



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



## **Critical Care Unit Success...**

***We couldn't have done it without you!***

The seafront bed push was wacky enough to draw attention and get the good people of Torbay to empty their pockets and open their wallets, taking us over our £1.6m target for our ambitious **'This is critical'** campaign.

Read more inside about how this money will be spent for the benefit of our community and find out how you can help the **Torbay Hospital League of Friends** with its next challenge.

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## Contact us

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
- Butterflies Café..... 01803 654520
- League of Friends Office..... 01803 654520

## With Special Thanks

In this new-style edition of our newsletter we would like thank the many volunteers and donors who have helped us to reach our target for the Critical Care Unit (CCU).

There are over 140 volunteers working in the hospital, under the umbrella of the League. These include: the trolley service; manning the Butterflies Café; meeting and greeting people in the main entrance and showing them to different parts of the hospital; delivering documents for the consultants and much much more.

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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)



***I feel very honoured to be elected Chairman of Torbay Hospital League of Friends and hope that during my tenure it continues to go from strength to strength.***

When I joined the League it was working hard to raise £1.6 million for a new CCU – an ambitious target that has already been achieved.

After selling my businesses I studied at University and undertook a number of research projects that included aspects of human and animal health.

I was then recruited to serve as a monitor of economic aid projects worldwide and I was fortunate enough to visit many countries examining many projects.

These covered a wide range of topics from health and peacekeeping to aiding subsistence farmers I hope that I can bring the experience I have gained to the benefit of the League of Friends and help it to move forward during the difficult times and continue to help the Hospital during such challenging times.

*Peter Welch*



## Helping to care...

***The League was invited to the topping out ceremony for the new Critical Care Unit (CCU)***

The picture shows League members joining the 'topping out' ceremony where hospital officials and contractors gathered to celebrate this key milestone in the construction of the CCU.

Sir Richard Ibbotson, Chairman of the Trust thanked the League for taking the lead in funding the purchase of some of the sophisticated kit for the unit. Significantly, he said that it was 90 years ago, almost to the day that Ella Rowcroft laid the first brick in the building of the hospital, which made today's achievement so special. He went on to say that this building was a concrete demonstration of the Trusts intention for the delivery of specialised care to patients.

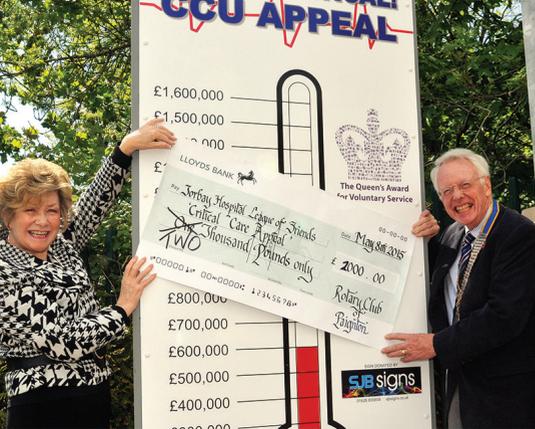
He said the existing 10 bed CCU was 30 years old so that what was being built now was a stunning change and great opportunity for improvement. The increase to 14 beds may not seem much but he said that it represented a high point in the development of critical care.

Above all he said the new unit would require some sophisticated kit and he was delighted that the League of Friends had taken the lead in funding this.

The final "topping out", was then undertaken by our president Patricia Roberts, with some help from the official party.

Patricia welded the final piece of roofing felt to symbolize the completion of the erection of this building.





## This is Critical...

**It has taken just two years for our ambitious 'This is Critical' campaign to reach £1.6million for the Hospital's new Critical Care Unit (CCU)**

It's a tremendous achievement made only thanks to the enormous commitment of the League's volunteers, together with very generous support from the population of Torbay and South Devon.

The hospital has invested £15m into the overall CCU project but the League's donation will help to equip this new unit and provide patients with the best possible care.

The League's CCU 'shopping list' comprised 28 pumps, an ultrasound machine, 2 Hemofiltration machines, 14 hi-tech beds including 4 bariatric beds, 14 Ventilators, 14 Patient monitors and pendants for mounting and a central monitoring unit.

**During its 62 year history, including the 'This is Critical' appeal, the League has now raised an incredible £16,805,595**

A key step in reaching the target for the CCU campaign was a fantastic contribution of £300,000 from the Paignton Hospital League of Friends, recognising that the new CCU will benefit patients from across the wider South Devon NHS area and showing the commitment and enthusiasm of the incredible network of Hospital Leagues.



