



The Friends of the Hospital of St Cross

Report for the period July 2022 to July 2023

For presentation to the AGM on 6th September 2023

Accounts for the year to 31st December 2022

Approved by the Board on 14th August 2023



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Registered Charity number 218485



Special Award
Winner 2014



Team of the Year
Winner 2016

Contents

1. Welcome letter from the President	2
2. Chair's Report July 2022 to July 2023	3
3. Treasurer's report for 2022	5
4. Accounts for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022	6
5. Gift list for 2022	8
6. Hospital Volunteer Report	9
7. Social fundraising Report	11
8. Public Fundraising Report	11
9. Community Co-ordinators Report.....	12
10. Hospital Report.....	13
11. Other ways to support The Friends	15



Cover photo

Doug Jones, Chair of the Friends, celebrates the opening of the Laurel Unit with staff and volunteers

Acknowledgements

The majority of photographs throughout this report were taken by Friends Volunteers.

1. Welcome letter from the President



Dear Friends and Supporters,

The past year has been one in which we have learned to “live with COVID” and adapted to the “new normal” in both society and at the hospital. The Trustees are now meeting as before – without facemasks. However, volunteers working in clinical areas do still wear masks as do many members of the public!

Throughout the pandemic our team of volunteers have worked in partnership with the staff and management of the hospital. Once again many of our volunteers have been nominated for Outstanding Service and Care Awards – one person and a team were finalists in the awards ceremony in 2022 and many have been nominated again for the awards this year.

Throughout the year we have continued to support requests for donations which either bring new services to Rugby or enhance the patient experience. Most notable amongst these donations are the opening of the Laurel Unit which is a new home for the team providing Breast Services. We have also donated artworks which brighten the view out of the windows on Hoskyn Ward (pictured right).



None of these donations would have been possible without the tremendous generosity of our supporters in Rugby. This year saw another record donation from the Coventry Building Society and several significant legacies which boosted our successful fundraising. Our governance continues to ensure that 100% of all monies donated is used to fund requests. We have no paid staff and our overheads are paid for out of earned income.

After 16 years of amazing support for The Friends, The Coventry has decided that it is time to focus their Community and Social Responsibilities effort on the City of Coventry. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support over the years which saw many citizens in Rugby invest their savings in a way which supported the Friends and through us the Hospital of St Cross. This has been one of the key ways in which the community have demonstrated their connection with the charity and the Hospital

During the last year I have been honoured to be invited to represent the Charity at functions, which recognise the contribution made by the voluntary sector, organised by the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire and the Mayor of Rugby.

A very big thank you to all our volunteers and the dedicated team of service co-ordinators, fundraisers and trustees

All the best

Willy Goldschmidt, President - August 2023

2. Chair's Report July 2022 to July 2023



Our previous AGM, the Friends 67th such meeting, was held at the Benn Hall on 7th September 2022 and reports covering the activity of the Charity up to July 2023 and our financial accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022.

The meeting was once again very well attended with the Mayor of Rugby in attendance Cllr. Carolyn Watson-Merret, as well as Andy Hardy the CEO of UHCW NHS Trust and Dame Stella Manzie Chair of the UHCW Board of the Trust.

Covid was less in evidence but still an issue with face masks still being worn by some and particularly so in clinical areas of the hospital. That situation has slowly but surely changed throughout the last 12 months and face masks are generally much less evident in our everyday activity.

We benefitted from a presentation by Mrs Katerina McEvoy MD FRCS Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon who provided us with an overview of the service she managed. This was our major focus of support at that time and the unit is now fully up and running providing high quality and safe services thanks to the support of the Friends and the UHCW Charity.

These sorts of projects are only possible because of those individuals, groups, clubs and associations that have continued to support the Friends so very generously and those new supporters who have helped us in these challenging times. The list is long but some notable contributions have consistently been made over the years by the residents of Hanover Gardens, the Rotary Club of Rugby Dunsmore and of course the Coventry Building Society and its affinity account holders. We thank you all for what you have helped us to achieve.

