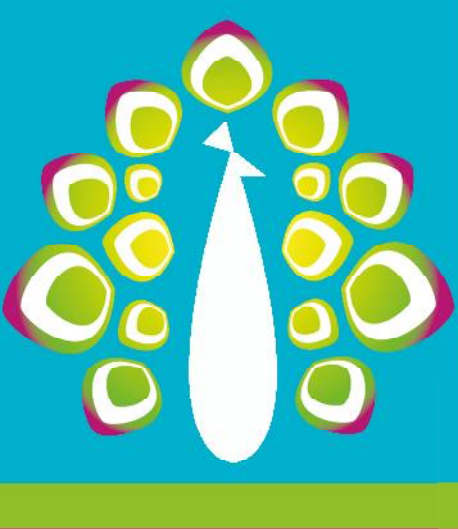




Issue 64
May 2017

The Peacock

quarterly newsletter

Friends of Moorfields

E Y E H O S P I T A L



A BIG "Thank You"
to the Co-op stores!

Welcome
Lucy!



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Hi!

It is with great honour to have the privilege of taking over editing duties of Peacock magazine from Lynne. My name is Diana Griffith. I started volunteering in the Friends' office early in September 2016. Having come from a graphic and marketing background in the US, I feel gratified volunteering my time and skill to such an amazing charity. Since becoming a volunteer, I have seen first-hand how grateful patients and visitors are for the help, contributions and personal individual care the Friends' office provides. It is an amazing privilege to be part of such a dynamic team. I do hope you enjoy the new look of the Peacock.

All the best,
Diana



Patient & Research Scientist Engagement Days

We are delighted to announce that The Institute of Ophthalmology, which is next door to Moorfields and very closely linked to the Trust, will be launching a new programme of six 'Ophthalmology Engage' patient days over the next three years; funded and supported by Friends of Moorfields and the UCL public engagement department.

Patients and scientists rarely communicate directly, despite there being numerous short and long term benefits for both parties. In 2014, the Institute held its first patient engagement day called

'Cornea Connect'. The event was a huge success in spreading the word to patients about what researchers do, and bringing these groups of people together. This had an overwhelmingly positive impact on everyone involved.



These Ophthalmology Engage days are designed to help scientists better understand how visual impairments affect people's lives, and to offer those with a visual impairment an improved understanding of the research into the conditions that affect them. Research Associate, Dr Victoria Tovell said "We are very excited to welcome patients into the institute and feel positive that forging these mutually beneficial relationships will ultimately improve the quality of our research"

For more information please contact Friends Office on 0207 251 1240 or email: friends@moorfields.nhs.uk

Dates For Your Diary

JUNE
1st - Art Sale
5th - Book People
13th - Mini Mart
23rd - Book People
27th - Book Sale

JULY
3rd - Book People
11th - Mini Mart
25th - Book Sale
26th - Book People

AUGUST
8th - Book Sale
9th - Book People
15th - Mini Mart
25th - Book People



Welcome Lucy, Eyevor & Giggles!

Friends recently held a contest asking children to colour and name their new “Peacock” for the 2017 summer launch of the upcoming children’s Peacock magazine. We would like to thank everyone who took part. All of the creative entries exceeded our expectations. After much consideration, we are proud to announce that Gwen’s peacock, “Lucy”, Lucy’s peacock “Eyevor” and Antonisha’s peacock “Giggles” have been chosen as three best “Friends”. A BIG WELL DONE! to these children who have each won a £10 Amazon voucher.



LUCY



EYEVOR



GIGGLES

Rafi’s Fundraising Efforts

Tremendous thanks from Friends to Rafi, who was first diagnosed with Primary Congenital Glaucoma in early December, 2009, when he was just six weeks old, and he has been under the care of Mr John Brookes’ team at Moorfields ever since.



Since 2009, Rafi has undergone numerous procedures, including laser treatments, an incision to his eye, and finally, in 2015, a tube implant. He has endured a number of examinations under anaesthetic and coped with different types of eye drops.

The tube implant has been hugely successful at stabilising the pressure. For the first time in seven years Rafi’s vision in his good eye is improving. He now sees Mr Brookes and the team at Moorfields a little less frequently; which is good news.

Recently Rafi has learnt to make loom bands. Initially he gave them to friends and family as gifts, then decided to sell them for £2.00 each as a donation to Moorfields. To date, he has raised £131.00; a fantastic effort for a seven year old!

Patricia Collins, PA to John Brookes said “Rafi is such a wonderful boy and I was thankful to have received one of his colourful loom bands myself.”



David Probert's First Year as Moorfields Chief Exec.

Moorfields' Chief Executive, David Probert, has been in post for over 12 months, and he says coming to Moorfields was everything he hoped it would be.

Can you tell us about three highlights from your first year? "One highlight was when we achieved the reaccreditation of our Biomedical Research Centre Status. This is what allows Moorfields to play on a global platform and therefore support local patients in England and the UK with world leading science. This year we had to re-apply for a further 5 years and with Sir Peng Khaw's leadership, and with The Institute of Ophthalmology we were able to achieve this accreditation. It was a tough process to go through, but we are now one of only 20 biomedical research centres in the UK.

