



Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital

In Sight 2023

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

"On behalf of everyone at Bristol Eye Hospital thank you again for all that the Friends do for the hospital. I thoroughly enjoy working with you all, and am grateful for both your incredible commitment and generosity."

Mark Stevens (Assistant General Manager for the Bristol Eye Hospital)

"I thank all our supporters without whom the work of the Friends would not be possible."

Dinah Harrison (Chair of Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital)

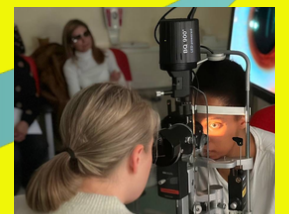
WHAT'S INSIDE

Chairman's Message

People and Fundraisers

Grants

Thanks and How To Help





Chairman

Dinah Harrison writes:

It's been another busy year ...

We continue to fund a wide range of grants, varying both in terms of what they cost and the need they meet. Sometimes the smaller grants can be as worthwhile as the expensive medical equipment. For example, this year we bought posture aids for patients recovering at home after retinal surgery – prompted by a patient determined that others should not, as she did, have to manage at home without one – and other aids for the BEH Patient Support Group to offer to visually impaired patients.

Although the total we've paid in grants in 2022 is lower than usual, we have approved further very substantial grants and await delivery of the items.

The Friends remain in good health – both financially and in terms of good governance. I thank all our supporters and make special mention of ● those who have raised funds in memory of loved ones ● fundraisers Emma Don and Team Veolia ● the Dyers' Company Charitable Trust ● Star Legal Solicitors ● the TK Maxx & Homesense Foundation ● a BEH clinician who personally funded one grant entirely ● our regular donors and ● four very large donations from donors who wish to remain anonymous.

We were delighted when Gail Glew and Jenny Ward joined us as trustees after each serving the NHS in Bristol and the Bristol Eye Hospital for over 51 years.

We are always looking for new trustees and would welcome people who want to help. You do not need a medical background. Could you be our next new trustee?

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Richard Markham as a trustee in January 2023. We miss him – for his professional knowledge and experience, his invaluable guidance – and also for his good-humoured wit which always enlivened our proceedings! Richard, now officially retired as a consultant at the hospital, has supported us since our foundation. He became a Life Member in 2002 and served as a trustee for seven years, including four as Chairman. A hard act to follow!

Although I am continuing as a trustee, this is my last review as Chairman as I am standing down at the AGM in May 2023. I thank all my fellow trustees, and the hospital staff who advise us, for their diligence and enthusiasm which have made my job so much easier.

Finally I pay tribute to all the hospital staff who work so hard and with so much kindness – as reflected by the very many appreciative comments we receive from grateful patients.



Gail Glew and Jenny Ward

We welcome Gail Glew and Jenny Ward as new trustees. Both started their NHS careers in 1971 - six years before the Friends were founded - and both retired in 2022.

Jenny has advised our trustees on grants for many years and has helped organise our fundraising events.

As trustees, Gail and Jenny will continue to help us support the hospital. Their astounding loyalty, long experience and passion for serving the hospital's patients and all things BEH will be invaluable.

Everything I Can See

Emma Don held an exhibition entitled "Everything I Can See" at Cardiff School of Art & Design in June 2022.

Emma raised funds in thanks for treatment and care she has received for anterior uveitis at Bristol Eye Hospital since 2012.

"Eyesight is such an important sense for everyone - even more so when receiving a diagnosis adversely affecting that."

Emma specialises in 3D stop motion animation - a very visual medium. However she incorporates audio into her work to make it more accessible for the visually impaired. Many thanks, Emma.

Emma's exhibition video is on our website in News Archive.



Team Veolia Fundraising

In September 2022, Team Veolia climbed the 886m of Pen y Fan Mountain in support of Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital. Stuart Elliott, Veolia's Area Sales Manager South & Wales, said "The team consisted of 7 of us and we spent a great day enjoying the terrific views over Wales whilst raising funds for a great cause. In total we raised £565 for the Friends to help and support the immense work of the Bristol Eye Hospital."

We are very grateful to Stuart and his colleagues.

Richard Markham

Richard Markham has stood down after serving as a trustee for seven years including four as Chairman. We greatly appreciated his increased commitment and contribution to the Friends after his official retirement from full-time consultancy at BEH, even while he continued to help the hospital by taking clinics.

We shall miss his good humour, wise counsel and deep knowledge and experience. We thank him profoundly for his support.



Friends' trustees as at 28 February 2023: Dinah Harrison, Kevin Abbey, Wendy Beatty, Gail Glew, Kay McCluskey, Ben Phipps, James Reddish, Simon St Leger-Harris, Heather Walker and Jenny Ward.

