



## **Barts Guild**

*Friends of St Bartholomew's Hospital since 1911*

# **BARTS GUILD NEWS**

ISSUE NUMBER 5

MAY 2015

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## **Grant will benefit heart patients at Barts and beyond**

*The Guild has joined with the Smyrk Trust to fund equipment that will initially be used in a research project at the William Harvey Heart Centre. The Guild's contribution will be around £6,000 and will provide the final piece in the project's funding jigsaw. The project will involve Barts' heart patients and successful outcomes could benefit many heart patients, particularly those with angina, now and in the future at Barts and far beyond.*

*Amrita Ahluwalia, Deputy Director of the William Harvey Research Institute and Professor of Vascular Pharmacology at Barts and The London Medical School, explains the purpose of the project and the function of the equipment below.*

Cardiovascular disease is one of our biggest killers in the UK and is a particular health problem in North East London. Indeed, the patients served by Barts Health Trust have some of the worst rates of cardiovascular disease in the UK. A common issue in patients with cardiovascular disease, including individuals with blockages of the arteries, high blood pressure, angina and even heart failure, is that the blood vessels of the heart and body do not function normally. A particular characteristic of these malfunctioning blood vessels being a phenomenon called 'endothelial dysfunction'. As endothelial dysfunction worsens, diseases of the heart and blood vessels such as angina and heart failure become more severe.

The endothelium is a single layer of cells that lines all blood vessels of the body. The endothelium plays an important role in keeping the blood vessel healthy by releasing factors that relax blood vessels and stop blood pressure from rising, prevent blockages from forming and also improve the function of heart muscle. In patients with cardiovascular disease, long before the disease becomes debilitating, the endothelium stops producing sufficient amounts of these healthy factors. This is the state we describe as "endothelial dysfunction". This fact has led researchers to suggest that measurement of endothelium function is an effective predictor of one's risk of having cardiovascular disease.

The Barts Guild and Smyrk Trust have very kindly donated funds to support the purchase of specialised equipment - a brachial artery (main blood vessel in the arm) ultrasound set up that allows researchers to measure the function of the blood vessels and particularly the endothelium in patients. This method is very effective since it measures the diameter of the blood vessels of the arm without any need for needles, i.e. no invasive procedures.

***Amrita Ahluwalia***

## **Guild shop a success**

Since moving to its excellently situated new location in the Atrium of the new KGV building the shop's takings have soared to £2,000 and, on occasion, as much as £3,000 per week, three times more than they were in the same period last year.

Excessive heat, one of the 'teething troubles' of the new shop, has been greatly improved by the installation of a more efficient chiller cabinet for soft drinks and two state-of-the-art Dyson fans will also make the shop a pleasanter environment for our loyal band of shop volunteers and for our customers.

A table-top sale was held in the West Wing conference room on 27 March which raised £138. Sadly, this may be the last sale of its kind as the shop now has very limited storage facilities. This should not deter members from donating small items such as jewellery and toiletries as these are popular items which sell well in the shop itself.

A busy shop means that more volunteers are needed and if you would be interested in volunteering yourself, or know someone who might be, please contact Christine for details of how to apply.

Congratulations to Christine and her team for making the new shop such a success!

## **Walking in the rain - Niamh Whelan's first Lord Mayor's Show**

A party of 34 members, volunteers and their friends and families represented the Guild in the traditional Lord Mayor's Show on 8 November 2014.

This spectacular event is held every year to welcome the new Lord Mayor. The atmosphere was fantastic as the streets were filled with marchers, performers, dancing, colourful costumes and plenty more besides. Guild walkers, adorned with tabards and carrying banners to highlight the Guild's work, marched the three and a half mile route between Bank and Aldwych along with 7000 participants from all over the world.

To participate in the world's largest unrehearsed pageant was truly a privilege and, despite the undesirable weather, the Guild walkers enjoyed every second as we marched through the City of London and our much-appreciated lunch when we reached Aldwych for a well-earned rest.



*Marching for Barts*

Thank you to Wendy Mead for organising this event and to St. Botolph's Church where we set up our base.

