



TORBAY HOSPITAL  
**League of Friends**  
*Helping to care...*



**Over £20 Million raised...**

**...so far!**



Since the formation of Torbay Hospital League of Friends, we have raised over £20 million for the Hospital.

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If you would like to volunteer for one of our committees, or for any other enquiry, please contact:

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Highlyn, 6 Haldon Close. Torquay, TQ1 2NA  
Butterflies Café ..... 01803 654520  
League of Friends Office ..... 01803 654520  
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.

There are over 140 volunteers working in the Hospital, under the umbrella of the League. These include: the trolley service; manning the Butterflies Café; meeting and greeting people in the outpatients entrance and showing them to different parts of the hospital; delivering documents for the consultants and much much more.

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Kathryn Westaway

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.**  
Visit our website at  
[www.thlof.co.uk](http://www.thlof.co.uk)



# COVID-19

**COVID-19 is circulating in the community again and has affected residents and staff in and around the Torbay area.**

Therefore, we'd like to reassure residents, relatives and staff that we are supporting the hospital to ensure the safety of residents and protect staff.

A comprehensive action plan has been enacted to keep families informed, contain the virus and continue giving the best care possible.

The Trust is working closely with Public Health England, Torbay Council, Public Health England and NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group to support all our colleagues.

## Remember 'Hands, Face, Space':

- + Everyone is reminded of the importance of social distancing to prevent the spread of the virus.
- + Good hygiene is the best prevention to protect you and your family by washing hands regularly and thoroughly
- + Covering mouths when coughing
- + Wearing face coverings where appropriate

**INTRODUCING THE NHS COVID-19 APP**

**We must keep on protecting each other.**

HANDS FACE SPACE

STAY ALERT • CONTROL THE VIRUS • SAVE LIVES

## Pennies in Plastic

**Pennies in Plastic is now nearing £6,000, please do keep saving your loose change in plastic bottles.**

**When they are full, the office at level 2 will be glad to receive them.**

£7000  
£6500  
£6000  
£5550  
£5000  
£4500  
£4000  
£3500  
£3000  
£2500  
£2000  
£1500  
£1000

**£5581 Raised (So Far)**

## Where has our E-News been?

Since March the League has not published our monthly E-News due to the self-isolation. It is now back in publication and will be published on a bi-monthly basis. If you would like to receive our e-news then please message us on [info@thlof.co.uk](mailto:info@thlof.co.uk) and you will be put on the mailing list.

## Rene Isobel Knight 1918 - 2020

**It is with much sadness that we report the passing of Rene Isobel Knight, a long-standing trustee of over 40 years, and member of the St Marychurch district.**

Born three months after WW1 ended, she attended school in the North of England until aged 13, when she went to work for Woolworths. At the start of WW2, she joined the WRAF, and worked in the communications and telegraph unit Bletchley Park. After a few years Rene moved to London where she joined the staff at Guy's Hospital and got the bug of helping the League of Friends. When she retired, she moved to Devon and that's where her association with Torbay Hospital League of Friends began.

For many years, Rene could be seen in St Marychurch precinct selling items for the League. She also enjoyed helping out at the Rotary day on Babbacombe Downs and at the Garden Parties at the Palace Hotel. Until a few years ago she would carry a couple of carrier bags full of paperbacks across the road to a local hotel, where she would sell them to the new guests.

She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.





# OUR LATEST PROJECT

**Our latest project is the equipping of the new proposed Emergency Department.**

The Hospital has started the conversion work and then the £1.5 million will be needed

The current situation with Covid-19 has put paid to our major events for the time being so the fund raising has stalled slightly so we are asking you to think about

1. Has your work place a collection tin or bucket, if not we would be happy to supply one
2. Does your workplace have a charity of the year, if not ask if they would make us their beneficiary
3. Why not collect pennies in plastic
4. Organise small events yourself

**Help us to support and make your hospital the best is the west.**



**£385 Raised**

## Babbacombe Bowls

Torbay Hospital League of Friends were delighted to receive the sum of £385 from the Captain of Babbacombe Bowling Club, Dave Thomas. In handing over the cheque Dave said "We recently held a Coffee Morning for our Members and decided in these uncertain times that the League of Friends would be the ideal choice to receive the money" Receiving the cheque on behalf of the League Chairman Kathryn Westaway said "We are grateful to all the members of the Babbacombe Bowling Club for their generous donation made at a time when our own fund raising activities are more or less at a standstill. A gift such as this is very welcome indeed"

## Walking on Water

A group of local ramblers decided to let their feet do the walking in aid of Torbay Hospital League of Friends.

