



Friends of
Bristol Eye Hospital

In Sight 2024

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

£200,950

in grants to Bristol Eye Hospital last year
our highest ever total in 47 years of support to the hospital

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Farewell Wendy Beatty

Thank you to all our supporters

How you can help





Kay McCluskey reviews our year

This is my first opportunity to address all our amazing members and supporters as Chair of the Friends, having taken over from Dinah Harrison; a very hard act to follow, as Dinah has been an integral part of the Friends since our foundation in 1977, becoming Secretary that year, only relinquishing the role 43 years later when becoming Chair in 2020. I and all those involved owe a huge debt of gratitude to Dinah for her wonderful leadership, good humour, organisational skills and amazing memory, all of which have enabled the Friends to thrive over the past 47 years, during which time £1,789,328 (and counting) has been paid in grants for medical equipment and improved facilities for staff and patients.

Wendy Beatty took over from Dinah as Secretary in 2020 but stepped down in 2023 owing to her many other commitments. We have been fortunate to recruit Carole Brooke who, although a new trustee, has settled into the position with great aplomb. We welcome Carole and send our warmest thanks to Wendy. You can read more about Carole on page 3 and Dinah has written a tribute to Wendy on page 6.

I am delighted that my first year as Chair has coincided with our best-ever year for grants made adding up to £200,950. The total was boosted by a grant of £83,750 for an Electrophysiology System for which the late Dr Paul Spry, Head of Optometry, was the inspiration. It is fitting that his legacy lives on through the generosity of our supporters who enabled us to make such a large grant to benefit patients for many years to come. Details of this and other grants in the past year are on pages 4 and 5.

I use this opportunity to thank the very many former patients and their families who have shown their gratitude by leaving a donation to the Friends in their Will. To their relatives, I offer my sincere condolences, and my thanks, and hope that the knowledge that these funds benefit current and future patients gives some comfort. Of course, I also thank all our regular and one-off donors for their generosity and support.

We appeal for future trustees, particularly a new Treasurer to replace Simon St Leger-Harris who will be standing down after 12 years' service. If, like me, you have retired from your "day job" and would like to help, do please get in touch. I have enjoyed every minute of my time with the Friends; I wouldn't run a marathon or climb 3 Peaks, but I can use my former work skills to help patients and staff – and so can you!

Patients who 'give back'

No fewer than four of our trustees (our Chair, Publicity Officer, Secretary and Treasurer) are or have been patients at BEH and all of them became trustees because of the excellent care and treatment received - and a desire to 'give something back'.

Carole Brooke (Secretary)

To aid recovery after surgery for a detached retina, Carole had to lie face down for days - only getting up or moving for 15 minutes in each hour.

While in hospital she had the use of a posture aid to help her. But when she left hospital she was required to keep it up for five days and the hospital could not spare her an aid to take home.

She wanted to save other patients from the same ordeal, so she asked the Friends if we could pay for posture aids for home use. We were delighted to agree and since June 2022 we have bought 39. The hospital now recognises the demand for these aids for home use and has agreed that the NHS will provide them free in future. A happy outcome meeting an unexpected need, and all thanks to Carole.

Carole is so grateful to the hospital for the treatment and care that saved her sight. So when we asked her if she would consider becoming a trustee, she immediately agreed. Now she has become our Secretary - another happy outcome!

As a retired Practice Manager who ran a busy GP surgery, Carole is very organised and has the determination and perseverance to achieve changes for the better! Welcome Carole!



Kay McCluskey (Chair)

Kay has been a trustee now for eight years, and has been our Chair since May 2023. She is so grateful for all the medical help she has received since the age of 12 for her diabetic-related eye problems that she wanted to 'give something back'.

Kevin Abbey (Publicity Officer)

Kevin has had regular Uveitis (also known as Iritis) attacks in both eyes for 40 years. It is an inflammation of the eye which can result in sight loss if not quickly treated. He also has glaucoma in both eyes and suffered partial sight loss in one eye due to a 'mini-stroke' or 'TIA'. He has been a trustee since 2019 and is our Publicity Officer. "Joining the Friends and becoming a Trustee is one way I can both thank the hospital and help them to help others". He remains a frequent visitor to the Hospital's Emergency Department.

Simon St Leger-Harris (Treasurer)

Simon received multiple treatments over three years for detached retinas and other complications. (Like Carole, he also endured long periods of lying face down to aid recovery.) While still receiving treatment he became a trustee in 2011. He has been Treasurer since 2012 and also manages the Friends' website.

"I am and will forever be enormously grateful to all the many staff who saved my sight. I am also honoured to have had the opportunity to help the hospital and its patients since then."

We are actively looking for new trustees, especially anyone who can take over as Treasurer when Simon stands down. Helping the Friends help the Hospital is tremendously satisfying and would particularly suit someone at or near retirement age. You don't have to be a patient - or an accountant! If you can't help, perhaps you know someone who can?

