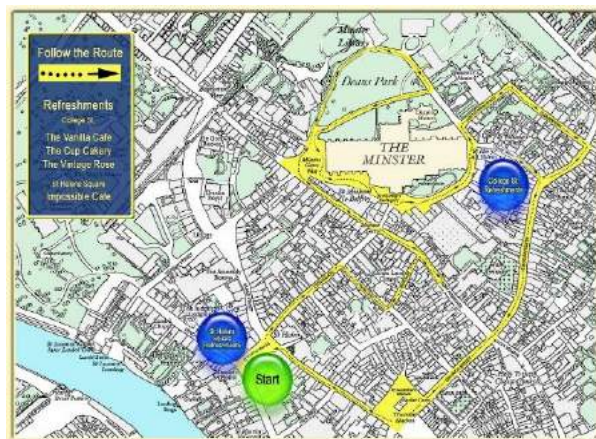
A village conservation fundraising initiative was set up by Trustee Stephanie Neale, and her husband Mel, raising a fantastic £800 for FOYH. Stephanie and Mel involved the villagers of Kelfield buying and scattering wild-flower seeds. The village benefited by having wild-flowers in the verges which pleases the bees and other pollinators. £400 was raised by selling the seeds and this was matched by Planet U Energy donating a further £400. A “Seed Sowing Saturday” was held in the village in the Planet U nature reserve.

A very big thank to Stephanie and Mel and to everyone who bought seeds, also to Planet U Energy for their very generous donation.



The York Walking Quiz

Stephanie Neale and husband Mel continue to identify innovative fundraising initiatives and recently set up The York Walking Quiz, promoted in bed and breakfasts and hotels around York. Targeted at tourists, the quiz consists of a 1.5 mile circular walk around the inner parts of York which points out matters of interest in a fun and entertaining way.



Those who complete the York Walking Quiz are signposted to the FOYH website to access answers to the quiz and hopefully leave a voluntary donation. It's early days but we're hopeful the initiative will prove increasingly popular as we promote more widely. Why don't you try it? Go to www.foyh.org.uk/fundraising/ to get a copy of the walk.



Setting a Personal or Group Challenge

Trustee, Rachel Martin, and Chairman, Hussein Syed, have set themselves individual challenges to raise funds for FOYH, setting up fundraising webpages to receive online donations. During June 2021, Rachel challenged herself to cycle 600km which she achieved and raised £420 for FOYH. Hussein has challenged himself to walk 300 miles between June-August and is on track to raise over £600 for FOYH. We're hoping to inspire others to set up individual or group challenges.

St Crux and Christmas Raffle

We have reinstated our popular annual fundraising events including St Crux which is being held 24th September and our Christmas raffle which will be drawn 14th December 2021. Thank you to volunteers who have kindly offered their help and support at the St Crux event, we really appreciate it.

Annual Accounts 2020/21

The Annual Accounts 2020/21 have been prepared and a full set is available on the Charity Commission website - <https://www.gov.uk/find-charity-information> - enter registration number 1183252 and also on the FOYH website www.foyh.org.uk

The 2020/21 accounts will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on 15th September 2021.

Michael Hall
Honorary Treasurer

SN/16-8-21