

5. URGENT BUSINESS:

- **Margaret Ross and Janet Baddeley:** At our AGM Margaret Ross ceased to be Hon. Secretary due to family commitments and Janet Baddeley left the Executive due to ill-health, both after many years of devoted service. In recognition of their huge contribution to our affairs it was agreed unanimously to confer honorary membership on them both and to explore the possibility of giving each a small memento of their service, which the Executive was asked to explore.
- **NHS England's decision on specialist heart services:** Mike Gordon reported that Harefield Hospital staff had that day been informed that NHS England had decided to strip the Royal Brompton Hospital of its most prestigious services. Hospital staff were aghast and the Royal Brompton & Harefield FT was immediately challenging the decision. Our members were deeply concerned, acknowledging that threats to Royal Brompton Hospital impact heavily on Harefield Hospital. As we have no mailing until mid-August and do not meet again until 1st September it was agreed that members will be initially informed of this damaging decision by email and that our website will be used for updates during the interim period, to keep members informed.
- **New Chief Executive at West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust:** A new appointment had been made to replace the Interim CEO, Jac Kelly, who was guest speaker at our May meeting. The new CEO is Katie Fisher, previously Director of Service Transformation at the Royal Free Hospital, who took up her new role from the start of July.
- **Copies of reports from NHS Board Meetings held in public:** Copies were available in the outer hall at the meeting and copies can also be obtained on request at any time.

6. OPEN FORUM:

- June News-Sheet issues:** No issues required discussion.
- Our website:** Members were asked to look at our website during our summer break in preparation for discussion at our next meeting on whether the website meets members' needs and how it could be improved.
- Recruitment:** We need to replace organisations recently lost – Harefield Rebeat and South Harrow & Roxeth Residents' Association have closed and Ruislip Common Women's Institute has very few members and is unable to replace their former delegate Elsie Armstrong, who died. It was suggested that some of our members might invite kindred organisations to hear particular speakers, or act as our ambassadors to other organisations that meet in the same venue as themselves, or enthuse family members to introduce organisations that they attend.
- Volunteers:** Members were reminded that we have no Hon. Secretary and that many small jobs could be distributed amongst a number of volunteers. Mike Gordon kindly volunteered to provide us with dates of NHS Board Meetings in public, which was much appreciated.
- Potential guest-speakers:** The Chairman asked for suggestions for potential guest-speakers or topics of special interest to our members, which speakers might address.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: The audience was reminded that the Chairman is pleased to note personal NHS experiences after all meetings, for our records.

8. NEXT MEETING: We do not meet in August so there is no mailing in July. Our next routine mailing will be in mid August and our next meeting is on Thursday 1st September at 7.45pm in the Post Graduate Centre Mount Vernon Hospital – guest speakers had been invited for September, October and November, but their replies were awaited.

The meeting was closed at 9.35pm



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