



Friends of Victoria Hospital

The newsletter of The Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne, Dorset

No. 56

Summer 2024

Chair's Corner

"Supporting Wimborne Hospital to provide excellent care".



Dear Members

Reflecting on the progress of various projects funded by the Friends of Wimborne Hospital over the past year has made me consider the huge value of careful planning, hard work and perseverance -

qualities that health service staff demonstrate despite the daily pressures they face. Working in partnership with Dorset HealthCare Trust has enabled the following projects to be successfully completed during 2023/24 :-

Development of the X-ray department and purchase of state of the art X-ray equipment
Purchase of a cardiac ultrasound machine and joint funding for a Cardiac Echo Analyser.
The Friends continue to fund an Activities Programme for inpatients supporting their rehabilitation as well as a Breathlessness Service for outpatients.

The move of our Charity Shop was hugely successful and has seen an increased footfall and associated income.

The purchase of the acre of land adjacent to Wimborne Hospital in March 2024 however, really demonstrates the importance of planning, hard work and perseverance. There are many people to thank who played their part over the years to enable this purchase to take place and whilst I don't have the space to thank them personally here - they know who they are!

We have much to be optimistic about in 2024/25 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our amazing volunteers, supporters and members who are making all of this possible. I hope to meet you in person at our AGM.

LAND ACQUIRED TO SECURE FUTURE EXPANSION

Trustees of the Friends of Wimborne Hospital have worked in partnership with Dorset HealthCare to buy an acre of land next to the hospital.

The land previously accommodated Wimborne Town Football Club and comprises a levelled, fenced site between the Victoria Hospital and a nearby new residential housing development.

This purchase, fully funded by the Friends, means that it will be possible to expand the hospital in future to help meet changing health needs.

In addition, planning permission to bring the total number of car parking spaces to 105 - including cycle parking, 15 spaces for the disabled and electric vehicle charging bays - has been granted by Dorset Council. This will increase parking options for both staff and patients as and when additional services are provided at the hospital.

Access will be provided through the hospital's main entrance.

Chris Lawrence, Dorset HealthCare's Director for Estates and Facilities, said: "We are delighted the Friends have secured this extra land, which gives us the option to expand the range of services available at the Victoria Hospital and create new facilities as required.

Healthcare is constantly evolving, and this additional space will give us more flexibility to meet local needs in the years to come."

Anne Salter, Chair of the Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne, added:

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to secure the land for the future of the hospital.

This has only been made possible by the generosity of local people who value the ease of access and the quality of care provided at Wimborne Hospital."

Treasurer Retires

After almost 20 years of dedicated commitment as Hon. Treasurer, Pete Cadogan has retired. It is remarkable to recall that he was recruited in 2004 switching from modern languages to accountancy with apparent ease. His attention to detail and grasp of the role served us well throughout some of the most challenging financial events of the past.

Minimising risk by spreading our holdings and subsequently by shrewd investment, the Friends funds remain secure and flourishing. We are hugely grateful to him for the many hours of meticulous bookkeeping and financial management and wish him well in the next phase of his already busy retirement. Pictured here with his successor Jenny Leeder.



The Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne

The trustees present their report along with the financial statement of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

< Supporting Wimborne Hospital to provide excellent care >

Our vision is to improve healthcare for local people by working in partnership with all health and associated services to achieve the very best care at Wimborne Hospital. Our purpose is that we fundraise and allocate resources to support the delivery of first-class health services at Wimborne Hospital. All our activities support this NHS hospital's work, which is demonstrably for the public benefit.

Grant making policy

Funding is considered for projects providing they meet the following criteria which are to:

- * ensure continuity of current services
- * enable additional services to be provided locally
- * add to the well-being or treatment of patients, or working conditions of staff
- * enhance the hospital or community environment
- * improve care through staff training.

The hospital management initiates requests for grants. The Friends have a clear pathway for grant requests with the hospital management who provide a sound business case which confirms that the equipment will answer a need and be put to regular, beneficial use.

Achievements and performance

The Friends received contributions from individuals and organisations by way of subscriptions, donations and legacies. Funds increased helpfully. A membership of about 800 provided a dependable flow of income. We published two newsletters and maintained a presence in the locality through our Facebook page. A small number of promotional events took place.

