



TORBAY HOSPITAL
League of Friends
Helping to care...



**Torbay Hospital League
of Friends ended the year
on a HIGH**



***Celebrating over seven decades of
transformative contributions to
patient care and Hospital facilities.***

Since the League began in 1954, over
£22m has been raised for our Hospital and
the giving just goes on.

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During 2025 alone it's seen the League donate the sum of **£662,039 with the following amounts in the pipeline:**

Funding pledged but not yet paid over:

- **£716,934.00** for new state of the art Monitors throughout the Hospital
- **£151,850** for Equipment for the new Emergency Department
- **£167,450** to transform Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Restorative Dentistry and Orthodontic services
- **£184,480** for a variety of other pieces of equipment needed by Departments in the Hospital

At year's end the League of Friends donated **£7,442** to the Children's Emergency Ward for a magic carpet – just in time for Christmas.

This is just one of a very long line of gifts provided by Torbay Hospital League of Friends and proudly marks over 70 years of exceptional voluntary service and fundraising, reflecting a longstanding tradition of community support that began before the inception of the National Health Service (NHS) in 1948.

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
Email.....info@thlof.co.uk



With Special Thanks

We would like to thank all of you who have contributed to making the Torbay Hospital League of Friends such a success, and we hope you will enjoy reading about how we continue to raise funds to carry on the good work.

We have over 250 members who give us valuable support throughout the year.

Edited by - Dave Rogers,
Kathryn Westaway,
Patricia Roberts



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**.

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www.DuoDot.co.uk

Visit our website at www.thlof.co.uk

Report by Martin Tucker, Chairman



Around the world 2026 is already shaping up to be a pivotal year. Hopefully we will soon see an end to the war in Ukraine.

Closer to home the alliances that have kept the west safe for 80 years are under intense pressure. Isn't it reassuring then to turn to The Torbay Hospital League of Friends and see that it is business as usual?

As we have done over many decades The League, with your support, is still hear investing in items both big and small for the Hospital to make the life of patients, staff and visitors safer and that little bit more comfortable.

In 2025 The League of Friends gave the Hospital the incredible sum of £671,331. This money was used to buy a range of equipment and nice to have items.

For example, £421,695 purchased a new Diagnostic Scanner and a further £164,647 purchased an "up to date" online resource for use by all the Doctors and Consultants in the

Hospital. At the other end of the scale, we spent £58.50 buying 24 tubs of chocolates for all the staff on the wards, who had to work on Christmas Day, to share.

At this point I must say a huge thank you to the management of Morrisons in Teignmouth who gave us an exceptionally good deal. Roughly speaking for every tub we purchased that gave us another free.

Turning to 2026 there are already many new projects in the pipeline. The largest of which is the purchase of a Hospital wide patient monitoring system. The league has already pledged the sum of £716,000 to help with this.

Another project worthy of note is a joint project with Torquay Rotary to refurbish and maintain the Heartsease garden within the hospital grounds. This will see the installation of a new bench, flower tubs and a water feature to create a restful and peaceful space.

Thank you to everybody who has helped us over the years. We look forward to your continued support because none of this could be achieved without YOU.

Thank you for your continued support.

Martin Tucker

Chair, Torbay Hospital League of Friends



President's Report



Torbay Hospital League of Friends – over 70 years!

I volunteered for the League 4 years after it was formed and I am proud to be still involved.

I started teaching around that time in a local school and was asked if I knew anyone who could run a rota to take telephone trollies round the ward to help patients to make calls.

My father had just retired and moved to Torquay, he helped with the rota and our volunteers' donned overalls, disinfectant bowls for the mouth pieces and helped patients to "press button B!" This ran for many years until BT installed phones on the wards and gave us good donation to do so.

Since then I have really enjoyed volunteering in different ways. Driving the League of Friends bus to take stroke patients to a garden centre for a visit – taking children swim at a local hotel – helping at League of Friends Garden parties.

Times have changed a lot, but the League of Friends is still donating a lot to Torbay Hospital providing facilities which the Health Trust cannot provide to enhance the work of staff and patient care.

95p of every £1 goes straight to the Hospital. Please continue to support us.