Our Social Fund Raising activities have been second to none under the direction of Tracey Lennard and her team of volunteers. The last 12 months has been no exception and since the last AGM some amazing social events have taken place and a substantial amount has been raised. Five events in total have taken place and a cumulative sum in excess of £20,000 has been raised. Truly amazing. Thanks must go to all who are involved in organising these events and the generosity of those that attend.

Voluntary services at the Hospital continue to grow and all of those services that were stood down due to covid have now been reinstated. New volunteers regularly join the Friends and the support that some 170 volunteers collectively provide continues to grow. This aspect of the Friends activity is roughly equivalent to twice the amount of financial support that is given to the Hospital. These things don't happen by chance and we are fortunate to have a dedicated team of service co-ordinators who lead these activities for the Charity. We couldn't do all that we do without you.

Sadly, our oldest volunteer Mary Lock passed away just 6 days after her 100th birthday. Mary was a force of nature and Dame Stella and I were fortunate to meet and spend a short time with her on her birthday when she was at her vibrant best and completely on top



form. We fondly remember her and all other supporters, volunteers, former trustees and benefactors whom we have lost in the last year.

The composition of the Friends Trustee Board has changed too with some Trustees moving on to new chapters in their lives and new appointments being made. We welcome our new Trustees and thank those that have moved on for their valuable contribution to the work of the Friends. We are always looking for new talent and expertise at Trustee level so if you think that you could help in this respect, we'd love to hear from you.

Some of our key contacts at the Hospital have also moved on to new roles within UHCW and in particular we thank Janine Beddows and Kristine Davies for their help, advice, guidance, enthusiasm and commitment to making St Cross such a great place to support and for being such great "Friends". We wish them well and every success in their new positions. I'd also like to formally welcome our new "Friend" Dr Jan Jayatilake Hospital Director and Hilary Lorimer Volunteer Services Manager and to thank Sara Bagshaw and Luke Peachey for their interim support ahead of those appointments. We look forward to building upon our already fantastic relationship with the Hospital.

Our ability to commit the levels of support that we do remains undiminished and the last twelve months has been no different. A new fridge and freezer for Cardiac rehab, the significant support, through a collaborative approach with the UHCW Charity, for Breast Surgery Services (the Laurel Unit). Support for the Mortuary service with a new trolley; Wall murals for Hoskyn Ward to brighten up an otherwise rather dull and overgrown view through the ward windows and to stimulate conversation. Christmas Trees and Decorations to bring seasonal cheer and gifts for patients hospitalized over Christmas time and Volunteers bringing some extra cheer through our Festive Befriending program.

Of course our continued support of Ash Dialysis Bingo sessions with prizes and more recently our largest commitment of the year a new Ultrasound machine to help increase capacity within Radiology providing the ability to treat an extra 500 patients a month. This is just a snap shot of some key highlights of the last 12 months from my perspective and shows the sheer breadth of support that we are able to provide.

All of this and so much more has only been possible because of the continued support and unwavering generosity that we receive. Overall this has been yet another very positive year for the Charity thanks to the Rugby Community.

Thank you.

Doug Jones, Chair and Governance Lead - August 2023



4. Treasurer's report for 2022



Compared to the previous two years, 2022 saw some return to a sense of normality in terms of the finances of The Friends of The Hospital of St Cross.

Total income raised during the year rose to a total of £150,182. As well as the many donations from individuals, including many sent in memory of loved ones, there were significant sums donated by a variety of local organisations, reflecting the fundraising efforts of their own members and supporters. Notable donations from organisations included Rugby Golf Ladies Section £3,740, Rugby Rokeby Lions £2,000, Rugby Women's Luncheon Club £1,888. The Rugby Triathlon Group £1,865, The Heroes Ball £1,400 and Sir Edward Boughton – Long Lawford Charity £1,000.

Legacies continue to be a source of significant funds for our charity. A total of £48,294 was received during 2022. We are of course very grateful that people make a bequest to The Friends when making their wills. We can assure their families that 100% of the money received by us, is spent wisely and with care in support of hospital services within Rugby.

Special mention should be made of a few teams of volunteers, who make a particular contribution in raising funds for the charity:

The social fundraising team, led by Tracey Lennard put on a variety of fabulous social events during the year, raising almost £14,000 during the last financial year.

