**CHAIRMANS’S REPORT - OCTOBER 2019**

Following on from last year, this report together with the financial report, comprise our report on the activities of the Trustees over the past year. Our financial year ends on 30th November each year and thus my report is not always contemporaneous with the financial report. The accounts are reported to the Charity Commission in accordance with their regulations for registered charities.

At the beginning of 2019, I along with the Trustees was very sad to learn of the death of Dr Bryon Roberts. He had helped found the Friends in 1979 and had been a Trustee for the entire life of the Friends. Tributes were paid to his work as a key clinician in Leeds at a memorial service in the Chapel at the General Infirmary organised by Dr Graeme Smith.

The past year has again proved to be very successful for the Friends and a full set of accounts is available from the Secretary but the key figures for the last financial year are:

* Income £33749
* Costs £3561
* Grants £32745

The Friends have thus been able to meet all of the requests from staff and patients to assist with the treatment and care of patients in the Haematology Department at St James’. The Trustees are pleased at the range of requests that may directly benefit patients or indirectly by assisting staff to undertake their duties in a modern and effective manner. The Trustees continue to seek requests for funding twice a year in March and September but respond to other requests that do not fit into this timescale. Any requests for the urgent support of individual patients are dealt with by the Secretary emailing all Trustees. Since my last report we have funded:

*Electronic pipettes Flow Cytometry - HMDS*

*Drug/equipment carts x 3 - Ward 87*

*Fold away bed – Ward 88*

*Rise/recline chairs x 2 – Ward 88*

*Patient weighing scales x 7 – Ward 89*

*Patient note easels x 3 – Ward 89*

*Bone Marrow &Intrathecal patient trolley – Ward87*

*Digital Morphology Training Module – Medical staff*

*iPads for medical on call teams x2 – Medical staff*

*Drip stands x4 – Ward88*

*Chemotherapy trolley – Ward88*

*Pulse-oximeter – Ward88*

*Exercise bikes for patients x7 – Wards 88,89&94*

*Patient rise/recline chairs x2 – Ward89*

*Mary Seacole leadership programme – Str Holt*

*Staff [3] to attend Haematology conference Manchester – Ward 88*

Our ability to fund these requests is of course only possible due to the generosity of a wide range of people who donate sums or raise money through events such as concerts and sponsored runs. This year we again secured places for the Great North Run and a group of supporters has raised money for us. Just recently the Blood Sweat and Cheers group led by Lynne Hegarty has held a Ball in Leeds and raised £5594. These two events comprise about 30% of our income. Our JustGiving page remains a key part of our fundraising and offers a simple way to donate to the Friends [www.justgiving.com/fllu/donate](http://www.justgiving.com/fllu/donate).

I mentioned last year our collaboration with the Chevin Socialites led by Lesley Noble. We agreed to take on the responsibility for managing the funds and for paying Hospedia. A separate account has been established since early 2019 and payments are currently made quarterly, this being managed by the Chairman with the Secretary or Treasurer. The Chevin Socialites continue to raise funds for the Patient TV service and at present there are enough funds for many months of service. It costs around £26000 a year so this really is tremendous fundraising by the Chevin Socialites. This account will feature in our next set of annual accounts. The Chevin Socialites are also continuing with the much appreciated ‘Hug on a tray service’ although it is sad to report that some of their items and some funding was stolen and needed replacing during the past year.

To aid our profile a website was established early in 2019 [www.friendsofleedshaem.org.uk](http://www.friendsofleedshaem.org.uk).

The website is being used to explain who we are, what we do and how to assist the Friends. It also allows us to publish formal information such as this report and our formal accounts and make them available to anyone who wishes to understand the purpose of the Friends. We continue to have our:

Facebook account @LeedsCentreforLeukaemiaLymphomaandMyeloma

and our

Twitter account  @Leeds\_Friends

The Friends are only able to undertake the work mentioned above due to the significant voluntary time and effort of many people including Trustees and supporters that is largely held together by Carol Bilbrough our Secretary. All of their work is much appreciated and I would like to thank everyone for their support.

David A Fox

Chairman of the Trustees

18th October 2019