This year, The Lord Mayor's Show will be held on Saturday, 14th November which will mark the 800th anniversary of the parade. To celebrate eight centuries of tradition, let's make 2015 the biggest yet for the Guild and gather many more new walkers and supporters.  
**Niamh Whelan**

*If you would like to join in the fun on 14 November and march for the Guild please contact: Niamh at [missniamhy@gmail.com](mailto:missniamhy@gmail.com) or write to her at the Guild Office.*

## **Your invitation to A Spring Serenade - The Emmanuel String Quartet with guest Robert Cooper**

To sit in a beautiful room, glass of wine in hand, listening to sublime music on a spring evening must be counted as one of life's greatest delights. So it is with great pleasure and anticipation that we welcome the Emmanuel String Quartet with guest Robert Cooper to the Great Hall at Barts.

The Emmanuel Quartet is formed of some of London's most distinguished classical musicians. After a highly successful tour of Crete in aid of St. George's Hospital in Chania they are proud to bring their Spring Serenade programme to the Great Hall to raise funds for Barts Guild.

The programme opens with Schubert's 'Quartettsatz'— his fiery and dramatic one movement masterpiece. After you've caught your breath they'll play Dvorak's 'American' Quartet— resplendent with colour, pathos and humour; full of rhythmic drive and luscious melodic invention. The concert will conclude with Mozart's monumental String Quintet in C Major – both magical and entrancing; a spectacular *tour de force* that displays every aspect of Mozart's towering genius.

The programme will run for around 75 minutes so there will be plenty of time after the music to enjoy a drink and chat with the performers.

The concert is the brain child of Guild Administrator Helen Cooper who has generously given her own time to organising the event. Helen is a professional violinist and has played

with leading orchestras throughout her career. Helen will demonstrate her versatility by playing the viola in A Spring Serenade.

The musicians are kindly donating their fee to the Guild so your support will be of great value. Please spread the word to your friends and family and come along to the Great Hall for what promises to be a very special evening.



*The Emmanuel String Quartet*

### **Booking Details**

Great Hall, 22 May, 7.00 for 7.30pm. Please note City of London parking restrictions are in force until 7pm

Tickets £15 (£10 Guild Volunteers and Barts & The London students) including a complimentary glass of wine.

Tickets can be purchased from the Guild Shop in the King George V Building at Barts (Mon – Fri 8am – 4pm) or by sending your request, together with your cheque payable to 'Barts Guild' and a stamped addressed envelope to:

Helen Cooper  
Barts Guild  
4th Floor, Gloucester House  
St Bartholomew's Hospital  
West Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE

## Comings and Goings

### **Nancy Whiskin**

Nancy has joined Barts Health as Head of Volunteering. She will have a base at Barts in the Nursing Office, North Wing. We welcome Nancy and wish her a long and happy time at Barts. To learn more about Nancy's career please see the profile in next column.

### **Sir Stephen O'Brien CBE**

At the end of March Sir Stephen O'Brien stepped down as Chair of Barts Health having served three years with the Trust and, previously, as Chair of Barts and The London NHS Trust and Tower Hamlets PCT. We thank Sir Stephen for the interest he has shown in the Guild and send him all best wishes for his future endeavours.

### **Peter Morris OBE**

Has also announced his decision to step down as Chief Executive of Barts Health. Until a successor is appointed Peter has agreed to continue in his role which will include bringing together the specialist cardiovascular services of St Bartholomew's Hospital, The London Chest Hospital and the Heart Hospital into stunning new facilities at the Barts Heart Hospital. This will create one of the largest cardiovascular centres in the world. Our best wishes to Peter for the future.

### **Professor Kay Riley**

Barts Chief Nurse, Professor Kay Riley, after 30 years' service to the NHS has announced that she will retire in October. In the period leading up to her retirement Kay will continue her passion for education and learning by joining Health Education North West London to pass on her wealth of experience to the next generation of nurses. Sir Stephen O'Brien said: "On behalf of the Board, I

would like to thank Kay for the significant contribution she has made to Barts Health and for the nursing leadership she has provided both locally and at a regional and national level. We wish her well for the future".

