Ever since the first hospital was built in Torquay, up until the introduction of the National Health Service in 1948, the hospital was a voluntary hospital. It was built with voluntary contributions and maintained by voluntary contributions. Older residents may even remember the Contributory Scheme, where residents bought a weekly stamp for a few pence and this gave entitlement to certain free hospital treatment either for an individual or for a family depending on the value of the stamp.

With the introduction of the National Health Service in July 1948 all this voluntary help disappeared, until early in 1954 when a few people got together and decided that there was still a need for voluntary help for the hospital. As a result a Public Meeting was held on 4th March of that year in the Electricity Showrooms Hall (near the Town Hall) under the Chairmanship of the Mayor of Torquay (Alderman K.R. Bryant). At that meeting it was unanimously agreed that the Torbay Hospital League of Friends should be set up and a General Committee was appointed.

The General Committee held its inaugural meeting on 26th April 1954 when Mr. B. Venn Dunn, a retired Hospital Consultant, was appointed Chairman, Mr. John Hutchings was appointed Secretary and Mr. L.F Stone and Mrs. Joan Williams Joint Treasurers.

(Continued on page 3)
I have now held the post of President of Torbay Hospital League of Friends for two years and it is still a great honour and pleasure to be involved in such a worthwhile local charity.

Great changes are progressing within the hospital buildings and the disruption has at times made working conditions difficult for the volunteers who have adapted and kept up the good work.

The Outpatient Department, where the League enjoys a high profile, is being restyled and will result in a more spacious and modern refreshment area which I am sure will be enjoyed by patients and volunteers.

It is 60 years since the League was founded. The first event was a party held in the garden of Joan Williams and the proceeds were used to buy fruit bowls for the bedside lockers. How things have changed and progressed! These days the money raised and donated help with the care and treatment of patients through the purchase of such things as a Robot for use in up to date surgery and a Mobile Breast Care Unit in addition to smaller purchases to help patients and staff on a day to day basis, so that the hospital can maintain a high standard of care.

The 2 year term of office with Georges Adroit as Chairman has come to an end and he will be succeeded by David Rogers who has held the office as Vice Chairman and he has also chaired the Events Committee. I wish them both well.

Volunteers are always welcome and anyone who is interested should please contact the League’s Office at the hospital or any of the Committee members listed.

You will read reports of Events which have taken place during the year. These have all been enjoyable and none of them could have been successful without the support of the public.

This year, being the 60th Anniversary, some special Events are being arranged and will be advertised.

Donations and Legacies are paramount in accumulating funds and 95% of the money donated goes through The League to the Hospital reinforcing the fact that we are a Local Charity for Local People.

It may be interesting to note that any requests made by the Hospital Departments for equipment or help with services go first to the Hospital Management for approval and, if approved a presentation is made by Department representative to the League’s Management. Questions are asked and after discussion the request is approved or rejected.

Many thanks to all our supporters.

Patricia Roberts - President
The League has been extremely fortunate over the 60 years in the appointment of its officers. While the Chairman's term of office is for two years, there have been only nine Presidents, four Secretaries and five Treasurers during the whole period.

Originally the whole of Torquay was divided into District Committees, each District having its own Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and over the years the League, and in turn the Hospital, owe a tremendous amount to these District Committee members who have given support, not only in their own fund raising activities, but in the functions organised centrally such as the Garden Party, Flag Day, Christmas Fayre.

The League started in a small way with the gifts it provided (£12 in 1954 for "fruit bowls, picture") but as the membership increased with the corresponding increase in income, it was able to take on larger items.

In 1967 they provided funds for building and equipping of an Intensive Care Unit at Torbay Hospital, this being one of the first such Units in the country. The League has always supported the need for up-to-date I.C.U. facilities locally and later in 1984 shared equally with the Hospital the half-million project to provide a new and most modern Unit.

The first major "Appeal" project undertaken in 1977, was in to provide a Cobalt Unit in the Radiotherapy Department which overcame the need for patients to travel outside the area for their treatment. The League was delighted when HRH The Duke of Edinburgh agreed to open this Unit. It has always been the League's policy to help the Health Authority to provide facilities locally rather than to expect patients, and their relatives, to suffer the inconvenience and expense of travelling to other parts of the country for their treatment.

Over the 60 years the League has been in existence, it has provided many large items of equipment ranging from relatively "a few pounds" to half-million pounds and more recently one-million pounds plus! This equipment is then handed to the Health Authority who assume responsibility for its maintenance and, at the end of its useful life, its replacement with more modern models of equipment.

