



Barts Guild News

ISSUE 9

MAY 2017

Turning to Technology

Barts Guild has recently upgraded its shop, its trolley service and its website.

Thanks to a private ring-fenced donation, the Guild had the opportunity to invest in up-to-date technology and install new smart tills in the shop and on the trolley service that visits the wards most mornings. This system enables our volunteers to scan products for sale, which results in a speedier service to our customers.

The smart tills also provide Christine Ashby, our Shop Manager, and Tony Dickenson, our Honorary Treasurer, with sales and stock control data at the click of a mouse through the new 'back office' software. The reports generated by the software provide, for the first time, a real-time snapshot of our sales that can be viewed by day, week, month and annually.

Alongside the smart tills, the Guild has also made a significant investment to strengthen its online presence. In July last year, Trustees gave the green light to a project led by Dr Elizabeth Sparrow that has resulted in a brand new website for the Guild.

Launched earlier this month, the Guild's new website provides more information about our activities and, crucially, enables us to take online payments for the first time.

Features of the new website enable visitors to:

- become a Guild member
- donate to the Guild online using a credit/debit card
- purchase souvenirs through our new online store
- register interest in becoming a volunteer
- read about the grants that the Guild awards, and apply online (for Barts staff)
- keep up with the latest news from the Guild and the Hospital



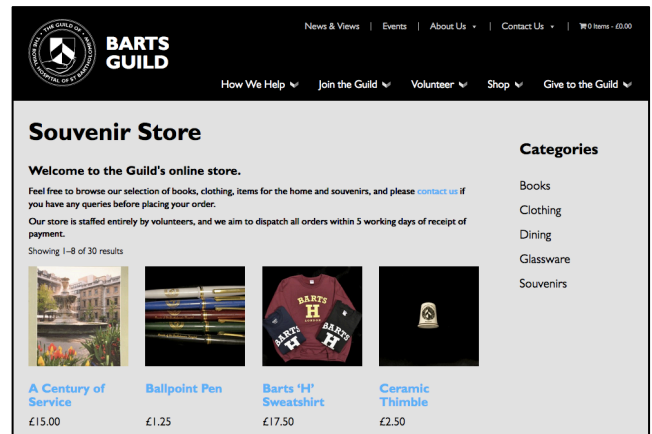
Guild Volunteer Monique with the trolley, fitted with the new till. Photograph: BOB COOPER

Turning to Technology *cont.*

The new website, pictured showing the front page of the 'Souvenir Store', has been developed with Westminster-based company 'Pedalo' and we will closely monitor the user statistics in the coming months, in order to measure the impact that the new site has on membership levels of the Guild and souvenir sales, as well as the donations we receive and the volume of grant applications.

We look forward to your visit at
bartsguild.org.uk

PHIL MOSS



Chairman's Round-up

I think that in future, the Guild would be well advised to undertake a risk assessment on the new Chairman before any appointment is made. However, five months after taking on the Chairmanship of the Guild, I am still here notwithstanding my abortive attempt to amputate my finger that resulted in my being in A&E when I should have been present at the Guild Christmas Concert and a very recent hospital excursion in order to have a somewhat more routine foot operation.

Despite these enforced absences, I have learned an enormous amount over the past few months. The good that the Guild can provide is limitless and in many ways, this is encapsulated by the Guild's shop and trolley rounds. We were especially pleased this year to re-introduce a Christmas Day Trolley Service for the first time in many years.

It is a great privilege to be part of the Guild team and I am pleased to report that the Guild is surging forward on a number of fronts.

The Shop and Trolley Service

Our retail activities remain one of the most important activities of the Guild. Following the most generous donation towards the cost of a new smart till, the equipment has been purchased and put into operation.

Tony Dickenson, our Honorary Treasurer, and Phil Moss have put a huge effort into programming details of all the stock into the system in order to enable the Guild to exercise better stock control and analyse the profitability of individual items.

Lesley Evans as Chair of the Guild's Shop Subcommittee, along with fellow committee members Steve Bench, Tony Dickenson, Andrew Phillips, Lorna Glace and Niamh Whelan and of course our Shop Manager Christine, have all made huge efforts to take the Shop and Trolley Service forward and their efforts have been rewarded by a significant expansion of services especially over weekends.

