

# Hospitality



Jeanette Simpson and Norma Ibbott with the new Sandwich Trolley

Mr and Mrs Pritchard, winners of the Picture Raffle with Ann Wilson

The Da Vinci Robot  
FoEH Special Project

**THE QUARTERLY  
MAGAZINE**

of the

**Friends of the  
Eastbourne  
Hospital**



**SPRING EDITION**

**January - April 2015**

**Number 137**

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR 2015

- 21<sup>st</sup> March FoEH Ball, Winter Gardens
- 28<sup>th</sup> March Quiz  
7.30 pm Christchurch Hall, Seaside
- 17<sup>th</sup> May Cream Tea & Summer Fair  
1.30 – 4.30 pm East Dean & Friston Village Hall
- 17<sup>th</sup> June Grand Draw, Old Vicarage, Firl
- 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Autumn Art Exhibition  
October St Andrew's School, Meads
- 7<sup>th</sup> November Christmas Coffee Morning  
10 am – 12 pm St John's Parish Hall, Meads

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4

Debbie Wicks

Richard Austin-Cooper

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## **CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

As usual at this time of year, I am writing this in the brief lull between the Christmas and New Year festivities. I hope that you all had a very enjoyable Christmas and wish you a very happy and successful 2015. It is a time to reflect on the previous year and look forward to the new.

Those who attended the AGM in November will have heard in my report that 2014 was a year of mixed fortune (see page 24). Whilst we were very successful with fund-raising for the benefit of the Acute Stroke Unit and managing to support many other areas of the DGH, there were significant disappointments. These included the entirely predictable outcome of the Public Consultation on the future of Obstetric and related services, the “on-off” saga of the Pevensey Ward redevelopment continuing to be a major frustration for all and the change of plans for the provision of Day Surgery within the DGH (now to be provided within the existing operating theatres) which was our major project for 2013.

A new year, however, is always a time to look forward, for a fresh start and with renewed enthusiasm; 2015 promises to be such a year. It looks as though Pevensey Ward is “on” again and we will be meeting in January to agree how the Charity’s funds can be used to enhance the project. An anticipated start date in February/March is now predicted by hospital management (I am sure there will be a few obstacles on the way, but it is looking good at the moment). We have been informed that work is proceeding for the provision of Radiotherapy in Eastbourne; a site at the DGH and proposed contractors have been identified. This will be an outreach service from Brighton and we are entirely in their hands regarding timescale etc. Whilst not a Friends’ project, it is very welcome and will make a considerable difference for patients. Indications are that the department will be completed late 2015/early 2016.

Finally, we have our own major project – the “Da Vinci” robot (reported elsewhere in this edition). There is no doubt that the introduction of robotic surgery will be a big step forward for the hospital. It is very likely that, in the future, such surgery will only be commissioned at centres with such a facility. It will go a long way, therefore, in making the DGH a centre for such surgery and help give it a secure future. This has only been made possible by the ability of the Trustees’ to be able to divert funds previously designated, and put aside, for Day Surgery!! It is a daunting challenge to raise the funds required but, with the help of the Eastbourne population and our supporters, I am confident that we will achieve it. There is, therefore, a great deal to be optimistic about and we can enter 2015 with considerable anticipation.

Happy New Year!

Peter Nash

# Quiz Night

In support of the Friends of the Eastbourne Hospital

**Saturday 28 March 2015**

7.00 pm for **7.30 pm** start

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[www.esht.nhs.uk/foeh](http://www.esht.nhs.uk/foeh)



## THE GRAND DRAW

We are already getting organised for the Grand Draw, which this year is going to be drawn on 17 June 2015 at the Friends Open Garden at The Old Vicarage, Firle. Once again the first prize will be £1,000 with a second cash prize of £300 and a third of £200! There will, of course, be many other fantastic prizes, donated by generous local businesses.

Last year, with the help of more than 60 volunteers selling raffle tickets in the DGH main foyer, over £5,500 was raised.

The Friends Office will be organising the rota for the sale of Grand Draw tickets in the hospital foyer leading up to the Draw. If you would like to help, please ring Sue or Debbie on 01323 438236. We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for your support.

Debbie Wicks

### SELLING DATES

### SHIFT TIMES

WEEK 1 February	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	10am -12noon} on all
WEEK 2 March	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	2pm - 4pm } selling dates
WEEK 3 April	20 <sup>th</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup>	
WEEK 4 May	18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	
WEEK 5 May	26 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	
WEEK 6 June	1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	
WEEK 7 June	8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	
WEEK 8 July	15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>	

## COLLECTING BOXES

One of our plans for the New Year is to have a lot more Friends' collecting boxes in the community. We would be very keen to hear from you if you know of any suitable locations where these could be placed – shops or surgeries for instance. At the moment we have boxes in some shops and cafes. For example, Heath & Son Butchers, in Green Street, who suggest customers to make a donation when they are given a bone for their dog and raise hundreds of pounds each year!

