



# Barts Guild News

ISSUE 23

MAY 2024

## A well-deserved honour

*Three rousing cheers if you please for our President Ann Wickham whose work for charity and London's community was recognised by the award of The British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours. Ann describes her investiture and shares the documents relating to this event.*



*Ann with the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux.*

*Photograph: Andy Newbold, Newbold PR & Media*

The investiture of The British Empire Medal by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mr Michael More-Molyneux, on Wednesday 20 March 2024 at Loseley House, near Guildford. I felt so very honoured to be receiving this medal.

Loseley House is a 16th century manor house built in 1568 by the ancestors of the More-Molyneux family and still lived in by the descendants of the original family.

*Continued on pages two and three.*

## A well-deserved honour cont.

It was a beautiful sunny spring day and I was accompanied by my three daughters and a granddaughter. On arrival we were shown into the Great Hall, a magnificent 16th century panelled reception room dominated by a white marble fireplace designed by Holbein and Royal and family portraits looking down on us.

There were eight recipients of the medals and we were all supported by family and friends. The acoustics were excellent and we were able to hear every word of the recipients' citations and the presentation given by the Lord Lieutenant.

Afterwards a welcome cup of coffee/tea and (Loseley) biscuits; then photographs including all our families and friends in the Great Hall and outside with Loseley House as a backdrop.

Then a delicious celebratory lunch in Guildford – proudly wearing my British Empire Medal.

A very special day and a great honour for Barts Guild.



ANN WICKHAM BEM  
Guild President

The Citation for Ann's British Empire Medal  
is shown on page three.



## A well-deserved honour - The Citation

---

### **Gwendoline Ann WICKHAM**

Ann has been a volunteer for the Guild of Bartholomew's Hospital, a charity dedicated to support for the hospital and its patients, for 57 years. She has worked with great dedication on the frontline of the Guild's volunteering, organising outings for patients, the annual fundraising flag day, jumble sales and a substantial annual Carol concert an event she also conceived. She was a very long serving member of the management committee and its Chair for eight years. Ann has steadfastly guided it through many tough times both political and administrative.

She joined the Guild in 1966 and more recently President, a position she has held since 2008. She was Chair at a key period in the 1990s when she and the Guild were among the vanguard of those who fought successfully for a long period to save the hospital from threatened closure. She was instrumental in creating, at the hospital, the Guild's Princess Alice Garden. She has been responsible for organising the Guild's entry in the Lord Mayor's show, which has enabled its work to be publicised and to gain further supporters; she has been a long serving member on Bart's Archives Committee and in 2011 she wrote a history of the Guild with proceeds applied to the charity. She was also Chair of the Smyrk Trust (from 2002 to 2015) and administered a legacy left to the Guild, making small grants to particularly deserving cases in support of patient care. It is not only the range of her activity that is so outstanding but the enthusiasm of her commitment to the Guild and Barts Hospital. Ann's concern for fellow volunteers is only exceeded by her concern for the patients, their families and the staff of a world-renowned hospital that treats so many serious heart and cancer cases. Her service has been exceptional. Other voluntary commitments include membership of Guildford Cathedral's Fabric Advisory Committee for many years until 2011 and as Honorary Curator of Guildford Cathedral Treasury.

**Gwendoline Ann Wickham is awarded as a Medallist of the most Excellent Order of the British Empire for Services to charity and to the community in London.**





## Great Hall progress

It is with excitement (and some relief) that I can confirm the restoration of the North Wing at Barts is now finally underway. Visitors to the Square over the coming weeks will see the massive scaffold rising on all sides of the building. The final part of this impressive structure - a temporary roof - will be completed by the end of May, allowing works to start on repairing the 18th century roof timbers, replacing the copper dressing and guttering with lead, and re-fixing the slates to the steep roof pitches.

Inside the Great Hall works have been underway since January, lifting the historic floor to lay new services. When the 1960s oak floor was taken up the original, wide, pine floorboards were revealed beneath. Both layers will be retained, with the modern boards repaired, stained and re-fixed once work in the floor voids is complete. The low-level panelling (beneath the donor boards) will also be re-coloured and darkened down to complete the 'refreshing' of the woodwork in this remarkable space.

In March, the beautiful charter window was dismantled and taken for restoration at the workshop of Holy Well Glass, in Wells, Somerset. The nerve-racking removal process allowed us close access to the 1620s stained glass panels - revealing a number of exquisite hidden details, as well as a series of etched signatures from the 1790s (probably dating from earlier repair work).