Objectives for 2023-2024:

- * Promote fund raising
- * Provide an information channel to our members and the public
- * Liaise with the Dorset HealthCare NHS Trust over services and developments at the hospital
- * Act as an advocate for community opinion on local healthcare
- * Fund staff training through Phyllis

- * Coombes Award grants
- * Fund the acquisition of equipment and capital ventures
- * Administer the Friends' charity shop
- * Support hospital staff and our volunteers

Liaison with Dorset HealthCare NHS Trust

Meetings were held electronically and in person with senior managers in the Trust at local and Dorset level to discuss the services provided at the hospital. The Locality Manager and Hospital Matron were in regular contact with the trustees' committee.

Hospital Staff Training

No applications were received for staff training. A change in Senior Personnel at the Hospital with a review of staff development needs will lead to additional training requests in 2024/25.

Grants for Equipment and Services

The Friends paid £307,411 towards the major refurbishment of the X-ray Department, completed in April 2023. We paid £19,029 for Whiterock wall covering and committed £96,500 for a cardiac ultrasound machine which is proving quite excellent. During the year the Friends also funded regular therapy sessions provided by 'Elevate' at a cost of £13,410 and started to fund a Breathlessness clinic provided by Lewis Manning Hospice Care at a cost of £7,000 per year. The Friends acquired an acre of land adjacent to the Hospital site on 28th March 2024 which was transferred with restrictions to DHC on the same day.

Charity Shop

The shop was open all year apart from a short period in September while we moved premises from 28 to 69 High Street. The brighter, more welcoming sales area has significantly boosted the quality of donated goods and our sales, raising the shop surplus handsomely.

Financial Review

Reserves Policy

The Committee's policy is to keep funds to a minimum of £100,000 accessible for equipment purchase. Undesignated and unrestricted funds totalled £4,416,731 at the year end. (Please refer to the Plans for the Future.) We do not currently have any designated or restricted funds. The charity reacts to the hospital's requests for funding, as a response to changing healthcare policies. The Friends remain poised to support developments or initiatives which improve the care and facilities of the hospital, and our reserves are maintained to enable a response to a wide range of costs.

The security of our funds is the trustees' top priority. Alternative

financial arrangements are kept under constant review; our cash deposits are held with several different providers and some are within the £85,000 guarantee limit. In readiness for large agreed expenditure, we have held all our assets in cash deposits, and none in market investments.

Budgeting

The Friends' expenditure on major items follows the hospital's requirements. This is outside the direct control of the Friends, so not susceptible to standard budgeting. In the year 23-24 we met all demands on our resources and continue to budget in consultation with Dorset Healthcare for major projects. These included an upgrade of the X-ray department and the acquisition of the land adjacent to the hospital.

Risk Management

The charity trustees considered the risks to which the charity is exposed, reviewed those risks and established systems and procedures to manage them. They did not identify any major risks.

The most serious risk to the charity's objectives would be policy changes at various levels of government and healthcare reorganisation which could lead to the closure (or radical downgrading) of the hospital. We cannot influence decisions at governmental level, but do exert pressure where appropriate on the local healthcare trust.

Secondly the failure of financial institutions could threaten our capital funds. We diversify our deposits and select counterparties with care, thus minimizing risk as far as feasible. Consideration was given to reducing the risk around trustee roles and succession planning, and four new trustees were appointed during the year.

Online presence, publicity and communications:

The Friends' website is used by members and visitors to communicate with the charity, inform themselves about it or make single or regular donations. Our new website is securely hosted and passworded. We publish a newsletter which is sent to all members and widely available locally and on the website. The Friends also have a Facebook page which invites public support, recruits new members and promotes our events, maximizing our contact with local people.

Going Concern:

There is currently no uncertainty about the charity's quality as a going concern. The Friends' function on minimal running costs, own no property nor have any ongoing commitments. The trustee officers are all volunteers and receive no remuneration. The two managers in the Charity Shop are paid from the Shop's operational funds. Our charity

Wimborne — Annual Report 2023/24

enjoys enduring local support. This last element most significantly ensures the future of the charity.

