

In Sight

Published by the
Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital

The Friends celebrate their 40th Anniversary



Guests reading the programme

Over 140 revellers - members, hospital staff, other supporters and their guests - gathered at the Bristol Hotel on 24 March 2017 to celebrate our 40th anniversary.

An amazing evening opened with an amusing game of "Heads and Tails" followed by speeches from current Friends' chairman Richard Markham, our guest of honour Christopher Dean Hart and BEH Clinical Director Richard Haynes.

The Clinical Director later swapped formal speaking for an energetic drumming session as younger guests rocked into the



Events committee



Bristol Hotel Ball Room

night with the surgeons' band "The Four Fifts". A disco followed for those still standing!

Earlier Neil Trigger had wowed diners with magic tricks, Tony Eades had taken some fantastic photos and several lucky diners won super raffle prizes. All that while we enjoyed an excellent dinner!



Neil Trigger, magician



Christopher Dean Hart

Thanks to organising team Hannah, Rebecca, Lis, Jenny, Liz, Heather and Kay, those who donated raffle prizes, the hotel, the band, Neil, Tony, Sarah Williams for her enthusiastic speech and donation from Smiling Eyes International and most of all thanks to all those who attended.

A thoroughly successful event generated £1,800 for the continued support of the wonderful Bristol Eye Hospital.

Here's to the next 40 years ...



The Four Fifts

Letter from the Chairman

I write this, my first Chairman's Report for the Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital, after a very successful dinner and dance at the Bristol Hotel on 24 March celebrating our first 40 years. Guest of Honour at this event was Professor Christopher Dean Hart who with Peter Smith, Tony Hooper and Neil Dallas was responsible for founding the Friends in 1977. Tribute was paid to the six past Chairmen and all Committee members who have worked so hard to further the goals of the Friends. We were pleased that our fourth Chairman Drummond Forbes was amongst our guests. We thanked our present Treasurer Simon St Leger-Harris who not only looks after the finance but also negotiates the increasingly complicated rules now applicable to all charities.

Special recognition was reserved for Honorary Secretary Dinah Harrison who remarkably has served the Friends as Secretary for all but the first six months of the last 40 years. During this time we have raised over £1.3m for equipment, patient and staff comforts that could not have been afforded by the NHS. It is likely that this work will become even more important in the future with increasing demand and financial pressures on the NHS.

This year we have again been able to meet all requests for funding without having to launch a special appeal. For that we thank the generosity of our members and supporters. For more about donors and funds raised, please see page 7 but I must mention here the Avon Gorge Ferry Trip – see opposite – organised by long-standing trustee Heather Walker. Many thanks to you, Heather – what an example of enterprise to us all!

On page 7 you will also find details of the grants we have made or approved – there are more items in the pipeline. I know from first-hand experience of working for many years

at BEH how helpful these items are and how well appreciated they are by patients and staff.

I also recognise the major contribution of three former trustees: Brenda Fearn, Tim Davidson and the late Penny Barclay. Full tributes to them as well as to Sally Ashton who served as editor of *In Sight* for one year are on page 5.

On the subject of publicity, the good news is that this role was taken over last year by three UWE students – Rebecca Bateson, Hannah Williams and Prya Takooree-Goomannee. Many thanks to all three for their fresh new approach to publicity especially for our celebration dinner and overhauling our presence on social media. Prya has had to stop due to outside pressures but Becca and Hannah continue in this role.

We congratulate Jenny Holly who is leaving her post as BEH General Manager to be Assistant Divisional Director of Medicine at the BRI – see page 5. We thank her for her sustained contribution and advice to the trustees and welcome her successor Mark Stevens. We have also had to



say au revoir to Shelley Thomas, who has been seconded to the BRI for six months. In her place as Matron we welcome Lynne Myers. At our January meeting Jenny introduced us to Philip Kiely, Divisional Director of Surgery, Head & Neck. Philip told us of plans for redesigning and upgrading the ground floor of the hospital and that he would be inviting our input. The Friends very much look forward to being involved in this major project. No one will need reminding that all committee members and many other Friends of BEH contribute their skills and time entirely unpaid.

