



The Hospital Saturday Fund

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£80,000 donated to Welsh charities by HSF

Twenty-two charities received donations from the Hospital Saturday Fund at a special reception hosted at Cardiff University in November 2015. In total, almost £80,000 was donated to the charities at the event, which was the Fund's first charity reception in Wales.

One of the recipients was special guest speaker John Hartson, former professional footballer and founder of The John Hartson Foundation which, following John's battle with cancer, raises awareness of testicular cancer and provides support to people with cancer and their families.

Other beneficiaries included Cardiff University which received a grant to help support vital research into new cancer biomarkers of malignancy; the charity Cerebra who received help towards their Innovation Centre which provides research and design into bespoke

equipment for children with brain-related conditions; the Paul Popham Fund Renal Support Wales whose grant will assist in supporting renal patients; Valleys Healing and Life whose grant will purchase a lymphatic drainage machine which will be a huge help to patients suffering with chronic illnesses; and several hospices including Ty Hafan Children's Hospice.

John Hartson expressed thanks on behalf of all the charities receiving grants at the event and spoke movingly about his own cancer journey and the work that his Foundation was doing to support those living with cancer. He said: "On behalf of the Foundation, I'd like to say thank you for this very generous donation which will help us continue our work raising awareness of testicular cancer. This money will help us roll out our #KnowYourBalls campaign (which advises men on how to check themselves



HSF's Chief Executive, Paul Jackson, with John Hartson, former footballer and founder of The John Hartson Foundation

for any worrying lumps or bumps) to more places such as workplaces, schools and universities."

Pioneering reconstruction for breast cancer patients

HSF was delighted to make a grant of £7,000 to medical research charity RAFT (Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust) to support its pioneering research into breast reconstruction, with the aim of vastly improving outcomes for cancer patients.

This research will radically change the way breast recon-

struction surgery is carried out, making it far more reliable, safer and resulting in a natural look and feel.

Undergoing breast reconstruction after a mastectomy is an important step in regaining quality of life. Current reconstruction methods are unreliable, require multiple operations and do not always have the

desired result, which is a reason why less than 50% of women do not opt for this elective surgery.

Dr Lilian Hook, Chief Scientific Officer at RAFT commented: "With 40% of women suffering from depression after a mastectomy, we think this matters, and at RAFT, we are compelled to make a change."



Technology training for partially sighted people

Southampton Sight has received £10,000 in funding from HSF to help them run a peer support group for blind and partially sighted people.

The group will particularly help middle-aged people suffering from macular degeneration. Southampton Sight wants to assist people who are going blind by offering them services such as free technology training.

This type of training is more effective if the person receives tuition before they become

blind. The charity feels it is essential for a person's well-being to continue working but this requires specialist equipment and training.

It is estimated that there will be a substantial increase in the number of people who will experience sight loss over the next few years, largely due to the prevalence of macular degeneration among an aging population.

Currently there are around 6,000 people living with sight loss in Southampton and this

is set to increase by another thousand people by 2020.

Southampton Sight has a small, dedicated body of staff and a larger volunteer group who are committed to providing services for blind and partially sighted people in the area.

The charity runs a team of volunteers at the local eye hospital to advise people about their next steps. Some of these volunteers are blind or partially sighted themselves.

“Finding Your Feet’ was a life-changer ... it opened so many doors.”

Facing the future with confidence - RNIB Northern Ireland

HSF's £2,000 contribution towards RNIB Northern Ireland's Community Services helped fund the charity's confidence building programme 'Finding Your Feet'.

Following a mini-stroke, Ken Carson's eyesight decreased dramatically but the 'Finding Your Feet' workshop has helped him cope with this change and face the future with confidence.

“You think that's it, it's over,

I'm not going to be able to do this, that and the other. I have to say 'Finding Your Feet' was a life-changer. I went into the programme quite low, full of anxiety and within one day, for the first time in about two years, I relaxed.

'Finding your feet' changed everything, it opened so many doors. I would say, if possible, everybody should be given the opportunity to avail of a 'Finding your feet' residential.”

RNIB Northern Ireland offers an emotional support service provided by trained Eye Care Liaison Officers who offer emotional and practical support to help people experiencing sight loss, their families and carers.

They also offer a benefits check and advisory service free of charge for people who are blind or partially sighted.



HSF health plan staff member, June Devlin, presents the cheque for £10,000

Funding to help trainee doctors at the University of Edinburgh

Medical students at the University of Edinburgh will be benefitting from funding from HSF to support them undertaking elective training placements.

These placements are a crucial element of undergraduate medical education, giving aspiring doctors their first experience of life in a clinical environment and helping them develop the professional skills and experience necessary for the next phase of their career

development.

