

## THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF SEVENOAKS HOSPITAL

### COMMITTEE REPORT YEAR TO 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009

2009/2010 has been a year of change for the League of Friends with the retirements of Jonathan Balcon as President and Tessa Murray as Secretary. Roger Hope took over as President at last year's AGM and Ian Philip became Chairman in Roger's place.

We were delighted to welcome two new members as officers to fill the vacancies – Chris Dent taking over as Treasurer from myself and Lee-anne Robinson filling the enormous void left by Tessa's retirement. I am most grateful to both of them for their support during the year and to Roger for his advice, guidance and for being able to step in for me at various events when work commitments prevented me from attending.

League of Friends activities have been relatively low-key since last year's AGM, with the exception of the bottle stall at the Riverhead Carnival last September which raised £585, as the new committee found its feet. There was another reason for this in that we had been planning a major publicity and membership drive to coincide with the opening of the new Minor Injuries Unit that had been planned for Easter 2010.

Unfortunately this has been delayed, initially by the extremely severe weather at the beginning of this year and then because of the unfortunate demise of the original building contractors. We are waiting to hear that replacement builders have been appointed so that the building will be completed before the end of this year. Details of our fund-raising and expenditure are set out in the accounts and the Treasurer will expand on the details in his report.

Last year it was reported that the PCT had spent over £750,000 on upgrading many of the facilities at the hospital. The work on the Minor Injuries Unit is budgeted at just under £500,000 which will bring the total spend on the hospital to around £1.25 million over the past 3 years. Despite this, there have been fears expressed in the local press that the hospital is once again under threat.

We have been assured by Steve Phoenix, the Chief Executive of West Kent PCT, that Sevenoaks Hospital is not under review or under threat although there will inevitably be pressures to reduce costs in the current economic climate. Our MP, Michael Fallon, has also received similar assurances.

There has been no change since last year in respect of Holmesdale ward which still remains closed for the majority of the year currently only being opened in the busy winter months. However we do expect it to be fully reopened after refurbishment, when the new Pembury Hospital opens later on this year (Phase I) and in 2011.



THE LEAGUE  
OF FRIENDS  
OF SEVENOAKS  
HOSPITAL

*'To supplement the service provided by the Hospital for the health welfare and comfort of the patients and others in the community, by the provision of equipment and amenities for patients and staff.'*

We would like to thank all those volunteers who help make the Hospital work and contribute to the lovely environment for patients and staff. In particular all those who man the coffee bar, the ladies of Sevenoaks Flower Club for the flower arrangements in the Hospital and the volunteer drivers.

Ian Philip  
Chairman