**We urgently need new people to help us run the charity.
If you can help, please contact the Secretary.**

Cataract Surgery Training

Bristol Eye Hospital organised a training event in complicated cataract surgery for 16 ophthalmology trainees. The Friends paid for surgical consumables used during the simulation training day.

BEH's Gemma Manasseh said:

“Trainees are now more confident in managing complex cataract surgery. We are very grateful for your contribution to this training day. Without it the day could not have gone ahead.”



Optical Coherence Tomography in the Emergency Department



With no imaging facility in the Emergency Department (ED), staff had to escort patients to other departments for imaging sessions. This took an hour per patient. With the new OCT now installed in ED, a session takes about 10 minutes - a huge benefit for staff and patients.

Litechnica Laser Teaching Attachment

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommends that selective laser trabeculoplasty (SLT) should be offered to all suitable patients newly diagnosed with ocular hypertension (OHT) or open angle glaucoma (OAG) as their initial treatment in place of eye drops.

To meet this new requirement, BEH needed to train optometrists to deliver SLT. The Friends paid for a teaching attachment for the laser so that the trainee can both observe treatment and be observed.



more grants

Electrophysiology Testing

Electrodiagnosis involves attaching small electrodes to the skin at the side of the eyes, forehead and back of the head. When a patient looks at a screen, the electrodes pick up the activity from light sensitive cells in the retina, the cells in the optic nerve and the visual areas of the brain.

It is crucial for diagnosis and monitoring treatment and is particularly useful for patients attending paediatrics, medical retina or uveitis clinics. The Friends proudly supported this purchase to improve and sustain the service for patients. It is a fitting and lasting tribute in memory of Paul Spry and all he did for the Bristol Eye Hospital.



Equipment in Weston



Expanding the ophthalmology service for adults and children at Weston General Hospital avoids families having to travel to Bristol for their care and allows precious resources in BEH to be wholly used for Bristol-area patients.

The service required some additional ophthalmology equipment which the Friends were happy to fund to improve patient care and boost staff morale.

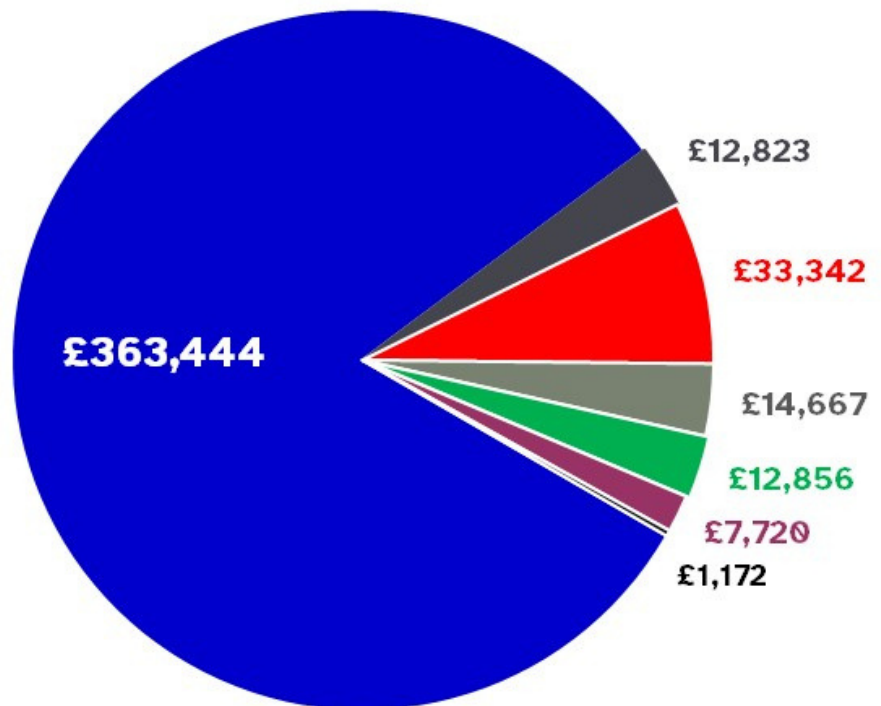
Other grants in the last year include:

Motorised couches for vitreoretinal ophthalmology patients in OPD; Repair and decoration of facilities for staff in the BEH Assessment Clinic @ The Galleries; Kitchen equipment for BEH staff in Weston General Hospital; Four more tonometers; Refurbishment of Doctors' Mess; Design and production of a film to help recruit BEH staff; Cleaning external brickwork mural on Lower Maudlin Street; Training course for Outpatients Paediatric Nurse; a Desk Diagnostic Set including Ophthalmoscope & Otoscope; More posture aids for retinal patients to use at home; Maintenance of the aquarium in the children's ward, indoor plants and the patients' courtyard garden.

