

**THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF
BEXHILL HOSPITAL**

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2025

74th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6.30pm Wednesday 15th April 2026

**The Hall
Bexhill Health Centre**

Registered Charity No. 1169175

Officers and General Committee

President: Mr John Dowling

Vice President: Mr Peter Mitchell-Davis

Officers for 2025

Chairman: Mr Nigel Ray

Vice Chairman: Miss Molly Dowling

Secretary: Mr John Dowling

13 Claxton Road, Bexhill
Telephone 217449

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Mr Chris Ashford

Sunbeams, 41 Broadoak Lane, Bexhill
Telephone 844524

Gift Aid Secretary: Mrs Lynn Walter

23 Little Twitten, Bexhill
Telephone 843394

Webmaster: Mr Chris Ashford

Sunbeams, 41 Broadoak Lane, Bexhill
Telephone 844524

General Committee:

Mr G. Cox	Dr P. Dewhurst
Mrs H. Downton	Mrs B. Hollingsworth
Miss H Knight	Lynda Kivity-Ray
Dr H. Kremer	Miss C. Madeley
Mr R. Poll	Mark Sivyer
Mr P Stiles	Mrs A. Turner
Mr M. Tysoe	

Auditors:

Messrs. Gibbons, Mannington and Phipps

Hon. Solicitors:

Messrs. Gaby Hardwicke, Yearwood & Griffiths

President's report

THE past year has been one of such dizzying change that it is difficult to know where to begin in summing up the past 12 months let alone subsequent events leading up to this Annual General Meeting.

Firstly, I would like to pay a sincere tribute to our Chair, Nigel Ray. He was already unwell when he valiantly stepped up from being Vice Chair. Despite this he has worked diligently to introduce such necessary measures as Governance. It is a testimony to his courage and commitment that he has continued his drive to modernise the League to the extent of emailing from his hospital bed on occasion! Thank you, Nigel.

My sincere gratitude also goes to Chris Ashford who after 14 years of expert care of our finances, of our website -and far more - has decided to stand down as Treasurer. His role has involved a considerable amount of work and he has given unstintingly of his time and expertise. Thank you, Chris.

In swift order we lost by retirement three ladies who between them had given around 120 years of devoted service to the committee with the retirement of Harriet Chapman followed shortly by Audrey Kerr and Pearl Easton. Peter Stiles also indicated that he no longer wanted to be a Trustee but was persuaded that his knowledge as a retired ophthalmologist was invaluable to us. He continues as a member of the General Committee but without Trustee status.

We are also losing Trustees Lynn Walter and Robin Poll. They will be sorely missed.

At the risk of accusations of nepotism, I must acknowledge the role of my granddaughter, Molly, in taking on the role of Vice Chairman at the tender age of 22. Molly brings youthful enthusiasm and a fresh approach to League affairs, notably in boosting our drive to improve public awareness of the League's work via the social media.

The re-opening of the League Coffee Shop in the Irvine Unit plus such innovations as the sale of sandwiches there and in the Coffee Shop in Outpatients' Reception highlights the important role these facilities play. At their annual lunch I was able to thank our wonderful volunteers. Truly, they are our "front line," the smiling folk who patients, staff and visitors meet most.

The Coffee Shops are earning more than £20,000 a year. Their revitalisation is a just reflection of the drive shown by their organising group. My thanks to Christine Madeley, Alison Turner, Graham Cox and Malcolm Tysoe for their enterprise.

Along with many other worthy causes, League membership has plummeted. The best prospects for reversing this worrying trend are the League's presence at public events (thank you Malcolm Tysoe) and our Chair's innovative Associate Membership scheme. This acknowledges that "times are hard" for some and offers FREE membership and the availability of the newsletter online but without the right to vote at the AGM. Please tell your friends and neighbours of this new option. We need to boost our numbers now.

John Dowling

Chairman's Report

Dear Members,

At the end of my first year as Chair of the League, I have mixed feelings about where we stand as a locally focussed charity. Our membership numbers have reduced and we have seen, for personal reasons the resignation of a number of Trustees and office holders.

We remain in excellent financial standing, able to meet the commitments made during the year and looking forward to future substantial Bids to help improve the health of local people, especially at the Bexhill Hospital and Irvine Unit. We were able, this year, to make a significant pledge to the new Combe Valley Hospital to support patient wellbeing.

We have had some great success with our Coffee Shops, the management team improving the range of goods on offer, re-opening the Irvine Unit shop and considerably increasing overall turn-over which in turn contributes to the charity's funds.

I wish to record my thanks to all our members and volunteers for their continued support and the time they give to the work of the League.

Special thanks go to our longstanding Treasurer, Chris Ashford, who is standing down this AGM and to Lynn Walter who has been our Gift Aid Secretary for some years.

Our hearts were warmed this year by being able to distribute Christmas Gifts on Christmas morning to every patient in the Irvine Unit for the first time since Covid 19 struck.

We will be working hard this coming year to recruit new officers and Trustees and to raise our profile with the local community, emphasising that we work solely on behalf of local people to ensure local facilities have the latest equipment and can thereby provide excellent care.

