



Friends of Victoria Hospital

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

No. 60

Charity No 299230

2026

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 6.30pm on 3 September 2026 at Allendale House, Wimborne

Chair's Corner

"Supporting Wimborne Hospital to provide excellent care"



Dear Supporters

April 16th, 2026, saw the official opening of the long-awaited improved and expanded car parking, at the Hospital which was fully funded by the Friends. It improves access for patients, visitors and staff while supporting the future expansion of local healthcare services. It

also marks a major milestone in the on-going evolution of the community hospital site, which is run by Dorset HealthCare.

As the Lord Lieutenant noted at the opening ceremony, "It is not just a car park". We all know as a patient or visitor to any Hospital, that it is not unusual to feel generally anxious and concerned. Just being able to safely park, helps to reduce stress. Staff being able to park, also helps with recruitment and retention.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the Wimborne Community who have donated to the charity over many years. Thank you to you all.

Our grateful thanks to Richard Craigmile (Capital Project Manager for Dorset HealthCare Trust) for his dedicated work on driving through the car park works and also Martin Stewart (Stewarts Garden Centre) for supporting some of the beautiful planting.

Our next project relates to improvements for the Physiotherapy and Minor Injuries Department which will commence later this year. It is likely to take over 10 months for the work to be completed and hopefully completed during 2027.

We look forward to meeting with you at the Annual General Meeting to be held at :

**Allendale House at 6.30
on Thursday 3rd September.**

We now have our New Car Park at our hospital

The New and improved car parking facilities at Victoria Hospital in Wimborne have been officially opened, significantly improving access for patients, visitors and staff while supporting the future expansion of local healthcare services.

The development represents a £3 million investment in the site, fully funded by the Friends of Victoria Hospital, and marks a major milestone in the on-going evolution of the community hospital site, which is run by Dorset HealthCare. Thank you to all that have donated to the charity over the years which has made this possible.

The project delivers significantly improved vehicle access, with larger parking spaces and room for 45 additional vehicles, helping to ease congestion and improve the overall experience for people attending the hospital.

The expansion was made possible following the purchase of adjoining land previously occupied by Wimborne Town Football Club. Representatives from Dorset HealthCare, the Friends of Victoria Hospital, and the local community – including town Mayor Cllr Jeff Hart – gathered for an official opening ceremony.



The project also includes a range of environmentally sustainable features, such as electric vehicle charging points for staff, wildlife-sensitive lighting that dims when not in use, new tree and shrub planting, and an expanded, secure cycle shelter for staff. These measures support Dorset HealthCare's Green Plan and wider NHS net zero ambitions.

The Easter Bunny Run

Yet again The Friends of Victoria Hospital Wimborne have benefited from the proceeds of The Easter Bunny Run held and organised by the Bascombe Family at Mannington. This year, 2026, was their 27th run. 49 tractors participated and their run took them through East Dorset villages, out skirts of Wimborne and the Tarrant and Allen valleys. Starting with a bacon bap and ending with home made cakes everyone had a good day and The Friends benefitted from £900 of donations, what an amazing collection and so very appreciated.



Community Hospitals Association (CHA) National Conference

Dr David Pope (President) and Mrs Anne Salter (Chair) were asked to present the work of the Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne at the CHA in May 2026.

"Improving healthcare by working in partnership with the NHS – contribution, impact and lessons learnt by the Friends of Wimborne Hospital"

Across the country there are now 365 Community Hospitals with inpatient beds and 118 with no inpatient beds. Professor Chris Whitty shared how changing demographics and life expectancy were affecting community hospitals. He saw their role as key to delivering the NHS 10-year plan and the shift to community care with same day diagnostics, integrated staff hubs and by creating digital spaces for health management.



Friends of Wimborne Hospital Trustee's

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

"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.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

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. A joint memorandum of agreement outlines how the two organisations will work together on a project.

Objectives for 2025-2026

- 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

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

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

Grants are awarded following careful consideration of the board on their impact and suitability to the objectives of the charity. During the year, the following grants were included in the accounts:

- Car Park - costs of £1,325,437
- Training costs - £609
- Commissioned a Breathless Service provided by Lewis Manning at the hospital, £7,400
- Commissioned Creative Support for Patients as provided by Salisbury Hospital £14,535
- Interactive Projector rental - £1,410 was paid in the year for a trial of the projector. Costs of £7,500 were originally planned and accrued but following an unsuccessful trial, these costs are no longer expected to be incurred and have been reversed.

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 and resource for two others where required; all other work is carried out by Volunteers.

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. The FVHW commemorated 90 years of service as a charity and features in community publications. During 2025 a video was commissioned to promote the work of the Friends and to increase awareness of the services the hospital provides. The video has been widely publicised.

Sources of Income

A sustainable income and ability to support the hospital on an ongoing basis are key to the success of the charity. 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 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 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.

Financial review

The charity had income in the year of £918,236 (2025: £308,344) and expenditure of £1,422,775 (2025: £129,708). The charity has free unrestricted reserves of £4,072,783 at the year end (2025: £4,577,322).

