



# Barts Guild News

ISSUE 20

NOVEMBER 2022

## The Trolley rolls again

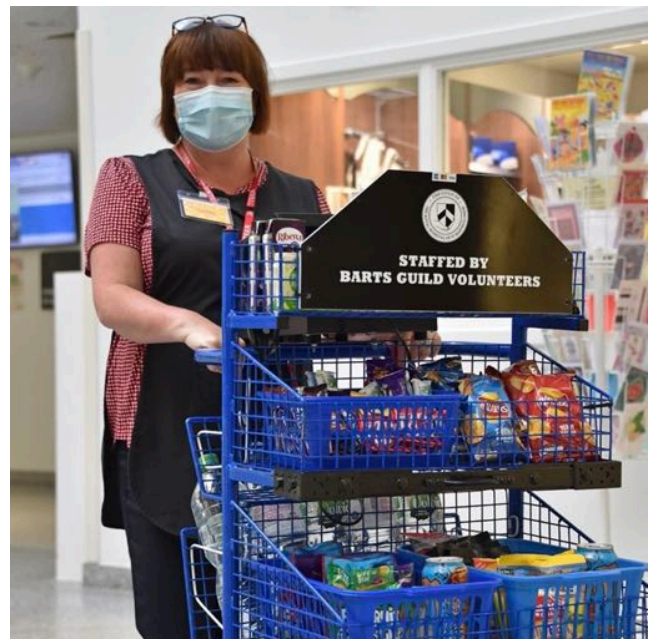
On 13 July 2022 the Trolley began its stately progress around the wards again after a long suspension during the pandemic. Its return was greeted with delight by patients who appreciate the opportunity to buy snacks and treats without leaving their ward and enjoy a chat with our friendly volunteers.

Trolley volunteer Monique Gold, one of the first to bring good cheer and chocolate to patients and ward staff said: "I loved our return to the wards. It was great to see peoples' faces light up when they saw the Trolley was back."

Thank you, Andy Haddon (shop manager) and our marvellous volunteers for reinstating a service which makes such a difference to the patients' day.



*Guild volunteers Monique and Michael restart the Trolley*  
Photo: ANDY HADDON



*Guild volunteer Lesley starts another Trolley round*  
Photo: NEIL RITSON

**[bartsguild.org.uk](http://bartsguild.org.uk)**

## Christmas shopping

The Guild Shop makes it easy to fill every stocking on your Christmas list. There's lots to choose from – books, clothing, hand knitted items, souvenirs and cards galore.

If you aren't visiting Barts in time to shop for Christmas, the online shop will deliver to your door!

Shop early for Christmas and support the Guild's work for Barts patients and staff.

[bartsguild.org.uk/souvenir-store/](http://bartsguild.org.uk/souvenir-store/)



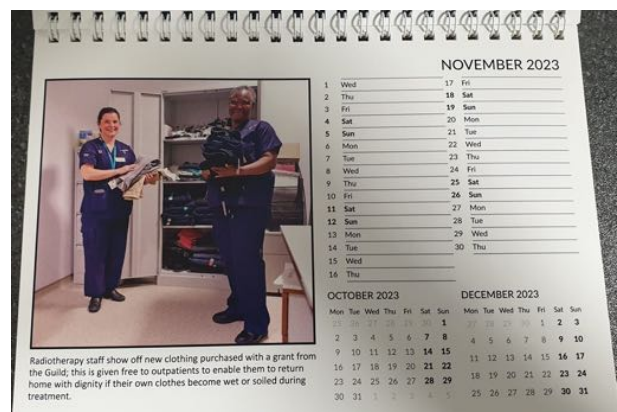
## Christmas cards

As always, we have an exciting range of Guild Christmas cards to suit everyone, and a snip at only £3.50 per pack of 10 cards and envelopes.



## Calendar 2023

New this year is the Barts Guild desk top calendar illustrated with photographs showcasing Guild activities and personalities. The calendar is a handy A5 size. Available now from the Shop in the atrium or online at £4 per copy.





## Chairman's Letter 2022

---

As I come to the end of my first year as your Chairman I do so with a sense of immense pride in the commitment of our Guild served so devotedly by its Management Committee and Volunteers.

We have 'weathered the storm' of the Coronavirus Pandemic during which we were able to keep our shop in the hospital open although sadly not able to operate our trolley service around the wards. However, I am pleased to report that the Trolley is now back in action.

At our belated 'Christmas Party' I was able to recognise the inspiring successes and commitment of a number of our volunteers who had devotedly served our Guild over a number of years (see BGN Issue 19).

