



The Friends of
Conquest Hospital

General Managers Report, AGM 2026

So many people and businesses contribute to the Friends each year.

I would like to say thank you to our individual staff, members, corporate members, volunteers, Trustees, sponsors and all our supporters for their ongoing commitment and contribution to the essential work of The Friends of Conquest Hospital.

I'd like to pay special tribute to the work of Angie Watson and Claire Davies who have both now moved on.

The Friends of Conquest Hospital staff team grew during the year to include Nicole Trevett (Volunteer Schools Liaison Officer), as well as myself, Lisa Field (Admin Manager), Karen Aldridge (Shop Manager) and Robert Bishop (Deputy Shop Manager) and Claire Bridges (Treasurer). The team's enthusiasm and energy are contagious.

Together their work over the past year has placed the Friends in an excellent position to build for the future.

Highlights

- New branding and a mobile-friendly website launched
- Our first equipment short film released, with plans for further such impact reporting going forwards.
- Launch of our brand-new Primary Schools Programme.

Fundraising

- We have been accepted as one of the charities that will be listed on the **Hastings Half Marathon** website and have permission to officially enter as a team.
- Our first **National Lottery Application** was turned down, but we received helpful feedback that will allow us to improve future applications.

Events

2024

- **Ashburnham Open Gardens**, 17th July
- **Walk for Wards**, 31st August
- **Autumn Craft Fair**, 21st September
- **Gardeners Question Time**, 15th November
- **Christmas Craft Fair**, 30th November

2025

- **Spring Craft Fair**, 15th March 2025.
- **Badminton Tournament**, 29th March 2025.
- **Primary School Friendship Day**, 12th June 2025.

Looking ahead

Over the coming year we will focus on:

- encouraging and expanding our volunteer services in our shops, on the trolley, in the gardens and at our events
- growing and creating new ways to become involved in the Friends
- developing our fundraising opportunities
- reaching out to our communities, including local businesses and schools
- ensuring the governance and financial stability of the charity

I am excited to be part of such a great team of people who share the same commitment to supporting the patients, staff and volunteers at the Conquest.

Together we can support our local hospital and enhance the work of the NHS in our area.

Jo Clark, General Manager

February 2026.