



Chairman: Marie Yarker
Friends of Richardson Hospital
The Richardson Community Hospital
Victoria Road
Barnard Castle
Co. Durham
DL12 8HT

Chairman's Report for the year ending 31 December 2013



I am pleased to report on another successful year for **The Friends of Richardson Hospital**. Income during 2013 reached a total of £128,828 including some generous legacies and donations from family and friends of patients who have been treated at the Hospital. Income from fund raising activities including the annual Fete and Raffle raised £2163. We continue to support the Richardson Community Hospital wards, clinics and services by purchases of occupational therapy supplies, treats, craft materials and activities for patients. The value of equipment purchased during the year was over £41,000 with a further £6356 spent on trips and ward activities, plants, newspapers, sundries, staff training and Christmas gifts and celebrations.

I should like to express my thanks to Irene Baker, Hon. Treasurer, Felicity Worley, Vice-Chairman, officers and members of the Committee. We are also grateful to Sue Campbell of Media Messages who has ably assisted us with publicity this year.

Significant items of expenditure included ten recliner chairs (at £1500 each) which have been so popular with patients we intend to buy more this year. We spent £3,000 on a Smartflow urine flowmeter and £4410 on an Arjo Huntleigh Maxi Move™. The latter item complements the built-in hoist system (also provided by the Friends) and provides safer, more comfortable resident/patient handling, while making care routines smoother and more efficient. In a new venture, the Friends funded the cost of a part-time Discharge Co-ordinator at a cost of £6049 to support safer patient discharge. This will be reviewed in July 2014.

A new piece of artwork to enhance the Courtyard has been commissioned and will be completed in 2014 by metal sculptor Michael Kusz. This will take the form of a Tree of Life with unique features commemorating the original hospital building "Starlings" and our benefactor R T Richardson.

Our investment in fixed rate bonds is beginning to show dividends with an income of over £5,000 and we plan to continue the policy in order to safeguard funds and attract the best possible rate of interest.

Copies of the report and accounts are available to view and may be requested via the Hospital Reception or accessed online at www.forh.org.uk once submitted to the Charities Commission.

Marie Yarker, Chairman
April 2014