League of Friends St Helier Hospital

2026 NEWSLETTER to Members

Chairman: Mr. James Dalton **Treasurer: Mrs. Lynda Fletcher**

Let me open by saying that we recognise it has been too long since you last heard directly from us, and this has been due not only to personnel changes, but an increased focus on our good financial management.

Some of you will have found and read the 2025 Newsletter on our website (https://lofsth.org.uk/) and this method of sharing our news was precipitated by the sudden departure of the previous Chairman Valerie Brundle. If you did not happen across that Newsletter, I urge you to download and read it as it contains a lot of background information.

For those that have not viewed the 2025 Newsletter, I am James (Jim) Dalton. I have volunteered with the League since 2012 and was Vice Chairman at the time of the 2023 Newsletter. On the 1st of April 2025 I took over as Chair, with the support of the Treasurer and committee.

Increasing costs, not limited to postage and bank processing costs, mean that like many other charities we needed to assess the ongoing value of mail communications. We have now made a decision and I need to inform you that this will be the last communication you receive from us by mail. In future all our Notices – for example future Newsletters, advice of our Annual General Meetings, all information relevant to our existing membership and supporters, and to accept donations etc. will be made available **only online** through the website. We will, of course, continue to accept in person or by post donations should you prefer.

On membership, we have received no Annual Membership renewals in over 15 months, so we have decided to no longer offer it. Of course, you are very welcome to stay in touch using our website – you may even wish to continue supporting us by making future donations there. Lifetime membership will continue to exist, though there will still be no quantifiable benefit, other than having a vote at Annual General Meetings, together with our continued thanks for the very valuable contributions that you have made in the past.

These changes have an impact on the functioning of the charity (under the auspices of the Charity Commission https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission) and as a result we have had to re-draft our formal Object & Rules (our constitution) and a copy of the revised version is attached to this Newsletter. The key changes are listed below, and we encourage each of you to read the full text, as it will be presented at our 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM) to provide a forum for any objections to be raised, in person by Lifetime members, as this cannot be done by proxy. Following the AGM if no objections were received, the revised version of the Object & Rules will be submitted to the Charity Commission for their approval. The date of the **AGM is Friday September 11th**, and full details of the location and time will be made available on our website. We would be very happy for you to join us on the day.

Object & Rules, Key Changes:

Key Change 1 is to the number of persons that make up the Committee [paragraph 6 (2)]. With the difficulties encountered over the years of finding suitable members for the Committee, it has been decided to reduce the numbers required from between 9 and 19 to between 7 and 15.

Key Change 2 is to the way we notify members [paragraph 3 c)]. As advised earlier in this Newsletter, because of the ever-increasing financial and manpower costs involved, all future communications will be via 'Notices' on the League website (https://lofsth.org.uk/).

Key Change 3 is to the annual statement of accounts [paragraph 8]. These are not required to be audited, but do need to be independently prepared. Since 2023 our independent accountants are T&K Accountancy LLP based in Carshalton.

Key Change 4 is to the scope of provision for Membership Subscription [paragraph 5]. Annual subscriptions of membership will no longer be available because of the ever-increasing financial and manpower costs involved in continuing this work.

Key Change 5 is to advise that any absence of objection to the re-drafted Object & Rules equates to acceptance of the changes.

Key Change 6 is that any reference to "the community" means the patients and staff of St Helier Hospital [paragraph 2 (e)].

Importantly the League continues with its principal Object and profits from the efforts of its unpaid volunteers at St Helier to give, through donations, medical equipment and/or sundry items to the wards and departments across the hospital. Since our 2025 Newsletter we have accumulated donations of approx. £488,920, which included a significant bequest, and have provided items valued at approx. £100,850 to the hospital. The League continues to be an effective, useful & well-loved, and supported part of the St Helier team, and we hope this will continue for many years to come.

We thank you all for the support you have given in getting us to this point - everything you have contributed, and which we hope you will continue with in the future - does benefit the patients and staff of St Helier Hospital. As ever we would be very happy to see you personally should you need to visit the hospital, or at the AGM later this year. Meanwhile, as always, please get in touch if you or anyone you know wants to volunteer with us; if you or anyone you know that knits/crochets and would like to donate anything for resale; or if you would like a loved one's name entered in our Memorial Book.

It remains only then for us to send very best wishes from of all the volunteer team here, and we look forward to seeing those of you that are able to join us for the AGM in September.

Best,

Jim Dalton, Chairman

Lynda Fletcher, Treasurer

Contact us:
theleagueoffriends@hotmail.com
or james.dalton4@nhs.net

020 8296 2462 (office and voicemail)
or should you need
Shop: 020 8296 2760 or Café: 020 8296 2431

Website: https://lofsth.org.uk

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