



## CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE AGM MAY 2026

In the last fourteen months since our last AGM, the Charity has had another busy time. Sadly, two of our Trustees, Julia Lidstone and Derek Williams, have been in hospital but I am pleased to report they are now home and continuing to recover. For all of you that know them, you will not be surprised to learn that they were still inputting to our work throughout their incapacitation. I am grateful to them and also to vice-chair, Ruth Farmer and Treasurer, Jane Williams, for taking on some extra duties in addition to their usual valuable assistance to myself as Chair.

With the recent rise in the cost of living and continuing pressures in the present world we still get numerous requests for help from our local Social Services Officers and other professionals. We attempt to satisfy their requests, if appropriate, as soon as possible - and often within a week or two. This is only possible by using the proceeds of the fundraising efforts by the many clubs, organisations, companies and groups together with our growing band of 'Friends'. Their generous contributions, through a commitment to a regular monthly payment, allow us to plan ahead with greater confidence.

Apart from those who wish to remain anonymous, the names of those who have helped us are listed on our website, [www.cheerfulsparrows.org.uk](http://www.cheerfulsparrows.org.uk). 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 that donations be made to Cheerful Sparrows in place of flowers at their funeral.

The Cheerful Sparrows Thanet branch has now been going for over a hundred years and in all of those years has relied greatly on the generosity of the local community - for not only financial support but also for the much-appreciated giving of time and facilities. I would be remiss in this report not to especially thank Secure Security Systems for their hospitality and for allowing us free use of their facilities for our monthly Trustee meetings: Eileen MacCallum for looking after our Website and Facebook page and Dudley Gore, the Independent Examiner for overseeing our accounts that are required by the Charity Commission.

We still have the two wards at the QEQM Hospital that are in our name. These commemorate the help we gave in the building of the hospital. We continue to maintain our links with them along with seasonal support and 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.

The Trustees are well aware of the financial pressures, In these times, on those who continue to support us. They are extremely grateful for your continued generosity. The needs of those most vulnerable in our community show no signs of abating and it is only with the help of you all that we are able to bring a small measure of relief that is always most welcomed by those who need it and receive it.

Thank you.

**Peter W Silver**

13<sup>th</sup> July 2026