

NEWSLETTER AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT  
HALSTEAD HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS JULY 2020

Dear Member

I hope you and your family are all well and have kept safe during the three months of the Covid 19 pandemic. As I write lockdown is easing and restaurants, pubs and shops are all reopening tho ' under very different conditions. This is a time to be extra vigilant I believe in order to try and avoid a second wave of the virus.

As you know we have not been able to hold any committee meetings nor the AGM in May and it looks like we will not be able to resume meetings for the next few months at least. I therefore wanted to continue updating you on Halstead Hospital.

The hospital remains closed at present and staff are unlikely to return until September from Braintree Community Hospital which has been a centre for Covid 19 patients. The staff have all settled there tho clearly would much rather be back at Halstead. I have been informed they have not been terribly busy . The "up side " of all this is that they have not had to use Halstead Hospital for any patients and this is a good time to get on with all the projects we have planned

- The old kitchen has been stripped out and the new kitchen is in the throes of being put in and Jo Colyer has told me it looks so much better.

- The awning and patio project is coming to fruition now with a second site meeting with the installer and plans to get it built within the next month.

- The desperately needed external repairs to the old hospital are underway and I have been most impressed by the work that has been done to the front of the hospital. It is well worth a look ! It has spruced up the whole frontage and is complimented by the Halstead in Bloom excellent and inspired "floral display".

- The Televisions have all been installed in the hospital now.

The one further area I think we could help with is the walk-in shower on the ward which has not been used recently as it is in serious need of repair. Unfortunately, neither NHS Properties or PROVIDE have the funds to undertake the repairs. It would certainly be of great benefit to patients and I think we should support it. I would most value your opinions tho and would be grateful if you would let me know if you agree or not to funding this.

The air conditioning project in the Rehabilitation Centre is, I am afraid, on hold at present and we will revisit it at a later date.

The little garden and seat we set up last year has been well used and really is a little haven of peace to sit in. Celia, my wife, has been regularly weeding and watering and I am most grateful for her help.

We are going to plant a camelia there in the autumn in memory of Barbara Bragg. Again, if you have a minute, come and sit and admire the view.

Andy Green has kindly ordered the new defibrillator for the Queen's Hall and Sheenagh Evans has agreed to oversee the installation. Thank you to you both .

The Quiz night in October remains uncertain tho the Queen's Hall remains booked. We will need to await developments

As mentioned at the beginning it looks unlikely that we will have an AGM in the foreseeable future and in order to show "due diligence" for the Charity Commission we will put this report and our annual accounts on our website for all to see. Thanks to Andy Green for overseeing the accounts. We also need to re elect all officers and those members whose three year period is up and need re-electing. Thank you, in anticipation, for agreeing to carry on your role.

I hopefully have now kept you all up to date with what we are doing and where we are with all the projects. Please feel free to contact myself or Eileen if you have any questions.

Thank you all for your continued support and I will continue to update you.

Keep safe  
Alan

Alan Symington