

Message from Holy Cross CEO – Ross White

The year 2021/22 was characterised by a slow and steady recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. Throughout the year, the hospital always had some beds unoccupied, lower than planned staffing, restricted visiting, and variable demand for our inpatient services. It was a similar picture elsewhere.

We move into this year with a steady and stronger demand for both inpatient and outpatient services, a growing workforce, volunteers involved, more flexibility for families to visit, music therapy recommencing, patient outings up and running, and projected financial recovery following a difficult two years.

Looking back over the last twelve months, we:

- maintained high care standards (monitored by the CQC); welcomed Dr Branwen Melville as our new Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine; purchased equipment so that ENT endoscopy can be undertaken at Holy Cross; completed and opened the Treehouse; added extra-corporeal shockwave therapy and post-natal support to the services provided by The Physiotherapy Centre; welcomed new staff including (most recently) twelve nurses from India; further developed our electronic patient record system; focused on our 'internationalism' as part of our annual Celebration of Learning and Development, welcomed student nurses from the University of Surrey for placements at Holy Cross, held a successful Clinical Team Development Day; received a High Sheriff's Award; introduced a remembrance service for families of patients who had passed away, installed solar panning on the hospital; upgraded the bathrooms at the Selsey holiday cottage; held a Holy Cross music festival; managed Covid; and maintained patients at the centre of all we do.

Looking ahead, areas of focus include:

- expanding the hospital to 42 beds; improving our on-site staff accommodation; going paperless for patient records; hosting a conference in 'Recent Advances in Managing Disorders of Consciousness'; maintaining and enhancing quality, safety and the overall experience for people we look after and their families; improving the Sensory Room equipment, replacing the hoist in the hydrotherapy pool; developing our staff; and strengthening our values.

A service users/relatives survey was conducted recently. The overall opinion of the hospital remains high and the general response to our Covid measures was positive.

Finally, I am extremely grateful to the Friends of Holy Cross for their continued support and encouragement.

The Friends make a huge difference to the care and wellbeing of people we look after and most recently have enabled the purchase of 'Magic Mirror' equipment for the Sensory Room.

Ross White, CEO – Holy Cross Hospital



Captions: Official opening of the treehouse (left) and presentation of a High Sheriff's Award

It is with great sadness that the Committee of the Friends of Holy Cross announce the death of their friend and colleague John Wharton. John was a vital part of the committee. As well as his contribution in the meetings, he provided a legal view on matters, was very well connected in Haslemere and was a stalwart in attending all our events. John organised the golf day for Holy Cross for many years and, and during this time, annually, it was the most successful fundraising event. John will be much missed.

Committee news Due to family and work pressures Jo Casebourne has retired from the committee. Jo had taken on responsibility for the newsletter and also for organising last years sponsored walk. The committee would like to thank her for all her help and company.

The committee is looking for new members. If anyone would like further information, please contact Torquil Sligo-Young; tcfbsy@btinternet.com

Dates for the Diary

All Friends are invited to attend the AGM;

The Friends of Holy Cross AGM

**Thursday 9th June
7.00pm**

**The Living Room
Holy Cross Hospital**

Sponsored Walk; Sunday 12th June. This is moving from last year's hills of the South Downs to the green flatlands of the banks of the river Wey. Starting at 10.30 at Crown Court car park, Godalming, walking along the banks of the river Wey to The Wayside in Guilford for lunch and back again. All Friends and friends of Friends are invited to join in the walk and raise sponsorship, either directly or via Bill Kurshid's page on Just giving. Please let Bill know if you will be walking with us so that lunch can be pre-booked: bill.khurshid@gmail.com

Golf day; Tuesday 13th September. This will be organised by Phil Craig. To join in or contribute raffle prizes please contact Phil on phil.craig0@gmail.com

Tennis; Friday 30th September. A tennis tournament of 6-8 players per court, on courts in and around Godalming and Haslemere, followed by lunch all together at a venue to be confirmed. Interested? Please contact Marie-Claire Wilson; marieclaire.wilson@btinternet.com

Winemans Bluff; Saturday 19th November, Northchapel Village Hall. A return of this popular and fun evening, tasting wine and deciding which of the panel is telling the truth about the wine. The ticket price includes supper and the tasted wines. Further details in the next newsletter. Hurry and reserve your ticket; Sue Mitchell, sue.j.mitchell@btinternet.com

Fundraising events and purchases Quiz night 13/11/21 £2,704 raised



This was our first indoor fundraising event since Covid started and it was wonderful evening. The quiz was pulled together and presented by Richard Royds of Haslemere Cellar and Cheesebox. Richard starts finding questions for the next quiz as soon as he has finished the previous one, so Covid had given him a long time to think. No wonder the questions were so diverse and challenging. Many thanks to Richard and his wife Jenny, who was his able assistant, the kitchen helpers, and to members of the committee who produced supper and found fantastic raffle prize raffle.

The Magic Mirror. Funding was given to the hospital for the Magic Mirror. This allows patients to practice specific movements and exercises while experiencing a wide range of rewarding on-screen games, to help with focus, movement, coordination and motivation.