

Friends of St Cross Hospital Winchester

Celebrate its Past – Support its Future

'Retrospective' 2016

Welcome to our new-style Annual Newsletter, designed to inform our expanding membership about the fun we have enjoyed during the previous twelve months and hopefully, to encourage others to join us. Following the 'retirement' of our excellent editorial team of Harriet and Peter Sawbridge, to whom we owe much appreciation, we have decided to try a different approach this year. We would value Friends' comments on this new venture.



L to R: John Pringle, the Master of St Cross Rev. Reg Sweet, Pip Billington, Sue Woodward, Fiona Whitehouse, Robert Parsons and Richard Chisnell.

The Friends' Trustees were delighted to present a cheque for £21,000 to the Hospital's Honorary Treasurer, Sue Woodward, at the Winter Lunch, held in the Hundred Men's Hall, on 8 December 2016. This significant sum comprised the Friends' 2016 annual grant of £15,000 with a further £6,000 which had been held over from 2015. This money will be put towards a major new project for improved visitor toilets, with offices and storage areas on the floor above.

The Chairman, Richard Chisnell



Your Board of Trustees is most grateful to all Friends for their continuing support and their participation in our range of events. Let us continue to enjoy each other's company in pursuit of our key objectives to ensure that our second five-year period at least matches, and hopefully exceeds, our first! The Board welcomed two new Trustees during the year: Robert Parsons and Gill Rushton, who have enthusiastically joined the other Trustees. I would like to thank all the Board members for contributing so much to the management of our charity.

The Treasurer, John Pringle



It is a great pleasure being Treasurer of a successful Charity! We've built up a loyal base of 700 Friends, which brings in an income of approximately £15,000 each year, which we pass on to the Hospital in grants, to support its work in preserving and enhancing the buildings and grounds, which provide such a lovely home for the Brothers. Other income (from sponsorship, donations and our regular events) covers all the expenses that running the charity involves. At our 2017 AGM, I shall give more details of our progress since we began in 2011.

The Marketing and Events Chairman, Robert Parsons



In March, I was invited by Chairman Richard to become a Trustee of the Friends of St Cross and to chair the Marketing team. My role was to help build upon the success of the past five years by looking into possible ways of increasing the total membership of the Charity, and also to develop relationships with local organisations and businesses with a view to sponsorship. I was also asked to take on the overall responsibility for the many events which the Management team organises during the Friends' year.

The Friends' Administrator, Fiona Whitehouse



It has been a delight to be part of the Friends of St Cross team. The year has been really busy and I have enjoyed meeting so many of you and hope that everyone has been able to attend some of the events. My role mainly involves dealing with donations, membership applications and renewals, and enquiries about membership. I am also involved in organising several of the events throughout the year and I ensure that the Friends' website and all our records are kept up to date.

Celebration of a Milestone Anniversary



We marked the fifth Anniversary of our Charity on 12 September 2016 with a Gala Dinner held in the historic setting of the Brethren's Hall (*see photo above*). Chairman Richard welcomed guests and the Chairman of the Hospital Trustees, William Corbett, proposed the toast to the Friends of St Cross. A good time was had by all who attended with a delicious meal provided by John Davies and his team. Each guest was given a St Cross Hospital mug to mark the occasion.

Our Charity had a wonderful start in 2011 when almost 300 people joined the Friends of St Cross Hospital as our 'Founder Friends' and many more Friends joined in 2013 and 2014. Our membership numbers remain strong, but we would always welcome new members from both the local St Cross community, as well as from further afield. Our Marketing team is developing plans to expand our membership still further. The first five years have given your Trustees (*see photo below*) much optimism for the future and we look forward to continuing our support, both in friendship as well as in financial terms, to the Brothers, Staff and Trustees of the Hospital.



*L to R: Cled Jenkins, Clive McCleester, Fiona Whitehouse, John Pringle, Pip Billington, Gill Rushton, Richard Chisnell, Sue Woodward and Robert Parsons
Insets: William Corbett [left] and Chris Brannigan [right]*

The Introduction of Guardian Friends

A development this year of our sponsorship arrangements was the introduction of a new category of supporter, called 'Guardian Friends'. A few locally-established organisations were contacted with a view to becoming more involved in the life of the Hospital of St Cross. The new term of 'Guardian Friend' implies rather more involvement than the former term 'Sponsor'. Guardian Friends will support our Charity by closer involvement in our activities, and they will commit financially for a period of three years. They will be invited to attend events such as a prestigious Gaudy Lunch with the Brothers and our main fundraising event, the Summer Party. We are very pleased to report we have our first organisation on board, Richard Steel & Partners. We hope that two or three more organisations will join us as Guardian Friends during 2017.



Robert Parsons presents a framed photograph of the Hospital of St Cross to Iain Steel of Richard Steel & Partners, our first Guardian Friend.



