

EASTLEIGH SOUTHERN PARISHES

OLDER PEOPLE'S FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

1 INTRODUCTION

Most of our activity this year has been concentrated on the future of the Moorgreen Hospital site and our conviction that it must be saved to provide local health and social care services for patients in the catchment area of Southampton General Hospital. east of the River Itchen We believe that our members have clearly demonstrated their support and we trust that the local NHS will listen to patients. The context for this campaign has been our concern about the future of the NHS, given that it is the most important bedrock for older people as it is, "free at the point of delivery" now and in the future.

2 MEMBERSHIP

Our members live in approximately 2,300 households in Eastleigh's six southern parishes: Botley, Bursledon, Hamble le Rice, Hedge End, Hound and West End. 261 contribute as subscribing members. We rely on families to tell us of the demise of members or their removal from their homes, to keep our mailing lists up-to-date. Our membership year will become the calendar year as from January 2016. The annual subscription remains at £3 (single) and £5 (couples at the same address). This year, we have been inviting groups to affiliate to ESPOPF and are pleased to report that six groups have agreed to join us so far: Netley British Legion Ladies, West End Lunch Club, Hedge End *Breathe Easy*, Hamble Valley U3A, Hampshire Neurological Alliance, Bursledon Arts and Crafts Group We are pleased to report that the 3 splinter groups we have formed are still thriving independently and we contributed to the formation of Bursledon Good Neighbours Group and Beacon Good Neighbours in Hound, which are continuing to do excellent work.

3 COMMITTEE

Our 13 committee members representing the six villages have met 10 times with an average attendance of 8.5 members. We were pleased that, at our first meeting, Jane Murch agreed to be co-opted to fill the vacancy for Hamble. Also, at the first meeting, officers were elected: Diane Andrewes (Chair), Tony Rest (Vice Chair) Patricia Garrett (Hon. Secretary) Betty Lawrence (Hon. Treasurer) Maureen Hunt (Minutes Secretary) David Andrewes (Webmaster). Unfortunately, most of the officers succumbed to various illnesses after Xmas, including the new flu.virus, and were out of action for some time. We were sorry to lose Eileen Brenneck, our co-opted member, but she continues as a member of the Newsletter distribution team. Opportunities have been taken to attend training in End of Life Care and Adult Safeguarding.

4 NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE (www.espopf.org)

We post about 280 hard copies of our bi-monthly Newsletter and have an e-list of 275 members, who receive their Newsletters online. The Newsletter is also available on our website. We are grateful for the contribution of many people towards the production and distribution of the Newsletter, especially David Andrewes, Matt Jenkins, our printer, of *2MDesign and Print* in Sholing, and committee members and we thank them. The appreciation in members' letters makes the hard work worthwhile. Our website contains our contact details, research, newsletters and news and for all this we have to thank David Andrewes. At 85, David has decided to take early retirement and hand over his very important jobs to someone younger. If we want the website and the e-Newsletter to continue, we must recruit someone to take on this work immediately – that is, by the end of August, when the September Newsletter will be ready. (Please contact him for details. Tel. 023 80403311)

5 QUARTERLY OPEN/MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Following our AGM last July at St James's Church Hall in West End, and a Legal Affairs, September meeting at the new Lowford Centre in Bursledon, the committee took the decision to make Bursledon Village Hall the venue for our Open Meetings for the rest of the year, as it meets most of our criteria. The five meetings averaged 30 in attendance and the smaller numbers reflect the committee's decision to continue to invite speakers from voluntary organisations that concentrate on particular issues, offer self-help groups and involve older people eg Care and Repair, Action on Hearing Loss, Diabetes UK. We also involved the West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group in two of our meetings, in connection with our Moorgreen campaign. We decided against having a General Election Hustings, much to the disappointment of some of our members. Our meetings have provided workshops for concerns and information exchange and the opportunity to to share and learn more about specific problems experienced by older people and how to resolve them. Door-to-door, free transport continued with Michelle Rice, our volunteer driver, and we had the opportunity to return to providing a hot lunch cooked on the premises, so we took it. We also held raffles and 100 Club draws for fundraising and the Hamble branch of the RNL and *In Sight* brought their charity stalls in November for Christmas shopping.

6 CAMPAIGN

This year, we were inspired by our vice-chair, Professor/Councillor Tony Rest, to re-ignite our campaign to establish a Treatment Centre/Community Hospital on the site of the former Moorgreen Hospital. As the Eastleigh Southern Parishes Health Action Group, we circulated a Petition amongst our members and their contacts and gathered 2,400 signatures in less than three months, calling on NHS England to develop the NHS land at Moorgreen for the strategic delivery of local health and care services for residents of Eastleigh's southern parishes. We then learned that Eastleigh Borough Council was proposing that houses should be built on the site and that only evidence of NHS need would save it. We therefore decided on a pilot survey of patients to establish evidence of need to assist our campaign. Again, many of our members supported this enthusiastically and we presented the results to the West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Eastleigh Borough Council. The General Election intervened and when the result was known, we decided that a larger survey would be required and that we should aim to spread the opportunity to participate to residents outside Eastleigh's boundaries. The deadline for return of the survey responses is the end of July, so we need everyone's help and involvement.

7 CONSULTATIONS/ENGAGEMENT/PARTNERSHIPS

We send representatives to Age UK Sounding Board, Hampshire Association of Older People's Forums, Eastleigh Southern Parishes NHS Stakeholder Group, Citizens Advice Welfare Reform Group, Pilands Wood Partnership. We are affiliated to the National Pensioners Convention, the Hampshire Neurological Alliance and Keep Our NHS Public and we have been grateful for the support of the Southampton branch (SKONP) with our Moorgreen Campaign. **19** members were involved in a Brunel University study "*Dare To Age Well*",

8 THANKS

We are grateful to our members who communicate with us to give their opinions and donations. We thank Bursledon Hall for free use of their facilities, organisations which have given us support without obligation and individuals, who support us in so many ways – many with donations.

9 CONCLUSION

ESPOPF's objectives, as stated in the Constitution, remain: to promote the benefit of older people in the southern parishes of Eastleigh by bringing unmet needs of older people to the attention of statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and the wider public and co-operating with those able to assist. We remain disappointed by the lack of empathy and respect from those who could make a difference to older people's lives if they chose. We were especially affronted by the refusal of the West Hampshire CCG Board to allow us to address them and the failure of EBC formally to recognise our consultation response to their Moorgreen Development Brief.