The following are some examples of larger items provided over the years:

- C.T. Scanner £500,000.00
- M.R.I. Scanner £1,000,000.00
- Upgrading of Children's Ward, including provision of an Adolescent Ward, £1,000,000 - (this included part funding of the Oncology facilities which the Health Authority undertook)
- Upgrading of John Parkes Children's Unit £662,000.00
- Laser equipment for Key-hole surgery £343,000.00
- In 2002 the Herald Express launched a half-million pound Appeal towards the provision of a Chest Pain Unit at the Torbay Hospital. The League agreed to match all money donated to the Appeal up to half-a-million pounds.
- Cataract Unit £200,000.00
- Horizon Centre £1,500,000.00
- Audio visual Equipment for Horizon Centre £220,000.00
- Digital Breast Screening Equipment including Mobile Unit £770,000.00
Da Vinci Robotic Surgery Equipment (affectionately known as “Fred” in memory of Fred Payne our President at the time) £1,500,000.00

Trans Oral Robotic Surgery Equipment £143,666.00

These Gifts to the Hospital are only the largest and most recent. In addition to these each year we have given thousands of pounds to enable the hospital to acquire countless other items both large and small.

So much for the past – now we need to look to the future. The League has evolved and become more streamlined over the years whilst still adhering to its ethos of “Helping to Care”. It is remarkable just how much support and backing is still forthcoming from the citizens of Torbay which enables us to continue to make, when required, substantial contributions to our Hospital.

It is most encouraging that others have accepted the responsibilities which such work inevitably carries and are now wholeheartedly engaged in maintaining the work and efficiency of the League as those who paved the way before them.

Many forfeit hours each week to serve the League in a number of ways. Many are unknown to the general public but serve the hospital by raising funds to meet the cost of projects, when it is brought to their notice, that something particular is required to improve the diagnosis and treatment of patients or to improve the facilities of staff that are treating them. We were very proud therefore that in Her Majesty’s Diamond Anniversary year the League was honoured by the award of the “Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service” which is regarded as an MBE for voluntary groups. This award truly reflects the commitment of so many volunteers working selflessly for the benefit of others in the community.

Now that the Diamond Anniversary is upon us we wanted to commemorate this is some way which would provide a fitting legacy for the Hospital. Coincidentally the Hospital is about to embark on a significant uplift in Critical Care which will involve a new build CCU adjacent to theatres on level 5 and re-developing the current main entrance on level 4. This is a major project in both size and cost which will have designed into it sufficient flexibility to enable it to be “future proof” for many years to come.

It seems only fitting therefore that given the League’s support for the first ICU in 1967, we should once again play a major part in renewing the provision of critical care which is so important in a modern Hospital. The details of the project are not yet finalized but it goes without saying that the League of Friends, along with the support of the people of Torbay, is ready willing and able to give such support as it can to this vital project in whatever role may be asked of it by the Hospital.
The editor reported very fully in the last Newsletter the exciting and substantial developments proposed for our new Cafeteria to be called “Butterflies”. The current position from the Editors point of view is completely frustrating as this brand new redevelopment is on the brink of fruition but will not actually be completed or opened by the time this Newsletter has to go to the printers in time for sending out with notice of the AGM. The pictures below shows the state of what is to be the new extension part of the café taken on the 19th February so it will be seen there is still a bit of work to be done!

Therefore I am writing more or less blind in the hope that by the time anyone actually gets to read this the Café will have been built, opened and that everyone is happy and pleased! I am hoping (with fingers crossed) the next edition of this Newsletter will carry a series of brilliant pictures of the new café and a joyful account of a most successful opening. There have been some delays and problems since the last Newsletter was published. Happily all these matters were overcome just in time for the chosen shop fitters to go into liquidation! Although this could have been a substantial blow involving long delays I am glad to be able to report that a local firm, Nebrak, were able to step in a short notice so that there has been virtually no slippage in the timetable. There is no doubt that the refurbishment and extension of our shop is an exciting development which will enable us to offer a hugely improved service to all who visit it. I very much hope that all who use the café, as well as those who work in it, will be proud of what the café has now become and will continue to support it. The revenue we get from the café is a very real benefit to the League so we really do want to get everything just right and we also want to make our new café an asset that both you and the Hospital will be proud of for many years to come.
The Junior League of Friends was created in recent years to engage young people in fundraising for the hospital. There could not have been a more positive start to this academic year with forty-five AS Level students at Torquay Girls Grammar School showing huge amounts of interest. The first fundraising idea that we put into action was a Winter Ball, which was held on the 22nd December 2013 at Hennessy Cocktail Bar, Torquay. It was a huge success, with a professional photo booth, finger-buffet, and just under 200 sixth form students (from the Boys and Girls Grammar) attended the event. Through the selling of tickets, the generosity of Hennessy, adult volunteers and various donations, we managed to raise in excess of £1100! Part of the money has gone towards funding an iPad to be bought for the Children’s ward at the hospital, so as to occupy them when receiving an injection. It was a great night enjoyed by all, and the fantastic sum raised was a bonus, astronomically exceeding our initial expectations!