Sources of Income

Legacies have as usual proved a major source of income, and they are highly valued. The Shop surplus and members' subscriptions provide a regular and significant income which can be roughly predicted. Donations and legacies in particular are entirely unpredictable but are most gratefully received.

Volunteers

With the exception of the two part-time shop managers, all trustees and personnel who worked for the FVHW did so as volunteers. They contribute over 6,500 man-hours to the charity over a typical year. Their contribution is indispensable to both the daily running and special events of the Friends and is most warmly appreciated.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust is a Society which is a

registered charity (Number 299230) and whose business is conducted and managed by its Committee of Trustees. The charity is governed by rules adopted in 1950, as amended 20 June 1959, 27 June 1990 and 24 June 1992. A revised Constitution was approved at the Annual General Meeting in July 2009.

We followed a 5-year strategy for the charity's future. We appointed four new trustees. New trustees are given an induction when they start undertaking their responsibilities. The committee has the power to appoint new trustees as vacancies arise and gives due regard to any specialist skills required at that time.

Reference and administrative details

The charity's name is Friends of Victoria Hospital Wimborne. Its charity registration number is 299230. Its office is at: Victoria Hospital, Victoria Road, Wimborne, Dorset. BH21 1ER. Four new trustees joined during the year: Mrs Sue Saddler, Mrs Jenny Leeder, Dr Colin Davidson and Mrs Sharon Powell.

Plans for the Future

During 23-24 two very costly projects were in active development which have the potential to account for at least 80% of the funds held by the Friends. One relates to a project to upgrade Minor Injuries and Physiotherapy and other aspects of the Outpatients Department. The other relates to developing the acquired land into a car park

1. Capital Developments: work with Dorset Healthcare to enable upgrading of facilities whether with equipment, refurbishment or acquisition of land.

2. Workforce support: build on co-operative ventures, helping staff and nurturing strong relationships

3. Volunteering: actively seek additional trustees with the skill sets needed to support the work of the Friends.

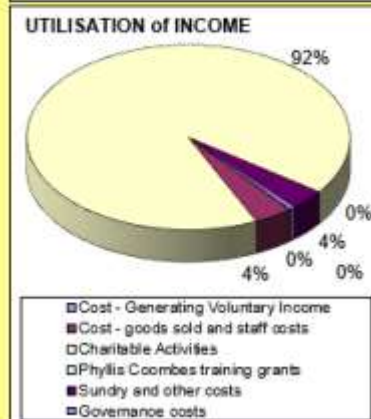
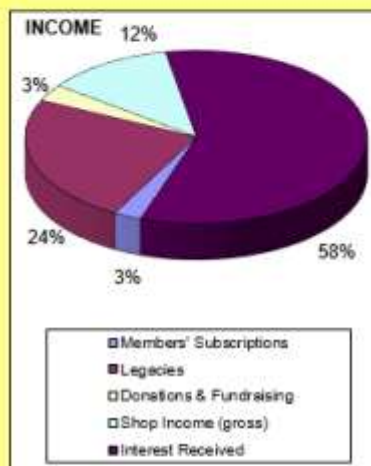
4. Partnership working: liaise more closely with Dorset Healthcare, but also with the Primary Care Network, other Friends bodies and health organisations within the Integrated Care System.

5. Finance and Risk: keep probity arrangements strong; more informal meetings for trustees. Continue to monitor for opportunities for succession planning.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

These figures are extracted from the audited draft accounts which have not yet been approved, but are unlikely to change. After approval the accounts may be inspected on request to the Trustees.

	Final 2023	2024	% age
	£	£	
INCOME			
Members' Subscriptions	16,230	11,026	3%
Legacies	1,371,427	100,571	24%
Donations & Fundraising	7,621	13,132	3%
Shop Income (gross)	47,935	50,167	12%
Interest Received	10,369	243,257	58%
Total	1,453,582	418,153	
UTILISATION OF INCOME			
Cost - Generating Voluntary Income	1,468	2,328	0%
Cost - goods sold and staff costs	43,705	66,893	4%
Charitable Activities	270,916	1,622,010	92%
Phyllis Coombes training grants	1,294	-	0%
Sundry and other costs	38,790	63,258	4%
Governance costs	6,948	9,625	1%
Total	363,121	1,764,114	
Profit/(Loss) on investments	276,686	-	
Excess of income / expenditure	813,775	(1,345,961)	
Balance Sheet Summary			
Current assets:		5,762,692	
Stock of cards and trolley	227	132	
Debtors & prepaid expenses	1,319,844	92,732	
	1,320,071	92,864	
Bank & cash balances and investments	4,771,452	4,446,637	
	6,091,523	4,539,501	
Total assets	6,091,523	4,539,501	
Liabilities			
Expenses to be paid	328,831	122,770	
Net assets	5,762,692	4,416,731	
Reserves brought forward	4,948,917	5,762,692	
Excess of income/expenditure	813,775	(1,345,961)	
Reserves carried forward	5,762,692	4,416,731	