[bartsheritage.org.uk](http://bartsheritage.org.uk)



*Work on the floor of the Great Hall.*

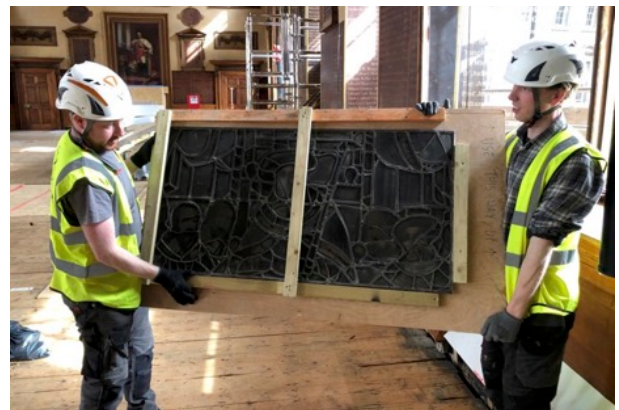


*Outside work on the North Wing begins.*

Our new Barts Heritage engagement team is now in place and busy planning the open access conservation tours, due to start in July 2024. Tickets are now on sale for the tours via the Barts Heritage website. The tours will include access to a high-level deck in the Great Hall, giving visitors the chance to watch the conservation work at close hand, and to talk to members of our specialist team.

The Sharing Historic Barts restoration project is due to be completed in summer/autumn 2025 when the building will reopen with full public access for the first time in its history. I would like once again to thank everyone in the Barts 'family' for the wonderful support we have had to date. Please do follow the project via regular updates on our website, where you can also make a donation, if you feel so moved!

**WILL PALIN**  
*Chief Executive, Barts Heritage*



*Removing the charter window... gently does it.*



## Job satisfaction guaranteed

---

The Guild are fortunate in having a remarkable set of loyal volunteers, some who have been with us for 20 years or more. We are grateful to every single one of them.

Sadly, growing commitments or the passage of time mean it is inevitable that some have to give up their roles. Currently we need new volunteers for the Trolley Service to the wards.

The arrival of the Trolley is eagerly anticipated by patients who cannot leave their ward and those who have few or no visitors greatly enjoy a brief chat with a cheerful volunteer when they treat themselves to some chocolate or a newspaper.

No one sees this as an easy job. Trolley volunteers have to be reasonably fit to undertake the round and be able to give a whole morning to the task. However, all our volunteers agree that it is a very satisfying job indeed.

If you, or someone that you know, would like to take on this role we would be very grateful and so would the patients and ward staff.

Find out more by visiting our website: [bartsguild.org.uk](http://bartsguild.org.uk) or via email: [contact@bartsguild.org.uk](mailto:contact@bartsguild.org.uk)



*Trolley Volunteers Danny (left) and Ros.*

*Photograph: Bob Cooper*

## Scaffolding returns to the Princess Alice Garden

---

Works on the Gate House were completed last summer, the scaffolding was removed and the Garden was restored to peaceful calm in time for the Guild's party to celebrate Barts 900 in September.

Sadly, a further problem has emerged. The roof of St Bartholomew's the Less has developed a leak and scaffolding placed against the church's exterior wall is a necessary first step to enable essential repairs to take place.

The Hospital's Estates team have assured the Guild that there will be no damage to the new flooring or plants but, for the sake of safety, the entrance next to the Gate House will be locked during the works on the church roof.

Visitors to the Garden are still welcome. If you usually enter via the Henry VIII Gate, go past the church, turn left and walk to the entrance just beyond the Maggie's Centre.

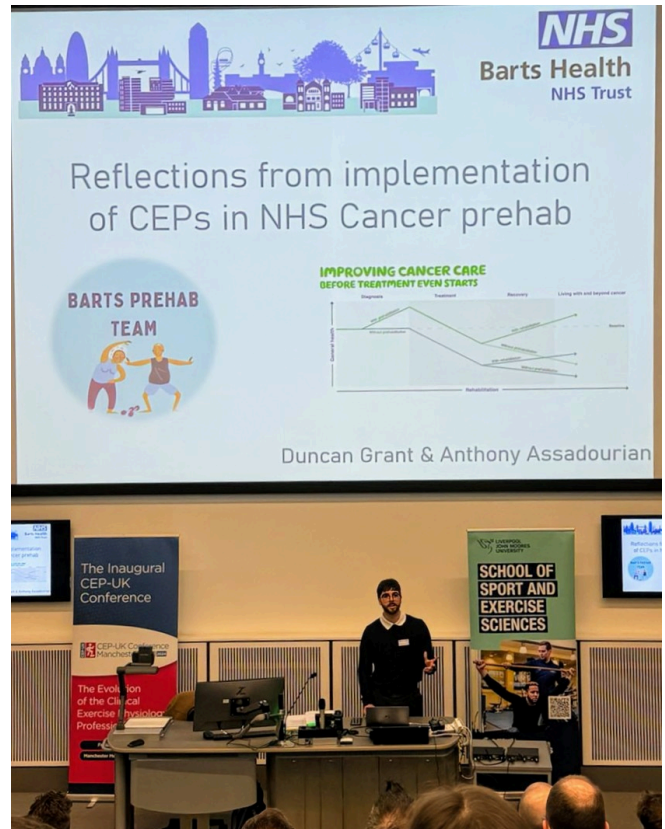
## Grants: Inaugural Clinical Exercise Physiology UK Conference

