The Friends held their 2016 Annual General Meeting in good spirits as the hospital has had a very successful and active year. For the first time in eight years all four wards were full in the winter and with Virgin Healthcare bringing more jobs to the site the hospital is being properly used. A complication arising from this activity is that parking is becoming a key issue. This needs to be addressed if patients are to get satisfactory access and more jobs are to be brought to the Farnham site. There is space in the building for additional services to be provided if this can be addressed.

Chair Diana Martin led the meeting recounting the range of activities carried out by the friends during the year and the Treasurer Michael Cox was pleased to be able to present a stable financial position. Highlights included the delivery of presents to the in patients at Christmas and the tea tent at Music in the Meadow in the summer. Both will be repeated once again in 2016. An example of the new telephones that will be mounted on trolleys for the use of patients was displayed as well as pictures of the new overhead Sky-factory picture lights in the dental unit.

Representatives of many of the key local participants in health such as the North East Hampshire and Farnham CCG were present and Richard Comerford the Director of Operations for Virgin Healthcare gave a talk about the ‘integration’ of health systems in the area which was well received. President of the Friends of Farnham Hospital George Alford concluded the meeting by proposing a vote of thanks to the speaker and congratulating the Chair and her committee on another successful year.

Specialist Dentistry Service
The long awaited Dentistry Sky-factory picture lights were finally installed in the Spring. The Friends took the opportunity of seeing the installation and were delighted with the results. See picture of the balloon installation in one of the surgeries. Two technicians joined us for the photo which was taken by VirginCare photographer Paul.

Portable telephones for inpatients.............
Two new portable telephones were recently purchased to replace the ailing old phones. Mounted on trolleys, the telephones can be pushed along to patients’ bedsides so that friends and relatives can be in regular contact.

The Friends have been busy responding to requests and at their June meeting it was agreed to purchase:

- A riser recliner for use by patients on the wards.
- Two Dyson stand alone fans for the wards.
- An ECG machine for the River Wey practice.
- £70 was given to the wards to help towards their celebrations to mark the Queen’s 90th birthday.
- Stairs for the OTs

We thank everyone who has kindly supported our Summer Raffle this year, the proceeds of which will go towards Dementia aids and supporting the new GP Hub at the Hospital.

We also thank Waitrose Farnham Community Matters for kindly raising the magnificent sum of £375.00 in April for the Friends of Farnham Hospital and Centre for Health. Again this donation will be put towards Dementia aids and supporting the new GP Hub at the Hospital.

Richard Comerford, Director of Operations, Virgin Healthcare taking questions from the floor.
Strawberry Cream Teas

The annual Strawberry Cream Teas were delivered in late July to all inpatients who very much appreciated the tasty treats! Michael, Pam, Diana, Agnes & Margaret preparing the trolleys.

Charity Tea Tent – 14th August – Gostrey Meadow

Takings in excess of £450 were added to our funds following a very successful afternoon selling teas and cakes to everyone who attended ‘Music in the Meadow’ last Sunday. A very big thank you to organisers Farnham Town Council and to everyone who helped on the day, made cakes and supported this very well attended event including..........

...........helpers, Brian, Mary, Michael, Agnes, Brenda, Pam and Graham

Friends of Farnham donate ECG machine to The Ferns

‘The practice has recently taken delivery of a new ECG machine kindly donated by The Friends of Farnham Hospital. Their President, George Alford, made the donation on behalf of The Friends to Dr Margie Ardagh, GP Partner, Sister Oonagh Atkinson and Healthcare Assistant Gill Gilliam. The ECG machine is available at the practice to assist the doctors with the diagnosis of cardiovascular problems. Once again, thank you very much for the donation. The partners, staff and patients are very happy’.

The Friends are in need of a new Secretary! Meeting approximately 6 times a year, perhaps you may wish to support this valuable charitable community service. You don’t have to take shorthand, just a handy notebook to note down decisions and comments of the committee. If you think you could do this, please get in touch!

Community Bed Review – please look out for North East Hampshire and Farnham CCG’s document which is due to the published in November.......your views are important and feedback will be welcomed.

‘Singing for You’ is a concert being held at Farnham Maltings by Rushmoor Male Voice Choir (see pic above) on 8th December, 7.30pm in aid of the Friends of Farnham Hospital and Centre for Health. Please come along and support this special event in our calendar when the choir will be raising funds for the benefit of everyone in the local community. As reported earlier in this issue, the GP Hub and Dementia aid will be the main beneficiaries. Tickets are £12.50 from the Maltings Box Office. We look forward to seeing you there?

Summer Raffle results: 1st prize £200 to a lady in Aberdeenshire! 2nd prize £100 to a Hotel Services Supervisor at Farnham Hospital and 3rd prize to a lady from West Street, Farnham. Well done to all the winners and many thanks to everyone who helped support the raffle this year.

Keeping in touch........If you or anyone you know should like to receive a copy of this Newsletter via e-mail, join the Friends, volunteer to help or have any suggestions, please make contact via:
Registered Charity: 208708
Website: www.lof-fhch.co.uk
E-mail: farnhamhospitalfriends@gmail.com
Facebook: Friends of Farnham Hospital and Centre for Health

Circulation: To help reduce our expenditure on stamps, may we ask you to let us have any new or alternative email addresses. Thank you.