## **Welcome to Nancy Whiskin Head of Volunteering Barts Health**



*Nancy joined the Trust in January. She has an impressive background in volunteering which is evident from her summary of her career to date.*

I began my career as Partnership Consultant for the Welfare to Work Schemes and Employment Zones in 1999. My passion for volunteering grew as a direct result of recognising the impact volunteering had particularly for people who had not worked for a long time and had lost their confidence and self-esteem. Volunteering helped the clients to get ready for work whilst providing a valuable resource to lots of voluntary and community-based organisations in east London.

From that point on I made it my ambition to become more involved in understanding more and working to really evolve volunteer programmes and so I joined newly emerging volunteer bureaux in Newham in 2000.

I was seconded to Newham Council to work directly on the Olympic and Paralympics agenda and became one of the key deliverers working on the policy and training programmes for the Games Makers and Team London volunteer roles and in 2012. I won the Queen's Jubilee award for volunteering as a direct result of my work during the Olympics.

Other achievements include:

- Building a volunteering programme of 7,000 volunteers for the London Borough of Newham supporting over 60 different volunteering roles including: Befrienders, Counsellors, Sports Coaches, Library Volunteers. This was the largest council volunteer programme in the UK and was used as the benchmark for other local authorities.
- Presenting at the Houses of Parliament on behalf of the former Minister for Health and Social Care Phil Hope.
- Winning several funding bids including: ESF, Nesta, Big Lottery.
- Set up the Park Champion programme on behalf of the London Legacy Development Corporation as part of the Olympic and Paralympics legacy.

I am very keen to support volunteering at Barts Health NHS Trust. I am very impressed with the number of very dedicated volunteers, and hope to be of

assistance and support for volunteers across the Trust and will be able to increase the numbers of volunteers helping in a variety of roles both old and new.

I look forward to getting to know all of Barts volunteers so, if you have a query or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me on: 020 3465 5819  
Thank you.

## **Wendy Mead OBE**



*Wendy Mead as  
Sheriff of the City of London in 2011*

Guild Trustee and former Vice-Chairman Mrs Wendy Mead CC was awarded the OBE for Civic and Community Services to London in the New Year Honours. Wendy will receive her honour at a ceremony to be held at Windsor Castle in July. The Autumn edition of Guild News will have the full story but, meanwhile, we send Wendy our warmest congratulations on her well-deserved award.

**“Light, God’s eldest daughter, is a principal beauty in a building”**

**Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)**

Last July I was part of a small group touring the then still-to-be-opened King George V (KGV) Cardiac Centre at Barts Hospital. It was a first glimpse of the splendid new building for the heart hospital and cancer centre with a design sympathetic to the listed Georgian architecture that is such a glorious feature of Barts.

The soaring interior gives light and sight, enhanced by much glass and with trees and images (from Barts’ collections) bringing more intimacy to the eye-catching space. The Guild Shop, with which we are so pleased, sits centre-stage on the ground floor while the top of the building provides a magnificent view over London where, to misquote William Wordsworth, “all that mighty heart is [not] lying still”.

Contrary to the moaning of nay-sayers, the British have always been rather good at big construction projects. The KGV and the refurbished historic Square are further examples of this. The architect HOK, Barts Health NHS Trust, the construction project leader Skanska and Capital Hospitals Ltd are to be congratulated on their celebrated achievement. We may sense that the shades of James Gibbs, George Dance the elder and the younger, Philip Hardwick and Edward Strong junior are looking down approvingly. The building may be new, and it is of the year 2015, but it holds to their traditions.

I cannot do better than quote from Guild Trustee Sue Boswell and her stylish image captions in the Guild’s annual Calendar: “The new building

dramatically improves the hospital experience for patients, staff and visitors. It now houses state-of-the-art clinical facilities together with light and airy wards with en-suite bathrooms. The environment is designed to be warm, safe, welcoming and healing. As well as the airy glass atrium it has landscaped open spaces that create a sanctuary from the bustling urban environment of the City”. From my own and old stamping-grounds, too, there seems to me to be echoes in the KGV of the British Museum’s Great Court ceiling and the British Library reading rooms’ pillars and tiers – all internal architecture widely admired.