Emergency Department have their own Thomson Test Charts!

The hospital uses Thomson Test Charts to check patients' vision as an integral part of their examination in the Emergency Department (ED).

We purchased four Thomson Charts complete with mini PCs and 24" clinical quality LCD monitors including infra-red control and wall mounting brackets.

We also paid for annual software support, installation and staff training. Prior to our purchasing these, the ED had to borrow charts from the Outpatients Department. ED now have their own permanent charts.



New Privacy Screens in Emergency Department Treatment Room



All Emergency Department patients have to go through the treatment room. The Friends bought four mobile folding privacy screens for this room.

The new screens, which replace inadequate curtains, provide additional privacy for patients and allow more flexible use of the space available.

Emergency Department Tono-Pens

We have purchased two further Tono-Pens used by Emergency Department nurses to assess pressure in patients' eyes. A build-up of pressure can be harmful to the eye, and these pens give a quick and easy way to check eye pressure. This improves patient safety and reduces waiting times.

The pens also allow medics to assess in-patients at the Bristol Children's Hospital, the BRI and Southmead Hospital, which reduces both inpatient stays and the number of patients who need to be transferred to the Bristol Eye Hospital ED.



more grants

Posture Aids for patients' use at home

Following a suggestion from a patient, Carole Brooke, we have funded posture aids (or 'face supports') for patients to use at home after retinal surgery.

Using a posture aid attached to the end or side of a normal bed allows a recovering patient to lie face down and keep their head still for long periods. Doing this without a posture aid is very difficult and can be painful or cause strain to the back or neck.

Posture aids are tremendously helpful both to keep the patient comfortable and to aid recovery and outcomes after retinal surgery.

We are grateful to Carole for bringing this to our attention, after her own experience as a patient, leading to us fulfilling an important need. Carole is delighted – "patients will find it much easier to cope during a very difficult period in their lives. I'm so pleased that I followed it up".

Since June 2022, we have provided 21 posture aids which shows that there is a real need for them.

We have agreed to purchase more, as needed, for at least a further year.



Sight Loss Support



We bought a range of equipment for the Patient Support Group to give to patients who need sight loss support. Daria Hernet, the Eye Clinic Liaison Officer, says these items are especially important for people who live alone or in remote areas, without access to support.

Items purchased (from RNIB and the Macular Society) include Liquid Level Indicators, BumperStops (for marking equipment, such as settings and functions on an oven or washing machine, a remote control or computer keys), Hi-Vis Elasticated Arm Bands for greater walking safety and Lightweight Folding White Canes.

We continue to maintain the hospital's two gardens, indoor plants and the aquarium in the children's ward.

Your support helps us to enhance care and treatment for all Bristol Eye Hospital patients.

100 years' dedicated service



We were proud to agree to the hospital's request to support an event to honour the long service of Gail Glew and Jenny Ward, mark their retirement and enable as many staff as possible to attend. 176 staff, former staff and other guests attended this event at the Bristol Museum in July 2022.

New Lockers for staff in Outpatients

We bought ten 3-door lockers for the Outpatients Department staff changing room to replace the previous old, rusty and damaged lockers. Staff now have somewhere to keep their belongings while at work. The staff changing room is now a much nicer – and tidier – environment.



BEH Staff attend Ophthalmic Imaging Conference

We paid for two members of the Imaging Department to attend the Ophthalmic Imaging Association Annual Conference in Swindon. The OIA promotes good practice, education, training and research in ocular imaging.

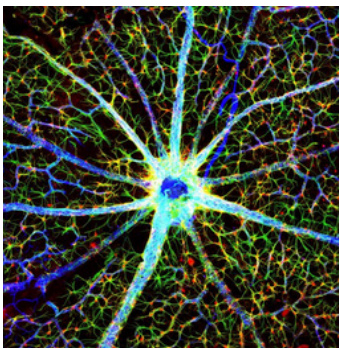


Photo credit: Gabriel Luna, Neuroscience Research Institute, University of California Santa Barbara via Wellcome Images (CC BY 4.0)

Alice Johns, Head of Imaging at BEH, emphasised the advantages of staff attending this conference which would not have been possible without our support.

Heine Omega 600 Traveller Set

We have purchased an additional Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscope (BIO) for use in community clinics around Bristol, where children are seen locally for eye tests and examinations of the internal health of the eye. We provided a Keeler BIO in 2020 to help this domiciliary service. The number of peripheral clinics offered by BEH has tripled in the past ten years. The need for examination with more specialised equipment including BIO (now the gold standard for examining the health of children's eyes) increases. This additional BIO enables optometrists to work more days in these clinics. This grant was funded in full by a BEH clinician who wishes to remain anonymous.

and finally ... some more grants - it was a busy year

Dr Paul Spry



Dr Paul Spry, who was Head of Optometry at BEH, died suddenly and prematurely in August 2021.

