



# Action to Save St. John's Hospital.

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2011

The new Short Stay Elective Surgical Centre in St. John's Hospital at Howden opened for business in December 2010.

This state of the art facility is the culmination of 4 years of hard work for the Party. It is the jewel in the crown of all our other achievements since our election in 2007.

In addition to the Short Stay Elective Surgical Centre, we have seen the recent announcement of further innovative service developments such as green light laser for enhanced urology treatment, the announcement of a sport injury clinic, a specialist eating disorder unit and further progress toward University status for St. John's. A Business case for a new MRI scanner is in the final stages of development

The progress of the past four years includes:

- The first all-hospital candidate Party to hold the balance of power in a Council in Scotland
- The first Health Board non-executive member in Scotland who was directly elected on a health platform
- An improved public transport service from West Lothian to Edinburgh based hospitals and ongoing work on demand responsive transport
- The successful removal of car parking charges at St. John's Hospital
- Secured parity of wage structures with other Lothian hospitals for laboratory staff
- The establishment of the St. John's Hospital "Stakeholders Group" to help develop future service delivery at St. John's
- An independent review of emergency surgery and elective orthopaedics at St. John's in conjunction with other service provision, with work ongoing
- The return to St. John's Hospital of a dedicated senior management team, now headed up by Sandra Mair
- The continuation of the successes already achieved by the Community Health & Care Partnership in West Lothian

In the Council, we have helped introduce:

The first Council housing to be built in 25 years, with phase 2 now underway

**More police officers on the beat through the provision of new Safer Neighbourhood Teams**

**Police officers based at two secondary schools to improve links with younger people**

**Improved school buildings and facilities**

**A root and branch review of all Council service provision for the elderly**

**We are also actively engaged in discussions to deliver a more comprehensive package of elective orthopaedic surgery at St. John's, together with enhancing Accident and Emergency services at the hospital.**

**We will continue to work with our SNP partners in running West Lothian Council to deliver the best services for all of our communities.**

**Our shared values and beliefs in the provision of Health Services, free at the point of delivery and delivered as locally as possible, will ensure the continuation of the successful partnership working to date. Underpinning this relationship will be the ASSJH commitment to ensure proper accountability by those charged with providing our Health Services.**

**In keeping with the ASSJH Manifesto commitments, the interests of the people of West Lothian will come first. WE will put THEIR interests FIRST.**

**And on Health, we will continue to deliver on OUR promises.**

### **Stop the Downgrade Campaign Loses Founder Member.**

During preparation of this newsletter, news reached us of the sad death of Marion Mackay. Marion was a founder member of the Stop the Downgrade Campaign and the Action to Save St. John's Hospital Party.

Despite declining health, Marion tirelessly campaigned to keep St. John's Hospital a fully functioning acute accident and emergency hospital. With characteristic selflessness and good humour she fought to the end for the good of the people of West Lothian.

Marion spent her final days in St. John's where she had been a regular patient for many years. She was loved and admired for her cheerful demeanour and fighting spirit. Her legacy is not only the friendship she gave freely and willingly, but those enduring friendships she caused to come to be. That was only one of her many remarkable qualities.

She will be sadly missed by all who knew her, and our thoughts and prayers are for her family. We hope they will take strength and comfort from the knowledge that she was loved and admired by all who knew her.

We will treasure her memory, and continue to fight for what she held dear.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE STOP THE DOWNGRADE CAMPAIGN GROUP WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>. APRIL AT 7.30PM AT THE KAIM PARK HOTEL, EDINBURGH ROAD, BATHGATE.  
ALL WELCOME.