Sometimes history chooses to unveil a stunning vindication while a drama’s principal actors are still alive. This new building would not be there but for the decision of Frank Dobson, then Secretary of State for Health, in 1998 to save Barts Hospital from threatened closure.

**Did you know?**

That John Hunter, the founder of ‘scientific surgery’ whose collection of specimens formed the basis of the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons, studied at Barts under Percivall Pott from 1752 to 1753? The Hunterian Society, founded in 1819 and named in his honour, is dedicated to celebrating his lifetime of teaching and innovative experimentation, and awards the annual Hunterian Medal, prizes and scholarships.

## Light—continued

It was a great pleasure to remind Frank of this when he was principal guest at the Guild's recent Christmas Concert and to note too the presence there of Guild Trustee Wendy Mead who chaired the Save Barts Campaign in the 1990s (and for more than a decade later) and whose leadership was so important in a time of crisis.

It is as if the new KGV and the Hospital are now saying, with Marcus Aurelius, about those who would have brought Barts' history to a close "The best revenge is not to be like them".

And there is the beautifully refurbished Square and Fountain. Again, Sue

Boswell: "No longer would the heart of Barts serve as a car park but would be 'returned to the people', with seating areas, flower beds, restoration of the lamp standards, slopes rather than steps and an 'iconic' view through the archway from the Henry VIII gate". All this with the help too of 2,500 square metres of granite of different sizes imported from China! The Square now has regained "the intimacy some have called the secret places of the English" as James Knowles, once architect to the Hospital, described it.

In a superb speech a year ago to the Friends of the Great Hall and Archive of Barts, Dr David Starkey (see YouTube "David Starkey speaks at Barts annual dinner"!) drew attention to the importance of the permanence of great

hospital buildings and how it is a "privilege" to conserve (and build...) them.

They are a visual reflection of the continuity that generations of those practising medicine ensure when they pass on their knowledge to others that follow and to medical skills that improve constantly. Dr Starkey reminded his audience of the stability and continuity –"the bond between the past, the present and the future of the social contract" - so prized by Edmund Burke, whose influential thought still runs deep within society today.



*The Atrium in the new KGV Building  
(courtesy of Barts Health NHS Trust)*

Light—continued

There was a personal codicil to that July day. I remarked to the consultant cardiologist accompanying us that I had failed a routine test that morning at another hospital (not in Barts Health Trust). A quick pulse check and Professor Richard Schilling advised I became his patient straightaway. We set off, still safety-helmeted and with a Skanska escort, to his department for, ah, ‘tests’ - with the result that I became the first new patient, and before it opened, of the Barts new heart centre. I am extremely grateful to Professor Schilling, especially, and his colleagues for their expertise and consideration. In a sense the episode emblematised the long Barts tradition: the reassurance of medical excellence and of fine buildings. And maybe it could be classed as another Guild ‘first’? I admit to some sense of distinction on the patients’ roster while also feeling reminiscent of Alan Clark’s 1989 sentiment in his Diaries when a distinction came his way: “But it has not quite come in the form that I would have liked.”!

**Andrew Phillips**

## **Approval of amended plans for Maggie’s Centre & Great Hall**

*The Great Hall has seen many Guild events over the years and members will be interested to read of the progress made in securing the future of this much-loved part of Barts when the new Maggie’s Centre is built. The following article is extracted from Sir Marcus Setchell’s report to the Friends of the Great Hall and Archive.*

As a result of legal action by The Friends, and the subsequent proposal by the City for a Mediation process, Barts Health NHS Trust, Maggie’s, The Friends of The Great Hall and the City of London met together and agreed amendments to the Maggie’s plans at the North Wing’s east end. These would provide essential functional requirements to ensure the future sustainability of the Great Hall. The key changes are:

- A ‘bustle’ within the envelope of the Maggie’s building at the east end will house a large lift to all floors, providing access for disabled people, as well as for services and goods, and secondary stairs/fire escape compliant with current safety regulations.
- The east elevation’s stone facing to be restored and visible within the bustle which will give the ‘look and feel’ of the Gibbs’ building.
- Smart new toilets, including for the disabled, in the basement exclusively for the use of Great Hall visitors.
- The main Great Hall entrance from The Square to the foyer and Hogarth staircase is unchanged. There are new connecting entrances to the ‘bustle’ at basement, ground, first and second floors levels of the North Wing, providing access to the lift, secondary stairs and the toilets.