The Guild's Volunteers are not only fantastic, they are the bedrock of the Guild and encapsulate our ethos of caring for others. We are so grateful to them all – in so many ways, our volunteers are the Guild.

All of us are conscious that the Shop and Trolley Service must not stand still but move forward and whilst our plans to re-fit the Shop and reorganise the Store Room have been frustrated, we continue to strive to achieve these objectives as soon as we can mobilise all those involved in carrying out and authorising the necessary works.

Website

The new website is now live and provides a new clearer image of the Guild, adopting the traditional Barts Hospital black and white backdrop, and it is designed to cater for the Guild's needs for years to come by providing for online ordering, donations, ticket purchases and interactive use by volunteers. Our thanks to Elizabeth Sparrow (as Chair), Phil Moss, Andrew Smith, Ian McDowell and Rev Dr Sara Batts who formed the Website Implementation Group for their immense efforts in achieving such an excellent result.

In addition to the new website, the Guild is now active on Twitter and Facebook, so do follow us and watch out for our posts, links and photographs.

Grants

The Guild's role in providing much-needed grants for patients' and staff comfort continues unabated, notwithstanding Malcom Crisp's retirement after twenty-one years with the Guild and many of them organising the Guild's grants. The Guild will forever be grateful for his immense contribution to the Guild and Barts and for his charm and warmth of personality. Malcolm's tremendous example continues with Lorna Glace supported by the Grants Sub-committee with Valeria Locatelli as Chair and Jenny Jeyarajah, Niamh Whelan, Ian McDowell, Andrew Smith, as well as Lorna, who are evolving a grants strategy to assist in streamlining the system for the Guild's future grant awards.

Student Grants

With the benefit of a significant grant from Penny Wainwright, in memory of her father Dr Laurence Cartledge, a Barts house-surgeon in the Ophthalmology Department, we are finalising two grants for Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, for students facing financial hardship and wishing to benefit Barts. In this way we hope not only to help the future generation but also to spread the work of the Guild.

Barts Radio

The Guild has made a small but significant donation to Barts Radio to enable this facility to continue for the benefit of patients and we expect to work with their team in promoting our work – Watch this Space! As a first step along the path Andrew Phillips and Ian McDowell have recorded a special interview that has been broadcast.

Link: bartsguild.org.uk/barts-history-conversation/

Administrator

Helen Cooper, the Guild's Administrator, is due to leave in June. Helen has taken the administrator role to an entirely new level, overseen our move from Gloucester House to new office space in St Martin's Le Grand, organised us all with relentless efficiency and endeavoured to assist in every aspect of the Guild's activities. Thank you Helen, you have made a great contribution over your time with the Guild.

Helen's replacement will be Abha Mehta and we look forward to welcoming her shortly.

Life as the Guild's Chairman

There are a number of difficult challenges in being part of a volunteering organisation. We all come from very different backgrounds and have very different ways of going about our business and getting things done. The goal is to embrace those differences, accept each other's idiosyncrasies (especially mine) and support each other in striving to achieve our goal and keep the Guild moving forward and supporting Barts Hospital, its patients and staff. To my mind, this is achieved by a combination of flexibility, understanding, creativity and practicality which I know that all of us try hard to achieve, usually with a large measure of success.

I would like to close by thanking all the Trustees and co-opted members of the Management Committee as well as our volunteers for all their hard work in supporting the Guild, so much of which is unheralded and unseen but nonetheless vital to all that the Guild achieves.

Chairman's Round-up *cont.*

I would like to say a special thank you to Jenny Jeyarajah, our invaluable Honorary Secretary, for her immense support to me in my role and of course to Andrew Phillips our Immediate Past Chairman for his continuing involvement in so much of the Guild's work.

PATRICK JENNINGS

Kindness Stocks Guild Shop



About eleven years ago, when we had the shop in the old King George V building, there was also a library in another part of the building. The Trust decided to close it and, as I knew the librarian and staff, they asked me if we would like all the books to sell in our little shop.

At that time we had a flower shop but due to changes it was decided to close it. The books came at a great time as we were able to turn the flower shop into a bookshop!

I have to say we did have a lot more than I expected (it turned out that there were in fact two libraries) when I said yes we would love to take them. We were given approximately 10,000 books! Luckily there were a lot of empty clinics behind the shop so we stored the books there.

