



# The League of Friends

OF THE ROYAL SHREWSBURY HOSPITAL

## Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2021/22

**Dear Member,**

As the autumn leaves fall to welcome a new season, we open a new chapter and look forward to brighter times ahead. There is something quite magical to see the Chelsea Flower Show capturing the wonders and vibrancy that this time of year brings; it can lift one's spirits and put a smile on our faces.

The latest crop of apples brings those heart-warming smells of home-baked puddings and of course not forgetting the good old pumpkin; even now with our children older we still enjoy carving out the middle and creating a spooky or smiley face and placing a fragrant candle inside to illuminate a dark corner.

As you read through my newsletter you will see how incredibly busy our wonderful Fundraising Committee have been during the summer months and many thanks to all those people who kindly welcomed us into their beautiful homes and gardens to host events for us. The virtual wine tasting evening proved to be a huge success and due to its popularity the committee have organised a virtual gin tasting evening in November, which should be just as much fun.

Three of the Friends shops are now open with the fourth due to open shortly; supported by the gradual return of our volunteers and some new friends who've recently joined us we are starting to slowly get back to some sort of normality. It's been especially wonderful to see the return of familiar faces... even if it is through a mask!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude and say a big thank you for your continued support and to wish you, your family and friends' good health and happiness.

Yours sincerely

Susan

Susan Hurdiss, Organising Secretary



*Darren McHale, Head of Audiology with scientist Patricia Ward and Chair of the Friends Richard Steventon*

Darren McHale, Head of Audiology said "We are absolutely delighted to be able to announce the installation of state-of-the-art Balance diagnostic equipment Visual Eyes system from Inter-Acoustics, following generous funding of over £20k from the Royal Shrewsbury League of Friends Charity. Dizziness and balance difficulties can have a profound effect on people's lives and it is estimated that 1 in 10 working age adults suffer some degree of disability due to dizziness. It is estimated that 24% of dizziness can be attributed to a Vestibular disorder. The new equipment allows us to investigate the function of the ear and brain control of a patient's Vestibular system and compare them with normal ranges. Having a detailed understanding of the patients balance system allows us to provide targeted treatment plans including Specialist Physiotherapy which help many return to more normal levels of function".

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## Introduction from the newly elected Executive Chairman Richard Steventon

"I retired from the NHS in 2012 after 38 years' service, moved to Shropshire in 1981 to set up the Respiratory Function Laboratory service; later providing a service for the Cardiologists and setting up a Urodynamics service for the Urologists. Around 1985 I was appointed as the Medical Engineering Services Manager (MES).

Shortly after retiring I was asked by the NHS National Performance Advisory Group to facilitate and run the English and Welsh Clinical Engineering meetings and Conference, at about the same time invited by the then Friends Exec Chairman Jayne Mott to join as a Board member for the LoF. Presumably because of my extensive knowledge of Medical Equipment and how the Trust functions! I felt very privileged to have been asked to join the Friends of the RSH. In due course I became the Chair of the Shops Committee further leading onto to be the Exec Vice Chair under Richard Lawn. In June this year I was nominated and duly elected as the new Chairman.

Since 2012 we have donated over £4.180 million to fund Medical Equipment, thanks to the hard work and dedication of all the Shop's Staff and Fundraising Team. Even more noticeable since the start of the Covid pandemic has been everybody's contribution to keeping the support for patients and staff which never ceases to amaze me. Well done to all and long may it continue.

For my 3 years term of office I want to encourage the Trust to seek funds from us that underpins innovation and development of the service, to ensure that the Clinical Staff have the leading technology available in order to encourage the best possible range of Medical Professionals to join the Trust. So ultimately benefit the patients."

Salop Leisure hosted a special evening to express their thanks and appreciation to all the League of Friends volunteers and staff for all their hard work and commitment during the pandemic and for the continued support and service they provide to the hospital.



*Staff member Vanessa McCloy*



*Volunteers  
Peter &  
Julie  
Crisnon*



*Executive Chairman Richard Steventon receives an award from Julia Clarke, Director of Public Participation at The SaTH NHS Trust, in appreciation to the Friends of the RSH for the generous donation of £30,000 towards the redevelopment of the Hamar Centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.*

The sun was shining at the end of May for the Friends open garden events held in the spectacular gardens of Marche Manor, kindly hosted by Kate & Carmel Hazan. The LoF received a request to provide funding for ten ambulatory pumps for End of Life Care patients and the proceeds of £2,500 raised from these events was enough to fund two of these special pieces of equipment. Many thanks to everyone who gave their support.



The breathtaking gardens of Cruckfield House proved to be the most perfect setting to enjoy afternoon tea and raised almost £2,000, an incredible achievement. Special thanks to Geoff Copley for his hospitality and being the most gracious of hosts.



## Dates for your diary:-

- **Thursday 14th October:**

Coffee Morning hosted by Jill Mace, Wheelhouse Barn, Shrawardine. SY4 1AH.

- **Friday 19th November at 7pm :**

A Virtual Gin Tasting Evening Led by Ed Potter from OakApple Catering. Tickets £20.00 includes 5 gin samples, mixers & a selection of delicious nibbles. (Choose 2 or 4 person pack) delivered to your door.

Contact [sallydavies365@gmail.com](mailto:sallydavies365@gmail.com) or telephone the Friends office 01743 261007

The Fundraising Committee has plenty of event ideas for 2022 which will be confirmed in the New Year depending on the current Covid restrictions.

Coffee mornings raised in total £3,200 and gave everyone the opportunity to get together and enjoy catching up with friends. Sincere thanks to our wonderful hosts Jo Spencer Jones, Sarah Sartain and Jane Preece.



*Delicious home-baked cakes lovingly created by Sarah Sartain and Helen Davies*



*Gail and other members of the Fundraising committee ran a successful plant stall with an array of glorious blooms to choose from*

*Fundraising committee member Jo Spencer Jones*



*Kate Hazan serving coffee*



Tennis Tournament held on the 9th September raised £1,800 which included a generous donation of £500 from Lloyds Bank. The winners of the tournament, Louise Wright & Fiona Edwards are seen receiving their prizes from Friends Chairman Richard Steventon and Lloyds Area Branch Manager Alex Sudlow, along with two of the organisers of the event Judy Edwards & Rob Hatts.

## Leaving a gift in your Will or leaving a donation in memory of a loved will make a lasting difference

*By making provision for the League of Friends RSH in your Will, you would be providing a lasting gift for future generations. Every sum, no matter how small, is welcomed and spent entirely on providing vital hospital equipment to improve patient care and help save more lives. Thank you very much indeed for your support.*



### DRAW TICKETS:

Enclosed is a book of 10 raffle tickets which you can purchase yourself, or sell to family and friends. Tickets are just £1 each (£10 for the book) sold/unsold tickets should be returned to the Friends office **by 10.00 am on Wednesday 15th December 2021** to ensure entry into the draw. **For extra tickets contact the office 01743 261007.**



# Whatever the season...

## Wace Morgan Solicitors will point you in the right direction



For legal advice contact Wace Morgan Solicitors

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A huge thanks to Wace Morgan for once again generously sponsoring this newsletter, we are so very grateful for their continual support.