# MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**of FRIENDS OF SUSSEX HOSPICES LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB**

**WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2021 - 11.30AM**

**Via Zoom**

**Present:**

Kathy Gore Chairman

Janie Childs Raffle Secretary

Jenna Davies

Christine Field Chairman of Friends of Sussex Hospices

Violet Hancock

Diana Kentish Barnes Bookings Secretary

Sarah McIntosh

Jill Parley

Mimi Scott

Marion Shepherd Vice Chair of Friends of Sussex Hospices

Ann Spike Membership Secretary

Di Steele

Bridget Stevenson

Jeni Woodhouse Chairman of East Sussex Fundraising Committee

1. **Welcome**

Kathy welcomed everyone with a special welcome to Christine Field who has taken over as Chairman of FSH Board of Trustees. Christine has been a Trustee since 2016 and Chairman of the West Sussex Fundraising Committee since 2017.

1. **Apologies:** Edouard Altenhoven: Janet Hillyer: Pauline Lucas: Heather Woolcott.
2. **Minutes of AGM held 22 January 2020.**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2020 and circulated by email / post were approved by those present as a true record.

1. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Chairman’s Report**

Kathy announced that this was her last Chairman’s report as she was standing down. She felt, however, that she was leaving the luncheon club in capable hands. A full copy of Kathy’s report is appended.

**6. Approve Chairman’s Report**

Approval of this report was proposed by Bridget Stevenson and seconded by Jill Pardey. Bridget Stevenson then proposed a vote of thanks to Kathy be recorded for her hard work, energy and enthusiasm over the years. The proposal was unanimously approved by those present.

**7.** **Treasurer’s Report**

Kathy presented the Treasurer’s report as the Treasurer, Eddy Altenhoven, was unable to attend the meeting. Eddy steps down as Treasurer with effect from this meeting and Kathy wished to record her thanks to him for being Treasurer for the past five and a half years.

A full copy of this report is appended. A copy of the accounts are attached. The accounts show the amount raised from the Ladies Lunches in the last calendar year was £2,379.94.

**8. Approve Treasurer’s Report and Accounts**

The report and accounts were approved - proposed by Jeni Woodhouse and seconded by Janie Childs.

**9. Membership Secretary’s report**

Ann reported that in view of the difficulties encountered in 2020 the membership currently stands at 94. Our lunch programme was completely devastated and only one luncheon in January following our AGM was held. 56 ladies attended this lunch.

**10. Approve Membership Secretary’s report**

The report was approved – proposed by Marion Shepherd and seconded by Jeni Woodhouse.

**11.** **Retirement and Appointment of Committee Members**

As three new committee members were being elected it was necessary to vote each member of the committee individually.

**Chairman** - There was one nomination for Chairman. Jenna Davies was happy to be nominated. Jenna has a wealth of knowledge having chaired a luncheon club in London. Proposed by Kathy Gore and seconded by Diana Kentish Barnes, Jenna was unanimously elected by those present.

**Speakers’ secretary** – Bridget Stevenson was happy to stand for election and was proposed by Kathy Gore, seconded by Jeni Woodhouse and unanimously elected by those present.

**Treasurer –** Heather Woolcottwas happy to be nominated in her absence. Proposed by Kathy Gore, seconded by Janie Childs and unanimously elected by those present.

**Janie Childs**, Raffle Secretary, had indicated she was prepared to remain on the committee. Her re-election was proposed by Jenna Davies, seconded by Jill Pardey and carried unanimously.

**Janet Hillyer** had indicated she was prepared to remain on the committee. Her re-election was proposed by Kathy Gore, seconded by Diana Kentish Barnes and carried unanimously

**Diana Kentish Barnes,** Bookings Secretary, had indicated she was prepared to remain on the committee. Her re-election was proposed by Violet Hancock, seconded by Bridget Stevenson and carried unanimously.

**Ann Spike**, **Membership Secretary**, had indicated she was prepared to remain on the committee. Her re-election was proposed by Jeni Woodhouse, seconded by Bridget Stevenson and carried unanimously.

The constitution of the Ladies Luncheon Club states that the Chairman of the FSH East Sussex Fundraising Committee should sit on the Ladies Luncheon Club Committee. On the 8 January 2021, Jeni Woodhouse replaced Marion Shepherd in this role. Kathy Gore proposed that Jeni replace Marion on the committee. Bridget Stevenson seconded the proposal which was unanimously carried.