Our volunteers are at the very heart of what we are about and what we do, proactively keeping our presence as a constant in the life and work within the Royal Hospital of St Bartholomew. To each of them I say a heartfelt 'thank you' for all that they have done and continue to do.

I also want to record my thanks to my fellow Officers and members of the Guild's Management Committee. They too are volunteers who work together to strategically lead the long-term success of our ancient charity. And it is of course our charitable giving to good causes and projects in the hospital that makes such a practical difference to the recipients of our many grants.

In particular, I want to mention our donation of £50,000 to the refurbishment project of the Great Hall. This is by far the largest ever grant we have made to this very special project and our Guild name will be recorded for posterity in the Great Hall of St Bartholomew as a result.



*Christopher Hayward*

So, as we prepare to celebrate the 900th Anniversary of our Royal Hospital next year I can record that your Guild is in 'good heart' and remains as it has always been devoted to the needs of others.

I am proud to lead such a dedicated team as your Chairman and I look forward with relish to the coming year.

With my warmest good wishes to all of you.

Christopher M Hayward  
*Chairman*



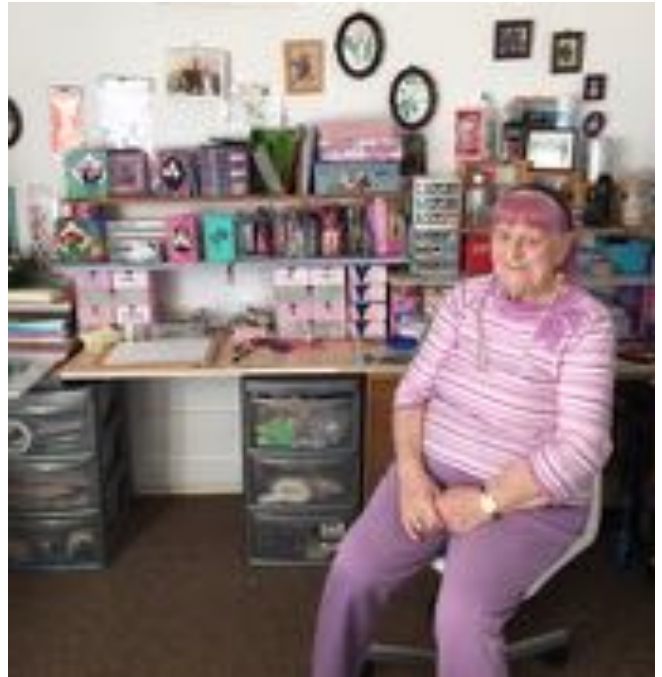
## Barts Guild Crafts

Tucked away in different parts of London and elsewhere in England are a group of ladies, current and ex-patients of Barts Hospital, who with their individual craft skills donate gifts to the Guild to sell in the Guild Shop.

Usually, these donors live on their own, are in their eighties and nineties and seem to overcome the infirmities of old age. They produce beautifully knitted garments, blankets, baby clothes, muffs, crotchet and tatting items, lace collars, jewellery, birthday and gift cards, drinks mats, and so much else for us to sell in the shop. None of these items stay very long on the shelves!

Let me introduce you to some of the members.

Mrs Margaret Salmon (aged 91), known as Margy, lives in a flat in east London, and every room is just filled with examples of her many talents from paintings to cards, bedcovers, knitted scarves and bed jackets, cards with 'cutout' designs, dolls and dolls clothes – the list is endless! And amongst it all – a smiling Margy in her Aladdin's Cave! Even her tiny gardens, rear and front, are filled with flowers and lettuce and tomatoes! And she can cook as I discovered!



*Mrs Margaret 'Margy' Salmon (91)*



*Sister Elizabeth O'Connor (91)*

Sister Elizabeth O'Connor (also aged 91) is a nun from the Sisters of Mercy who are based (at the time of writing) in Shadwell, east London.

They are a teaching order, and Sister Elizabeth taught for over forty years at convent schools all over the world. She used to visit for many years without coming across the shop until she became a patient herself. Then she started knitting for the hospital.

Sister Elizabeth knits the most beautiful clothing for new born babies, often knitting whilst waiting for her appointments in the Outpatients Department. Her stories are full of life and pathos, her smile beatific. We often have a cup of coffee and I have visited (and lunched!) at the Convent.

*Continued on page 5.*

## Barts Guild Crafts cont.

Santosh Alden runs a 'Craft and Conversation' group at the Barbican, which meets on a Monday. There are about 100 registered members and the range of skills among the attendees is quite amazing, including one lady who spins her own wool. They produce some wonderful donations for the shop of all types of crafts.

Carmen Brooker lives in north London but grew up in Malta and is always so very happy when she comes to the hospital with her donations of usually 2-3 bags of knitted garments. We have a good chat over a cup of coffee when she comes for her appointments.

