



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE AGM OF THE FRIENDS OF HENFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE TRUST – JUNE, 2012

It is satisfying to report a successful year on the equipment and fund-raising front. Your committee agreed a request from the Practice for an ECG Data Transfer machine costing nearly £3,400 and devoted our fund-raising activities to that, plus appealing for grants and donations. Following a recent gift-aided donation, the whole sum has now been raised, a tremendous achievement – see website and *Between Friends* for more details. We have also been able from existing funds to purchase a Hyfreicator – again see website *Summer News* for more details.

Still on funds, the bookshelves introduced in February are proving very successful, having raised nearly £150 already, which means that nearly 300 books have been recycled – some more than once. We have also obtained a grant of nearly £900 from Horsham District Health and Wellbeing Hub to fund a sort of fitness 'boot camp' at Henfield Leisure Centre in July/August for patients referred by the Practice.

The Practice has formed a Patient Reference Group, with one survey intended each year. The questionnaire used earlier this year was designed taking into account the views of the Friends, and the results of that survey ( 324 responses ) can be found on the Medical Centre website. The satisfaction level for the Practice was very high, and resulting from the comments made, an Action Plan has been published ( see the same website ).

Our year started with a presentation and discussion at the AGM on the proposed NHS reforms, led by Dr McLean. These proposals have now become law, after amendments, and things are slowly moving on. In the autumn we had an interesting talk *Is Your Skin Talking to You ?* from an enthusiastic dermatologist, Dr Russell Emerson, and recently Mr Sal Rassam spoke on *The Secret Diary of an Ophthalmologist*, covering both medical matters and his dedicated charity work in Burma. On Wednesday 10 October there will be *A Date with Diabetes*.

Two excellent issues of *Between Friends* have been produced by Moira Parrott, with continued financial support from some related village organisations. All the copies produced have been taken, so we hope they have reached a good range of our members. Please help by passing on your copy on to your friends and neighbours.

The Friends website ( see below ) has developed well during the year, with the invaluable help of Graham Jenner, and is being kept as up-to-date as possible. We hope soon to have a *News from the Practice* page, which again will be updated regularly, so please do use the website and react to its content whenever you feel so inclined.

Lastly I should like to express my personal thanks to the committee members for their continued support and hard work. Pippa Davies has resigned from the committee and as a Trustee, and we thank her and Steve for their support over past years. Richard Kendall has joined the committee recently, and the trustees have agreed that Richard should be appointed as a trustee, which will take effect from this meeting.

I would also like to thank the Practice staff, particularly Katie Hill, Practice Manager, and the Office Manager, Wendy Davies, who attend our meetings regularly and work very closely with the Friends at all times

PETER J BATES