RESPONSE FORM

I wish to become or I am a Member of the Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne

[please ring correct words above & PRINT below]

Name: (surname)

..... (first name)

Title (Mr / Mrs etc)

Address:

.....

Postcode: Tel No.

I enclose a cheque payable to 'The Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne' for £ (min £5)

We respect your privacy and wish to keep your name and address on our computer only in order to log your subscriptions, keep your details up-to-date, post you our newsletter and (where appropriate) claim Gift Aid. Your details are processed lawfully on our computer only, backed up securely and will be disclosed (as required) only to the Inland Revenue and to our mailsorting firm. We will not disclose any information to anyone else.

To find out more on how your details are used and kept secure, and about your rights in this connection, ring 01202 856484, or email dhc.fvhw@nhs.net or write to: Victoria Road, Wimborne, BH21 1ER. You may stop your membership at any time and we will delete your details.

If you agree to your details being processed as described, please tick to confirm and proceed:
I agree []

GIFT AID DECLARATION

If you currently pay tax the Friends of Victoria Hospital can claim back the tax from a subscription / donation of any amount, whether regular or one-off, provided you have given the authority. You can cancel this authority at any time. If you agree, please sign the declaration below.

I want the Friends of Victoria Hospital to reclaim tax on this donation and all future donations (delete as needed)

Signed:

Date: 20

Please complete and return to:

The Secretary

Friends of Victoria Hospital, Victoria Road, Wimborne
BH21 1ER

Registered Charity 299230

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To: The Manager

.....plc (your bank)

.....(bank address)

.....(bank address)

..... (bank postcode)

Please pay to the account of the Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne at Barclays Bank plc, Wimborne Branch, (sort code 20-96-96), A/c No. 33765237 the sum of

£ on / / next, and annually thereafter on the same date. This instruction cancels any previous order in favour of the Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne.

Your bank a/c no.:

Your bank sort code:

Your name:

Your address:

.....

Your postcode:

Signed:

Date:

Trustee elected as Mayor

Councillor Jeff Hart has been elected as Mayor of Wimborne for 24/25. We are delighted that Jeff has selected the Friends as one of his nominated charities for his period in office. Planned events being held throughout his tenure will be a real opportunity to share the work of the Friends and to increase local awareness about the services that Wimborne Hospital offers. Keep an eye on our website where we will post details of forthcoming events.

www.friendswimbornehospital.org.uk

Date for Your Diary :Our annual quiz Monday 30th September at 7.00 at the Allendale Centre, hosted by the Mayor.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 7pm on 18 July 2024

**Wimborne Community Centre,
41 - 44 King Street, Wimborne**

**Come and meet the trustees
and find out how The Friends
support your local hospital.**

**Guest Speaker: Louise Hopley, Specialist Palliative Physiotherapist
Lewis Manning Breathlessness Service**

Volunteer achieves 25 years' Service

Margaret Pope was a secretary at a car dealership for 18 years before retiring in 1997. Shortly after she became a volunteer, initially on the wards, making beds and assisting the nursing staff. In 2002 she became a chaperone in the Ultrasound Department. An opportunity arose to work in the X ray department where she continues to work today. She supports the work of the department by providing help to patients to prepare for their X ray. Her kind demeanour and welcoming attitude helps to calm apprehensive patients. Debbie Jones, Lead Radiographer says "she is a pleasure to work with and truly an inspiration."



President Dr David Pope presents Margaret with a certificate and flowers.

The Friends of Victoria Hospital Wimborne Newsletter

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