



## Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities

(Reg. Charity No: 1180059)



Together with The League of Friends of Fairford Hospital  
(Reg. Charity No: 1006416)

**Joint Annual General Meeting**  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 7.00pm  
Farmers Room, Fairford Community Centre

### **Trustees Annual Report 2025**

#### **Nursing Team**

In 2024 Tina joined Emma and both have led the team as joint Nursing Managers. We reviewed our registration with CQC and amended our registered so we are now a service providing 'Domiciliary Care' and our Regulated Activity is 'Treatment of Disease and Illness' and 'Personal Care'.

In 2024 we saw 39 patients which is five more than in 2023. The majority of our patients are end of life, as per our criteria for care. Occasionally we have provided care to patients who are not end of life, but we have done so to prevent hospital admission or to help in a crisis over a short-term period.

The Nursing Managers continue to attend meetings with other hospice at home providers which allows great support for them and us. These include Sue Ryder, Longfield, Great Oaks and Camden Home Nursing. We maintain good communication with both surgeries and other external support teams, including District Nurses.

Our intranet supports the Nursing Team online with every member of the team being able to access policies, audits and training. This was introduced in 2021 and has made training much easier to manage for the Nursing Team. The Nursing Team continues to hold regular meetings as well as attend relevant training sessions.

Our Foot Care Clinic was terminated at Fairford Hospital at the end of 2024. We made a number of suggestions however none of these met with the needs of the NHS hospital staff. The Charity have decided to take on the Foot Care Clinic in another form. We are of the understanding 22 patients attended the Foot Care Clinic at Fairford Hospital throughout 2024.

We continue to work closely with Prospect Hospice, the clinical nurse specialist often visits people within our community however not all of them are referred to our service. Prospect Hospice also provide access to an end-of-life consultant and all of the amenities at the Hospice including inpatient care as needed.

The Bereavement Café has been running for over three years and continues to be a huge success. Each café has around 15 regular members and at least one or two new people each month. There are usually five nurses, plus two volunteers making tea and coffee. There is no charge for attending the cafe but most people donate in the collection box each visit. People within the group have bonded so well that they are supporting each other in between cafes, which was always the hope. The WhatsApp group is a great form of communication for attendees which provides support and comfort to many. The café has also been used as a centre to develop other ideas that members are taking on themselves to combat loneliness and lifestyle for people who now find themselves living alone, for example, a lady has offered cookery lessons based on cooking for one which four or five people have been joining.

## Patient Transport

Patient Transport 2024												
Month	Number of Drives	Number of Patients Transported	Local Drives			Hospital Drives	Other medical drives Opticians/Dentist	Number of Volunteer Drivers used	Total number of miles covered	Prescriptions		
			Fairford Hospital	Fairford Surgery	Lechalde Surgery					Number Delivered this month	Number of drivers required	Number of hours worked by coordinator
January	111	88	3	13	3	83	9	66	3544	32	1	54.5
February	111	95	4	18	3	67	19	71	3313	16	1	59.5
March	97	85	1	8	9	58	23	59	2564	19	2	45.5
April	109	100	4	13	5	65	19	56	2839	30	3	56.5
May	115	92	4	13	5	66	28	62	3243.5	12	4	56
June	99	84	4	5	8	77	13	51	2618	20	4	46.5
July	96	83	2	11	4	64	15	56	2738.5	21	2	55
August	103	88	0	10	8	59	22	64	3153.5	25	1	55.5
September	85	75	0	6	4	58	16	43	2655	38	2	33
October	113	99	0	11	10	64	27	59	3119	38	1	55
November	93	83	0	9	9	59	15	61	2562	30	1	50.5
December	80	72	0	8	7	43	21	59	2488	26	1	52.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1212</b>	<b>1044</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>34837.5</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>620</b>

Number of Drives:

2022 966

2023 1001

2024 1212

Our Patient Transport Service continues to grow from strength to strength. This year's number of drives is another amazing achievement and we are so pleased at the positive impact this had on our local community. The above table outlines the data captured throughout the year. It gives a very good overview on the impact we are having and the need for the service.

At the end of last year, we held our Annual Drivers meeting which was very well attended, informative and beneficial in opening communication between drivers and with Val. We gave an overview of the Charity and from this received a number of grants from other organisations some of our drivers sit on the Board for, we very much appreciate their support.

Our Pricing Structure has been reviewed and we have made the decision to increase Bristol from £40 to £50, effective of 1st February 2025.

We currently have over 25 volunteer drivers based over Fairford, Lechalde and the villages. We are ever so grateful to all of our drivers for being so willing and able to fulfil all requests we get.

Our free prescription service has been given time to establish even more and become hugely successful, proving to be much needed in our community. We deliver prescriptions every two weeks to around 20-30 people within our area.

## **Lechlade Charity Shop**

Our Charity Shop had one of its best years in 2024 making a profit of just over £18,000, this was nearly double the previous year and is such an incredible achievement for Linda and her team of volunteers, for which we are truly grateful.

