Keyhole Cancer Appeal reaches target

Together, we have done it! And what an achievement it is. Thanks to our wonderful, loyal supporters, we have hit our £500,000 target for the Keyhole Cancer Appeal. Work on the new endoscopy suite is due to start any day now and we hope to be taking our very first patients there by July. So, with a virtual fanfare, here in the Fundraising Department we are giving three cheers to everyone who supported the Appeal and helped us reach our goal.

Mick Thwaites, Chair of the Charitable Foundation, said: “When we launched the Appeal, it seemed a pretty ambitious target. But, our fantastic community has proved that we were right to aim high so that we can provide the very best treatment for our patients.

“The late Colin George, who was the Charitable Foundation’s Chair when the Keyhole Cancer Appeal was launched, would be immensely proud to know that his dream of the purpose-built keyhole surgery theatre is about to become a reality.

“I just want to thank everyone involved in reaching our target. It truly is a momentous achievement.”

So - it is onwards and upwards. It may still seem that we have only just embarked on 2017 but already we are looking ahead to next year when Southend Hospital Charitable Foundation celebrates its 20th anniversary!

In that time - thanks to your fabulous support - we have raised more than £4.4m to help transform patient care in so many different ways at Southend University Hospital.

To mark the 20-year milestone, in June we will be launching our new For Wards Appeal to raise £500,000 over the next two years. This time the Appeal will take a different form - funds raised will be used to meet requests from our doctors, nurses and allied health professionals so they can respond wherever patients’ needs are greatest.

We have already asked staff to identify 20 transformational projects across 20 different areas of the hospital to form our Appeal Wishlist.

The first projects to be identified include lifesaving equipment for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, a digital mobile X-ray unit and a wheelchair-accessible soundproof booth for the Audiology Department.

As well as funding life-saving medical equipment and pioneering new technology, the Appeal will fund patient-friendly artwork, and amenities to improve our patients’ comfort and wellbeing.

Mick said “We have had 20 action-packed and hugely exciting years and are immensely proud to have reached this milestone. But there is no time to stand still: we are determined to keep the momentum and enthusiasm going at full throttle and look forward to the next 20 years.”

*The surgical team*
Dear Supporters

As you will certainly know, nothing ever stays still in the health service, the hospital - or the Fundraising Department.

No sooner is the target of one appeal within reaching distance than we are planning our next. And what a special one we are launching this summer. Twenty years of dedicated, energetic and innovative fundraising is surely every reason to celebrate - so in June we will be launching our 20th Anniversary Appeal which, as you will see from the front page of Fundraising News, takes a somewhat different format from our previous ones.

Instead of focusing on just one area of the hospital, we will be trying to meet as many needs as possible across all our services. The £500,000 target we aim to raise in just two years will be shared out across different departments to be used in ways that our clinical colleagues have identified as the most pressing needs. We are in the process of drawing up their ‘wish list’ which we will be sharing with you in future editions of the newsletter.

We are thrilled to have reached our £500,000 Keyhole Cancer Appeal target to provide a new laparoscopic theatre while at the same time managing to bring in £100,000 to improve services to meet the ever-growing demand for our dementia services (read more about what the money has funded on pages 6 and 7). Here in the department, we are constantly humbled and delighted with the unflagging support of so many dedicated organisations and individuals. We never, ever, take your support for granted and know that it is only through your time, ideas and efforts that Southend Hospital Foundation Charitable Foundation has been able to fund so many wonderful achievements over the last 20 years. I can never say it too often to all our hundreds of supporters: Thank you!

As you will see from the rest of Fundraising News, this coming year is going to be as busy and exciting as always with lots of events and challenges which we know you will love to take part in - whether it is a bracing walk down the pier, a pedal around Foulness Island, cresting the waves in the returning raft race or a breathtaking skydive or abseil down the tower block.

Of course, fundraising doesn’t have to be adrenalin-fuelled. The cake bakes, concerts, craft sales and coffee mornings are equally valuable in helping us reach our targets.

Whatever you choose to do to help your local hospital, your efforts are truly appreciated.

Have a great fundraising summer!

