

PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH



FRIENDS OF DAVENPORT HOUSE

BULLETIN NO 4—AUGUST 2019

**Friends of
Davenport
House
Need**



YOU

As I am sure you know, earlier this year the Davenport House Patient Group was converted into a charity known as Friends of Davenport House (FoDH). This change was part of a larger package including moving all our activities online both to reduce costs and in an attempt to engage more effectively with younger patients. We now have about 2,000 patients' email addresses – and are seeking to increase this number with help from the Surgery – in a quite separate database from the Surgery to ensure patient data confidentiality.

A key change has been to end our very successful quarterly Newsletter, which required 40 volunteers to deliver, with a more frequent online Bulletin, hardcopies of which will be posted in the Surgery for the benefit of those patients without email, when a suitable space can be found.

John Harris, previously editor of the Newsletter, has taken on editing the Bulletin (now in his 12th year as editor) whilst also acting as Treasurer to the charity. Not unreasonably he wants to give up the editing job but we are experiencing considerable difficulty in finding a patient prepared to take this job on – in the first instance under John's guidance.

The Bulletin is absolutely central to our activities. Do you know anyone who might be interested in doing so? If you do, could they please either contact me (rjcmunton@outlook.com, 01582 621578) or John Harris (john@rosemoor1a.co.uk, 01582 713246). Many thanks. **Richard Munton**

St Albans and Harpenden Patients' Group (SAPG) Newsletter May 2019

The Newsletter noted two issues of particular relevance to the NHS Plan:

- A report by the Royal College of GPs proposing that GP appointments should increase from 10 minutes to 15 minutes.
- The head of the Royal College of Nursing has highlighted the lack of funding for training nurses. (N.B. This was also noted by the Chief Nurse from the L&D at a recent FoDH meeting.)

The SAPG Newsletter also draws attention to the value of Hertfordshire Health Walks, details of which can be found at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthwalks

The current programme for St Albans City and District from May to August lists walks of varying degrees of difficulty. It includes walks starting from Rothamsted, Amenbury Lane, Nomansland, Redbourn and Wheathamstead. On a personal level, I can recommend the walk starting from Markyate. Details of this walk can be found in the Dacorum programme.

Pauline Allison

Communications from Friends

'Shape up' exercise programme

This is a joint programme with Watford Football Club and is aimed at men in Hertfordshire under 65 who are overweight. I think there are 8 groups in Hertfordshire for men and one for women in Hendon. Please contact Rhys Ratcliffe for more information: 01923 496391
rhys.ratcliffe@watfordfc.com

William Say (Friend of Davenport House)



Through primary care networks, **general practices, large and small, will work together and with other partners to support each other**

Many of you will have heard about Primary Care Networks (PCNs). If not, you will be hearing much more about them in the coming months as they have been given a lead role in the delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan.

This short piece describes what is intended generally and you will hear more about the Harpenden PCN and how this will affect Davenport House Surgery in later editions of the Bulletin.

Two main principles will operate. First, networks will link Practices in local areas with 30,000 – 50,000 patients, fitting exactly the three Harpenden Surgeries which have already agreed to form a network. The networks are to be seen as the main deliverer of **local** primary care.

Second, the General Practice to which you belong will remain your **focal** point but through the network better access will be provided to a range of local providers including community services, social care and the voluntary sector, and services, such as provided by clinical pharmacists. This is the NHS's attempt to provide a more **integrated** health system better designed to meet individual needs by widening patient access to local supporting services.

Each Practice/Network will receive some additional funds from the NHS to facilitate these processes and primary care has been allocated an increased share of future NHS monies. Each network will operate slightly differently depending on the characteristics of the local population – numbers of elderly, children, the disabled and those with long-term chronic conditions etc. It is difficult to predict to what extent these new arrangements will, in practice, enhance individual treatment. In principle they make sense but as always their impact will depend on the scale of resources available and the flexibility of providers.

Richard Munton



Doreen Beattie, Ambassador for **Rennie Grove Hospice**, spoke to Friends of Davenport House on Monday 8 July at Harpenden Public Hall.

Her talk, entitled 'Hospice support in the Heart of the Community', spelled out the objectives of, and range of services provided by, the Hospice. As a day institution, it aims to provide both clinical treatment and social support for patients with **life limiting** illnesses and for their families.

Patients or their family members can just walk in to Rennie Grove without a referral from their GP. There is a drop in service every Tuesday morning. Its staff can often offer longer appointments than possible by GPs as well as greater continuity of personal care. It provides 'internal' services, such as physio, as well as a range of outpatient services. It also runs a family support group, with carers in mind, and a grief support group. It can provide 24/7 care for those, the majority, who wish to die at home. Its whole approach is designed to improve the quality of life, rather than the length of life, although these may be linked, and to provide a personalised service.

Doreen talked about the commitment of the large number of voluntary as well as professional staff employed by the Hospice. It only succeeds so well in a world of rising demand for its services because of generous private grants, collections, subscriptions and surplus earned by its shops (there are three in Harpenden). Nearly 90% of its income comes from private sources. In their applause and questions the audience revealed its considerable support for this much admired local charity and a collection raised £90.

For much more information see Rennie Grove's website at www.renniegrove.org . Phone No. 01582 76318

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