



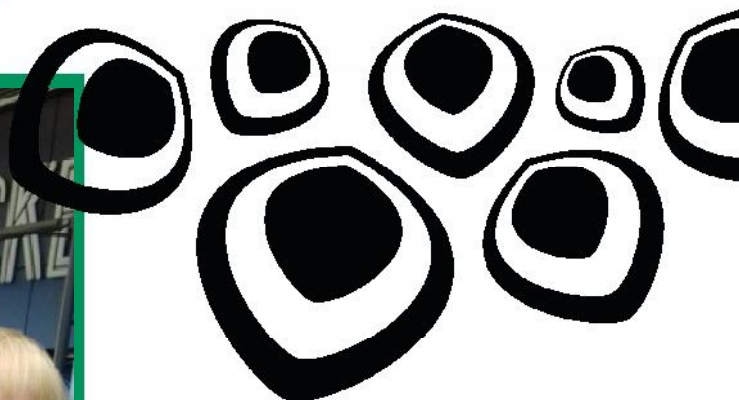
Issue 71
October 2018

The Peacock

quarterly newsletter

Friends of Moorfields

E Y E H O S P I T A L



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Dear Reader,

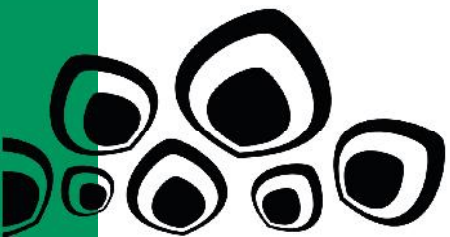
It is with great pleasure, (and a certain amount of pride!) that we can announce that Friends of Moorfields has been shortlisted for the Association of Optometrists 'Charity of the Year' Award!



This is because of the work we have been doing in the Health Hub at Moorfields City Road. Since starting full time in January 2018 our Health Hub Support Officer Sabina has handled around 3,000 patient enquiries. The most common areas of enquiry are Age Related Macular Degeneration (AMD), Glaucoma and Cataracts, but the team also supports patient with advice about assistive technology and daily living aids, and have received RNIB training to do this. We give out general health information about conditions that can affect eyes and vision, such as diabetes. We also signpost patients to other charities, befriending groups, or the Moorfields' counselling service.

The final winner will be decided by a public vote which will run between 1st October and 12th December 2018. We would really appreciate your support! For more information about how to vote for us please visit:

www.aop.org.uk/awards



Thank you Isabel!



Isabel Derrent retired from volunteering with Friends in August after more than 20 years service. Isabel has been part of the Mini Mart and Book Sale team, organising and running sales at Moorfields City Road, and over the years has to raise more than £25,000 for Friends!

Isabel also has a much longer history with Moorfields, before joining Friends as a volunteer she spent 32 years as a nurse for the Trust. She will be greatly missed and we all appreciate her support.

"Isabel is a wonderful example of all that makes us proud to work and be associated with Moorfields. Her kindness, commitment and caring nature both as a nurse at the hospital and more latterly in supporting patients as a volunteer is an example to us all. I can only imagine the vast number of patients she has supported and cared for over the years and so on behalf of them, the trust board and all our staff and volunteers, thank you."

David Probert - Chief Executive, Moorfields.



We Climbed the Dome and raised over £8,000!

On Sunday, 19th of August, a group of 30 patients, staff, Volunteers and Relatives climbed the O2 Dome in support of Friends of Moorfields. Here are some of the people who took part:



Hannah is 10 years old and has been coming to Moorfields since she was a baby, to get treatment from the eye prosthetic specialists. She has a prosthetic eye because her right retina did not develop properly, this means she cannot see at all through her right eye.

Keera is 11 years old, and was born with a lazy left eye which stopped her from seeing things properly. Now thanks to Moorfields she told us she is able to see much clearer and is not bumping into things like before! She climbed with her brother, 10 year old Michael.