We intend to do an Easter Fête at lunchtime on Wednesday 2nd of April in the Old Hall, which will be open to all Torquay Girls and Boys Grammar school students and teachers. We are going to have several stalls, including a raffle,
personalised Easter Eggs, beauty therapy, face painting and cake selling. We are hoping that this organised fête will raise over £500, and with the generous donations and time provided by the school and our team, we are very hopeful to achieve this figure! We cannot wait for this event to take place!

We are also currently selling Nestle chocolate bars every Thursday and Friday lunchtime in the School Shop! We buy the chocolate in at trade price (11 pence per bar) and sell them 2 for £1 or 75 pence a bar, making at least 39p profit per bar sold! This is a great way, we have found, to provide the charity with a small but steady fundraising income! The selling has been incredibly successful so far, with an average take of around £50 per lunchtime! We intend to continue selling up until the end of the summer term.

It truly is a privilege to work with such a motivated, hardworking and passionate team, not to mention the support of Torquay Girls Grammar School and the whole of the Torbay Hospital's Senior League of Friends.

Ellen Fleming – Chairman.

Although Christmas now seems a long time ago, the League of Friends took part in the great switch on of the Christmas Lights in Torquay on the 16th November. On this happy occasion in the run up to Christmas we were fortunate enough to have enthusiastic support from members of the Junior League. Our picture shows some League members heavily outnumbered by members of the Junior League all smartly uniformed and ready for the off. The collection itself took place alongside the other Christmas festivities and was co-ordinated very efficiently by Tony and Shirley Cox. A very respectable sum of £160 was collected from shoppers in town and this sum was generously matched by the Torquay and Town Centre BID to bring the total to £320. An appreciative “thank you” to all who took part and also to Mac and Sandy Sparkle who helped with the en-
ertainment for the whole day on our behalf at the harbourside.

**S**ome time ago the **League of Friends** Events Committee was approached by Maggie Harvey who wanted to organise a fund raising event to benefit Torbay Hospital. Having many years experience in event organising Maggie decided to arrange an evening of fashion and entertainment. The only commitment Maggie looked to the League for was advertising, ticket sales and a raffle, which was welcomed by the committee. It’s always nice to realise that other organisations and individuals are so willing to support us in helping the hospital.

On Thursday 10th October 2013 The Grand Hotel was the venue for this event, and the function room was full of ladies - and a few men – enjoying the lively atmosphere. Maggie is also a supporter of Animals in Distress and had enlisted their help in supplying models and fashion which was available to purchase at the end of the evening at bargain prices. The amateur models took to the catwalk with style and enthusiasm to the enjoyment of the audience.

The fashions were interspersed with a variety of entertainment from all age groups.

Opening the show were the young dancers and singers from the Pollyanna Buckingham School. Aged from only 6 years, they treated us to delightful, confident performances. We then enjoyed the adult performers covering artistes ranging through The Andrews Sisters, Frank Sinatra, The Shadows, Shirley Bassey and others.

During the interval a draw took place with all prizes being donated – again we owe thanks to other organisations who are so willing to help us, including of course The Grand Hotel for providing a delightful setting.

Having made all the arrangements for the evening, Maggie then took on the role of compere. She was thanked for her hard work by Pat Roberts, President of the League, who pointed out that due to the generosity of so many people with both their time and expertise the League benefited by £1150 with no outlay – a wonderful result! Thank you to all concerned.

Throughout the year we receive donations from numerous groups and associations. These events are being organised for our benefit – please support them if you can.
This was a dreadful day weather wise – about 12 members of the public attended, 8 committee members and 1 volunteer from Level 2.