Richard Steel & Partners
Winchester

New Friends

Charles & Victoria Arthur
 William & Georgia Baker
 Freddie & Sophie Beer
 Alex & Emma Bradbury
 Jane Brady
 Ann Brew
 Alistair Bruce of Crionaich
 Neil & Therese Clemson
 John & Venessa Cooper
 Francois & Clare De Langle
 Peter & William De Salis
 Roger & Ruth Elias
 John Featherstone
 Jonathan Floyd
 Elizabeth Gotto
 Carolyn Gower
 Colin & Lesley Gran
 Sheila Gray
 John & Patricia Griffiths
 William & Amanda Gubbins
 Max & Sally Hake
 Michael & Katrina Harris
 David & Eleanor Harte
 John & Maureen Heath
 David Heslett & Jane Smith

Joanna Higgins
 Mike & Tessa Hill
 James & Janet Holmes
 Anna King
 Christine Landale
 William & Heather Lewis
 Andrew & Christine Livingston
 Jane Longman & Stephen Powell
 Sandy MacKenzie
 Patrick & Susan Morton
 Wendy Oberman
 Barbara Robinson
 Nigel Smyth
 James & Karen Spencer
 Mr & Mrs Rolf Stahel
 Heather Stewart
 Samantha Stirling
 Celia Taylor
 Jill Walmsley
 Elizabeth Wells
 Guy & Julia Whitburn
 Eileen White
 Chris & Anna White
 Anna Wood

A request from the Treasurer: please help us!

We are grateful that many of you have signed up for 5 year, 10 year or Life Membership. If you are not one of these, please consider this option, which saves us (and you) a great deal of administration and offers a small discount. The fees are:

	5 years	10 years	Life
Individual	£140	£270	£630
Joint or Family*	£195	£380	£880

*A family of two adults and up to 4 children under 18.

Remember that membership entitles you to free access to the public buildings and gardens at St Cross Hospital, throughout the year, during normal opening times.

Friends Events 2016

The Ceilidh

In January, a large group of Friends gathered in St Faith's Parish Hall to celebrate the life and poetry of Robert Burns. This was in full traditional style, with piper, haggis, whisky and Scottish dancing, all master-minded by Chris Brannigan and his team.



Chris Brannigan with the haggis, is piped into the Hall



L to R: Chris and Michele Brannigan with the Chairman

The Annual Lecture

The speaker at our annual lecture in March was Alastair Bruce, royal, religious and national events commentator for Sky News, historical advisor for the ITV series, 'Downton Abbey', and one of the Royal Heralds at the College of Arms.



Alastair gave an inspiring and very humorous, illustrated talk about his life, starting with his birth in Winchester, through his school days in Dorset and Scotland, his friendship with Princess Diana, and his career in the army and in broadcasting. He regaled the audience with anecdotes such as photographing HM The Queen in her crown on the grouse moors of Scotland - to the great astonishment of those walking by. He explained the painstaking work he undertakes to research every detail for historical accuracy in productions such as 'The King's Speech' and 'Downton Abbey'. We were thoroughly entertained and are very delighted that Alastair has agreed to become a Patron of the Friends of St Cross, more especially as he expressed his great appreciation of, and affection for, the Hospital during his talk.

Friends Day

In May, we held our fifth annual Friends Day, which proved to be a great success. We were very pleased that one of our Friends, Steve Brine, MP for Winchester and Chandlers Ford, was able to spare some time to give us a fascinating talk about his life at Westminster and in the constituency. This was followed by a sumptuous tea in the Master's Garden, and many Friends later enjoyed evensong in the church, which was sung by Southern Voices, under the direction of Katherine Dienes, Organist and Master of the Choristers at Guildford Cathedral.



Steve Brine MP addressing the Friends in the Parish Hall



L to R: Richard Chisnell, Victoria Wakefield, Patron of the Friends, and Steve Brine, MP

Outings

The Friends enjoyed several outings during the year. Below are a few photographs from some of these visits.



Friends outside Wilton House, home of the Earl of Pembroke



Friends at the Hospital of St Nicholas, Salisbury



Arundel Castle, seat of the Duke of Norfolk



Our Administrator at Petworth House

The Summer Party

Another 'full house' of some 270 Friends supported the 2016 summer party. In the words of our Marketing and Events Chairman Robert, '*Surely there can be nothing more enjoyable on a warm June evening than to share a picnic with friends in such a wonderful setting*'. Upon arrival, everyone received a welcome glass of sparkling wine with canapés in the Master's Garden, and this was followed by supper on the Bowling Green. As the sun began to set over the almshouse chimneys, salsa dancing to the ever-popular Atlantico Band commenced, ably instructed by dance supremo, Nicholas Inchelin, who encouraged many of us up onto the dance floor, to work off the excesses of the supper! Friends chatted and danced the night away with laughter and energy, making this a highlight of the summer, as the photographs below surely indicate.



Pip Billington organised the party with a dedicated team of her friends (see inset above). Planning began in the late winter, and every detail was covered from the erection of the marquees to clearing up on the following day. There were lavish table decorations providing a dinner party atmosphere, a grand raffle and a well-stocked bar. Pip commented *'I am so pleased that the event has become such a popular feature of the Friends' annual calendar and would like to thank my team for all their hard work'*.

