

In this edition we look forward to the upcoming public and staff governor elections, tell you more about the presentations that governors make to clubs, societies, and councils in their local area as part of our ongoing public engagement work and introduce you to another one of our governors.



Governor Elections - Are you interested in becoming a QVH public governor?

We have up to ten public governor positions to fill. Elected public members will take up a post as a public governor from 1st July 2026.

We welcome nominations from members of all backgrounds and experiences who are aged 18+ to help ensure that the voice of the Council of Governors represents the diverse population, which we serve.

Nominations open on **21st April 2026** and close on **6th May 2026**. The election takes place between 26th May and 15th June. You will receive information about how to nominate yourself from civica election services on 21st April 2026

What is a Governor?

Governors are volunteers and have an important role in representing our members, patients and communities and holding our Non-Executive Directors to account for the performance of the Board. Governors bring valuable perspectives and contributions to our activities. Find out more at our pre-election events.

Can I stand as a public governor?

You can stand if:

- You are a public member of the Trust. You can join via the QVH website here: <https://secure.membra.co.uk/join/QueenVictoria/>
- You are at least 18 years of age.
- You reside in Kent, Surrey, Sussex or South London.

You have attended a pre-election event

The pre-election events are being held on MS Teams on:

Thursday, 30th April 2026 at 1pm and **Friday, 1st May 2026 at 1pm**

Being a governor is a very satisfying and enjoyable role. You will be representing an amazing hospital at a critical time in its future as the hospital progresses a strategic partnership to ensure the long- term sustainability and resilience of its specialist services.

If you would like to become a governor and join one of our pre-election events, email qvh.corporategovernance@nhs.net

If you would like to get in touch with the current governors to talk about our experience in the role, please email us at qvh.governors@nhs.net

Governor Presentations

Did you know an important part of our role is to engage with members, patients, and communities about the hospital and hear your views?

As part of this public engagement work, our Governors seek opportunities to present information about our role and the hospital (past, present, and future) to local groups, societies and local, town and district councils.

Are you part of one of these groups? Could we join a future meeting? Email us at qvh.governors@nhs.net to discuss.

Here is a flavour of our presentation.

QVH From a cottage to a community hospital

QVH Proud of where we've come from

QVH Proud of where we're going...

QVH CHARITY Helping re-build lives

Will you help us to rebuild lives?

With your donations, small or large, you can help us:

- improve the hospital environment for patients
- invest in additional, better equipment outside of what the NHS normally funds
- support hardworking staff
- fund research and work to help develop new and innovative treatments.

QVH Charity is the official charity of Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in East Grinstead.

The charity funds things that are above and beyond core NHS funding, making a real difference to patients and staff at the hospital. But it couldn't do what it does without the support of **YOU**, our local community and people who want to help us do more.

Donate here

REGULATED BY THE CHARITY COMMISSION
REG. CHARITY NO. 1058125

Governor profile: Felicity Hatch

I have lived in East Grinstead for over 50 years where I have brought up four children and many pets.

My husband and I love the town and the surrounding countryside.

I taught in schools in East Grinstead and Worth Abbey, before becoming assistant head in Tunbridge Wells.

I've watched QVH grow over the last fifty years and attended the hospital many times when my rather adventurous children got into various scrapes.

Both my dad and brother were in the Canadian RAF, so I was aware of the pioneering work of Sir Archibald McIndoe, reconstructing badly burnt and injured aircrew and developing groundbreaking plastic surgery procedures.

I was also very aware of the famous Guinea Pig Club and the reputation of East Grinstead as the town that did not stare.

A close friend of mine came from Glasgow to work in the maxio-facillary department, which gave me an insight into the amazing surgery which was being developed.

Following my retirement, I became a magistrate in the courts of Lewes and Brighton and President of TASEG, the Arts Society of East Grinstead.

In 2024 I became a Public Governor at QVH and also a volunteer on the QVH reception desk.

I'm now an octogenarian, but don't want to slow down. I love what I'm doing and really appreciate the friendship, humanity and humour of my colleagues at QVH.



Forth Coming Meetings

Meeting in Public 14th May 2026 10am – 12 noon, Education Centre, QVH

Council of Governors Meeting 21st April 2026 2pm, Education Centre, QVH

If you wish to contact the governors with a question, comment, or with feedback about this newsletter, please email us at qvh.governors@nhs.net