We would especially like to hear from anyone who might be able to help us by delivering and collecting boxes on a regular basis. It doesn't have to be all of them, just a few in your local area. If you have any ideas or think you might be able to help, please could you contact the office on 01323 438236.

Thank you, Sue Duffell

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## **GETTING THE WORD OUT**

Here in the office we try very hard to advertise events all over Eastbourne, Hailsham, Polegate, Seaford and the surrounding villages. We advertise on websites, in magazines, on the buses, in doctors' surgeries, in the hospital, in shops, libraries and in the paper. Anywhere and everywhere we think of that will attract attention. Yet we still have people saying "it wasn't very well publicised was it"? Obviously people will only come to an event if they know it is happening so therefore we need to find a way of improving our advertising coverage.

So, we are asking for your help. We would like to have a list of people who would be happy to put up poster(s) in their church, club or local shop etc. Do you have a good relationship with your butcher or post office manager? Do you go to church or are you a member of a club? Would you be happy to receive a poster to put up when we have events to promote or could you add the information to a list to be read out?

If you are able to help, please contact the office on: 01323 438236 or email: [esh-tr.friendsdgh@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.friendsdgh@nhs.net) and let us know where you could put a poster – let's see if we can get the whole area covered!

Debbie Wicks

## **REMADE CARDS**

The remade card team are bracing themselves for the Christmas card sorting sessions, which provide the cards that are remade for sale later in the year. If you would like to donate your Christmas cards, please leave them in the collection box at the back entrance to the shop, by the beginning of February. Please note that we are not able to use old calendars. We would, of course, also welcome your birthday, get well, best wishes, sympathy and general greetings cards, which we remake throughout the year. You can drop them off anytime.

As well as cards to be remade, we also collect stamps, wool and milk bottle tops. You can hand all these in at the shop.

During 2014 the Remade Card Team made 10,819 cards, of which 3,700 were Christmas cards. I would like to thank the ladies for their hard work and support throughout the year and congratulate them on a great achievement.

You can buy a remade card in the Friends Shop in the main foyer or at one of our events. Cards cost from 30p and you can buy a special handmade card for 50p – what a bargain!

Debbie Wicks

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## **THE FRIENDS 9<sup>th</sup> AUTUMN ART EXHIBITION**

Another successful Art Exhibition was staged at St Andrews' Prep School, Meads in October. The Headmaster, Mr Simon Severino and his staff allowed us free use of the school gym over four days, as they feel this is an important link with the Friends' Charity and the hospital community.

Dr Nik Patel, Consultant Physician, opened the Exhibition and spoke with gratitude to 120 guests about the Friends' Major Project to provide equipment for the Acute Stroke Unit. Mrs Isobel Savile entertained the guests with a programme of light music on the piano.

On display and for sale were 249 original paintings by 64 local artists as well as a striking display of pictures and World War I figurines by St Andrews' pupils. Over 300 visitors came to admire the paintings and 28 were sold, with 20% of the sale prices going to the FoEH. Local artist, Mr Derek Baulcomb, donated his very popular painting, 'Harvest Time', for the raffle. Mr Nick Englefield, also a local artist and popular demonstrator, gave a demonstration of a moonlight seascape to an attentive audience on Saturday afternoon. Afterwards the very dramatic picture was auctioned in aid of the charity. The Exhibition raised a total of £2,492 towards equipment for the Acute Stroke Unit.

We are very grateful to our many sponsors. The Society of Eastbourne Artists and the Pevensey Art Group for lending us their screens; PlanAHead for printing our entry forms, flyers, invitations, catalogues and posters; Mrs Ellen Crockford for donating the wine for the Preview Party and Mr and Mrs Rodney Browne for gathering a huge number of prizes and for organising the Tombola.

Mr John Gross, Mr Hugh Parker and Mr John Powley and their team built the Exhibition, while Mr Geoff Duffell and Mr Trevor Tollett transported the screens. Ruth Shand made all the numbers for the paintings and floral displays were provided by Mrs Wendy Hylands, a volunteer in the Friends Flower Shop.

The FoEH would like to thank all the artists who supported the Exhibition by providing a wonderful display of paintings. We are also very grateful to the Planning Team and all the volunteers who gave their time to help in many different ways over the four days of the Event.