Patricia Roberts
**President,
Torbay Hospital League of Friends**

Thank you Torquay United Football Club



The Editor would like to take the opportunity of thanking Torquay United Football Club...

...for their support over many years by allowing us the use of their franking machine when we send out these Newsletters.

Having to stick stamps on several hundred envelopes is not a lot of fun so the use of a franking machine not only saves us having to lick hundreds of stamps but money as well as postal rates for franked post are less.

Thank you!



The **MAGIC** Carpet



Waiting in the Children's Emergency Department can be overwhelming, particularly if you are a child, or a parent.

The Emergency Department team has worked hard during the past three years to make the area as calm and comfortable as possible to make sure everyone has a pleasant experience while they wait.

The Emergency Department team with our new interactive magic carpet, sensory projection system

And now children who arrive at our Emergency Department will be able to relax, play, and feel

more at ease while they wait, thanks to the generosity of Torbay Hospital's League of Friends.

Our new interactive magic carpet, sensory projection system in the children's waiting area.

Lisa Houlihan, Associate Director of Nursing and Professional Practice said:-

"We're grateful to the League of Friends for paying for the magic carpet – an interactive, sensory projection system which projects engaging games, music, and activities onto the floor to help children, young people and their families to relax, play, and feel more at ease in what can be an unfamiliar and stressful environment sometimes."

It is with great pleasure that the Management Committee have organised the

71st Annual General Meeting

of the Torbay Hospital League of Friends will be held on

WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL 2026

at the Trec Centre, Torbay Hospital, 2.30pm



Our Work



Honouring a Legacy of Giving

From its earliest days, Torbay Hospital thrived on the goodwill of local residents, who contributed both financially and with their time. Before the NHS, the Hospital operated as a voluntary institution, funded by weekly stamp schemes and special community initiatives such as Hospital Sunday.

With the NHS's arrival in 1948, much of this voluntary support waned. However, a new era of giving was ushered in when, in early 1954, a group of resolute locals recognised the ongoing need for voluntary assistance. Their efforts culminated in a public meeting on 4th March 1954, chaired by the Mayor of Torquay, which led to the founding of the Torbay Hospital League of Friends.

Remarkable Achievements and Transformative Projects

The League began modestly, raising £248 in its first year and providing small comforts such as fruit bowls for patients. As membership and donations grew, so did the scope of their contributions. Over the decades, the League has funded a vast array of medical equipment and patient facilities, with investments now regularly reaching seven figures. Notable projects include:

- Funding and equipping one of the country's first Intensive Care Units in 1967, and co-funding an upgraded unit in 1984.
- Raising funds for a state-of-the-art Cobalt Unit in the Radiotherapy Department, opened by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in 1977.
- Purchasing advanced medical technology, including a £500,000 CT Scanner and a £1,000,000 MRI Scanner.
- Upgrading children's wards and oncology facilities, as well as providing laser equipment for keyhole surgery.
- Matching public donations for the Chest Pain Unit Appeal, resulting in a half-million-pound investment.

- Contributing £1.5m towards the Horizon Centre for research and education, and £1.6m for a new ICU in 2017.
- Donating £1.3m in 2019 to re-equip the Endoscopy unit with 34 high-definition endoscopes.
- Donating £82,000 for Image Guidance System for use by the ENT Teams

Beyond Fundraising: Volunteering and Community Spirit

The League's contribution extends far beyond fundraising. Its Linen League, a tradition dating back to pre-NHS days, continues to provide bespoke items for wards and departments – fulfilling needs unmet by standard suppliers.

Volunteers also organise regular Tabletop sales and community events, fostering a spirit of togetherness and support.

Their commitment is further underscored by an impressive efficiency: on average, 95p of every £1 donated is spent directly on hospital needs.

A Royal Honour

In recognition of their extraordinary service, the League was awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service during the late Queen's Diamond Anniversary year – an honour regarded as the MBE for voluntary groups. This accolade is a testament to the dedication and compassion of countless volunteers who have enriched patient care across Torbay Hospital and its associated facilities.

After 70 plus years, the League pledges to continue working hand-in-hand with the Health Authority to ensure that first-class care and innovative facilities remain available to all.