With generous support from Barts Guild, the Prehabilitation Team at Barts Health Trust had the opportunity to attend the Inaugural Clinical Exercise Physiology UK Conference in Manchester, with one of their Exercise Physiologists invited as a speaker to discuss their pioneering cancer prehabilitation service.

This service utilises a novel workforce of specialist Exercise Physiologists and Physiotherapists to help prepare high-risk patients for life-saving cancer surgeries. The Prehabilitation Service was initially set up in September 2022 as a one-year pilot project and has since gone on to be fully substantiated, given the excellent results they were having with their patients. The team is now in the process of expanding to include more disciplines, including Occupational Therapy and Dietetics, to further improve the care they can provide to patients. The team currently provides face-to-face exercise interventions for numerous cancer types including lung, colorectal, gynaecological, bladder, hepato-pancreato-biliary, head and neck and breast cancers. They are also expanding to include cardiac surgeries, with potential for further expansion in the future.

During their conference presentation, the Team discussed how they design and deliver individualised exercise training interventions aimed at increasing patients' pre-operative strength and fitness to lower the potential risks of surgery and improve recovery outcomes. They went into depth about the exercise component of their intervention which includes cardiovascular and muscular strength training aimed at lowering anaesthetic risk, reducing the risk of post-operative complications, and speeding up the return to activities of daily living. They also covered how they help provide psychological support, nutritional optimisation, and behavioural change education.

The conference was well attended by Clinical Exercise Physiologists working in the NHS, private practice, in research and higher



*Anthony Assadourian speaking at the conference.*

education roles, and by Clinical Exercise Physiology students. A range of fascinating and informative talks were delivered by professionals working across many areas and with diverse patient populations. By speaking at this conference, the Prehabilitation Team was able to showcase their valuable work to exercise professionals and academics from across the UK, and share their insights with teams working in or aspiring to set up similar services. The Team also gained invaluable knowledge and experience from the other presenters which will lead to improved service provision for patients at Barts.

The Prehabilitation Team would like to thank Barts Guild enormously for facilitating their attendance at this conference, which will no doubt have a positive impact on the care of Barts patients and those across the UK.

**ANTHONY ASSADOURIAN**  
*Exercise Physiologist, Oncology Therapies Dept.*



## A tale of coincidence

---

*Chatting to Guild President Ann Wickham over lunch one day, I happened to mention an extraordinary coincidence that involved my father, Dr Laurence Cartledge, who was an ophthalmic surgeon at Barts in the 1950s. She encouraged me to send an account for publication in BGN, but rather than tell the story myself, it is much better that it should come from Dr Jean Kay, who was key to the whole thing.*

PENNY WAINWRIGHT

### Jean's Story

This story begins in 1955 when I was a student nurse at Barts Hospital in London. My first ward had been Children's, with a kind, gentle Sister, and I had enjoyed it because I was so homesick for my younger brothers and sister.

My second ward was very different; Men's Medical. Within a few days of starting, Sister sent me to "special", the patient in the side room.

He was a 42-year-old doctor, Dr Cartledge, who had trained at Barts and was on the staff in the Ophthalmic Department.

He had an inoperable brain tumour and was receiving radiotherapy. Because of the site of the tumour his speech was badly affected. When he couldn't make his needs known he naturally became very frustrated and occasionally aggressive. He needed someone constantly with him.

I frequently sat with him for eight hours a day. I think that sometimes Sister forgot I was there, but I was happy because I was able to concentrate on his speech problems and get to know him. I could see that he was a gentle, charming man but he became agitated when he could not make me understand what he was trying to say.

As time went by, I learnt many of his words and could respond to his needs. I was always rewarded with a smile of relief. I became reluctant to have my place taken by a nurse who would not understand him.



*Dr Laurence Cartledge.*

In those days, patients had day clothes brought in only when they went home, otherwise they were in pyjamas, though they might sit out of bed in a chair.

It was an undignified situation for a young man used to being on ward rounds. His wife would visit when she could but she was working and had two young children to care for; Tony, eight, and Penny who was six.

