



In Sight 2022

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



Chairman Dinah Harrison reviews our year

We were deeply saddened by the sudden, tragic and premature death of Dr Paul Spry, Head of Optometry, in August 2021 and by the death in January 2022 of Professor David Easty, former consultant at BEH and one-time chairman of the Friends. Full tributes are on page 3. Financially, the receipt of two substantial legacies will allow us to step up several gears in the amount of support we can give to the hospital. We are indebted to the late Josephine Abbott and the late Jean Barber for their generosity. Amongst the many items we have agreed to fund, but which have not yet been bought, is an electrophysiology system which will be a most fitting memorial to Paul Spry. Grants paid during the year are described on page 2; these include two made in memory of Graham Murphy, whose death we reported in In Sight 2021. We were also delighted to be able to help (in a very small way) hospital staff celebrate the astonishing achievement of Gail Glew in completing 50 years' service for the Bristol NHS Trust. We said farewell to trustee Peter Turner with thanks for his valued service over nearly 20 years and we welcome Ben Phipps as a new trustee. We also welcome Laura Davis and Abigail Hunter who have both volunteered help with publicity through social media. As ever we gratefully acknowledge the support of all our donors and fundraisers, especially Sirius Buying Group who raised funds in memory of Christopher Bennett, Emma Don for her exhibition "Everything I Can See" at Cardiff School of Art & Design, and the Dyers' Company Charitable Trust and Star Legal Solicitors for their financial support.



Page 2 Grants



Page 3 People



Page 4 Fundraising

GRANTS in the year ending 28 February 2022 included:

Volk VistaView Hand-held Mydriatic Camera

Covid-19 can cause retinal haemorrhages and other severe eye problems. Covid-19 patients may also have pre-existing eye disease like diabetic retinopathy, which can be exacerbated by Covid-19 infection. Direct ophthalmoscopy requires getting very close to the patient and the risk of virus transmission is high, even when wearing personal protective equipment. This new portable hand-held light-weight camera enables doctors to examine and record, without getting too close, Covid-19 patients in the BRI or Weston General and also non-Covid patients who are too sick to come to BEH.



The camera also helps clinical research into retinal changes and neurological complications associated with Covid-19.



Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscope

In order to reduce waiting times for patients requiring joint Orthoptic/Optometry appointments, BEH staff started running additional sessions at the Spire hospital.

This service would not have been possible without the provision of a Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscope paid for by the Friends.

Electric Couch for Patients in Paediatric Clinic

One of the paediatric clinic rooms where patients are diagnosed and treated did not have a couch for patients to lie on. If the clinician needed the patient to lie down, patient and clinician had to wait until a room with a couch became available. By providing a couch for this room, consultations are no longer interrupted.



Outpatient chairs “a million times better”

We bought 22 new clinical examination chairs for outpatient departments to replace previous chairs that were over ten years old. The new chairs are height-adjustable, more stable, have arms and a less slippery surface, all new features which help patients get in and out of the chairs more easily.

They also make examination of patients' eyes more comfortable for patients and staff. Staff have described them as “a million times better than the previous ones” and say that patients find the arms particularly helpful.

We contributed to the Bristol & Weston Hospitals Charity Appeal to transform the BEH Cataract Service which included remodelling the clinical space to make the service easier and safer for patients.

We also continue to pay for maintenance of the aquarium in the children's ward and indoor plants throughout the hospital

The Volk VistaView Mydriatic Camera and the Electric Plinth were both purchased with funds raised in memory of Graham Murphy.

PEOPLE



Paul Spry

Dr Paul Spry, Head of Optometry (& guitarist in BEH's resident band), died suddenly and prematurely in August 2021. This was tragic news to all his colleagues who felt he was irreplaceable.

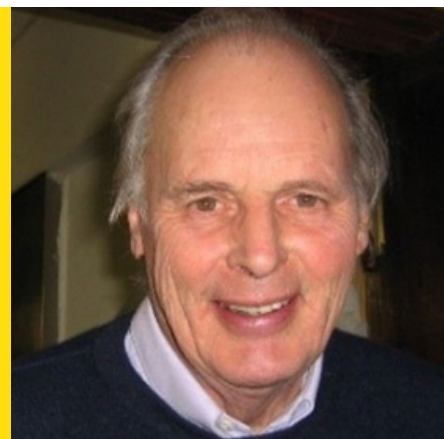
He had set up the electrodiagnostic department; had a distinguished academic career; was a fantastic colleague to work with, combining very high standards with fun; always ready to go the extra mile to help diagnosis and to benefit patients.