Onward and upward!

**All members are warmly invited to
attend the Friends' AGM at 6.15pm
on Thursday 18 May 2017 in the
Large Lecture Theatre, Level 1,
Bristol Eye Hospital.**

**We will be seeking members' approval
of our new Rules.**

Financial Summary

The Friends received net income of £20,700 during the year to 28 February 2017. Most of this was from donations and members' subscriptions (£14,700) and legacies (£3,200). The rest was from Gift Aid (£1,200), interest (£970) and net profit from fund-raising activities (£620). Our management expenses of £3,500 were mainly insurance, accounting and legal fees (£2,000) and publicity (£1,100 for In Sight and our website). Our legal fees were higher than usual because of work on changing our Rules. We paid grants of £8,934 during the year and at 28 February 2017 our funds amounted to £105,069 of which we have set aside £70,479 to pay for grants that we have approved but not yet been asked to pay.

Avon Gorge Boat Trip



Last summer, the Friends embarked on a cruise trip. Not quite a Caribbean cruise liner, but it was a day to remember nonetheless!

36 Friends and supporters met on Thursday 23 June at the SS Great Britain Ferry stop to hop on a boat and enjoy each other's company

while they sailed under Brunel's Suspension Bridge.

There was a glass or two of fizz, plenty of fish and chips and luckily the rain held off, allowing everyone to enjoy the commentary on the history and wildlife of the Gorge. Everyone appreciated seeing and learn-

ing about Bristol from a different perspective.

A big thank you to Heather Walker who organised the trip, to Robert Willis who suggested it, the Bristol Community Ferry Boats and to all who supported us.

Getting social with the Friends

Waiting a whole year for In Sight can be frustrating. Now you can keep up to date with the goings-on at the hospital and with the Friends whenever you want to!

Following the appointment of our publicity officers, a big change in recent months has been a revamp of our social media. Our Facebook page @bristoleyehospital has had a makeover

with a more sophisticated look. The 40th anniversary dinner was promoted heavily through social media posts and our Facebook page has become a hub for Friends, staff and patients to interact and share their success stories. The Facebook page has seen a huge rise in activity levels with our posts reaching hundreds of people in the local community!

And did you know we are now on Twitter?

New in 2017, the Friends are active on Twitter where followers can keep up to date with the hospital and fundraising events held by the Friends. So if you haven't Liked us already, get online and go to @bristoleyehospital on www.facebook.com and @bristoleyehosp on www.twitter.com so you can keep in touch and up to date all year round.

Meet the Secretary of the Friends

At 11am on a Monday morning, Dinah Harrison will have just finished going through the emails received over the weekend for the Friends. Emails are only a small part of her job as Secretary of the charity; the position also includes recording the business at meetings, dealing with correspondence, keeping membership records, liaising with staff and fellow trustees and working closely with the Treasurer. Now isn't that a long list? If you were wondering what the most difficult part is, Dinah says "Perhaps it's keeping up with the Treasurer; his energy for work is phenomenal!"

Eye Hospital, volunteered me to be their secretary. I joined as a trustee in September 1977, immediately relieving the Hospital Secretary [who nowadays would be called the Manager] who had acted as secretary to the Friends since the inaugural meeting in May of that year."

Thus Dinah became a real asset and key member of the Friends very quickly. She is proud of the good relationship the Friends have with the hospital staff and says: "It makes life worthwhile to know that one is doing something useful to support them in the wonderful work they do. I know it is wonderful because of all



with our Magic Million Dinner held at the Clifton Club in 2010. Over the years we've organized many splendid events including two recitals by international concert pianist Bernard d'Ascoli, the first at the Theatre Royal and the second at St George's, Brandon Hill."

The Friends have run major appeals with remarkable results and of course Dinah was involved. The first was for a KPE [Kelman Phaco-Emulsifier] for cataract operations on children. The appeal was so successful the Friends were able to buy a laser as well. Another was for DAISY, - a Digital Angiography Imaging System enabling amazing pictures of the retina and costing £80,000 - the biggest appeal the Friends have yet run. Dinah says modestly "It doesn't sound much nowadays but was a lot of money when we launched the appeal in 1995. DAISY was installed 20 months later."