We had a pleasant morning but it became clear that there was no significant interest in forming a committee at this stage. However, there were a few positive points:

- One lapsed member renewed his subscription, and would possibly form a committee in the future
- One lady will make enquiries at Level 2 to act as a volunteer
- There was interest from a couple of people in inviting Lynne Hookings to speak at their club/association
- One lady has offered to arrange a Quiz Night after Christmas – Julia and Lynne will speak to her and perhaps this could be the first Shiphay function
- We also sold a few Christmas cards and one lady has given her name to help with the sale of cards/draw tickets on Level 2 in the future

Torbay Hospital League of Friends were pleased to welcome Teignmouth Sings (Community Choir) to the TREC Lecture Theatre at the hospital on Monday 9th December 2013. Guests were welcomed with mulled wine and mince pies, followed by the choir entertaining them with a wide variety of songs covering Christmas, Musicals and the Movies.

To finish the evening the League of Friends Christmas Draw was made with the first lucky ticket holder winning a £250 Christmas Hamper. There were two more hampers to be won, together with a bread maker, £25 Coiffure Francais voucher, Princess Theatre Pantomime tickets, Bygones tickets, and other prizes. Three guests who were sitting in ‘lucky seats’ received a Spot Prize on the evening. We wish to thank Teignmouth Sings for their excellent performance and also thank all those who donated a draw prize.
In December 2013 the Management Committee of the League was sorry to say goodbye to Rene who has been a stalwart Committee member for many years. She has been an extremely active member of the St Marychurch District and through the Summer months has sold paperback books in a local hotel on a weekly basis. Although Rene has retired from the Management Committee she tells us that she would still like to help with our events. We are sorry to see Rene go but appreciate that at 95 it’s time to start taking things easy! Our President Patricia Roberts presented Rene with a bouquet as a mark of appreciation for all her years of service to the League.

Rene Knight
Our Oldest Committee Member Retires

Café Times

SHOP/CAFÉ (Outpatients Entrance - Level 2)
OPEN 9.30am to 4.30pm
Tea, Coffee, Chocolate; Cool Drinks, Hot Food, Pasties, Sausage Rolls, Cheese/Bacon Wraps. Assorted Sandwiches & Rolls, Fresh Cakes and Buns. Toasted Teacakes, Toast.
Seasonal Specials: Mince Pies, Hot Cross Buns, etc.

OPEN Monday & Thursday 9.30 to 4pm & Fri (am)
Once again Wellswood District put on a tremendously successful annual Trafalgar Dinner which on this occasion took place at the Gleneagles Hotel in Wellswood on Friday the 25th October. In view of the great success of the night the writer would not think that Admiral Lord Nelson would have minded that the 208th anniversary date of the 21st October was missed by only four days.

This glittering Black tie event was attended by over 100 guests who were welcomed to the Gleneagles Hotel with a glass of sparkling wine and then had time to chat amongst themselves and also to watch the ceremonial piping “aboard” of the Guest of Honour Commander Jason Phillips OBE, RN Commander, Britannia Royal Naval College.

The company then tacked into the hotel dining room to join their various ships (HMS, Victory, Dreadnought, Revenge, Sirius to name but a few) to enjoy a splendid three course menu with the Roast Beef of Old England the main course followed by Apple and Cinnamon Crumble. The stirring words of Nelson’s Prayer were read by Commander Phillips who later went on to propose The Immortal Memory after a fascinating address when he talked with humour and passion of the Royal Navy today and how it compared with the navy two hundred years ago.

Lynne Hookings as Chairman of Wellswood District then thanked the Commander for making the evening such a meaningful occasion. She spoke eloquently about the League of Friends and thanked not only her team at Wellswood for all their hard work in arranging the evening but also the Naval Cadets who had formed the Guard of Honour under the Command of Lieutenant Skingle, the Hotel management and Staff for their excellent care and service and not least of all the Guests for coming along to support the League with their company.

As it was also a fund raising event Wellswood had devised various ways

(Continued on Page 14)
## Accounts Summary

### TORBAY HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

**SUMMARY OF THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013**

The summarised accounts for the year are provided on the following pages. These summarised accounts provide information extracted from the Annual Accounts. They may not contain however, sufficient information for a full understanding of the financial affairs of Torbay Hospital League of Friends. Full information is available in the Full Accounts, Auditors’ Report of those Accounts and the Trustees’ Report for the year ended 31 December 2013. Those documents are available from the Torbay Hospital League of Friends’ principal office.