And a special thanks to Julie Townsend who not only delivers her own donations, but who brings bags of knitting from two other donors, one of whom lives in Nelson, Lancashire, Mrs Brenda Hustler, and Mrs Dorothy Miller who lives nearby.

Brenda, sadly, has just had a stroke, and is unable to make her gifts of keyrings, gift labels and her delicate lacework and tatting, but she is determined to recover!

And, of course, there are many more members of our 'Barts Guild Crafts' who donate their knitting or crochet, cards or jewellery gifts to the Guild Shop.

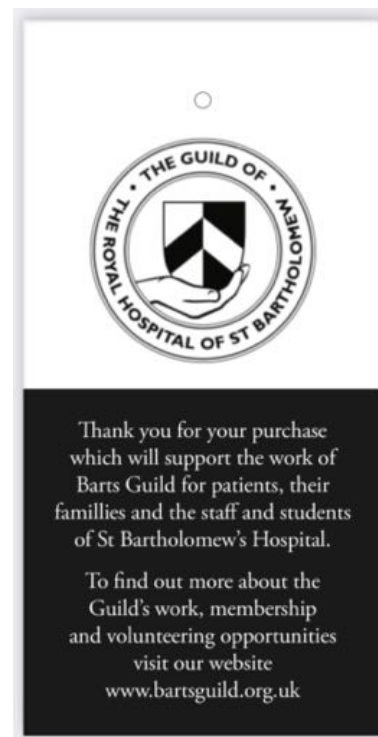
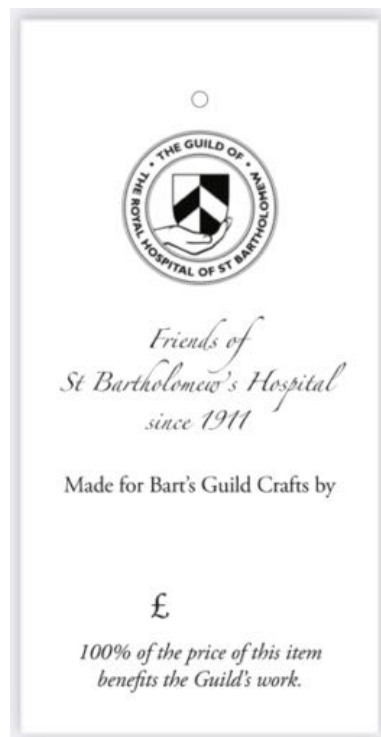
In total, these gifts raise at least £2,000-£3,000 a year, with which we can buy small items of furniture, cushions and electrical goods for the nurses, patients and medical students, just to make life a little more comfortable.

We can't thank all our volunteer crafts people enough for all you do with such skill, care and love for St Bartholomew's Hospital.

Next year, 2023, the Hospital and St Barts the Great Church celebrate their 900th birthday. Founded by Prior Rahere in 1123, both the Church and the Hospital are still on the same site they were built on in 1123!

ANN WICKHAM  
*Barts Guild President*

Look out for the tagged items in the Guild Shop... while they last!



## Elective Grant report: Charlotte Foster

---

I have worked within Barts Health as a Dietitian since I qualified where I have been privileged to work in an array of specialisms. Earlier this year, I recently started a new role as a Senior Specialist Dietitian in the St Bartholomew's Allergy service. I applied to the Guild for funding to enable me to attend a 4-day Allergy in Practice course, run by the Allergy Academy. Being new to Allergy, I was very keen to attend this course so that I could obtain a holistic understanding of allergy and food allergy and help to fast track my training and understanding in a new specialist area.

*What did the course entail and what did you learn or find useful?*

Three of the four days involved a series of lectures online, with the final day being an in-person practical day based at St Thomas' Hospital. Days one and two focussed on the core elements immunology, taking an allergy focussed history, the methods of diagnosing allergies, interpreting test results and certain allergy diagnoses from urticaria, FPIES and drug allergies, as well as a lecture on research in allergy.

The third day was particularly useful for me as this had a strong focus on food allergy with lectures from different Dietitians working in other Allergy centres. I particularly enjoyed a lecture given from a Dietitian working in adult allergy based at Guys Hospital where she unpicked a lot about cofactors that can impact allergic reactions. The case studies discussed were very relatable to the clinical cases that I see in my practice.

At the end of each lecture there was opportunity to ask questions and also time set aside for clinical case discussions which was really valuable to consolidate theoretical knowledge.