This started us off having book sales in Out-Patients. We began to add donated items to the book sales and so started the table-top sales.

DONATION FROM ITALY

Making donations online is growing in popularity and the Guild recently received a generous donation of £100 through our Virgin Giving account from an Italian family as a token of gratitude for the treatment that their daughter is receiving at Barts.

The new Guild website makes donating online to us even easier, and costs us less in processing fees.

bartsguild.org.uk/donate

I must say thanks to my great volunteers who always managed to find something for us to sell!! We held a table-top sale in the atrium of the new King George V building just before Christmas and raised £305.

We did the Christmas Bazaars after a conversation with friends on the Isle of Wight. I mentioned I would like to do one but wasn't sure what to sell and my friend Jan offered to make some knitted items; since then nearly every month (and more at Christmas) I have received by post baby clothes, hats, bags, mice and dolls with knitted clothes and lots more. Also, another friend, Brenda, has sent by post for the last two years 180 pairs of socks, hats and children's wear. Thanks to this conversation over coffee at my friend Pam's house we now have a fantastic assortment of knitting and crocheting from a wide range of wonderful people – all beautifully made. Last month we sold jewellery, knitted goods, bric-a-brac and books totalling nearly £300.

The patients, staff and visitors often say it is wonderful to browse in the shop as it helps them relax and forget their worries for just a minute while they have a bit of retail therapy looking at our nice range of different things.

The photo above shows just some of the lovely items we received this Christmas from the Isle of Wight.

CHRISTINE ASHBY
Manager, Guild Shop

Almoners at Barts – Medieval or modern?



Author Sandra celebrating her 70th birthday at St. Paul's Cathedral

I consider myself very fortunate as I was employed in the role of Lady Almoner at Barts for a large part of my working life. If you are not familiar with the phrase Lady Almoner you will be younger than me, as it was discontinued in 1965 well after I was an adult at work in the Almoner's Department of a provincial hospital which had formerly been a workhouse. Now you will know us as the Social Workers employed by the Local Authority working within a hospital setting alongside other members of the multidisciplinary team.

I also think I was very lucky in having the opportunity to work in the oldest hospital still offering free patient care on the same site where it was founded in 1123. This made me think more about medieval medicine and the experiences of the sick person in the Middle Ages. One of the premises of my work was the belief that any worry you have impedes healing. My role as Lady Almoner, and later as Social Worker, included helping patients, their relatives and friends, with any social, practical, economic or emotional problem that they might face whilst coping with illness, treatment or bereavement.

In the Middle Ages it was thought more important to look after the soul than the body.

It was a John Mirfield of Barts who wrote in the 13th century "Health giving medicine should be principally for the health of the soul, which is more honourable, more dignified, than that of the body". I am going to suggest to you that the work of the medieval hospital had similar aims to those of my own work in a hospital in the 21st century, helping patients find ways of managing a life of disability or disadvantage.

The story of Barts reflects the story of so many medieval hospitals. You will be familiar with the story of Rahere who in 1123 went on the 'grand tour'. He was taken ill whilst in Italy. He promised God that if he should be healed he would return to the City of London where he would found a hospital for the poor people of the city. Whilst in Italy he spoke of having a dream in which St Bartholomew came to him. He did recover and returned to London where he founded first a monastery for Austin Canons and alongside it a small refuge which was the origin of St Bartholomew's Hospital.

In the Middle Ages hospitals were not as we know them nowadays. Following the Norman Conquest the hospital system spread throughout England, Wales and the lowlands of Scotland. The 'hospitals' were for the poor, sick or disabled people who needed care or for travellers taken ill on journeys. People who could afford it would seek the advice of specialists but more often than not the Apothecary would prepare potions from plants and they would be cared for in their homes.

A large proportion of the hospitals were attached to monasteries and doctors were monks or other religious men – looking after the sick has always been seen as a Christian duty and giving money or bequeathing land for this purpose would have the same virtue, which is why hospitals like Barts, with so many benefactors over the ages, could continue to offer free patient care to those who needed it.

Other hospitals in the Middle Ages were the forerunners of the almshouses and workhouses set up by religious or charitable foundations and known as Maison Dieu or House of God.