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 element most significantly ensures the future of the charity.

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 £4,072,783 at the year end (please refer to the Plans for the Future section). 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.

Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

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. (Now to be uplifted to the £120,000 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 is dependent on the hospital's requirements. This is outside the direct control of the Friends, so not susceptible to standard budgeting. In the year 25-26 we met all demands on our resources and continue to budget in consultation with Dorset Healthcare for major projects. These included completion of the environment within the Ultrasound department and the continuation of commissioned services for activities to support re-habilitation and Breathlessness Services.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. 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 trustee resigned, (Sue Saddler), and 2 new trustees were appointed, Mrs Susan Lockwood and Mr Martin Pate.

Plans for future periods

In 2026-2027 the Friends will focus on a project to support improvements to the Physiotherapy and Minor Injuries Unit. This is expected to cost in the region of £2.9m. In addition a project to improve the patients garden will be supported.

A project group will work on developing a brochure for a "free will programme" to maximise legacy income.

Our strategy identifies five aims:

1. Capital Developments: work with Dorset Healthcare to enable upgrading of facilities in relationship to equipment or capital projects.

2. Workforce support: build on co-operative ventures, supporting staff and nurturing strong relationships
3. Volunteering: actively seek additional trustees or volunteers 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.

Structure, governance and management

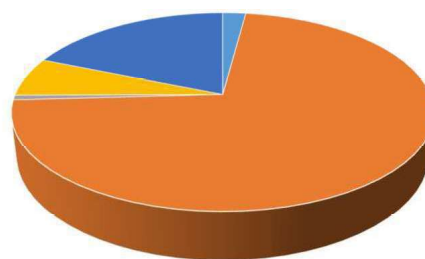
The Friends are a Society which is a registered charity (Number 299230) and whose business is conducted and managed by its Committee of Trustees. The charity is governed by rules adopted in 1950, as amended 20 June 1959, 27 June 1990 and 24 June 1992. A revised Constitution was approved and updated in 2021.

A legal team has been appointed to transfer the current arrangement and governance to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Relevant policies have been updated

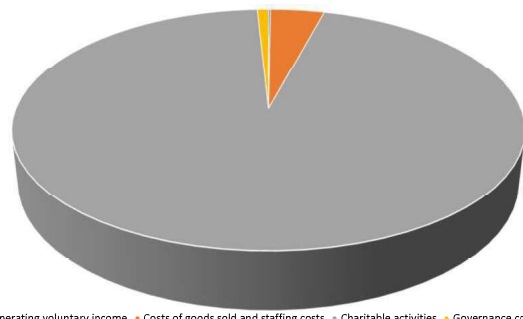
FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
Income		
Donations and Fundraising	19,288	36,999
Legacies	661,323	24,133
Supporter's Subscriptions	6,930	9,568
Shop Income	58,235	59,483
Interest Received	172,460	178,161
Total	918,236	308,344
Utilisation of income		
Generating voluntary income	2,129	3,642
Costs of goods sold and staffing costs	57,584	52,250
Charitable activities	1,351,121	56,044
Governance costs	11,940	17,772
Total	1,422,775	129,708
Profit / (Loss) on Investments	-	76
Excess of Income / Expenditure	504,539	178,560
Balance Sheet Summary		
Current Assets		
Stock of Cards	1,636	1,125
Debtors, prepayments and accrued income	79,092	29,812
Investments	-	7,379
Bank & Cash Balances and Investments	5,349,968	4,581,518
Total	5,430,695	4,619,834
Total assets	5,430,695	4,619,834
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	1,357,912	42,512
Net Assets	4,072,783	4,577,322
Reserves Brought Forward	4,577,322	4,398,762
Excess of Income / Expenditure	504,539	178,560
Reserves Carried Forward	4,072,783	4,577,322

INCOME



UTILISATION OF INCOME



These financial figures are an extract from, and do not constitute, the charity's full statutory accounts. The full annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 have been audited. The auditor's report was unqualified and did not include a reference to any matters of emphasis. Full statutory accounts will be delivered to the Charity Commission. Copies of the full audited accounts can be obtained from the Charity Commission website.

Focus on the Xray Department

People often ask the Friends "So what difference have your funds made to a particular service, staff or patients?" Here is an example of where a clear difference has been made:-

Since the refurbishment of the two X-ray rooms at VHW the Hospital have seen a constant increase in footfall and activity.

Post New Rooms Upgraded, and equipment installed:

Number of X-Rays

2023
8,957

2024
11,379

2025
12,477

**X-Rays 2026 to date = 6,763
to May 2026 (ONLY 5 MONTHS)**

This shows a year-on-year increase. It is expected that this will level out this year and then increase again in 2027 due to extra staffing. A new member of staff starts in July ensuring that a member of staff is always on site.

System changes now mean that GP surgeries can now easily request for patients to have their Xray done at Wimborne.

The Friends of Victoria Hospital Wimborne Newsletter

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Independent Auditor for 25/26:

TCGroup, Waverley House, Holdenhurst
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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