



Registered Charity No. 1166275

**1953 - 2011**

**14th July 1953 at 4pm:** First meeting of the League of Friends

*“Following an invitation from Colonel J. E. Musgrave, the following ladies and gentlemen met at the Cockermonth Cottage Hospital on Tuesday, 14th July, 1953 at 4pm to discuss the formation of A League of Friends....*

*After an open and frank discussion, it was unanimously decided to constitute “The League of Friends of the Cockermonth Cottage Hospital”.*

**13th August 1953:** Second meeting of the League of Friends

*“It was unanimously approved that draft rules be adopted”*

*Its objectives were then defined as: "To implement schemes sponsored by the League to improve standards of service and conditions of Patients and Nursing Staff, and to provide funds to provide for amenities which are outside the scope of the West Cumberland Hospital Management Board."*

*"It was resolved that the Midland Bank, Cockermouth, be authorised to open an account in the name of the League of Friends....."*

*"It was agreed to furnish each member of the Committee with a receipt book to enrol members of the Cockermouth League of Friends at the rate of 2/6d per annum."*

**16th October 1953:** Third meeting of the League of Friends

*"The ladies of the committee undertook to have a Coffee Morning at the Cottage Hospital on the 6th November"*

The accounts for 1953-4 showed that £20 18s was raised in subs. That equates to 167 members!  
The coffee morning raised £33 13s;  
and, among other things, Darts and Dominoes at the Pheasant raised £1 1s.

Christmas Gifts in 1953 cost £2 - 0s - 11d.

**In the early days:**

Matron and some of the nurses lived on site in the Nurse's home and the League bought curtains and other items. The Hospital received things like tea sets, suites, television sets, Christmas presents, pianos, lampshades, a spin dryer, etc. but as time went by and money got tighter in the N.H.S. the League was asked for medical equipment, beds and mattress. The league was able to pay for an extension to the Day Room, and an Ambulance.

Funds come from donations and fund raising events. People have left money to the League in their will. The "Ladies Committee" was the main stay of organising fund raising events such as the Garden Parties, Coffee Mornings/Evenings and Raffles.



Presenting new pressure mattress

Mrs Chester, George Todhunter, Frank Wilson, Sister Cowley

## *Hospital's new ambulance*



February 1990

George Todhunter, Jennifer Drouet, Margaret Jackson, Pat  
Dixon

**Below are some of the items donated to Cockerthorpe Cottage Hospital by the League of Friends in more recent years up to 2011**

Christmas Tree  
Christmas Gifts to patients and staff every year  
Three Flat Screen Televisions  
Newspapers delivered every day  
Fridge  
Paid for Painting of Railings and Walls  
Low Stools  
Birthing Pool  
Woodhurst Commode  
Bedfiles and Hooks  
Ambassador Electric Adjustable Chair & Leg Rest  
Trolley  
Electric Air Mattress & Kit  
Sphygmomanometer



***Primo Therasonic Head***  
*For ultrasound Treatment*



Another plaque from  
the old hospital

The Equipment and furnishings of the  
Physiotherapy Department were purchased  
from funds raised by the League of Friends  
of Cockermouth Cottage Hospital and  
donations from others who had the well-being  
of Cockermouth and district in mind.

Presented to the West Cumbria Health  
District this seventh day of September  
1978

Plaque showing the  
generosity of the  
supporters of the  
League in 1978