Almoners at Barts – Medieval or modern? *cont.*

The third main group of hospitals in the Middle Ages were leprosaria as leprosy was rife in the early middle ages.

Looking at modern-day maps tells us the history of how people lived centuries ago. An area or building called Spital often refers to a medieval hospital. I have also found Maison Dieu or derivations of these phrases on maps.

These medieval hospitals ranged from small rooms set aside outside a village or town to large self-sufficient monastery-hospitals. These latter buildings were usually laid out in a quadrangle as Barts still is today. The larger ones had their own market garden or allotments. They had a brewery as the water was much too dangerous to drink in those days. They used to employ women to care for the patients and work in the laundry and kitchens.

Medicine at this time was based on the theory of the four humours. This attached importance to sweet smells, light, and air. Patients participated in the music, singing and confessional services held at least once a day. Plants were often the basis of treatment. More recent studies of soil from monastery hospital sites have given us information about the plants used and consequently the illnesses that were treated in those days.

Among the more famous monastery hospitals still recognised today are St Cross at Winchester and St Leonard's at York. However there were other 'hospitals' in the City of London. There is a plaque commemorating one at 52 Threadneedle Street in 1242. There was also a hospital near the site of The Savoy Hotel, and St James's Palace was once the site of a leper hospital. Both the latter were recorded in the 16th century.

In London Barts became firmly established in the life of the City. The hospital was run by the Austin Canons, the healing and care of the sick being seen as a fundamental religious duty. One of these Canons had the role of the Almoner.

The Almoner was responsible for ensuring all were paid, all revenues were collected and that the 'patients' were discharged once well enough

to manage outside the hospital environment, thus ensuring no undue bed blocking. The latter not so different from one of the many tasks of the modern day Social Worker in the hospital!

Barts continued to thrive until the arrival of Henry VIII. We are all familiar with the dissolution of the monasteries – but this meant that the majority of the monastery hospitals were also dissolved. This was the fate of Barts following the first Act of Dissolution in 1536. However, following a public outcry Henry VIII gave special permission for Barts to be reinstated as a hospital just before he died in 1546, but all links with the monastery were cut and the hospital administration was given to the City of London. Governors were appointed in place of monks though the Almoner role continued as before.

From the 17th century the pattern of hospitals and medicine developed to one similar to the model we know today. Doctors could be lay people who undertook apprenticeships under other doctors. Hospitals were not only religious houses but many were established by specific trades and professions e.g. the Masons, The Royal Naval Hospital in Greenwich as well as those of charitable foundations.

Almoners continued their role until the pressure on hospitals like Barts offering free health care, particularly antenatal care, in the Victorian period caused problems. The gentlemen almoners decided they needed to interview the outpatients to check that they qualified for the free health care. Did they live locally? Did they have resources of their own to pay for medical care? The Gentlemen Almoners thought a woman was more suitable for this role and thus the first Lady Almoner was appointed in 1895 at the Royal Free Hospital. In 1898 The British Medical Journal recorded that the 'Lady Harmony' as she was affectionately called seemed to be a good thing.

By 1906 there were six Lady Almoners in cities from London to Newcastle, and by 1911 the London School of Economics had set up the first training course. The Governors thought that the Lady Almoner was there to prevent overload on their services but from early on the Lady

Almoners at Barts – Medieval or modern? *cont.*

Almoner decided she had another role. She felt she should also ensure that the patients had the advice, information and resources they needed to manage in the community following discharge home.

After the introduction in 1948 of the National Health Service the financial problems lessened though being ill has always caused financial problems for patients and their families. By 1965 the term Lady Almoner became unfashionable and the Lady Almoner became the Medical Social Worker and then in 1975 responsibility for the social work service in hospitals was transferred to the Local Authority – which is how I ended up working for the City of London. The role now included statutory responsibilities for the elderly,

for vulnerable people because of mental or physical illness and of course for children. Sadly, Barts decided to close its Social Work Department in 2010; the social work service is now provided by the social workers in the local authority where the patient lives, so it really is the end of Almoners at Barts.

In conclusion I would like to take you back to the experience of patients in the medieval hospital. In many cases they experienced clean, warm accommodation, loving care, music, singing, food and beer. In 1921 a Barts doctor observed “More people are ill because they are unhappy, than unhappy because they are ill”. In medieval England patients may not have had curative medical care but when they died perhaps they died happy.