The Tea Bar and Ward Trolley Service team, led by Elizabeth Burnett, were able to dramatically increase the level of their services during the year. Gross takings were almost £16,000, and generated a profit of £5,928. This was after deducting £574 for the provision of a new display fridge in the Tea Bar.

Book Sales generated income of £2,650. We are grateful for the considerable efforts of Pauline Masterman and her team of volunteers in this regard.

The largest single source of funds was once again from the Coventry Building Society, from their St Cross Supporter's Account. Funds received totalled £38,578 – another record. We are extremely grateful to the Coventry Building Society, and their customers, for their very generous support over recent years.

The funds raised by the charity, have of course been used funding gifts for the hospital to satisfy our aims. This year this totalled £51,756 (with a further £23,682 committed to purchase in progress at the year end). The largest area of expenditure was on cancer related services in the Laurel Unit, where we funded items totalling £32,618 during the year, in addition to the £163,664 spent on the Maple unit last year.

This level of gifts to the hospital is lower than in previous years, as it is largely dictated by the needs of the hospital, and changes within the site, and services provided. However, this has meant that we have been able to increase our reserves ready for future investments in services.

The costs of operating the Charity are funded entirely out of earned income (Tea Bar, Ward Trolley, interest and dividends), meaning that 100% of donations are dedicated to supporting services within the hospital.

The running costs this year were higher than usual as it included £2,667 was spent on volunteer uniforms – including the purchase of initial stocks of these. As you will no doubt know, we have no paid employees, so the administrative and governance costs are limited to those items essential to the smooth running of the Charity.

It is worth noting that probably the most significant contribution to the life of the hospital and its patients doesn't appear in these financial statements. This is the contribution made by volunteers who support the variety of services within the hospital, and vastly improve the patient experience. We are indebted to you all.

Brian Cheney, Trustee and Treasurer - August 2023

4. Accounts for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

Friends of St Cross Hospital - income and expenditure statement from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2022				
Income and Expenditure	Note	Year end 31-Dec-22	Year end 31-Dec-21	
Income				
Voluntary income				
Donations	1	76,732	98,977	
Legacies	2	48,294	18,489	
Fund raising income				
Social fundraising	3	13,654	12,098	
Public Fundraising	3	378	239	
Investment income				
Bank & Building Society interest	4	746	765	
Dividends	4	4,450	3,766	
Trading income				
Tea bar	5	5,928	813	
Income total		150,182	135,147	
Expenditure				
Charitable expenditure				
Total gifts purchased	6	51,756	264,496	
Total gifts in progress (reversed in 2022 if not spent)	6	-11,469	49,053	
Support costs				
Administration and support	7	6,000	2,979	
Governance costs				
Subscription to Attend (includes insurance) & AGM expenses	8	2,527	1,443	
Expenditure total		48,814	317,971	
Movement in value of equity investments	10	-7,065	8,867	
Net incoming/outgoing resources for the year		94,303	-173,957	
Balance brought forward at 1st January		307,324	481,281	
Balance carried forward at 31st December		401,627	307,324	
Statement of financial position at 31st December 2020				
Current assets				
Nat West Bank current account		147,890	120,286	
Unity Bank current account		83,696	500	
Coventry Building Society Charities Account		85,000	60,000	
Hodge Bank 90 day notice account (Closed in 2022)		0	85,000	
M&G Charifund investment account		70,049	74,181	
BLK Charities UK Bond Fund A Inc		8,666	10,932	
Blackrock Charities Growth and Income Fund Class A		4,666	5,333	
Cash in hand		1,660	145	
Total assets		401,627	356,377	
Outstanding liabilities				
Gift purchases ordered/invoiced, payments not cleared at year end		0	-49,053	
Net current assets		401,627	307,324	
Composition of net current assets				
Instant Access Funds		318,246	124,067	
Funds with 90 days' notice		0	85,000	
Funds in equity investment		83,381	90,446	
Funds designated by donors		0	7,811	
Total		401,627	307,324	