Finally thank you to all who came to see the 'Show' and I am delighted to tell you that St Andrews Prep have invited us to hold another Art Exhibition in their Gym on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

Ann Caffyn, Art Exhibition Organiser

## **VOLUNTEERING IN THE FoEH SHOP**

Did you know that the FoEH shop and trolley services provide a significant percentage of the funds the charity has to spend on improvements to our hospital? To run the Shop the Friends employ Sue, the part-time Shop Manager, who is aided and abetted by a part-time Assistant Manager. Apart from these two hard-working individuals, the shops are fully staffed by volunteers, who generously give up their time to help keep the shops open, running smoothly and making money for the charity.

We are currently experiencing a natural dip in volunteer numbers. People move, are unwell or have other commitments, such as the joy of looking after grandchildren. These are some of the reasons why we need to boost the number of volunteers we currently have and are embarking on a recruitment drive to find more people to become part of this special team.

Perhaps you can't volunteer yourself but know someone who might be happy to give a few hours a week to help? Why not suggest it to them? Or have you been looking for something rewarding to do with your spare time – maybe this could fit the bill?

If you think that you can help and would like to find out more, please call us on 01323 438236. We can arrange taster sessions in the shop or on one of the trolley rounds, so that you can see if it's something that you would like to do on a regular basis. We have all sorts of shifts available – from first thing in the morning for early risers, to late afternoon shifts for those who have more time later in the day; weekdays and weekends.

The Voluntary Services Department hold a regular presentation for potential new volunteers, to tell them all about what is involved in volunteering at the Eastbourne DGH. If you like what you hear at this session, you then fill in an application form and have a one to one chat about what you would like to do. We sincerely hope that you choose to join our team of shop and trolley volunteers! You can contact the Voluntary Services Department on 01323 417400 ext 4880 or email: [esh-tr.voluntaryservices-eastbourne@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.voluntaryservices-eastbourne@nhs.net) for more information.

Studies have shown that: "Taking time to VOLUNTEER – even for a few hours a week – will benefit you as well as others. Volunteering has been shown to boost mental and physical health, combat depression and help people live longer." (Good Housekeeping Magazine 2010) So what are you waiting for? Come and join us and help make a difference!

Debbie Wicks

## FUND-RAISING REPORT

In the last three months the FoEH have been very fortunate to receive donations from many individuals, groups, clubs and societies. The youngest supporter was Helena Permaul, who took part in a 10k fun run/walk in memory of her grandmother, Sheen Permaul. Helena raised £65 and donated half of the money to the Pevensey Appeal and gave the other half to her school, Parkside Primary; well done Helena!

The Seaford Probus Group gave £115 in thanks for a talk about the FoEH given by our Chairman, Peter Nash.



Jason Dulake, pictured here with his wife Sally (left) and Marion Dulake, raised £1,650 from a football tournament he organised at Woodmansterne Hyde FC, in memory of Ken Dulake. This brings the total donated to Pevensey Ward in the last two years in memory of Ken to over £6,000.

The Masons are very well-known for their charitable giving; the FoEH have received £750 from Anderida Chapter 2434 for Friston Ward, which is the children's ward at the Eastbourne DGH.

Another group that regularly supports the FoEH are Eastbourne Round Table 32 who sent in a generous donation of £250.

Fund-raisers can also be found within the hospital and the FoEH has received a donation of £125 from the Facilities Department from football matches they organised in the autumn.

Have you been inspired to do something to raise money for the Friends? You could hold a coffee morning or a cake sale? Or, if you are feeling energetic or courageous, how about a sponsored run, a bike ride or a parachute jump? If you need any help, such as sponsorship forms or a collecting box, please contact us at the office on 01323 438236. If you are computer savvy you may like to set up your own donation page on BT MyDonate, which is a website that makes sponsorship very easy and ensures that the charity gets gift aid on money generously donated.

Don't forget that Matt Graham-Single is once again running the Brighton Marathon dressed as a Ghost Buster for the FoEH. You can sponsor him at: [www.justgiving.com/Matthew-Graham-Single1](http://www.justgiving.com/Matthew-Graham-Single1) and help him reach his £500 target. Good luck Matt!

Debbie Wicks

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## CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING 2014

How can we ever thank you all, our very valued and faithful supporters? For without your help we would not have raised over £2,600 towards our Special Project for 2014, to provide equipment to enhance the Acute Stroke Unit at the Eastbourne DGH.



