



Friends of Victoria Hospital

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

Issue No. 58

2025

Chair's Corner



"Supporting Wimborne Hospital to provide excellent care".

Dear Supporters,

It won't come as any surprise to you that the NHS is facing

considerable challenges in 2025, including funding, staffing and waiting times. Wimborne Hospital (Dorset HealthCare Trust) continues to work closely with Bournemouth Hospital and University Hospitals Dorset to streamline services and to play their part in responding to these challenges. Examples of this include additional endoscopy sessions and busy theatre lists at Wimborne Hospital. The Radiology Department continue to provide an excellent service and were awarded "Quality Services In Imaging Accreditation" following an inspection in October 2024. The Friends have agreed to fund improvements works for the Ultrasound Room and this will take place in early 2025.

Members will be aware that we purchased an acre of land adjacent to the Hospital in 2024 to increase car parking as new services are brought in. There has been a slight delay with the phasing of the car park works because of drainage issues leading to a necessary redesign of the plans. We are now expecting a start date of April 2025.

We await with keen interest the NHS 10 Year Health Plan which is due to be published in the Spring 2025. Be assured that the Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne will update you all in terms of the proposed changes and the role of the Hospital in delivering these changes. Thank you all for your continued support and I look forward to meeting many of you during 2025.

CAR PARK DEVELOPMENT

Although there has been little work to be seen on the land for the Car Park, much has been happening behind the scenes.

Work on preparing for the Car Park build has been going ahead including Bat and Bird surveys and there have had to be some changes made to the detail of the plans around water drainage which has been time consuming. It is hoped by Dorset Healthcare Trust that the contract will go out to tender at the end of January.

Once the tenders are returned and a contractor selected, we are advised that work is targeted to begin in April.

Trustee Changes

Linda Hollingbury was appointed as a Trustee in October 2024. She comes to us with years of experience as a senior NHS manager. Her focus will be on Fundraising and Events and she is looking forward to working with Trustees and the local community to improve services and facilities at the Hospital.



Melanie Fawcett has stepped down as a Trustee after 7 years in December 2024. Melanie said that she had always enjoyed her time with The Friends but with a house move imminent, she feels it is time to step back from that role. David Pope, President, thanked Melanie for her invaluable help over the years and wished her well for the future.



Wimborne Hospital Achieves National Recognition

Hanham Ward, has been awarded a national Gold Standards Framework (GSF) Quality Hallmark Award in recognition of the excellent end of life care they provide and we were very pleased to be able to fund their attendance to collect the award.

Debbie Straw, Matron and three members of staff received the award at the GSF annual conference and awards ceremony on Friday 27th September at BMA House in London - a celebration of the UK's exceptional health and social care providers for care in the final year of life.

Victoria Hospital, Wimborne was one of 140 organisations from across the country receiving the award in London (98 care homes, 1 primary care team, 5 domiciliary care agencies, 8 retirement villages, 1 prison healthcare team and 27 hospital wards).



l-r Adi Catalin Barnea, Julee Pitchers, Nicole Smith and Matron, Debbie Straw

Julie Armstrong-Wilson, Chief Operating Officer for GSF said: "Congratulations to all the organisations who have successfully achieved accreditation and received the Quality Hallmark Award this year. The standard of care and compassionate cultures that have been observed is truly inspiring, showing a commitment to ensuring people receive the right care at the right time which has a positive impact on the people cared for and their families. Listening to what matters most to each and every individual and providing care in accordance with their goals, wishes and preferences is the Gold Standard and these organisations are delivering it. Within the awards there are a number of organisations that have demonstrated their sustainability of GSF multiple times with six of the care homes achieving GSF Accreditation six times. The GSF team are so very proud of all our Award Winners; with our ageing population it is so important we enable them to live well and when the time comes deliver quality care in their final year / days of life. A huge well done to you all!"

GSF provides end of life care training and accreditation for frontline staff in health and social care. Everybody deserves gold standard end of life care.

Matron, Debbie Straw, expressed her thanks to the Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne for making it possible to attend the ceremony.

Our Shop

Our shop at 69 High Street continues to flourish under the management of Sarah, her deputy Natasha, and our volunteers without whom the shop could not open, and to whom we are extremely grateful.

We are also very thankful to all of you that support the shop either by purchasing or donating items, and by the use of gift aid which allows us to generate 25% on the items you donate.

The shop window changes to celebrate special days, like Mother's Day and Easter, displaying items for sale that can be given as gifts, and many children wore costumes bought from the shop on last year's National Book Day.

Your ongoing support has allowed us to continue to support the hospital by purchasing equipment, updating facilities, funding a Breathlessness Service and an activities co-ordinator to support rehabilitation work and funding training for hospital staff.

If you are interested in volunteering in our shop, please contact Sarah or Natasha on 01202 848031 or pop into the shop for a chat.

Volunteers' Tea

Jeff Hart—Trustee and Mayor

We were pleased to honour the dedicated volunteers who work in our charity shop and at the hospital with a special celebration tea on December 9th at the Little Pickle Café, Walford Mill. Our invaluable volunteers are the heart and soul of the charity shop and hospital, contributing their time, energy, and joy to support a meaningful cause.