Nigel Ray, Chair of the Committee of Trustees

League of Friends Lottery

Top prize £ 25,000

MATCH



WIN £25,000



WIN £1,000



WIN £25



WIN £5

Why join our lottery ?

50p in every £1

buys new equipment



Join today at website or QR code

www.bexhillhospitalfriends.org.uk/lottery

The League of Friends of the Bexhill Hospital

(Registered Charity No. 1169175)

Annual General Meeting

6.30pm, Wednesday 15th April 2026

– To be held at The Hall, Bexhill Health Centre.

AGENDA

John Dowling, President, will take the Chair, welcome Members and Guests and then open the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 16th April, 2025.
3. Nigel Ray, Chair, to present the Annual Report for 2025 and to propose that such report be approved and adopted.
4. Chris Ashford, Treasurer, to present the statements of accounts for the year ended December 31st 2025 and to propose that such statements be approved and adopted.
5. To elect a President for the ensuing year who will then conduct the election of the Officers and Committee (proposed, present incumbent John Dowling).
6. By rotation, one third of the General Committee to stand for re-election: Dr Peter Dewhurst, Helen Knight, Mark Sivyer and Malcolm Tysoe plus 2025 co-opted member Lynda Kivity-Ray and newcomers Peter Blatchly, Barry Hinvies, Paul Mahoney and David Young.
7. To elect the following officers for the ensuing year: Vice President, (proposed, Peter Mitchell-Davis, current incumbent); Chair, (proposed, Nigel Ray, current incumbent); Vice Chairman, (proposed, Molly Dowling, current incumbent); Secretary, (proposed, John Dowling, current incumbent); Treasurer (proposed, Peter Blatchly); Membership Secretary (proposed, Malcolm Tysoe); Minutes Secretary (proposed, present incumbent Helen Knight), Gift Aid Secretary, (proposed to be combined with Treasurer role); IT Support Officer, (proposed, Paul Mahoney).
8. To approve administrative amendments to the constitution available online.
9. To elect the Auditors and the Honorary Solicitors for the ensuing year:
Auditors: Messrs Gibbons, Mannington & Phipps
Hon. Solicitors: Messrs. Gaby Hardwicke
10. Jane Black, Chief Executive of ESHT to address the meeting.
10. To close the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The total income for the year was £ 304,698 which included £ 47,168 in legacies and investment income of £ 189,590. The investments are all in UK banks and are constantly reviewed to get the best interest rates which are changing all the time.

The League has the benefit of being able to call upon volunteers who do duties at our coffee shop in Outpatients Department. The shop is managed by a team of Graham Cox, Christine Madeley, Malcolm Tysoe and Alison Turner.

We currently have 30 volunteers at the coffee shop and are always looking for people to join us doing a half day shift.

If you would like to know more please info@bexhillhospitalfriends.org.uk

We agreed Bids to purchase this year of £ 172,848

Garden benches	£ 2,500
Airconditioning ophthalmology clinic	£ 6,125
Rider recliner chairs	£ 7,353
Shower chair	£ 2,634
Two toro Theratrainers	£ 25,990
Combe Valley Hospital - equipment	£ 104,806
Little Common Surgery Couches, 24hr BP machines and Doppler	£ 23,440

We have introduced membership subscriptions by Direct Debit and this can be done at our website form to join or renew, or by contacting me.

Kind regards

Chris Ashford

To read the full accounts go to www.bexhillhospitalfriends.org.uk/agm

And select the button for accounts 2025

A copy of the accounts can be requested by post from the Treasurer

THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF THE BEXHILL HOSPITAL CIO

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	47,168	-	47,168	930,968
Other trading activities	3	67,940	-	67,940	37,482
Investment income	4	189,590	-	189,590	175,344
Total		304,698	-	304,698	1,143,794
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	5	41,049	-	41,049	18,523
Charitable activities					
Equipment & facility grants	6	155,485	-	155,485	176,779
Support costs		6,882	-	6,882	5,904
Expenditure on equipment for GP's surgeries		23,440	-	23,440	10,493
Other		581	-	581	493
Total		227,437	-	227,437	212,192
NET INCOME					
Transfers between funds	15	77,261	-	77,261	931,602
		1,279	(1,279)	-	-
Net movement in funds		78,540	(1,279)	77,261	931,602
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		4,638,274	1,279	4,639,553	3,707,951
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		4,716,814	-	4,716,814	4,639,553

The notes form part of these financial statements

The League of Friends of the Bexhill Hospital CIO
(Charity No. 1169175)

Membership Application Renewal Form

Title First name/initials Surname

Mr / Mrs/ Ms _____

Address. _____

_____ Post Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

How would you like newsletter. Email or Post

I am a UK taxpayer and want the charity to treat all donations I make from this date until I notify as a Gift Aid Donation Gift Aid Yes or No

Send your cheque payable "The League of Friends of the Bexhill Hospital"
To 41 Broad Oak Lane, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 4LG or complete direct debit.

Direct Debit Instruction



Please set up an annual payment of £ 20

Bank _____

Sort Code __ - __ - __ Account Number _____

Name on the account _____

Signed _____ . Date _____

You can also join using this QR Code

Or at our website

<https://www.bexhillhospitalfriends.org.uk/index2.html>