After a few weeks the tumour went into remission sufficiently for Dr Cartledge to go to a convalescent home in the country. It happened to be only 10 miles from my family home. Knowing that he would not have many visitors so far from London, I phoned the Matron and asked whether he would like me and my mother to visit.

*Continued on page eight.*

## A tale of coincidence cont.

---

It was a sunny day when mother and I cycled to the convalescent home (we didn't have a car) and I was delighted to see Dr Cartledge smartly dressed in blazer and flannels, with a cravat, walking with a stick in the garden.

His wife was just leaving, a charming, elegant lady - she was happy for us to have tea with him before we cycled home.

Sadly, his remission was short-lived. By the time he was readmitted I had been sent to another ward, and so was not with him when he died.

I wrote to his widow to say how privileged I felt to have been with him and learnt, to some extent, how to understand him. She replied with a kind letter, signed Dilys Cartledge.

For me that quite intensive experience so early in my career gave me an interest in neurology and prepared me for years of work later, as a doctor, in hospices which at that time did not exist. This was ten years before Dr Cicely Saunders opened St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham.

As the years passed, I would sometimes think of Mrs Cartledge and wonder how she and their children had fared.

In 2011 my son Barnabas invited me to spend Christmas with him in the large Victorian house he had bought near York.

The builders had still not completed essential modernisation; cooking arrangements had also not yet materialised but he assured me that we would spend Christmas Day in Leeds with the parents of his university friend, Rob.

Rob's mother Kris is an excellent cook and much preparation had gone into Christmas dinner for seven. Her husband Ian showed me how they displayed their Christmas cards, grouping all the robins, crib scenes, snowy churches, etc. together.

As we all sat down to enjoy a leisurely feast, I was looking at a group of cards on the wall opposite. They were all very good photos of foreign churches, the most recent being from Kyiv.

Ian said they were all sent by an elderly lady – “She would now be about ninety” – who used to come to the branch Post Office that he ran when he retired from the Police.

As I looked at these cards, the one from Kyiv, caught by a current of air, blew open. There was the signature of Dilys Cartledge, the writing unmistakeable. I gasped; instantly back in that side room at Barts, a 19-year-old student nurse sitting with a tragic young doctor.

After we had all enjoyed an excellent Christmas dinner, I asked Ian to tell me more about the elderly photographer who was inspired by foreign churches. He said she lived not far away, near to her daughter, who was called Penny.

I told them my story of 56 years before. We were all amazed at the coincidence. Ian said he would phone Penny in the next few days.

I was concerned that it might be too distressing for the family to have Dr Cartledge's death recalled after so many years. But when I got home, I found there was an email from Penny asking if she might phone me.

We had a long talk. She found it helpful to hear my memories of her father and said she would very much like to meet.

So it was that in February, when I next stayed with my son, I was met off the local train by Penny and her husband Martin and driven to their home in Leeds.

*Continued on page nine.*



## A tale of coincidence cont.

---



*L-R Penny, Jean and Dilys Cartledge.  
Photograph: Family Album*

I received an almost royal welcome - flags at the door and pictures of Barts and smartly dressed nurses of yesteryear, making me feel very ancient!

Then Penny's brother Anthony arrived with their mother, Dilys. Dear Dilys, 93 and still elegant, bright and birdlike. She was quiet as we all enjoyed a delicious lunch, but listening to all the conversation.

After lunch we sat by the fire talking over all the strange coincidences that had brought us together. If my son had not invited me for Christmas although without the means to cook; if his friend Rob had not offered his parents' hospitality; if the Christmas card had not blown open in front of me, revealing Dilys's signature, and if she had not lived nearby - we should never have met.

Photographs were taken and exchanged. Dilys wrote me warm, friendly letters enclosing photos, including some of her dear husband as a young medical student.

I feel like a small missing piece in this family jigsaw and am so grateful for the coincidences.

Postscript: Dilys died in December 2019, one week short of her 101st birthday.