Hopefully, you are thinking how can I help? That is easy, you can become a member, you will get 2 newsletters per year knowing that you are making a difference to your hospital.

You can become a member for as little as £10 a year, just send a message to info@thlof.co.uk and we will send you the application form.

Become a member of one of most successful League of Friends in the UK.

For further information, please visit: www.thlof.co.uk



Ipplepen Cream Tea



On a beautiful Sunday afternoon some League members along with 2 of their supporters Wendy and Alan made their way to Ipplepen Village Hall for an afternoon of music and a cream tea.

We were entertained by MAC with hits from yester year and then Frankie and Mya took over with modern day hits

Teignbridge MP Martin Wrigley joined use and was very successful in the raffle.

A great time was had by one and all. The afternoon raised in excess of £600.



Headland Cream Tea

On a breezy Friday afternoon, the League organised a Cream Tea at the Headland Hotel, Torquay.

In attendance were RNLI Fundraisers from Torbay, Members from Torquay Rotary Club, Members from Probus Club Torquay, League of Friends Trustees, Members and Guests, Dr Louise Medley, Consultant Oncologist, Associate Medical Director for cancer services gave a rousing speech about the cancer service and thanked the League of Friends for the work they undertake. President Patricia Roberts thanked everyone for coming and the staff of the Headland for their help



Meet The Team

I am the newest member of The Torbay Hospital League of Friends Management Team.

I was born in Paignton where I grew up attending Oldway Primary School and Paignton School before completing my 'A' levels at Torquay Girls Grammar School.

I joined Barclays in 1985 and enjoyed working for them for over 30 years. I gained wide range of experience in business and finance in a variety of roles leading to my role as Relationship Manager covering the Torbay Area and then finally as Business Support Director covering Devon and Cornwall supporting businesses facing financial difficulty.

Leaving Barclays in 2016 I then joined a local firm of Chartered Accountants where I acted as Office Manager for 5 years.



I still keep in touch with colleagues from Barclays and I am presently on the committee for the 'local pensioners group' who meet regularly and organise events across the year.

I have now lived in Torquay for over 30 years and enjoy getting out and about in the local area. Hobbies include walking (including trips to Dartmoor), gardening, swimming, reading and trips to the theatre. I also enjoy taking short breaks in the UK with friends and family when I can.

In 2022 I was lucky enough to be able to take 'early retirement' and was keen to do something worthwhile with my time.

The Torbay Hospital League of Friends has a tremendous reputation for its valuable work fundraising for the hospital. I was delighted to be invited to join the Management Team and very much look forward to helping the team to continue with these endeavours in the future.

Tracey Seldon



Morrisons to the Rescue

At Christmas trustees from the Torbay Hospital League of Friends were busy delivering a small present to those who found themselves in Hospital on Christmas Day.

The elves or trustees and volunteers also delivered a tub of Heroes donated by Morrisons in Teignmouth to the staff who find themselves working on the 25th as their all Heroes.



Remembrance and Contemplation

A little known area at Torbay Hospital is located behind the Woman's Health Unit, The Heartsease Garden is an area of remembrance and contemplation for those who had lost a baby in the first few moments of life.

The Torquay Rotary Club proposed a joint venture, they would undertake the maintenance of the area, weeding, hedge trimming and pressure washing the pathed area if the League would undertake the purchase of a bench, 2 terracotta pots and a solar water feature.



How could we say no? Rotary got straight down to work and tidied the area and the League purchased most items with the water feature arriving around March.

Torbay Hospital League of Friends funds new equipment to support hand therapy patients

Patients at Torbay Hospital are set to benefit from enhanced rehabilitation thanks to a generous donation from the Torbay Hospital League of Friends.

The League has funded state-of-the-art hand therapy equipment, including five GripAble devices and five tablets, alongside four Biometrics electronic goniometers, with a total investment of £20,536.

Suzie Smith, Clinical Lead for the Hand Therapy Team, said: "We are absolutely delighted to receive this support from the League of Friends. The new GripAble devices will help our patients regain strength and movement in their hands and wrists, using interactive games and real-time feedback. These tools are especially valuable for people recovering from an injury or living with long-term conditions



such as arthritis, enabling them to track their progress and stay motivated throughout their rehabilitation."

