

Chairman's Annual Report June 2024 – June 2025

Writing "The Chair's Report" in readiness for this year's AGM has been no easy task. My letter to the members of "The Friends" in January earlier this year, outlined the difficulties that we are currently facing and there is no escaping the fact that this year's AGM will be a very significant meeting in determining the future of this Charity.

However, let me firstly reflect upon the work of "The Friends" over the year since our last AGM. Despite working with fewer trustees and volunteer helpers than at any time over the last few years, we have held events, which along with other donations, have meant that we have raised over £20,000. This has enabled us to support many projects at The PRUH which could not be funded from NHS delegated budgets to the hospital. Please see the Summary of Grants for details of our grants made. (The full Annual Report and Financial Statements will be available to view on our website.) Our activities have included bucket shakes at Christmas, Table Sales at the hospital, stalls at Chelsfield Village Fair, a Charity evening at Bromley Little Theatre and friends running in the Brighton Marathon.

All through the last year we have operated without a secretary and in the knowledge that our treasurer would be retiring after this year's AGM. Our most senior Trustee has also said that she would be standing down this year after very many years of service. Despite our best efforts to replace these people, we have not been able to do so. We have therefore decided to propose to the members of "The Friends" a resolution to close the charity. We have discussed this issue at great length and have reluctantly concluded that there is no other viable alternative going forward. We are under strength and must comply with Charity Commission standards and are unable to do so. You will see this issue on the agenda for the AGM.

I would like to put on record our thanks to one person in particular. Sam Dale, Business Manager at the PRUH has been our point of contact for the last year. Her energy and willingness to engage with us to enable us to work with many departments, has led to the successful completion of many projects.

My thanks also to all the trustees, committee members, volunteer helpers and friends, without whose help we would not have been able to achieve all that we have this year and in the past.

Peter Harris
Chairman
The Friends of the PRUH