The second highlight was going through the Care Quality Commission inspection. It is always difficult when people come and look at your organisation because you are never quite sure what the result will be! I was delighted that they rated us as a 'good' organisation with some outstanding areas, particularly in paediatrics and young people, which I was delighted to have recognised.

The third highlight may sound a bit generic, but it has just been getting to know people. 2,500 staff work at Moorfields, and I can't claim to have met all of them, but

I have tried as hard as possible to meet as many as possible, and they are just a fantastic, educated, caring, intelligent, forward thinking group of individuals."

What has been your biggest challenge? "Getting out and about, and getting to know my organisation has also been my biggest challenge this year. This is because Moorfields is spread across 32 sites in the UK and also has 140 staff working overseas. But it has been an enjoyable challenge, and I do really get a sense now of what it is like to work not just at City Road, but also at Bedford, St Georges, Barking, Potters Bar etc. This has helped me shape our strategy for moving forward."

How do you see Friends supporting you and the Executive Team in the future? "I see the Friends playing a critical role in 'The Moorfields Family'. We are all different groups of people working towards a common goal – to defeat blindness where we can; and to support people going through difficult journeys by caring for them and helping them along the way. And it is the second part that I think Friends play a strong role in. Literally guiding people through the hospital and supporting them on their journey, and doing the things that our busy clinical staff do not always have the ability or the time to do, which is supporting the holistic nature of what people are going through. So I particularly welcome the drive on increasing volunteers – that is so important for us, it has made a big difference already.

Secondly, the grants that are given by Friends that pay for things that are really important, that keep us on a global stage and allow us to attract and grow talent, but that unfortunately the NHS has not traditionally been able to support. This is what makes us different – Friends of Moorfields help makes us different."



Sickle Cell Disease and the eye...

Regular Peacock readers will be aware of long term volunteer, Basil Bramble and his journey with Sickle Cell Anaemia. In spite of recent complications that left him in hospital, Basil is always positive and always smiling! He is truly an inspiration to so many of us, and we are delighted that he is on the road to recovery and has returned to volunteering at Moorfields.



Friend's Executive Manager, Angela Smith, spoke to Consultant Vitreoretinal Surgeon, Mahi Muqit to find out more about Sickle Cell Disease and how it affects patients.

What is Sickle Cell Disease? "Sickle Cell Disease is a genetic condition very prevalent in African, Caribbean and Mediterranean populations as well as the Middle East. Everyone has a protein in their blood called haemoglobin and in Sickle Cell patients, this is abnormal. This means the cells lose oxygen and they become like a sickle shape, or like small rods. These abnormal cells block up the circulation around the whole body such as the heart, the central nervous system and especially the eyes. Here at Moorfields, we have a very diverse population and treat patients from all over the world, so Sickle Cell is something we see a lot in a vitreo-retinal practice."

How does Sickle Cell affect the eyes? "Blockage from Sickle Cells starts from a very young age, meaning that the patient's circulation does not develop normally, this can cause abnormal growth for blood vessels in the retina. This can lead to complications such as bleeding, small holes, and scar tissue building up in the centre of the eye called the macula.

Sickle Cell can also cause retinal detachment - the seeing part of the eye contains many blood vessels and these can be pulled off by the abnormal cells in the jelly."

What treatments are available for Sickle Cell? "Vitrectomy surgery has been very successful with good results for Sickle Cell patients. Often patients don't notice the problems with their eyes at the early stages because Sickle Cell affects the peripheral part of the retina. We now screen patients to pick up the condition at an early stage and monitor them to detect complications before they cause serious vision loss."

Is there a long term cure? "For the condition in general, there are reports about stem cell bone marrow transplants that can help, and as a genetic condition specific patients may benefit from gene therapy, but for the eye itself it's really dealing with the complications during the patient's lifetime."

Is the new Optos Widefield Camera, recently bought by Friends, useful for spotting early stages of Sickle Cell? "Absolutely, this is the only device that gives you a snapshot of the whole retina at a wide angle view so we can see all the way out to the peripheral edges. When we take photographs of Sickle Cell patients, we can now capture the whole condition in one shot. Another benefit is that we can use angiography, where you inject dye through the blood vessels which lights up the Sickle Cell problems in the eye."



"Paging Ways To Help"

A NEW 'PATIENT PAGER' SYSTEM AT CITY ROAD

Friends have recently agreed to fund a new patient pager system which will allow patients waiting for long periods in clinics to leave their seats for a drink or comfort break, as they will be alerted by a buzzer when they are due to be called.