SANDRA Y GANN

Volunteer Voice



I retired in July 2014 after working in the City for 44 years. In my last role I worked for an Asset Management Company managing a team within our Client Services Department. Once I retired I was able to pursue more of my hobbies – I really

enjoy playing golf, walking and swimming. During the winter of 2016 I started to think that I needed to do more and I saw the advert for volunteers in the Evening Standard to work in the shop at Barts. The attraction to me for this role was that I would be coming back into London on a regular basis and I would be able to make use of my particular skills whilst at the same time supporting the NHS. I enjoy going in on a fortnightly basis and we are kept busy in the shop, filling shelves, pricing and of course – the main part – interacting with customers and patients.

JILL ROWLINSON

VOLUNTEER HELPERS' TEA

Thursday 15 June, 2.30pm – 5pm

Please contact Christine in the shop for details.

Did you know?

That Sir Richard Whittington, alias Dick Whittington of ‘turn again’ fame, had a Barts connection? He was a wealthy merchant and Lord Mayor of London who on his death in 1453 left a large amount of money to charity, some of which his executors used to pay for the construction of a south gate to St Bartholomew's Hospital on which the Whittington arms were placed, and also a stone column adjoining the chapel.

As well as being a memorial to Whittington, these works also covered arrears owed by Whittington to the hospital for the rent of his mansion in a nearby street, according to Greta Barnes' book *Long Live Bart's* (available in the Guild shop and online).

GS

Christmas 2016 in pictures

Volunteer Christmas party

Guild volunteers started the ball rolling with a splendid party at the Lord Raglan pub with good company, drinks, a lavish buffet supper and one of Christine Ashby's legendary free raffles. As you can see a high old time was had by all including your editor seen brandishing the first raffle prize she has ever won. Many thanks to the mistresses of the revels: Jenny Jeyarajah, Niamh Whelan and Christine Ashby.

Photographs: LESLEY BURNETT



Santa's helpers

Anthea Finn, Mandy Handley, Margaret and David Henry, Sue Mason, Jackie Sanderson and Guild President Ann Wickham morphed into a band of rather elegant elves to wrap 300 Christmas gifts for in-patients. The parcels included traditional items such as toiletries and chocolates and, this year, a Guild-branded mug with a selection of tea bags. Thank you all ladies and gent! *Photographs: SUE MASON*



Christmas 2016 in pictures

A Celebration of Christmas

On 6 December Guild members and our friends and supporters gathered in the Great Hall to celebrate the season with our traditional Christmas Concert. Once again the Barts and The London Music Society under their Conductor Matthew Hardy gave a splendid performance of traditional Christmas songs which included an appearance by members of the Society's Jazz Band. Actors Delena Kidd and Gary Raymond delighted everyone with a superb selection of readings.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from our good friends at Saunderson House the concert turned a profit of £2,061 which will benefit patients, staff and visitors. Grateful thanks are due to our Sponsors, to Lynne Warnock for masterminding the raffle, to the Saunderson House volunteers who ran the bar, and to everyone who gave their time to help make the evening a success.

Photographs: BOB COOPER



Lynne Warnock (Guild trustee)



BLSA Choir



Delena and Gary



BLSA Jazz Band



Sir Marcus thanks the performers

On Christmas Day in the morning



Three rousing cheers, if you please, for the Trolley Volunteers who gave their time over the holidays to serve patients obliged to spend Christmas in hospital. David, Jane and Helen did the round on Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve was covered by Helen and Lorna. On Christmas Day Steve, David (right) and Lesley delivered the presents to patients. The Snowman (left) on the left with David is Matthew, a patient who kindly offered his help – we wish him a speedy recovery.

Photographs: LESLEY EVANS



Andrew Phillips – A Personal Reflection

**“Hey, you don’t want to be see-sawed
Got their attention now you’re
Chairman of the board”** (song by Motor Ace)

Over four years ago, when becoming Barts Guild Chairman, I mentioned to our Patron that I had no medical or Barts Hospital background, saying “It’s a bit like appointing a Canadian to be Governor of the Bank of England”. Since then I felt my fortunes might be tied, albeit in some distant minuscule way, with those of Mark Carney!