And where would Dinah like to see the Friends when they reach their 50th anniversary and further into the future? "I should like to see the Friends being a big name well known to the general public, having a more obvious presence in the hospital, being more apparent to all members of staff so that they are all familiar with what we do, but still being a charity small enough to feel friendly and intimate to its supporters."



Dinah grew up in Devon & Cornwall and completed a BA Honours in French at London University before marrying in 1972. "Marriage rescued me from a tedious job in North Acton and brought me back to the West Country" Dinah says, sounding happy she was able to return to her roots. She adds, "I needed something to do and my husband's cousin Sheila Kinnersley, one of the first trustees of the newly formed Friends of Bristol

the heartfelt letters of appreciation sent to us by grateful patients."

So as we celebrate the Friends' 40th Anniversary, we are also celebrating all that Dinah has done and been a part of during almost all of the Friends' existence. She recalls a few events that stand out in her mind: "There was the opening of the BEH Information Office which marked our having given over £1 million in grants to the hospital. We celebrated this

Thank you from the Friends

Brenda Fearn

Brenda Fearn retired in September 2001 from the post of Sister, Victoria Ward, in charge of Day-Case Cataract Surgery, Day-Case Children's Surgery and Pre-Op Assessment, after 48 years in nursing of which the last 15 were at BEH. In the early nineties Brenda and her staff pioneered the practice of pre-op assessment; Brenda also initiated hostel beds on King Ward for day-case patients who lived alone - in those days, they were not allowed home on the day of their operation. Things have changed a lot since then, says Brenda, and nowadays every day-case patient goes home the same day whether alone or not. When she retired from full-time work Brenda immediately became a trustee of the Friends and set about organizing a hospital bazaar which raised £740. Brenda was generous with her time whenever practical help was needed, manning stalls at our events and selling Christmas cards even when her health was fragile. She served as a trustee without a break from the autumn of 2001 until May 2016. Her professional opinion was invaluable to her fellow trustees when considering requests for funding. She is much loved and respected by all her colleagues in the hospital and on the Friends' committee. We shall miss her friendship, compassion and common sense.

Neil Ross

After more than 20 years working for the Friends, Neil Ross retired as our In Sight designer on completion of the 2016 edition. Neil began working for the Friends in 1995 when he designed the current logo and the DAISY appeal leaflet. Since then he's designed every issue of In Sight and worked on several publicity projects with Chris Newton (our Publicity Officer 1980-2014) including the large Friends information panels on display in the hospital. Thank you very much, Neil.

Tim Davidson

Tim was a trustee from September 2011 to May 2016. His sensible, down-to-earth opinions kept the committee's feet on the ground! His major contribution was to the updating of our Constitution where his legal mind and expertise in drafting new rules were an enormous asset. We are grateful to Tim for being willing still to offer us his advice should we need it. Also for introducing us to the American Women Abroad association who made us their charity of the year 2016 and are presenting us with £1,000 they have raised towards the purchase of a portable slit lamp.

Jenny Holly

We congratulate and thank Jenny Holly who, unfortunately for us, is leaving her post as BEH General Manager to be Assistant Divisional Director of Medicine at the BRI. This is a significant promotion which recognizes her considerable and much appreciated managerial skills. We thank her for her sustained contribution and advice to the trustees over the past three years. We wish her every success in her new and challenging post and also every happiness in her forthcoming marriage.

Sally Ashton

We were grateful to Sally Ashton for stepping into the breach in autumn 2015 when we had no Publicity Officer and were in urgent need of someone to produce the 2016 edition of our annual newspaper. Sally had recently retired from her job at the hospital as a senior practitioner and tutor for ophthalmic courses. Although she didn't want to take on all aspects of publicity, she agreed to be responsible for news-gathering and editing In Sight. This she did with great efficiency, producing an excellent 2016 edition. We were sorry that owing to her family commitments Sally felt she could not continue in the role. We thank her for all she did and wish her well.

