



In Sight 2021

Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital improve care and treatment for patients by helping to pay for medical equipment, patient comforts and staff resources that would not otherwise be provided.



A MESSAGE FROM DINAH HARRISON

Chairman of Friends of
Bristol Eye Hospital

Since March 2020, when anti-pandemic measures became law, it has not been possible for the Friends to visit the hospital for trustees' meetings or any other purpose, including taking photographs for publicity - hence the long delay in producing this edition of In Sight.

Despite the difficulties of the last fourteen months, we have been able to give strong support to the hospital during this time of crisis. Please see the list of grants on pages 5-7.

It is our privilege to be the channel for the deep appreciation which many patients show, not only for the skilled treatment they receive but also for the kindness and care with which it is given. As one grateful patient says: "There is not one person in that hospital that is not kind and pleasant to deal with – not one from top to bottom!"

Pandemic conditions have led to a drop in income but we remain in a good position to support the hospital and its staff whenever they call on us.

In April 2021, the total value of grants given since our foundation in 1977 passed the £1½m mark. Thanks to all whose generous support – via legacies, donations, fund-raising and voluntary service – has made this possible.

I thank all our dedicated trustees, particularly Heather Walker for over 41 years' devoted service and Richard Markham, our retiring Chairman, for his inspirational leadership.

We have a new logo and a bright new website which includes the facility to join the Friends and/or donate online. If you'd like to support us, please find details of how on the back page, on our website and on leaflets in the hospital - or just contact us!



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ALL CHANGE AT THE TOP!

...we have a new Chairman and Secretary

Consultant **Richard Markham** retired from the office of Chairman at the end of the Friends' 2020 AGM.

We are very grateful to Richard for being our Chairman for nearly five years and for the leadership and invaluable guidance he has given his fellow trustees during that time. Fortunately, we shall still be able to call on his expertise and experience as he has agreed to continue as a trustee.

Dinah Harrison, who has served as our Secretary for an amazing 43 years, was elected Chairman. She was the first trustee elected secretary, taking over from the hospital manager who acted as secretary for the first six months of the Friends' existence.

Wendy Beatty, who has been a trustee for three years, was elected as the new Secretary.

We welcome **Kevin Abbey** who became a trustee in November 2019. (Kevin has been our Publicity Officer since 2018.)



JANET COAKHAM

We are sad to report the death, on 16 March 2020, of Janet Coakham. Janet served as a trustee of the Friends from September 1988 for 15 years, of which 12½ as Vice-Chairman, until she retired in January 2004. She was pleased to be able to do something for the hospital staff and patients as she was so grateful for the laser treatment which saved her vision.

Janet had a quiet, unassuming manner and natural charm. She was an utterly reliable practical help, especially when it came to organizing fund-raising social events. She was kind, fun to be with and an elegant and reassuring presence on all occasions. Friends' Chairman Richard Markham said, "She is and will be sadly missed by a very great number of people in Bristol".

FRIENDS AGM HELD ONLINE

As a result of Coronavirus, our 2020 Annual General Meeting had to be held online. The minutes of the meeting on 24 November 2020 have been sent to all members.

Our 2021 AGM will be held on Tuesday 20 July at 6pm. This will be held in the hospital if permitted also with online access, or solely online if we are not allowed into the hospital.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE?

Our new website and logo, both designed by professional web developer Russ Willey, were launched in August 2020. The website has a bright new look with easy navigation and is mobile friendly. It allows supporters to join us and donate online. We've received many admiring comments including from hospital staff. Please have a look.

www.fbeh.org

ASHCOMBE PARK BOWLING CLUB

The Ashcombe Park Bowling Club in Weston-super-Mare chose Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital as their Charity of the Year for 2019.



Club members raised £1,411 and presented the funds to our then Secretary Dinah Harrison at the end of the season. Thank you, Martin and all club members, very much!

Their captain, **Martin Paterson**, said "As captain, I have the choice of which charity my club supports throughout the year. As many of our members, including myself, are currently undergoing or have received treatment at Bristol Eye Hospital I wanted to show our gratitude for all the treatment we have received.