In August 2024 we were thrilled to win a competition for a new EPOS system from Kudos for three years. The success of this means we received all the technology and training required to implement the system at the start of 2025.

Our Shop Lease with Bromford was renewed and the rebate was addressed and completed with a follow up payment. A standing order was set up to make quarterly payments.

At the end of 2023 we had moved all of our shop Gift Aid to FFLC so all Gift Aid in 2024 will be claimed under FFLC. The amount we are claiming for Gift Aid is increasing overall and is within the national average.

Choice continues to decrease the amount they will be paying for their collection. This is becoming common across all recycling companies. We have looked into other options, however don't expect to get as much from any suppliers. We also are very conscious that the service we get from them taking this is extremely beneficial in our operations.

Our Shop Volunteers Meeting was held in December which was very well attended and positively received from all volunteers. We had good discussions and answered many questions some volunteers had.

We continue to work on trying to increase footfall into the shop by facebook and social media posts showing people what we have for sale. We are still receiving a huge amount of donations and the footfall through the door is very high. We currently have up to 10 volunteers per week.

## **Edna Dawes Lunch Club**

In 2024 we held 67 Lunch Club sessions. Each session had an average of 9 to 12 members and 4 to 6 volunteers. We reinstated the Monday Lunch Clubs in May 2024. Members pay £10 per session. Volunteers are not charged but are able to give a donation if they wish. The Charity has not been asked to fund any member to date.

A feedback form was given to all members at the end of 2024 asking them for their honest feedback and any improvements they would like to suggest to ensure they are getting what they would like to, out of the Lunch Club. The results from this were very positive and scores exceeded the results we received in 2023.

We are very mindful that this service will always cost the Charity money, rather than provide an income, however the benefit our members get from attending the sessions is of the highest value we could provide. It has evolved to be two very lovely groups, very well led by Katie and the team of volunteers.

## **Funding Report**

Our funding streams available are Family, Community and Mental Health. In 2024 we provided funding for one Family application and five Community applications which included Memory Lane Singers, the Memory Club and an ear wax removal service. £259 was funded towards family funding applications and £1,733.50 towards Community applications, totalling £1,992.50.

We continue to work with and support the Lions with the defibrillator programme.

## Events and Fundraising

Events 2024	Amount Made
Pop Up Charity Shop	622
Quiz Night	521
Bibury Open Gardens	43
Langford Open Gardens	416
Stratford Coach Trip	85
Kushi	368
Trout	119
Bull	100
April Wine tasting	291.8
Spanish Wine Tasting	185
November Wine Tasting	363.2
Craft Fair	612.7
Annual Raffle	1030.9
Christmas Cards	467
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5224.60</b>

In 2024 we held 12 fundraising events, double the amount we held in 2023. These included a number of Open Gardens, Wine Tasting and a number of meals. We are so appreciative of the time and effort we receive from our volunteers to make these events such a success. A huge thank you goes to Margert Pursch for all her help with the Open Gardens, Val Harvey with the Craft Fairs, and Ruth Berridge with the Raffle and Christmas Cards. In addition to these we also have income from monthly donors, 100 Club members, and donations into collection pots located around our area.

We were thrilled to be the chosen Charity for Sparesbase again this year. They held a variety of fundraisers including an internal lottery, breakfast mornings and lunches, over 100-mile cycle, staff tuck shop and a Christmas raffle. All of the money raised came to our Charity, which we are incredibly grateful for. The total they raised, we are hoping, will be match funded by their Head Office which will give us an amazing total of over £6,000. We look forward to working with them and supporting each other in the years ahead.

Our House-to-House licence ran from 13<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Across the area we had 17 coordinators and 116 collectors covering Fairford, Lechlade and 11 surrounding villages. A total of 133 volunteers.

Donations were collected as cash, cheques and online, broken down as follows:

Cash	£9730.45
Cheques	£3825.00
Online	£1955.00

The total amount of donations raised was £15,510.45.

This year we utilised the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme which means we are able to claim Gift Aid on any donation less than £30, without any information from the donor. The total amount of Gift Aid we are able to claim from the donations is £3,493.11. This gives a combined total of donations, plus Gift Aid of £19,003.56.

The outgoings total is £2,656.55 and is broken down as follows:

Printing (Generic Flyer, Events, Bookmark and Envelopes)	£2400.00
Collectors Handbooks	£75.60
Lanyards	£47.95
Mileage	£133.00

Taking off the outgoings from the combined donations and Gift Aid total above, this gives us a total of **£16,347.01**.

6000 envelope bundles were delivered to the coordinators and additional areas we targeted with donation buckets and pots. 1032 envelopes were returned, which is 75 envelopes less than last year. 470 were not gift aided and 560 were gift aided.

We received 108 cheques, totalling £3825, £9730.45 in cash, and £1955 in online donations.

A number of donations were received after the count and were added to our total in the following months.