

Friends of Eastbourne Hospital

About the Friends

Friends of Eastbourne Hospital is a registered charity, founded just prior to the establishment of the National Health Service and has been raising funds to provide extra equipment and services for hospital patients and staff for over 75 years. The Charity encourages voluntary work within the District General Hospital, working closely with the Voluntary Services team and also aims to foster a link between the hospital and the community. Volunteers are vital to the success of our work and it is thanks to their loyalty and dedication that we have achieved so much in the past.

Within the DGH teams of volunteers help to run and manage the Friends retail outlets, with the support of a paid management team. These include the well-stocked Foyer Shop, which is open seven days a week. Volunteers also run the Corner Shop on the lower ground floor and Trolley Shops, which provide an excellent daily service to the wards, and the café outside Radiotherapy. The Friends Flower Shop which was situated outside the hospital has now closed. All the profits from sales go straight into the Friends funds and are made available for use by the District General Hospital, part of East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust.

Major funds come from bequests, legacies, generous donations, fund raising, membership fees and the shops' profits, and each year the Friends Trustees agree to fund equipment costing several hundred thousand pounds plus the adoption of a one or two year major project. During the life of the Friends nearly £20 million has been donated to the local hospital community.

Our members hold regular events including summer open gardens, coffee mornings, golf days, tennis tournaments, an art exhibition and lots more, which all help to boost the income. Re-cycling also brings in funds with the sale of used stamps and other items.

Management of the Friends

The Charity is managed by a Board of Trustees who are elected, and subject to re-election every three years, at the AGM in November. The President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Hon. Treasurer are subject to election annually.

Since its creation, the Friends have gone from strength to strength and the need is probably greater than ever before.

Aims & Objectives

- 1 To raise funds for extra amenities, equipment and services for patients, staff and visitors of the DGH
- 2 To encourage voluntary work in the hospital
- 3 To provide a link between hospitals and the community

Projects Undertaken

Each year, the Friends agree a major project with the East Sussex Healthcare Trust, usually in the region of £2-300,000.

In recent years these have included:

- 1** 2 da Vinci surgical robots for Urology
- 2** A digital mammography machine
- 3** Relocation and refurbishment of Pevensey Ward
- 4** Cardiac equipment for assessment and treatment of emergency cases
- 5** Improvements to the Resus room in the Emergency Department
- 6** Equipment for the new Endoscopy Suite
- 7** Equipment for the Stroke Unit

Many other items, both large and small, have also been requested through a bidding process and every department within the Hospital can benefit.