

THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF STROUD HOSPITALS AND THE HEALTH CENTRE
Annual Review 2018
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND
ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

Trustees

- Dr Gordon Horner (Vice Chair)
- Dr Roma Walker (Chair)
- Dr Susie Weir (GP Liaison)
- Mr Tony Crook (Membership Secretary)
- Mr Will Abbott FCA ETC (Treasurer)
- Mr Nick Hurst (Estates)
- Mrs Sue Herschell (Secretary)
- Dr R W Lamb, President (resigned September 2018)
- Mr P Doshi, Executive Committee (resigned June 2018)

Administrator: Mrs Julia Prosser

Charity registered number 230803

Principal Office: Stroud General Hospital, Trinity Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 2HY

Accountants: Randall & Payne LLP, Chargrove House, Shurdington Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 4GA

Bankers: NatWest Bank PLC, Bank Buildings, George Street, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 3DT

Solicitors: Langley Wellingtons, Royal House, 60 Bruton Way, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL1 1EP

Auditors: Davies Mayers Barnett Audit Services, Pillar House, 113/115 Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 7LS

Investment Managers: Charles Stanley Group PLC, 25 Luke Street, London, EC2A 4AR

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018. The League of Friends continued to help to maintain and improve the facilities and services available. This reflects the continuing generosity of the people served by the Stroud Hospitals, without whom we would not be able to function as we do.

Governing Document

The League of Friends of Stroud Hospitals and the Health Centre is a charitable trust governed by the rules adopted on 14th March 1964, as amended and registered under the Charities' Act 1960, Charity Registration No. 230803. The charity has due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The latest amendment to the Constitution was approved by members on 22nd September 2011 and was based upon the Constitution recommended by Attend. In late 2017, the Trustees decided, subject to Members' approval, that Stroud Hospitals League of Friends should become an 'incorporated' body. A motion will be put forward at the AGM 2019 to make this change. Information relating to this has been circulated to Members.

The League is administered by an Executive Committee of up to nine people who usually meet five times a year, in addition to three General Members Committee meetings and the AGM. All Executive

Committee members are appointed at the Annual General Meeting. The General Members Committee represents local organisations, volunteers and the Events Committee.

Policies and objectives

The object is to relieve patients, former patients and potential patients of the Stroud Hospitals and the Beeches Green Health Centre who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped, infirm or in need of health care support and, generally, to support the charitable work of the said hospitals.

The remit of The League of Friends of the Stroud Hospitals and the Health Centre covers Stroud General Hospital, Stroud Maternity Hospital, Weavers Croft and Park House, Beeches Green Health Centre and Redwood House, and Stroud Ambulance Station, to supplement the services provided by these centres for the health, welfare and comfort of the patients therein and others in the community.

Method of appointment or election of Trustees

Management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust deed. Trustees are recruited as need arises and are appointed annually by members at the AGM. New trustees are briefed by the Chairman on the aims and objectives of the Charity and its history. Each trustee receives a copy of the constitution and the Charity Commission documents explaining the responsibilities and roles of a trustee.

New privacy policy

In line with recent legislative requirements relating to data protection, the trustees have implemented a Privacy Policy and have made the necessary arrangements to become compliant. This will be regularly reviewed and updated.

Relationships with other charities

The League is an affiliated member of Attend (formerly the National Association of Leagues of Hospital and Community Friends). The Chair has regular meetings with the Chairs of the other League of Friends in Gloucestershire.

Risk management

The trustees actively and regularly review the risks that the charity faces and believe that by maintaining free reserves at the level stated and by ensuring controls exist over key financial systems they have established effective controls to mitigate those risks.

NHS Trusts

We continue to liaise with the various NHS Trusts involved in providing services to Stroud. The Chair (together with the Chairs of other local Leagues of Friends) has quarterly meetings with the Chief Officers of the Gloucester Care Services Trust and 2gether NHS Foundation Trust, which are in the process of amalgamating.

Chair's Report: Overview and Review of activities in 2018

The year was exceptional for Stroud Hospitals League of Friends, as it celebrated its 70th anniversary, along with the founding of the NHS in 1948. As such, it was marked by some notable achievements.

- First, we spent an unprecedented annual total of more than £590,000 on refurbishment, equipment and community initiatives.
- Secondly, the League of Friends contributed £351,923 towards the major refurbishment of Cashes Green Ward.
- Thirdly, we now support the healthcare of local people through community-based projects, most notably Respite Care at Horsfall House, Minchinhampton.

This has only been possible by the continued support from the people of Stroud and surrounding district who contribute generously, enabling us to allocate funds in this beneficial way. Our thanks also go to the staff of the hospitals and health care centres who work collaboratively alongside us to improve the facilities and services.

Dr Roy Lamb

You will recall that at last year's AGM we marked the retirement of Dr Lamb after a remarkable 57 years of service to Stroud Hospital, its League of Friends, and the local community. Among his many contributions have been the fundraising and subsequent building of the operating theatre, the development of Jubilee and Princess Anne wards, and the League of Friends' financing of the ultrasound service.

Administrator

Susan Strongitharm retired in 2018 after six years of dedicated service. During that time she set up efficient systems and firm foundations for the future. Susan remains a volunteer at the refreshment shop. Our new Administrator is Julia Prosser who brings with her a wealth of local knowledge.

Cashes Green Ward

A much needed total renovation was undertaken with the League of Friends contributing £351,923. Principally, this donation was for en suite bathrooms and a large specialist bathroom. The ward is now transformed and the en suites not only provide privacy, dignity and well-being for patients, but are also an important factor in infection control.