<u>Notes to 2022 accounts</u>			
Note		31/12/2022	31/12/2021
1	Donations	£	£
	Coventry Building Society (<i>St Cross Supporters account</i>)	38,578	33,286
	Organisations	19,114	39,528
	In memory	3,241	7241
	Gift Aid	0	1480
	Individuals	10,964	4817
	Internet platforms (Virgin Money Giving, Paypal Giving etc.)	348	6037
	Book sales (<i>stalls in St Cross and via other channels</i>)	2,650	1350
	All other donations (<i>tea bar, collecting tins & drums, regular donations</i>)	1,128	1338
	Miscellaneous (<i>Rugby Lotto, Amazon Smile, sundry donations</i>)	709	3900
	Total	76,732	98,977
2	Legacies		
	Rosemary Anne Cooney		1,000
	Douglas Pitcher		17,489
	Henry Raymond Payne	37,541	
	Brian Anthony Mitchell	10,239	
	Grace Margaret Hall	514	
	Total	48,294	18,489
3	Fund raising (<i>net of expenses</i>)		
	Social fund raising	13,654	12,098
	Public fund raising	378	239
	Total	14,032	12,337
4	Savings & investment income		
	Skipton Building Society instant access account interest	0	28
	Coventry Building Society Charities instant access account	74	130
	Hodge Bank 90 day notice account interest	672	607
	Dividends - M&G Charifund	3,956	3,527
	Dividends - BlackRock UK Bond A	356	178
	Dividends - Blackrock	138	61
	Total	5,196	4,531
5	Tea bar and Ward Trolley Service		
	Gross takings	15,920	4,937
	Less cost of sales (<i>all remaining stock has been written off</i>)	-9,992	-4,124
	Total	5,928	813
6	Gifts		
	Gifts & grants to NHS Trusts	50,756	263,496
	Gifts in progress (including reversal)	-11,469	49,053
	Donation to Rugby Hospital Radio	1,000	1,000
	Total	40,287	313,549
7	Administration & support		
	Office, stationery & postage	1,025	389
	Travel	18	328
	Marketing	122	170
	Fund raising equipment	367	433
	Uniforms	2,667	0
	Bank charges	413	
	Miscellaneous	1,388	1,659
	Total	6,000	2,979
8	Governance Costs		
	Subscriptions to Attend (includes insurance)	930	887
	Examination of annual accounts	960	
	AGM Expenses	637	556
	Total	2,527	1,443
9	Instant Access Funds		
	Natwest current account	147,890	120,286
	Unity Bank current account	83,696	500
	Coventry Building Society	85,000	60,000
	Cash in Hand	1,660	145
	Less designated funds	0	-7,811
	Total	318,246	173,120
10	Movement in Value of equity investments	Value	Value
		31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	M&G Charifund account	70,049	74,181
	BLK Charities UK Bond Fund A	8,666	10,932
	Blackrock Charities Growth and Income Fund Class A	4,666	5,333
	Total	83,381	90,446
	Net Movement	-7,065	8,867

5. Gift list for 2022

GIFT LIST FOR 2022		
Item	Ward/Department	Cost £
Various chairs & furniture		£ 6,085
Breast Tattoo Training		£ 4,860
Breast Tattoo Equipment		£ 3,500
Office Furniture		£ 2,924
3 Couches		£ 2,539
Caretray Trolleys		£ 2,467
Desks & Pedestals		£ 2,400
Trolleys	Laurel Unit	£ 2,066
12 Waste Bins	(Breast Services)	£ 1,398
15 Compartment Expo Cabinet	Total £32,618	£ 1,308
Glucometer		£ 1,197
5 Lockers		£ 743
Privacy Screen		£ 370
Weights & Measures Scales		£ 343
2 Danicentre's		£ 229
White Board		£ 119
Orange Hypo Box		£ 40
Glucometer		£ 30
Couches	Fern Unit (Ultrasound)	£ 3,277
Office & Patient Chairs	Total £4,784	£ 1,507
Audio Visual Equipment	Cardiac Rehab	£ 3,097
Fridge Freezer	Total £3,556	£ 459
Taurus Leg Press	Physiotherapy Outpatients	£ 2,249
Dynamometer	Total £3,209	£ 960
8 Visitor Chairs	Ash Dialysis	£ 1,816
Bingo Prizes	Total £2,116	£ 300
2 Patient chairs with wheels		£ 727
Caretray Trolley	Maple Unit	£ 577
Scalp Cooler Haircare Kits	Total £2,308	£ 320
Techno Stool		£ 331
Dressing Trolley		£ 277
Metal step		£ 76
Donation	Rugby Hospital Radio	£ 1,000
NHS "Thank " mugs x 216	All Wards	£ 978
Under counter Fridge	Mulberry Ward	£ 250
Artwork	Mortuary	£ 230
Presents (vouchers) for inpatients over Christmas	All Wards	£ 500
Dementia Dolls	Hoskyn Ward	£ 146
Floor Fan	All Wards	£ 61
	Total	£ 51,756
Gifts in progress as at 31/12/22		£ 23,682