The constitution also states that the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of FSH shall be invited to be President of the Ladies Luncheon Club. Christine Field was duly invited to be President of the Ladies Luncheon Club which she was delighted to accept.

**12. Address from the new Chairman.**

The text of this address is appended.

**13. Change of Membership Year**

It had been recommended by the FSH Finance Committee that the Ladies Luncheon Club change its accounting and membership year to align with the FSH accounting year. This would mean that the membership year will run from 1 April – 31 March. If agreed this would mean that the next membership subscriptions would be due on 1 April 2022. This was proposed by Kathy Gore, seconded by Jenna Davies and unanimously carried.

**14. Any other business**

The Chairman said it was hoped to reinstate some of the speakers who would have attended the 2020 lunches. It had been agreed that the April luncheon will be conducted as a Zoom presentation, and she was delighted to announce that Jo Shiner the new lady Chief Constable of Sussex has agreed to be our speaker. This would take place on Wednesday 21 April at 14:30 – details will be circulated nearer the date.

**The meeting concluded at 12:19**

**Chairman's Report – 20 January 2021**

This will be my last Chairman’s report as I am now standing down as Chair of the LLC and I feel sure I will be leaving the membership in very capable hands.

The Friends of Sussex Hospices Ladies Luncheon Club is now in its tenth year and, since it started, it has raised a total of £43,674, all of which has gone to support the thirteen hospice care providers that care for adults and children across Sussex.

From 1st April last year The Sussex Beacon was added as a beneficiary. By way of background, The Sussex Beacon is registered as a hospice and opened in 1994 to care for AIDS/HIV patients. It has 10 inpatient rooms and offers Day Services. Brighton has the second largest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the country after London. Only 5-10 patients die in the hospice per year – when it first opened they were seeing 10 deaths per week. The Beacon’s patients have complex needs; many have mental health issues, many suffer from social isolation. Most of the Beacon’s work covers post-operative care, rehabilitation, drug regimes and mental ill-health – as well as end of life care.

The Ladies Luncheon Club not only raises funds via its lunches it also helps to promote the other fundraising events FSH organises and I know many members have become volunteers, helping at events we usually organise throughout the year.

As a result of these events and many very generous donations FSH has distributed £3 million since it started 25 years ago. I am very grateful to the committee and you, the members of the Ladies Luncheon Club, for helping to make that possible.

We only managed to have one lunch in January last year before COVID-19 and lockdown put a stop to most things.

We were fortunate to have Christine Armstrong whose talk “The Mother of All Jobs” questioned the legacy for society of being a working mother. I think the events of this past year will have added a very unexpected twist to this discussion, with men and women working from home and juggling with childcare and home schooling.

We did have three other speakers lined up, Charles Anson, former Press Secretary to HM The Queen, The Chief Constable of Sussex, Giles York, and Nicci Gerrard, who champions the rights of dementia sufferers and their carers.

We had hoped to be back at the East Sussex National in April to recommence our lunches, but we’ve decided against this as things are still so uncertain. Instead, we will have a Ladies Luncheon Club Zoom on the 21st of April when our guest speaker will be the new lady Chief Constable of Sussex, Jo Shiner, and this will take place at 2.30pm on 21st April.

Charles Anson has agreed to speak – hopefully in person – at the July luncheon and we are hoping that Nicci Gerrard will speak at our October luncheon. Details will be sent to all members.

By way of a brief update on how our hospices are coping with the current situation it would appear to be an ever-changing situation and they are all going through various challenges.

Several hospices are increasingly seeing Covid within their workforce and patients. They are seeing many more patients with Covid from hospitals – some patients acquire Covid while in hospice. Patients are very poorly - often late stage - when they arrive and are with them for only a few days.

Staff are tired and anxious. There are more patients in the community with Covid. Hospices have redoubled their efforts. They are continuing to see patients at home –– a lot is being done over the phone but they’re having much more interaction with patients in the community than they’ve ever had.

There have been some periods where hospices have had to close to admissions. Where hospices have to cease taking admissions – in reality the restrictions are short lived – they pause and start again.

