

NEWSLETTER No. 77 - January, 2012

Dear Friends,

I usually write to you earlier than this but our Main Committee meeting took place on December 1st and any letter about the proceedings there would have been mixed up in the Christmas post.

First I must thank all those who took part in the draw. Despite the woes of the nation we were very successful. From the sale of tickets and from donations associated we raised £1,668.00. I am enclosing the Prize List and I am sure I should point out the huge contribution of Mr & Mrs Driver. In fact I had to cope with twenty-five pairs of socks which I decided to distribute in packs of five. We were fortunate too in having the draw tickets paid for anonymously.

Collections in 2011 brought in £1,374.08 which was an increase of £455.00. We owe everything to Humphry Adair and his team of collectors and how fortunate we were to have so many willing to help. Collections now provide a major part of our income and we would like to extend them, but we are obviously dependant on our resources. This year's collections have been arranged as follows:-

January 21st at Sainsbury's, Warren Heath

May 25th at Felixstowe

September 7th at Woodbridge

I think this is the first time we are having a winter collection and of course by the time you receive this letter, it will be over.

The Leyland Brass Band concert will take place on Saturday March 31st at the Corn Exchange, Ipswich at 7.30 p.m.. Tickets are £13, concessions £11. You will remember that we are being offered half of the profits of this concert and I hope you will be able to attend. This band is among the top class in the country. Tickets are available at the box office. We are proposing to put the proceeds towards the purchase of a Fibroscan machine for Ipswich Hospital which gives the doctors the ability to assess for liver fibrosis and scarring.

The Endoscopy Unit at Ipswich Hospital has had a million pounds refit, but we are still asked to help! We have bought a fourth Argon Plasma Beamer (£8,500) and we celebrated this purchase by having a meeting at the Unit in which representatives of the charity and medical staff stood behind three of the Beamers to be photographed. The fourth was not readily available being in one of the theatres. We hoped that the celebration would be featured by one of the local papers, but so far - no luck. The photo did appear prominently in the Hospital magazine. These Beamers are designed to aid endoscopic procedures by enabling doctors to seal blood vessels to curtail bleeding and to destroy superficial cells in the lining of the gut. This stops them growing and causing subsequent

problems.

We have also supplied £21,500 to buy "EndoEye" equipment which we promised to give at our 2010 meeting. This is surgical equipment to aid surgeons during keyhole surgery by inserting telescopic lenses into the abdomen to transmit high quality images to a TV screen in the theatre. This enables the surgeon to have a greatly enhanced view allowing a much safer and faster procedure.

At the meeting on December 1st we officially welcomed Judy Steward as Treasurer, though of course she has been doing the treasurer's work for several months. We also decided that we ought to have a Website and arrangements are being made to set this up. We made some allocations as follows:-

- 3 x Water Irrigation machines @ £1,500 in total
- 1 x Endoscopic Ultrasound Adaptor @ £3,5000
- 1 x Imager (Endoscope guide) @ £43,000 with DDF to pay 50% and balance to come from a bequest made via NACC to the Unit

We are grateful for donations as follows:-

Mr & Mrs Naunton who sent us £750 which they raised in celebrations about their Ruby Wedding.

An anonymous donor who recently handed me £125.

Angela Underhill who continues to send us money raised by her sale of cards.

We have also had a number of private donations.

You will be interested to learn that the money raised by way of a memoriam for Dougie Bourne has been used in agreement with his daughter to buy a new TV for the patient's lounge in the Endoscopy Unit.

Before closing I must extend congratulations and good wishes to Derek Pearson on achieving his one hundredth birthday.

These are difficult times for all charities and we are fortunate indeed to have so much support. Thank you all and if you can think of ways in which you could help us, please turn thought into action!

With Best Wishes,

Michael Horsburgh