

The League of Friends of The Helston Community Hospital

Registered Charity 285734

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CHAIRMAN'S 2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT FOR HELSTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Well, here we are again, friends, another year without a face to face meeting for our AGM and the uncertainty of another Christmas season. Nevertheless, I do hope this finds you and yours in good health and in positive spirits.

The year has been very difficult for all of us, but especially for our friends in the NHS. We are so grateful to anyone working in the NHS who has put their own life at risk to serve the community. We know the commitment shown by the staff at our own Helston Community Hospital and we are deeply thankful. They have not known from day to day what will be thrown at them and, working all hours and under strict regimes, they have stood up to it all. Thank you to matron, Lynda McHale, hospital sister, Trudy Addington, and all the hospital staff for their dedication. If nothing else positive comes out of this at least everyone is now aware of how crucial the community hospitals are.

We have been in close contact with the hospital and, as you can see from the treasurer's report, we have been able to buy some equipment to aid the staff in their care for the patients. Unable to have our fete again this year, we were grateful for the fund raising and family donations.

Sadly over the last three years we have lost friends of the hospital. Recently a good friend to the hospital, Perry Pascoe, passed away. We send our heartfelt condolences to Linda and the family. Both he and Linda were familiar faces at our AGM and fund raising events.

We also said goodbye to another long term friend and a committee member, Barbara Gales, often to be seen taking charge of the money on the tea stalls. We are grateful for her life and service.

On a personal note, I am very appreciative of the care given at Helston Community Hospital to both my husband, Richard, my mother-in-law, Mary Gilbert and my sister-in-law, Gill Gilbert, all of whom passed away in the last twenty months. Their care was of great consolation to all the family. And to have friends and family close at hand to visit greatly enhanced their days.

Personally, the three years of my tenure as chairman of the League of Friends has been nothing like any of us could have imagined. I would like to thank, and pay tribute to the committee for their support and continued commitment to the hospital. Thank you to Wendy who has held everything together with her usual efficiency and goodwill. When I look back at all the communications she has sent out I am in admiration of her fortitude, especially as she has had many a burden of her own to bear. Thank you, Wendy.

And a thank you to Sue Atkins, our treasurer. Sue, fastidiously keeps us on our toes with both the finances and the constitution, recognising the responsibility we have while spending publicly donated funds. Thank you, Sue, and thank you to husband, Mike, who I know is a great support to you.

And I cannot omit a personal thank you to Ken Whittle, our president. Ken, with his usual good humour, has been a great support to me and has kept us all well informed about both county NHS initiatives and local supportive organisations, representing the League of Friends on many occasions. Thank you, Ken.

I would like to thank and send all good wishes to the incoming chairman, Ann Ferris, and the vice chairman, Helen Nelson. Ann has had a long association with the League of Friends, her mother being a stalwart supporter for many years, and Ann being on the committee for the first time before she had her family. Helen has already shown her dedication to the League of Friends with fund raising, selling cards and lots of ideas.

With Ann, Wendy, Sue, Ken, Helen and a dedicated committee, the League of Friends is in secure hands.

A big thank you to you the members outside of the committee without whom we could not function as we do. Together with the wonderful hospital staff, whether face to face or other, we will continue to commit to the future of Helston Community Hospital.

Wishing you a happy and healthy Christmas and all good wishes for 2022.

Heather Gilbert
Chairman of the League of Friends of Helston Community Hospital