The funding is particularly important for students from disadvantaged backgrounds who would otherwise struggle to fund their placements.

A cheque for £10,000 was presented in March 2016 by June Devlin, who works for HSF health plan, the trading company owned by the Hospital Saturday Fund, the profits

from which fund the Charity's donations.

The University of Edinburgh Medical School is one of the oldest medical schools in the English-speaking world and is widely regarded as one of the best medical schools in the UK.

Health checks for those with Spina Bifida in Scotland

Support from the Hospital Saturday Fund has allowed Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Scotland to continue its crucial work including being able to offer access to a continence clinic.

During 2015 every service-user on their database was offered a continence check-up as part of the charity's Healthy Living Project.

Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Scotland provides advice, advocacy and support to children, adults and families affect-

ed by spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus.

When a child is first diagnosed it is a very emotional and stressful time for parents and other family members. Parents may feel socially isolated, frustrated and under a great deal of emotional and financial pressure.

Having access to the right advice and support helps ease the stress of those already experiencing a traumatic period.

The charity offers services including medical advice, information on nursery provision, help with housing adaptations and mobility equipment.

It also holds monthly Family groups in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Fife and Cumbernauld.



Innovative wound dressings alert medical staff to infection

HSF has made a grant of £10,000 towards the University of Bath's innovative development of advanced wound dressings.

The concept is to have specialised burns dressings that sense their local microbial environment and, in the event of a burn becoming infected, change colour to alert medical staff and release antibiotics into the wound.

The advantage of this smart

dressing is that a consultant can be warned very quickly if a patient's burn has become infected. This means quicker use of antibiotics and therefore reduces scarring and death from infection.

As a result, the patient experiences shorter hospital stays and sometimes reduced antibiotic use due to better monitoring.

HSF's grant funded a research nurse to act as a link between

the University of Bath and the Bristol Royal Children's Hospital.

'The advantage of this smart dressing is that a consultant can be warned very quickly if a patient's burn has become infected.'

Lifesaving drugs to treat Lymphoblastic Leukaemia

In March 2016 UCL Cancer Institute Research Trust received £10,000 from HSF towards a research programme to develop new life-saving drugs to treat Acute Childhood Lymphoblastic Leukaemia.

The UCL Cancer Institute carries out vital research leading to new discoveries about cancer and improved treatments for cancer patients.

HSF also presented a cheque

for £2,000 to Bloodwise to fund a research programme to develop new treatments for adults suffering from Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia.

Only half of adult Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia patients survive. The researchers aim to exploit the natural ability of viruses to infect and kill cells. Work is being undertaken to genetically reprogramme the measles virus to selectively infect and kill Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia cells, leaving

normal cells unharmed.

Bloodwise has invested over £500 million in world-class blood cancer research. At any one time Bloodwise has over £90 million invested in research.

The charity is currently funding over 1,000 researchers and clinicians in over 220 active research projects, as well as countless more awards to train the research leaders of the future.



HSF's Chairman, John Greenwood, and HSF health plan staff member, Matthew Jones, present the grant cheques



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About The Hospital Saturday Fund

When the Fund was founded in 1873 there was little co-ordination of health services and these were mainly performed by the existing hospitals, all of which were voluntary - except the workhouse infirmaries. Lack of nutrition, over-crowding, poverty and ill-health were very prevalent. The twelfth Earl of Meath, Reginald Brabazon, a Victorian social reformer, the principal founder of the Fund and other pioneers did their utmost to bring these appalling conditions to the notice of the nation.

At a meeting held in Hyde Park, London, in 1873, they made an appeal for the inauguration of a Fund to which all in employment would pay a regular weekly amount which would help to meet the cost of hospital maintenance. In those days Saturday was pay-day and so the title HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND was chosen.

Since the advent of the National Health Service the Hospital Saturday Fund has 'tailored' its benefits to suit modern needs. Its trading company HSF health plan is one of the leading health cash plans in the UK and Ireland and provides a wide range of health benefits to help people cover the cost of their everyday health care. In 2016 the Hospital Saturday Fund will give £900,000 in donations and grants to medical charities, hospices and hospitals across the UK and Ireland. Assistance will also be given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused financial difficulties.

Grants for Organisations and Individuals

The Hospital Saturday Fund is a registered charity whose aims are to provide assistance through its charitable funds for:

- **Registered health charities such as hospitals, hospices and medical organisations which are in need of grants for medical projects, care, research or in support of medical training within the United Kingdom, Isle of Man, Channel Islands and Republic of Ireland;**
- **Individuals with a medical condition or disability who would benefit from assistance with the purchase of specialised equipment or from particular forms of treatment.**

Visit the Hospital Saturday Fund website for full details of the criteria and to access the online application process:
www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org

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