The final day was a practical skills day. This was split into two sessions. The morning session



*Charlotte Foster*

focussed on skin prick testing and EpiPen training and demonstrations from dermatologists and specialist nurses on inhaler techniques. For me, the skin prick training and EpiPen training were particularly valuable and useful. I have since started to take on more responsibility with doing skin prick testing in my clinics to help with the diagnostic process.

The afternoon was spent in the simulation lab, whereby we were split into groups of different multidisciplinary professionals and we were asked to draw on all the knowledge we had acquired from the course to respond to a hypothetical clinical scenario. The scenario I was involved in was an adult coming in for a food challenge to peanut.

*Continued on page 7.*



## Elective Grant report: Charlotte Foster cont.

---

Shortly after the food challenge began he became clinically unwell and was having anaphylaxis. This simulation, although overwhelming, was a brilliant learning opportunity. It helped to draw all the theory I had gained into practice, from learning about how reactions can manifest to helping me to identify the signs of a clinically deteriorating patient and the treatment steps involved to stabilise them. It encouraged me that in high stress clinical situations (which can feel overwhelming as an allied health professional), there are always ways you can support your medical and nursing colleagues who will be doing the more “hands on” treatment.

*How will the knowledge you have acquired from attending the course impact your practice as a Dietitian?*

Attending this course has exceeded my expectations in terms of learning outcomes. The breadth of subjects covered and quality of teaching was outstanding. The course has given me a good foundation in understanding that this area of medicine is not always black and white when it comes to diagnosing patients (which can be hard to accept when you are learning). It has reinforced to me the importance of spending

time with my patients to obtain detailed allergy focussed histories, the limitations of allergy testing and when it is appropriate to request biochemical tests and the essential need for effective multidisciplinary team working.

The practical element of the course with skin prick testing and the patient simulation has been particularly impactful. I have already been practising skin prick testing on my colleagues in the hope of utilising these skills on patients in my clinics in the coming months. This will help to streamline the patient experience and hopefully reduce the number of times they need to come to hospital for tests as I hope to be able to carry them out in their appointment on the same day.

I want to extend my special thanks to Hilary Tarr at Barts Guild for her kindness and support in liaising with myself, the Guild and the Allergy Academy. I am so thankful to the Guild for their financial generosity; it has been a huge blessing to attend the course at this point in my role and has really helped make a difference to skillset and knowledge.

CHARLOTTE FOSTER

### **Barts Guild Grants**

We award thousands of pounds each year in grants to improve the care provided to patients at St Bartholomew's Hospital, including funding the purchase of additional equipment and contributing to staff development.

And in recent years we've provided grants to students at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry for their Elective Placements.

If you work at Barts and think we can help your department, then we'd love to hear from you.

[bartsguild.org.uk/grants](http://bartsguild.org.uk/grants)

## Guild on view

The Guild made its presence felt on View Day with a large stall and willing helpers to spread the word about our work and to sell goods from the Guild Shop and some generously donated items.

A rather snazzy suit donated by Graham Norton was sold by silent auction. The winning bid was made by Patrick Jennings.

Patrick has kindly modelled his purchase for BGN (see page 9) and I am sure that we will all agree that he looks very stylish indeed.

Despite cold, pouring rain and strong winds we raised a tidy sum, signed up two new members and had great fun. See you all at View Day 2023!

JAN O'NEILL



*Ann, Jackie and Wendy share a joke with a four-legged friend.*

*Photo: BOB COOPER*



*Ready to spread the word (L-R) –  
Ann, Hilary, Lizzie, Jackie, Jenny, Wendy and Jan.*

*Photo: BOB COOPER*



## Guild on view cont.



*Patrick Jennings' new suit!*  
Photo: JAYNE JENNINGS



*Letter of authenticity from Graham Norton.*

## Celebrate Christmas with us

Our traditional Celebration of Christmas will be back in the Great Hall this year on 6 December at 7pm for a 7.30pm start

The Barts and The London Music Society (BLMS) will be performing music and song of all sorts in their own unique way and leading us in the singing of traditional carols. Readings this year will be given by the Guild All Stars who will be joined by members of the BLMS.

Come and enjoy an evening of Christmas cheer with a mince pie, a glass of wine in hand and the company of old friends to put you in the mood for the festive season.

Tickets are available from the Guild Shop or online: [bartsguild.org.uk/souvenir-store/](http://bartsguild.org.uk/souvenir-store/)

Ticket prices are £15, and £7.50 for OAPs, Guild volunteers and BL students.



*The BLMS in action in the last concert before lock down.*  
Photo: BOB COOPER

## Sharing Historic Barts - project update

The North Wing at Barts is finally set for a spectacular revival. For decades this beautiful building has sat quietly at the heart of the Hospital gently decaying as others fought for and argued over its future.