*DR JEAN KAY*



## View Day 2024

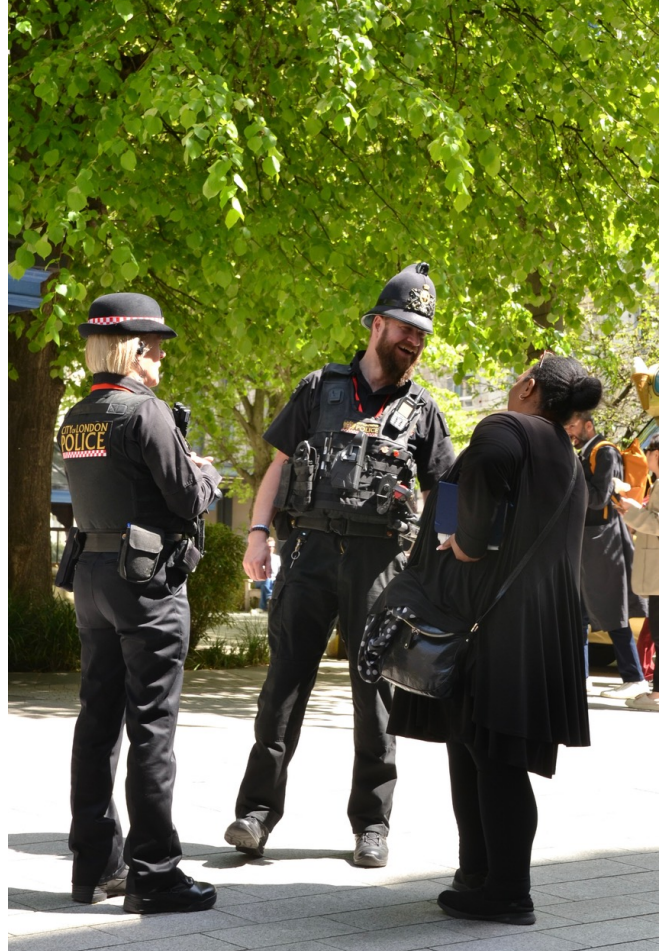
Always a red-letter day in the Guild's calendar, and the St Bartholomew's year, the 474th View Day was held on 8 May. The weather was glorious and the Square and the Princess Alice Garden were crowded with staff, patients and visitors enjoying the sunshine. Our stall was very successful, taking £552 from sales of souvenirs, as well as promoting membership of the Guild.



*L-R: Hilary, Monique, Deborah, and Jan ready for visitors.*



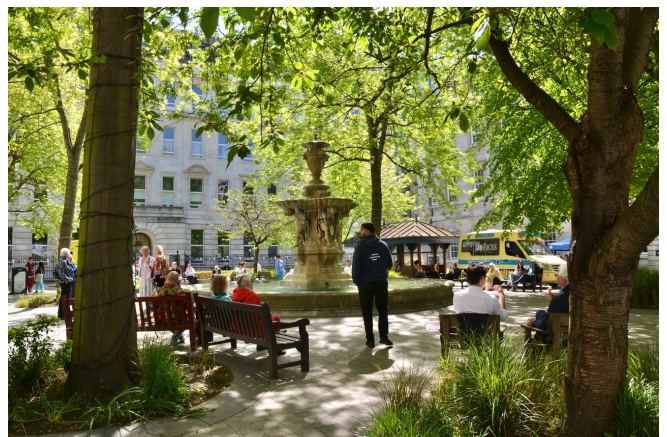
*Just what the doctor ordered... ice-cream.*



*Latest City of London Police dance moves.*



*More Barts staff and more ice-creams!*



*Enjoying a beautifully sunny View Day.*

*Photographs: Bob Cooper*





*L-R: Neil, Hilary, Lesley, Jan and Julie form the afternoon shift on the Guild stall.*



*Barts Heritage makes itself known.*



## Memories in the Princess Alice Garden

---

Events in the Garden have been permanently commemorated with beautiful new plaques.

The first (right) commemorates the Guild's Barts 900 garden party attended by our Royal Patron HRH The Duke of Gloucester. The second plaque (below) is to remind us of the grave exposed during recent works (see BGN Issue 22).

Two other plaques already in the Garden recall the celebration of the 100th birthday of HRH Princess Alice and a visit to the Garden by TRH The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester with garden designer Lady Mary Keen.



*Photographs: Bob Cooper*

## Founders' Day

---

2 June marks the 113th anniversary of the Guild's foundation.

Over the years we have grown from a small sewing circle, who met in the drawing rooms of Harley Street to make clothing for poor patients, to a charity that, compared with great national organisations, is still small but punches well above its weight.

The Guild has become a significant part of life at Barts. We run the much-appreciated hospital shop and trolley service, give grants to benefit staff and their patients, plus grants to medical students and, during Barts 900, financial support for Barts Heritage. The Princess Alice Garden is also under our care.

Milicent Moore and her co-founders would be so proud to know that the Guild's name is now inscribed in gold on a panel in the Great Hall marking our benefaction to Barts Heritage.

So please raise a glass on 2 June to those five pioneering women – Milicent Moore, Lady Maria Bowlby, Mrs Bruce Clarke, Mary (Minnie) Griffith, Helen Tooth – who founded the Guild, in celebration of their achievement.