The Winter Lunches

As in previous years, groups of up to thirty Friends have enjoyed fellowship, conversation and delicious food in the Hundred Men's Hall at the convivial Friends' Winter Lunches. Doreen Jenkins has ably organised these events, with husband Cled, Brother Clive and Brother Andrew. Friends have been provided with superb refreshments served to the table. These have been memorable occasions and an opportunity for Friends to get to know each other better. Thanks to Doreen and her team for all they have done to make these events such a sell-out success.



Above: The 'Winter Lunch Team' of Cled and Doreen Jenkins, Brother Andrew and Brother Clive

Right: Friends enjoying a Winter Lunch in the Hundred Mens' Hall



A Toast to our Administrator!

Most Friends will, by now, have met our efficient and friendly Administrator, Fiona Whitehouse. We are sure that everyone would wish to thank her for managing the ever-increasing administrative work of our charity. Fiona has lived in Winchester all her life and runs her own PA business, supporting many local organisations, including ours. Some of you may not be aware that she has had a particularly busy year having recently married and taken on the challenging role of President of Winchester Rotary. Congratulations from us all!

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NEWS FROM THE BROTHERS – OUR HONORARY FRIENDS



The Master and some Brothers in St Cross Church

There were no additions to the Brothers this year but several departures: Brother Simon Laws moved to nursing care, Brother Andrew Crowther-Walker moved to St John's in Winchester, Brother Brian Astell left us for pastures new in Grantham and Brother John Featherstone returned to Deal in Kent.

Sadly we also said our final farewell this year to Brother Emeritus 'Ted' Cadwallader, who had lived at St Cross Hospital for some fifteen years. For health reasons, he moved to nursing care in Petersfield five years ago. He died at the end of the year and his funeral took place in Hospital tradition and with a naval touch. Tributes were paid to him by David Baldwin, MVO and the Master of St Cross, before his committal to the sea by the sailors from HMS Nelson at Spithead (see photo right).



Congratulations to former Senior Brother Ron Stacey, now a resident of 'The Grange' in St Cross, who has celebrated his 100th birthday. He received a birthday card from Her Majesty The Queen, and his family surrounded him on his special day. A few days later, he was joined by the Master and some Brothers from St Cross for a celebratory tea.

Brothers' Activities

With a newly-formed Brothers' Social Planning Group, there were many more outings and activities for the Brothers during the year including a Solent Cruise with the Not Forgotten Association, a boat trip on the Basingstoke Canal, a visit to Milestones Museum in Basingstoke, and a trip to an outdoor theatre at the home of one of our Trustees. The pictures below illustrate some of their other activities.



In June, several Brothers attended a special 'Street Party' tea in Winchester Cathedral's Outer Close to mark the 90th birthday of HM The Queen, and the retirement from the Cathedral of the Dean, The Very Reverend James Atwell, who was also a Trustee of the Hospital. This special royal birthday was also marked at the Hospital with the hanging of a splendid, framed and signed photograph of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in the Brother's Common Room.

L to R: Brother David Kilmister and Brother Charles Acland with Canon Gregory Clifton-Smith, Cathedral Close Vicar

Also in June, the Brothers were invited to the 'House in the Wood', home of our Chairman and his wife, William and Clare Corbett (see photo below) when the house and gardens were open to the public under the National Gardens Scheme. The beautiful gardens cover several acres of woodland with rhododendrons and azaleas which were in full bloom and much-enjoyed. The house is of particular interest as it was used during World War II to train Special Agents including the infamous double agent Kim Philby.

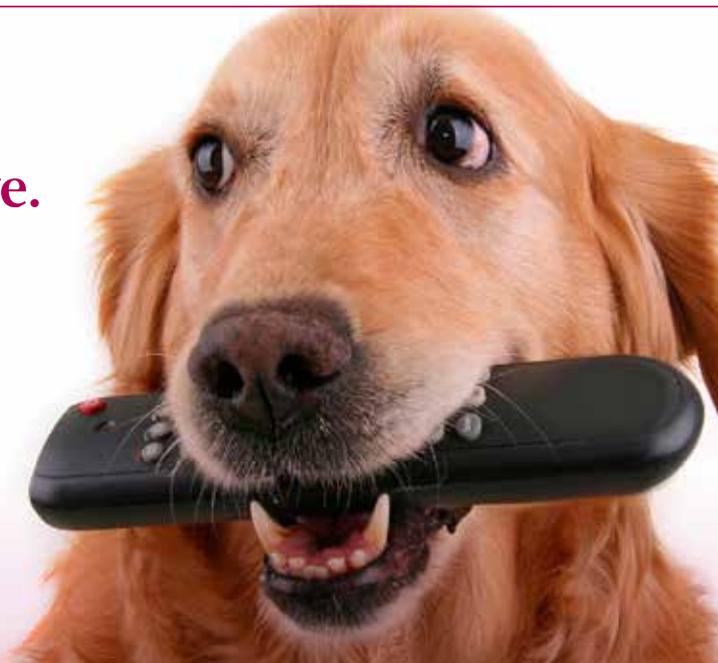


Right: Brother Tony Dowsett, Brother John Switzer and Senior Brother John Hodges enjoying tea with their hosts

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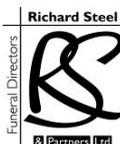
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