In 2017, a new charity, Barts Heritage, was founded to take on the restoration and long-term care of the North Wing and the Henry VIII Gatehouse – both Grade I listed and neither in clinical use. A masterplan was drawn up in 2019 but securing the required £23m to undertake the works looked a distant and unlikely prospect, even before the pandemic struck.

As the world shut down in March 2020 I sat at my desk (in the faded elegance of the old Steward's apartments above the Hogarth Stair) wondering what to do. I was new in post and still finding my feet. With the doors locked and most funders suspending their grant programmes, there seemed little prospect of transforming the building in time for the 900th celebrations. Redemption for the North Wing seemed as far away as ever.

However, in a strange way, the pandemic rescued the project. First, it forced us to into the sensible decision to split the project into two phases, the first (with a budget of £9m) tackling the repair of the fabric of the North Wing and the conservation of its principal interiors, with a second mopping up everything else.

Second, it helped us develop a clearer vision of what the wider benefits of the project would be. During the first lockdown exhausted hospital staff began asking if they could access the North Wing – talking of needing somewhere to go to escape the pressures of the wards.

With help from Barts Charity we opened up a suite of rooms at the west end of the building as wellbeing spaces and, with this as the catalyst, began to explore the ways in which we could partner with the Hospital to make stronger links between heritage and health.



*The paintings in the Hogarth Stair require careful conservation. A much improved (but discreet) lighting scheme is being devised for this space.*

*Photo: MATTHEW ANDREWS*



*Hospital staff in the Great Hall during the first Covid lockdown in 2020.*

*Continued on page 11.*



## Sharing Historic Barts - project update cont.

---

Out of this grew the Sharing Historic Barts project which, in 2021, secured a £4.75m 'anchor' pledge from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This heralded an intense period of development. Conservation experts Purcell were appointed as architects and a team of specialists was commissioned to investigate and document every element of the historic fabric.

Structural engineers crawled over (and inside) the roof, specially trained sniffer dogs were employed to locate timber decay beneath floorboards and behind panelling, and, of course, the Hogarth paintings and the plasterwork of the Great Hall were examined in minute detail (aided by ultra-high resolution photography and x-ray and ultra-violet scanning).

Alongside these works we began to pilot, with great success, heritage and health activities on site – everything from art workshops to mindfulness sessions, for staff and the public.

All this work fed into our detailed proposals for the restoration of the building, its presentation and its future use. The specification for repairs to the external envelope is fairly straightforward (although extensive).

The conservation and presentation interiors has required more careful thought, with everything from paint colours to new heating and lighting continuing to be discussed and debated.

*Continued on page 12.*



*A detailed survey has been carried out on the condition of the Great Hall, with localised repairs to areas damaged by water.*

*Photo: DONALD INSALL ASSOCIATES*



## Sharing Historic Barts - project update cont.

The final choice of colour for the walls of the Great Hall, for example, is yet to be made - I have four samples on my table, ranging from 'olive' green (based on the original James Gibbs colour) to a warm stone colour. Are we brave enough to go green?

There is also the question of how we treat the panelling, floor and other timber details in a way that is aesthetically pleasing and consistent. Although all these choices can be informed by historical research, ultimately the decision must be made on grounds of what looks 'right' within the Hall.

The ultimate goal is to capture, embrace and enhance the special character of the interiors to ensure any visit to the North Wing remains a magical and transporting experience.

As soon as the Lottery gave its 'seal of approval' other funders began to show a keen interest in the project, with support from national charities matched by major grants from the Voluntary Board of St Bartholomew and the City Corporation.

The Friends of Barts Heritage and our flourishing Patrons Circle group played a crucial role both generating funding and advocating the project in wider circles.

We introduced a number of inducements for supporters including the lure of being added to the historic list of names on the wall of Great Hall for a certain level of support.

*Continued on page 13.*



*Barts anaesthetist Giampaolo Martinelli discusses 'empathy' with his students using 19th-century watercolours from the Barts archives.*

*Photo: MATTHEW ANDREWS*

## Sharing Historic Barts - project update cont.

Here special thank you is owed to Barts Guild, both for its early help and support and more recently for the generous gift of £50,000 (spread over the duration of the project). This qualifies the Guild to have its name added to the wall of the Great Hall and we are hoping to host a little celebration once this is done.

Remarkably, we are now within touching distance of our £9m total, with over 90% of the funds raised. If the Lottery grants us a 'pass' in November this year we are hoping to start restoration works next summer, opening-up the site for 'hard hat' conservation tours as part of the 900th celebrations. After two years of loving repair and conservation the resplendent North Wing will reopen in 2025.