Sandra is a patient at Moorfields, and her mother is a member of Friends. She took on the challenge to say "Thank You" for her care.

Friend's Trustee and long-term supporter Michael took on the climb with his son Hugo.

Christine and Loretta are sisters-in-law and climbed for us because Christine's granddaughter is a patient and they want to say 'Thank You' for the care she receives.

Angela and Graham are grandparents to George who is 12 years old and has been a patient since being diagnosed with paediatric glaucoma at the age of 3. They want to say 'Thank You' for the gift of sight for George and to all who are under the care of Moorfields.

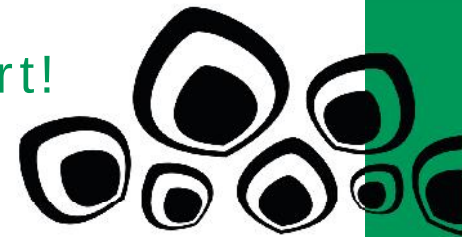
Husband and Wife Indu and Kishor are both patients and they climbed to show their appreciation for all the help and support they have received at Moorfields.

Colleagues Malcolm and Sophie work at Bright Horizon's Nursery in Chigwell and support us because they have cared for a little girl who is visually impaired for the past 19 months.

The Friend's Shop Team, all either work or volunteer for The Friends of Moorfields. They include our oldest climber – 87 year old June, and Rose who is 80!

Jessica, Naomi and Preeti all work in the Quality and Experience team at Moorfields and support Friends because of our strong 'Patient Focused' approach. Jessica's daughter Pricilla also be climbed with them.

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who took part!



Moorfield's AGM and Artificial Intelligence



On Thursday 19 July, Moorfields NHS Trust held its annual general meeting (AGM) at LSO St Luke's. The meeting was an opportunity for staff and members to hear from leading experts in eye health as well as updates about the trust's operations from senior leaders.

Tessa Green, chairman, presented the trust's annual report and accounts that details the trust's operational and financial performance during 2017/18; and David Probert, Chief Executive updated members on performance against the strategic plan. There was also opportunities for members to ask the trust's board questions.

You can download the trust's Annual Review from their website:

[https://www.moorfields.nhs.uk/
content/corporate-publications](https://www.moorfields.nhs.uk/content/corporate-publications)

During the meeting Consultant Ophthalmologist Pearse Keene spoke about an exciting breakthrough in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to improve care for patients. This project has also been widely featured in the national news, so Friends Chief Executive Angela spoke to him to find out more:

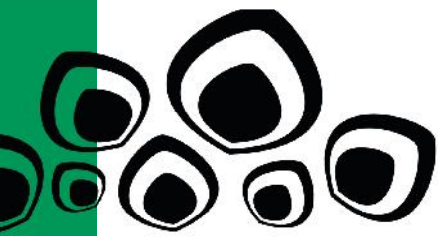
Can you tell us more about yourself?

"I work in the Medical Retina service at Moorfields, so I specialise in the treatment of diseases such as Age Related Macular Degeneration (AMD), Diabetic Retinopathy and other retina diseases. I am also a clinician scientist at University College London, Institute of Ophthalmology; and so I am in a really privileged position where I can combine the clinical work with the research work that I do into these conditions."

Your project with Google DeepMind has been featured a lot in the news - can you tell me more about this?

"This is a partnership that actually came about nearly three years ago, because there is a very real problem that we are dealing with within the retinal service, not just at Moorfields but all around the UK, and around the world. This is the huge number of patients that we get referred to our clinics as 'Urgent Referrals' with conditions such as 'Wet AMD' the sheer volume of patients means that it is very difficult for us to prioritise those with real sight threatening conditions and get them seen and treated at an early stage.

So my idea was that we could use the latest advances in Artificial Intelligence to try to prioritise those patients that



need to be seen and treated urgently. So for that reason I contacted the founders of a company called DeepMind, which was formed in 2012, and was acquired by Google in 2014. They are probably the world's leading Artificial Intelligence company, and they are based in King's Cross, which is very close to us at Moorfields.