## Meet the Volunteers

**Each issue we invite you to get know one of our many volunteers**

Katheryn Westaway is the Chair of our events committee - helping to run many fundraising events. A Torquay Girls Grammar School Alumna she has worked for local business Peter Hammond and Knapman Hayes. Following her husband's untimely death in 2013, Katheryn took a career break that ultimately led her to becoming more involved in the League.

'Unfortunately both daughters required the services of Torbay hospital for an extended period of time, which is when I came across the League of Friends in outpatients.

I volunteered to help them, and became a member of the management and events committee. I've never done anything like this before, and find it very enjoyable.

I am proud to be part of one of the most successful League of Friends in the country.'

*Katheryn Westaway*

## Junior League

We were delighted to hear from Charlotte Tonge, a past Chair of the Junior League who has gained a First Class Honours Degree in Sport and Exercise Science.

The Junior League is a very important, helping to raise money and awareness of the need for communities to support their local hospitals. Charlotte said 'I have realised I owe a lot of my success to the experience I gained with the League.

You can read Charlotte's article in full on our website. The league is expanding its network of Junior Leagues so if you know a school or pupil who would like to be part of this fun and rewarding group then do please get in touch.

## And this is how we did it...

**Here are just a few of the many, many events and donations that have helped the League to reach their amazing target.**



### Babbacombe Fair

A tombola, stalls and good cheer at the sunny Rotary Day on Babbacombe Downs.



### Cream Tea at the Palace

A delicious cream tea, raffle and entertainment from Tom Morris and the Devon Close Harmony Quartet boosted the appeal by over £3,500!



### Barn Dance

The first ever barn dance organised by Wellswood District took place at St. Martin's Church Community Hall in Barton on 8th July.



**£1219 Raised**

**The "Final Push" started on time on a bright Sunday morning, there were a lot of people around as it was August Bank holiday weekend.**

The push started at the bus shelter opposite the Grand Hotel and went along the seafront, across the millennium bridge down to Living Coast, then around the marina and back along the seafront to the bus shelter.

This was repeated 3 times, one lap lasted 2 hours! The members of the events committee were joined, at various times by; our president Pat Roberts, vice presidents Julia Herne and Trevor Brown, Lesley Drake, director of Estates and Rob Dyer medical director as well as doctors from the ICU and Dawn Parker and family.

Thanks to everyone who assisted but the main thanks to the people of Torbay who gave generously enabling us to collect £1219!

**£3673 Raised**

**£321 Raised**

## Christmas Draw

Tickets are now on sale, please contact Dave Rogers [x8dsr@talktalk.net](mailto:x8dsr@talktalk.net) if you think you will be able to sell a few, they are also on sale in the hospital.

**Christmas Cards are also on sale for the league in Butterflies Café.**



Picture shows Cheryl, Practice Manager from CAMHS and Simon Cleaton-Roberts, Looked after Children CAMHS Practitioner

### Young Mum says a Thousand Thanks to League of Friends.

A young Mum whose daughter nearly died in Torbay Hospital's critical care unit has said a thousand thank-yous for saving her life.

Lynsey Romeo's daughter Mia, now aged 4, was admitted to the hospital's Louisa Cary children's ward when she was just 10 weeks old. She was diagnosed with broncolitous and within hours was transferred to the intensive care unit. She was then treated at Bristol Children's Hospital where she underwent several operations including two heart surgeries.

*'I really believe that if it wasn't for the care she received in the ICU, Mia wouldn't be with us today. She has been taken to intensive care several times during her young life and the care she received there has always been outstanding. As well as being so professional and skilful, the staff managed to be very comforting and reassuring to me a distraught mother.'*

She added: 'I couldn't thank them enough and the only thing I could think of was to raise money for the unit. I managed to organise a fund raising event at PGL Barton Hall where my mother has worked for eight seasons. One of the team members, Iain, hosted the event and local businesses were incredibly generous with donated prizes. It was a fantastic evening and we managed to raise £1,228'

### Two benches funded by the League of Friends for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS)

June 2016 Cheryl Hoole, Practice Manager from CAMHS met with us to make a bid for the funding of a replacement bench in the garden of the Annexe. The original bench, also funded by the League, had become in poor repair and was no longer safe. The cost was £83.99. As this price was extremely competitive and time sensitive the Committee unanimously agreed to fund two benches and asked Cheryl to buy another plaque to go on the second bench.