"After talking with Professor Sparrow, it was an automatic choice for us to support Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital."

MOORWOOD ART SHOW RAISES £1,000

Moorwood Art, a contemporary fine art gallery in an ancient bluebell wood in Bruton, Somerset, kindly made us their charity of the year for their Annual Art Show.



The show, where the work of 45 artists is shown within a relaxed home environment and in the surrounding gardens and woodland, ran for two weeks in March 2019 and raised £1,000, which Camilla presented to Friends' Treasurer, Simon St Leger-Harris.

Organiser **Camilla Drinkall** said she had chosen the Friends because of the excellent care and treatment given by Bristol Eye Hospital to her husband Philip who had suffered from very bad short sight and as a result had two lens implants.

SPONSORED SWIM BY PATIENT'S TWO YOUNG SONS RAISES £400

- as a thank you for their father's successful eye operation



Following his two operations for a detached retina, **Daniel Kerr** wrote to express his thanks to surgeons Pathma Ramasamy and Mohammed Majid, together with all the other staff involved.

To say thank you for their father's successful operation, Daniel's two sons, William and Rhodri, aged 10 and 6, undertook a sponsored swim to raise money for the Friends. Sponsored by family members and friends, the boys' successful swim raised £400.

Friends Treasurer Simon congratulated William and Rhodri for their kind efforts and assured them that the money they raised will be put to great use to help others within the hospital.

Daniel added "I am so proud of William and Rhodri for caring so much about saying thank you".

FUND-RAISING EVENTS

TRAVELS & TRIBULATIONS OF A ZOOLOGIST

A fascinating talk by Mark Carwardine raises £1,500

At Ashton Court Mansion on 26 September 2019 Mark Carwardine, wildlife photographer and environmentalist, gave a fascinating presentation “*Travels and Tribulations of a Zoologist*”, illustrated by spectacular photographs, to help raise funds for the Friends.

Mark had been treated by the Eye Hospital’s emergency department and gave his talk for free

to show his appreciation. Over 100 supporters thoroughly enjoyed the talk and had the chance to meet Mark, ask questions and buy copies of his new handbook *Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises*.

Friends’ Chairman Richard Markham thanked Mark for generously giving his time and expertise to entertain us and raise £1,500.

A ‘NIGHT AT THE RACES’ RAISES £2,100

A fun horse-racing event held at Churchill Memorial Hall on 17 May 2019

The event was organised mainly by Heather Walker & Wendy Beatty, and Wendy’s husband Nik, a terrific master of ceremonies.

Thank you also to Clifton’s The Kitchen Man who sponsored the event and to About Face Gift Shop, Cedar Wealth Management Ltd, Ince Metcalfes

Solicitors, Rachel’s and Michael’s Antiques, Saints Old Boys Football Club, David & Christine Froude, Richard Markham and Matthew & Alice Owen who sponsored the eight races.

We thank all those who came on the night and supported us so generously.

No further social or fundraising events currently planned

Unfortunately, as a result of the Covid-19 situation, there are currently no scheduled events. As soon as further events are arranged, we will put the details on the website and on our social media pages. We will also send invitations to all supporters who have requested such details.



ARTS GROUP MAKES VISORS & MASKS FOR STAFF

Thank you to Jo Symmons and her friends who made 3,000 protective face visors and masks, free of charge to distribute to care homes, charities, hospices and hospitals in and around Bristol, including Bristol Eye Hospital.

Helen Gilroy, Bristol Eye Hospital’s Deputy Performance and Operations Manager, said they had really helped at what was such a difficult time.

SIGHT-SAVING HELP FOR PREMATURE BABIES

Forus Neo portable retinal camera for paediatric ophthalmologists

Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital and Above & Beyond joined forces to provide a Forus Neo portable retinal camera for paediatric ophthalmologists who need to examine babies in St Michael's Hospital and the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit of the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children as well as in the Eye Hospital.

The Friends granted £20,825 (one third of cost) with Above & Beyond, the charity that supports all the central Bristol hospitals, granting the balance.

The state-of-the-art Forus Neo retinal camera has a specially designed wide-angled lens that

gives a close-up view of the blood vessels at the back of a baby's eyes.