Associate Director of Fundraising and Community Engagement

Wow! What a way to reach our target

We never know when we are going to be on the receiving end of bequests so the £10,000 gift from solicitors Lloyd Jones & Co was like winning the jackpot. The money came from the Roy Thompson Will Trust. We are extremely grateful for this fantastic legacy.

And massive thanks to:

• Our good friends at London Southend Airport for raising £2k for the Keyhole Cancer Appeal.
• Prittlewell Bowls Club which adopted KCA as charity of the year 2016-17 and raised £1,000. They have now adopted our SCBU as their charity for 2017-18 and we are very grateful for their on-going support.
• Benfleet Methodist Wives Club for donating £225 to Keyhole Cancer Appeal.

New Appeal gets on to a jump start

A team of sky divers from the new Revolution bar aimed high to get our 20th Anniversary For Wards Appeal off to a flying start.

The group travelled all the way to Peterborough to leap out of a plane, raising getting on for £2,000.

Team leader Aimee Prentice said: “We all had a really, really good day. Everyone jumped - one reluctantly! But we all achieved our challenge and it was an excellent experience.”
Local family financial services business New Leaf is living up to its slogan ‘decide to be happy’ by sharing its profits with local charities. And we are delighted that Southend University Hospital has been a beneficiary of that bounty to the tune of nearly £10,000.

As well as husband and wife team, Managing Director Mark and Tina Hobbs, Sales Manager, the make-up of the workforce includes Mark’s sister, Sarah Mitchell as Office Manager and various other members of the family. There is even a role for Vaya the dog, whose duties include meeting and greeting, office security and keeping morale high!

Sarah explained: “We like to support local charities and have specifically targeted the hospital because we reckon that everyone who works here (apart from Vaya) will use its services at some point.”

Sarah and Mark’s father spent some time in Balmoral Ward and the Critical Care Unit before sadly dying two years ago.

One of the company’s first donations went to the Audiology Department as Sarah suffers from tinnitus. Since then New Leaf has given to various other areas including SCBU and, most recently, the Dementia Appeal as staff had first-hand experience of how quickly the condition can cause sufferers to deteriorate.

New Leaf has a dedicated leaf on the hospital’s Tree of Life in the main hospital corridor.
Grateful dad Thomas Gamby is in serious training mode as he gears himself up for this year’s challenging Prudential RideLondon100.

It will be the fourth year Thomas, 35, has taken part in the event, which sees cyclists pedal 100 miles from Surrey to London, and he is determined to achieve his best time yet.

Once again, Thomas will be raising money for our Special Care Baby Unit, in gratitude for the way his partner, Caroline Quirke, and son Theodore, born six weeks prematurely, were cared for.

He explained: “We knew Caroline would not go full term and the care we received throughout her pregnancy was excellent.”

Theodore spent 10 days in the unit back in July 2014 but is now a thriving, energetic two-year-old who keeps his parents on their toes.

Thomas said: “To be honest, Theodore was quite well compared with some of the other very poorly babies in the unit. It certainly opened our eyes. We had great care from consultant Debbie Jennings and the nursing staff. They reassured us and were always there if we had questions - so it was an easy choice to opt to raise money for them when I enrolled in the RideLondon event.”

In the past two years, Thomas has raised about £1,675 - not counting Gift Aid - and he is hoping to give that total a big boost this year.

His best time so far was 5hr 1 min 56 sec - but that was when he was living in Romford and cycling to his work with a financial company in Docklands every day. Since moving to Leigh he has - perhaps understandably - dropped the daily commute in the saddle.

So, determined to beat his personal best, large chunks of his weekends are taken up by some strenuous training.

He is quietly confident: “I am going to train harder than I did for the last two years.”

Caroline will not be keeping him company in the saddle. The bike he bought her early last year has been wheeled out about twice! But she and Theodore will be rooting for him. As, of course, will we!

• See centre pages for how to enrol in the Prudential RideLondon 100 event
When loving mum Donna Pickering sadly died of liver and lung cancer 11 years ago, her grieving husband Mark was determined to keep her memory alive.

