

Dear Friends

October 2019

DDF, Suffolk newsletter no 86

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Verna and John Lennard-Jones., within a month of each other earlier this year. Both of them had provided an enormous amount of support for the DDF including hosting summer garden parties in their beautiful garden in Woodbridge. They were always very generous with their hospitality and time. John's compassion, modesty, ability to listen and leadership resulted in his extremely successful career as Professor of gastroenterology at St Mark's Hospital in London. After retiring and moving to Suffolk he became president of the national charity Digestive Disorders Foundation which he helped to raise the profile of. Since then the charity has undergone several re brandings now GUTS UK. We were honoured that he became our Vice President of DDF, Suffolk in 1994. Tributes at their funerals made it very clear what a team they were and how much they had worked to support the parish of St John's in Woodbridge and the community. John had chaired the committee to build a spire on the church. His modesty was such that many who attended his funeral in Woodbridge had no idea of his illustrious career. A full tribute is beyond this newsletter but several are available on line. We were very touched by the family's generosity in choosing the DDF for donations in memoriam which amounted to just over £900.

Fund raising

We have had a busy 12 months of fund raising. At the end of last year the endoscopy nurses made up two excellent Christmas hampers which were raffled and raised £192. This was followed by a Valentines draw £123.

On February 28th we were invited back to the Maharani Indian restaurant in Ipswich for another superb evening with delicious food and generous hospitality from Mani Malik and his team. In all we raised £239.

A Quiz night was held at St Augustine's Church Hall on March 29th. This was a very entertaining and enjoyable evening and we are most grateful to all who helped especially Kathie and Colin Scott who provided the questions/question master. Funds were boosted by the excellent cake stall, raffle and auction resulting in a profit of £568.

In June, we were very privileged to be invited back to Holton Hall Farm in Creting St Peter to hold another Grand Garden party. Thanks to the hard work of our hosts Doreen Wrinch and Helen Whitefield and family and a large team of helpers we had a marvellous afternoon. The gardens were magnificent and a wide range of fund raising activities were available including food, drink, plant stalls, face painting and music. We were very fortunate with the weather and were delighted to make £2,700 profit. A big thank you to all involved.

A couple of weeks ago we had a street collection in Woodbridge. Despite working all day we collected £169 which represents a steady year on year decline. This confirms my impression that street collections are becoming more and more difficult in part due to fewer people carrying cash.

In the last week we held another Quiz night. Thanks to question masters Kathie and Colin Scott and many helpers we had a splendid evening and enjoyed making £540.00.

This past year, money has been used to assist Consultant surgeon Mr Thomas Groot Wassink with a research project into the analysis of a very large multinational data base to assess the value and safety of preoperative antibiotics prior to bowel surgery. The results have been published and show a benefit for the use of antibiotics which is a very important finding. We continue to support the endoscopy nurses with funding for training and also the purchase of items of equipment to be used in the endoscopy unit.

Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday November 19th 2019 at 18:30

Venue: Endoscopy Unit at the Ipswich Hospital.

Agenda and further details will be posted on the DDF website.

So we have an idea of numbers please let Marjorie Thompson

(mobile no. 07703485213) know if you are going to attend.

I enclose tickets for the Autumn Grand Draw and thank you for your ongoing support.

Unfortunately, the Text giving service for mobile phones has been withdrawn by Vodaphone, a casualty of BREXIT?

I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to support the activities of DDF, Suffolk this last year and all those who have made donations. Particular thanks to our hard working committee without whose work we would not be able to function.

With best wishes

John Wyke. Chairman Digestive Disorders Foundation, Suffolk

If we could communicate with you by email please send me your email to r.j.wyke@btinternet.com