6. Hospital Volunteer Report



Our volunteers continue to make a difference to the experience of patients, visitors and staff in an ever-widening range of services. Their smart uniforms are helping them to be recognised by visitors and staff as part of the team in the hospital.

I am pleased to report that we have resumed all of the voluntary services we were delivering before the pandemic and are continuing to support the hospital with the services which were introduced during the pandemic.

The full range of services that we operate in the hospital are:-

Befriending

Some patients are elderly and do not have relatives or friends able to visit them so this service is designed to give those patients an all important visit to brighten their day. During the Festive Season this service is expanded to offer additional support to those patients who are unfortunately in hospital at this time.

Bingo

Volunteers run bingo sessions in order to entertain patients while they are undergoing treatment in the Ash Dialysis Unit.

Book Sales

A team of volunteers manage the display and sale of books, Jigsaws and other items which have been donated by supporters.

Gardening

A team of volunteers maintain various planted areas around the hospital site.



Holding Hands in Theatre

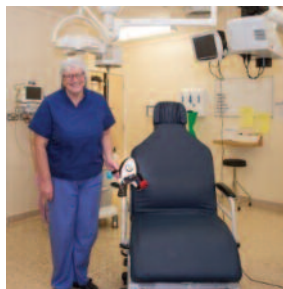
When a patient is having a cataract operation under local anaesthetic it is essential that they do not move as this could have a severe impact on a very delicate procedure. Volunteers who provide this service give some personal assurance to the patient throughout their visit to the hospital.

Maple Unit

Volunteers support patients and staff in the newly opened unit which provides Chemotherapy and Haematology treatments for patients.

Mealtime Companions

Some patients benefit from assistance with eating their food or just need a little bit of encouragement! Not all patients have relatives or friends that are available to give this support and so a team of volunteers help on several of the wards at St Cross.



Meet and Greet

Patients and visitors come to the hospital from all over Coventry and Warwickshire, as well as Rugby, and often need help to find their way to the ward or department where they have an appointment to attend or friends and relatives they would like to visit.

Volunteers are based at the entrances to Out Patients, the Day Surgery Unit, X-Ray department and the Friends Blood Taking Unit.

Receipts and Distribution

Volunteers assist the team by booking in deliveries from suppliers and sorting these into stock or for distribution to the appropriate wards or departments



Tea Bar and Ward Trolley Service

Patients waiting for their appointments in Out Patients can enjoy a cuppa and a snack at the Friends Tea Bar.

Volunteers operate a service selling drinks, confectionery, newspapers and other items to patients and staff on the wards.

Profits from these services contribute to the operating costs of the charity.

Ward Admin

Volunteers assist the Ward Clerks by answering the phones, filing records and a variety of other clerical tasks.

These services are provided by some 170 volunteers, led by a team of service co-ordinators, and are now delivering more hours of voluntary service than ever.

We continue to recruit volunteers from across the community and have increased the number of sixth form students from local schools who wish to pursue a career in medicine.



It is now the case that the notional value of the effort they deliver is almost double the average value of donations of equipment and project support that has been provided in recent years.

Willy Goldschmidt, President - August 2023

7. Social fundraising Report



Some amazing social events have taken place since the last AGM and substantial amounts have been raised.

