

The Chairman's View

A year from now we will be celebrating 50 years of splendid success in raising approaching £8m for new equipment etc at our Hospital, which could not otherwise have been purchased over the years, due to the limitations of NHS budgets.

The League started with a garden party at our President Joan Williams' home. I doubt she foresaw what she was starting that inaugural day in 1954!

The passage of time tells me that the first half of my two-year role as Chairman has been reached and I am pleased that the League's success continues. The last newsletter was in October and since then we have paid for £224,000 of promised equipment and committed ourselves to a further £140,000 of expenditure, part of which is to match the excellent *Herald Express* Appeal for the new Chest Pain Clinic, currently approaching £70,000.

I think one equipment item we are purchasing will surprise many readers in that in most cases it will enable

hysterectomies to be carried out as Day Surgery with just a two-three day minor recovery period at home. The NHS has a target of 70% of **all** operations to be carried out as Day Surgery by this time next year. It is excellent that our Hospital is already achieving 68% against a national average of between 50% and 55%. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team at Torbay to look after us when we need help.

There is no reason to believe that the next 50 years will not be just as challenging and needful, so please ask your friends to join the League or send a contribution to our funds - any amount is vital. Many charities are currently being criticised for their administrative overheads; only about 3% of our income is used for this purpose.

I hope we all enjoy a very healthy and glorious summer.

Mike Evans
Chairman

FUTURE EVENTS

27 April
Supper & Cabaret
Anchorage Hotel,
Shiphay District

29 April
St Georges Day Dinner
South Devon College,
Wellswood District

30 April
Antiques Roadshow with
Bearnes
TREC Torbay Hospital,
St Marychurch District

8, 9, 10 May
Collection at Marks &
Spencer, The Willows

15 August
Annual Flag Day

23 August
Collection at Sainsburys,
The Willows

The Torbay Hospital League of Friends Christmas Cards



One of the aims of the League of Friends is to publicise our Charity and its aims, with the joint targets of increasing understanding of our work and thus increasing our membership.

With this aim in mind we will be introducing four designs of Christmas cards this year which are overprinted with details of our Charity. They will be sold in packs of ten with prices ranging from around £2.50 per pack to £3.50 per pack. All proceeds from the sales will go the League of Friends to be utilised in current and future projects. Unlike many large charities the Torbay Hospital League of Friends has negligible administration costs and thus your support for this endeavour will not be diluted in any way, with any profits going directly to funding projects. Also any cards that you will send will spread publicity on our behalf

so you will directly be assisting the charity in achieving its aims.

Whilst it may seem early, we hope to have the Christmas Cards on sale at our Fun Day on Saturday, 28 June 2003, so if that date is not already in your calendar, please add it now and make every effort to come along and see us then. We need the feedback to improve our future offerings!

If you really cannot make it to the Fun Day then the October edition of our newsletter will incorporate details of the cards and an order form which can be used to order by post. Don't want to pay postage? Ok - we are planning on making the cards available through our facilities at the Hospital and hopefully, nearer

Christmas, to operate a small card stall within the Hospital during weekdays. In this aim we are fortunate

to have the full support of the Hospital management. Having said all that, we have, of course only limited stocks of each design and whilst we want everyone to buy some, we also wish to sell out, so please buy early! The sub-committee that picked the designs (eventually) also recognises that you "cannot please all of the people, all of the time" and would ask for your understanding that they attempted to produce a high class, excellent value for money, choice of designs which reflect a conventional, rather than a contemporary Christmas. If this year is a success, and only you can make it so, then maybe next year we can expand our horizons.

Sue Penwarden