Penny Barclay

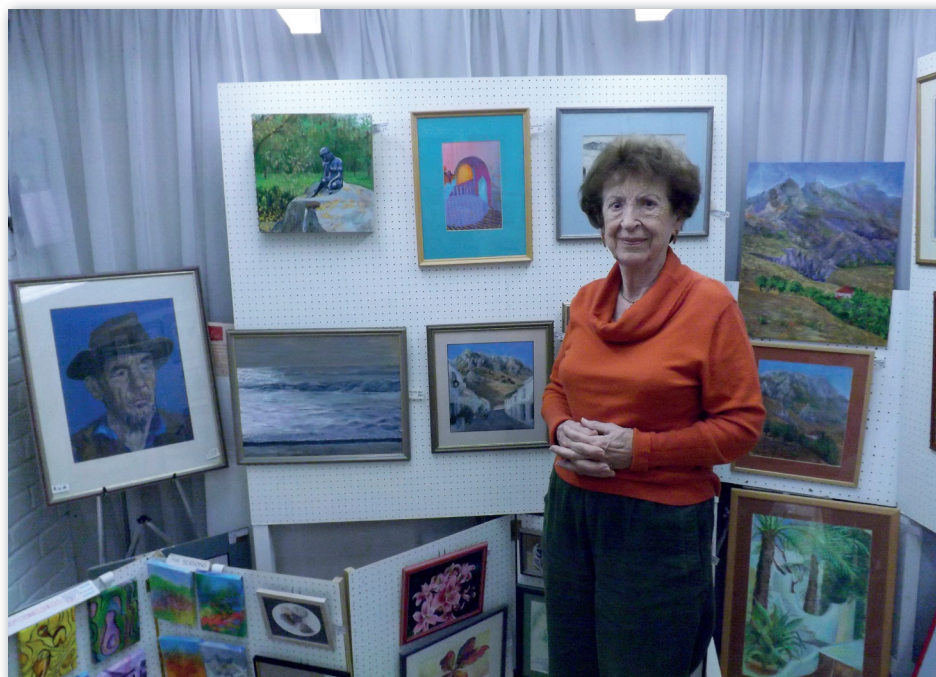
We were very sad to hear of the death on 22 March 2017 of former trustee Penny Barclay, after a long illness. Penny served 24 years as a trustee, being first elected in April 1984 and retiring in May 2008. She was a very conscientious contributor to meetings, a stalwart help at all our functions and for many years managed everything to do with our Christmas card sales. She had a nursing background, being a school matron before her marriage. She was efficient, modest, straightforward, a gracious hostess and very kind. The Friends were represented at her funeral by Dinah Harrison, Simon St Leger-Harris and Heather Walker who was responsible for recruiting Penny to become a trustee.

You can raise FREE funds for us every time you shop online, with *Give as you Live*.

If you buy anything from a store which participates in the scheme, we receive a small percentage of the purchase - at no cost to you.

Just log into www.giveasyoulive.com/join/fbeh for more details.

Art for Eyes' Sake



Margaret Betty Marten is a local painter, who, at 90 years old, raises funds for the Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital. We want to thank Betty for her contributions and at the same time let our other supporters know about the work she does.

Betty has been blind in one eye since birth and, having been helped by Bristol Eye Hospital, wishes to help in return by giving the Friends 50% of the proceeds from her painting sales. Twelve paintings are currently displayed around the hospital. They not only brighten things up for

she has given her artistic flair free rein and has taken her hobby of holiday painting to a higher level. Now her converted garage gallery contains more than 100 paintings ranging from water colour to oil, to pastel.

You can expect a lot of Spanish influence in Betty's paintings, for she didn't just lecture in Spanish; she often visited Spain and her fondness of its culture extended to capturing the countryside with her brush. Betty explained to us how she loves Andalucía and the old castles, describing them as "unique, very ancient places with a wonderful inspiring atmosphere."

Betty began by painting holiday destinations and this led to taking part in craft fairs on the Dorset coast. "I'd always done an odd holiday painting but suddenly on retirement I thought, I'm going to do what I wanted to do when I was a little girl." Art courses at the Open Art University and London College of Art followed and Betty continues to experiment with style and medium. "I just can't stop painting!" Betty exclaimed.

