

Subject: Our February E-bulletin

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From: info@prostate-project.net

The latest news from the Prostate Project • February 2023

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Sometimes, I find it useful to take stock and spend five minutes just thinking.

Recently I have had more reasons than ever to stop and think, and to thank my lucky stars for the remarkable generosity of Prostate Project friends, supporters, sponsors and patrons, and you will appreciate why, when you read the rest of this bulletin.

It is my immense pleasure to begin my message to you this month with news of a remarkable surgical breakthrough from the outstanding teams at Royal Surrey Foundation Hospital.

Congratulations on an Outstanding Effort





News has just reached us of a breakthrough that places Royal Surrey Hospital, and The Stokes Centre at the very front of surgical delivery in the UK.

I make no apologies for quoting extensively from a Royal Surrey press release, after all, they can tell it much better than I can...

‘Cancer surgery initiative sees a week’s worth of patients treated in a single day’

Nine men, all with prostate cancer, were able to undergo the procedure on the same day after a team of Trust experts developed a safe but efficient way to maximise the number of prostatectomies (surgery to remove the prostate gland) they can perform.

Five surgeons and four theatre teams worked across three operating theatres on World Cancer Day (Saturday 4 February) to treat a week’s worth of patients in a single day by using a technique known as a high intensity theatre list.

The technique saw the team focus on one type of procedure in order to safely improve efficiency and increase surgeons’ operating time, which in turn frees up vital theatre space that can then be used for other surgical activity.

Wissam Abou-Chedid, Urology Consultant, said: *“In the past we have done six prostate surgeries in one day but this is the first time we’ve done nine, a fantastic achievement and a UK first.*

“By maximising the number of operations carried out, we are reducing waiting time for our prostate cancer patients as well as freeing up theatre time for other non-emergency surgery that may have been delayed by the pandemic. This is a big priority for the Trust and helps reduce patient anxiety, improve cancer outcomes and enhance patient experience, as well as lowering the risk of complications.”

Royal Surrey is one of the top three Trusts in the country in terms of the number of robotic assisted radical prostatectomies carried out, as well as being a national leader in the field of robotic surgery.

*Praising the organisation behind the high intensity theatre day, **Matthew Perry,***

Consultant Urological Surgeon and Clinical Director of Urology (and Pp Trustee) said: “A lot of planning went into the day, involving staff from different departments. It was a team effort with every department involved, from the anaesthetic team, to the pre-op team, coordinators and managers in theatre and our specialist nurses.

“Everyone put the time and effort in to make the day a success. All those who helped were very enthusiastic and excited.

Louise Stead, the Trust’s Chief Executive, said: “I’m extremely impressed by the energy and dynamism of the Urology Team consultants, who are consistently looking for ways to improve patient experience and reduce waiting times. This meticulously planned day shows our highly skilled surgeons and clinical teams leading the way once again. Well done to all those involved.”



Wow, what an astonishing achievement, and because of the way we help fund the centre, it is something that you can all take pride in. When the Prostate Project began raising funds to help build and equip The Stokes Centre for Urology, one of the chief aims was to create a centre of excellence which would attract brilliant surgeons, clinicians, researchers, and nurses to the facility...this is proof that we are succeeding.

Your efforts helped make this possible, and whatever your involvement with the Prostate Project you can be sure that your support is making real differences to the lives of real people.

'Our' Felicity Really is a Big Noise in the West End '



Thank you to everybody that has already entered our 'Noises Off' draw, we have been blown away by the response but there is still time to get your hands on the prize.

As a reminder of what's up for grabs, our wonderful patron, Felicity Kendal has given us two tickets to see a performance of her latest West End smash, 'Noises Off' at The Phoenix Theatre in London on Saturday 4th of March.

The prize also includes a backstage tour as well as a 'meet and greet' with Felicity herself for the lucky 'winner'.

We have set up a separate page with more information and details of how you can win this 'money can't buy' prize, please [click here](#) to enter with any size donation!

['Noises Off' Raffle](#)

The Stars Shine for us in Guildford again!



Last month I wrote about 'Paul Jones and Friends', the two evenings of star studded entertainment at G Live in Guildford where packed houses were treated to the magical musicianship of greats like Jools Holland, Maggie Bell and Mike Batt.

I finished the piece with the words *'as soon as I know how much money we raised over the two nights, I will let you know.'*

Well, now I do now and...drumroll please...we raised the mind-blowing sum of £67,000.