For more information and to support Sharing Historic Barts, visit [bartsheritage.org.uk](http://bartsheritage.org.uk)

**WILL PALIN**  
Chief Executive, Barts Heritage



Signwriter Phil Surrey works on the first new names to be added to the walls of the Great Hall since 1905.



Visitors in the Great Hall during Open House weekend in 2021.

Photo: MATTHEW ANDREWS

## Elective Grant report: Thomas Fisher

---

Given the uncertain circumstances surrounding our elective placements brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, I thought that there would be no better opportunity to arrange to spend time at Barts Heart Centre.

While I have been a student at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry for six years and have intermittently held jobs at the hospital helping in administration and as a healthcare assistant during the pandemic, I have always felt that spending time in a specialised cardiac department would give me a rare insight into what world-leading specialist care is provided by the NHS.

For these reasons, I arranged to join the Barts echocardiography department for a six-week attachment. Echocardiography (meaning ultrasound scans of the heart) stands out among different types of medical imaging in that it is typically organised by cardiologists rather than radiologists. Part of this is due to the fact that, with echocardiography, you are watching the heart pump in real-time and therefore can assess its movement (and therefore its function) in great detail, in contrast to many other imaging types which just give you an un-moving snapshot of an organ's structure.

Echocardiography can give you information about whether certain parts of the muscle are not functioning properly, whether any parts of the heart are unusually thickened or stretched, and about the flow of blood through the heart, from which it is possible to calculate more information such as the levels of pressure within different chambers.

Barts has a large echocardiography department staffed primarily by specialised cardiologists and cardiac physiologists. Many from this team work both at Barts and at other hospitals within the area, enabling the expertise derived from Barts Heart Centre to benefit patients across London, including within some of the country's most deprived areas in East London.



*Thomas Fisher*

Echocardiography is something I have only been tangentially exposed to as a medical student and spending time in the department I was impressed at how useful a tool it can be. I spent a lot of time in outpatient clinics where patients come from home to have their heart scanned for various reasons. Some have known heart disease and are being routinely followed up, some have recently been discharged from hospital for a heart issue and others have been referred by other doctors in order to investigate whether there could be a cardiac cause of chest pain, breathlessness or feeling like one's heart is racing.

Barts also has a specialised cardio-oncology department which addresses heart issues pertaining to cancer and cancer treatment.

*Continued on page 15.*



## Elective Grant report: Thomas Fisher cont.

---

In some patients, specialised techniques including 3D ultrasound imaging and computerised interpretation of images can provide detail about subtle abnormalities which would be difficult for the naked eye to pick up. In patients undergoing chemotherapy for cancer treatment, computerised analysis of how much the wall stretches during heart contraction can give clues as to whether treatment is affecting the heart which in some patients may suggest need to adjust their treatment or scan their heart more frequently in future.

I also spent time seeing inpatients who required scans. Some of these were routine post-operative after, for instance, a valve operation, while others were more urgent scans prompted by new symptoms. In a patient who has new breathlessness, an echo could help determine whether poor heart function is causing blood to backup into the lungs. In a patient with fevers and a new abnormal heart rhythm, an echocardiogram could help determine whether there is a ball of bacteria attached to the heart causing these issues. In these cases, I learnt more about the difference between a formal echocardiogram and a more focused scan.

Point-of-care ultrasound continues to rise in popularity amongst doctors, particularly in the intensive care and emergency department settings. This generally means that scanning is performed by the treating doctor with a specific clinical question and the findings can be immediately integrated into a patient's care.

This contrasts somewhat with a formal echocardiogram which is a more detailed study that systematically assesses a patient's heart and characterises more precisely the nature of issues. I feel that in future, training of point-of-care ultrasound will become more prevalent as it becomes a routinely used adjunct to a physical examination.

Understanding the limitations of this and the differences between what questions you can answer on a quick focused scan versus a formal echocardiogram is important to ensure certain conditions are not prematurely ruled in or out.

Transoesophageal echocardiography, where the probe is inserted into the oesophagus rather than simply resting on the chest, was something fairly new for me to see. This is clearly a more lengthy and more invasive procedure than other forms of echocardiography. As the oesophagus sits just behind the heart, the ribs and lungs can no longer make it difficult to get high-quality images of the heart. While this type of scan is not routinely needed for most patients, I was impressed that selection for who needed this type of scan was clearly quite judicious. Each patient I saw undergoing this more unpleasant procedure had their management influenced by it in some way which should be the goal of any medical investigation.

Throughout my time in the department, I had opportunities to practise basic scanning myself. There is something quite impressive about holding a probe and watching it provide a real-time moving image of what is beneath the skin. I certainly found it to be harder than I expected to navigate around ribs and lungs and occasionally even to acquire an image of the heart. Certainly, when physiologists went on to do the full scan of patients afterwards, they were much quicker in finding the correct position to place the probe and acquired images orders of magnitude better than mine.