With the help of supportive family friends, he organised a grand charity day at Rochford Hundred Rugby Club where he, Donna and their four children had enjoyed so many happy days together. Intended as a ‘one off’, the event was so successful, it became an annual event and over the years it has raised more than £14,000 for cancer services throughout the hospital, including the Brachytherapy Suite, the Bosom Pals Appeal and the Radiotherapy Unit.

This year though, Mark is taking more of a back seat and leaving the organisation of the fun day to children Tom, 24, Layla, 22, Clark, 20 and 16-year-old Esmé. And they are brimming with enthusiasm and ideas as they take up the challenge.

Esmé, a business studies student at SEEVIC, said: “As a full-time mum, she did everything for us kids and we want to keep that family feel going so there will be lots for children to do.”

Although she was only six when Donna died, Esme can remember how her Mum loved baking and still has the recipe for her legendary banana teabread.

Esmé said: “We used to go to the rugby club where my Dad, brothers and sister played so it was the obvious place to hold the fundraising day.”

It is being held at the club in Magnolia Road, Rochford on Saturday, May 6 and, as always, one of the highlights of the day will be the light-hearted rugby match where players traditionally sport one big pink sock to show their support of cancer care.

There will also be a DJ, bouncy castle, a hog roast, sweet and cake stalls, ice cream van, an auction and raffle and an all-day bar - something for everyone.

She said: “After Dad doing it for 10 years, we are bringing our generation into it and seeing if we can raise even more.”

No pressure then . . . .

Bed donation rounds off seven years of fundraising for SOS

A generous donation of seven foldaway beds for relatives to use to stay close to their loved ones was the swansong gift to our hospital from Southend Oncology Supporters (SOS).

The organisation was formed following the death in 2006 of Iris Cooney - herself a tireless hospital supporter through her work with Southend Leukaemia Unit Group Supporters (SLUGS).

Iris’s husband, Derek, said: “It is sad to see the last donation from SOS being made. But, after seven years, the committee has decided to wind down with this final donation of £4,274 to the palliative care team.”

Over those years, SOS has held quiz and race nights, afternoon teas, sponsored walks and a host of other events to raise precious funds for our cancer services. Some of the cash was used to completely refurbish the patient and visitor day room on Elizabeth Loury ward.

Speaking of the last donation, Wendy Warner, Clinical Nurse Specialist for Palliative Care, said: “This wonderful donation by SOS has enabled us to reach our goal of stocking every appropriate ward with an overnight bed for relatives to use. The beds will benefit patients and families throughout the hospital and has freed up some beds which we can loan out when demand is high. We are so grateful for the support of SOS.”

One final word from Derek: “I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have either worked to make this happen or have supported our fundraising work.”
Being a hospital patient can be a bewildering and unsettling experience for anyone. But for the many with some form of dementia (estimated at more than one in four patients) the unfamiliar surroundings can be overpowering.

Our Dementia Appeal to raise £100,000 aims to ensure these vulnerable patients are as comfortable and stress-free as they possibly can be while they are in our care.

We are delighted to announce that, thanks to our good friends at the Roslin Beach Hotel, the therapeutic and interactive day rooms - with memory-triggering artwork of local landmarks, memory boxes and sensory units - are now ready for use on our two dementia wards. And the range of activities for patients to enjoy in the day room would put any holiday camp’s programme to shame: films, skittles, music and movement, hoopla, memory joggers, wheel of fortune, conversation cards . . . the variety goes on and on.

Fractured hip won’t break Maureen’s resolve

Fearless fundraiser Maureen Townley isn’t going to let something like a broken hip hold her down for long.

Maureen, who with partner Linda Ansell, has been raising money for the hospital for over 30 years, broke her hip after finishing a stint in the fundraising unit back in May last year. She spent 10 days here in hospital followed by another five weeks in rehab at the Cumblerlege Intermediate Care Centre in Pantile Avenue, Southend.

Needless to say, she was inundated with get-well cards and messages from staff and regulars who missed her cheerful chat in the unit.

But, as we all know, you can’t keep a good woman down and, during her enforced absence, 76-year-old Maureen continued knitting feverishly to keep the unit supplied with her sought-after soft toys and kiddies’ clothing. Now, despite only being able to walk with the aid of two sticks or her rollator, she is back at her post in the unit every other Wednesday of the month.

