



Friends of Victoria Hospital

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

No. 59

2025

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 6.30pm on 18 September 2025
at Allendale House, Wimborne**

Chair's Corner



"Supporting Wimborne Hospital to provide excellent care".

Dear Supporters

It's incredible to realise that for 90 years the local community have supported the development of services

at Wimborne Hospital through the Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne (FVHW). I really hope that you will be able to join us at our Annual General Meeting where we will share achievements from the past year. Looking forward to the new NHS plan emphasises shifting healthcare delivery to local communities. Wimborne Hospital will have a vital role in supporting this shift, by providing short term rehabilitation and care to help individuals recover and regain their independence as well as providing a range of high quality diagnostic services.

As a chosen charity for the Mayoral year (2024-2025) the Friends benefitted from the fundraising events of the Mayor of Wimborne, Cllr Jeff Hart by receiving £4,177. This donation enabled the Friends to continue funding the "Breathlessness Service" provided by the Lewis Manning Trust for a further year. We are so grateful for this contribution to an additional service that the Hospital can offer.

The FVHW have amazing volunteers who work in our charity shop, tend the hospital garden and those that act as Trustees. Increasingly Dorset HealthCare are also looking for friendly and compassionate volunteers to join their Helping Hand Team in Wimborne Hospital. If you would like to apply or have questions about volunteering then please e mail dhc.volunteers@nhs.net.

With an exciting year ahead, I look forward to meeting you at the AGM or at other events during the year.

Celebrating 90 years of the Friends

The Friends of Wimborne Hospital was established in 1935 when the hospital was entirely dependent on voluntary contributions for its survival. Over the last 90 years the Friends' role has changed radically. In the early years of the NHS they provided patient comforts and additional benefits. In recent years several million pounds has been contributed by the local community from donations, legacies, fundraising and our charity shop. The funds have helped to enlarge the hospital, to provide cutting edge equipment and to modernise services. This has enabled Victoria Hospital to become a leading Community Hospital in the UK.

I believe this has been achieved in recognition and gratitude for the high quality and outstanding service that has been provided for the local community. In turn the Friends greatly value the support of the subscribers and supporters and are intent in pursuing a strategy of partnership with Dorset HeathCare and United Hospitals Dorset to continue to provide a first class service not only in our Centenary year but well beyond.

Dr David Pope (President)

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY



On Thursday 17th July, members of the leadership team from Dorset HealthCare Trust, the Mayor of Wimborne Minster and the Chair of the Friends of Victoria Hospital joined together with the construction company "Woodmace" to formally mark the start of the construction work on the land adjacent to the Hospital. The land was purchased by the Friends who are also funding the total project to bring the total number of car parking spaces to 105. It will also include cycle parking, 15 spaces for the disabled and electric

vehicle parking bays. Healthcare is constantly evolving and this additional space will give the NHS more flexibility to meet changing health needs in the local community. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity, only made possible by the generosity of local people who value the ease of access and the quality of care provided at the Hospital.

Pictured left to right Eiri Jones Non-Executive Director Dorset HealthCare Trust, Jeff Hart, Mayor and Trustee of the Friends, Anne Salter, Chair of the Friends and Rachel Small Chief Operating Officer Dorset HealthCare Trust

New Trustee

Martin Pate is a practising local solicitor who founded MJP Law in Wimborne. He has lived in Dorset for over 30 years having moved from London, where he was a government lawyer, before setting up his own firm.

Martin is passionate about Wimborne as a town to work and live having been one of the founders and former Chair of Wimborne Business Improvement District (BID). He is also a Poole Harbour Commissioner and Honorary Solicitor to the New Forest Commoners Defence Association.

Outside work Martin likes nothing better than walking his rescue dog with his wife Wendy along the River Stour or setting off on his sailing boat to explore new destinations. Martin is looking forward to his new role.



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 2025. 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.

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, a service of care which is available equally to all members of the local community. All this is demonstrably for the public benefit.

Grant making policy

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

- * To supplement the services provided for the health, welfare and comfort of all patients at the hospital and other persons in the community by the provision of facilities, buildings, equipment and staff (both paid and voluntary)
- * To provide or procure the provision of the training and professional development of hospital staff
- * To recruit and to assist in the recruitment of voluntary workers in and for the hospital or for any activity of The Friends
- * To promote, encourage, foster and maintain public interest in and support for the hospital
- * To raise funds (but not by means of taxable trading).

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 confirming that the equipment or services meets an agreed need and will be used for regular beneficial use.

Objectives for 2024-2025

- * Support fund raising for the benefit of the charity
- * 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 a ring-fenced budget
- * Fund the acquisition of equipment and capital developments
- * Administer the Friends' charity Shop
- * Support hospital staff and our volunteers

Liaison with Dorset HealthCare NHS Trust

Meetings were held both electronically and in person with senior managers of Dorset HealthCare Trust and partner health organizations across Dorset to discuss the services provided at the hospital.

The Locality Manager and Hospital Matron were in regular contact with the Trustees' Committee.

Grants for Equipment and Services

The charity was able to fund additional projects at the hospital.

- £96,000 paid for improvements to the Ultrasound Department
- £14,000 funded higher specification gynaecological theatre equipment
- Commissioned a Breathless Service provided by Lewis Manning at the hospital, £14,500
- Commissioned Creative Support for Patients as provided by Salisbury Hospital £15,000

Charity Shop

The Charity Shop is self-funding with limited profit at the end of each year. The shop however makes a valuable contribution to public awareness in the town. The shop has the only paid persons within the charity with two part time staff; all other work is carried out by Volunteers.

