

## CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



On a very sad note, Brian James, passed away in March of this year. Brian had been involved with the Friends as Treasurer and Trustee for many years.

Recording every transaction, attending presentations and many meetings. His dedication, commitment and loyalty will be hard to replace.

After 10 years as a well respected and hardworking Chairman Anthony Midgley retired and he has now agreed to take Brian's place as a Trustee - *we are now on the lookout for a new Treasurer!*

I would like to end by thanking all the hardworking staff at our hospital for their dedication during this most difficult time and wish them and you a very Happy Christmas but most importantly a safe and Covid free New Year.

**May the year 2021 bring us together again.**

Mary Thurston and Friends of Lydney Hospital  
December 2020

The Friends of Lydney Hospital are kindly supported by  
Watts Group, Althorpe House, High Street, Lydney, Gloucestershire GL15 5DD  
Contact Kathy on office number 01594 847400  
or email [kathywatts@watts-group.co.uk](mailto:kathywatts@watts-group.co.uk) or via Facebook  
For more information visit our website [www.friendsoflydneyhospital.org.uk](http://www.friendsoflydneyhospital.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No 277785

2020 has been a very strange year for everyone but despite the difficulties the staff at Lydney Hospital have continued to maintain their exceptional standard of care.



The Minor Injuries Unit has been successfully covering the whole of the Forest as the Dilke unit was not open due to Covid restrictions.

As Friends of Lydney Hospital we have continued to offer support and have purchased two pieces of equipment for the Inpatient wards, a new Vita Bladder Scanner and an Accu Vein machine at around £5000 each.

We were also approached by Lydney Health Centre to ask if we could help with the purchase of 30 Fingertip Pulse Oximeters. These will aid early detection of Covid in patients and were distributed to all the surgeries in the Forest



We have also agreed to fund a marque to enable Lydney Health Centre to safely carry out 'Drive Through' flu injections during the Covid period.

Throughout the year representatives from the Friends have attended many virtual meetings to promote the provision of health services in Lydney and the South of the Forest.

We constantly remind the Health Authorities of the locally provided services that could be lost if they seek to provide all Urgent, Diagnostic and Outpatient services from a new hospital in Cinderford.

There is a Public Consultation running at the moment until **17th December**, on the proposed services to be offered in the new hospital [www.fodhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.fodhealth.nhs.uk) or Freephone 0800 0151 548

Within the document are questions requesting comments and inviting participation on how Urgent Care could be made more accessible in the south of the Forest.

*During earlier engagement, concerns were raised about people accessing single urgent care facility located in Cinderford. Please tell us your ideas for how you think urgent care could be made more accessible for people living in the south of the Forest.....*

*If you would like to participate in the discussions about urgent care in the south of the Forest, please leave your preferred contact details below.....*

You need not limit your responses to “urgent care” – Diagnostics and Out patients are also important

We need to show that our concerns are supported by people in Lydney and the South Forest – **so please complete the survey**

Over many years we have had excellent health provision through Lydney Hospital and do not wish the ever-increasing population of the south of the Forest to be disadvantaged by centralisation of existing services.

As has already been agreed in other towns there is a commitment from the CCG for a new GP managed Health Centre in Lydney.

We are concerned that the provision will fall short of the needs for the ever-growing local population and be able to replace lost services.



**Our aspiration is for a spacious 21<sup>st</sup> century Health and Wellbeing centre to include not only urgent care but also**

**some of the diagnostics, outpatient, physiotherapy and new community services.**

After over 50 years we had to cancel what had become established as family entertainment and fundraising event – our Annual Fete.

Whilst fundraising is not currently a principal activity the generous support from the community has long been a distinguishing characteristic of the Friends of Lydney Hospital.