She says: “I couldn’t wait to get back. My husband has been very good and taken me out every day but I couldn’t stand being stuck indoors the rest of the time.”

Meanwhile, money raised so far has meant we have been able to order:

- A £2k Rhino portable sensory suite which will help create surroundings where patients with dementia can feel relaxed and more ‘at home’
- a projector to show films onto the old-style theatre screen
- an interactive system which incorporates games, music, videos and different activities to stimulate and engage patients
- bed and chair sensors to alert staff to patients liable to fall
- painting sets, reminiscence books, tactile wall panels, CD players, percussion sets, magnetic puzzles, a noughts and crosses wall panel and a locks and latches board to help cognitive skills and improve dexterity.

THANKS to the Rendezvous Casino for nominating our Dementia Appeal as their charity for 2017 - the second year running they have supported the hospital.
Peggy inspires Nicola to great heights

When Nicola Hook and her two younger sisters, Laura and Aimee, were growing up their Nan Peggy Skinner was like a mum to them. They would go to her house after school and, if one of them was ever sick, she would scoop them up, wrap them in a blanket and ply them with hot drinks and nourishing soups.

When Peggy moved with her husband to the coast at Walton-on-the-Naze, the girls spent many happy beach days with them and have fond memories of coming home covered in sand for fish and chips and pie and mash suppers.

Sadly, Peggy has now been diagnosed with vascular dementia and the sisters fear the time will come when she needs to go into residential care.

Nicola said: “We are really, really close and I speak to her every day on my way to work. She is getting very forgetful and gets family members confused - but not every single day. Sometimes she is like her old self.

“But she has such vivid dreams and hallucinations - usually about children and animals - and is convinced that we are still small children and there with her. It can be so distressing - especially for my granddad when she wakes him in the night. She is constantly worried about us and Laura’s two daughters Ella and Lily.”

It is perhaps understandable that children feature so vividly in 76-year-old Peggy’s mind since, as well as being a barmaid and cleaner in her younger life, she was also a child minder.

Nicola says: “She also used to make amazing wedding and occasion cakes for family and friends and word spread quickly about her great talent. It was her hobby throughout the eighties, nineties and noughties - until arthritis in her hands and her developing dementia stopped her. She would often forget recipes and need assistance with each step.

“She has always been very much a carer giver.”

Now, the roles are reversing and Nicola is determined to give something back for all the times her Nan was there for her. She has signed up to our Super Hero Tackle the Tower abseil which is being held on Saturday, May 13 and all the money her feat of heroism raises will go to our Dementia Appeal.

Nicola, 28, a City insurance worker from Benfleet, said: “It is my first abseil and I am excited about it. I am not scared of heights and want to do as much as I can to raise money for dementia sufferers.

“Although my Nan has not yet reached the stage where she needs to be in care, it is ramping up and we will all be affected as a family. It is so tough watching your idol deteriorate into a person you hardly recognise, knowing there is no cure.”

You can sponsor Nicola on https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/NHook22

Twiddlemuff gives everlasting comfort

Keen knitter Maureen Cadge was left with a lump in her throat when she learned that one of the tactile twiddlemuffs she had made for dementia patients had accompanied one elderly lady to the grave.

Maureen, from Rayleigh, has donated a few dozen of the soothing colourful comforters for patients after answering an advert for home workers.

She said: “They are easy to make because I can watch TV at the same time - although my husband is not too keen on my needles clicking!”

She decorates the muff with everything from buttons and beads to sparkly bows and soft patches to provide mental stimulation and encourage exercise for patients’ hands.

When Maureen, 71, heard of one lady who had left her muff behind when she was discharged from hospital, she willingly donated another one. Sadly, the elderly recipient died soon afterwards but her beloved twiddlemuff went in the coffin with her.

“I felt quite touched,” said Maureen.

Knitting instructions are available from our fundraising department on 01702 385337.
ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE?

How about one (or more!) of these?