The Full Accounts have been externally examined by the means of an audit. Currently the audit and the Trustees reports have not been approved.

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<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Total 2013</th>
<th>Total 2012</th>
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</thead>
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<td>15,000</td>
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<td>(28,801)</td>
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<td>411,756</td>
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<td>666,796</td>
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<td>Charitable expenditure on equipment</td>
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<td>(205,196)</td>
<td>(838,098)</td>
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<td>(20,914)</td>
<td>(18,530)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>185,646</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>260,646</td>
<td>(189,832)</td>
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**Analysis of net assets of the group (between restricted and unrestricted funds)**

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<th>Fixed assets £</th>
<th>Investments £</th>
<th>Net current assets £</th>
<th>Fund balances £</th>
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<td>Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted designated funds</td>
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<td>Unrestricted general funds</td>
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<td>906,776</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5,370</td>
<td>1,264,958</td>
<td>1,270,328</td>
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A detailed analysis of the funds are shown on page 2 of this summary.
TORBAY HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

SUMMARY OF THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

Unrestricted funds:

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Balance at 01 Jan 13 £</th>
<th>Incoming/outgoing for year £</th>
<th>Transfer between funds £</th>
<th>Balance at 31 Dec 13 £</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Designated funds</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment commitments</td>
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<td>Total unrestricted funds</td>
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Restricted funds:

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<th></th>
<th>Balance at 01 Jan 13 £</th>
<th>Incoming/outgoing for year £</th>
<th>Transfer between funds £</th>
<th>Balance at 31 Dec 13 £</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intensive care unit</td>
<td>35,323</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>35,323</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiac unit</td>
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<td>15,323</td>
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<td>Radiotherapy unit</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>15,323</td>
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<td>Diabetic and Asthmatic patients</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neurology department</td>
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<td>60,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total restricted funds</td>
<td>65,969</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>140,969</td>
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Independent auditors’ statement to the trustees of Torbay Hospital League of Friends

We have examined the summarised financial statements of Torbay Hospital League of Friends for the year ended 31 December 2013 as set out on pages 1 and 2.

This report is made solely to the charity’s trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity’s trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors’ report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendations of the charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustees’ Annual Report. We also read other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Trustees’ Annual Report of Torbay Hospital League of Friends for the year ended 31 December 2013.

Bishop Fleming
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
50 The Terrace
TORQUAY TQ1 1DD
of extracting money from the ships company. Not only was there a draw for no less than twenty prizes all donated by very kind donors who were properly acknowledged in the programme but also Col. Gerald Arnold, a member of the Wellswood District Committee and Master of Ceremonies conducted a vigorous Auction for a Two Night stay for two people at the Cumberland Hotel in Bournemouth on a Dinner Bed and Breakfast basis (kindly donated by the hotel management) and a Tour of Britannia Royal Naval College and lunch in the Officers Mess for four people as guests of Commander Phillips. Such was Gerald’s enthusiasm (probably not wanting the Navy to get all the glory) that he managed to raise a total of £400 for these two very generous gifts. As a final money raising exercise and really only available on Trafalgar night the company was each presented at their table with the “King’s shilling” so that in order to avoid the press gang (and an appointment at 08.00 the following morning at HMS Britannia for some severe nautical training) they were invited to buy their way out for a £1.

The company then repaired variously to either the bar or the dance floor to finish off the evening to the sounds of the Swing Kings Band.

The total money raised for the evening was a prodigious £2300.
To say that my two years as the Leagues Chairman came and went very quickly would be an understatement. As much as I really enjoyed it, I have to emphasize that much more could have been done. As the old saying goes, “the boss is never fully satisfied”. That said, I am very grateful for the wonderful support I received from everyone in the Committee, without which my job would have been much more difficult.

My first year in the chair started with a flourish, thanks to Dr. Seamus McDermott recommending the Torbay Hospital League of Friends for the Queens Awards. When I was approached I certainly didn’t hesitate to say ‘yes’, and of course we duly won the award. Once again I must say ‘well done’ to everybody for the wonderful presentation they made on our behalf to the Commissioner, especially Charlotte Tongue who was the Chairperson for the Junior League and in particular Lynne Hookings who at the time was the Chairman of the League. Her inputs were definitely of the essence, we can now be proud, well knowing that our hard work for our local Charity has been recognized nationally.

