



Friends of
The Edenbridge Memorial
Health Centre,
Four Elms Road,
Edenbridge,
Kent, TN8 6FY

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to a newsletter from your new Committee!

We start with good news and sad news. The sad news is that Dr Andrew Russell, our recent President and former Chairman died on 14th July 2024. He died peacefully at home, surrounded by family, at the age of 94. He was a GP in Edenbridge for 35 years, for most of which he administered anaesthetics at Edenbridge Hospital as well, when the Hospital's operating theatre was running. He was always a great supporter of the Hospital, and a former Chairman and President of the League. His contribution to the NHS in Edenbridge was recognised when he was awarded the MBE.

The good news is that the future of the League was decided at the AGM on 15th June 2024. The vote was 33-8 in favour of the League continuing, now supporting the work of the Edenbridge Memorial Health Centre (EMHC). We will not, therefore, be transferring funds to the Great Stone Bridge Trust (GSBT) but plan on co-operating with them in future, as they also receive requests to fund health-related activities.

The AGM also voted on a new Committee.

Simon Morrison - Chair

Colin Thurston - Vice-chair

Marnie Woodward – Honorary Treasurer

Anna McMillan - Membership Secretary

Sue Paice - Honorary Secretary

Clare Brightwell - Committee member

Pamela Gilchriest - Committee member

What we have been doing with your money:

You will probably be aware that we made a major contribution to the garden at EMHC, enabling good seating, planting etc, and this is a major asset to EMHC.

We also funded the check-in machine, bought Christmas decorations for the Day Centre and Reception areas, continue to fund newspapers for the Day Centre, supply paper cups for the water cooler and have bought some extra chairs for the Day Centre to allow them to increase the numbers attending.

We also helped set up the first EMHC Newsletter, with news from the GPs, Kent Community Health Foundation Trust (KCHFT), the surgery's Patient Participation Group and ourselves.

What we hope to do:

We intend to change the name of the League, as the Hospital sadly no longer exists. A formal name change has to be voted on at an AGM, but the Charity Commission allows us to use two new “working names”, and we are now using “Friends of the Edenbridge Memorial Health Centre” (which is also the name we intend to propose to an AGM for the formal name change) and “Friends of EMHC”. If any member wants to propose a different name, please do let us know.

We want to recruit new members from across the age range, and we are looking into a presence on social media which will help.

We also want new ideas for health-related projects that we can fund, and these may be community-based rather than taking place in the EMHC. KCHFT are looking to be active in this field. We will work with them but are also very open to suggestions from our members or members of the wider local community.

Keeping in touch:

It is important that we keep in touch with our members, and, indeed, a wider audience. The price of a 2nd class stamp is now 85p and 1st class is £1.65, so postage and printing costs soon mount up. The more members that are happy to receive communications by email, the more cost-effectively we can run the League. We appreciate that some people very much prefer paper copies, and we will certainly continue to provide those for our own newsletter and notifications of the AGM etc for people who do not want email. There may be some communications, e.g. the EMHC newsletter, that we only send out by email. If you do not currently receive our newsletter by email and wish to do so, then please contact: membership@ehlof.org.uk

Our planned presence on social media will also be a way of keeping in touch

Subscriptions:

We are dependent on the regular income we receive from our members to support the Day Centre and other services offered by EMHC, as well as health initiatives in the community. We have several hundred registered members with subscriptions last year totalling more than £5,000. The Committee works in a voluntary capacity, and you can be assured that your money is directly contributing to the level of health care in the community.

We are delighted that most of our members have continued to pay their membership subscriptions, some very generously in excess of the recommended

minimum of £5. Although the Hospital has closed, we are optimistic about making a difference to the health of Edenbridge in different ways.

We invite all members to donate by standing order, which can be set up / amended by logging into your bank account online. If you have an on-going standing order, you need do nothing - your membership renews automatically, and you need take no further action. While we have changed the name of our bank account to Friends of the Edenbridge Memorial Health Centre, other details are unchanged.

Another alternative for those who do not currently pay by standing order, is to fill in the attached Standing Order form, which you can send to your bank or drop off at a branch. If you wish to amend / cancel an existing standing order donation, this too can be done online, or by writing to your bank.

Otherwise, to renew your membership please complete the details on the attached Subscription Form, and return it to us, indicating whether you are paying online, or including a cheque. Forms can be emailed, posted, or left with Reception at EMHC. If you have any query, please call or email our Treasurer on 07850 689 401 / membership@ehlof.org.uk

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2025.

Simon Morrison, Chair