Tackle the Tower Abseil
Sponsored by PACE Property Lettings and Management Ltd
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
At Southend Hospital tower block, £40 entry fee, minimum sponsorship £100

Great Pier Walk
Hosted by the Rotary Club of Leigh-on-Sea
Beneficiary: Dementia Appeal
At the Pier, Southend-on-Sea
10am - 4pm

Prudential RideLondon 100
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
Course: Surrey to London
£50 entry fee, minimum sponsorship £500

Paws In The Park
Fun Dog Show & Sponsored Walk
Beneficiary: 20th Anniversary For Wards Appeal
At Priory Park, Southend. £7 per dog

TrekFest
Choose between a 25km or 50km hike
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
Brecon Beacons National Park on 3 & 4 June 2017
ALSO - Peak District 2 & 3 September 2017

The Colourthon
Hosted by Southend Round Table
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
At Chalkwell Park
Moonlight or Twilight walks
Southend Raft Race
Hosted by the Rotary Club of Thorpe Bay
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
At Thorpe Esplanade, 10am, £200 per team

Walk for Wards
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
7km Seafront Stroll. Free entry, minimum sponsorship: £20

Tandem Skydive
10,000 free fall parachute jump
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
At Sibson Airfield, Peterborough
Minimum sponsorship £395
Other dates available throughout the year

Foulness Island Bike Ride
Hosted by the Rotary Club of Thorpe Bay
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
At Great Wakering Primary School

London to Paris Bike Ride
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
27 September - 1 October 2017, ALSO 16-20 May 2018
£1,560 Minimum sponsorship or self-payment option

London to Amsterdam Bike Ride
A 3-day ride to Europe’s most cycle-friendly city
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
22-24 September 2017 - ALSO 11-13 May 2018
£1,150 Minimum sponsorship or self-payment option

Trek Peru
Trek through the magical Inca ruins
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
21-30 March 2018
£3,590 Minimum sponsorship or self-payment option

For further information on any of our events and challenges, contact the Fundraising team on 01702 385337 or fundraising@southend.nhs.uk

Follow us:
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@SouthendNHSCh
Our fabulous friends at Royal Bank of Scotland who, for the fifth year running, brought a tree, moving reindeer and other decorations to transform Neptune children’s ward into a winter wonderland for young patients. In addition they donated TVs, games consoles and other treats to the ward. Their generous support was a huge boost for families and staff.

Cinderella, Belle, Snow White and Ariel who - after a magic wand was waved by Gold Carriage Princess Parties - brought toys and gifts on a surprise visit to Neptune children’s ward as well as the Paediatric A&E and Paediatric Outpatients Unit and the Ladybird Nursery. Special thanks too, to Ekco sports and social club in Southend for their generous donation of toys.

Westborough Community Association who were determined to help the hospital after eight-year-old Conall Riley was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma, a rare, aggressive bone and tissue cancer, which necessitated his leg being amputated. His parents Cara and James have been driving forces behind fundraising for Neptune Children’s Ward and Julie Farrow and Debbie Robinson from the Association donated £250 as well as mince pies and chocolate treats for patients and staff.

Broadway Belles WI, Vets4Pets, Hadleigh Road dental practice and St Michael’s CoE Prep School in Leigh-on-Sea who between them donated a wealth of gifts to dementia patients. WI member Chelsi Pinkerton-Jarvis, a trainee nurse at Vets4Pets, helped transport the treats to Windsor ward where clinical development nurse Claire Buckell’s daughter took delight in inspecting them.

Our talented graphic designer Dean Fairbrass who, with his partner Amelia, delivered a stack of his A3 Superhero artwork and celebrity calendars as gifts for staff, patients and their families.

• The Danny Green Fund which, once again, brought gifts for our young patients. Thanks, too, to the generous community who donated the presents.

• Loyal fundraiser, David Needs who, for many years has donated more than £1,500 in lieu of Christmas and birthday presents he would once have bought for loved ones who have now sadly died. This time his generous gift to the hospital enabled the children’s ward to buy a crocodile activity wall panel for the waiting room which has proved a monster hit!

Thanks, too, to David’s wife, Caroline, for her kind contribution of new DVDs to keep our young patients entertained over the Christmas holiday period. Also to Thorpe Bay Rotary Club for donating £500 from their Santa sleigh ride to our Renal Unit and chocolate selection boxes to the Paediatric Outpatients Department. And to Dave Searle and his team of volunteers who helped with the sleigh collections.