We contributed towards the cost of a memorial service for Paul Spry held in the Robert Dickson Garden for Staff in July 2022.

The BEH leadership team had waited for a suitable moment when distancing restrictions had been lifted to allow a group meeting to reflect on Paul's career and his exceptional contributions to the hospital, its staff and its patients.

3D Television for teaching Slit Lamp examination

We have bought a 55" 3D television to deliver highly immersive training in clinical examination skills to health professionals and junior doctors. The 3D TV connects to a 3D slit lamp camera system and this enables staff to develop and advance their clinical skills to benefit patients.



BEH is the first institution globally to use this type of technology, showing how the Friends can make a real difference to the way that the hospital cares for their patients and how they can train staff in BEH and beyond.

The photograph shows the set up in use at a recent BEH teaching event for nurses from all over the UK. The feedback from those attending was excellent, and the quality of the TV and the 3D experience are truly wonderful.



Nine Orthoptic Examination Chairs for Children and Adults in the Orthoptic Department

These chairs can be raised or lowered so the Orthoptist can assess a patient at eye level which increases patient comfort and prevents back strain for Orthoptists. They are sturdy, have arm rests, with a solid base to prevent tipping and are wipe clean. They can also be locked into position to prevent a patient spinning in the chair when being tested.

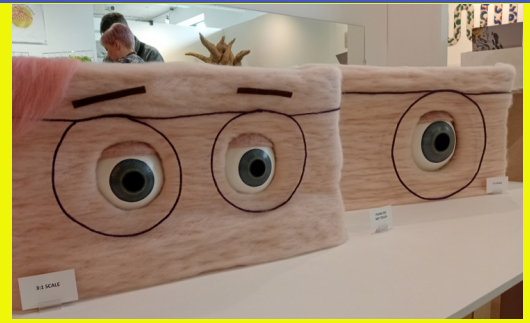
The Friends supported the purchase of these chairs (and similar chairs in the Outpatients Department previously) as NHS funding to replace existing chairs is not prioritised over other more critical equipment.

**We are looking for new people to help us run the charity.
If you can help, please contact the Chairman or Secretary.**

THANKS and HOW TO HELP

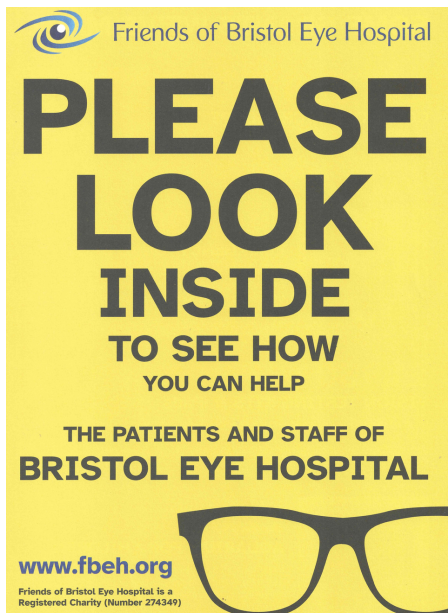
We endeavour to thank everyone when they donate but some people wish to remain anonymous or request that we do not thank them.

We take this opportunity to say thank you to all our donors, fundraisers, sponsors and other supporters - with a special thank you to all our regular donors.



We gratefully acknowledge all the donations made to us in memory of Chris Beatty, David Bradshaw, David Easty, Geoffrey Griffiths, Douglas Hallett, Barbara Hatherall, John Heape, Jean Hook, Graham Murphy, John Sheppard, Margaret Stamper, Royston Sullivan and Wendy Walcott.

We are also very grateful for a legacy from the estate of Sarah Hughes.



We published a new promotional leaflet "PLEASE LOOK INSIDE" in 2022. The leaflet briefly describes what we do, with some examples of grants we've made, and encourages people to support us. There are copies on display around the hospital and in the new Galleries Assessment Clinic which opened on 23 March 2023. You can download a copy from our website or ask us for a copy by post.

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
---	--	---	---

We do not have an office in the hospital. If you wish to send us anything by post, please email or telephone to ask for a home address.

This avoids delay and saves the time of hospital staff.

In Sight is printed on FSC uncoated paper using vegetable based inks.

Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital

Registered Office: Lower Maudlin Street, Bristol, BS1 2LX

Registered Charity Number 274349 © 2023 Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital

Find us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter