**Chairman’s Report**

The past financial year saw the Hospice industry, the whole worldwide economy and our civilisation under huge threat and suffering following the out-burst of the Covid 19 pandemic. The early proactive actions taken by the Board, leadership team, staff and volunteers at Beaumond House were instrumental in our business survival in this year and a huge thank you goes to everyone within the organisation and the magnificent support from outside.

The Government’s actions and the implementation of support funding via Hospice UK was imperative to the business survival and our thanks also go to them. We launched an emergency appeal which was responded to by our local businesses and community extremely well and the additional donations allowed us to continue with some of our services.

For much of the year the in-patient beds were available for patients as was a restricted Hospice at Home service. Unfortunately, we had to close the doors to Day therapy service for a long period although staff continued to support patients in innovative and inspiring alternative ways.

As was the case with all these services, it was in particular our front-line staff who responded so professionally, at times with limited PPE, and delivered a high quality support for some of the most vulnerable in our community. I can’t express enough of the Boards gratitude for their actions.

Our financial report in the finalised accounts will show the number of patients we supported during this difficult year and those numbers demonstrate the importance of our services moving forward and how we helped ease the pressure in NHS hospital beds and also supported local people at their time of need.

We have slowly managed to restore most of our services in 2021 but with health restrictions and we will continue to deliver outstanding support.

In June 2021 our Chief Executive, Debbie Abrams OBE retired after 5 supreme years in the business. We thank Debbie for all that she has done during this time and wish her an exciting, long, and happy retirement. We are delighted that Debbie has subsequently been accepted onto the Board as a trustee.

We have recruited a new Chief Executive into the Hospice, George Cameron who took up the role on a temporary basis. This will allow time for the Board to recruit a new full time Chief Executive after a period of assessment around the role and an appointment is anticipated by the end of 2021.

George has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the Hospice arena having been Chief Executive for many years at Treetops Hospice in Derbyshire where he led the team to successfully grow that Hospice in a safe and measured way and has stepped down as a trustee for the period of his employment.

We will continue to review our services and are currently developing further our Day Therapy offering to a more personalised Wellbeing Unit for patients. In addition, we are considering the expansion of our In-patient beds with exciting opportunities being considered, also our Hospice at Home service which is so highly regarded in the community.

Finally, my most important message is to highlight and reiterate the way in which all our staff have managed over the past 20 or so months during this horrendous pandemic period. We needed to change and adapt the way we provided every service that was being provided. This required vigilance, skill and expertise and always having our patients and their families at the forefront of every decision. The wellbeing of our staff is always important and the leadership team, led by Louise Sinclair, has worked tirelessly to help and support the patients and staff throughout this long and difficult period.

Hopefully, we will start to see and feel the easing of Covid restrictions in the coming weeks and months ahead, and we will see a welcome return to all visitors to the Hospice.

John Marshall

Chair of Trustees