It all seems a very long time ago but this is our first chance to say a big thank you for your Christmas generosity:

- Westborough Community Association
- Cinderella, Belle, Snow White and Ariel
- Talented graphic designer Dean Fairbrass
- Broadway Belles WI, Vets4Pets, Hadleigh Road dental practice and St Michael’s CoE Prep School
- Royal Bank of Scotland
Local running club *Flyers Southend* who sprinted in with a hoard of pressies for children on Neptune ward.

Southend United Football Club’s first team who made their annual trip to see our young patients – bearing, as always, fab gifts.

Asda, Shoeburyness for this fabulous selection of toys for our young patients.

The Rendezvous Casino which rounded off its year of fundraising for the Lighthouse Centre with a toy drive to provide Christmas gifts for young patients. Over the year, the casino raised £6,330.43 which is being used to fund a wide range of sensory equipment for the centre.

Southend Soroptimists and all who donated toiletries and other gifts for our patients living with dementia.

Tesco’s Thurrock distribution centre (pictured) and Eastern Avenue store who donated Christmas toys.

London Southend Airport’s community team for donating and decorating a fabulous Christmas tree in the Elizabeth Loury garden for our cancer patients - and for their additional £1,000 donation to maintain the garden for another year. The money will also buy some additional outdoor furniture.

Argosy Toys, Westcliff who also dropped off a fantastic array of gifts collected during their toy appeal.

Southend Soroptimists and all who donated toiletries and other gifts for our patients living with dementia.

London Southend Airport’s community team for donating and decorating a fabulous Christmas tree in the Elizabeth Loury garden for our cancer patients - and for their additional £1,000 donation to maintain the garden for another year. The money will also buy some additional outdoor furniture.

Athena Recruitment for donating gifts for our younger patients across the hospital.
Loyal fundraiser Malachy O’Sullivan and his willing band of helpers for once again masterminding the annual Christmas Craft and Gift Fair at Mill Hall, Rayleigh. The popular venue for present buyers raised nearly £2,500 for our Paediatric Outpatients Department - enabling them to reach their £10,000 target to buy a slit lamp. The equipment will mean young patients with conditions such as juvenile arthritis will not have to have separate appointments for ophthalmology.

HCA Rea Evison, the fundraising lead in the department, said: “Malachy has been amazing and really supported us. As well as the craft fair, he has helped us with quiz nights, the mile of coins and other events, helping us to reach our target within a year.

“The craft fair was such a good day with lots of high-quality stuff.”

Heart Radio/Westcliff’s Cliffs Pavilion and Victoria Plaza who teamed up to support local charities over Christmas with their Donate a Bear initiative. The furry toys provided lots of cuddles for our young patients during the dark days of winter.

Grand Prize Draw 2016

Our array of fabulous prizes attracted a great response to our Grand Prize Draw last year. Huge thanks to everyone who bought tickets and to Olympus KeyMed and the other local businesses which kindly donated prizes. The draw raised £9,412 for various wards and departments.

And, of course, warm congratulations to our winners:

1st Prize - £1000 Cash - Robert Craven
2nd Prize - Overnight stay including breakfast at the Park Inn Palace Hotel - Margaret Watkins
3rd Prize - A meal for four at the Holiday Inn, Southend Airport - Mrs A Baynes
4th Prize - Luxury Hamper - David Needs
5th Prize - £25 M&S voucher - Pauline Collins

Heart Essex and Freeport Braintree who came armed with hundreds of Christmas presents for our young patients. A joint campaign attracted more than 1,500 donations of gifts for babies to teens. Shoppers at the north Essex shopping outlet were encouraged by Heart Essex to select a present tag from the giant Christmas tree and then buy something special for the individual on the tag.

Huge thanks to Abe Robinson, Alex Dwyer and Jamie Trott from Heart and Gemma Adley from Freeport who helped make a happy Christmas for so many young patients.

• Neliana children’s boutique for visiting Neptune Ward, armed with beautiful items for babies and children in our care.