One can go on thanking people in the forefront of our Organization, i.e. the League members, volunteers, Hospital management and so on, but we mustn’t forget those who work quietly in the background such as the Catering Department come to mind.

We have also been greatly supported by various members of our local Community, the Miles Coverdale Masonic Lodge who gives a yearly donation to the Leagues and last year gave an additional £1000 from their W.A.K.E.funds; Preston’s Rotary Club organized a dinner/dance and donated their proceeds to us; a tea party from a well-known Sheltered elderly home from Wellswood; not to forget a Street Party organised by the Livermead Community and many more.

On behalf of the League, I say a great thank you. We are once again ever so grateful to Lynne, asking her Nephew to help us with our new website; this gentleman who is self-employed went out of his way to do this for us for free. As I once said, people never stop to amaze me, how can anyone forget Paul Levie, a freelance photographer/reporter who also help us with the advertisements for free, his contributions has given us a much better profile in the Community.

Georges Adroit
Patient, somewhat breathless and harassed looking “Excuse me can you help please – I don’t know exactly where to go?

League of Friends Guide, leaping forward “Of course I can help – that’s what I am here for! Where do you need to go?

The Patient then told the Guide where he had to go and explained, over the background noise, that he is a bit late as he had trouble finding somewhere to park and then says:–

“What are you anyway”?

As they set off to find the clinic the Guide replies:–

“I’m a member of the League of Friends. We are here to help.”

“That’s handy as I would never have been able to find my way around all these corridors. I have seen signs up about the League but never really know what you actually do?” enquired the Patient obviously relieved to have found someone to help.

“We supply Guides every day at Reception” said the Guide “but we also do a great deal more than that! We have a thriving Linen League which provides all kinds of specialised garments for patients as well as running a Café and trolley service but our main purpose is to raise funds for the Hospital “

“I thought the Government paid for everything – after all I pay a lot in tax and I thought this covered the NHS so why should you be paying anything else?” said the Patient a bit suspiciously.

“The Government does indeed pay for most things but not everything the Hospital would like, nor at the time it would like them. “ The Guide explained. “We can often provide additional and immediate funds for the most up-to-date medical equipment so that we all benefit from the latest cutting edge technology probably years before the Government could get around to it”

“So what have you provided then” challenged the patient

“Well, in total since we started we have donated something over £15.5m to the Hospital” The Guide said proudly. “We get no grants from anyone at all. All our money is raised locally by a variety of means and goes back into our Hospital. We hold a number of fund raising events, such as a Garden Party, Coffee mornings, Dinners and a whole host of other things throughout the year which help to make ourselves known to people; we run a very successful Café where you can get a cup of coffee and something to eat and of course people are kind enough sometimes to leave us a legacy in their Will.”

He went on thoughtfully “Indeed income from legacies is our most important source of
funding and we all hope that people will continue to remember us when they make their wills”

“So how long have you been going then” asked the Patient?

“This is our Diamond Anniversary year – so for 60 years. We first started in 1954 with a small committee and in our first year we donated £12 to the Hospital to enable them to buy some fruit bowls to go on the patient’s bedside locker. We have come a long way since those days having on more than one occasion been able to donate funds in excess of £1m for a specific project

The Patient asked with a slight tone of cynicism

“I suppose quite a lot of the money raised goes in overheads”

“That’s where you are wrong!” cried the Guide “ Obviously we have some expenses, but we do not have salaries to pay other than to our two Organisers who run the Café and Guides between them. We can return on average something over 95p in the pound back to the Hospital and sometimes even more. Not many charities can claim as much as that!”

The Patient was clearly impressed “I wonder if I can help in any way”

“You certainly can if you want to and the best way forward would be to become a member of the League” replied the Guide enthusiastically

“Yes well... I’m not too keen on being a member of anything. It all sounds like a regular commitment and attending committees etc. which is not really my scene” answered the Patient rather dubiously.

“I can assure you that being a member of the League of Friends is nothing like that” said the Guide. “By being a member you can do as much or as little as you like. We ask you to pay an annual Membership subscription in the amount that you decide (it averages around £25 but it can be as much or little as you want). You then get a Newsletter twice a year and if you don’t want to do anything more then that’s fine. If you did want to help further you can always contact the Hon Sec and he will be only too happy to put you in touch with whoever can help but that is not in any way obligatory.