I will say that again because I love writing it so much.

Paul Jones and his magnificent friends raised £67,000 for the Prostate Project, an amount which includes £4,000 from the bucket collections alone.

Thank you to everyone that came along, our wonderful volunteers for shaking their buckets so enthusiastically, to the friends that dropped by our gazebo for a chat, to Paul Jones and all the musicians that gave of their time so generously, and of course to our long-time supporter **Tony Smith of Eclectic Live Music** for organising both night's so brilliantly.

Remarkable. There really is no other word for it.

That's Jazz



Sammy Rimington has been an influential and massively popular part of the British Jazz Scene since the early 1960s, earning legendary status particularly among aficionados of New Orleans Jazz and gaining a huge following for his live performances.

Sammy also happens to be a really good friend of the Prostate Project.

On March 18th, Sammy will be appearing at Puttenham Golf Club, and he will not be alone on stage, he will have with him The New Orleans Jazz Band for a night that judging by previous years performances will be sensational and unmissable.

Tickets for the event cost £25.00, including supper, wonderful value for such a great night out!

For details please contact Katherine at info@prostate-project.org.uk or call on 07724 465 883

[Jazz Night Tickets](#)

Patient Support Group Forum



In January, we hosted a Support Group Forum. It was great to hear so many positive ideas and views about how we can help meet the needs of newly diagnosed men and their families.

I hope to have more news next month about the next steps in providing this vital support to men going through the difficult and often bewildering early stages of treatment.

Can You Help?





If you, or somebody that you know could offer a few hours per month to help us with our IT provision, please contact me personally for a chat. The role is to offer support and guidance and would suit a recently retired IT manager, or somebody currently working in IT that fancies helping out.

I can guarantee that we will have lots of daft questions and funny ideas, so somebody that's patient and calm would be ideal.

Please [email](#) me if you, or somebody you know will fit the bill.

And while I am asking for help, we are always in need of volunteers to help out at events, nothing too strenuous just a friendly face to man the gazebo when we take the Prostate Project out on the road to concerts and flag days.

Some thank yous



Clever, very clever

We are delighted by every fundraising effort that helps us, and over the years we have seen everything from Marathon Runs to Busk-a-thons, sponsored walks to comedy nights.

However, this year's prize for



innovation goes to Michael Wheeldon.

Michael organised and paid for a party at his home for about 40 of his friends and family. In return, Michael's guests made an anonymous donation to the Prostate Project and took one of our awareness raising flyers home with them.

And what a generous bunch Michael's dinner guests turned out to be, raising almost £1,500 'having a really fun evening'.

Thanks Michael!

(Photo: Michael and Melanie Wheeldon).



It's an ill wind

I will quote directly from an email I received from Roy Padgett of the Cobham Sporting Gun Club, long time PP supporters in January.

"Dear Alf - When I sent you the proceeds from our Christmas raffle in January I warned you, as I had previously, that it would probably be our last as we expected to lose our shooting ground. I subsequently had a much appreciated phone call from Colin Stokes to thank me for the support we had given over a number of years.

Not long after that we did indeed lose the ground and the club has had to close. Part of the closure has been the sale of the club's assets and distribution of the proceeds to the members. However, in doing so the club treasurer offered members the choice of relinquishing their share and donating it to the Prostate Project. Some have very generously done so and in the New Year I hope to let you have a cheque for around £2,000.

So the ill wind that blew away our ground and much loved club will at least do some good for the Prostate Project. Best regards, Roy Padgett"

Thank you to Roy and every other member of the club for this wonderfully generous

gesture, I was sorry to read of the closure of your club and I hope you are able to find a new home soon.

Note: As we were preparing to send this email to our supporters, a cheque for £2,450 arrived in the PP office from John Hickey, the Treasurer.



Anyone for coffee?

The lovely people at Send Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin hold a coffee morning every month, with a different charity receiving the proceeds each time.

They must be a thirsty lot in Send because they recently held a morning in aid of the Prostate Project and they raised £250.90.

Thanks to all that bought a coffee or a slice of cake, your support is greatly appreciated.

And finally

It's been a truly remarkable month, and there's the promise of so much more to come.

Thank you to everyone that has helped and supported us as we enter 2023, there is plenty still to be done but with your backing, I am 100% confident that we will get there...wherever there is!

All the best,

Alf Turner



Chairman

[Click here if you would like to make a donation](#)

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