

Happy New Year to you all.

2022 has been a tough year for many especially with recovering from the pandemic, the current economic pressures and the climate crisis, however there is still so much to be positive about.

The Hospital stands strong in its delivery of excellent care with hundreds of patients receiving physical rehabilitation therapy during their stay in the Elton Rehabilitation Unit and thousands of patients receiving treatment for their injuries in The Minor Injury Unit (MIU).

The Outpatients service, whilst not quite back up to pre-pandemic levels, is running with a broad range of specialisms and more will hopefully return or new ones come on board.

The unprecedented nurses strikes will not affect the hospital here in Clevedon. The hospital is run by Sirona care & health which, as a Community Interest Company (not for profit) that provides NHS services the staff were not balloted and therefore were not eligible to strike. The Nursing staff do however stand in support of their NHS colleagues in their actions to help save the NHS but in doing so, all hospital nursing services will remain fully operational.

The Friends had a stand at the Portishead Show in July which attracted a good amount of attention. We were able to give out our Newsletter, display our board showing the Little Tea Pot and encourage people to become volunteers and showcase equipment paid for by the Friends. There were also three competitions to raise funds which included guessing the number of patients that visited the MIU between April 2021 and March 2022 (for those who tried the number was an incredible 21,842). Thank you to all who gave our stand support.

The new building for the Little Tea Pot was completed in early 2022 and has been greatly enjoyed by patients and their carers and is going really well. The grand opening took place on Friday 16th September with the Deputy Lieutenant of Somerset, Julia Elton, opening the building. She is a descendant of Lord Arthur Hallam Elton who first founded Clevedon Hospital way back in 1874 predating the NHS by nearly 75 years. A true visionary. The Little Tea Pot replaces the small conservatory that was used before and which, after 25 years, had become unfit for purpose. The new larger building has a fully fitted kitchen with new appliances and is more accessible with a level threshold at the entrance for wheelchairs. There are homemade cakes and coffee, tea and hot chocolate on sale and it also showcases paintings from local artists which are available to buy with a percentage going to the Little Teapot funds. The MIU also now has a paging system to alert waiting patients to return to the hospital for their slot so you can wait safe in the knowledge that you won't be missed. The cafe is run entirely by volunteers and all profits will be used for the hospital for the benefits of the patients. The

opening hours have been extended 10.00 – 16.00 Monday to Friday to meet peak demand.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the Little Teapot please contact the Minor Injury Unit at North Somerset Community Hospital on 01275 546852 and leave your contact details and the Friends will get back to you. Training will be provided and it is a lovely place to work and give something back to the community at the same time.

Junior Poon Chinese Restaurant in Hill Road is celebrating 30 years in Clevedon and to mark this occasion he arranged for a fundraising event at his restaurant on 16th December with the proceeds going to the Friends of Clevedon Hospital (NSCH). The money will be spent on two ECG machines (one for the Elton Rehabilitation Unit and one for the Minor Injury Unit) and some other medical monitoring equipment. Junior also had a table outside the restaurant selling raffle tickets in aid of the hospital on the evening of the Christmas Fair in Hill Road which raised additional funds. We are pleased to announce that the evening raised the incredible sum of £7,805.00. We are very grateful to Junior for his continued and generous support of the hospital and to all those who attended and contributed towards its success.

We would also like to extend thanks to Posies in Alexander Road, Clevedon for their kind gesture of sending many bunches of flowers to the staff at the hospital just before Christmas. It was a very kind and totally unexpected thing to do that brought huge smiles and was greatly appreciated.

Over the Christmas period the Friends paid for Christmas presents for the resident patients in the Elton Rehabilitation Unit, some festive food and drink for the staff who worked every day and some treats for children unlucky enough to be attending the MIU over the Christmas period.

Shoplands Sawmills of Clevedon once again kindly donated the beautiful Christmas tree that adorned the front lawn of the hospital.

Thanks also go to Clevedon Promenade ladies Bowls Club for a wonderful donation of £124.

The MIU continues to be extremely busy and so far, this financial year (from April 1st), has seen 18,327 with three months to go so with an average of around 2000 patients per month it is on course to beat last year! So be ready if we have a guess the number competition later this year.

Finally we will be holding the AGM of the Friends on Tuesday 23rd May at 7pm in the Little Teapot. All are welcome and we would particularly invite members of the public who might be interested in supporting the work of the Friends by joining the committee. Our constitution stipulates a minimum membership and we do require new blood. Please contact Chairman David Fife at friendsofnsch@gmail.com for more information.