It is used for diagnosing a condition that affects more than half of all premature babies. If found in time this can be treated, but if not they will have detached retinas and will not be able to see. The survival rate for premature babies has improved significantly over recent years, which means the ophthalmologists are seeing more babies with severe problems.

The camera is also used to examine babies whose condition might be the result of being shaken, so it is vitally important to

have reliable images upon which to base a diagnosis which may be given as evidence in court.

Consultant Paediatric Ophthalmologist Cathy Williams said "The previous camera (a Retcam purchased by the Friends) was itself a game-changer but was extremely heavy and difficult to manoeuvre around the Eye Hospital and impossible to take elsewhere. We urgently needed a portable camera so that when babies are too ill to be moved to us we can take the camera to them. The new camera is easy to take anywhere and so much quicker and easier to use. We couldn't be more pleased and grateful."

'Grab-bag' for Emergency Team

We paid £10,472 for a 'grab-bag' containing all the equipment the on-call Emergency Department ophthalmologist needs to take to examine patients in other Bristol hospitals.

This avoids having to move frail or poorly patients who need an eye examination.

Amongst its many contents is a portable slit lamp, which is a special microscope and light that enables the doctor to see the eyes both inside and out in 3-D, and is used together with an ophthalmoscope to look at the back of the eye.

Although other hospitals' Emergency Departments have access to slit lamps, these require the patient to be moved to sit up at the slit lamp table. The portable slit lamp and its associated equipment can be taken to the patient and manoeuvred easily into the right position.

New Slit Lamp and Table for Emergency Department



Thanks to a grant of £23,000 by the Friends, a new slit lamp with table has been purchased to replace equipment in the Emergency Department which was over 20 years old.

The new slit lamp has superior optics for examining patients' eyes in more detail. The wheelchair-friendly table means patients with limited mobility are spared the strain of transferring to another chair. This saves time and effort and allows staff to examine more patients per day.

Katie Lear (Emergency Department Sister) and Rhys Harrison (Consultant Ophthalmologist and ED Service Lead) were both overjoyed with the new equipment.

Rhys said "I thank the Friends for this most exceptional gift. The optics are fantastic, and it is buttery smooth. We really do appreciate your kind support. So from all of the Emergency Department team, a big thank you."

‘VIRTUAL’ CONSULTATIONS SAVE TIME –

New methods developed to cope with pandemic prove so helpful they will probably be retained

Social distancing and other safety measures required to combat Coronavirus have caused long waiting times and delays in appointments for follow-up consultations. The backlog is now being reduced as a result of new “virtual” methods.

In the glaucoma clinics a technician undertakes a visual field test, measures eye pressure [using a tonometer provided by the Friends] and takes a high-tech image of the optic nerve to see whether high pressure has caused damage to the nerve fibre layer.

Previously patients would then wait to see a consultant on the day to have the results analysed, but now the test results are sent electronically so they can be reviewed remotely. The results are then rapidly communicated to each patient and their GP by letter or phone call.

More patients can be seen during the clinic sessions, which reduces waiting times. Moreover, close contact with patients is reduced, making the procedure safer for both clinicians and patients.

All sorts of virtual schemes have been devised for patient consultations which, in the glaucoma clinics certainly, will probably be retained at both Bristol and Weston because they have proved very efficient as well as timesaving. The Friends have assisted with this by paying for new tonometers in both hospitals.

The paediatric department has found video clinics very good for seeing post-op squint patients, who then have no need to come in; and ways are being found of doing telephone assessments.

New Tonometers enable BEH to run Glaucoma Clinic in Weston General Hospital

Part of the integration of United Hospitals Bristol with Weston Area Trust, which was completed in September 2020, was to expand and develop the ophthalmic service at Weston, which is run by BEH staff. The Friends paid £10,800 to buy two iCare tonometers which were urgently needed so that the new glaucoma clinic could get under way.

Tonometers are used to check intra-ocular pressures and have huge advantages for patients and staff over older instruments used for the same purpose. They make the experience for patients quicker and more comfortable and reduce the need to instil anaesthetic drops which invariably sting and often cause distress. They are accurate and can be used on babies, children and any patient unable to sit at a slit-lamp, even a patient who is lying down.