In November 2022 we held our annual Black Tie Dinner. As always this was incredibly well attended with great entertainment from the Upsiders. It has to be said that this was our single biggest fund raiser, so far, and the participants were unbelievably generous. This event raised a phenomenal £11,154. Huge

thanks must go to all those who attended and supported the Friends in this way. Since then, a further four fundraising events have taken place. In March '23 we held a Race Night. Once again this was well attended and proved to be a really entertaining evening raising £3,878. The races were facilitated by Glen and his team of bookies in what was a really fun night with plenty of betting and the occasional drink helping to make it all go well.



April brought the wedding reception of James Gordon and his bride Lucy. James is the son of Julie Gordon, a dearly departed friend and social fundraising committee member. All profits from the reception bar plus a wonderful donation from the Happy Couple contributed to an excellent and very much appreciated donation of £1,000.35.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and cake were all available following the Castle Farm Charity Dog Walk in May. Plenty of dogs, their owners and friends came along for the walk and £578 was raised.

Most recently in July a Caribbean Night was held with amazing entertainment provided by Reggae Ray and a Caribbean themed meal was served by the wonderful Chefs Kitchen. Everyone got into the spirit of the event and dressed for the occasion. Great entertainment, great food and great company as always plus £3,500 raised.

Our next and final event of the year will be on 28th October when it's Black Tie time again with all funds raised going towards an additional Ultrasound Machine at St Cross.

Tracey Lennard, Social Fundraising Team Chairperson - August 2023

8. Public Fundraising Report



The last 12 months has slowly seen a return to some pre-covid activities and the Board must thank those individuals, groups, clubs and associations that have continued to support the Friends so very generously and those new supporters who have helped us in these challenging times. Thanks go especially to those who have donated in memory of loved ones or as a bequest from an estate.

The list is long but some notable contributions have consistently been made

over the years by the residents of Hanover Gardens, the Rotary Club of Rugby Dunsmore and of course the Coventry Building Society and its affinity account holders. We thank you all for what you have helped us to achieve.

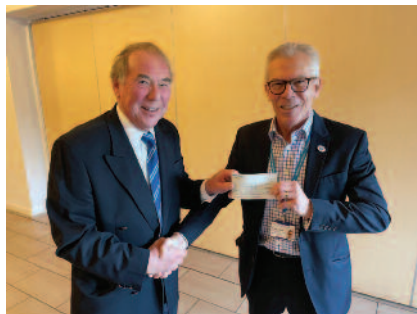
The Rugby Lotto continues to generate an income for the Friends and since we joined on 19th June 2019 a noteworthy £2,965.00 has been raised. Obviously, the more people that take part the greater the benefit for the Friends and if you can please buy a ticket or two, for £1 per week, to support us and maybe win a cash prize for yourself. To buy a ticket just go to this webpage <https://www.rugbylotto.org>

Donations can also be made online by following the links on our website www.fsx.org.uk or by cheque sent to the office. Don't forget that if you are a tax payer and able to Gift Aid this will add 25% to your donation.

We currently have a vacancy at Trustee level for someone to lead this activity and help restore a number of activities that we have previously carried out but have not yet resumed. If you think that you could help in this respect, we'd love to hear from you.

Thank you again to all who have supported us and the work of the charity in our continued efforts to improve the patient experience and to bring new services to the Hospital of St Cross Rugby.

Doug Jones, Chair and Governance Lead - August 2023



9. Community Co-ordinators Report



The vision for Community Liaison is to involve more communities to work in partnership with the Friends of the Hospital of St Cross. To support the hospital and the community in Rugby, to provide Voluntary services in the hospital and to make Hospital of St Cross a better Health Centre for all.

Every year the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK) – Rugby branch volunteer their time on a day set aside primarily to make a difference to people around us. The day is called 'Sewa day'. Numerous projects are undertaken locally, nationally and internationally.

Since 2018 Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh has been involved in various Voluntary projects at St Cross. Painting the corridor leading from Blood Taking to the Elizabeth Chapel (2018), the Multi Faith Prayer Room (2019), Friends of St Cross Book library (2020) and painting railings (2021) and in 2022 the Sewa Group (pictured overleaf) cleared the overgrown Urgent Treatment Centre entrance garden ready for a new planting arrangement.