These changes to the Maggie’s plans were approved by the City Planning Committee on 24 February. Following demolition of the old Finance Block this spring, the above will all be achieved as part of the construction of the Maggie’s building. In due course



cloakrooms will be constructed in basement space under the North Wing.

At the west end, the Barts NHS Trust's amended plans for that end of the North Wing have provided some extra space to support the catering facilities. At present this space falls short of ideal. As a result of the legal action, the NHS Trust has agreed to 'support the needs' of the North Wing, and to continue negotiations as their plans become clearer.

Two members of the Friends' Committee have been appointed to the NHS/Maggie's Project Board, to take forward the details of the plans, with a specific brief to ensure that due care is given to the Listed Building during the building works, and that interior details are architecturally sensitive to the James Gibbs buildings. The construction company is Sir Robert McAlpine, with Arup being the construction engineers.

From March until June 2016 landscaping of garden spaces will be undertaken in consultation with the Guild to protect the ethos of the Princess Alice Garden.

In June 2016 the Great Hall's new facilities and Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre will open. **Marcus Setchell**

#### Did you know?

That Sir Marcus Setchell KCVO, FRCS, FRCSEd, FRCOG, who qualified at Barts in 1967 and is Vice-Chairman of the Guild, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist and head of the medical team who delivered the Royal baby, Prince George Alexander Louis, on 22 July 2013, was named in *The Evening Standard's* 'Power 1000: London's Most Influential People 2013' as 'most influential Londoner' because of his impact on tourism and the future of the monarchy? He was knighted in the New Year Honours List 2014 for his services to the royal household over more than two decades.

## Generous bequest - mystery benefactor



The Guild has been most fortunate to receive the benefit of a substantial legacy amounting to more than £200,000 from Ruth Nellie Fiorentini who lived in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

There is something of a mystery surrounding the bequest as we cannot trace the connection which Ruth Fiorentini had with the Guild or why she chose to donate such a sizeable sum for the benefit of the work we carry out.

Although we became aware of the bequest in April 2014 it has taken a while to collect the assets of Mrs Fiorentini's estate and to sell the accommodation in which she lived.

We have asked the solicitors dealing with the administration of the estate if they can help us as regards her connection with Barts and the Guild but they were unable to help. On-line research has also drawn a blank.

Was Ruth Fiorentini a Barts nurse? A patient? Perhaps married to a Barts doctor? Her late husband's name was Siegfried Fiorentini. Can readers of Guild News assist? Please do let us know. Her great generosity to the Guild deserves a context.

**Patrick Jennings**

## Christmas joy

The beginning of the Christmas season was duly celebrated with a concert given by the choir of the Barts and The London Music Society making their second appearance at *A Celebration of Christmas*. The guest of honour was veteran politician and saviour of Barts, Frank Dobson, who greatly enjoyed the evening and was later presented with a framed print of the Henry VIII Gate as a memento of his visit.



*The Guild's Hon Secretary Jenny Jeyarajah presenting a framed print of Barts Hospital's King Henry VIII Gate to Frank Dobson who was retiring from Parliament in 2015. When Secretary of State for Health in 1998 Frank Dobson saved Barts Hospital from the closure that threatened it. The presentation was made at Portcullis House.*

The music was punctuated with lively readings by actors Ursula Mohan and Frank Barrie.



*Frank Barrie with the choir*

Unashamedly 'Christmassy', both the music and the readings ranged from the sentimental to the sublime with a generous helping of the outrageously funny.

Our grateful thanks to the musicians who have truly won a place in the hearts of Guild members and to Frank and Ursula whom we hope we can look forward to seeing at future Guild events and, most certainly, on our TV screens.