## Grants: ACC Annual Scientific Session & Expo

---

*Nida Ahmed, a Cardiology Registrar at Barts Heart Centre, has shown her appreciation for her recent grant from the Guild with an excellent report on the conference she attended in the USA.*

While bouncing around during inflight turbulence I could not fathom that, once I touched down in Atlanta, USA, I would be immersed in a gloriously rich and clear blue sky with a sunshine that could warm you from the inside out.

Saturday 6 April 2024 - the start of the 73rd Annual Scientific Session & Expo of the American College of Cardiologists. As I saw the tens of thousands of heart healthcare professionals piling in, I was awestruck that I had been invited to present my work here. It is one of, if not, the largest meeting of its kind in the world - heart doctors, allied healthcare professionals, medical technology developers, drug companies, plus many more were all in attendance.

I had been invited here to showcase my work to this impressive audience. The work itself is on those having TAVI (a minimally invasive cardiac procedure to replace the not-properly-functioning aortic valve of the heart) at Barts Heart Centre, St Bartholomew's Hospital - the UK's largest centre for this procedure. More broadly speaking, the way we promote research at this hospital means that I found a great environment to nurture my own spirit of innovation and embracing future possibilities, in this case Artificial Intelligence (AI).

I have been going to medical conferences since I was a student but these have been in the UK, Europe or sometimes the Middle East. What struck me, as I walked through the seemingly endless Expo Hall, was the scale of this mammoth meeting in the Deep South of the USA. This conference was about bringing together heart doctors and members of the heart team so they can hear about world-beating research projects which have implications for future care of patients with heart disease.



*Atlanta, Georgia, USA.  
Photograph: Nida Ahmed*

There are walkways after walkways of stalls by pharmaceutical companies, and other interested parties, who bring their latest wares which they market as filling the deficiencies in current practice. Yet what really caught my eye was the AI companies getting more floorspace at such a conference, and when I spoke to them about my project, I could see their eyes light up with excitement.

Heart disease (the biggest killer worldwide) seldom lives on its own. Many people with heart disease also have diseases of other body organs - sometimes a consequence of the heart disease itself, sometimes an association with the thing that caused heart disease in the first place. Kidney disease can be especially difficult to care for, so I was glad to see a stall by a patient education group focussed on kidney disease being given a dedicated space at this esteemed conference to promote their work - a sign of the increasing importance of different organ experts working together. I wondered whether this is reciprocated in other organ conferences.

Whilst elsewhere in the USA there was a momentous solar eclipse, the light of knowledge was shining brightly out of all of the Georgia World Congress Centre Halls.

*Continued on page fourteen.*

## Grants: ACC Annual Scientific Session & Expo cont.

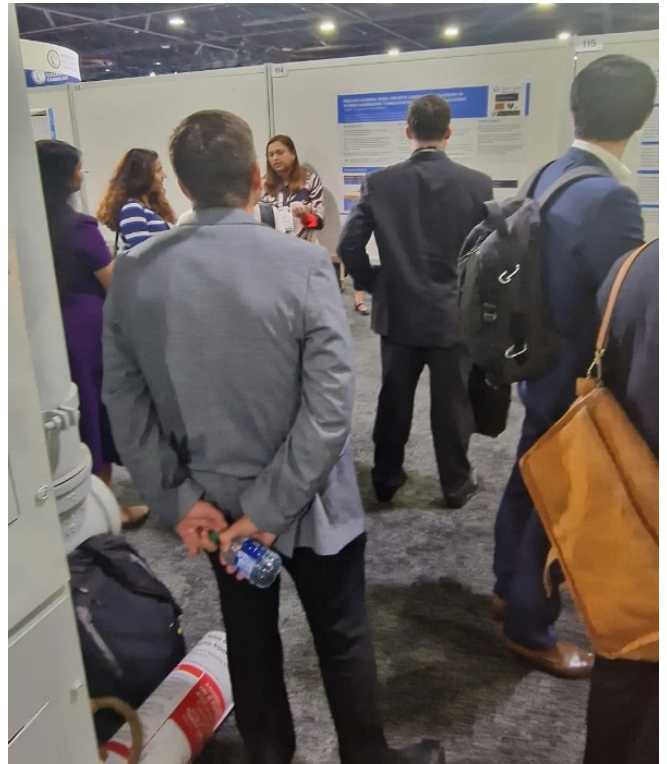
My time to present my project was on Sunday so I had all of the first Conference Day to soak up the atmosphere and share my work and experiences with other professionals. This was a truly momentous opportunity to promote St Bartholomew's Hospital for its world-class cardiac service.