The Friends also paid for two identical tonometers for use in the Bristol Eye Hospital.

iPads for Immunosuppression Support Nurses

Three iPads have been provided by the Friends for nurses who counsel and screen patients with conditions such as ocular inflammation in the uveitis, corneal and adnexal services prior to their immunosuppression therapy treatment.

The iPads enable nurses to quickly access each patient’s details and medical records, check on other treatments they may be having, order blood tests and check results from anywhere in the hospital.

As a result the iPads greatly enhance the quality of care provided, improve efficiency and allow nurses to spend more time with each patient.

A new ophthalmic chair purchased with donations from a grateful patient

EC sent a delightful letter (which she said she was able to write without needing her spectacles) and donations to express her thanks for the successful cataract removal on her left eye.

She asked for her thanks to be passed on to all staff, and in particular ‘the good lady surgeon, Paraskevi Choleva, along with her good helpers’.

Following a successful second operation, this time on her right eye, she has made two more donations.

Her generous donations have paid for a special ophthalmic chair for use by patients when being examined with a Slit Lamp.

Friends provide first Confocal Microscope for cornea examinations in the South-West

The Friends made a grant of £45,000 for a Confocal Microscope, which is an invaluable tool in the diagnosis of infective conditions of the cornea (keratitis), particularly fungal infections and infection with the single-celled organism called acanthamoeba. BEH has experienced a marked increase in cases of acanthamoeba keratitis - a very painful and sight-threatening condition which can result in the loss of an eye.

Examination with this microscope enables much more accurate diagnosis. The microscope makes contact with the patient's eye (in the same way as a contact lens), so a local anaesthetic is used, but the patient must be awake during the examination. The patient sits in a chair as for a slit-lamp examination and the doctor can see the layers of the cornea right down to a cellular level. Fungal and acanthamoeba infections have a characteristic appearance on confocal microscopy and this helps the doctor to know which antibiotic or disinfectant will best control the infection.

Bristol Eye Hospital can now offer a diagnostic service previously unavailable in the south-west. Patients no longer have to be referred to Moorfields Eye Hospital, saving them a difficult journey to London while in physical distress. The images are captured in Bristol and the complicated interpretation of the images is an on-going joint project between BEH and Moorfields. Patients are referred to Bristol from all over the south-west of England and south Wales.

Day Care Outpatient Surgery Treatment Chair

The Friends have funded a new treatment couch for Emergency Department patients to replace the previous uncomfortable couch which was over 25 years old and not user-friendly for patients or staff.

It can be used as a chair or couch with patients being easily, smoothly and comfortably moved into the best position for treatment depending on their particular needs. It is adjusted electronically for height, backrests, sides, arm and leg rests and even has an emergency foot pedal for immediate CPR positioning.

Other items we have paid for recently...

An Oslo Ophthalmic Patient chair with armrests

A Keeler Indirect Ophthalmoscope

Electronic call system for patients

Lockers for Emergency Department staff changing rooms

A television in the Pre-op Department

Sponsorship of clinical audit seminars for staff

A fridge for a staff kitchen

Christmas decorations and trees for patient reception areas

Cost of materials for face visors made by Jo Symmons and friends

Two batches of refreshments (tea and coffee etc) for staff - we don't usually fund these but we wanted to make these small gestures of support for the hard-working staff during the pandemic

Maintenance of the patients' garden, indoor plants and the children's aquarium

"Thank you for your help with my counselling skills"

Sara Fahimipour, a Clinical Nurse Specialist on the Immunosuppression Team thanked us for paying for a course on counselling skills.

She wrote "A large part of my role involves counselling individuals from a variety of backgrounds and with multiple needs who are to have Immunosuppression therapy.

"Completing the 'learning to listen' counselling course has improved my communication skills. I am now much more aware of the barriers to listening and how to avoid them. Patients can express their concerns and should now feel better heard and understood".

Motorised chairs for intra-vitreous injections

The Friends have funded two fully motorised chairs, with footrests, for use with patients receiving intra-vitreous injections in Out-Patient Departments in Weston General Hospital and the South Bristol Community Hospital.

