

Friends of Davenport House: Some Notes on 2020

Annual General Meeting, 16th December, 2020

When preparing the papers for the 2019 AGM back in January we never anticipated the pandemic lockdown which meant we had to postpone the March AGM. We had hoped to rearrange the AGM later in the year as we like to meet members and hear what they have to say but that has proved impossible. Our Constitution requires an AGM before the end of the year leading to this online meeting.

In the circumstances, since all the papers refer to 2019, I thought it would be helpful to write a short paper on what has happened in 2020 although its contents are not formally part of the AGM. They will contribute to the Annual Report for the 2020 AGM planned for March 2021. We will keep you informed about that meeting.

This has been a very strange year. We have been able to keep the Bulletin going as usual but we had to cancel the summer programme of talks which were to be held in the new, excellent Salvation Army meeting hall on Leyton Green. As soon as it is sensible to do so we will put together a programme for 2021, taking note of your suggestions for topics made in the patient survey earlier in the year. The Trustees have continued to hold their regular meetings by zoom and maintained their links (at a distance!) with Davenport House Surgery.

Thanks to the efforts of the Editor, John Harris, we have produced nine editions of the Bulletin this year. The primary aim has been to keep everyone up to date on the pandemic and especially the revised functioning of the surgery with its reduced face-to-face appointments. This information has been largely provided through a series of 'Surgery Snippets' prepared by the surgery's excellent new Operations Manager, Lindsey Wright. We hope that you have found this helpful.

But that is not all that has been included in the Bulletin as we reported on the findings from the patient survey undertaken last February, many of which we will follow up when matters return closer to normal, and we also encouraged you to engage in trials of new treatments in the context of Covid-19 and health research more generally.

The Trustees have also been aware of the social and economic consequences locally of the pandemic. Our new Constitution allows us also to contribute to the welfare of those living in the Harpenden local area more generally, a requirement also of the generous grant given us by the Childwick Trust. We have therefore contributed to the Harpenden Cares initiative providing a grant of £1,000 to the local food bank.

On behalf of the Trustees I wish all of you continuing good health and a happy Christmas with as many of your family and friends as you are allowed to meet. We look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Richard Munton

Chair, Friends of Davenport House

November 2020