Nonetheless I am sure that spending time in such a specialist centre has provided me with a solid foundation upon which to develop echocardiography skills in future, and I am extremely grateful to Barts Guild for supporting me with my costs during the elective period.

THOMAS FISHER

## Lady Judy Percival

**23rd May 1921 – 24th April 2022**

Lady Judy Percival, who joined the Guild in 1960 had a quite remarkable and very full life. Born in Stone in Oxney, Kent in 1921 she was christened in St Mary the Virgin Church in the village, where she was also married in 1942 on St Valentine's Day and where her funeral was held last May, and she is buried in the churchyard.

She loved ballet dancing from an early age and won many prizes and awards. She also won a place at Sadlers Wells in 1939, but sadly was unable to take up the place. So, she auditioned for the Christmas Panto in the Coliseum with the Tiller Girls and won a place. After the panto season was over Judy auditioned for a revue at the Garrick Theatre and was accepted. Then the bombs began to rain down in London and audiences dwindled, but the show carried on. Judy met her future husband Ian at the stage door, he was studying at Cambridge.

After appearing at the Windmill Theatre (for a very short time, she insisted!) she joined ENSA (Entertainment National Service Association) travelling the country entertaining the troops. Then back into panto "Jack and the Beanstalk" at the Coliseum. However, she missed the last two performances to attend her wedding to Ian on St Valentine's Day 1942! A short honeymoon as Ian had "signed up" and was off to India and Burma.

Then she discovered that Col. Jack Hawkins (a budding actor) was forming an ENSA Group to entertain the troops of the "forgotten army" in Burma. Judy's application was accepted, though not mentioning her intentions to anyone.

The group consisted of Doris, a singer, Ralph, a pianist, a drummer, a conjuror, and Judy who danced. They performed in all sorts of makeshift venues, jungle clearings, lit by the lights of the trucks and avoiding monsoons when possible.



*Lady Percival celebrates her 100th birthday.*

Yet Judy, meticulous as ever, ensured that all the costumes were clean and pressed for each show.

She eventually traced Ian (now a Major) to Calcutta. They had a joyous reunion.

On her return to England, Judy gave up her dancing career, as brilliant as it was, to settle down to motherhood: Jane in 1946 and Robert in 1949.

Ian launched his legal and political career and Judy became the consummate politician's wife. She was so good with people and knew how to communicate with them. She was also very clever with her hands when it came to fundraising sales of work – and embroidered several kneelers in her Church in Kent.

*Continued on page 17.*

## Lady Judy Percival cont.

---

Judy had a close friendship with Margaret Thatcher, particularly when Ian was Solicitor-General. Every year she would send a basket of freshly picked primroses picked from her garden and always received a very appreciative reply. Judy also arranged flowers at 10 Downing Street.



*A beautiful arrangement by Lady Percival  
for the Great Hall.*

In 1960, Judy started pushing trolleys around the wards as a volunteer member of the Guild. She also ran the flower shop and had an encyclopaedic knowledge knowing all their Latin names. As well as creating glorious flower arrangements in Downing Street and The Temple (where they had a flat) she also created them for Barts Great Hall and St Bartholomew the Less for our meetings and for weddings and funerals.

In 1979 the domestic workers went on strike and the Guild was asked to supply volunteers on the wards. The response was magnificent and included (of course) Judy. She recalled an hilarious time as they swept and washed and polished the floors and furniture and made tea and coffee for the patients. Never had the wards been so clean nor the patients so entertained!

At our Annual Fair held in May Judy always produced bundles of asparagus freshly picked from her garden for us to sell. It was delicious.

Judy served on the committee for many years and gave her wise and considered advice, with a soupcon of humour when appropriate. In 2000 she was elected Vice-President in recognition of her 40 years' service as a volunteer.

Her personality, warmth, sense of the ridiculous and her love of Barts shone through everything she did with and for the Guild. I will miss her friendship of 50 years. We send our condolences to her family.

May she now rest in peace.

**ANN WICKHAM**  
*Barts Guild President*





In her recent Reith Lectures, the late, great historical novelist Hilary Mantel quotes Saint Augustine's statement that the dead are invisible, but not absent.

We are, she argued, connected to the people of the past, but only when we avoid turning them into caricatures or clichés, when we treat them with the same amount of respect as we try to treat the living, when we treat them as we would like to be treated ourselves.

Nine hundred years blows the mind. A world of monks and crusades, in which Jerusalem was the navel of the world, changes into a more rational age, in which the Church struggles to suppress scientific knowledge only to realise it has backed the wrong horse.