The chairs are more comfortable and provide better support for patients when undergoing this fairly daunting procedure every month. They are easy for staff to manoeuvre and are also robust enough to cope with high levels of usage and should last significantly longer than similar chairs used previously.

We have also funded two more of these Takagi motorised chairs as well as two autodesk workstations for use in the BEH outpatient clinics, ensuring that clinicians can use identical equipment in all eight clinics.

WE RECEIVE MANY LOVELY LETTERS FROM PEOPLE WHO SEND DONATIONS EXPLAINING WHY

These are extracts from just a few...



Tony Putterill was so pleased with treatment his wife Lynne and he both received at Bristol Eye Hospital that he set about fundraising in aid of the Friends to show their appreciation. With the support of fellow Freemasons in Gloucestershire, he raised the grand sum of £1,420.

Tony said he received the best care and attention a patient could expect: "One might say I was treated like a lord. Without their skill and knowledge, I would have undoubtedly lost my sight but thanks to the staff I can still see."

Tony presenting three cheques to Richard Markham, then Chairman of the Friends, accompanied by Tony's wife Lynne and Dinah Harrison, then Secretary of the Friends.

Pat Tett sent donations in memory of her mother **Dessie Tiley**. Pat explained that her mother had treatment for many years, including cataracts and macular degeneration. "She was very lucky to take part in a trial for the Lucentis drug and we are all eternally grateful for this – she still had some sight in one eye when she passed away at 99. Mum always said that she wanted to give something back for all the treatment and kindness she was given".

Neil Barbour sent a delightful message in memory of his father, **Dr Anthony Barbour**, who had become a Life Member of the Friends in 1977 (the year we started) and supported us ever since. Neil says, "I remember that in 1976, when Dad was around 50 years old, he had a cataract operation carried out by Mr Dallas, in those days a major operation and he was in the hospital for 5 days! My Dad was always eternally grateful for what the Eye Hospital did for him then and subsequently. His intra-ocular lens lasted until he was around 86 and I recall taking him back to the hospital where the team sorted out a problem for him when the lens shifted. Marvellous skill carried out by a tremendous team of people. Thank you very much."

Joyce Stenhouse wrote to say that her husband **Joseph**, a regular patient since 1977 who passed away in December 2020 aged 90, had remembered the consultant telling him at his first appointment when he was 47, that they would make sure he did not go blind, and he never did. Joyce said they were both so grateful for all the care he received, particularly mentioning David Easty and Stuart Cook.

Sukhminder Suthar wrote "I wish to thank all the consultants, doctors, nurses and the staff behind the scenes who helped me regain my sight. The 'new view' is fantastic. As a patient I was treated with kindness and the procedure was described with clarity. Hence I wish to make a donation every month, my small way to help others".

Laura Davis competes in Miss Voluptuous England pageants, raising awareness of sight loss and keratoconus and fund-raising for us and the Keratoconus Self Help and Support Association. Laura explained that having been diagnosed with keratoconus a few years ago, she continues to be overwhelmed by the support and care she receives from Kieren Darcy and his team in the hospital.

Anne Jefferies wrote following the death of her father **Martin Patch** saying, "My mum (Mrs Marie Patch) chose your charity for donations in memory of him because he had always thought so highly of the hospital. In 1969, when I was six, I had an accident with a swinging zipped shopping bag which resulted in a nasty infection in my left eye which didn't clear. Under the expertise of Neil Dallas and his team, and after having a cornea graft, for which my parents and I were extremely grateful, my eye settled, and everything has been great since."

John Laver underwent surgery for a detached retina and was grateful for the attention received. As a result, his colleagues in the Bathampton Morrismen donated their charity proceeds to us and John personally matched this amount. Thanks to John and the Morrismen for this excellent gesture.

Joyce Hughes wrote “After my operation in June 2019, I wish to show my thanks and appreciation to the surgeon, doctors, nurses and all the staff by enclosing a cheque to enable you to continue the valuable work you do for the patients and staff.”

Beryl and Clive Calder made a generous donation “To express our thanks to all at the Bristol Eye Hospital for the care and treatment that I, my husband, mother and mother-in-law have all been given over the years”.

