



Friends of Victoria Hospital

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

Issue No. 59

Charity No 299230

2026

Chair's Corner



"Supporting Wimborne Hospital to provide excellent care".

Dear Members

The success of Wimborne Hospital lies in the highly qualified and caring staff that you meet at the Hospital. This became clear to me as I worked with a production company to film a video of what the hospital provides and how the "Friends" contribute to these services. Celebrating over 90 years since the original charity was formed, 2026 is a good time to reflect on what remains from those early days. I believe these to be:-

The ethos of serving the community - staff who are proud to work at the hospital and volunteers who are the "backbone" of the Friends.

Local people and organisations supporting and funding the "Friends" - over 80% costs of all capital building works at the hospital.

A personal and friendly feel to the hospital which is highly valued - as seen by the comments on Facebook and letters we receive.

The highest standards of care as shown by the external accreditation of endoscopy and radiology departments.

People do sometimes ask "Why doesn't the NHS provide what you do?" I'd like to think that in its simplest terms the Friends "reaches the parts the NHS budget cannot meet". We can only achieve what we do by working closely with NHS colleagues to understand the NHS pressures and priorities: to agree how *your* investment can be best used to support continuous improvement at the hospital

In this newsletter you will read about the progress that has been made over the last year and our plans for 2026. Predicting the future 90 years is speculative, but it will likely be influenced by developments in technology, demographic shifts like an ageing population and new models of care such as virtual wards and care in the community.

Wimborne Hospital will be well placed to meet these challenges.

Can I wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2026.

HOW TIMES CHANGE



A few interesting facts about the Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne:-

In 1887, a meeting was called in Wimborne to discuss the forthcoming jubilee of Queen Victoria and how Wimborne should mark this. The proposal of a cottage hospital was up against 12 other ideas, including the provision of a town clock, the erection of a statue of Queen Victoria in the Square or indeed the erection of a statue of Queen Victoria in the square with a clock on the top!

How lucky are we, that the idea of a cottage hospital for the poor became the adopted proposal?

Sir Richard Glyn D.S.O was the first President, and the land was generously provided by Sir John Hanham, leased at a peppercorn rent. The first nurse matron was Miss Baker who was on duty, day and night. The hospital had 6 beds and depended on donations from the local community of food and goods.

In 1902 Sir Richard Glyn expressed the hope that the hospital might be a little more hygienic by separating the bath from the operating theatre. Local practitioners performed operations and visiting consultants started to expand activities.

During the First World War, 12-13 beds were used for the treatment of wounded soldiers requiring operations. Between both World Wars, a variety of new services were provided at the hospital reflecting the new developments in medicine such as an X-ray unit and a maternity ward and in 1948 it became part of the National Health Service, transitioning from its voluntary origins.

The Friends of Victoria Hospital (originally formed as the Wimborne Hospital League, in 1935) continue to support the delivery of first-class services at Wimborne Hospital.

The Hospital remains deeply connected to Wimborne, retaining its ethos of serving the community with strong backing from local residents and volunteers.

Celebrating 90 Years

To celebrate 90 years of the Friends of Wimborne Hospital a short video was commissioned about the hospital and the work the Friends do to help.

Patients told us how grateful they were for the community hospital.

The Friends talked about the work they do to support the hospital and how they receive funding from legacies, the charity shop, fundraising activities and supporters and local organisations.

The video shows how the Hospital has benefited over the years and how 80% of all capital developments have been funded by local people supporting the Friends.

The video shows different departments at the Hospital, features both staff and patients as well as trustees of the Friends and our local charity shop.

The aim was to bring greater awareness to the quality of work that takes place at the hospital and the work of the Friends in supporting this.

Please visit our website to view the video at www.friendswimbornehospital.org.uk

New Trustee



Our grateful thanks to Sue Saddler for her work as Secretary over the last two years. We welcome Sue Lockwood as a new trustee who has taken on the role of Secretary to FVHW. Sue has lived in Wimborne for 38 years and has worked as a Radiographer in the NHS for over 50 years. Two of these years as a radiographer at Victoria Hospital in the early 2000s. Sue loves everything about Wimborne and now she's not working so much feels it is the right time to give something back to the community and still be involved with the NHS, which has been such an important part of her life. In her spare time Sue loves to read, walk, keep fit, travel and spend time with her ever expanding family of 4 children, their partners and 8 grandchildren Sue is looking forward to her new role

Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) and Physiotherapy Department

Members will be aware that a long standing ambition for the Friends has been to improve both the Physiotherapy and the Minor Injuries Unit.