By this time the pair was nearing their destination having threaded their way through various corridors and stairs so the Guide said proudly-

“Well here we are then. Safely arrived at your Clinic and in time for your appointment. I have enjoyed our chat and I hope you might consider becoming a Member of the League of Friends?”

“Thanks mate. Now that you have explained what the League does I think I will indeed join you and help where I can.” Said the Patient looking around him and then going on to say “You have been a great help but I am due to see Ophthalmology and this is Urology.........................!”
If you are already a member of The League of Friends you will have received this newsletter in the post and I thank you for your continued support.

However, you may have picked this up in the Hospital or been to one of our events. If you are not already a member would you consider becoming one?

The Membership Subscription Form is on the back of this newsletter. There is no commitment other than an annual donation – the amount of which is entirely up to you, depending on individual circumstances. Currently our subscription donations range from £5 to £250 a year, and we are grateful for all sums received. You will receive a newsletter in the Spring and Autumn keeping you up to date with our gifts to the Hospital and our own events both past and forthcoming.

As a member you will be invited to our Annual General Meeting which is held in April each year. Over the past years we have had many interesting talks from senior members of the Hospital staff giving an insight into the latest medical advances – very often involving equipment purchased by the League of Friends.

Should you wish to give some time to the League there are many ways to do so. We have District Committees in Torquay who would be very pleased to receive help in organising their events. On occasions we sell Draw tickets and Christmas cards in the Outpatients Department, and again we are always glad of any extra help. Please contact me for details.

I hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter and I look forward to welcoming you as a new member. Please ring me if you would like a chat or any further information.

Julia Hearne

Vice-President
Telephone 01626 777658
Committee member sisters Julia and Lynne Hearne (sisters married to cousins – in case you wondered about the same surname!) decided to take the League Christmas cards into the community following an approach by the Manager of a local retirement complex. We were invited to attend a Coffee Morning to sell our cards and distribute Newsletters to residents. This was so successful that we decided to contact similar sites and over the period approaching Christmas enjoyed coffee with many new faces in Torquay, Paignton, Newton Abbot and Teignmouth whilst promoting the work of the League and increasing our card sales.

The most unusual place we were invited to was a Christmas Fayre held by Bishopsteignton Festival at Red Rock Brewery in the barns at Humber Farm.

This was held one Saturday evening from 4 – 8 pm and had all the atmosphere of a Continental Christmas Market with food tastings and mulled wine. Entertainment was provided by Bishopsteignton Primary School, The Back Beach Boyz sea shanty singers and our friends from our Summer Garden Party, The Grimspound Morris Men – pictured above.

We hope to build on this success for Christmas 2014

If you would like us to bring our cards to your Coffee Morning / Event

Please phone Julia on 01626 777658 or Lynne on 01626 776002

Thank you for buying the League’s cards!
Events 2014

FLAG DAYS

ASDA COLLECTION  20TH JUNE
STREET COLLECTION  16TH AUGUST
SAINSBURY’S  4TH OCTOBER

GARDEN PARTY AT THE PALACE

Palace Hotel, Torquay.  29TH JUNE

WELLSWOOD DISTRICT EVENTS

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER - Following a successful partnership last year with Tormohun Rotary Club, we have again been invited to join them in this year's theatre visit.

Tickets - £10.00 to include a wine and cheese reception prior to this clever and entertaining production.

Little Theatre, St Mark's Road, Torquay. Friday 11th April

A glittering Diamond Anniversary Banquet and Ball to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Torbay Hospital League of Friends. £35.00 per person, Three Course Dinner plus coffee, with Dancing, Charity Raffle and Auction

The Grand Hotel, Seafront, Torquay, Saturday 7th June

Contact: Lynne Hookings (Chairman, Wellswood District) Tel 01803 291581 or email: lynne@websitevision.co.uk, or Shirley Cox tel. 01803 322805 - email shirley-tony@btinternet.com for more details

We are delighted to again partner Big Noise Chorus for their 2014 Christmas Concert. This is always a complete sell out and is a fantastic, uplifting evening. Put the date in your diary now - you cannot afford to miss this one! Tickets available from Lynne (01803 291581) and Shirley (01803 322805)

St. Matthias Church, Wellswood. SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER

More dates are to come including our regular Coffee mornings and hopefully a Barn dance with supper

Please keep looking at our desk on Level 2 - or on the website - http://www.thlof.co.uk for details of further District and League events as they come forward
Torbay Hospital’s Rainbow Day Nursery was ranked as ‘Outstanding” following an Ofsted inspection in August 2013. The nursery is for the children of staff who work across the health community in South Devon and provides care for up to 70 children at any one time ranging from three months up to five years old, as well as a holiday club for those up to 11 years old.