Lesley Smith wrote following the funeral of her husband **Christopher** to say, “For many years he was a patient and we wanted to show our appreciation for all your care shown to him!”

John Forster and his wife celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and in lieu of presents they raised donations from friends and family. He added “I have had two cataracts replaced and two cornea transplants, so I have a lot to be thankful for. Thank you and the staff for all the wonderful work you do”.

Philippa Vernon-Powell had a successful operation for a detached retina and with sincere thanks to her surgeon Mr Pathma Ramasamy and his team, she became a Life Member of the Friends and is also making regular donations.

Mr & Mrs Pinchin raised £1,500 from raffles at dance classes. (And thanks to Jenny Ward, the hospital’s theatre manager, who encouraged their support.)

Richard and **Valerie Snelgrove** said thank you for Valerie’s treatment and donated money raised by selling honey from their beehives.

Geoffrey Griffiths, who died aged 97 in November 2020, had been a patient since 1981. His son **Alan Griffiths** and his daughter **Dorothy Harper** both thanked all the staff for their dedication, kindness and compassion, especially those who looked after him in such a loving and caring manner and Mr Tyler in particular. Donations received included a collection made by staff at Southmead Hospital who knew how grateful Geoffrey and his family were for the treatment received over so many years.

Christopher Stock sent a donation on behalf of his mother **Mary Stock** in memory of his father **Gerald Stock**, and wrote “Dad received exceptional care for wet macular degeneration. He was always glowing in his praise for the care and support, even though some of the treatments were not pleasant - he always appreciated that people were trying to do the best for him! The family will always remember, value and be grateful for the way the hospital cared for Dad.”

We’ve also received donations in memory of **Joan Burchill, Sheila Hyde, Eileen Thompson, Susan Trude** and **Gerry Woods**.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE LEGACIES FROM

Ada Ranger, a lady from Bedminster who had various treatments for her eyes over the years, left a wonderful legacy of £44,108. A really kind and marvellous donation that has already made such a difference for patients and staff at the hospital.

Janet Hill left a legacy of £4,000. Janet was a long-standing donor to the Friends; for example, she paid for the patients’ drinks machine and trolley on Level 2.

Audrey Partridge left a legacy of £1,000. Her daughter, **Anne Harley**, wrote that her mother had been a patient of the hospital for many years and always much appreciated the kindness and consideration she received.

Freda Powell left us £1,000 in her will. Freda had been a patient and a supportive member of the Friends for many years. Jean and Graham Powell said how pleased they were to know that the money left to the Friends by their aunt Freda will benefit many people. They added their thanks to all the people who cared for her over many years as they knew she was very appreciative of everyone involved.

Elizabeth Davies and **Marian Hannam-Clark** also left us legacies of £1,000 each.

“In appreciation of all your staff”

The Friends received a lovely letter and a donation from **David Mills**, in appreciation of “all your staff who have shown so much patience and persistence in preserving my sight.” David took part in the Lucentis trial and for the last ten years has been making regular visits to BEH and the clinic run by BEH staff at the South Bristol Community Hospital.

Following some worrying deterioration in his vision, he underwent cataract operations in both eyes in late 2020. “I felt very nervous, but your wonderful staff were able to make me feel at ease and both operations proceeded without a hitch. My eyesight is already greatly improved, and I am told that when I get new glasses in about eight weeks’ time it will be even better. I am deeply grateful to all the many people who have made this outcome possible.”

TRIBUTES FROM DONORS WHO DO NOT WISH TO HAVE THEIR NAMES PUBLISHED

Some of the letters received include:

Anon... we received a large donation of £3,000, but whilst the person was happy to give us permission to mention the donation, he didn't want us to mention his name. So thank you to 'Anon!'.

Grateful patient **JW** made a gift to the Friends "to thank all the hospital staff from the surgeons to June the tea lady and all the unseen people for their kindness and devotion. There is not one person in the hospital that isn't pleasant and kind to deal with – not one, from top to bottom."

MH wrote saying "A small token of my appreciation for recent cataract operations. I cannot thank all staff enough for their dedication and consideration of patients at all times".