There is more information on these and other grants on our website

Grants over the 5 years to 29 February 2024

- Medical Equipment
- Patient Amenities
- Staff Amenities
- Salary Support
- Staff Training
- Plants and Gardens
- Other



Thank you, Wendy

Wendy Beatty stood down at our AGM in May 2023, having served as a trustee for four and a half years, of which two and half as Secretary. We are very sorry to lose her but we well understand that her family and work commitments fully occupy her time.

Wendy was co-opted as a trustee in November 2017, was elected at our AGM in May 2018 and joined our finance subcommittee later that year. In May 2019 she and her husband Nik organized a Race Night in Churchill which was attended by 52 supporters. The evening was an entertaining triumph and raised £2,087 for the Friends.

Wendy took over from Dinah Harrison as Secretary following our AGM in November 2020.

We shall miss her efficiency, courtesy and cheerfulness. However she has kindly consented to continue on our finance subcommittee, where her experience and understanding of finance are much appreciated. So we are not losing her altogether!

The Friends' trustees as at 29 February 2024 are: Kay McCluskey, Kevin Abbey, Carole Brooke, Gail Glew, Dinah Harrison, Ben Phipps, James Reddish, Simon St Leger-Harris, Heather Walker and Jenny Ward.

Thank you to our Fundraisers and other Supporters

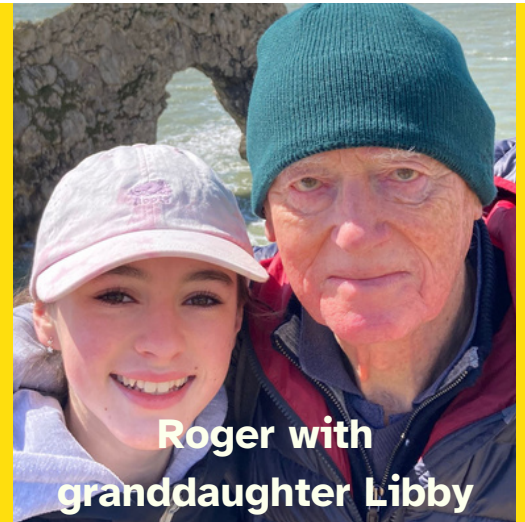


Daniel Rennick

Daniel, with four friends, ran the Caerphilly 10k in May 2023 in memory of their friend, Craig, who died at Christmas 2022. They raised £605.

Roger Phillips

Julia and Roger Phillips raised funds to celebrate Roger's 90th birthday in 2023. Julia had been prompted to plan a fundraising party while reading In Sight in BEH. Sadly the party had to be cancelled because of Covid, but the fundraising went ahead. They are both "grateful to be on the receiving end of the hospital's excellent care".



Roger with granddaughter Libby

Star Legal Solicitors

Over the past three years, Bristol-based law firm Star Legal have kindly donated over £8,000 to help us support the patients and staff. Star Legal's Joint Managing Director, Ian Foster, said they were delighted to be able to help. "We often don't realise how important our eyesight is until something goes wrong with it and having recently seen the benefits to my own mother following her operation for cataracts, I can appreciate this even more", said Ian. "In addition, a relative of one of our senior staff recently had treatment for a growth near an eye. It shows how lucky we all are to have this amazing facility on our doorstep." Ian very much hopes that Star Legal will be able to continue to support us and the wonderful work the hospital does. Star Legal, whose head office is in Clifton, has over 20 branches across the country, including eight within the Bristol area.

Staff Fundraising

Hospital staff kindly raised funds for us with a raffle amongst themselves to "Name the Bear". They also sold Christmas cards for us, helping to sell more cards and raise more funds (£397) than in any year since 2015.



Your support enhances the care and treatment for all patients of the Bristol Eye Hospital

Thanks and How You Can Help

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

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



We are most grateful for legacies from the estates of Gilbert Ellis and Robin Tuplin and we gratefully acknowledge donations in memory of Brian Barry, David Bradshaw, Douglas Hallett, Alan Jackson, Gwendoline Leather, Jane Murrish, B Oyeleye, Muriel Rogers, John Sheppard and Kenneth Williams.

Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital have been helping the patients and staff for over 40 years.

Could you also help by leaving a gift in your Will?

The Friends help improve care and treatment for patients by paying for medical equipment, patient comforts and staff resources when these are beyond the NHS budget and cannot otherwise be provided.

Already over 2 million people in the country live with impaired vision - with that number set to double over the next 30 years



Friends of Bristol Eye Hospital is a Registered Charity (Number 274349)

Friends of

The majority of our income comes from legacies and donations. Leaflets on how to make a donation or leave us a legacy in your Will can be found in the hospital or on our website.

We are a small charity with very low operating expenses. Your support can make a big difference to our hospital, the staff and their patients.

Or if you can offer any practical support, that would be wonderful!

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



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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

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