David Easty

We learned of the death in January 2022 of Professor David Easty, for 27 years Consultant in Ophthalmology at Bristol Eye Hospital, the first Professor of Ophthalmology at Bristol University, founder of the National Eye Research Centre and Chairman of Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital from 2003 until 2009. During his tenure he initiated many fundraising events and activities which increased our profile, doubled our revenue from such events and set a new standard.

One of his patients wrote: "David Easty was my corneal consultant for nearly 20 years and performed a complicated transplant on a congenital glaucoma eye. The care he gave me through a succession of post-operative problems was second to none. Nothing was too much trouble and he supported me through many crises. I felt we were in it together and that he wanted the better vision I craved almost as much as I did."

We remember David with huge gratitude and affection.



Gail Glew

In September 2021 Gail Glew, one of Bristol Eye Hospital's ward nurses, completed 50 years' service for the NHS in Bristol. She dedicated her entire nursing career to the care of Bristol NHS patients, a truly lifetime achievement. At the hospital's request, we paid for modest refreshments to allow Gail's colleagues to mark the occasion in a small and appropriately distanced celebration. We said a heartfelt "Thank you!" to Gail on behalf of the Friends and all the patients she has cared for since 1971.

Peter Turner

After nearly 20 years as a trustee, Peter Turner stood down at our AGM in 2021. Peter runs his family's practice Turners Opticians and works part time as a Senior Optometrist in the glaucoma & cataract clinics at BEH. Peter's knowledge, experience, opinion and advice have been invaluable over a long and happy association and we thank him so much for the long service and support he has given to the Friends.



We welcomed Ben Phipps as a new trustee in November 2021. Ben is a Medical Optometrist and Service lead in optometry for medical retina services at BEH.

Friends' trustees are currently Dinah Harrison, Kevin Abbey, Wendy Beatty, Richard Markham, Kay McCluskey, Ben Phipps, James Reddish, Simon St Leger-Harris and Heather Walker.

FUNDRAISING and THANK YOUs

We give deep thanks to all our supporters and donors, including all one-off, regular donors and anonymous donors plus fundraising sponsors.

We acknowledge significant fundraising initiatives by the Sirius Buying Group (in memory of Christopher Bennett); Alex Sherman (pictured), manager of the Old Forge Inn in Whitminster, Gloucestershire, and Kelly Farrant.



We were saddened by the deaths of Christopher Bennett, Violet Bennett, Margaret Claridge, Ivy Hoskins, Mrs Pentland and Gerry Woods and acknowledge the significant donations made to us in their memory.

We gratefully recognise substantial legacies from Josephine Abbott and Jean Barber.

Wills & Legacy leaflet

Over 60% of our income derives from legacies, many of which are from patients who wish to show their appreciation for the care and help they received from Bristol Eye Hospital and to help others by so doing.

We have recently published a leaflet explaining how you can help the Friends by leaving us a gift in your Will. There are copies available on display in the hospital or you can download a copy from our website or ask us for a copy by post.

We thank Star Legal Solicitors for their financial support in preparing this leaflet.

New “hyperlegible” website typeface

For the benefit of visually impaired readers, our website and In Sight now use the Atkinson Hyperlegible typeface, recently developed for the Braille Institute of America.

Letters and numbers are designed to reduce risk of confusion with one another; shapes of letters are exaggerated to provide better clarity and the open areas of certain letters are expanded to make them more distinctive and to improve readability.

The typeface is named after Braille Institute founder, [J. Robert Atkinson](#).

**To find out more about the Friends
or to make a donation, please
visit www.fbeh.org or scan the QR Code**



Call us on 0300 102 4556 or contact us by email:

Chairman
Dinah Harrison
chair@fbeh.org

Secretary
Wendy Beatty
secretary@fbeh.org

Treasurer
Simon St Leger-Harris
treasurer@fbeh.org

Publicity Officer
Kevin Abbey
publicity@fbeh.org

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

Registered Charity Number 274349 © 2022 Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital

www.fbeh.org



[@bristoleyehospital](https://www.facebook.com/bristoleyehospital)



[@bristoleyehosp](https://twitter.com/bristoleyehosp)

uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/your-hospitals/bristol-eye-hospital/contact-details/