Referrals can be made anywhere across the system – all hospices are taking patients from across the patch e.g., St Wilfrid’s in Eastbourne have taken patients from Brighton when Martlets was under pressure. It’s great to see this collaboration in action.

Staff are being vaccinated and all hospices are starting to get access to regular testing.

All hospices have different policies in place – all are still open to visitors – but testing is carried out before they can visit.

Most will end this year in deficit and although there may be additional NHS funding to cover some of the losses this past year, they don’t anticipate there will be the same level of central funding next year.

I would just like to say what a pleasure it has been to have chaired the Ladies Luncheon Club for the past five years. It has been an absolute joy to work with its small but very effective committee.

I’d like to say a huge thank you to Mobbs Pitcher who is standing down as Speakers’ Secretary. Mobbs has done a fantastic job in getting some amazing speakers for our lunches and I know she will continue to support and flag up any interesting possible speakers she might pick up on her radar.

I’d like to thank, Diana Kentish Barnes, our Bookings Secretary; The Membership Secretary, Ann Spike; Janie Childs, who organises the raffle, Janet Hillyer and Marion Shepherd. And I'd like to thank our retiring Treasurer, Eddy Altenhoven.

I'd also like to thank all those who help out at the lunches particularly Pauline Lucas, our wonderful greeter, Patti Whitaker who makes our raffle prizes so attractive and Bridget Stevenson.

I'd like to thank those who generously donate raffle prizes and all of you who so generously buy them.

Kathy Gore

20 January 2021

**Friends of Sussex Hospices**

**Ladies Luncheon Club Annual General Meeting**

**Held at 11:30 hours on Wednesday 20 January via Zoom Videoconferencing**

**Treasurer’s Report**

Our Treasurer, Eddy Altenhoven, can’t be with us today. Eddy is stepping down as Treasurer with effect from this meeting and I would like to put on record my thanks to him for being our Treasurer for the past five and a half years.

I will share the accounts on the screen, such as they are, for the last year. You will see that the profit is down by £3,149.98 because, due to COVID-19, we only had one lunch which took place in January.

We did, however receive £1,680 in membership fees and it was agreed with members that we could roll over those membership fees to cover 2021. Some members generously suggested treating their membership fees as a donation and offered to pay membership for 2021 but it is easier for us from an accounting point of view to treat last year’s membership fees as ‘rolled over membership fees’ and any membership fees paid for 2021 will be treated as donations which might also be eligible for gift aid.

It has been recommended by the FSH Finance Committee that the Ladies Luncheon Club change its accounting and membership year to align with the FSH financial year and this will be proposed under item 13 of the agenda.

That concludes the Treasurer’s Report.

Delivered by Kathy Gore

20 January 2021

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Friends of Sussex Hospices - Ladies Luncheon Club** | | | | |  |  |
| **Finances for year ending 31.12.2020** | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 |
|  |  |  |  | £ | £ | £ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Income** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Membership | |  | 1,680.00 | £1,655.00 | 1,005.00 |
|  | Lunch fees | |  | 1,652.50 | £9,006.00 | 7,900.80 |
|  | Raffle |  |  | 325.00 | £1,845.00 | 1,660.00 |
|  | Donations | |  | 35.00 | £44.00 | 245.00 |
|  | Misc. |  |  |  |  | 95.42 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total** |  |  | **3,692.50** | **£12,550.00** | **10,906.22** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Costs** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Food & Venue | |  | 1,290.00 | £6,902.10 | 4,952.10 |
|  | Printing |  |  |  | £90.36 | 156.00 |
|  | Misc. |  |  |  |  | 33.21 |
|  | PayPal fees | |  | 22.56 | £27.62 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total** |  |  | **1,312.56** | **£7,020.08** | **5,141.31** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Profit** |  |  |  | **2,379.94** | **£5,529.92** | **5,764.91** |

SPEECH TO FSH 20.1.2021 INCOMING CHAIRMAN LADY DAVIES

Good afternoon, ladies.

I am most grateful for this opportunity to talk to you ……. Some months ago, I had a communication from Kathy in which she advised that she would be stepping down this year. My response to her was that “she would be a hard act to follow “. I stand by that as I recall how welcoming Kathy was to me when I was invited as a guest to join you all for lunch some years ago. Her light but commanding touch on proceedings has been admirable and like you all I am so very grateful to her for all she has done in furthering the endeavours of our very worthwhile cause. I was honoured when it was suggested that I might be your Lunch Club Chairman and I will do my best to maintain Kathy`s extremely high standards.