We are so grateful to everyone who donated Christmas gifts for our patients across the hospital. They really did make a big difference.
Thank you to our many supporters

We are constantly humbled by the loyalty, energy and enthusiasm of everyone who does so much for our hospital, so welcome the chance to say a heartfelt Thank You to:

The Alexandra Maritime Lodge for their generous £3,000 to our Urology Research Fund, raised from raffles and a race night. Lodge members Robert Wendelkin, Stan Diggins and Richard Waters came to present their donation to Urology Consultant, Peter Acher.

Members of Victoria Ladies Bowls Club who have helped buy equipment for our diabetic patients with £827 raised during their year’s fundraising. We were delighted to visit the club to receive the cheque from President Chris Horden.

The wonderful team at C2C who have supported various charities this year, including our Oncology and Critical Care departments with a generous £601.

Lia Meddle and Aimee Casbolt of the Fetal Medicine unit, who held a fabulous dinner dance at the Roslin Beach Hotel in aid of the unit. The event raised £1,964 - and the hotel added its own very generous donation (see next edition of Fundraising News).

Westcliff Rotary Club for its £2,000 donation from the Soundfield music festival co-hosted last year with Tropicana Nights.

Adventure Island for nominating our Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) as part of its 40th Anniversary Giveaway - and, of course, to all you lovely supporters who put your tokens in our box at the playground, helping us to top the monthly competition and scoop £3,000 towards a new Giraffe incubator.
Fundraising for wards and departments

Angling for funds

It’s great to be a fisherman’s friend - and we have them by the bucketload at the Prittlewell and District Angling Society. As long-time supporters of the hospital, they have donated more than £30,000 to enhance our oncology services. They raise the cash through their bi-annual charity matches and their latest donation of £3,410 was presented to our Clinical Oncology Service Manager, Clare Bracken by Match Secretary Martin Johnson and Chairman Peter Isitt (pictured).

Clare said: “It was a pleasure to meet them and thank them personally. Our patients will definitely benefit from this wonderful generosity.”

Building up to a fundraising crescendo

Loyal supporters, the 12-member Vocal Ease Choir, have just donated another £1,350 to our Neonatal Unit, bringing their total since 2009 to £5,810. We are immensely grateful for their generosity which has helped the unit to buy much-needed equipment. Their latest donation is being put towards another specialist Giraffe incubator which you can learn more about in the next edition of Fundraising News.

Choirmaster Lesley Fleming was a welcome visitor when she came in to the unit to hand over the cheque to staff.

Bowled over by their generosity

Members of Bournemouth Park Bowling Club have helped make working life a whole load easier for staff on our Southbourne Urology Ward after raising funds for a special piece of kit to analyse samples.

In the past, urine samples taken when patients are admitted to the ward have had to be tested in another part of the hospital – and with hundreds of patients coming into the ward every month, that took up a lot of staff time. The new CLINITEK Status+ analyser provides fast and accurate results on the ward, giving nursing staff more time to devote to other aspects of patient care.

The ward was a special cause for past president Fred Hull (pictured centre) as his son Rob (left) was cared for by the Urology team two years ago. They presented the cheque to Ward Manager Kumar Nair - covering the cost of the equipment with £1,335 to spare. We are very sad to report that, since this photograph was taken, Mr Fred Hull has passed away. But his kindness and generosity have left a lasting legacy here at the hospital for which staff and patients will be forever grateful.

Red hot fundraisers

The guys from Green Watch at Leigh fire station were welcome visitors to our Neptune children’s ward when they donated the takings from the station’s open day last August - a cool £1,000!

We really appreciate the time they take to support us, in between their work keeping our community safe.

Taxi support for Children’s Centre

A big thank you to Andrew’s Taxis Ltd for supporting our Lighthouse Children’s Centre by donating a portion of fares for each of the journeys booked by Southend’s Rendezvous Casino in September 2016. They got involved to support the casino’s adoption of the Lighthouse as its charity of the year.
Donated batteries bring freedom to patients

We are indebted to the Motor Neurone Disease Association South Essex for donating a number of £500 batteries which will enable patients with the disease to get out and about.

The devices power the non-invasive ventilation (NIV) which a number of patients with the multi-organ disease require.

