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Friends of Stamford Hospital make their final donation.

Friends group's £500k raised over 60 years

Ben Jones

FOLLOWING more than six decades of fundraising to support patients, staff and visitors - the Friends of Stamford Hospital have presented their final donation.

The group has been raising funds since 1963 to provide amenities and comforts for patients and staff.

Funds raised during that time have totalled over £500,000 - with £330,000 of this being raised since 2000.

The Friends' latest and final donation has been presented to the Urology team at Stamford & Rutland Hospital, with prostate health patients set to benefit from a portable handheld ultrasound probe.

Lauren Henson, Urology Lead Nurse at North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust, explained: "Because it is portable, it allows assessments to be carried out across a range of clinical settings; including remote and outreach clinics,

and therefore improving access to care and reducing the need for additional hospital visits.

"It can also reduce unnecessary MRI scans, provide tailored re-referral thresholds, and ensure patients receive the right care at the right time, while making best use of healthcare resources."

Representatives from the Friends were greeted and thanked for their many years of fundraising by members of the Urology team, the Hospitals' Charity and North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Charlotte Williams during a recent official handover of the equipment.

Charlotte said: "We are immensely grateful to the Friends of Stamford Hospital - past and present - for their incredible support and dedication over six decades.

"We know from the vast number of items of equipment purchased, and donations made in other areas, that the lives of so many patients,

staff and visitors have been touched by their kindness and on behalf of the Trust, an enormous thank you."

Hundreds of patients from Stamford, Peterborough and the surrounding areas have benefited from the incredible fundraising efforts, however, the past few years have become more of a challenge for the Friends.

Friends Chair Kay Hircock said: "For a small, local charity, over £500,000 is an exceptional amount which has been spent wisely and with much deliberation.

"The profile of Friends groups - Stamford, Peterborough, Hinchingsbrooke etc, which rely on volunteers, has diminished over time and it seems appropriate now to hand over to the Hospitals Charity - which covers all Trust localities.

"So, we come to the end of an era which has seen healthcare develop in ways unthought of in 1963! Our good wishes for the future go to all the staff of the Trust."

Bail for man after A1 crash

A man who was arrested following a crash on the A1 that left a teenager seriously injured has been bailed by police.

The crash happened on the A1 at Thornhaugh at about 6.30pm on Thursday, September 17.

A white DAF lorry was involved in the collision with a stationary black Toyota Yaris.

Police said a 16-year-old boy,

from Peterborough, who had got out of the Yaris suffered serious injuries and was taken to Peterborough City Hospital.

The HGV driver, a 54-year-old man from Wigan, was arrested on suspicion of causing serious injury by careless driving.

It is believed the Yaris had been involved in a minor collision in the moments before the

incident involving the lorry.

Police have now confirmed that the HGV driver has been bailed until December 13.

The boy remains in hospital. Anyone with who saw what happened or has footage should use reference 35/72248/26 and report it through the force website.

Anyone without internet access should call 101.