SC wrote saying "I recently had an emergency eye operation and was very impressed by the kindness and service provided."

SPR raised £200 in sponsorship when running a half marathon.

Anon wrote to say - "I'm recovering from surgery to repair my detached retina ... I have received outstanding emergency care from both the surgeon and her team and all nursing staff. Although my care is currently still ongoing, this donation is a small gesture to say thank you for all the kindness during a very worrying time".

One of our long-standing and regular supporters who raised £622 in donations in lieu of presents to celebrate her 60th wedding anniversary and £100 from the proceeds of a coffee morning. We thank her and her husband and all their friends.

"**A Mum at a distance** in Cheshire" sent a generous donation, and her warmest thanks and appreciation to all the hospital staff. Her son opted to travel from Cardiff to Bristol Eye Hospital for urgent treatment for a torn retina. "It was one of the best decisions he's ever made... he was operated on that morning, stayed overnight in the ward and discharged home after a very successful procedure. He received amazing treatment and care and the whole family are so grateful."

We also thank all those who have donated anonymously.

Thank you also to the following organisations for their kind donations

Three companies: Alimera Sciences, Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd and VISUfarma who together with the Friends sponsored the hospital's Staff Clinical Audit Seminars in summer 2019. The cost of £1,727 was shared equally between the Friends and the three companies.

The Dyers' Company Charitable Trust continue to make a generous donation of £1,000 every year. The Worshipful Company of Dyers is one of the City of London's ancient livery guilds and dates back to the 12th century and their charitable arm has been supporting us for many years (though not quite as far back as that!). We are very grateful to them for their generous sustained support.

The Royal Clarence Charity Fund kindly made a donation of £500.

St Ambrose & St Leonard Wednesday Coffee Morning Group raised £100.

The Wendy House Nursery in Cannington raised £304 from collecting boxes. The owners, Mr and Mrs Wood, explained that two of their four children were born with bi-lateral cataracts. Arron, the eldest, who is now aged 26, has had a number of operations and now has implants, as has Harriet, the youngest, who is aged six. Their father, Rod said they have visited the Eye Hospital on many occasions and couldn't thank the staff enough, particularly Richard Markham, who first operated on Arron, and Amanda Churchill who is currently caring for Harriet.

Thank you to the many others who have donated to us and/or written to say 'thanks' for their treatment. These include:

"RA", "CB", "KB", Richard Eaton, Llinos Griffiths, John Hallett, Stephen Hoddell, Phil Kitcher, Colin Mair, "DP", "SP", Glyn Thomas, Patricia Wyatt, amongst many others.

ST ODILIA'S GARDEN

A big thank-you to our volunteer gardeners who give their time and skills to look after St Odilia's Garden, the courtyard garden next to the Brewnel Café.

Saint Odilia or Sainte Odile d'Alsace. c. 662-720, is the patron saint of people with eye diseases.



Marie Mackle, a Friends' trustee 2013 until 2017, took this on in May 2013 with her friend Pippa and later recruited helpers from Henleaze Garden Club, notably Chairman Andrew Harrison and his wife Diane. Together they set out to make it a "flower-filled haven" for patients. We are very sad to say that Diane died in August 2019. She had been a joint driving force (with Andy) in renovating the garden but had wanted no limelight.

Diane had a great love of, and interest in, everything to do with horticulture. She was a really inclusive person who brought so many people into her love of plants, particularly propagation. Our picture shows husband Andy with one of the pots she originally planted for St Odilia's garden, but Diane wouldn't have 'any publicity'. Nor would she and Andy accept any reimbursement from the Friends' garden maintenance grant for anything they themselves bought for the garden. Her rationale was that she had received such wonderful treatment from the Eye Hospital that this was her way of giving something back, without need for any acknowledgement. That was typical of her, but so many of the staff and patients comment on the lovely courtyard that we wish to pay tribute to her here, as a small remembrance of her contribution.