Respite Care

We now provide free Respite Care at Horsfall House, Minchinhampton, for families needing a break from caring. Eligibility is not based on means, but upon need and being registered with one of the 11 local GP practices covering the Stroud area.

Endoscopy

Stroud is rated among the best in the country for endoscopy, and one of only two community hospitals to be awarded the prestigious JAG accreditation. It continues to be at the forefront of the national screening programme. This is a credit to the medical staff and the support given by the League towards state-of-the-art camera equipment, which is extra to NHS normal provision. In 2018, we contributed £111,512, adding to the £93,219 spent in 2016-7 on endoscopy equipment.

Specialist beds and mattresses

The League has enhanced standard NHS provision by funding specialist beds and superior mattresses and cushions throughout the hospital, offering greater comfort and care for patients. In total, the League spent £42,697 in 2018 on this to upgrade both wards. In part, this was thanks to a generous donation from a local family, in recognition of the care given at Stroud Hospital.

Community projects

In addition to the Respite Care project at Horsfall, the League of Friends funds projects at Stroud Maternity (pre- and post-natal yoga, and singing), and at Weavers Croft (Men's Shed and Gardening). We also made a significant contribution to Uplands Care Services for their much-needed day care for the elderly, since we recognise the close link between hospitalisation and care in the community.

Volunteers

The League is supported by a large group of volunteers who provide refreshments in the Hospital Shop and a wards trolley service for patients, along with other activities. They provide a friendly face for patients and visitors alike and contribute hugely to the ambience of Stroud Hospital, making it welcoming and less intimidating than it might otherwise be. They also make a significant contribution to the League's funds. The League's Events Committee play another essential role as the public face representing us at various local events, including the annual Christmas Tree Festival at St Lawrence's Church. They also arrange for Frampton Silver Band to visit the Hospital to accompany the annual carol singing.

Members' committee meetings

These are held three times a year and are open to members and volunteers, and to representatives from local community organisations. It is an opportunity for members to be updated and consulted, and an opportunity for Members to hear about various projects directly from speakers involved with them.

The League of Friends Gardening Group

Late in 2018, we acquired a new group of volunteers, The League of Friends Gardening Group, coordinated by Linda Phillips, who are tending the gardens around the two hospitals. They have completed a massive bulb planting exercise and Linda raises funds from the sale of flowers donated by Sainsbury, Tesco and M&S. In just the first few months this has proved to be an impressive sum.

Hospital Chaplaincy and Annual Church Service

The Reverend Alison Evans and her Chaplaincy Team continue their much-valued service to the hospital. Alison and her colleagues from other Stroud churches also organise an annual ecumenical Church Service in Trinity Church each October. This is a heartening occasion and we encourage Members and Volunteers to come along and celebrate the work of the League.

Governance matters

Significant work has been undertaken preparing the League of Friends to become an 'incorporated' charity (CIO), in line with good charity governance practice. Special care has been taken to retain the objects and essence of the current constitution when combining with the legal requirements of a CIO.

Climate Change

It is the responsibility of all organisations to make adaptations as far as they are able to play their part in mitigating the effects of climate change. Following the recommendations of the UN Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change in 2018, we have withdrawn our investments from carbon-based industries and have increased our holdings in renewables. This has had no detrimental effect on our investment returns. We also scrutinise projects and requests for funding more closely in regard to this and in relation to single use plastic.

Matron's Report

Jubilee and Cashes Green Ward

- Cashes Green patients moved to Cirencester at the end of the year to allow a major upgrade refurbishment to take place, which the League kindly supported financially. The refurbishment will lead to a state-of-the-art ward that is dementia friendly and will promote dignity and privacy with six en-suite side rooms, which will also enhance infection control compliance.
- The League of Friends purchased five specialist beds that will support the nursing teams to reduce the likelihood of patient falls.
- Trainee Nursing Associates commenced placements on the wards in 2018. The Nursing Associate is a new member of the nursing team in England. This role is designed to help bridge the gap between health and care assistants and registered nurses.
- Nursing associate is a stand-alone role that will also provide a progression route into graduate level nursing
- All the ward beds now have new superior pressure-relieving mattresses purchased by the League of Friends and these have made a difference already with managing to reduce pressure damage.

Complex Lower Leg Unit

- This service continues to be busy since starting; patients are seen Monday-Friday 9-5 in the purpose built unit which was supported by the League of Friends.
- The service continues to help local people with leg health.

MIIU

- Exponential increase in activity this last year.
- We are now having Trainee Nurse Associates' (new nursing structure) on placement in MIIU and feedback has been positive.

Theatres

- We have developed an educational programme at Stroud General Hospital with the Training and Development Sisters, so that colleagues in theatres, outpatients and endoscopy are confident and competent to work on inpatient wards.

Endoscopy

- State-of-the-art endoscopy equipment was purchased by the League of Friends to replace the existing processor and visual screens. The equipment uses Wifi and high definition which improves the level of detail on the screen for the Endoscopists. In addition to this another slim colonoscope was purchased by the League of Friends to provide a more specialist option for the clinician and more comfort for the patient.
- The JAG accreditation Annual Report for April 2018 was submitted by Senior Sister Helen Acock. The Unit was assessed on the report, and accreditation was again successfully awarded.
- The Endoscopy Unit has increased the lists delivered and continues to do so.

Outpatients

- A new Business Manager was appointed for Gloucester Care Services NHS Trust and the role covers all seven Community Hospital sites specifically for Ambulatory Care. A focus is on the Out Patient Department services and in Stroud new services have started with more planned.
- League of Friends continues to support the art work in Bowbridge which is well received by patients, visitors, staff and the students at Stroud College.