

## League of Friends Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital Herne Bay

### HOSC Submission

The Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital Herne Bay occupies a large site with room for expansion.

The main hospital has Heron Ward which has 23 beds, 2 of which are suitable for terminal, palliative and respite care, otherwise dealing with generally step-down rehabilitation transfers from the acute sites.

There is a new state of the art operating theatre at the moment dealing with podiatric surgery but this is underused and there is space for other surgery to be carried out though no general anaesthesia is carried out. If possible we would like to have a tie up with the Horder Centre, Crowborough, Sussex which specialises in orthopaedic surgery. Many local patients are referred there for surgery and clinics could be held locally to save a long journey.

There is a large outpatients department. Patients prefer to use this rather than travel to the acute hospitals saving time and stress and good parking is available. At weekends we have the emergency doctor service operating there. We would like to see a minor injuries unit set up there especially as we already have an excellent x-ray department next to it and this is one of the criteria for a MIU. The x-ray unit has new equipment provided by the League of Friends but this is run by the acute trust and only open Mon-Thurs. We would like it to be open every day.

There is a separate rehabilitation centre used for day case patients – mainly elderly. There is a physiotherapy department attached to this and a busy phlebotomy clinic.

The orthotics department has a separate building. The League of Friends purchased a milling machine from America – one of the first in the NHS in the UK – which increased their production of orthoses immensely. Unfortunately space is at a premium and although the League has offered to help extend the premises this was stopped in order to consider the possibility of finding further accommodation elsewhere on the site. This has not happened and in the meantime expansion of work possibly generating additional income from other NHS areas has been frustrated. Also they have further equipment in ramshackle stores which they are unable to use. We would like to have this issue resolved satisfactorily.

In essence there is a large ground area which could accommodate further expansion and this we would like to see if it can provide better local provision of healthcare. Herne Bay has an elderly population who find it difficult not only to travel to appointments but also to visit relatives in hospital.