The group followed the coastal path from Torquay harbourside to Brixham Harbour - a distance of about eight and a half miles. The walk was the brainchild of Street Pastor Bill Becher and his wife Maralyn who are both keen walkers with a long affiliation with the South Devon Ramblers.

Bill said: 'We were inspired by the example of Reverend Jerry Cook - known as the "Rambling Rev"- and his sponsored walks for local causes.

'And with the NHS very much in the spotlight, we felt the time was right for a fundraiser in aid of the Torbay Hospital League of Friends.'

He added: 'We both worked at Torbay Hospital when we were first married. I am a volunteer on the Torbay Hospital Chaplaincy Team and a Torbay Street Pastor.'

**£1170 Raised**



## Comfort Packs

Torbay Hospital League of Friends paid £2336 to provide 400 Comfort Packs to patients who were unlucky enough to have been admitted to Hospital after the Coronavirus pandemic meant that, for a time at least, no visitors were allowed so that some patients had no personal effects with them on admission.

Each pack included various items of personal toiletries including toothpaste, hand wipes, hand cream etc, note paper and a puzzle book. The items in each pack were kindly supplied by WHSmith at cost price and a team from the hospital duly made them up prior to distribution to those patients who needed them.

Dr Jo Sykes, Consultant in charge of the distribution said " We are very grateful to the League of Friends for agreeing to pay for these packs which have made such a difference to patients who suddenly found themselves in hospital with no personal effects and no immediate prospects of receiving visitors who would normally bring such items in for them. All the patients who have received a pack have been delighted and so far, we have distributed about 200 and continue to give them out to all patients who need them. "

Kathryn Westaway, Chairman of the League of Friends said "We were so pleased when the opportunity arose early in the lockdown period to have been able to provide these items to patients in the hope that they would make the first few days in hospital easier and a little bit more comfortable. We are very much looking forward to the time when all restrictions are lifted so we shall be able to contribute much more to help all patients in Torbay Hospital"



## A Lovely Move for Two Local Charities

A Torquay-based dance and exercise class have donated cheques for a total of £240 in memory of one of their most popular members.

Jane Upsher died recently and unexpectedly from a heart attack. She was a member and supporter of many local groups, one of which was 'Moves To Music'.

The group, pictured doing their routines on Ilsham Valley because of Lockdown, made two donations to the Torbay Hospital League of Friends and the NSPCC.

Mary Qiraiqi, pictured right leading the group, said: 'Jane will be missed by so many of her friends and the space she has left is huge.

'She was a lovely lady and a generous soul. Our love and thoughts are with her family'.

League Vice President Lynne Hookings, who accepted a cheque on their behalf, said 'We're very touched by this donation which has come at a difficult time for the League.

'We want people to know that although many of our activities have been curtailed during the Covid crisis, we are still operating and have lots of exciting projects in store for when things get back to normal.

'So our plea to everyone is - please don't forget us!'



**£240 Raised**



## Brixham School Girls

Brixham Schoolgirls raise £500 after being inspired by Clap for Carers.

Two Brixham sisters were so inspired by Clap for Carers, they launched a fundraising campaign that has netted £500 for the Torbay Hospital League of Friends.

Emelia Andrew, 11, and her eight-year-old sister Isabel began by posting notes through their neighbours' doors in Higher Ranscombe Road asking them to donate any unwanted items.

"I realised that people were probably going to be having a clear out during Lockdown and with no charity shops open I thought it would be a really good way of raising some money for our fantastic NHS," said Emelia.

The community response to her request was overwhelming, with the enterprising sisters returning a few days later to collect the donated goods that included books, DVDs, toys, plants and electronics.

Isabel and Emelia, who both attend Brixham C of E school, then held a table-top sale outside their home, also selling some items via Facebook Marketplace.

