

# NEWSLETTER



**AXMINSTER HOSPITAL  
LEAGUE OF FRIENDS**



## Axminster Hospital League of Friends win Best Charity Stand at the Axe Vale Show 2025

This year, Axminster Hospital League of Friends brought the Dementia Bus to the Axe Vale Show with the help of a grant from The Metal Recycling Scheme operated by the Crematorium. This gave visitors a chance to experience what it might be like to have dementia.

The 'Smoothie Bike' run by the Community Nurses also proved to be very popular.

## Axminster Hospice at Home

We have continued to progress the Hospice at Home service for Axminster with the RDUH and although it took a little while to bottom out the final agreement, we have appointed one of our nurses. She has undertaken some sterling work in creating the foundation for Axminster Hospice at Home. We are also happy to report that close work and liaison with the RDUH has enabled us to progress to full recruitment and as we write, we have a shortlist of candidates and we are hopeful of fulfilling our total needs within the first quarter of 2026. We know it has taken quite a while but as the saying goes, 'good things come to those who wait!' We know that this service will be a significant benefit to the people of Axminster and the surrounding villages and will relieve some of the bed pressures within the Royal Devon Trust.



## Eyes down for Bingo

Liz and Steve Goff have kindly run two Bingo events for us this year raising a total of £1500. The first was at Cloakham Lawns Sports Centre and the second at Hawkchurch Village Hall. Both were well supported and players had the chance to win some fabulous raffle prizes.



## Garden party raises over £1800

We enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea at Great Jackleigh Farm. Entertainment was provided by the Windy Bowers. Special guests included Andrew Kennon, Deputy Lieutenant of Devon, Cllr Jill Farrow, Axminster Town Mayor and Cllr Philip Evans MBE, Mayor of Lyme Regis.



# NEWSLETTER



AXMINSTER HOSPITAL  
LEAGUE OF FRIENDS



**£2250 donated**

Hilary and Michael Pritchard opened their beautiful garden to the public in June of 2025. The proceeds from the refreshments and greetings cards were donated to the League of Friends.



**Open Farm Sunday**

The League of Friends were invited to provide the refreshments at this popular event at Dennings Down Farm. Thanks to everyone who made the delicious cakes and helped on the day, we raised an amazing £1,185.

## Axminster Hospital

Whilst our main focus has been on the implementation of the end of life service, our core constitutional drives remain, to ensure that the medical health and wellbeing of the people of Axminster is supported wherever necessary. We will continue to support new equipment and services at the hospital. This drive has enabled the clinics and surgeries at Axminster Hospital to thrive and grow with our Ophthalmology unit being a centre of excellence.

Thank you all for your continued support, we couldn't do what we do without you all.

## Focus on Ophthalmology

Ophthalmology Services at Axminster Hospital are committed to sustaining and developing provision to ensure that patients in the local community and surrounding areas can access local ophthalmic care. Recently they have implemented a direct referral pathway from opticians and GP services for Axminster hospital patients. They have increased theatre utilisation and reduced waiting times to approximately 12 weeks. They are offering bilateral cataract surgery to avoid additional visits and reduce patients waiting times. The department has implemented face to face pre-op at initial consultation onsite, where patients are able to receive an operation date that day if they choose to. There are plans in place to use the treatment room for minor oculoplastic surgery when the specialist nurse has completed the training. This will increase capacity at Axminster and reduce oculoplastic waiting list times. The outpatient area is being reorganised to create new diagnostic lanes to facilitate the use of additional equipment including the Clarus 500 which provides Ultra -Wide field retinal photography. This will help reduce outpatient waiting times and improve efficiency.







## What's on at Axminster Hospital Outpatient Clinics

- AAA
- Audiology
- B & B Adults
- CAMHS
- Childrens Services  
– Baby Clinic
- Dermatology
- Ear Nose and Throat
- Elderly Care
- Low Vision Clinic
- Lower Leg Therapy Service
- Midwives
- MSK/Physiotherapy
- Multiple Sclerosis Nurse
- Ophthalmology Macular

- Ophthalmology Multiple Clinics
- Oral Surgery
- Orthoptist
- Orthotics
- Parkinsons
- Podiatry
- Refraction Clinic  
-Optometry & Orthoptics
- Retinal Screening
- Rheumatology
- Stoma Clinic
- Urology
- Xray/Ultrasound

# NEWSLETTER



**AXMINSTER HOSPITAL  
LEAGUE OF FRIENDS**

## Donations

We have received generous donations from local businesses, groups, charities and individuals. The Trustees of Axminster Hospital League of Friends would like to thank you all for your generosity. We rely entirely on our fundraising and donations to fund Axminster Hospice at Home and to support the hospital and the wider community. Please see our website for more details of how you can help.

**axmlf.com**

## 100 club

- ✦ Do you like the sound of being in with a chance of winning up to £60 a month?
- ✦ Set up a standing order (£4 a month or £48 a year) and complete the application form so we know where to send your winnings. It's as easy as that!
- ✦ Application forms are available from Reception at Axminster Hospital, [axmlf.com](http://axmlf.com) or email [admin@axmlf.com](mailto:admin@axmlf.com)

**All the proceeds from our 100 club will help to support Axminster Hospice at Home. Providing end of life care to our local residents**

We are pleased to welcome Delia Driver to our Trustees' Committee. Delia has been working with the Clinical ODP Manager, to review the ophthalmology waiting area. They have been looking at how the space could be made more inclusive. Following an observation and feedback, some initial changes have been made to the information displayed, patient leaflets and patient feedback. Some improvements have been made to ensure the area is more dementia friendly. There are further plans for a digital display of information and for facilities for children.

**Helen Arnold, Manager**  
[admin@axmlf.com](mailto:admin@axmlf.com)  
07951 679993



**Steve Holt, Chair**  
[axmlf@gmail.com](mailto:axmlf@gmail.com)  
**Christine Cawley, Treasurer**  
[treasurer@axmlf.com](mailto:treasurer@axmlf.com)



## Annual Open Meeting

## All welcome

Axminster Hospital League of Friends Annual Open Meeting will be at 6.30pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026 in the Bradshaw Rooms at the Heritage Centre, Axminster

