



FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST CROSS

MINUTES OF THE 70th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST CROSS
ON 10th SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 18.30



1. **WELCOME:** Willy Goldschmidt (President) opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.
2. **PRESENT:** 61 (41 members and 20 non-members)
APOLOGIES: 10 Members and supporters as per emails received.
3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on the 4th September 2024 were available to all attendees. These had been circulated on the website prior to the meeting taking place.
4. **MATTERS ARISING:** No matters arising. Minutes proposed by Willy Goldschmidt (WG) and Seconded by Doug Jones (DJ). APPROVED
5. **INTRODUCTION OF THE WORSHIPFUL MAYOR OF RUGBY:**
Willy Goldschmidt (WG) introduced the Mayor of Rugby - Cllr. Barbara Brown. The Mayor remarked how delighted and honoured she was to be Mayor of such a remarkable and generous town, with so many volunteers who give their time, energy and expertise to make the town a better place for everyone living there. She praised the amount of time and effort provided by The Friends of the Hospital of St Cross in their fundraising activities and supporting the work of the hospital and generously offered to support future fundraising efforts by providing a prize of afternoon tea in the Mayor's Parlour. Before closing her speech Cllr. Brown stated how proud she was to be attending the AGM.
6. **VOTE OF THANKS TO THE MAYOR:** Doug Jones (Chair) gave a Vote of Thanks to the Mayor for her kind words and for taking time out of her busy schedule.
7. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** DJ presented a slide show which included pictures of some of the events and appeals the Friends have supported or been involved with not only throughout the previous 12 months but over many of the past 70 years.
He reflected that year on year the Friends have been able to support some amazing developments and projects at St Cross such as Scalp Cooler Hair kits, leg presses for the physiotherapy department and Ultrasonic guided injection equipment.

Projects such as these are only possible because of the amazing generosity and support that individuals, groups, clubs and associations provide so readily to the Friends. He thanked them all for the financial support they have provided and stressed it is only possible for so much to be achieved because of that ongoing support from the Rugby Community.

In recognition of the amazing work of the Friends and the Platinum Anniversary of its formation, the Local Authority have arranged a significant planting in Caldecott Park as a tribute to and in recognition of the efforts of all volunteers and supporters both past and present.

Over the past year fundraising activities have once again delivered some consistently excellent results. Pauline Masterman and her team on Book Sales raised a great amount of money bettering previous year end results. Elizabeth Burnett and the team on the Tea Bar and Ward Trolley Services should also be mentioned for all they do which is very much appreciated by patients and staff alike and raised a significant sum of money for the Charity too.

Special mention should also be made of Tracey Lennard who last year celebrated her 25th year as Chair of the Social Fund-Raising Committee. A phenomenal achievement that has seen Tracey and her team raise more than £200,000 since 1999.

Over the last year considerable effort has been made in the engagement of local communities and in raising the awareness of the wide array of services provided at St Cross. Obviously, this will need continued effort and input from the Charity to build upon those relationships and to explore opportunities to develop additional income streams for the Friends. If you are over 16 years of age and would like more information or indeed would like to accept this challenge, then please contact us.

Requests for support from our team of volunteers continue to grow and with the planned expansion of hospital facilities both on and off site that demand is going to increase. The number of active volunteers stays constant at around 170 people, with the collective support provided by those individuals running at around 1500hrs of volunteering a month. That is an invaluable contribution to the work of the Friends managed by the team of excellent Service Co-ordinators who lead voluntary activities across a wide range of services at St Cross.

Doug expressed his thanks to all volunteers both new and long serving for their service and for providing the greatest gift of all, the gift of time and remarked that the Friends could not achieve all that they do without such support.

Changes have been made to the Friends Trustee Board, and he welcomed the new Trustees and thanked those that are moving on for their support and contribution to the work of the Friends. The Trustee Board is still as strong as ever with a fantastic range of talents and wealth of experience that can be drawn upon to send the Friends onto the next chapter of its already amazing history.

He advised that there have also been changes with key contacts at the Hospital, with both Dr Jan Jayatilake Hospital Director and Hilary Lorimer Volunteer Services Manager moving on and thanked them both for their support. He formally welcomed Juliet Starkey Group Director of Operations Rugby and Chelly Walsma Voluntary

Services Manager and looked forward to building upon the already fantastic relationship with the Hospital.

The last budget year saw fewer than usual requests received for support. The Friends have however been able to support a wide range of requests across a number of services at St Cross and full details can be found within the gift list for 2024. Income has been very consistent which means the Friends are well placed to support the future developments planned both on the Hospital site and within the Town as those developments begin to take shape.