The hospital is older (much older, in fact) than the country I was presenting my work in and this is where I have the pleasure of working with and learning from prominent and world-renowned experts in TAVI. You may be wondering where AI comes into this.

One way to put it (though there sometimes seem to be endless definitions) is that AI is a machine's ability to imitate human reasoning, problem solving and ability to learn. Let that sink in for a minute, human intelligence, our most prized possession (plus our opposable thumbs) is what has made us a dominant species. We have made systems to replicate this but with a capacity for data that is beyond what our own can handle. Crucially though, without human oversight, AI would be unusable.

It would not be an overstatement to say that AI will have a significant role in the future of healthcare. In an increasingly data-driven, sometimes complex, healthcare world, the question; what is the best treatment plan I can offer my patient, will need AI-supported research to find the answer. This wind of change is something I picked up on early in the AI revolution in healthcare. I wanted to know that I have the skills to find AI-derived answers and not be dependent on other entities for AI-insights (who may themselves have their own distractions). This has put me in the unique position of being a heart doctor who can do AI.

As a doctor my priority are my patients, their best interests and their wishes. This is what I was taught and what I practise to the point where it is ingrained in my nature. In the military, intelligence was considered trustworthy because of its integrity and provenance.



*Nida in conversation with conference attendees.*

*Photograph: Nida Ahmed*

AI is a powerful voice but it can be dangerous because this might not necessarily be the case.

I knew to deliver the best results out of my project, to provide patients undergoing or thinking to undergo a TAVI with a risk prediction tool they and their doctor can use to improve outcomes, I would need to use AI-derived insights in making this predictor. I teamed up with AI experts to help me gain the skills I need to do the AI myself when making the predictor.

When using AI, I keep in sharp focus only what is best for patients and draw on my learned experiences as a heart doctor, to produce the most patient-centric work possible. Then to share that work with other healthcare professionals so as many people as possible can benefit from it. And so that's what I did, with a very engaged and enthusiastic audience at my presentation, showing me this is exactly what's needed right now.

*Continued on page fifteen.*

## Grants: ACC Annual Scientific Session & Expo cont.

It took four centuries from the diagnosis of aortic stenosis to the first surgical intervention. The first TAVI was performed in 2002 yet since then (in this very short space of time) it has remarkably, and permanently, changed the landscape of this condition and the conversation on how to manage this illness. AI is the present and future gamechanger and it has been my pleasure to do the work at Barts and share it on an international platform.

I would like to end on the beautiful city of Atlanta and fantastic experience I have had in the US. In case you are wondering; yes they do it bigger (that is a 500ml water bottle on the right) and Southern hospitality very much exists.

**NIDA AHMED**  
*Cardiology Registrar, Barts Heart Centre*



### 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)



## Sister Mazie Mary Elizabeth Calcutt (1911-1998)

---

*Regular readers will recall the picture of the Great Nieces of Sister Calcutt with former Guild Chairman Andrew Phillips (BGN Issue 22). Her niece Sarah has been kind enough to share her knowledge of Mazie's life and work and a couple of pictures from her long career.*

Mazie was born in Islip, a rural Oxfordshire village, daughter to Eleanor and Henry and the youngest sibling to Ivor and Josephine.

She went to school in Oxford and commenced her nurse training at St Bartholomew's Hospital where she also went on to qualify as a midwife in 1938. She very much took to life at Barts and excelled in her nursing career, showing total commitment and dedication. Nursing was her vocation; it came before everything.

Mazie became the face of Barts' 1939 Appeal. Barts commissioned Peter Clark, a fashion photographer of the time, to create the Cecil Beaton-style portrait. The beautiful images, of which there were three, portray her pleading, in an attempt to recruit nurses to the hospital. Her posters were pasted around London and charity stamps were also commissioned using her image.

During the war years Mazie worked at Hill End Hospital, but sadly contracted TB and she moved back to Oxfordshire, ending her career as a Sister in the Plaster Room at the Wingfield Hospital in Oxford.

Once retired she took on her family childhood home in Islip and lived there throughout her elderly years before eventually going into a local nursing home, where she died at the age of 87.

Aside from nursing, Mazie was a passionate and talented gardener, who created amazing formal flowerbeds at her home. She also loved growing fruit and had many apple and plum trees in her orchard, and she thought nothing of scaling these trees, even as an old lady!

Mazie was also an avid ginger beer maker; her cellar was always full of demijohns purring away, and she was a community person, a regular Islip Church goer and flower arranger.



*Mazie recruiting nurses for Barts.  
Photograph: Peter Clark*

Mazie was also a talented seamstress from the 'make do and mend era' and she always looked immaculate and elegant.