Thank you to all the stallholders for the lovely displays of jewellery, books, gifts, toys, cards, stamps (pictured left doing a roaring trade), cakes, patchwork, the FoEH shop goods and Flowers. The cake stall was laden with such delicious goodies and our thanks go to all the ladies who made cakes, quiches, marmalade and chutney. Also to Mr Tafft, who generously donated

the most scrumptious sausage rolls and scotch eggs....looking forward to next year already!!! Our thanks also go to Miss Compton who stocked up the table with more delicious cakes.

The café area looked very festive with the pretty table decorations. Coffee Team ladies, you were very busy bees supplying over 300 cups of coffee or tea. Thank you for all your help.

Thank you to the Raffle Sellers who kindly gave up their time raised £542 towards the total - even more than last year!

We are grateful to Bentons, the confectioners, for their hamper; Shepherds, the greengrocer, for the delicious fruit basket; Mr Keith Pratt, who kindly donated the wine hamper; Horam Quilters for the beautiful raffle prize and David Salmon for donating the lovely picture.

Our Office Girls once again were so supportive and helped to make the event run smoothly. Thank you.

A very happy and healthy New Year to you all.

Rosemary Cameron, Gill Garner, Di Paterson, Gilda Perry,  
Elizabeth Wallis and Bo Phillips

Did you get any Christmas presents that were really lovely, generously given but “not quite you”? If so, please consider donating them to the Friends – we can use your gifts as raffle prizes or sell them at one of our events. Please call us on 01323 438236 *Thank you*

# THE DA VINCI ROBOT

## FoEH Special Project for 2015



The Da Vinci Robot is here! Its principle use will be for patients with prostate cancer requiring major surgery, but patients with other pelvic and colorectal cancers may also be helped in the future.

At a cost to the Friends of just over £1million, it would normally take several years to raise the funds. This is too long to wait, and we have agreed a lease-purchase scheme enabling immediate delivery, with the first operation likely to be performed in spring 2015.

This is the most daunting and challenging task undertaken by the Charity, but the benefits will be widely felt within the community. It is exceedingly good news for future patients who will benefit from minimally invasive surgery with less pain and much quicker recovery times. It is a major step towards creating a Centre of Excellence in Eastbourne for such procedures and will attract patients from the whole of the county and parts of neighbouring counties. It will demonstrate that the future of the Eastbourne DGH as an important hospital is secured for the foreseeable future.

Steve Garnett, Consultant Urologist said: "This puts Eastbourne DGH among the top hospitals in the UK. This is an amazingly generous donation by the FoEH and a real vote of confidence in the future of Eastbourne DGH."

You can help by supporting our fund-raising events in the future and look out for the Ball on 21 March at the Winter Garden and our planned "Open Evening" in late January, when we will be showing off our prize acquisition. Alternatively, you can also contribute by direct donation or sponsorship to the Friends of the Eastbourne Hospital c/o the Friends' Office at the DGH.



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## **SILVER JEWELLERY AND HANDBAGS**

The year ended on a happy note. The Christmas Coffee Morning at St John's Hall was bursting with supporters, lots of noise and great cheerfulness. I have never seen the Hall so full and it stayed that way for the whole two hours. Our stall was extremely busy and we were not even able to stop to have our coffee! You will be pleased to know that we raised approximately £358 from sales of silver, jewellery and handbags.

Again, June and I have to sincerely thank the generous residents of Eastbourne, who never fail to donate interesting pieces of jewellery that help boost our earnings. Our success is also due to the support we are kindly given from dear Jeanette & Paul, of the Eastbourne Auction Rooms, who never fail to support our cause with lots of enthusiasm (see their advert on page 21).

We are starting to collect items for the Summer Fair at the Friends Cream Tea on Sunday 17 May 2015 at East Dean and Friston Village Hall. Please call me on 01323 732109 if you have a donation.

We remain ever so grateful for your kind and generous support.

Jeanette Evans & June Biscoe

## **BRIDGE DRIVE IN MEMORY OF JEAN**

The Bridge Drive, in memory of Jean Robertson, was enjoyed by 36 players. We played 24 hands of Bridge and stopped half way through for a delicious tea. Sandwiches were supplied by Jared, the Chef at Seaford Golf Club and wonderful homemade cakes were baked by some of the lady members. A raffle was drawn in the break raising £189.50. Prizes were donated by those attending and various club members.

The winners of the Bridge were Tony Adams and Derek Budd with over 3,000 Chicago points, which they obtained by bidding and making a Grand Slam of 7 no trumps on the very last hand!

A total of £292.50 was raised on the afternoon and a good time was had by all!

Jean Robertson was a very enthusiastic Bridge player who gave a lot of her time to help the "novice" Bridge players at Seaford Golf Club; she was also a long-term "Friend of the Eastbourne Hospital". The ladies like to remember her through this Bridge Drive each year.

