

Chairman's Report 2015 - 2016

This is the 35th AGM of The friends of Willen Hospice.

I would like to thank all the committee members & volunteers for yet another amazing if challenging year. We donated £65,000 to the Hospice, £24,250.55 from collecting tins in pubs, shops & offices around the area. This is one of our main sources of income, so thanks go to all the tins collectors, with a special thank you to Fred who retired this year after many, many years of helping us in this area.

It was a great pleasure to welcome John Kembery & his wife Rose to our Christmas get together & present him with a framed certificate as over the last 15 years John & his team of helper have raised an amazing £50,000. Another big supporter that deserves a mention is The Beehive at Deanshanger, who through the Sunday Meat Raffle have raised £26,666.79, over the last few years. A few tin holders that deserve a mention for the amount raised in 2015, are 8 BP garages a total of £3,260.52, Christos (Newport Pagnell) £1,345.31, Denbigh Bingo, £1089.31 & Sajan Stores £970.92 . we also have to thank the people that did the Street collections 3 ladies in North Crawley (£712.11), 6 people in Sherington (£660.48) & Dave & Barbara Dyer in Newport Pagnell (£371.67).

We saw 4 committee members leave this year & almost decided that it was time to throw in the towel & close the charity down. We decided to have one last effort to recruit new members & I am delighted to welcome 4 new members into the fold. I would like to thank Mike Thomas, who after many years on the committee & as organizer of the tin collections has decided to retire from office; we wish him well & hope to see him at some of our events in the future.

Sadly our Membership is falling & we need to promote this in every way we can. We have worked closely with the Fundraising & Marketing departments at the Hospice this year. This has resulted in some very good marketing & promotional leaflets. In this way we have started to promote the Easyfundraising website which has so far raised nearly £100.00, this may not sound a lot, but it costs nothing & hopefully will grow as we promote it.

We have supported many local fetes & carnivals over the year & also held bucket & street collections throughout the area, thanks goes to Pat Kirk who not only organizes these but then counts every penny! I also have to thank Sue Russell who organizes our fundraising effort in Buckingham & does a sterling job.

We have held a few fun events this year a Barn dance, the Newport Pagnell Singers Christmas concert, & a quiz. Thanks go to Marion & Jan who do the quiz for us – there will be another one in September. We also sold raffle tickets for the Community Car Raffle & raised over £550.00. So we have had a busy year.

I personally would like to thank Paul Hinson & all the staff at the hospice for their wonderful help & support. We are always made welcome both in the Hospice & at the offices. Personal thanks also to my right hand woman Chris Rowat, who keeps me on the straight & narrow regarding my duties as the chairman (& very often does it for me). Also Mr Winstanley, for auditing the accounts.

June 2016