When Jan O’Neill, our Editor, asked me for an ex-chairman’s piece for Barts Guild News I thought I could write about happenings during my time as chairman. But you’ve seen a lot of that already in annual reports and chairman’s letters to the AGM. Instead I’ll note some personal impressions and perspectives especially perhaps for the interest of our young colleagues in the Barts and The London medical college whose entry into the Guild is one of the most pleasing aspects of my time with this superb charity. It’s a chance, too, to sprinkle around some names of past personalities who’ve long interested me... and a bit of heart-on-sleeve.

Our President’s artful persuasion drew me to the Guild, although I didn’t anticipate becoming so involved with it. But I’ve never met better colleagues than some I’ve encountered in the Guild and it has been a heartfelt honour to chair this association of historical eminence, present achievement and future hope. Feelings like this are very personal and often don’t reflect what an outside observer may think people have, or haven’t, done or thought – just as a certain gilded if flawed politician could still say of a long and tempestuous career, “In 1963 I was asked to give a memorial address to David Lloyd George in Caernarfon. I regard this as the highest honour I have ever been given”.

It’s obvious, so obvious as to be easily overlooked, that helping to lead volunteers is much more difficult than being in a salaried organisation, simply because volunteers can walk away if they don’t like “you” or “it”!

Chairing a (virtually wholly) voluntary body is more akin to steering a political party than heading a ‘management’ organisation. Similarly, whatever sonorous title you may bear, everyone volunteering is equal – and long may that be so. You might have rebuilt Alexandria’s Pharos Lighthouse or the Hanging Gardens of Babylon earlier in your life or career; it still won’t cut the mustard to your fellow volunteers, especially those contributing their heart and time in the shop and trolley service, if your own value to the Guild is not manifest in some clear way.

I told a friend that a charity like the Guild reminded me curiously of a warship, maybe even an aircraft carrier. The engine room and hull (shop and trolley) are the core daily reason why the ship delivers its purpose and is able to journey from A to B. However there are also the gunnery and radar (our grants and outreach: e.g., Barts Guild News, Annual Report, website); communication with the rest of the Fleet (Barts Health Trust management, Barts Hospital departments and management, other Barts charities, other hospital Friends associations); relation with the Admiralty (the Charity Commission, the Patron and his office); and, if we have a flight deck we have airplanes too (the potential reach of our website and its features, internet ordering from any distance, and so on). Just as in a navy, by no means all the skilled working of the engine room is seen by those on the ship’s bridge and not all of the bridge’s expertise viewed by the engine room...

Volunteering, especially, requires give and take and an acceptance that everyone should find some satisfaction in doing what they are giving freely in a common cause – plus a minimum of carping. As well as trying to ensure balance of good organisation, propriety, legality and all today’s further buzz-terms a charity auditor might clock a chairman shouldn’t forget to encourage this feeling of enjoyment and satisfaction.

Naturally you don’t always get it right, or right enough. That’s why I’ve said to much younger colleagues who, so pleasingly, have become trustees “You can always learn something from

Andrew Phillips – A Personal Reflection *cont.*

any chairman. Look at what you think I do well and, as important, what I appear to do badly”.

With humour the Randlord, Lionel Phillips, described his great house of Hohenheim on Parktown ridge above Johannesburg as “Phillips’s Folly” because of its expense. I look back at some events and choices during my whole career and admit that his singular ‘Folly’ would need expanding into my plural!

“Aren’t you the Chairman of/Ego, Inc?” Yes, there will be moments when feelings or views like this, even if largely unspoken, bubble in the minds of colleagues though – meeting WH Auden’s question – I hope not too much! I’ve been very fortunate in my colleagues across the Guild, in their support and forbearance. It has probably been a passage of relations, late-life, that has given me the most satisfaction of my ‘working’ career. I am very grateful for that. There have been very few episodes in my Guild times, perhaps only one, when I felt in similar mood to that sometimes present, it was said, in the longest serving chairman of the Conservative Party’s 1922 Committee, when “Home was where he had last plunged his stiletto”.