Julia Walker

## GIFTS, LEGACIES AND DONATIONS

### Donations in lieu of Flowers

During the past three months we have received with gratitude donations totalling £1,891.67 in memory of:

Cyril Dyte, Herbert Gregory, Brian Hobden, Vernon Holter, Ping Chung Lau, Linda Mackett, Betty Nutting, Marysia Romaniec, Marjorie Stacey, David Thomas, Betty Turner and Alfred Vincent

### Legacies

During the past three months we have received, with gratitude, legacies from the estates of:

Pamela Clements, Rose Farrugia, Herbert Gregory, Alan Harvey, Betty Nutting, Hazel Sweetlove, Pamela Wall and John Wilkinson

### Recent gifts to the Eastbourne District General Hospital

Medication Passports	Pharmacy	£1,000
Endodontic Kit	Theatres	£4,495
Stroke Unit Equipment	Stroke Unit	£63,712
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£69,207</b>

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I cannot believe that yet another year has passed and it is time for me to let you know how much your stamps and postcards have realised for Friends' projects. Sales were a little down this year; the total being £2,168 and this brings the running total to £31,233.

So again – thank you all so much for your continued support, without which this would not be possible. I wish everybody a very happy and healthy New Year.

June Tickner



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## **NEWS FROM THE OFFICE**

Another three months have passed and we have embarked on another year and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very happy New Year and hope that Christmas was an enjoyable time for you all.

Looking back, our stand at the Good Life Show at the Winter Garden on Oct 1 went very well. We were able to sell lots of remade cards and raffle tickets and we also talked to a lot of people. We plan to do it again this year, so please look out for us there when the time comes.

The Friends Carol Service was a great success, with standing room only available. I would like to say a big thank you to Rev Eugene Adams, Esther Bird and the choir for all their hard work and support. It was good to have so many people come and join in for both the service and mince pies and tea afterwards.

Looking forward, there are lots of exciting things on the programme over the next few months – firstly after a lot of discussion and work we will be embarking on a re-branding exercise. This will give The Friends a new image not too far removed from how it is presented at the moment but will bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a smart new look, which will begin to emerge in due course.

Everybody likes a bargain and we will be rolling out a discount scheme to our members, which is currently available to hospital staff. This will enable you to buy goods at a wide range of outlets at a discount on production of your membership card. More information about this will follow in the next edition of Hospitality.

No doubt you will have seen the publicity in the local paper about our Special Project for 2015, namely a Da Vinci Robot, which is a seriously exciting piece of kit the Friends have been able to purchase for the Urology Department. We have already taken delivery of the robot and once staff have been trained to use it, the first operations are planned for sometime in February. This will bring huge benefits to the DGH and the community it serves.

I would also like to remind you that I am looking for speaking engagements to promote The Friends, so if you are a member of a club or association please let your committee know of my availability.

Ann Wilson

## CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Your Grace, Madam President, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a pleasure to present this, my 9<sup>th</sup>, annual report on the activities of the Friends of the Eastbourne Hospital for the year ending 31 August 2014. Please note the subtle difference to our title from previous years; those with long memories will remember that there were a number of different hospitals in Eastbourne. In recognition that there is now only the one Hospital we have obtained the permission of the Charity Commission to drop the "s" from Hospitals to become the Friends of the Eastbourne Hospital.

The Friends have now completed 66 years of continuous service and the aims and objectives have remained much the same and can be summarised:

1. To provide funds for extra services, equipment and amenities for patients and staff, and to make donations where the expenditure has been recommended by the relevant NHS Trust and has been approved by the Committee.
2. To encourage voluntary work in the hospital.
3. To provide a link between hospital and community.

The Charity is managed by a Board of Trustees who are elected and, thereafter, re-elected at 3 yearly intervals at the Annual General Meeting.

In addition to raising funds, the Charity is determined to continue to provide a direct service to the Hospital, its patients and visitors. It does this in a number of ways including:

Two shops – a main shop in the entrance to the Hospital and a small outlet by the staff side entrance to the Hospital

A Flower Shop – at the entrance to the Hospital and

A Trolley Service around the wards for the convenience of staff and patients who are unable to visit the other shops.

During the course of the year, the shop extended its activities to include a morning trolley service delivering sandwiches to all departments for the convenience of the very busy staff who feel unable to get away or need to be flexible with their lunch breaks. This has proved to be very popular.