The charity shop, known for its welcoming atmosphere and friendly team, sells quality second-hand clothing and other goods. Since relocating to a larger, brighter space, the shop has seen a significant boost in profits, thanks in large part to the enthusiastic efforts of its volunteers. Other volunteers work at the hospital itself - in the X-ray department and tending the garden. This voluntary help enables greater support for the Victoria Hospital, which is cherished by the Wimborne community.

Jeff Hart, Mayor of Wimborne Minster and a Trustee of the Friends of Victoria Hospital, expressed his admiration, saying,



"What a great job these shop and hospital volunteers do! They turn up every day and are making a real difference for the patients at the hospital. They are reliable, hard-working, and good fun - thank you, volunteers."

The Celebration Tea recognised the contributions of these wonderful individuals who, through their hard work and cheerful

spirit, are making a positive impact on both the hospital and the community it serves.

The short entertainment was given by the "Significance Sign Choir", providing a selection of Christmas music in their own unique way.

Save the Date

This year, 2025, is a special year for the Friends. We will be celebrating 90 years since the Friends were first established.

We plan to align this celebration with our Annual General Meeting which, this year, will be held on 18th September.

Venue and times to be confirmed.

It's been a very busy time for our Trustee and Wimborne Town Mayor, Jeff Hart since his election in May 2024.

He unveiled a series of events aimed at raising funds for his two chosen charities: Friends of Victoria Hospital and Planet Wimborne.

Events have included a Big Quiz, a Skittles Night, Charity Meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner), a Choirs Evening, an Auction of Promises, Christmas Lights switch on and Sunday Morning Guided Walks around Wimborne Minster.

Trustees have been pleased to support his efforts throughout the year.

Mayor of Wimborne Minster Hosts Heartwarming Brunch to Celebrate Community Spirit and Support Local Charities



Image: Pupils from QE School alongside Town Mayor, Cllr Jeff Hart, and Town Crier, Chris Brown

Lord Darzi Report on NHS

"The NHS is in critical condition, but its vital signs are strong" (Lord Darzi—Independent Investigation of the NHS in England September 2024).

His investigation, commissioned by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care indicated that people are struggling to see their GPs, that the NHS is failing to meet waiting targets across all services, with long waits for mental health, community support, hospital appointments and cancer care.

The report outlined several key themes for the next decade and can be found at www.gov.uk and search for "Independent Investigation of the National Health Service in England".

The 10 Year health Plan, to be published in the spring 2025 is posed to deliver 3 big shifts for the NHS:

From Hospital to Community

From analogue to digital

From sickness to prevention

The Friends are committed to work in partnership with Dorset Healthcare Trust to support these changes.

Mailing List

Like many Charities, we have been looking at the cost printing and posting our newsletter out to our supporters. We would like to move to sending it out by e mail for those who would prefer it delivered this way. Please help us begin the process by e mailing sue.saddler@nhs.net with your up to date e mail address.

Work undertaken by our Treasurer has also highlighted that only 30% of those on our mailing list have paid a subscription to the Charity in the last financial year. Please can you check that your standing order or direct debit is still in place. We have also decided to increase our suggested subscription to £20 per annum. Our bank details are Friends of Victoria Hospital Wimborne, Sort Code 20-96-96
Account Number 33765237

Thank you

TRUSTEES

Officers:

President: Dr David Pope
Chairman: Mrs Anne Salter
Secretary: Mrs Sue Saddler
Treasurer: Mrs Jenny Leeder

Trustees:

Dr Colin Davidson
Dr David Dickson
Mrs Linda Hollingbury
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SUPPORTER FORM

I am/would like to become a Supporter of the Friends of Victoria Hospital Wimborne and wish to subscribe annually/monthly/half yearly, (please circle which applies) the sum of £_____ (suggested annual subscription £20) **OR** I would like to make a single donation of £_____

First name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: - _____

E mail: _____

Tel No: - _____

Can we claim gift aid on your subscriptions/donation?

Yes No

If yes, then please confirm and sign the following:

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that my gifts have raised.

I will complete the standing order and post or hand it in to my bank or The Friends' Office, Victoria

Hospital, Victoria Road, Wimborne BH21 1ER

To the Manager _____ Bank plc

Bank Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Name _____

Account Number _____

Please pay the sum of £_____ (suggested annual subscription £20) Annually/Monthly/Half Yearly to Friends of Victoria Hospital Wimborne Community Account 33765237 Sort Code 20-96-96 at Barclays Bank.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

OR

I will arrange the standing order via online banking.

(please tick as applicable)

We need to record your name and address on our computer system in order to claim the Gift Aid, and for new supporters ensure we have your details so that we can send you our Newsletters. This data will be protected and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The person responsible for managing your data (Data Controller) is our Treasurer.

Please confirm permission by ticking this box

Please post this form to **The Friends' Office, Victoria Hospital, Victoria Road, Wimborne BH21 1ER** or email a copy to dhc.fvhw@nhs.net we need this form to make sure we can keep in touch.