Her personal gallery, The Leaze, sits in her small garage where the walls are filled with colourful

paintings documenting her lifetime of experiences. She opened the gallery in 2006 in order to start seriously fundraising.

Betty's charity support has played a large part in her life. She has previously worked with Help for Heroes, Victims of Torture, Dorton House - a mansion in Kent which was once a school for blind children - and given regular monetary donations to the Royal National Institute of Blind People. We are very grateful to Betty for choosing Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital to benefit from her talent and generosity and we are delighted to promote her work. Betty's paintings are full of bright colours and gorgeous scenery so are uplifting and particularly appealing to those with sight difficulties.

Betty's collection is still growing. If you wish to see some of her work, look out for it at the BS9 Art Trail on 10 and 11 June 2017 at the University of Bristol Botanic Gardens. Or perhaps next time you are at the Eye Hospital you may wish to pick out one of Betty's pieces.



Please contact Betty on mbsmarten@btinternet.com if you wish to discuss her work. She may even let you take a look inside The Leaze.



patients and staff but also give those who wish to buy a painting a chance to support the hospital as well.

Betty studied Spanish and French at Manchester University and spent the majority of her working life as a Spanish Lecturer at Filton Technical College, but since retiring 30 years ago

Grants

This year, we have approved and paid for the following new grants:

- **Keeler PSL Classic Portable Slit Lamp** (£3,696) for examining children & infirm or immobile patients so as to minimise distress and to enable the ophthalmologist to make prompt diagnosis. Also used to assess patients at other locations, e.g. Children's Hospital, BRI or Southmead.
- **Purchase and installation of large TV screens** for displaying information in five outpatient and casualty waiting areas around the hospital (£1,523). The screens provide important information for patients and their carers and also promote the Friends.
- **Keys Pictures Vision Test** and **Cardiff Cards Vision Test** (£1,260). Children with special

needs are significantly more likely to have a vision problem. Bristol has a large special needs service assessing children in seven special schools, four development centres, as well as specialist vision and neurodevelopmental clinics at BEH. The Friends have updated and improved vision testing equipment in these clinics, enabling BEH staff to offer better information to other professionals on a child's functional vision ability for learning and guidance on appropriate communication aids for these children.

- **New replacement dishwasher** in staff coffee lounge (£180)
 - Special grant for a patient in need
- And we have again paid for the maintenance costs of the aquarium in the children's ward, indoor plants, the patients' garden and the staff

garden.

The request for Theatre Lounge Patients' Chairs that we had approved in 2015 was revised and an increased grant for patients' chairs in the theatre lounge and in Gloucester Ward has now been approved by the trustees. We await a request for payment to complete this purchase.

And finally, we have approved several further grants which have not yet been purchased.

The provisional cost of all of the outstanding grants is around £70,000. We will report on these fully in next year's edition.

Legacies, In Memory and Donations

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following donations:

- Legacies from the estates of the late **John Porter Ball**, **Sidney William Baker** and **Enid Rathbone Jones**.

- Donations in memory of **Bernard Baber**, **Gillian Dallas**, **David John Dark**, **Doris Gregory** and **Robin Lawrie**.

We also particularly thank:

- **all our regular donors**
- **Dyers' Company Charitable Trust**
- **In House Research and Training Limited**: Malcolm Pitcher wrote: "I was a patient of Bristol Eye Hospital throughout 2016 having four operations. The care I received was excellent. Every year my company recognizes those organisations that have impacted upon the lives of our

employees. You have to be one of them."

- **J&M Britton Charitable Trust**
- **Landsberg & Son (Antiques) Ltd**: further donations in memory of Gillian Dallas
- **Marian Donovan Optometrist**
- **Needham Cooper Charitable Trust**
- **Norville Opticians, Downend**
- **Unite the Union South West**: Timothy Richards wrote "my daughter has an eye problem and I happened to pick up your newsletter and explained to our committee that the majority of us or family members will probably require the use of the eye hospital at some time in our lives and it was agreed to donate £300 per quarter this year ... our branch of Unite the Union has donated over £16,000 to local charities in the last three years and

look forward to supporting you as much as possible in the future."