"It's great when people can re-use other people's unwanted stuff, said Isabel. "It's better for the planet and it's kinder on the pocket too."

The tireless duo manned their stall each day for several weeks until every item was sold. Their endeavours attracted further donations, helping swell the sisters' total fundraising efforts to a whopping £500.

Chairman Kathryn Westaway said: "On behalf of the Torbay Hospital League of Friends, I'd like to say a huge thank you to Emilia and Isabel for what they have done. It is absolutely amazing what they have achieved through their hard work and dedication.



£500  
Raised

I became Secretary in 2002 and am only the 4th since the League was started in 1952.

I followed my fellow Solicitor Alan Brookes as his retirement followed my term as Chairman, so the change of office was relatively painless for all concerned. There has been a complete sea change in the overall administration of the League over the last few years to reflect all the changes and comply with an ever-increasing number of rules and regulations – risk assessments and policies abound all over the place. Somehow, although the activities of the League have diminished (we no longer have an Annual Garden Party, supply telephones for in patients, nor run our own Transport etc.) the admin side seems as busy as ever. On the other hand, the money we now give to the hospital has also increased exponentially. In the old days a "big" gift was a few thousand pounds whereas now it is over a £1m – and we have done this four times during my time as Secretary with another £1m gift currently in the pipeline.

There is no doubt that the League punches well above its weight and long may that continue.

## Chief Nurse

The hospital delighted to announce the appointment of Deborah Kelly who is our new Chief Nurse.

Following a thorough recruitment process and a number of very strong candidates, Deborah joined the Trust as Chief Nurse on 1 August 2020.

The role has an especially key part to play now as the Trust continues its ground-breaking progress in providing integrated seamless, high-quality care to its communities - from hospital to home and beyond.

Deborah has recently returned from the Middle East, where she was Deputy Chief Nurse and Chief Nurse for Informatics at Sidra Medicine, Doha Qatar. An experienced nurse, she has previously held board level posts in the NHS and was Deputy Chief Nurse for Barts Health NHS Trust from 2014 to 2017.



Deborah Kelly

## Meet The Team

### Honourable Secretary and Vice President

My route into the League, like many before me, was through Rotary which was a very good breeding ground for people wanting to "put something" back into society. I joined the League when Joan Williams reigned supreme as President and when the President, Chairman and Vice Chairman always met the Hospital Administrator (as he then was) before each monthly Executive meeting to plan everything in advance. More of a benign dictatorship than a democracy!

In those far off days there were several thriving Districts, each one extremely jealous of its independence with its own hierarchy. There were monthly meetings of the Executive Committee and quarterly meeting of all the Trustees.



Mr Philip White

## Chief Finance Officer

The Trust has been awarded £15m of external funding to improve urgent and emergency care. We have commenced the initial building works in the emergency department (ED), lasting until end November. The ED has become increasingly busy and crowded over recent years, and the COVID-19 pandemic this year has provided a huge challenge in an already small department around ensuring people are safe and can socially distance. The building work alters the department to ensure we can safely treat patients whilst at the same time implementing safety measures associated with infection control and COVID-19. There will then be further building works in ED in the new year to further improve the department and enable better patient flow and care.

We are also building a new medical receiving unit (MRU) using a modular build for patients who have medical needs and require urgent assessment and treatment. Some will be treated same day and not require hospital admission, whilst some may need admitting into a bed for a couple of days. Historically these patients would have attended ED, adding to the crowding problem and have had long waits to be seen and treated. The MRU will be 2 storeys with direct ambulance access – patients will be able to directly access the right place to get the right treatment straight away. We hope the MRU will open in March/April dependent upon the plans and development.

As ever, we are grateful for the League's support, and we are looking forward to welcoming committee members on a walk-through of the proposed development in the coming weeks so that we can bring to life the clinical model.

## Junior League of Friends

On behalf of the Junior League of Friends team from Torquay Girls Grammar school, I can honestly say how much of a privilege it has been being part of this fantastic charity organisation; we have enjoyed every second and the fundraising events we have held to raise money for Torbay Hospital.