Cheryl said "We are very grateful to the League of Friends for providing the money for these benches. They provide a small but amazingly positive addition to the garden, helping to sustain staff well-being and giving young people and their parents a way of accessing the garden to rest and take time out from what, sometimes, were distressing situations."



Lynsey, who is pictured with Mia, along with her sister Danielle and niece Bonnie, said:

'All the money in the world couldn't thank these wonderful people for what they did for me and Mia, so this is just a little thank you from us'

League of Friends chairman Peter Welch, who is pictured receiving Mia's cheque said: 'This is a wonderful gesture and so typical of the sort of stories we hear every day. Torbay Hospital is a great place filled with hard-working and dedicated staff, and we are privileged to be their main charity fund-raiser.'

The cash will go towards the League's £1.6 million 'This Is Critical' campaign to raise money to equip the hospital's new Critical Care Unit.

## News from the Hospital...

- We have formed stronger partnerships with our local voluntary sector, we are now working with two 'umbrella' partnerships in South Devon and Torbay and we have funded them to employ our 12 new Well-being Co-ordinators who will work in each of our localities.
- We are investing £5 million in local community services, including recruiting 66 additional staff to enhance our intermediate care service. As well as these additional staff we now also have GPs and pharmacists as part of our integrated teams.
- Our new self-referral physiotherapy service is helping people manage their hip and knee conditions and has reduced the need for surgical intervention.
- We have introduced a new way for GPs to get direct advice from our hospital consultants about their patients without the need for a hospital appointment. Now only those people who really need to come to hospital are referred.
- We are improving the Minor Injuries Service and establishing the new Health and Well-being Team who work closely with local GPs. Torquay is our other early implementer site and we will be rolling out these changes to our other three localities depending on the decisions from the current public consultation.
- In February, we had our first full CQC inspection, and inspectors were impressed by the compassion, care and innovation they saw right across our services, with many rated as good or outstanding. They also saw the huge pressure our system was under and the impact this had on people needing emergency and urgent care. The CQC rating of 'requires improvement' matched our own assessment, and the changes staff are making right across the Trust are making a real difference.



### Mairead McAlinden, Chief Executive of Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, said:

"I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the League of Friends, for the valuable work they do to support our staff to provide the best possible health and social care for the people of Torbay and South Devon, from the friendliness they experience when using the Butterflies Café to the comforts that the Linen League provide. Your work on our wards and departments contributed to our CQC rating as 'outstanding' for caring.

**The new CCU and main entrance project is progressing really well, with the building now being fully watertight and the external cladding to the main façade completed.**

In October the installation of the "Brise-soleil" started – this is an architectural feature which deflects sunlight, thus reducing heat gain and improving the building's energy efficiency.

On 1 October 2015, after almost two years of planning, we became Torbay and South Devon Foundation Trust, and it marked the next stage in our journey of truly integrated hospital and community care for local people. In the midst of so much change, it is easy to lose sight of how far we have already come, so I'd like to tell you about some of the successes of the last year.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the commitment of our staff and the support of our partners.

The League of Friends is our partner in care, and on behalf of all our staff I sincerely thank you for everything you do to support Torbay Hospital and the patients we care for.

*Mairead McAlinden*

# How you can help...

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 **Phillip 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. Contact the League of Friends office at the Hospital on **01803 654520**

If you would like to become a more active member of the League please consider whether you would like to join one of our District Committees and thereafter help with fund raising or organising League Events.

*Please contact the Hon Secretary Phillip 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.*

## Or just have a coffee

The Butterflies Café on Level 2 is run by the League and all profits go to supporting our causes. It has a lovely relaxed atmosphere and every cuppa is helping to support the care of the people of Torbay and South Devon.

*The Café is open from 9.30am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday.*

## Events

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

**We would love to see you.**

**4<sup>th</sup> NOV**

10.30am  
to 12.00pm

### Coffee Morning The Headland Hotel

Daddyhole Plain  
Tickets £5 from Mike Evans  
[pegandmike2@gmail.com](mailto:pegandmike2@gmail.com)

**21<sup>st</sup> JAN**

from  
7.00pm

### The League's Famous "Chish & Fips"

Hanbury's, Babbacombe  
Join us for food & friendship  
[lynne@websitevision.co.uk](mailto:lynne@websitevision.co.uk)

**28<sup>th</sup> JAN**

from  
xx.00pm

### Ten Pin Bowling

For full details contact  
Lynne Hookings  
[lynne@websitevision.co.uk](mailto:lynne@websitevision.co.uk)

**95p in every £1**

*Donated goes directly to  
supporting our charitable causes.*

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