



# The Digestive Disorders Foundation, Suffolk

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The Lady Tollemache

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February 2014

Dear Members

It is with great sadness that I take over writing this newsletter following the deaths in the last few months of Michael Horsburgh, who, as you probably know, died in November last year after a short illness and Michael Bealing who died in July. As a result of Michael Horsburgh's illness the usual autumn newsletter and raffle did not happen. In 1986 Michael formed the Friends of the DDF, which has really been the work horse for fund raising. He and Jean worked hard to raise the profile of our charity and after her death in 2006 he remained extremely committed to the task even in his 90<sup>th</sup> year. Over the last 30 years the DDF has raised nearly half a million pounds which has transformed the work of the gastroenterology department by supporting research, the purchase of equipment and other activities. Some innovations which have resulted from this work have improved patient care not just in Suffolk but across the globe.

Michael Bealing was a founder member of the DDF who was recruited by Professor Duncan Bell in 1984 to help to set up a charity to support research and improve care of patients with digestive disorders. Michael brought with him a wealth of business skills and contacts complemented by a wonderful ability to engage with everyone he came in contact with. Under his leadership the DDF was guided forward and he was often able to assist us to see 'the wood for the trees' when faced with financial and management tasks.

I have taken over as chairman and the committee have decided to restructure by amalgamating the Friends of the DDF with the main committee. We have been pleased to welcome new members who are keen to reinvigorate the fund raising activities of the Charity but need more support.

During the last year street collections in Felixstowe and Woodbridge raised £410 which was only possible thanks to the hard work of Humphry Adair and his group of dedicated collectors.

The following collections are planned for 2014:

Morrison's Sroughton Road	Monday April 14 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>
Felixstowe	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June
Woodbridge	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September

If you can spare even an hour of your time to help with any of these please let Humphry or me know?

Donations received include: Mrs Bendy Golden Wedding Anniversary £270. Donations for Michael Bealing £770 and Michael Horsburgh £350. Bequest from Mr Brearley £3,841.21. Final part of bequests from Mr Tomlinson's estate £43,711.46 Other donations £850

We are grateful to all our fund raisers with special thanks to Mrs Angela Underhill who has decided to 'retire' after nearly 25 years of the sale of her cards which has raised several thousand pounds.

#### Fibro scanner for Ipswich

At the recent Annual General Meeting, Dr Abdul Mohsen consultant gastroenterologist, reported on how the 'Fibro Scanner' which DDF purchased in 2013 had been put to good use. The scanner is a non invasive ultrasound based technique which assesses scarring of the liver in patients with suspected liver disease especially those with chronic hepatitis and reduces the need for an invasive liver biopsy. Ipswich is one of only a few district hospital with this technology. We heard how it is proposed to extend its use to other hospitals locally and to assess inmates of a local prison where chronic hepatitis is a not uncommon problem. The scanner has revolutionised the work of the team and this work is likely form part of a research publication.

We also heard that the collaborative study, which the DDF are supporting, between the Ipswich Hospital and Dr Will Thomas of the University of Suffolk examining the experiences of patients with inflammatory bowel disease is progressing and more news will be forthcoming in a future newsletter.

#### Stop press

#### New Website ([www.ddfsuffolk.org.uk](http://www.ddfsuffolk.org.uk))

You will see that we have a new website which is currently being populated, we will post information on future events on this as well as the regular newsletters and if you have any items you would like to include please let me know.

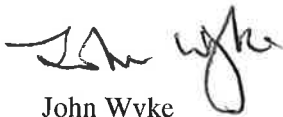
#### Do you have an email address?

While I am talking about technology. It would be faster and cheaper to communicate with you by email so if you have an email address. Please contact me on [john.wyke@ipswichhospital.nhs.uk](mailto:john.wyke@ipswichhospital.nhs.uk)

**Enclosed are raffle tickets which we hope you will support an additional prize is for 2 tickets for ITFC for Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April.**

We are most grateful for all your continuing support which really makes a difference to the care of people in Suffolk.

With best wishes for 2014



John Wyke

Chairman