The shops are under the management of a part-time salaried manageress and an assistant. Apart from these positions, the shops, Flower Shop and trolley services are otherwise fully staffed by volunteers, with all surpluses generated by these activities being used to further the objectives of the "Friends". We are indebted to the many volunteers who willingly give up so much of their time both in the shops and at other events – it is impossible to quantify but exceeds some 20,000 hours each year - where would we be

without them? Many members of staff, patients and visitors alike have commented on their friendliness.

Funds are raised in a number of ways including: legacies, donations and direct fund-raising. Many donations are received in lieu of flowers, whilst legacies remain an unpredictable, although very important, source of income. In September 2013 we held our first “free wills fortnight”, thanks to the generosity of Mayo Wynne Baxter, Cornfield Law, Stephen Rimmer, and Lawson Lewis Blakers. A spin off from this was the very generous offer from Cornfield Law to hold a regular day to provide a free wills service for staff - co-ordinated by the Friends, with no strings attached.

We are very grateful to relatives who, in the time of bereavement, still think of us and we can assure them that all donations are gratefully received and make a significant contribution to our activities.

I cannot talk about all of the fund-raising activities, but can single out some:

The Sugar Ray Charity Golf Day - held in early September at the Royal Eastbourne Golf Club is always an enjoyable event, despite unpredictable weather. I am grateful to the Club who again could not have been more helpful; Eastbourne Motoring Centre, particularly Tracey Wickens, for their substantial support and assistance at this event and the many local companies that sponsored the holes and refreshments for the participants.

The Spring Ball – held in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Eastbourne – which alone generated approximately £20,000. I am indebted to my colleagues in the Rotary Club for their support. We also benefitted from very generous sponsorship principally from Brufords and Johnson Press through “etc” magazine.

The Open Gardens Scheme - I must thank Gill Woolley and Heather Harper on a very successful year with many highlights and, of course, the many owners who willingly allow members of the public to invade their gardens whilst raising funds for us. Whilst we are very grateful to them all, I must mention Hellingly Village with several gardens all open on the same day complete with Brass Band and ploughman’s lunch – a real team effort and in particular Dr and Mrs Colin Tourle in whose garden we enjoyed lunch whilst listening to the band.

We continued our “Dine around the World” evenings by visiting Thailand at Thai Marina and Turkey at Pasha’s now unfortunately closed - hopefully not as a result of our visit! At the latter, we had an exhibition of belly dancing, with your Chairman invited to join in – not necessarily an experience I would want to repeat and I am pleased not to have seen the photograph.

We have also continued with our Cream Tea and mini - fete, but following inclement weather on previous occasions, moved this to East Dean Village Hall, which provided us with the ability of holding some of the stalls indoors. A wise precaution as, although it did not rain, the weather was threatening!

The Art Exhibition is an established feature of our fund-raising year and thanks to the Headmaster, was held at St Andrew's School during the October break. In addition to the organising committee led by our President, I am very grateful to the local artists, who showed off their talents at this event, which is enjoyed by all who attend.

Throughout the year, we have also benefited from a number of coffee mornings generously hosted by many individuals with the proceeds coming to the Friends. The principal one of these is our successful annual Christmas Fair and Coffee Morning held at St John's Church Hall. My thanks, as ever, must go to the organisers and volunteers for their input.

Throughout the year, we also benefit from numerous smaller events organised on our behalf, including quizzes, raffles and, following the donation of the picture, permission to create a jigsaw, which we are doing again this year. Every donation and contribution - big or small - counts and without them we would not be able to do what we do.

### **What has all this activity achieved?**

In many ways, it has been a successful year. Most importantly, we undertook to support the provision of equipment for the Acute Stroke Unit which is now located at the DGH and takes patients from all over East Sussex, and in total we have raised £180,000. I am sure that we are aware of the potentially devastating effects of a stroke and we will hear more about the unit from Dr Conrad after this report.

In addition, we have provided or agreed to provide:

• OSNA machine (Breast Surgery)	£74,000
• Nautilus Picc (central venous line detection)	£ 9,360
• Audiometer	£ 1,465
• Physiotherapy at Firwood House	£ 2,353
• ECG telemetry	£ 30,565
• Recliner Treatment Chairs	£ 4,252
• Sexual Health display screen	£ 800
• Slipper Socks (fall prevention trial)	£ 500
• Play toys (Friston)	£ 380
• Head camera (Urology)	£ 4,800

• Ophthalmology	£ 10,000
• Physiotherapy – Theratrainer	£ 6,691
• Occupational Therapy (therapeutic garden)	£ 4,200
• Bladder Scanners	£ 16,350
• Personal Attack Alarms (staff)	£ 499
• Maternity – foetal monitors	£ 1,050
• Dental	£ 4,495

Whilst, inevitably, much of our efforts go towards providing equipment for the hospital, where possible we try to enhance the patients stay. The Trolley Service around the wards and the provision of Courtesy Packs (containing simple toiletry items that are so important to us, but are frequently overlooked on coming into hospital, particularly as an emergency admission) are just two examples of the way we can improve the time spent in hospital.