For a quarter of a century Warden John Sparrow, with many abilities, held sway over All Souls, Oxford. Nonetheless there were not a few who might have wished his reign to be as short as the flight of the sparrow, in the Venerable Bede’s tale, that flies swiftly from the winter cold through one window and out of another of the warm Anglo-Saxon mead hall, symbolising our brief stay in this world. His self-belief intertwined with some self-insight: “I am much cleverer than you” he told his biographer “But, when it comes to common sense, you are streets ahead”. The two aptitudes are neither antithetical nor paradoxical! even if all of us have bumped into clever fools at one time or another. As chairman it’s been such a huge pleasure to see so much shrewdness and cleverness abound within the Guild, appreciation of the art of the possible – and compassion. “A good heart and a good mind are always a powerful combination”: as so often, Nelson Mandela spoke for everyone.

What capabilities might we aspire to, or hope for, when winched up to a ship’s bridge? Max Hoffmann was widely thought, not least by Winston Churchill, to be the genius of the German Army in World War I, the architect of their great victory at Tannenberg and the chief influence behind their successful war in Russia. He was able to assess the entire warfront the whole chessboard, if you will, not just its vertical, horizontal or diagonal squares – and to manipulate his forces to meet different sizes of facing challenge, while also having a knack of discerning what his opponents might be thinking. We could borrow a term and call this capacity “wide-sight”.

(Lord) Denis Healey is often considered to be among the best prime ministers we never had. He was also possibly the most intellectual and cultured British politician of the last half-century: Emily Dickinson’s poetry, Mozart’s music and Kant’s philosophy being just three of his knowledge’s treasure troves. He concealed part of this sensitivity beneath a political bruiser’s cloak, “grip” being one of the qualities he most valued politically and managerially and which he possessed.

Wide-sight and Grip: like twin invading Vikings... – or, rather, two pearls of great price. Anyone cast in any leadership position anywhere anytime (paid or unpaid!) will wish for these qualities in reasonable measure. Most of us, almost inevitably (unless of the calibre of outstanding examples cited here), won’t have enough of them to wholly satisfy others – or ourselves, especially if we set the bar of our own standards high. Sometimes it’s only later that it becomes fully apparent whether someone has or hasn’t demonstrated them, like the former prime minister Clement Attlee, underestimated frequently in his lifetime and whose reputation is now held in high regard by so many across the political scene. Often, to close with the theme of perhaps the best of Edith Wharton’s wonderful ghost stories, “you won’t know till afterward, not till long, long afterward”.

ANDREW PHILLIPS

Bryan Drury Markwell FDS RCS 1926-2016



Readers will be sorry to learn of the death on 24 October 2016 of Bryan Markwell, formerly Consultant Oral and Dental surgeon at Barts and a great devotee of the Hospital.

Bryan was born in Stoke Newington. At the outbreak of war his father, who had seen service in WWI, became an Air Raid Warden and Bryan was enrolled as a messenger, with a much-prized steel helmet and an ARP badge for his bicycle. His career as a messenger was cut short when his school was evacuated but, to his great delight, he returned to London just in time for the Blitz. Bryan joined the army in 1943 and served in India, Tobruk and Benghazi in Libya, Palestine, Egypt and Aden.

On leaving the army Bryan trained at the Royal Dental Hospital and began his career as a houseman at the Grove, St George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner where he met his wife Peggy who was a nurse. They married in 1956 and had three children, Adam, Nick and Anna.

Bryan's career continued as a Registrar at the Royal Northern from where, in 1967, he undertook a lecture tour of the USA covering the east and west coasts and Texas. On his return Bryan sat his Fellowship exams and was appointed a Consultant at Barts. He began a private practice in Wimpole Street and later Harley Street. He combined his private practice with operating lists as a Consultant Oral and Dental Surgeon at Barts, King Edward VII and St. Mark's Hospitals. Bryan also operated at the London Clinic and the Wellington.

Sadly Peggy, Bryan's wife of more than 50 years, died in 2010. Despite this Bryan managed to continue to live in their home for the rest of his life with support from his daughter Anna and friends.

Bryan was a Governor of Barts and a Freeman of the City of London. He was immensely proud of his long connection with the Hospital and requested that the Barts shield be carved on his headstone.



Barts Guild

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 23 October

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Great Hall at Barts
Save the date!

Saturday 11 November

THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

Walk with the Guild

Tuesday 5 December

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

The Great Hall at Barts, 7.00 for 7.30 pm
Save the date!