As we near the end of our time before we hand over to the new team, we look back on the years achievements... by setting up cake sales and refreshment stands at parents evenings and open evenings, the Junior team has raised an impressive £267.98 so far!

Despite the Coronavirus pandemic and the lack of opportunity for fundraising that this has resulted in, we are still hoping for one last push to raise money by allowing the sixth form students to participate in 'Freestyle Friday', where they won't be asked to wear uniform. Participation in this will require a small donation, which will be split at the end between various charities, one of which we are hoping to be for the League of Friends.

We would like to thank you for this amazing opportunity, and we all wish you the very best for your future success.

Sophie Wall



## New Equipment

*We are busy raising money for equipment for the new Emergency Department, but we have also bought several items for different departments and during 2019 we purchased.*

1

Mathmos Projector £115

2

Cook & Eat Session £581

3

Ophthalmology Pachymeter £2,658

4

Patient Experience £11,437

5

Happy Rehab Frame £14,714

6

Midray Monitoring System £14,730

7

Turner Ward Upgrade £15,000

8

Endoscopy Equipment £1,266,893

## Support us through Amazon

There is much more online shopping at the moment so if you shop on Amazon you can make a difference: Simply shop at [smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/200905-0](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/200905-0) or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app, and AmazonSmile donates to The Torbay Hospital League Of Friends.



£267  
Raised



*Thank You*  
**For all your Help &  
Continued support**

## *Walking for William*

The daughter of a prolific Devon poet who passed away from heart failure is paying tribute to his memory by walking the South West Coast.

William Oxley was a popular member of the Torbay community and an internationally-respected writer, published throughout the world in magazines and journals such as The New York Times and The Spectator. Originally born in Manchester, William moved to Brixham in 1976.

He suffered from rheumatic fever as a child, which damaged his heart, and he was told that he might not live past the age of forty.

However, William went on to live a full life, writing numerous books, poems and becoming the poet laureate for Torbay in 2000. Sadly on February, 4th, 2020, at the age of 80, he passed away.

His daughter Kate Hurd, has now walked one of her dad's favourite routes in his memory and as a tribute to the medical staff who helped care for him.

On Saturday, October 10, she set out following the South West Coastal path from Hope's Nose, Kate covered a distance of approximately 32 miles and finished at Goodrington beach.

Kate, who lives in Paignton, underwent a hip replacement just a couple of years ago. She is hoping the challenge will be a fitting tribute to her father after Covid restrictions meant that a more formal memorial couldn't take place. She said: "It's given everyone a point of focus. He was a real gentleman, a very kind person. He'd talk to anyone, he was a very generous individual."

She said she had been practising the walk and making good progress with her hip, Kate said: "It's been a bit of a crazy ride because two and a half years ago I couldn't even walk. Back at the start of April, I found three miles tough."

Kate did not undertake the walk alone but her mother Patricia, joined her for small sections of the walk.

Her fundraising page has already raised over £2000



**£2000  
Raised**

# How you can help...

Visit our website [www.thlof.co.uk](http://www.thlof.co.uk) Become a Friend of the League or an active member and join one of our district teams and receive a twice yearly newsletter and other mail shots. Email us on [info@thlof.co.uk](mailto:info@thlof.co.uk) if you are interested.

## Thank You Donations...

Donations can be sent to our secretary **Phillip 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. Contact the League of Friends office at the Hospital on **01803 654520** If you would like to become a more active member of the League of the League, such as helping with Fund raising or with League events, please contact the Hon 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 your generosity to last beyond your own lifetime.

*Please ask if you would like to receive our legacy information leaflet.*

## Or just have a coffee

The Butterflies Café on Level 2 is run by the League and all profits go to supporting our causes. It has a lovely relaxed atmosphere and every cuppa helps us to provide care for the people of Torbay and South Devon.

*The Café is open from 9.30am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday.*

Visit our website [www.thlof.co.uk](http://www.thlof.co.uk)

## Future Events

***We are not planning any future events at this difficult time, when times return to normal events will be announced in e-news.***

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](mailto:info@thlof.co.uk).

Details will also be in the monthly 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.*

Torquay Sea Front  
**TORBAY HOSPITAL**  
**League of Friends**  
*Helping to care...*



Registered Charity No. 200905