We have continued our series of talks by Hospital Consultants and Specialists on advances in medicine. These talks are in lay terms directed at the general public, rather than the medical audience. Arranged by our Education Officer, Mr Mark Malak (Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology), we held 3 talks by Dr Nik Patel, Consultant Cardiologist, Mr Andrew Skyrme, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, and Mr Michael Williams, Consultant Maxillo-facial Surgeon; all well attended with very positive feed back. Mr Malak has agreed to organise more for 2015.

It has, however, not been a year without difficulty for the Friends and the Hospital. Following a public consultation, the East Sussex County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee accepted the proposals to make permanent the decision to single-site Obstetric and the associated services of Special Care Baby Unit, in-patient Paediatrics and emergency Gynaecology, which had already been moved to the Conquest temporarily. This left many of our members and the public questioning the future of the Hospital. Not infrequently we have been asked the question: "Why should we give you money if it all ends up at the Conquest?" It is important therefore that I again stress the position of the Charity. The role of the Charity is to support the Hospital and the services provided by it, which may include outreach services in the local community. We will continue to do this, whatever form the hospital takes in the future - and it does have a future.

As far as our funds are concerned, we have stated and will continue to state, that we are aware of public concerns and that money given to us is provided by the Eastbourne community for the benefit of the Eastbourne Hospital. We, therefore, only support projects that meet these criteria. We

wish to see that the services provided by the hospital are of the highest possible standard and if we can assist with that, we will do so.

I know that many of you will wish to know of the progress on the Pevensey Ward Appeal, and this will be dealt with as a separate agenda item. Suffice to say that this has contributed both high points and latterly a low point of the year. The first high point came early in the year when we were informed that it had been included in the capital funding for this year. This was followed by a series of meetings to determine how our funds could be used to enhance the project with an anticipated start date of October. The low point being when we were again informed that the project had been put on hold. We will hear more later in the meeting.

Members will recall that in 2012/13 we were asked by East Sussex Healthcare Trust to raise funds for equipment to support the provision of an additional new Day Surgery Theatre. This we willingly did and at last year's AGM, I announced that we had achieved our target. However, as you will know from the ensuing publicity, the Trust changed its decision and decided that Day surgery would now be delivered through the existing main operating theatres. As a result, the Trustees felt that they had no choice other than to freeze the funds. Those funds consist of 2 elements:

- a) RESTRICTED funds – these are funds that have been raised directly for the project and/or donated specifically for the project. They can only be spent on Day Surgery.
- b) DESIGNATED funds – these are funds that have been attributed to the fund by the Trustees from other income streams including non-specific donations. They can, therefore, be re-assigned at the discretion of the Trustees.

This is a very important distinction as it gives the Charity room to manoeuvre. During the course of 2013, the day surgery staff requested a number of items which were deemed urgent and were duly purchased. Currently the restricted fund stands at approximately £7,000 – which we will only use for Day Surgery purposes and a designated fund is £213,000 making up the frozen fund of £220,000.

This brings me to the project which we are planning to undertake next. You may remember that some years ago the Friends funded a theatre with state of the art equipment, the “Endo-Alpha” Theatre, then the first of its type in Europe, which enabled surgeons to carry out very extensive key hole surgery for procedures which otherwise would have required large, painful incisions, considerable blood loss, days of painful recuperation and often a stay in ITU. Such procedures have advanced considerably in this time. Whilst good for the patient, they are difficult to learn and very tiring, both physically and mentally. Technology has moved on and the Trustees have

been approached and have agreed to purchase a surgical robot to help. Controlled by the surgeon in comfort, they allow more precision and accuracy and are not subject to hand tremor or the requirements of an assistant holding other instruments in the right place, to keep things in view. This is probably our most ambitious and exciting project yet at a cost in excess of £1 million. It has only been made possible by the agreement of the Trustees to use the £213,000 from the previously mentioned designated fund to kick start this project.

I know that there will be some who will ask if this will be subject to the same delays as the Pevensey Project or, worse, subject to the Trust changing its mind. The answer to both is definitely “NO”. Thanks to a number of negotiations and the co-operation of many, we have an agreement that a deposit can be paid and the equipment installed within a matter of weeks. We anticipate the order being placed before the end of the month. This will be excellent news for the hospital, the surgeons and most of all the population living in and around Eastbourne, since they are mainly used for patients with pelvic cancer and in particular those with prostatic cancer requiring major surgery. It is likely that in the future, without this equipment, patients will be required to travel to centres some considerable distance away. I hope, therefore, that you share my excitement about this project.