Lead respiratory nurse, Lisa Ward (far right of pic), explained: “MND can affect any part of the body and some patients have breathing difficulties. These sleek, portable batteries mean patients can receive NIV on the go for up to eight hours - instead of just 30 minutes with some of the older ones.

“These patients are usually in wheelchairs so the device and battery can be stored under the chair, allowing them to leave their homes for the day without worrying that the battery will run out. They are also invaluable in the event of a power cut in the home.

“Batteries for NIV used to be big, cumbersome things but now they are so easy to carry. Our MND patients who have been using them find them so reassuring.”

Sandy Lambert, the Vice Chair & Association Visitor of the MND Association South Essex (pictured first left with Association colleague Maura Irwin and the multi-disciplinary team), said: “We support between 60-70 patients with Motor Neurone Disease from Shoebury across to Thurrock, including Rayleigh, Rochford, Basildon, Billericay, Castle Point and Canvey Island. This is why we wanted to donate these batteries to the hospital: we know how much it will benefit local people with MND, their carers, family and friends.”

http://www.mndsouthessex.org/
Dates for your diaries 2017

April 27  COPES Dinner Dance
Beneficiary: COPES (Essex Gynae Cancer Support)
7pm - midnight, The Roslin Beach Hotel
Further details: 07768 619495 or 07711 887410

April 30  Great Pier Walk
Hosted by the Rotary Club of Leigh-on-Sea
Beneficiary: Dementia Appeal
10am - 4pm, The Pier, Southend-on-Sea
PRE REGISTRATION VITAL - call the team on 01702 385337 to sign up

May 13  Tackle the Tower Abseil
Sponsored by PACE Property Lettings and Management Ltd
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
Southend Hospital tower block, £40 entry fee, min sponsorship £100
To register: 01702 385337 or fundraising@southend.nhs.uk

June 17  Pink Summer Ball
Beneficiary: Breast Unit
Thorpe Hall Golf Club. £50 per person.
Further info: Nikki Drabble on 01702 529620 or 07815 848839

June 25  Paws in the Park
Fun dog show and sponsored walk
Beneficiary: 20th Anniversary For Wards Appeal
Priory Park, Southend. £7 per dog.
Further info: 01702 385337 or fundraising@southend.nhs.uk

June 25  Southend Raft Race
Hosted by the Rotary Club of Thorpe Bay
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
10am, Thorpe Esplanade. £200 per team.
Further info: www.thorpebayrotaryevents.co.uk/raftrace.

July 1  The Colourthon
Hosted by Southend Round Table
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
Moonlight or Twilight, Chalkwell Park
Further info: www.colourthon.org

July 23  Kirste 5 Memorial Race
Five-mile race and one-mile fun run
Beneficiary: Breast Unit
From 10am, Grove Wood Primary School
Further details 01702 385337

July 30  RideLondon 100
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
Surrey to London, £50 entry fee, min sponsorship £500
To sign up: 01702 385337 or fundraising@southend.nhs.uk

Sept 10  Foulness Island Bike Ride
Hosted by the Rotary Club of Thorpe Bay
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
Great Wakering Primary School
More info: 01702 525514 or www.thorpebayrotaryevents.co.uk

Sept 17  Walk for Wards
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
10am, Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Shoebury
7km Seafront Stroll. Free entry, minimum sponsorship: £20
To register: 01702 385337 or fundraising@southend.nhs.uk

Sept 24  Tandem Skydive
10,000 free fall parachute jump
Beneficiary: Ward/Department/Appeal of choice
Sibson Airfield, Peterborough, min sponsorship £395.
Alternative dates available.
To book: 01702 385337 or fundraising@southend.nhs.uk

Oct 27  Quiz Night
Beneficiary: Breast Unit
7.30pm, Freight House, Rochford
To book: 01702 385337 or fundraising@southend.nhs.uk

Nov 19  Christmas Gift and Craft Fair
Beneficiary: 20th Anniversary For Wards Appeal
Mill Hall, Rayleigh
Further details 01702 385337

For details of any of our events please call 01702 385337 or email fundraising@southend.nhs.uk
Website: www.southendhospitalcharity.co.uk