I explained to them that we were doing thousands of retinal scans every week at Moorfields, and suggested that we apply their AI to these scans to help patients."

How does this benefit patients?

"Just to be clear - it doesn't benefit patients yet as it is still in the research phase of the algorithm and what we have done with our recent article in the Journal 'Nature Medicine' is to show the proof of concept that this research works. So we have an algorithm that can look at an OCT scan or other retinal scans and can basically diagnose or classify those scans as good as Consultant Ophthalmologists at Moorfields. The reason we think this will benefit patients is that all the evidence shows that with these conditions the earlier we can diagnose and treat them the more likely we are to save people's sight."

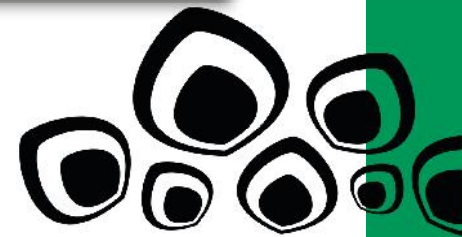
What safeguards will be put in place to ensure patients get a correct diagnosis?

"It is really important to emphasise that we have only just done this 'Proof of Concept' our next step is clinical trials. So we will have to do very rigorous, prospective clinical trials probably at multiple centres around the UK with a lot of careful oversight to make sure that this actually works for patients and does what it should.

Secondly, the way we are designing these trials, and the way we envisage this being used in practice is that it does not replace the ophthalmologist or the retinal specialist. It simply prioritises and flags patients who need to be seen and treated very quickly. Even if you are a patient who it says is 'non urgent' you would still need to be seen by a human and assessed to make sure that the algorithm hasn't missed anything."

What is the timeframe for implementing this?

"To do these things right takes more time than you would imagine! But this is something that is coming soon, and by soon I mean that in around 3 - 4 years this could be in routine clinical practice. It is very different from some of the other research that we do which takes more like ten years. This will happen sooner rather than later."



Volunteering at Moorfield's Eye Clinic, Bedford.



This time last year, Friends joined the staff at Bedford to celebrate ten years of Moorfields Eye Clinic at Bedford Hospital. It was great event, and also led us to start discussions with the team there about the need for more volunteer support in the clinics.

We now have a growing team of committed volunteers at Bedford, and our Volunteer Support Officer, Caroline Zihler spoke to three of them - Sandra, Arlene and Gaynor to find out more about their motivation and experience:

Arlene: "I had seen the atmosphere at Moorfields Bedford in the South Wing and the rush of patients, how busy it was and I just gathered that if you were looking for volunteers you actually really needed them! I like

Bedford, I really like the atmosphere at the hospital, the staff, the patients, everything.

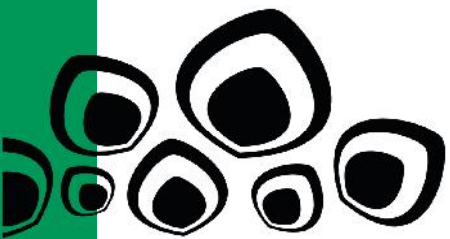
All the staff that you come across and interact with on a daily basis, are kind and appreciative of what you do"

Gaynor: "I saw the notice on the board in the North Wing. I am currently an injection patient myself and was previously a patient at the South Wing. When my condition deteriorated the service I got from Moorfields, the optician right through to the consultant was just incredible, within 3 days I was having treatment and I just thought this is an area...it sounds very clichéd but I want to give back because I've received such good care and attention. I'm retired so I have got the capacity and I just wanted to volunteer here.

A highlight of volunteering for me was when I helped coordinate the delivery of papers from the South Wing to the North Wing, saving both time and money."