Junior doctors rated Torbay as the best of the best during a GMC visit in November 2013. For the second time in three years the South West Peninsula Foundation School was ranked as first in the UK for overall satisfaction for foundation training doctors, with Torbay Hospital being the highest ranked Trust within the Peninsula.

GPs will soon be able to 'prescribe' self-help health videos to patients and embed them into their online care plans through a new partnership between Torbay Hospital’s Hiblio TV and Patients Know Best, the world's first patient-controlled online medical records system. Hiblio hosts an online public health website containing over 400 trusted public health videos developed by the NHS and recognised health charities as well as producing specific video care guides for patients with specific healthcare needs.

The Hospital’s library team was recently announced as a winner in The Sally Hernando Award for Product Innovation in NHS Library and Knowledge Services 2013-14 for its work on creating the "Torbay Health Science Café". The aim of the Science Café events is to create an environment for local people to share informal discussion and to offer them an opportunity to visit the Hospital for reasons other than medical need.

After a nationwide contest, South Devon and Torbay has been selected from over 100 entries as one of only 14 sites to become a Pioneer site for integrated health and social care. This means that people of all ages will experience seamless care, even when they need a whole range of different services, and they will also have more control over their care and treatment.

A project which aims to improve the livelihood of patients at risk of homelessness who access NHS hospitals in Devon and Torbay was awarded over £70,000 by the Dept. of Health to help ensure homeless people get the support they need when they leave hospital. Bay6 is collaboration between Community Housing Aid, Torbay Hospital, RD&E Hospital and North Devon District Hospital.
In 1954 Joan Williams had a dream of a group of people getting together to support the Hospital thus the Torbay Hospital League of Friends was formed. 60 years later that dream is still going.

It’s not unusual to see trustees and committee members at events moving tables and chairs so it goes smoothly.

With the support of companies around the area, Frank Mann, Palace Hotel, Sa@w Health and Safety Consultants, County Garage Newton Abbot, Booker Paignton, Booker Newton Abbot, Amici Restaurant and Bianco Restaurant to name just a few, we are able to put back into the hospital 96.4% of monies raised.

Yet its members of the public who support us the most - people like yourself from giving donations to giving items for the draws, purchase of draw tickets and coming to the events.

The events committee have already started planning for the 2014 season so expect a memorable year. Our Diamond Anniversary - 60 years - and still going strong so why not come to the Garden Party on 29th of June. We shall be celebrating in style with Mac and Sandy Sparkle, to name just two who will be entertaining us, and talk to the Trustee’s about the work the League does to support our Hospital.

David Rogers

Boxing Day Dip!

Three schoolgirls from Warberry Primary School have raised over £500.00 for THLOF after bravely venturing into the sea on Boxing Day.

Anna Delaney, Lauren Whalley and Taylor Harris organised the fundraising as part of the Torbay Civic Award Scheme and chose to make THLOF their chosen charity - raising £539.15 in total.

This follows on from a previous effort by pupils at Warberry Primary School - who undertook a Zumbathon for the League and on that occasion raised £250.

Anna, Lauren and Taylor must be congratulated on their brave and valiant efforts - well done!
Do you have any spare time?
We are looking for new

VOLUNTEERS

to help in the Café and for the Guide Service

The services that the League of Friends offer to patients and staff at the Hospital are staffed by volunteers and we are always pleased to have new people come forward to help – any time you are able to give will be appreciated.

**The Cafe** is in the Outpatients Department and is open from Monday to Friday – volunteers work for either a morning or afternoon session. We serve hot and cold drinks, hot and cold snacks, sweets and crisps.

*We are looking forward to opening the newly extended and refurbished Cafe!*

**Guides** are based in Outpatients and A&E – they provide a delivery service between hospital departments and are on hand to Meet and Greet patients who may need help to find their way.

**Hours are normally**
- 9.00 – 12 or 1.00-4.00
- Monday to Friday

For further information please contact:
June or Pat in the League Office, Outpatients Department, Level 2,
Telephone: 01803 654520 or email: thlof@tiscali.co.uk