

THE FRIENDS OF COMBE DOWN SURGERY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 31st March 2026 at 6.15pm at Combe Down Surgery

1. Welcome. The Chairman, Debbie Williams welcomed those present

2. Present: - Debbie Williams (Chair), Dr Sam Robinson (Senior Partner) Janet Read (Secretary), John Weinle (Treasurer), James Davis (Vice Chair), Aditya Bhise, Tony Price, Daphne Roethenbaugh, Philip Slater, (all committee) Sue Crookes, David and Elsie Pyman, Ninette Flowerdew, Louise Perry

Apologies for absence: Linda Barrow, Paul and Margaret Maxwell Cook, Sue O'Donovan, Sue West, Father Bill, Dr Trichur Ganapathy, Tony Lawdham, Linda Barrow, Barbara Wiltshire

3. The minutes of the A.G.M. held on Tuesday 25 March 2025 were approved

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

The minibus has now been sold due to insufficient usage and an aging minibus. and the insurance reclaimed. Thanks to James and Tony, Philip and all the other drivers for all their support with the mini bus over the past years. A tea and cake party at the Mulberry Park Hub was held in December 2025 to thank all drivers and committee members.

Jointly with the Surgery this service has been replaced by a "Travel Support Fund". Patients who urgently need to travel for medical care but cannot afford or access other transport options where an ambulance is not appropriate will be booked an Uber Taxi and the Friends will fund the trip. It has been used on one occasion and was beneficial but there are still some problems with the system which need to be ironed out

5. Chairman's Report

The committee now has eleven members. Ninette stood down in 2025, but still attends our events and provides plants to sell. Her green fingers were greatly missed at the summer fair. However, Margaret and her brother did a great job at manning the plant stall.

Of course, the saddest news was the loss of Mary Read one of our founding committee members and first secretary. Mary passed away in January 2026 after a long illness. Many committee members attended her cremation or thanksgiving service where we learnt of all of the many ways Mary had supported the Combe Down Community. For instance, she was honoured as an "Unsung Hero of Bath in April 2006. We are grateful for all that Mary gave us and did for us here at the Surgery.

On a happier note, we celebrated 20 years of The Friends of Combe Down Surgery last year, and what better place to celebrate than at our Summer Fair with balloons and cake. We were also pleased to receive a celebratory plaque and kind words from both Imogen Batterham and Andrew Smith - former Partners. The sun shone although there was an unexpected shower of rain, 187 people attended and we raised almost £1000. After this event we bought 2 more gazebos to make this year's summer fair easier to set up. We also held the Spring, Autumn and Winter fairs. The weather plays a big part in the attendance at these fairs and at the last committee meeting it was agreed to remove the autumn fair and focus on 3 a year. At the Christmas Fair we had guest stall holders: Imogen's silver jewellery, Linda and her ever popular cards and Jessica and Zara with their crochet animals. It added new interest and brought in some different people. Once again, I am grateful to the committee for making these fairs possible and with the additional help from Sue West and Sandra and cake bakers Carol and Joy. It still makes it worthwhile to see patients coming through the door and enjoying themselves. Thank you also to Drs Sam, Kate and Claire (and Kate's husband Pete) and other surgery staff for support with posters and promotion. Raising these funds provides the surgeries with medical equipment to support and enhance the treatment of their patients.

Over the past year we have purchased the following:

- i. Tinted film to surgery waiting room windows - providing insulation and keeping the sun out.
- ii. Twenty chairs
- iii. Feno monitor
- iv. Dermatoscope

- v. Smart phone connector
- vi. Doppler and couch (just agreed)

We are waiting for quotes for tarmac at Odd Down for patient safety.

As we all know Combe Down Surgery continues to support more and more patients. Demands from us all grow year on year and medicine advances and changes. We are proud and grateful for such a great facility here in the village. Thanks to Sam and the team for the support you give us as Friends and the care you provide.

On a personal note, can I thank the committee for sponsoring my MacMillan mighty Hike in 2025. This year I will be walking for the RUH.

6. Statement of Accounts for year ending 31st December 2025

Treasurer, John Weinle presented his report.

Income for 2025 was £8492.72 mainly from events, bank interest and members subscriptions. £602 was recovered in gift aid. Out-goings were £11,259.24 of which £8885.33 was spent on surgery equipment. The Metro fixed rate account has matured and the £40,000 moved to the deposit account together with £1,000 interest. As of December 31 2025, there was £49,986.93 in the deposit account and £6979.51 in the community account. Further expenses for surgery equipment are expected.

7. Surgery Report

Dr Robinson reported that the rise in patient numbers has stabilised in the last few months. There is currently a full team of doctors and receptionists and the partners and management team are stable. The surgery is recruiting new nurse practitioners. Natalie, the practice manager has made improvements to the management structure and new technology has been introduced to improve efficiency. The surgery is now a functional, happy team

The surgery really appreciates the help provided by the Friends. Having equipment on site means patients do not have to wait for appointments or travel to the RUH. Other surgeries do not have this opportunity. As well as providing equipment the committee plays a useful role to comment on the services provided by the surgery.

The surgery expects there to be a CQC inspection soon as the last one was ten years ago. It may need to ask members of the Friends for interviews.

8. Re-appointment of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and appointment of Vice Chair

All four serving officers were re-elected unanimously.

9. Any Other Business

The offer of a gazebo from Mary's shed was accepted.

Adi has shaved his head for charity. He thanked those who have supported him

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

The amendments to the constitution of the Friends of Combe Down Surgery were unanimously agreed

The meeting closed at 19.20

Signed:

Deborah Williams
Chair of the Friends of Combe down Surgery