



Report of Headley Voluntary Care AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Headley Voluntary Care Group, held on Thursday 13th March 2015 in the Church Centre, was well attended. Deputy Chairman Tony Pull opened the meeting and thanked the drivers coordinators and coffee morning helpers for their assistance over the past year. He expressed particular thanks to John Evans who retired as Chairman due to ill health and family circumstances. The Treasurer Keith Henderson was nominated as Chairman in addition to retaining the position of Treasurer. The meeting voted in support.

Lee Yates, Transport Co-ordinator reported that there were 624 journeys totaling 16,878 miles undertaken over the last 13 months, A team of 12 coordinators managed the arrangements between clients and drivers.

Keith outlined the financial statement which showed a small surplus of Income over Expenditure, thus funds continue to be healthy which allowed £500 to be spent supporting the Badgerswood Surgery and £500 to the Church Centre.

The Thursday coffee morning at the Church Centre continues to be well supported. Following last years resignation of Peter Marsh as Publicity Officer, due to family difficulties. Michael Sheppard has now assumed the responsibility.

Following the meeting Ann Wake & Victoria Collins, representatives from Phillis Tuckwell Hospice gave a talk. Ann a volunteer for 9 years explained both the history and the operational side of the organisation and Victoria the fund raising element.

The hospice was founded with the advice of Dame Cecily Saunders at Trimmers Hospital the old cottage hospital, in Farnham. She had previously founded St Christopher's Hospice in London. The hospital originally had 12 patient beds this has now risen to 18. More significantly it had a paid staff of just 17 with only volunteer doctors, the growth of its operations now requires a paid staff of about 200 people who are

supported by 946 unpaid volunteers! Similarly costs have risen from £180,000 to a staggering £7 million per year.

The hospice provides compassionate care for people with terminal illness and support for their close family. Its growth in looking after 140 patients a day has been possible through expanding its operations to include outpatient care and home care. Initially end of life care for cancer patients was its primary concern; it now offers support for patients with neurological, cardiac and lung diseases. It now also offers Counselling, Social Care and non affiliated Chaplaincy to patients close family.

Victoria then explained the many varied ways they have developed to enable them to raise the £7 million a year, (£15,000 day!) needed to maintain the hospice. The responsibility for coordinating these many sponsored events are handled by just 6 paid staff. With the hospice now having between 40 to 50 patients a month being referred to it and government support of just 15% a massive effort is needed. They have seen a 30% growth in income through the establishment of 19 Shops

Karolina Soroczynska from Hampshire Police Safer Neighbourhood Team reintroduced herself to the meeting having attended our coffee morning on 26th February. She confirmed that she will be visiting us regularly and advised us that the culprits for most of the burglaries prior to Christmas had been apprehended and sentenced.

Headley Voluntary Care continues to be a thriving group but in order to be so we will need more drivers to assist us. If you can spare some time to help or know someone who would, please contact us on 01428 717389 or if you would like to support us by having a cup of coffee and meeting up with friends, please call in at our coffee morning at the Headley Church Centre held every Thursday 10am – noon.