



TORBAY HOSPITAL  
**League of Friends**  
*Helping to care...*



**Over £20 Million raised...**

**...so far!**



Since the formation of Torbay Hospital League of Friends, we have raised over £20 million for the Hospital.



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If you would like to volunteer for one of our committees, or for any other enquiry, please contact:

Mr P.F.V White (Secretary) ..... 01803 298170  
 Highlyn, 6 Haldon Close. Torquay,TQ1 2NA  
 Email.....info@thlof.co.uk

## With Special Thanks

We would like to thank all of you who have contributed to making the Torbay Hospital League of Friends such a success, and we hope you will enjoy reading about how we continue to raise funds to carry on the good work.

There are over 140 volunteers working in the Hospital, under the umbrella of the League.

When you have read this newsletter please pass it to a friend or neighbour to help publicise the work of **Torbay Hospital League of Friends**. Visit our website at [www.thlof.co.uk](http://www.thlof.co.uk)



# AGM Update

**In May 2019, at our AGM, the Hospital informed us that they were planning a new Emergency Department and asked if we would consider funding the equipment for this exciting new project. We said yes and started to raise the £1.5 million requested.**

The new plans would mean a new entrance alongside Outpatients on Level 2, and an extension to our Butterflies Café. We were in for some exciting times!

Then the pandemic hit worldwide, and the country went into lockdown. The League was affected as clinics were reduced, the Butterflies Café was closed, and the guides were no longer needed. All of our events, quiz nights, cream teas, and the bed push were cancelled.

Due to Covid, the plans for the Emergency Department were brought forward and altered. The department needed to be expanded to allow for social distancing. A new Medical Receiving Unit (MRU) will be built on Level 2 and will incorporate the space previously occupied by the League of Friends and other offices and departments. Unfortunately, this means that the Butterflies Café, League of Friends office, and the guides area will no longer be available to us.

The Secretary for the league said Mr White said: "We had hoped that when the pandemic subsided, and it was safe to do so, we would be able to resume as before.

"In December, however, we were told our café would have to close permanently along

with our office and sales area. This came as a great disappointment to us as we have had a very successful café on level 2 for many years.

"Due to the hard work and devotion of hundreds of volunteers there is no doubt that Butterflies has made a huge contribution both to the trust and the main charity.

"However, we had to respect the decision and we were reassured that the League of Friends is highly valued by the trust and that they were committed to working with us to find a mutually agreeable solution to ensure an ongoing presence within the hospital." Volunteers were told the news in January, and so far all have said they are prepared to continue.

Mr White went on: "Our favoured option is we should be granted a purpose-built office and sales area on Level 4 to complement the main entrance to the hospital.

"This would allow us to have a presence in a central position and at the same time have a base from which to sell raffle tickets and donated goods as well as generally acting as 'front of house' ambassadors for the League.

"There is no question of the League "being left out in the cold".

"Whilst the loss of Butterflies is a blow to us, the League enjoys widespread support throughout the community and benefits from generous donations and legacies.

## Where has our E-News been?

Since March the League has not published our monthly E-News due to the self-isolation. It is now back in publication and will be published on a bi-monthly basis. If you would like to receive our e-news then please message us on [info@thlof.co.uk](mailto:info@thlof.co.uk) and you will be put on the mailing list.

## Pennies in Plastic

**Pennies in Plastic is now nearing £6,000, please do keep saving your loose change in plastic bottles.**

**When they are full, the office at level 2 will be glad to receive them.**



**£5581 Raised (So Far)**



# OUR LATEST PROJECT

**Our latest project is the equipping of the new proposed Emergency Department.**

The Hospital has started the conversion work and then the £1.5 million will be needed

The current situation with Covid-19 has put paid to our major events for the time being so the fund raising has stalled slightly so we are asking you to think about

1. Has your work place a collection tin or bucket, if not we would be happy to supply one
2. Does your workplace have a charity of the year, if not ask if they would make us their beneficiary
3. Why not collect pennies in plastic
4. Organise small events yourself

**Help us to support and make your hospital the best is the west.**

## Needed Supplies

We may not be on Level 2, but fundraising doesn't stop. We are still supplying new equipment. Last month we agreed to supply 2 Bariatric Stair Climbers for Patient Transport, Ipads for General Theatres. 4 Catheter Trolleys for the Cardiac Care Unit, and a Bile Duct Ultrasound Unit for Upper GI Surgery.



## Walking For William

£2000 Raised

In October 2020, Katie Hurd walked the South West Coast Path to raise money in memory of her Father, local poet, William Oxley who passed away earlier in the year. Her endeavours raised £2763.24, which is going to the Heart Unit.