Finally, Doug thanked the Board of Trustees and Volunteers for all they have delivered in the past year. Their collective actions and the hard work of all the friends and its supporters have once again ensured that the Friends of the Hospital of St Cross is able to prosper and grow as the services provided change and the needs and expectations of those who use the hospital evolve.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT: Brian Cheney (Treasurer) summarised the accounts for 2024.

	2024	2023
<i>Total Income</i>	£99,269	£99,112
<i>Total Gifts made</i>	£30,049	£167,300
<i>Total running Costs</i>	£4,962	£9,520
<i>Total Cash/Investments</i>	£388,324	£322,455

RESERVES:

Current account and cash	£134,796
Building Society deposits	£170,000
Investment Accounts	£ 83,528
Total Reserves	£ 388,324

Other key financial points for 2024:

Social fundraising	£16,144
Tea bar/ward trolley profits	£14,260
Legacies received	£37,603
Sale of books	£ 2,732

Further financial aspects of 2024:

Admin & support costs	£4,962
Examination of accounts	£1,032
Insurance	£1,045
Website and email etc	£1,357

100% of donations are spent on supporting our aims. All running costs are covered by earned income, interest and dividends. He thanked everyone who had kindly raised funds on behalf of the Charity because without their financial donations none of the above could have been achieved.

A full report can be found in the Annual Report. No questions raised.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICIALS: Individuals/Board positions listed on the agenda. Chair Doug Jones asked the meeting if everyone agreed with those shown taking office. The meeting agreed with a show of hands. No one objected so Approved. **PRESIDENT:** Willy Goldschmidt. Show of hands - elected.

Willy Goldschmidt then chaired the election of the following:

VICE PRESIDENTS: Mayor of Rugby, Mr. Michael Rigby, Mrs. Doris Froggatt, Mrs Chrysanda Gilbert. Show of hands – elected.

CHAIR: Garth Murphy. Show of hands - elected.

TRUSTEE BOARD: Adele Bull; Elizabeth Burnett; Brian Cheney; Douglas Jones; Tracey Lennard; Gita Natarajan; Collette O'Connor; Hilary Parry; Surpriya Pattanayak; Stephen Walshaw. Show of hands – elected

Garth Murphy then took on the role of chairing the rest of the meeting and introduced the guest speaker.

10. GUEST SPEAKER: Juliet Starkey – Group Director of Operations Rugby

The Journey towards developing 'Health on the High Street' was presented by Juliet who explained that following wide consultation, the More than a Hospital Trust Strategy 2022-2030 committed to transform the Hospital of St Cross in Rugby, to build modern facilities for the growing population and improve staff and patient experience. Planning permission was obtained in February 2025 for a 4 theatre and 2 ward complex and 'Health on the High Street' was planned for some outpatient services to create the required space for the site of the new theatre complex but to also provide accessible services in fit for purpose facilities.

The Outpatient services to be delivered in Rugby Town Centre include Diabetes & Endocrinology, Women's Health (Obstetrics & Gynaecology - including diagnostic procedures) and Children's Services with 14,000 planned patient attendances per year providing increased footfall in the town and better and more convenient access to services. Anticipated opening is Autumn/Winter 2026

Improving access for patients is ongoing. Key achievements include Same day hip and knee replacement surgery (Rugby Ambulatory Orthopaedic Service - RAOS) which commenced January 2024 and has had an evaluation completed with

patients; Using headsets to improve communication between Theatres and day surgery leading to significant improvements to start times and turnaround times; Increasing the number of patients on ophthalmology cataracts theatre lists; Increasing the number of patients receiving Neurosurgery injections in a theatre session from 10 to 12 and First Breast cancer surgery theatre list delivered this week 8th September using new equipment.

In addition, the following are planned for the next 3 months: First general surgery theatre list to take place this month and Increased access to Ultrasound Fern Suite by extending hours to 6pm on Tuesdays (additional 12 patient per month) initially with a plan to extend to 5 days

11.VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GUEST SPEAKER AND 70th ANNIVERSARY APPEAL UPDATE:

WG gave a vote of thanks to Juliet on behalf of the Charity and acknowledged the level of investment being made by the Trust in the new services which Juliet had spoken of. He reminded the audience that it was announced in March that The Friends will purchase a second ultrasound machine for Maternity & Gynaecology for this project. Willy also advised that discussions are ongoing about donating other items to help expand the services.

