

# PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH



**FRIENDS OF DAVENPORT HOUSE**

**BULLETIN NO 21 – JANUARY 2022**

## GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE RED HOUSE

*By Joan Shopper, Trustee and Secretary, Friends of Davenport House*



### Introduction

After years of neglect at the Red House, it is great to summarise recent improvements undertaken by the new owners of the property, the Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH), which were highlighted at a CLCH open meeting on 24 November 2021. Background to CLCH is provided later.

### The Good News about the Red House

A CLCH survey of the property concluded that whilst it was a beautiful building, with beautiful stained glass windows, it did not meet the Quality Care Commission regulations for NHS Clinics. Indeed in surveying the extension which was opened in 1956, it had suffered from water damage and was in very bad disrepair with plants growing inside!

So CLCH has completed essential work to make the building safe and watertight. The flat roof on the extension has been repaired, the electrics upgraded, a new fire alarm, new heating boiler and air conditioning installed.

Starting in January 2020 CLCH began developing Outpatients clinics in the Red House and the Hally Stewart building where the blood service is delivered. Four clinic rooms were increased to ten, with eight in the Red House and two in the Hally Stewart building. The Red House will have clinics for Podiatry, Heart Failure, Bladder and Bowel, Parkinson Disease, Speech and Language, Frailty, Diabetes, Retinal Screening, Acupuncture; in the Hally Stewart there will be clinics for ENT and Phlebotomy.

The Friends Room has been upgraded to support clinical grade activities including face to face activities - Cardiac Rehabilitation, Pulmonary Rehabilitation, and Alcoholics Anonymous.

CLCH has moved back into the Red House the St. Albans and Harpenden Locality Team - District Nursing and Therapy Services - as well as their Home Care Team.

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So the ground floor of the Red House is occupied by the Outpatient Clinics, the first floor by the Hertfordshire Corporate Staff base and the second floor by two meeting rooms. In May 2021 five clinical rooms on the site were allocated for a purpose built Neuro Rehabilitation Unit, one with an overhead hoist, and another with a large gym.

At this stage there is 18% of the buildings remaining unoccupied including the old kitchen and half a ward. CLCH plan to improve the car park and replace the windows, the latter of which will have to be purpose built, both projects requiring extra capital monies.

So at the start of 2022 we can at last see a future for the much loved Red House buildings and site, which had been neglected for so long with numerous plans mooted but never implemented. CLCH are regenerating the site which is very good news for the Harpenden Community.

### **Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH)**

CLCH is a Community NHS Trust providing services for adults and children across parts of London and West Hertfordshire. In 2019 they were awarded a new contract to provide services in West Hertfordshire from the previous suppliers, Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, which included the areas below:

- Herts Valley Adult Community Services, which covers St Albans and Harpenden, Watford and Three Rivers
- Sexual Health Services across Hertsmere, which it had done for over five years
- Community Respiratory Services, which it had done for over 10 years.

As part of this new contract CLCH took over the freehold of the Red House (Harpenden Memorial Hospital) in October 2019, together with Langley House, Watford and Elstree Way Clinic, Boreham Wood.

### **CLCH Open Meeting—24 November 2021**

The full record from the open CLCH meeting can be found by using the following link  
<https://mailchi.mp/233d3be91a0d/agm-reminder-8939245>

There is also a feature on the Red House in the Harpenden Society Autumn Newsletter which includes photographs of the improvements.

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