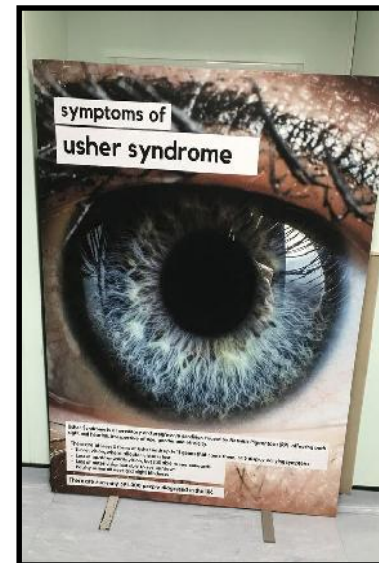
Outpatients' Matron, Tina Nemeth, said "This will make a huge difference to the patient experience at Moorfields as it means clinic staff will have a better understanding of who is waiting in their clinic and who is absent; patients will be able to move around the building without the anxiety of missing their appointment and waiting areas will become less congested. It will also be beneficial to patients who are hard of hearing and may find it difficult to hear their name being called."



OPEN SENSES FESTIVAL

On Saturday, 20th May, Moorfields Arts Committee, which is funded by Friends of Moorfields, opened the solo exhibition of a digital artist and patient, Marcus Inniss. He has Usher Syndrome and suffers from deaf blindness. This is part of the London-wide Open Senses Festival, and will run for three months in the Optometry corridor of Moorfields City Road.

Marcus told us "Since my diagnosis in 2003 with Usher Syndrome at Moorfields, and then completing my studies in Digital Media, I have been very interested in organising an exhibition exploring the condition.



The idea was always to create an exhibit allowing individuals to get a glimpse into the lives of those with Usher Syndrome. This exhibition celebrates what Moorfields Eye Hospital is about: it highlights the work of the medical professionals and specialists in the field; it showcases the innovative and life-changing achievements that enable those with eye conditions to lead a full and independent life."

With Thanks & Appreciation

Quite often The Friends' office receives letters of gratitude from patients thanking Moorfields for the care they received, experience they had, commending a specific doctor, volunteer or member of staff. We would love to share this poem written so kindly by Mr. & Mrs. J Stamp:

Moorfields

We spent the day at Moorfields

The hospital that fixes eyes

We were shown such kindness

But that was no surprise.

The doctor's nurses work so hard

They do so with a smile

We met fellow patients

As we waited for a while.

But we didn't mind the wait

We are grateful for such care

So many folks in other lands

Have no pain relief to share.

Nurses fussed around my man

Even pushed him in a chair

Served him cups of coffee

And some special socks to wear.

Now I have a man

who can see most every thing

All the wrinkles on my face

And that whisker on my chin.

Oh that the world over

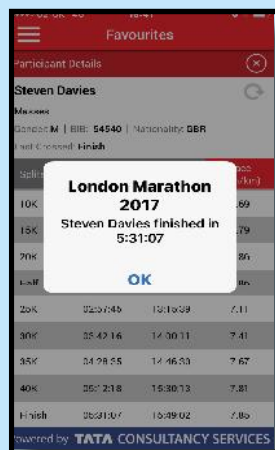
Lands of every size

Had a Hospital called Moorfields

The one that fixes eyes.



A big WELL DONE! to Moorfields Chief Financial Officer, Steven Davies – he completed the London Marathon in 5hrs 31mins and has raised £3,001 for Friends!



Friends are extremely grateful to staff and customers at three local Co-op stores – at Old Street, Great Eastern Street and The Angel Petrol Store. We were one of nominated charities to receive a share of their 'Local Community Fund' achieved from sales of carrier bags and own-branded products, purchased by Co-op members locally. We received an amazing £5,190 which will go towards expanding the volunteer programme at Moorfields. Throughout the UK this fund raised over £9 million and has helped 4,000 local causes.



Friends' Executive Manager, Angela Smith and Trustee, Derek Jenkinson went to two of the stores to meet the staff, talk about what Friends are doing and say a personal "Thank you."

Thanks to all who have donated items which have made our art and jewellery sales so successful! If anyone is interested in making jewellery bags for our sales, please contact the Friends' office.



THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION

Knitting for A Cause

After the Friends' great success with our poppy appeal, we are endeavouring to double the £900 we raised last autumn, half of which goes to The Royal British Legion.

To boost sales in 2017 we will sell poppies in the Friends' shop in the hospital, in the children's unit and the Friends' office. We will also ask our friends who knit for us to kindly sell them directly and send us the money, or simply donate knitted poppies for us to sell - at a suggested donation of £2 per poppy.

If you are one of those people who can't watch the TV without some knitting in your hands, please may I ask you to consider knitting some poppies for us? They are fairly simple and quick to knit and I have a fairly easy pattern which I can happily email or post to you. I am really looking forward to hearing from you.

Lynne
Lynne.moorcroft@moorfields.nhs.uk



DRAW MADE BY
MR. MARK WILIKINS
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon
Service Director, External Diseases



The next draw takes place at the end of August, 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.

The Peacock Lottery is a fundraiser and is entirely separate from membership of the Friends itself. You can be part of either or both!

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



PRIZE WINNERS: FEB 2017
AVAILABLE POT : £465

1ST PRIZE: token No 484:
Ms. Tessa Humphrys - £279

2ND PRIZE: token No 166:
Mr. Donald Brookfield - £116.25

3RD PRIZE: token No 322:
Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Eve McClean - £69.75





Friends of Moorfields

E Y E H O S P I T A L

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