An industrial revolution, in which science is applied to the mass manufacture of everything from candles to corsets. A second industrial revolution, in which computers change from cumbersome rarities, to domestic accessories, to worlds in your pocket.

This is the interplanetary time shift that marks the span of life of the world's oldest hospital continuously working from the same site.

Its Founder remains entombed in the church that shares the hospital's name, and which was the original source of its wealth and power.

If Rahere, for that was his name – a man whose individuality was subsumed in the religious community he led – were to walk amongst us now, there are some things he would recognise, and many that he would find puzzling, even terrifying.

The business of healthcare today is a function of our self-asserting, self-propelling individuality, untrammelled by the requirements of the collective. But healthcare is such a powerful,



universal enterprise that the mission of Barts Hospital has straddled even this quantum shift, staying the course, when almost every other imaginable institution has melted into memory.

So, we need to approach Barts' 900th Anniversary wary of whimsy and cliché, in a way that unites us with those who have gone before us, and that connects all of us to the challenges and opportunities of the future. This is what the people of the past of Barts would wish, and it is certainly what we owe them.

To that end, the restoration of the North Wing, where so many of those people lived out their professional lives, has been joined, as one example within the mission of the 900th Anniversary, to a Campaign that targets new expertise and resources at breast cancer and the health of today's diverse and deprived communities.

I truly believe that our forebears would take off their many and various hats if they could only see some of the visionary, outward-looking things that are happening today in the institution to which they gave their lives.

Look out for the timetable, sign up to the events, tell your families and friends, and buckle up for a party with the people of the past.

IAN McDOWELL

[Barts900.org](https://Barts900.org)

## Sharing Historic Barts - first donor

As visitors to the Great Hall at Barts know, the walls are covered with the names of generous benefactors who historically contributed funds to the Hospital, the last of which was added well over a century ago in 1905.

Now Barts Heritage has reintroduced this special method of donor recognition to mark the Hospital's 900th anniversary and as part of the 'Sharing Historic Barts' project (see pages 10-13) that is close to raising £9m to secure the future of the North Wing and the Henry VIII Gate.

The first to be added to the existing 3,000 names was Alan Lettin, 91, a retired leading orthopaedic surgeon, who was born in Stratford and spent 18 years of his 50-plus career working at Barts.

During his distinguished working life, Alan witnessed the huge medical and technological advances that has changed healthcare beyond recognition, alongside the foundation of the NHS.

During his time at Barts, he helped treat the wounded caused by the IRA bombing of the Old Bailey in 1973 and, two years later, those who suffered in the Moorgate Tube crash.

Will Palin, Barts Heritage chief executive, was thrilled to celebrate the first donor inscription in the Great Hall for nearly 120 years.

"Mr Lettin joins a long list of historic supporters on the walls of this spectacular and nationally important interior. It is fitting that this contribution comes from a surgeon who was born in east London and practised at St Bartholomew's for a large portion of his career."

Thanks to the Guild's donation of £50,000 to Sharing Historic Barts, it won't be long until signwriter Phil Surrey will be adding Barts Guild to the distinguished names that adorn the walls of the Great Hall.

PHIL MOSS



*Signwriter Phil Surrey begins his work on the first new names to be added to the walls of the Great Hall since 1905.*

*Photo: MATTHEW ANDREWS*



*Retired Barts orthopaedic surgeon Alan Lettin attends the 'unveiling' of his name in Great Hall.*

*Photo: MATTHEW ANDREWS*



*Everyone at the Guild wishes you a very Merry Christmas and hopes that 2023 will bring you health and happiness.*



## Barts Guild

Address: St Bartholomew's Hospital  
West Smithfield  
London EC1A 7BE

Tel: +44 (0)20 3765 8700

Email: [contact@bartsguild.org.uk](mailto:contact@bartsguild.org.uk)

Web: [bartsguild.org.uk](http://bartsguild.org.uk)

Twitter: @BartsGuild

Facebook: [facebook.com/BartsHospitalGuild](https://facebook.com/BartsHospitalGuild)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday 12 November 2022**

LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

For more information and to confirm attendance, please contact Wendy Mead OBE CC: [wendy.mead@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.mead@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

**Tuesday 6 December 2022, 7 for 7.30pm**

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

The Great Hall at Barts

For more information, see page 9

**January 2023**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Postponed from November 2022

Date, venue and speaker to be confirmed

## BARTS GUILD NEWS

Editor: Jan O'Neill Design/Typesetting: Phil Moss Printing: L&T Press Ltd., London

Published by The Guild of the Royal Hospital of St Bartholomew © 2022