## Get Kitted for Summer

We are selling our green garden chairs. They are £2 each, or 4 for £5. Some are in good condition, whilst some have a few scratch marks. Don't hang around as they are selling fast. Contact us on ... [info@thlof.co.uk](mailto:info@thlof.co.uk)

## Mask Up

If you are interested in buying a mask and supporting the work of the League @ £3.99 each, please contact us on. [info@thlof.co.uk](mailto:info@thlof.co.uk)

## A Lockdown Christmas

Although we were in Lockdown in Christmas 2020, it did not stop the League buying a small gift of a League pen and protective mask for patients in hospital on Christmas Day.

## New committee in office

The Junior League Committee is ending its year in office. A new committee will be voted in soon. They recently raised £1560 from organising a Free Style Friday. We appreciate their hard work and support.

£1560 Raised



## Meet The Team

### Vice President

My road to the League started in Hertfordshire, where I was born and educated. My working life started as a telegram boy, then window cleaner, and then working in a motorcycle shop. I then got a job working at a long stay hospital for people with learning disabilities as a domestic, and over the years, worked my way up to being a Domestic Services Manager with responsibilities for the cleanliness of the hospital, window cleaning, the nurse's home, and pest control. I worked there for 18 years. During that time I organised a cricket match and a golf chipping competition to raise funds for the hospital.

I have been happily married to Cathy for 46 years, who I met at the hospital. We moved to Devon in 1989, where we purchased a Care Home, and ran it for 29 years until we retired. I organised a silent auction for a Muse album, and a tandem parachute jump during that time.

A friend suggested that I might like to join The League of Friends, where I became Vice Chairman, then Chairman. I was given the role of Special Activities Coordinator, then Vice President, and recently took over the editing of the Newsletter and the Website.

I enjoyed helping to organise the Garden Party at the Palace Hotel, and cream tea events. Every August you could find several of the Trustees, along with some of the Hospital Directors, pushing a hospital bed along the sea front in Torquay to raise funds. We shall hopefully do it again this year!

The Christmas draw is always a joy, and I like nothing better than asking companies to donate prizes.

I have always been interested in old motorcycles, and Rock and Roll. Hobbies include my allotment, travel, and tracing my family tree. I have found 3 half brothers and a half sister. The brothers have all met once, and we are hoping to meet again when the pandemic allows us to do so.

*Mr David Rogers*



### President

As you will read in this Newsletter things are changing at Torbay Hospital. This will affect The League of Friends but these changes are out of our control.

I am sure that we are all very proud of our League which was founded over 65 years ago and has donated more than 20 million pounds to support our Local Hospital.

Every effort will be made to continue our presence in the Hospital and to keep our volunteer's work going but at present no decisions have been made. Let us be optimistic and look forward to better, if different, things to come.

*Patricia Roberts*



## Chairman

I have had the privilege and honour of being the Acting Chairman, and then Chairman of the Torbay Hospital League of Friends since the Summer of 2017. Due to Covid I have served a year longer than anticipated due to our inability to hold an AGM.

Just before I started we had funded the equipping of the new Intensive Care Unit to the tune of £1.6 million. My first big project was to fund the replacement of the Endoscopy cameras; another project that cost over £1.3million. As well as these large projects, we continue to give much smaller amounts of money on a regular basis. None of this work would be possible without the incredible generosity of local people.

I got to meet many of these lovely people during my time working in Butterflies Café, selling draw tickets in Outpatients, and attending the many different events and fairs that we have been involved with.

I wish my successor Roy Tuttle every best wish for the future, as we carry on during these difficult times.

*Kathryn Westaway*



**Although we publish a newsletter in Spring and Autumn we also send out a update monthly update by e-mail, to receive this e-news message us on [info@thlof.co.uk](mailto:info@thlof.co.uk)**

## Torbay Hospital League Of Friends Junior League

On behalf of all members of the current Junior League of Friends we would like to say a huge thank you for giving us the opportunity to be a part of the team and have involvement in the fantastic fundraising for Torbay Hospital.

Throughout the past year, we have raised money by holding cake sales, running refreshment stands at many parent's evenings and open evenings at our school- Torquay Girls Grammar School. We received a large proportion of the total funds from the Freestyle-Friday event where pupils were allowed to spend every Friday in non-school uniform if they were willing to donate a small amount of money to charity organisations.

Therefore, a total of £1844.48 has been raised by the current Junior League of Friends team!

We are pleased to announce that the new team has now been chosen and will be taking over from us imminently. Maddie Andrea will be taking over from myself as the new Chair while Nushrat Farren will be handing her current Vice Chair position over to Maddie Hooker. The two girls, along with the other new team members, have all said how excited they are to get started with fundraising for the hospital in the near future.

It has been an absolute privilege being a member of the League of Friends and we wish you all the very best

*Sophie Wall* Past Chair



## Trust Chairman

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

***I write this with sunshine streaming through the office window in Hengrave House, very much hoping that this is an indicator of brighter things to come and that a vibrant spring is inbound.***

Certainly there is a feeling about your hospital that some light might be starting to show at the end of what has been a long and difficult tunnel. Our front line staff have been, and remain magnificent. The support and encouragement that you have provided to them this last 12 months has meant a great deal, and I start by offering sincere thanks on their behalf. I think this is especially important to state against a backdrop where I acknowledge that the loss of Butterflies Café and the base for the League of Friends on level 2 has made your continued engagement difficult.

