

Secretary's Activities Report for the year 2019/2020

1. Launch of Website

Our 2019 / 2020 year began with our well attended Annual General Meeting which followed the usual course of AGMs but in addition saw the **launch of our website by the Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Ian Carr**. This has proved to be very popular in its clear design and helpful information and has assisted your Executive Committee to keep members up-to-date on current issues and campaigns. Our grateful thanks go to Di Swaddling who designed it and serves as mentor to Wilson Carson who now maintains it and keeps it up-to-date.

2. AGM Speaker

We were fortunate to welcome **Neil Hardy, Associate Director for Medicines Optimisation at West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group** who gave us an excellent presentation focusing on '**Medicines and Older People**'. His slides were made available to members on the website as they were very informative.

3. July General Meeting 2019

Deputy Chairman Peter Rayner reported that we had had an **informative response to our March letter to our MP, Kit Malthouse** which Mollie Antrobus and himself had written following members' requests when they felt that his previous response had not answered all our questions.

R Hamilton gave a **detailed Health and Social Care Report** starting with the history of the birth of the NHS and its development to the present day – highlighting the various developments and how they have influenced the structure of the NHS and how it all works today. Announcements earlier this year indicate further hospital bed closures and more care in the community with primary care having 20,000 more staff. She indicated the problems in achieving this, especially recruiting and training staff and getting staff from abroad.

The acting chairman welcomed Zoe McManus, Partner, Head of Private Client Development and Tom Maxted-Pettman, trainee solicitor, who were our guest speakers from Barker, Son & Isherwood solicitors.

Tom and Zoe gave a very comprehensive presentation on the importance of having a Will and the problems caused by being intestate. It was recommended that Wills should be checked every 5 years to ensure the Will still does what you wish it to do.

4. Plans for 'Full of Life' day

M Antrobus reported that following our Social Care theme for 2019, the Executive Committee had agreed to a proposal to celebrate 'Full of Life' (the International Day for Older People) this year we would hold an **Independent Living Fayre on 2nd October 2019 between 1pm – 4pm at the new Leisure Centre.**

A Report on the very successful event was undertaken and shared with members and photographs were shared on the website.

5. The General Meeting for October 2019 was fortunate to have a presentation from **Liz Murray** who was able to give an informative and erudite resume of the history and achievements of **Valley Leisure**. She explained how it had developed and the setting up now of other charitable businesses. She gave further explanations of “**I can Therapy**” and how it fits into the care of many post-operative conditions and assists in giving and improving movement and accessibility.

6. The General Meeting in January 2020 was well attended and benefitted from a full and comprehensive **Health and Social Care Report** from Rosemary Hamilton who was welcomed back from her stay in hospital. Subsequently the chairman welcomed **Terry Smith**, Community Development and Support Manager, **Open Sight** who gave an informative and interesting talk on '**Keeping Your Eyes Right**'. Open Sight is based in Eastleigh and is the principle charitable organisation supporting the blind in Hampshire.

The second guest speaker **Debbie Mayfield** is employed by the Southern Health Foundation NHS Trust and is based in the Allan Gardiner Unit at Andover War Memorial Hospital. She gave an interesting talk about the work of her multi-disciplinary team in **the diagnosis and treatment /support of older people (and their carers) with one of the many types of dementia**. Debbie supported her presentation with a set of projector slides which are now on our website.

In conclusion, we have had a very busy and informative year during 2019/20.