**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2021**

This is a delayed report as the Trustees have not had a formal meeting for 12 months due to the pandemic and the need for social distancing. Nevertheless the Trustees have continued to work to support the Haematology Department in many ways during this time. This has meant working by email or telephone to make decisions on spending funds held by The Friends.

The Trustees have continued to invite requests for funding from staff in March and September but we have also dealt with requests at other times particularly where the request is to support staff deal with the added difficulties at this time. We were able to support all of the requests made to us including a number of financial grants to individual patients. I am listing below all of the requests from staff since my last report and which total £40161:

Patient observation machines x 10 Ward 89

Drip stands; saddle stools and carts Ward 87

Furnishings for patients relatives room Ward 88

Support material for Enhanced Supportive Care Service

Privacy screen and sepsis trolley Ward 87

Fridges for patient rooms x 6 Ward 89

Two staff to attend virtual ASCAT conference

Portable microscope for Registrars

Laptops for home working Secretarial team

I pad and thermometers for home monitoring of CAR-T patients

Patient Observation machines x 5 Ward 88

Patient mobility device Ward 88

Digital morphology training and diagnostic module for medical staff

Our income has continued to be strong even though there have been few opportunities to fund raise. Our now traditional events such as the Ball and runners at the Great North Run were all cancelled. We benefit from much generosity from former patients and their families and friends and our Justgiving page, www.justgiving.com/fllu/donate has been especially important in these self-distancing times.

I mentioned that the Friends had agreed to administer the funds raised by Lesley Noble and the Chevin Socialites, to pay for patient bedside TV on Wards 88 and 89 that is provided by the company Hospedia. After my last report it turned out that Lesley Noble and Chevin Socialites team had raised sufficient funds to pay for the whole of 2020 and payment was made just before Christmas 2019. Little did any of us realise how crucial this would be with the start of lockdown the following March. Lesley and her team continued to fundraise during 2020 by various means and with generous support from many people and companies. In December 2020 she secured a reduced cost of £22440 for the TV service from Hospedia for 2021; and remarkably Lesley and her team raised this sum and again we have been able to cover all of the costs for 2021by a payment in January 2021. Lesley and team are having a rest, before starting fundraising this year for the costs of the service in 2022!

The Trustees continue to update our website with information about our activities and to share our formal accounts [www.friendsofleedshaem.org.uk](http://www.friendsofleedshaem.org.uk)

Two of the Trustees, Carol Bilbrough and Jean Harris keep our Facebook and Twitter accounts up to date with relevant information:

 @LeedsCentrefor LeukaemiaLymphomaandMyeloma

 @Leeds\_Friends

The Friends have continued to be able to support the work of the Haematology Department only due to the considerable time and effort that is volunteered by the Trustees and a very large number of supporters. I am once again especially grateful to Carol Bilbrough who is the Friends main contact with supporters and staff. It is thanks to all of them that the Friends have had yet another very successful year. It seems as though 2021 will be challenging but the Friends remain well placed to support staff and patients in the Haematology Department.

David A Fox

Chairman of the Trustees

2nd February 2021