Kathy has asked if I could say a few words about myself by way of introduction.

My life has been entirely in England. My family came from Formby in Lancashire. I was born on a dairy farm in Herefordshire where I lived very happily until I was 9 years old. For reasons which were not clear to me we left the farm to live first in Tintern in The Wye Valley, thence to Almondsbury near Bristol, then East Dereham in Norfolk, Swanbourne in Buckinghamshire and finally to Polegate in Sussex.

From all these moves you can imagine I attended a wide selection of schools ……… By the time I took my A Levels in Buckingham I am afraid I was heartily fed up with schools in general and that last school in particular!

My favoured subject was geography, I was thus directed that I should go to university to read geography …….” What will I do after that? “I asked (ever the practical one). The reply came “you will be a teacher and if you do not go to university you will go to teacher training college “…. absolutely nothing wrong with teaching as a profession but I knew it would not be for me.

The teachers were cross, and my parents perplexed, however, casting through prospectus in the school library I came across the course to become a Chartered Surveyor, this looked jolly interesting leading to a specific professional qualification.

The course proved to be varied and interesting as promised.

My first job was with The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea where I found myself managing repairs and collecting rents from the borough`s collection of very poor housing stock ………. Looking back, I know I gained a valuable insight into the London residential market. It was hard and sometimes dangerous, but I suppose it was a very good character-building exercise!!!

However, not sure that this was what I had studied for over 4 years, so I stayed for 6 months then applied for a post in the private sector.

The interviews I attended were, looking back, often hilarious as in a male dominated profession I was usually interviewed by a senior partner who admitted that he did not have a vacancy, but he was curious to see what a female surveyor looked like! How times have changed!

I was taken on by Dudley Quirk of Chas J Parris and Quirk then in Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells. I mention a few names and places as some of you may remember them. Parris and Quirk were a broadly based established firm dealing with rural land and buildings, residential properties large and small, industrial premises, fine art and furniture auctions and all manner of valuation work. We did not auction cattle but, given my agricultural background, I would probably have given it a go!

Interesting projects with which I was involved included the valuation of land to be acquired to facilitate the formation of The Bawl Bridge Reservoir, setting out the South of England Showground and planning issues regarding the car park at The Bear Inn, Burwash

In all it was an amazing opportunity for a newly qualified but relatively inexperienced youngster. I learned a lot! During that time, I married, became a partner in the firm and gave birth to my daughter.

Incidentally, it has been a profession which has adapted well to being a wife and mother as I was able to choose my own hours, even part time, a point I have made in career talks I have given.

After about 13 years, with aging parents still living in Polegate, I heard of a very similar post with a similarly broadly based firm, Edgar Horn, in Eastbourne who were looking for half a surveyor, I joined them on a 4 day a week basis and became a partner soon after.

At that time, and in researching for an article for the local paper, enquiries with my Institution revealed that I was one of only 41 female Fellows of The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors worldwide out of a membership of over 100,000.

I have never been preoccupied with gender problems. Apart from one other girl from Barbados I was the only female on my course at college. In my experience if you know what you are doing and you are reasonably confident with a smile, I have never had a problem.

This does not mean however that when I turned up on a client`s doorstep I was frequently greeted with “I thought you would be a man “.... We usually got over that one with a smile and I was often rewarded with a warm “thank you “as I left.

Much of being a surveyor is dealing with people. Sometimes, in the residential sector, I may be the only person who has called that day. Lonely people are delighted to chat and I was often treated to tea and cake which I accepted with alacrity …. all part of the job!

It is amazing that you have no idea what you will see in people`s homes. I have seen all sorts of elaborate models, ships, trains etc certificates and photos on walls tell you so much about the lives of the occupants and their families. Invariably they enjoy chatting about their lives and families past and present.

Meanwhile, please be assured, I carried on my professional duties on site as required!

In summary, I can honestly say that my professional life has been a pleasure, every day has been different, and I have NEVER dreaded Monday morning.

Thank you ladies and I look forward to getting to know you all.

Jenna Davies