Plans have been drawn up and approved for work to commence in March 2026 once the car park project has been finally completed.

The project will support an increase in paediatric and primary care treatment rooms in MIU, with greater privacy for patients.

The Physiotherapy Department will have an improved gym and spaces which will also enable greater privacy and confidentiality. The development will provide greater flexibility and an enhanced working environment for both patients and staff.

Watch this space..

Community Support



In October, The Wimborne Rotary nominated us as a local charity to whom they wished to donate. Following an excellent lunch at The Willet Arms we were presented with a cheque for £500.

In November, Specsavers were celebrating 2 years of the opening of their store in Wimborne. They took this occasion to raise money for The Friends. Despite it being a cold dull day, the public were willing to take part in the family games, the cake sales and the raffle. Their generosity raised £313.05



During November The Wimborne Choral Society held a concert in The Minster. The Friends were nominated as their chosen charity. The audience donated in total £425.40.

We have been so appreciative of the support that we have had. It is hoped that we can build further local relationships so that we can start to raise further funds to help with our next major project. (see further details in this Newsletter.)

Our Charity Shop

During the last six months the shop at 69 High Street, has been successful, benefiting from generous, high quality donations for which they are very grateful. The Manager Sarah, and the Deputy Manager Natasha, use the window to mark seasonal events such as the Wimborne Folk Festival and Remembrance Day. They also had an extra event to display in 2025, which was to celebrate the Charity's 90th year.

The Volunteers are key to the success of our shop. In December they enjoyed a thank you Christmas High Tea along with entertainment from the Skittle Alley Strummers. We are grateful to The Little Pickle at The Mill, Wimborne, along with Mike Lane and his Strummers for making the afternoon such a success. The Friends and Wimborne Hospital depend on volunteers to support the work in the hospital and also at our Charity Shop.

The Charity Shop benefits from the support of 14 dedicated volunteers. The Hospital has recently recruited two new volunteers on the ward and three more are due to start soon. We would like to offer them all a warm welcome.

You will meet volunteers when visiting the shop or in various departments at our local Victoria Hospital. If you are interested in volunteering with the Friends of Victoria Hospital Wimborne then please email us on dhc.fvhw@nhs.net or phone 01202 848031 and ask to speak to the Manager about volunteering opportunities.

If you are interested in volunteering at the hospital then please contact Dorset HealthCare NHS Trust on dhc.volunteers@nhs.net or 01202 443261



Picture: Little Pickle at the Mill

Subscriptions and Donations

Subscriptions continue on an annual basis and form a very important part of our charity funds. Random donations and legacies are, as you can imagine, unpredictable, but we are so grateful that they continue. Arranging subscriptions can be done on line through our web site, "How To Help". In the event that there are questions about legacies we recommend legal advice through your preferred solicitors or our new trustee. One of our trustees, Martin Pate of MJP Law can explain your options and if this is of interest please email dhc.fvhw@nhs.net

Car Park Progress

There has been a slight delay in completing the car park because of the appalling weather over the winter and the target date now is February/March 2026. Landscaping is in progress, shrub and trees are being planted and it looks great. The car park will be a real asset to the hospital, enabling patients to comfortably access appointments and departments.

Options for subscriptions or donations

You will recognise the familiar form below which many have used over the years to set up regular subscriptions or single donations. Please know that there is also a quicker and simpler process by accessing our website, www.friendswimbornehospital.org.uk, the "How to Help" section. We hope over time that this process will become the favoured approach.

TRUSTEES

Officers:

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

Trustees:

Dr Colin Davidson
Dr David Dickson
Mrs Linda Hollingbury
Mr Lee Hardy
Mr Jeff Hart
Mrs Sharon Powell
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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 The 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.