*Ursula Mohan performs (Pictures by Chris Ellis)*

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to help on the evening and especially to the Saunderson House Limited staff members who found the energy after a busy day to volunteer as bar tenders. We are also grateful to Hogan Lovells International LLP who generously printed the programme for the concert.



## **Volunteer Voice**

In this edition we feature two ladies, Hilda Fazzani and Jane Graham, who between them have given much valued service for 60 years.

Hilda began her volunteering in the old Flower Shop. She told Guild News that she loved flowers and had always wanted a walled garden of her own but, as she lived in a flat, that was not possible – but she loved the Flower Shop. Thanks to its dedicated volunteers the Flower Shop often stayed open at weekends and until 7 or 8pm during the week so that visitors could buy flowers. Although Hilda was not a trained florist she created floral arrangements for Guild AGMs as well as flower baskets to present to honoured guests.

Hilda pointed out that, because the shop was near to the operating theatres, worried patients and their families could come in for a chat – an important service that the Guild Shop continues to provide. Hilda finds the new Shop very exciting!

Jane Graham who volunteered after a career as Sales Manager at Dickins and Jones. She told Guild News that she had done every job in the Trolley Service over a period of 30 years but now felt she needed a ‘sitting-down job’ and checks the daily takings ready for banking.

Asked what kept her volunteering, Jane said that she enjoyed the comradeship and that she liked to feel that she was doing some little thing to help others. What improvements would Jane like to see? Jane’s strong feeling was that the Trolley Service should be represented on the Guild committee.

We thank Hilda and Jane for all that they have done and continue to do to help Barts patients, their families and the whole hospital community.

**What’s your story? We would love to hear from more volunteers for future editions of Guild News. Please write to the Guild office or email Jan on [janoneill9@msn.com](mailto:janoneill9@msn.com)**

## **Satisfied patient/ satisfied customer**

It’s easy to assume that Barts souvenirs appeal only to staff past and present and to students. However, patients also like to have a memento of their stay at the Hospital. Recently an elderly gentleman who had been a Barts patient 10 years ago asked the shop for a glass tankard engraved with Barts logo. The Shop ordered a one-off for him from their suppliers. The grateful former patient was delighted with his purchase and declared himself to be “over the moon”.

## **Treats in store for volunteers**

Volunteers are to have the opportunity of discovering some of the Hospital’s hidden treasures in the Barts Vault. And, for those of you who prefer modern to ancient there will be an opportunity to visit and learn more about the Cyber Knife and its contribution to cancer treatment.

If you would like to be included in either or both of these visits please let Christine Ashby know.



## Dates for your diary

*Be sure to note the following events!*

**Friday 22 May**

**Spring Serenade**

*A chamber concert given in aid of the Guild by the Emmanuel String Quartet  
7.00 for 7.30 pm*

*Tickets £15 (£10 for Guild volunteers and BL students) from the Guild shop or by post from the Guild Office (please enclose an S.A.E, cheque payable to Barts Guild)*

**Thursday 11 June**

**Helpers' Tea**

*Talk in West Wing conference room by Steve Eames, SBH Construction Manager, followed by tea in James Gibbs Flat.*

*Event begins at 2.15 pm*

**Wednesday 28 October**

**Guild AGM**

*Great Hall*

*(Time and speaker TBC)*

**Saturday 14 November**

**800th Lord Mayor's Show**

*To walk with the Guild contact:  
Niamh Whelan*

**Thursday 3 December**

**Guild Christmas Bazaar**

*West Wing conference room*

*12.00 - 5.00 pm*

### Contact the Guild

*Write to:*

The Guild of St Bartholomew's Hospital, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Gloucester House  
St Bartholomew's Hospital, London EC1A 7BE

*(Contributions for Guild News to this address or by email please)*

Telephone: 020 3465 6015

Email: [BartsGuild@aol.com](mailto:BartsGuild@aol.com)

Visit our website: [www.bartsguild.org](http://www.bartsguild.org)



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*Barts Guild on Facebook*

Please note that the office is not staffed every day.  
Please leave a message and your query will be dealt with as soon as possible.