



CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE AGM

MAY 2025

This is my first Annual Report as Chair of the Trustees of the Charity since taking over from my predecessor, Janis Buckley, who had occupied the position for seven years with great effect and to whom I am grateful for the valuable assistance she has given me over the last twelve months. My personal thanks also go to my fellow Trustees, Ruth Farmer, Julia Lidstone and Derek and Jane Williams for their support and for giving so freely of their time. We were delighted to welcome since the last AGM a new trustee, Gemma Perry - who is also a member of the local Glee Club UK branch that has joined those other organisations who have generously donated funds to us over the last year.

Donors and Supporters

On behalf of the Trustees, (and those many families to whom our assistance has been such a great help), I sincerely pass on most grateful thanks to all those loyal supporters who made many generously donations throughout the year, left money to us in their Will or requested donations be made to Cheerful Sparrows in place of flowers at their funeral. We are particularly indebted to our growing band of 'Friends' whose commitment to a regular monthly payment allows us to plan ahead with greater confidence.

After many years of having to pay to rent a room for our monthly meetings, we are also very grateful to Secure Storage Solutions who not only allow us to use their conference room free of charge but keep us supplied with refreshments too! They are the latest local company to add to these other groups and organisations whose continued help we depend on:

Asda	Friendship Group at St John's
Bradstow Singers	Greyhound Buskers
BradUkes	Margate W.I.
Broadstairs Active Retirement Association	Minnis Bay Residents' Association
Broadstairs Sailing Club	North Foreland Golf Club
Broadstairs W.I.	RSLA (a retirement association)
Carolyn Jones	South-East Steel
Clairvoyant Charity Events	Star of the Sea Craft Group
Coastal Choir	St. Andrew's Women's Group

St. Peter's Women's Group
Thanet Business Network
Tesco
Thanet Quilters
The Colyer-Fergusson Trust
The Dickens' Fellowship
The Glee Club UK
TK MAXX
Victory News

Viking Ukes.
The following Masonic organisations also
continue to loyally support us:
Caducean Lodge (London)
Caducean Chapter (London)
Thanet & District London Grand Rank
Association
St. John's Thanet Lodge
Union Lodge in Margate

We are sincerely grateful to you all.

2025: Centenary Year

Although The Cheerful Sparrows was started way back in the Boer War, the Thanet Branch was formed later, a century ago now! We hope to be able to celebrate our centenary later in the year.

New website

For us to present ourselves more effectively now, and in the years to come, we are delighted to be able, at the AGM today, to launch our new website with a most sincere thank you to Pete Davin for the intricacies of the design and build together with our Social Media and Facebook guru, Eileen MacCallum, who has generously given of her time and expertise in developing it for us. We are very conscious that Eileen and Pete are two of our 'unsung heroes' behind the scenes and so also sincerely thank Mat Taylor who continues to host our website without charge and Dudley Gore the Independent Examiner who waives his fee to work on our accounts, all who ensure the money we raise goes directly to help those in need.

QEQM Hospital wards

We continue to maintain our traditional links with the Cheerful Sparrows Wards at the QEQM Hospital and along with seasonal support, try to help the staff and patients as much as we can. This is in addition to the major part of our work which is to regularly reach out, on a weekly basis, to those individuals and families in Thanet who need helping the most.

In these uncertain times, with cuts to welfare and the cost of living rising, we are called upon more than ever to assist the most vulnerable in our local community and we are grateful that your continued generosity and support allow us to do so. Thank you.

Peter W Silver

12th May 2025