Financial Review

Reserves Policy

The Committee's policy is to keep funds to a minimum of £100,000 accessible for fixed costs.

Undesignated and unrestricted funds totalled £4,577,322 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, and these in turn respond 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 to help minimise the risk to the funds.

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 24-25 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 Ultrasound department and the continuation of commissioned services for activities to support rehabilitation and Breathlessness Services.

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 reorganization 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, one new trustee was 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 website is securely hosted and passworded. We publish a newsletter twice a year which is sent to all members and widely available locally. 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 and 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 enjoys enduring local support. This last

Wimborne — Annual Report 2024/25

element most significantly ensures the future of the charity.

Sources of Income

Whilst legacies continue to be a valuable source of income the interest from savings has been the greatest producer of income this year. The Shop surplus and supporters' 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 staff, 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 Friends are 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 and updated in 2021.

We continued to work on the priorities outlined in our 5 year strategy. We appointed one new trustee.

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

One new trustee joined during the year. Mrs Linda Hollingbery.

Plans for the Future

Once the Car Park scheme has been

completed, the Friends will focus on the next project which will be to support improvements to the Physiotherapy and Minor Injuries Unit. This is expected to cost in the region of £2.5m but could result in being in excess of this figure.

Our strategy identifies five aims

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.

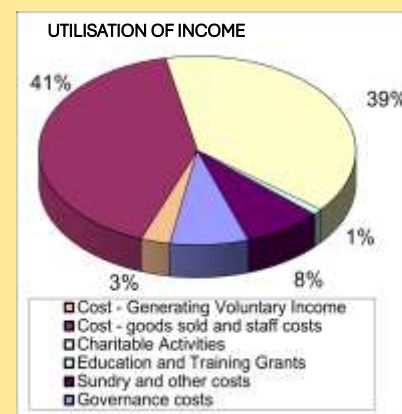
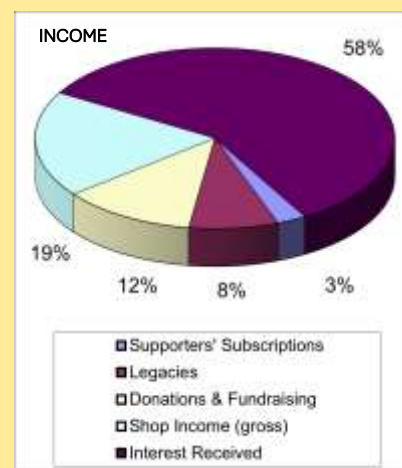
5. Finance and Risk: keep probity arrangements strong; more informal meetings for trustees.

Auditors for 24/25 Frances Clark, Towngate House, 2-8 Parkstone Road, Poole, BH15 2PW

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

These figures are extracted from the audited financial statements which are available for inspection on request to the Trustees

	2024	2025
INCOME	£	£
Supporters' Subscriptions	11,026	7,978
Legacies	100,571	24,133
Donations & Fundraising	13,132	38,589
Shop Income (gross)	50,167	59,483
Interest Received	243,257	178,161
Total	418,153	308,344
UTILISATION OF INCOME		
Cost - Generating Voluntary Income	2,328	3,642
Cost - goods sold and staff costs	66,893	52,250
Charitable Activities	1,622,010	51,172
Education and Training Grants	0	1,505
Sundry and other costs	63,258	10,564
Governance costs	9,625	10,575
Total	1,764,114	129,708
Profit/(Loss) on investments	0	(76)
Excess of income / expenditure	(1,345,961)	178,560
Balance Sheet Summary		
Current assets:		
Stock of cards	132	1,125
Debtors & prepaid expenses	92,732	29,812
Investments	0	7,379
	92,864	38,316
Bank & cash balances and investments	4,446,637	4,581,518
	4,539,501	4,619,834
Total assets	4,539,501	4,619,834
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	122,770	42,512
Net assets	4,416,731	4,577,322
Reserves brought forward	5,762,692	4,398,762
Excess of income/expenditure	(1,345,961)	178,560
Reserves carried forward	4,416,731	4,577,322



NHS PLAN

The new 10 year NHS Plan has now been published. Further information is available on line at <http://england.nhs.uk/long-term-plan/>

MAILING LIST

Like many charities we are trying to reduce our costs. One cost saving could be sending our newsletter by email instead of posting. As a trial, to those subscribers for whom we have an email address, we will post and email a copy. If you receive your copy by email can you confirm to us that you are happy, in future to only have an email copy. Please check your Junk folder. In addition can any subscriber that would be happy to receive a copy by email in future, please contact us on dhc.fvhw@nhs.net and share with us your e mail details.

From our next publication we will only send our newsletter to those who have subscribed during the year.

FUNDRAISING DIARY DATES

On Saturday 23rd, Sunday 24th and Monday 25th August at Pamphill Village Hall, Twenty4Art are holding their annual exhibition. We are pleased to be providing tea and homemade cakes. Please come along, we would love to see you.

18th September Annual General Meeting at Allendale House in the Bankes and Hanham rooms at 6.30. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Friends of Victoria Hospital Wimborne Newsletter

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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 ☐

Sign Here: _____

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.

OR you can apply by visiting our website www.friendswimbornehospital.org.uk