Sandra: "After retiring from the Health Service I still felt I had a lot to offer and could make a difference just by being there for someone; a smile, a kind word to let them know someone cares how they feel and are they worried. Hold their hand or just be a good listener. I chose Moorfields because I am also a patient and feel extremely lucky to have this treatment available to me which is making a real difference to my sight. I wanted to contribute and give something back. The team at Bedford are kind, caring and hardworking and I wanted to be part of it."

Clinic Manager Amy Griggs told us that she really appreciates the time given by the volunteers who make an enormous difference to the running of the clinics, and help improve the patient experience.



Cornea Donations change lives!

3rd - 8th September was National Organ Donation week and with representatives from Moorfields Eye Bank and Keratoconus Group UK we used the Health Hub to promote the importance of cornea donations.

The cornea is the clear tissue covering the front of the eye. It is the main focusing element of the eye. Vision will be dramatically reduced if the cornea becomes cloudy from disease, injury or infection.

The only substitute for a human cornea is another human cornea donated at death. Without donated tissue, many patients do not have an alternative therapy or treatment for their eye condition.

The success rate of corneal transplant operation in restoring vision is between 95% - 99%, and one pair of donated eyes can be used in 10 different sight saving operations.



The entire eye cannot be transplanted, only the cornea. However, the remaining parts of the eye can be used for other operations, such as glaucoma surgery and also for research and education.

Eye tissues are very delicate and need to be stored under strict laboratory conditions at an eye bank. This must take place within 24 hours of the donor passing away.

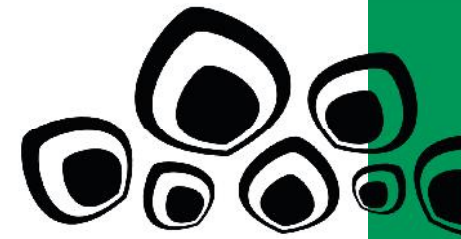
Moorfields opened its own eye bank in 1967, and it was refurbished in 2005. Eye bank staff are specially trained to facilitate the consent, retrieval and storage of donated eyes from the deceased so that tissue can be used for sight-saving surgical procedures within Moorfields and other NHS trusts.

When the eye is removed great care is taken to ensure the facial appearance is restored and the eyelids are carefully closed.

The gift of eyes is made anonymously, and specific information about the donor or his/her family is never made available to the recipient.

If appropriate the eye bank will convey a recipient's message of thanks to the donor family.

If you want to find out more or to talk to someone about donation call the Moorfields Lions Eye bank team on:
020 7253 1199



Infantile Nystagmus Syndrome: Patient Information Day - Sat 24th November 2018.

Sometimes known as 'Jerky' or 'Wobbly' eyes, nystagmus makes the eyes move in a fast, jerky way that is uncontrollable. Movement can be from side to side, up and down or in circles.

Moorfields is hosting a patient awareness day, funded by Friends, which will give patients the opportunity to directly influence the patient pathway from diagnosis to treatment and the support services available. For more information please contact Friends Office on 0207 251 1240

Its almost that time of year! Christmas cards are now available in our Friends shop and online.

www.friendsofmoorfields.org.uk



DRAW MADE BY
Tina Nemeth
Moorfield's Matron



PRIZE WINNERS: SEPTEMBER 2018
AVAILABLE POT : £397.49

1ST PRIZE: token No 453
£238.50

2ND PRIZE: token No 181
£99.37

3RD PRIZE: token No 4 15
£59.62

The next draw takes place at the beginning of December 2018, so newcomers please send in your applications. The annual fee (covering entry to four quarterly draws) is £20.00, of which 50% goes to funds and the remainder to the prize pot.



I would like a **PEACOCK LOTTERY** lucky number please!

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

☐ PLEASE TICK THIS BOX IF THIS IS A BRAND NEW APPLICATION OR

☐ PLEASE TICK THIS BOX IF YOU ARE RENEWING

Please send with your cheque for £20.00 (payable to Friends of Moorfields) to Peacock Lottery, Friends of Moorfields, 162 City Road, London EC1V 2PD



Friends of Moorfields

E Y E H O S P I T A L

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