The incredible donation has been made by Robert Braithwaite CBE DL, founder of luxury powerboat company Sunseeker International, in recognition of the care he received at the hospital.

The da Vinci surgical robot system purchased is the first in the UK of its kind, and enables the latest advanced keyhole surgery techniques to be used to treat a range of conditions.

Patients will benefit from a huge £3.5m gift to Poole Hospital to purchase a state-of-the-art surgical robot system.

It offers surgical instruments with a greater range of movement to allow easier access to areas difficult to reach with traditional keyhole surgery, and high definition, three dimensional views providing greater precision.

The Trust took delivery of the robot in late October and, following commissioning, will treat the first patients by the end of the year.
The hospital has been very busy and the Board is really appreciative of the hard work of all our teams to ensure that standards are maintained and that we continue to achieve high levels of quality and safety.

In this issue you can find details of Robert Braithwaite’s fantastic donation to Poole Hospital and the Dorset Cancer Centre. Very many patients will benefit from the enhanced service that this wonderful equipment will provide. We are all extremely grateful to Robert.

It was a great pleasure to welcome so many members to our Annual Members Meeting in September. This is a very important occasion when we account to you for the Trust’s performance and also seek your views on how we should proceed. I thought that the presentations on our work in research and innovation from Dr Angus Wood and our emergency department from Dr Gary Cumberbatch and matron Geoffrey Walker were very interesting and demonstrated what excellent leadership we have. I would like to welcome to the Trust, our newly elected Governors, Sarah Holmes, Richard Negus, Marilyn Osner and James Myles also to congratulate Sandra Yeoman and Brian Newman on their reappointment for another three year term of office.

We also have two new appointed Governors – Dr David Richardson for the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group and Dr Sonal Minocha for Bournemouth University.

At the end of November Jean Lang and Guy Spencer, two long-standing non-executive Directors came to the end of their term of office. They have been excellent supporters of the Trust for many years and the Board of Directors and Council of Governors are most grateful to them for their commitment.

We have two new non-executive Directors, Caroline Tapster CBE and David Walden CBE who took up their appointments on 1 December.

I would like to close by thanking every member for their support for Poole Hospital and to wish you a happy and healthy new year.

Angela Schofield, Chairman of Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Annual Members’ Meeting

Our annual members’ meeting was held on Thursday 24 September 2015 at the Poole Salvation Army Hall. The presentations from the Directors of the Trust were well received as well as the two informative clinical presentations on research and the emergency department.

A report to the Council of Governors was presented with the feedback from the event and notes of the questions raised at their meeting in October. The full presentations and the paper to the Council are available on our website. We are already looking ahead to 2016’s meeting!

Council of Governors’ away day – October 2015

A successful governor development day was held on the 20 October which members of the Board of Directors attended. The topics on the agenda for the day included: Disability and equality rights, freedom to speak policy, preparing for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and update on the risk management process.

Mr. Robert Talbot (pictured right), medical director also organised a presentation around mortality figures which included representatives from healthcare organisation, Dr Foster, and Dr Simon Jackson, the clinical lead for the mortality review group.

Training and development is an integral part of making sure your elected Governors keep pace with current healthcare thinking, initiatives and policies.
I am a public Governor for the Bournemouth constituency and thought I would take this opportunity to provide you with some detail on the role of a Governor in the hope to attract some new candidates for the 2016 elections.

Governors are allowed to serve a maximum of three terms; each term of office is for three years. From next year there are a number of Governors who will have served a full nine years, and the Trust wants to ensure there are individuals who will be available to offer themselves for election to replace them.

You do not need experience or knowledge in the first instance. What you do need, and which you obviously have, is an interest in the hospital and what it does. Your knowledge and understanding will develop whilst you are a Governor through an induction programme including being introduced to an experienced governor to shadow in your first few months.

You might be concerned about how much of your time it will take. The basic requirement would be to attend the quarterly meetings of the Council of Governors held on a Thursday afternoon at 4.30 pm and the annual members’ meeting held in September. You also have to read the agenda and supporting papers which you could do at home in your own time. You might also consider joining a governor reference group concentrating on a specific matter, attending the monthly briefing to Governors provided by the Chairman following each Board meeting as well as the opportunity to go on a quality walkabout with the Director of Nursing to see how the hospital functions.

If you’re interested in becoming a Governor then the next elections will commence in the summer of 2016 however there is no time like the present to find out by contacting me or talking to the membership office team on 01202 448723 or e-mail members.contact@poole.nhs.uk.

Elections update

Our second round of elections for 2015 closed on the 14 October 2015 and we would like to thank all members who took part in the election. The full election results are available on our website and we are pleased to welcome from the following constituencies:

Poole – Sarah Holmes and Richard Negus

Purbeck, East Dorset and Christchurch – Marilyn Osner

North and West Dorset, Weymouth, Portland and the rest of England – James Myles

We also welcome back for another three-year term of office, Sandra Yeoman for Poole and Brian Newman for Bournemouth.

The next public elections will commence in the summer of 2016. If you would be interested in standing in future elections please contact the membership office on 01202 448723 or e-mail members.contact@poole.nhs.uk.

Christmas is coming...

While Christmas can be a busy time for many, as well as expensive, many people feel motivated to support good causes over the seasonal period. We are so grateful for all the support we get throughout the year and Christmas is no different. For those who wish to make a donation to the charity this year it couldn’t be simpler. Here are some handy tips and ideas:

• **Buy our charity Christmas cards** from the Poole Hospital Charity Gift Shop, near main reception.

• If you don’t want to write out cards, tell your friends you have made a donation to Poole Hospital by texting PHXM15 £5 to 70070. This will donate £5 to us – why not encourage them to do the same?

• Stuck for gift ideas? Pop along to our **gift or book shop**, there are plenty of gift ideas...
Radiotherapy treatment is being brought much closer to home for cancer patients in the west of Dorset thanks to a multi-million pound joint initiative between Dorset County Hospital (DCH) and Poole Hospital.

DCH patients needing specialist radiotherapy have always had to travel to the facility at Poole but now a state-of-the-art satellite linear accelerator (linac) radiotherapy treatment centre will be built at the Dorchester hospital.

The new satellite radiotherapy treatment centre will be staffed and managed by the highly respected Dorset Cancer Centre.

As well as ending the need for West Dorset patients to travel to Poole, the new treatment centre will also free up capacity at Poole Hospital to treat more cancer patients from the rest of the county.

The new centre will be electronically linked to the Dorset Cancer Centre at Poole Hospital, which will continue to assess patient needs, plan their care and treatment.

Evidence shows that the further patients need to travel, the less likely they are to undergo radiotherapy, which is second only to surgery as a way of effectively treating cancer.

Clinical director for cancer services at Poole Hospital, Dr Tamas Hickish, said: “Specialist radiotherapy treatment should be given to around half of those patients with cancer and its use is expanding.

By locating the replacement alongside a new linac in Dorchester, we are expanding capacity and implementing a solution which will bring huge benefits to cancer patients in Dorset, especially those in the west of the region. This plan also provides capacity in Poole to replace its older linacs with new machines, without having to lose radiotherapy capacity.”

The new centre is anticipated to open in 2017.