More recently Doug Jones, Chair of the Friends, and his wife attended an event at the Hindu Temple in Rugby at the invitation of the Hindu Community to celebrate Hanuman Jayanti birthday. The theme of the day was very much around volunteering and helping others. This was part of

the Community Engagement activity and helped to raise awareness of volunteering opportunities with the Friends.

Doug Jones said “My wife, Jan, and I were honoured to be invited to the Hindu Temple in Rugby. Huge thanks to the Hindu Community for making Jan and I so welcome and for the amazing hospitality shown”.

The Friends look forward to working with the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK) again this year and I am hoping to involve a few more communities too.



Ramesh Srivastava, Community Liaison Lead – August 2023

10. Hospital Report



It's been a pleasure to join The Hospital of St Cross Rugby, in April, as a Director focussed on supporting the development and delivery of services on the site.

Reflecting on this past year, it has been a particularly challenged one across all operational teams, staff groups and very much for our local communities, for many reasons. Following Covid, the need to rapidly recover services and start to meaningfully bring down waiting lists has been a significant focus of all teams operationally. Last year, the Trust managed to significantly improve the position on patients waiting a very long time for operations and it continues to centre on bringing these waits down to pre-pandemic levels, as an absolute priority. The Hospital of St Cross Rugby is a pivotal part of this recovery, and has the opportunity to further develop elective services on the site.

The Trust has been nationally recognised for its work around tackling health inequalities by developing a tool to identify the more vulnerable patients on waiting lists. This coupled with continuing to seek the views of our patients and staff in order to improve processes, have better communication, embrace innovation, support access to research and development and ultimately improving services, has continued to progress the Trusts vision of national and international leaders in healthcare, whilst firmly rooted in our communities.

Orthopaedics recently successfully completed their 100th RACER Knee and Hip Mako robot procedure at St Cross. This was part of a study funded by the National Institute for Health Research and the University of Warwick clinical trials unit, to investigate the precision of using a surgical robot for joint replacement. In the future, trials such as these can result in technologically advanced treatment, that is hoped will greatly improve outcomes for patients.

Over the last few years we have had some major developments on site, including the popular Maple Unit offering Haematology and Oncology services to the local community and the new

modular theatres, which continue to enable more and more patients to have their surgery locally.

This year, maintaining focus on the development of health services in Rugby, The Hospital of St Cross Rugby has seen further investment realised in the building of a new modern Endoscopy unit, that has taken just under four years from conception to implementation and is due to be completed this October. In addition, the Laurel Unit has been developed to support pre-operative and post-operative care for patients who have undergone Breast Surgery, with a plan to have more post operative services. In outpatients, further investment continues with a new booth for Audiology and increased access to outpatient Ultrasounds with the new Fern Unit.

The wayfinding project to improve signage across the site, has finally been signed off, and is in the process of being implemented. Can I thank the Friends for all your support in helping patients navigate their way through the site, but also for working in partnership with us, by reviewing the maps and providing valuable feedback. Your support is always very much appreciated.

Environmentally, UHCW has embarked on an ambitious Green plan to decarbonise its estate and the Hospital of St Cross Rugby has blazed a trail in that Net Zero plan. The first stage of energy savings works on site for this year are complete, having been funded by grants. This includes the installation of 1,200 solar panels and air source heat pumps connected to the three main plant rooms, which are predicted to save an estimated 687 tonnes of carbon dioxide generated per annum. The next phase of the project has funding applications in to further reduce the sites dependence on gas. If successful, the site could be up to 92% Gas free.

More than a hospital, the future plans for the Hospital of St Cross Rugby is very much rooted in increasing service provision here and continuing to progress effective collaboration with partners both within and outside of healthcare, as this is vital to delivering the best outcomes for our communities. As plans evolve and establish, the collaboration with the Friends of St Cross, is a valued partnership that I look forward to seeing flourish. Many of the initiatives I have discussed have been supported by the Friends of St Cross, the volunteers and the service co-ordinators, who have all generously and freely given their time and it is with this, that I thank you for all your support and dedication, in supporting The Hospital of St Cross Rugby to thrive

Dr Jan Jayatilaka, Hospital Director – August 2023



11. Other ways to support The Friends