As a Great Aunt she always shared happy memories of her years nursing at Barts. We know that it cannot have been an easy career. Mazie never married or had children, forbidden as it was at that time to be both a nurse and a wife.

She was a very beloved member of our family and a very attentive Aunt to her many nieces and nephews. Mazie is buried in Islip churchyard alongside her parents and siblings, while her home remains in the family to this day.

SARAH GORDON-COLBROOKE

## Sister Mazie Mary Elizabeth Calcutt (1911-1998)

---



*Mazie tending her garden.*

*Photograph: Family Album*

---

### Did you know?

That the Knox referred to in the children's song 'Up the close and down the stair / In the house with Burke and Hare / Burke's the butcher, Hare's the thief / Knox the man who buys the beef' was a Scottish surgeon who had spent a year studying at Barts after graduating from Edinburgh University?

Robert Knox (1791-1862) was an eminent anatomist and distinguished lecturer whose reputation suffered greatly from his involvement with the murderers Burke and Hare – who sold the bodies of their victims for dissection at a time when the ability to acquire legal corpses had become more difficult as anatomy's importance grew and the number of executions (the main legal supply of cadavers until the Anatomy Act of 1832) decreased.

GS

---

### Did you know?

About the connection between Barts and Cleopatra's needle?

When the obelisk was gifted to Britain in 1817 the British government declined to pay for its transport; 60 years later the surgeon and dermatologist Sir Erasmus Wilson, who had a keen interest in Egyptian antiquities, paid the £10,000 cost himself and the obelisk was erected in 1878 on the Embankment.

Wilson (1809-1884) had attended Abernethy's lectures at Barts whilst training as a doctor; his interest in skin diseases arose from a wish to help the poor. He was a great philanthropist as well as a champion of sanitary reform.

GS

## Share a memory with BGN

---

How did you come to join the Guild? Was it through a friend's recommendation? Because you worked at Barts? Or did you join as a Guild Volunteer? We would love to know.

The Guild has been lying in wait for me since the day that I was born at St Margaret's, Bethnal Green. St Margaret's policy of offering humane and practical help to women who were down on their luck or shunned by society inspired our founder Milicent Moore when she volunteered there. She went on to apply the principle of help rather than judgement to her ideas for the Guild. Of course, I didn't know any of this until much later in life.

My next encounter was finding this programme (see page nineteen). I really can't remember how I came to stage manage this production.

I do remember it was a very easy job – no lighting cues, or sound effects and very few props, and the singers were very easy going. My main memory was the sheer magnificence of the Great Hall. I couldn't know at the time that I would have the privilege of organising Christmas concerts in that wonderful building.

The Opera evening was presented by the Guild in 1980 and is mentioned in Ann Wickham's excellent Guild History. Do any readers remember the evening?

If you do remember the evening or have memories to share about your own experience, please email me: [contact@bartsguild.org.uk](mailto:contact@bartsguild.org.uk) or write to me at the Guild (see page twenty).

JAN O'NEILL  
Trustee, BGN Editor

## You will be sitting comfortably

---

One of the wooden benches in the Princess Alice Garden was well past its sit by date and potentially unsafe.

Replacing a large wooden bench is costly but, thanks to a generous grant of £865 from the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, a handsome replacement has been installed.

Our gardeners, Graeme and Noel, are applying wood preserver to the older benches to increase their longevity so that patients, staff and visitors can relax and enjoy the peace and beauty of the Garden from a safe and comfortable seat.

The Metropolitan Public Gardens Association is a charity dedicated to preserving and improving green spaces in London to make life better for residents and visitors and to improve biodiversity in the city. To find out more about this charity's work visit: [mpga.org.uk](http://mpga.org.uk)



*The handsome new bench.  
Photograph: Patrick Jennings*



THE GUILD OF THE ROYAL HOSPITAL OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW

(Affiliated to the League of Hospital Friends)

Present

"THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF"

by

Gian-Carlo Menotti

with

\*Gwynneth Price (Soprano)

The Old Maid

Judy Duggan (Soprano)

Her Maid

\*Elena Davies (Soprano)

Miss Pinkerton

\*Piero Mattei (Baritone)

'Bob' the Beggar

-----

A'Special' Constabule....

with

\*Nina Walker at the piano

\*These artists appear by kind permission of the General  
Administrator of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden

## Relaxing in the Princess Alice Garden



*Barts staff enjoying their break in the Princess Alice Garden on View Day 2024,  
sat at the table given in the memory of John Wickham.*

*Photograph: Bob Cooper*



### 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)

X : @BartsGuild

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

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday 22 October 2024**

**2.30 - 4.30pm**

Venue 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 © 2024