- **Ruth Alexander**
- **Carol Baber**
- **Guadalupe Brockman**
- **Isabella Brooks**
- **John Edwards**
- **Zac Gregory**
- **Megan Harris**, who raised funds in lieu of presents on her 80th birthday
- **Anthony Landsberg**
- **Betty Marten**
- **Alexander Morgan**
- **Marlene Morris**
- **Mr & Mrs Pinchin**
- **Sarah Williams**
- the "mums on the school run" for donations in memory of Robin Lawrie and all our other many individual donors too numerous to mention by name. Thank you all.

Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital was formed in 1977 to help pay for the many little (and not-so-little) extras which can make all the difference to patients and staff but are not available from NHS funds.

Since our foundation we have awarded grants in excess of £1.3m to fund everything from laser machines to children's toys.

Trustees

Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital is a registered charity managed on behalf of its members by trustees elected by the members at annual meetings. Anyone over 18 may become a member and any member may apply to become a trustee.

If you are interested in becoming a trustee or if you would simply like more information, please contact the Secretary.

Membership

If you would like to become a member or maybe just make a donation, there are forms available in the main hospital reception area or you can download one from our website: www.fbeh.org/downloads

If you would like to make a donation by debit or credit card, you can do this securely on our website. Of course, if you would prefer please call or email:

- The Secretary if you would like to become a member (and make a single or regular donation) or to help in any way, or
- The Treasurer if you have any questions about donations or Gift Aid or wish to make a bequest to the Friends in your will.

In Sight is written and edited by
Hannah Williams and
Rebecca Bateson
and printed by
Maxwell House Printers.



Registered charity no 274349

www.fbeh.org

Contact us:

Secretary

secretary@fbeh.org

Tel. 01934 822344

Treasurer

treasurer@fbeh.org

Tel. 01761 463427

Publicity Officers

publicity@fbeh.org

or by post to any of them at:

Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital,
Lower Maudlin Street,
Bristol,
BS1 2LX

Trustees at 28 February 2017

Richard Markham (Chairman)
Dinah Harrison (Honorary Secretary)
Simon St Leger-Harris
(Honorary Treasurer)
Elizabeth Annesley
Annette Barrington
Marian Donovan
Deborah Hill
Marie Mackle
Kay McCluskey
Peter Turner
Heather Walker

The following also currently support or advise the trustees but do not vote:

Mark Stevens (Assistant General Manager)
Lynne Myers (Matron)
Jenny Ward (Theatre Manager)
Cathy Williams
(Consultant Ophthalmologist)
Rebecca Bateson & Hannah Williams
(Friends' Honorary Publicity Officers)

Rules

During 2015-16 we revised our Rules which have remained largely unchanged since 1977. Changes to our Rules require the prior approval of the Charity Commission before we ask our members to approve them. We had hoped to do this at our AGM in 2016 but we did not receive the Charity Commission's approval in time. We have now obtained their approval and we will ask the members to approve our new Rules at our AGM on 18 May 2017. All members received a copy of the proposed new rules and a note summarising and explaining the reasons for the changes with their copy of *In Sight* in 2016. New members since then will have received those documents with this copy of *In Sight*. Any member who requires a further copy should please contact the Secretary.

Gift Aid

If you pay UK tax, we can claim an extra 25p in Gift Aid on every £1 you donate. This provides valuable additional funds to support our work at no extra cost to you.

In order to be eligible you must be a UK taxpayer and if you pay less total tax (on Income or Capital Gains) than the total Gift Aid claimed on all your charity donations in any tax year then you will be responsible for paying any difference.

Gift Aid forms are available in the hospital, can be downloaded from our website or you can ask our Treasurer to send you one.

If you have previously given us a Gift Aid declaration, please check it's still valid. If you think you no longer pay sufficient tax and wish to withdraw your declaration, please let our treasurer know and we will cancel it.

Did you know that we can claim Gift Aid on all cash donations (of £20 or less) without a Gift Aid form— even if you are not a taxpayer?