I for one miss dropping in to see the League volunteers there, always smiling, always welcoming the public that we serve. It is a sadness that the need to create separate pandemic and non-pandemic related pathways made this necessary and unavoidable. I'm also acutely aware that for many the rigours of shielding and (dare I say as someone now officially a senior citizen!), the implications of age, would have made being on site very difficult. The good news here though is that the improved emergency pathways which came out of this have proved to be hugely successful. Our statistics have improved and feedback from patients has been very positive. Perhaps most telling is our ambulance wait record, which is significantly improved and is one of the best in our region. Of course, much of this is a result of the League's generous support, for which I thank you all – you should feel very proud of your contribution to this success. Having mentioned our emergency department, I could write at length about all the other areas that have delivered so very well. I see genuinely remarkable dedication everywhere I go. The vaccinators for example have worked wonders in a very short time, delivering some 17000 jabs. (Less than half of those have been Trust staff – Care homes, volunteers, ambulance crews and a variety of other qualifying groups have benefited). Our wards have been and remain pretty full over the winter (it's easy to overlook that winter pressures would have been a challenge on your hospital even without the pandemic being superimposed). The benefits of being an Integrated Care Organisation have been very obvious here, with us being able to use first Totnes and then Brixham community hospitals for Covid patients that didn't need acute hospital facilities, managing the capacity accordingly. The Exeter Nightingale has proved its worth too, with a number of the staff from this Trust. One of the significant and unfortunate impacts has of course been on planned activity. Along with the level 2 entrance, we have had no option but to make use of the Day Surgery Unit ( DSU) to achieve our pandemic response. As Covid numbers drop, and as I write this, we are planning to increase delivery of surgical activity on Ella Rowcroft ward, and looking to how we can re-constitute the DSU thereafter.

Looking to the future, in the short term we are really keen to re-establish the League of Friends presence on the hospital site. This is unashamedly in the hospital's best interest and therefore to the benefit of the people we serve. The estates and financial teams are working with LoF trustees to determine how this can best happen, and I'm grateful for your patience and determination during what I know has been a difficult and disappointing period. Liz Davenport and I meet (virtually) on a regular basis with Philip and Kathryn who have made your position clear, and I'm grateful. In the longer term, the implications of the Health Infrastructure Plan (HIP2) money are of course profoundly important. Whilst they will have a major impact on the buildings of the acute site, the equipment (particularly those that will be difficult to fund from public sources) will benefit from any League of Friends input that you are prepared to consider. We will keep you updated on progress and expect to have set out our early plans by July 2021. By then, all the indicators are that the implications of lockdown and minimising fallout at the hospital will be easing. It will be good as a consequence to see old friends face to face again, and welcome you back to your hospital. In the meantime, as Trust Chairman please permit me to offer heartfelt thanks for your patience and continued engagement during what has been a very testing period.

*Sir Richard Ibbotson*



# How you can help...

Visit our website [www.thlof.co.uk](http://www.thlof.co.uk) Become a Friend of the League or an active member and join one of our district teams and receive a twice yearly newsletter and other mail shots. Email us on [info@thlof.co.uk](mailto:info@thlof.co.uk) if you are interested.

## Thank You Donations...

Donations can be sent to our secretary **Philip White, Highlyn, 6 Haldon Close, Torquay, TQ1 2NA**

If your donation can be 'gift aided' this will significantly increase the value to the Charity. Please contact the Secretary if you would like a Gift Aid form.

## Volunteer

Even a couple of hours a week can make a real difference. If you would like to become a more active member of the League of Friends, such as helping with Fund raising or with League events, please contact the Hon Secretary Philip White

## Leave a legacy

We hope our hospital plays a role in everyone living a long and happy life. Leaving a gift to charity is an amazing way for your generosity to last beyond your own lifetime.

*Please ask if you would like to receive our legacy information leaflet.*

## Support us through Amazon

There is much more online shopping at the moment so if you shop on Amazon you can make a difference: Simply shop at [smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/200905-0](http://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/200905-0) or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app, and AmazonSmile donates to - The Torbay Hospital League Of Friends.



Visit our website [www.thlof.co.uk](http://www.thlof.co.uk)

## Future Events

**We are not planning any future events at this difficult time, when times return to normal events will be announced in e-news.**

Everyone is very welcome to join us at any of our fundraising or information events.

Information on any of these events can be obtained by emailing [info@thlof.co.uk](mailto:info@thlof.co.uk).

Details will also be in the monthly e-news, nearer the time; so please make sure we have your e-mail address.

**We would love to see you.**



**95p in every £1**  
*Donated goes directly to supporting our charitable causes.*

TORBAY HOSPITAL  
**League of Friends**  
*Helping to care...*



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