The Platinum Appeal was launched at the last AGM with the aim of raising at least £70,000 to celebrate 70 years since the foundation of the Charity – to date £40,000 has been raised!

WG introduced Graeme Fuller from the Rugby Group Benevolent Fund who have previously supported appeals by The Friends for the Blood Taking Unit, Sleep Studies and Maple Units.

Graeme explained that having been founded in 1955 by the then Rugby Portland Cement Company, the Rugby Group Benevolent Fund has provided support to charities and communities local to the cement works and for the last 30 years has been independent of the company which is now part of the CEMEX group. It is also the Fund's 70th Anniversary in 2025 and regrettably the Fund will be closing at the end of the year.

As a final gesture they wanted to make a legacy donation which was local, made a real difference and was visible, and were inspired by Health on the High Street as an exciting Legacy Project. On behalf of the Fund, Graeme presented a donation of £100,000 to The Friends and wished them every success with the project.

12. VOTE OF THANKS FROM UHCW NHS TRUST: Chair of the Board of Directors University Hospitals Coventry & Warwickshire Trust, Sue Noyes, thanked the Friends for the invitation to the AGM and then thanked the Rugby Group Benevolent Fund for their donation to the Friends for the Health on the High Street project.

Reflecting on working with the Friends over the past year she remarked on her continued admiration for the volunteers and thanked them for all their support. Sue also thanked Tracey Lennard and team for all their fundraising efforts, Willy and Doug for the regular meetings held during the year and the wider board of Trustees. Sue concluded by expressing her appreciation for the Friends and asked all attendees to join in a 'thank you' round of applause.

GM thanked Sue for her kind words and added his thanks to all volunteers and Trustees.

13. MEMORIAL TO TONY COUSINS:

Tracey Lennard stated how honoured she was to have been asked to talk about Tony who was a valued Trustee, Chair and President of the Friends. Tony joined the Friends in 1998 and he brought with him invaluable knowledge from his years of working in the NHS together with great enthusiasm for and commitment to the work of the Friends.

Tony alongside Trustee and Treasurer Tony Hill were the main instigators of obtaining support from the Coventry Building Society and this amazing relationship led to donations over the years from their Affinity account amounting to £361,238. This contribution has enabled the Friends to support St Cross by helping to improve the patient experience and to bring new services to the hospital and Rugby.

Tony stepped down as a Trustee in 2016 but kept in touch and always attended the AGMs. His support of the Friends as both a Volunteer and Trustee was much appreciated and following his death earlier this year he will be sadly missed but fondly remembered. He had a great affinity with the Hospital of St Cross.

14. VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION: GM and the High Sheriff of Warwickshire, Karen Lynch MBE, presented Volunteer Long Service Awards to Ramesh Srivastava, Lesley Kinch and Pat Joliffe. Awards for Steve Purcell and Edna Dewey will be presented at a later date.

A special thank you was made in her absence to Karen Tomlinson for her support to the Friends Board and the team of Service Co-ordinators and volunteers over the past year.

The following Friends volunteers were congratulated on their nominations for the Trust's Volunteer Outstanding Care and Service Awards (OSCAs): Lynda Scott; Vicky Barne; John Prother; Ray Frankton; Shirley Griffin; Elizabeth Burnett, Trustee; The Friends of St Cross, Chief Execs Award; Meet & Greet Day Surgery/Outpatients Team; Bowel Cancer Admin Team, Volunteer Team; Bob Tooze, Hospital Admin; Eddsie Jenkins, Phlebotomy; Marie Guyett, X-Ray Meet & Greet.

The High Sheriff offered a huge thank you to everyone for their kind invitation to attend the AGM and took the opportunity to explain that the role of High Sheriff is 1,000 years old and she is the 14th woman to hold the position. It is one of two appointments made by the King or Queen of the day. Whilst the Lord Lieutenant's main focus is Royal visits, the responsibility for supporting the probation, fire, ambulances services etc is covered by the High Sheriff, with both roles working closely together. As a volunteer, herself, she

appreciated the time and effort volunteers gave towards the Friends Charity and on behalf of His Majesty the King she expressed his thanks for their continuing support and dedication.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: WG presented gifts and thanked retiring Trustees Ramesh Srivastava and June Witcomb together with retiring Chair of the Trustees Doug Jones for their contributions and support to the Board.

There being no further business WG thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.00pm. It was followed by a finger buffet.

Note: All reports and photographs of the event can be found on the Friends website.

Please visit: www.fsx.org.uk