



### LATEST NEWS

November 2025

## Chairman's Autumn/Winter Update for Members

### A CHANGE IN FORTUNES FOR HASLEMERE HOSPITAL!

Dear Members

As many of you are aware, the inpatient beds were paused back in May 2025 and remain so. The NHS ten-year plan states that patients are best served by being treated in their own homes, and this should be the starting point. While the debate continues, I am really pleased to inform you that Haslemere Hospital is flourishing.

More than 80,000 patients have been treated as outpatients this last year, covering right across Community and Acute services. Haslemere is very much alive and serving our community well.

The area of interest I wanted to share with you all is our investment of your money into modernising services. We have funded equipment and refurbished space in the Minor Injuries' department. This is now a thriving Urgent Treatment Centre open seven days a week. The Radiology Department is also open seven days a week.

Instead of the usual photographs, we have had a video clip made of these departments so you can see for yourselves what has been provided.

Most importantly Minor Surgery is being carried out every day of the week and quite regularly at weekends as well.

The specialties that operate in Haslemere are: Plastic Surgery, Dermatology, Maxillary Facial and Orthopaedics. Cancer accounts for the highest percentage of skin surgery undertaken.

Mr. Walsh, a RSCH Consultant in Maxillary Facial surgery, was interviewed for the video. He states that, having the minor surgical theatre in Haslemere, this allows them to carry out a range of surgical procedures here, thus freeing up time and space in Guildford for more complex surgery. The weekly Orthopaedic list provides hand surgery for conditions such as Carpel Tunnel Syndrome.

We purchased a new theatre light and skin knives for the grafting that often takes place following excisions of large skin lesions. We do have a video of a patient being operated on.

The League needs to continue to support the refurbishment of the hospital. In the pipeline is the painting and decorating of the Outpatients' department. Ophthalmology is another very busy department, and the Slit Lamp needs to be replaced.

There are several specialties, including Retinal Screening, that should be moved back into the hospital. Audiology needs to have a room with a sound-proof booth installed. Female and Children's health clinics require space on site to deliver services locally.

Our membership is dwindling in numbers. Since we have had good reserves and our expenditure hasn't been huge, we haven't heavily marketed our charity. However, that position is changing. The NHS is facing significant financial challenges with tight budgets and tough decisions! The integration of acute and primary



care is happening. Integrated Health Teams are being developed in all parts of the new neighbourhood programmes as directed in the ten-year plan.

Back in 1953, our Charity started for the same reasons - to promote local delivery of services and support the NHS. Nothing really changes.

Haslemere Hospital is a large site. The buildings may be a century old but, unlike many other hospitals, it has space which can be changed. Patients tell me it is not the building that's important to them, but easy access to departments at the front and back of the building. They do not want miles of corridors to departments or lifts.

As a committee we have made very flexible decisions to accommodate services as they emerge. This is an opportunity to increase services and strike while the iron's hot!

The patio garden and seating areas have been maintained and that will continue.

Patients who have been attending an eight-week cardiac rehabilitation programme on Elizabeth Ward while it's been vacated, have commented on the planting and seating areas between the wards. An attendee to the programme said she found resting there to be a soothing and a caring environment.

Built and supported by the wider public, Community Hospitals such as ours are special. We do hope you enjoy the video and please share our message with family and friends.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and thank you for your ongoing support.

Rose Parry