The Biometrics goniometers will make it easier for clinicians to measure joint movement and monitor improvements over time, particularly for patients with complex hand conditions. "Having access to this technology means we can provide more personalised care and help people achieve better outcomes," Suzie added.

Martin Tucker, Chair of Torbay Hospital League of Friends, commented: "We are proud to support the Hand Therapy Team in their work to help people recover and regain independence. Our motto is 'Helping to Care', and we are thrilled that this donation will make a real difference to patients and staff at Torbay Hospital."

Torbay Hospital League of Friends has been supporting Torbay Hospital for more than 70 years and received the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2012. The League continues to fund equipment and improvements that go above and beyond NHS provision, always with the aim of enhancing patient care and experience.

For more information about the League of Friends and how you can support their work, visit www.thlof.co.uk

How you can help...

If you wish to support the League by becoming a Friend, visit our website www.thlof.co.uk for details on membership.

Donations...

Donations can be sent to our secretary **Philip 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. If you would like to become a more active member of the League such as helping with Fund raising or with League events, **please contact the Secretary Philip 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 you to say thank you



Our tabletop sales rely on the kind-heartedness of people like **Annie Price, Shelia Stott, Celia Woodgates** and **Glynis Drysdale** to name just a few who bring in knitted items for us to sell.

We would also like to thank **Morrison's** in Teignmouth for their help at Christmas 2025 and **Kevin** from **Crockers Shoe Repairs, Teignmouth Locksmiths and Engraving** for their assistance with plaques and engraving.

Visit our website www.thlof.co.uk

Future Events

Although we publish a newsletter in Spring and Autumn we also send out a regular update by e-mail, to receive this e-news message us on **info@thlof.co.uk**

Everyone is very welcome to join us at any of our fundraising or information events. Information on any of these events can be obtained by emailing **info@thlof.co.uk**.

Details will also be in the regular e-news, nearer the time; so please make sure we have your e-mail address.

We would love to see you.



95p in every £1
Donated goes directly to supporting our charitable causes.

TORBAY HOSPITAL
League of Friends
Helping to care...

Just follow the link

You can raise **FREE donations** for Torbay Hospital League of Friends every time you shop online - just use **#easyfundraising!** Over 7,000 brands will donate, including all the big names like John Lewis & Partners, Expedia, Argos, Just Eat and many more!

Sign up here:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/torbayhospitalleagueoffriends/



Registered Charity No. 200905



TORBAY HOSPITAL *League of Friends*

*I Would Like To Donate and/or Become A Member**

Title	_____	First Name or Initial	_____
Surname	_____		
Full Home Ad- dress	_____		
Email Address	_____		

I would like to make a donation of £_____ to Torbay Hospital League of Friends by cheque / postal order made payable to: **TORBAY HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS**

I would like to become a member of **TORBAY HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS** and have:
Either: Enclosed my cheque/postal order for £_____
Or: Completed the Bankers Order Form overleaf

giftaid it

**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid
for every £1 you donate**

*Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.
Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.*

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to **TORBAY HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS**

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

SIGNED _____

DATED _____

** See overleaf*

Please send completed form[s] to: Mrs J Hearne, Membership Secretary
TORBAY HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS
10 Abbey Close, Teignmouth TQ14 8FB

MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE

- Entitles you to receive a twice yearly newsletter which contains a comprehensive list of forthcoming events and latest news.
- Entitles you to attend our AGM each year and take part in the election of new trustees.
- The amount of subscription is entirely up to you but we respectfully suggest a minimum of £15.00 per annum.

Standing Order Mandate

To (Your Bank Name) _____

Postal Address _____

Please pay by banker's standing order

To: National Westminster Bank Torquay

Sort Code: 55-70-01

Account Number: 05909295

Name of Account: TORBAY HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

Amount (Figures): £ _____

Amount (Words): _____

Date of First Payment: _____

And thereafter
ANNUALLY /
MONTHLY every

Until further notice and debit my account: _____

Account to be debited: _____

Account number: _____

Sort Code: _____

First Signature: _____

PRINT NAME _____

Second Signature: _____

PRINT NAME _____

Date: _____

Address: _____