None of this can be achieved without the support and very hard work of my fellow Trustees, and in many cases their family and friends. Time does not permit me to mention them by name nor to do justice to their efforts, but I am extremely grateful to them; they have continued to make my role so much easier and very enjoyable. What has been achieved is a tribute to them. I would like to make special mention of our secretaries and our shop manageress, who I know put in many hours of extra work on our behalf, are always friendly and co-operative and have still not yet learnt to say “no”. I dread the day that happens. However, my biggest thanks must go to you – the members of the Friends, volunteers and helpers and the population of Eastbourne, who so generously support us in all our endeavours. It is you that make all this possible. Whenever you walk around the Hospital, I hope that you will feel proud and say to yourselves: “I helped that happen”! On behalf of the Trustees, Thank you.

As in previous years I am ending my report by saying what an honour and privilege it is to be chairman of this organisation, and I thank you for granting it to me. Madam President that concludes my report for the year and I am happy to answer any questions members may have as a result.

In the absence of any further questions I would like to propose that the meeting adopts this report.

Peter Nash



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Originally called 'The Patients Association' it was renamed 'The Friends of the Eastbourne Hospitals' (FoEH) in 1953 and became affiliated to the National Association of Leagues of Hospital Friends, now renamed ATTEND.

The aims and objectives of the FoEH can be summarised:

1. To provide funds for extra services, equipment and amenities for patients and staff and to make donations where the expenditure has been recommended by the relevant NHS Trust and has been approved by the Committee.
2. To encourage voluntary work in the hospital.
3. To provide a link between the hospital and the community.

Membership is open to anyone paying a Membership Fee. This is £25 for Life Membership and £5 for Annual Membership, which is due on 1<sup>st</sup> September each year.

The subscription also covers a free copy of this quarterly magazine, HOSPITALITY, which is delivered by volunteers, although all members with addresses outside our hand delivery areas are encouraged to supply postage stamps for their copies.

Enquiries should be addressed to the appropriate Official of the FoEH, whose names are given on page 1. When a reply is required a self-addressed stamped addressed envelope is appreciated.

## HELP US TO HELP YOU CONTACTS

HOSPITALITY EDITORIAL TEAM, The Friends Office, Eastbourne District General Hospital, Kings Drive, Eastbourne, BN21 2UD. Tel No. 01323 438236  
or email: [esh-tr.friendsdgh@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.friendsdgh@nhs.net)

All contributions and photographs are welcome and can be sent to the Editorial Team at the above address.

HOSPITALITY DISTRIBUTION, records and envelopes for the attention of Mrs Sue Duffell, The Friends Office: 01323 438236.

REGIONAL COMMITTEES We have an active sub-committee in Seaford. We would like to re-establish Regional Committees in the Pevensey and Westham and the Hailsham regions. Would you be interested? If so please get in touch with the Secretary at the Friends' Office.

HOSPITAL RADIO PROGRAMMES For requests for music and dedications on Hospital Radio Programmes please call the Radio DGH Studio on 01323 435748 or visit their website at: [www.radiodgh.com](http://www.radiodgh.com)

REMADE CARDS You can leave your donated Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy and Best Wishes cards in the tin box at the back of the Main Shop's Stockroom at any time. PLEASE ONLY LEAVE CHRISTMAS CARDS UNTIL THE END OF JANUARY. Enquiries to Debbie Wicks, Friends' Office: 01323 438236.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTCARDS Mrs June Tickner, 7 Somerville Close, Eastbourne, BN23 6BP Tel No. 01323 729541. Both UK and foreign stamps are welcome. Please trim off surplus paper leaving about ¼ in (½ cm) all round the stamps to avoid any damage. Please DO NOT remove stamps from postcards.

VOLUNTEERING Mrs Corinne France, Voluntary Services Office, Eastbourne DGH, Kings Drive, Eastbourne BN21 2UD Tel No. 01323 417400 ext 4880 or Debbie Wicks, Friends' Office: 01323 438236.



Clockwise from top: Visitors enjoying the pictures at the Autumn Art Exhibition  
Norma Ibbott with the 2014 Friends Puzzle  
Friends enjoying refreshments at the Christmas Coffee Morning  
Demonstrator Nick Englefield and his picture of a Moonlight Seascape  
Sylvia, Shirley and Maureen at the Volunteers' Lunch