Since the onset of the pandemic, it has not been possible for Marie and Andy or any outside volunteer to go in to tend the garden. So we also thank staff member Maria Gibson who answered Marie's appeal for help and put together a little staff team, including Frank, Sandra and Jacqui, to come to the rescue. Despite the demands of working under Covid-19 conditions, they are kindly keeping the plants watered until our regular volunteers are allowed to return, which we all hope will be soon.

**MORE THAN HALF OF ALL
OUR GRANTS ARE PAID
FOR BY LEGACIES**

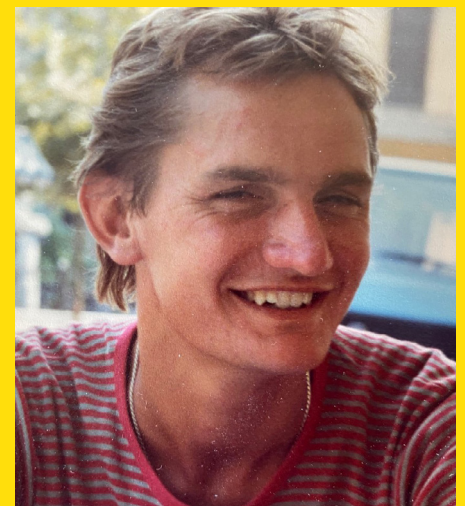
IN MEMORY OF GRAHAM MURPHY

Lisa Ackerley wrote to say that her husband **Graham Murphy** sadly passed away in September 2020 as a result of a brain haemorrhage. At the start of the year Graham suffered from an unrelated detached retina and was successfully treated in the Bristol Eye Hospital. Despite finding medical treatment of any type distressful, he was grateful for the kindness of the staff and excellence of the medical care, particularly that of Pathma Ramasamy and his team who performed the operation.

"Graham had wanted to make a donation at the end of his treatment, but as his death was so sudden and unexpected, he was not able to fulfil this wish and so his family are doing it for him", said Lisa.

She added that "despite all our pain, we are comforted by the fact that his tissues could be donated to help restore the eyesight of two people awaiting transplant".

The fund in Graham's memory has already raised over £4,300 and if anybody would like to donate, the fund-raising page is at www.donorbox.org/graham-murphy



HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can now join or donate to the Friends online as well as by the more traditional ways of cash, cheque, BACS or Bankers Order.

Full details of how to join or donate can be found on our website and on our donation forms available from display racks throughout the hospital or on request.

Whether online or on paper you can tell us why you are donating (hospital staff love to receive feedback from grateful patients), ensure we only communicate with you as you wish and Gift Aid your donation.

We do not have an office at the hospital; we all work from home. During the pandemic, post addressed to us at the hospital may be delayed. To avoid delays, and to minimise wasting staff time, we recommend that you telephone or email us rather than writing by post. If you need to post anything to us, please ask us for a home address.

Financial Information

A summary of our finances and copies of our full Trustees' Reports and Accounts for the last two years are available on our website.

A Big Thank You to the Hospital Staff!

So many patients write to us to express their appreciation of the treatment and care received from Bristol Eye Hospital staff. It is a real joy for us to read these comments and pass them onto the hospital management. We know that the staff are delighted to receive such feedback.

Thank you also to all the staff that we deal with on a day-to-day basis – too many to name and for fear of overlooking anyone. You know who are!

Finally, we also thank the staff for their fund-raising efforts for us, including £350 at their staff Christmas social in 2019 and another £428 at Christmas 2020 when, sadly, they were of course unable to hold a full social event.

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The Friends thank Kubiak Creative for designing In Sight



Friends of
Bristol Eye Hospital

WHO'S WHO AT THE FRIENDS

TRUSTEES

Dinah Harrison

Chairman
01934 822344
chair@fbeh.org

Wendy Beatty

Secretary
secretary@fbeh.org

Simon St Leger-Harris

Treasurer
01398 361790
treasurer@fbeh.org

Kevin Abbey

Publicity Officer
publicity@fbeh.org

Richard Markham

Kay McCluskey

James Reddish

Peter Turner

Heather Walker

REPRESENTING THE HOSPITAL AT TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

Mark Stevens

(General Manager)

Jenny Ward

(Theatres Manager)

Cathy Williams

(Consultant Ophthalmologist)

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