



# Barts Guild News

ISSUE 24

NOVEMBER 2024

## Guild AGM 2024

The 112th AGM was opened by Guild President Ann Wickham.

Ann welcomed our guests The Lady Mayoress, Mrs Elisabeth Mainelli, Sheriffs Mrs Miranda Chalk and Mr Greg Jones KC, and Guest Speaker Mr Gregory Moore, Deputy Town Clerk, City of London.

Ann thanked retiring Chairman Christopher Hayward for his leadership often in difficult times such as the Covid-19 pandemic, and in busy times during the 'Barts 900' celebrations.

Describing the Guild as a "wonderful fellowship" Ann praised our volunteers for giving "the most precious gift – their time. Time to smile, to listen and to hold a hand."

Keith Bottomley CC, Honorary Treasurer, presented the Annual Accounts which contained much to be cheerful about, including £20,000 in donations and legacies to the Guild, £26,000 given as grants, an increase in take up of the shop discount of 10% to NHS staff, and Shop takings have exceeded the pre-pandemic peak. Keith thanked Manager Andy Haddon and the Shop volunteers for their achievement.

The appointments of Mr Stephen Edmondson as Chairman, Mrs Jean Stevenson as Vice-Chairman, and Mrs Hilary Tarr as a Trustee were approved. Mr Steve Bench stood down as a Trustee, having completed two consecutive 3-year terms, Mrs Angela Robinson resigned as a



*President Ann Wickham opens the AGM.*

*Photograph: Bob Cooper*

Trustee, and Sir Marcus Setchell KCVO retired from the Management Committee.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chris said that he had enjoyed being part of the Guild family. The Guild is a charity of modest size but its impact on Barts can't be beaten. He felt it an honour to have served during 'Barts 900' and very much enjoyed all of the events and expressed a great affection for the Hospital. Chris signed off by praising our volunteers "who give so much of their time to our beloved Hospital. We couldn't do without them."

*Continued on page two.*

## **Guild AGM 2024 cont.**

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### **INCOMING CHAIRMAN'S RESPONSE**

Steve Edmondson said that he was joining a family that achieves great things. Guild grants to the wards and theatres have improved conditions for staff and educational grants have proved to be very beneficial. Describing our volunteers as “the backbone of the charity”, Steve said that he has seen the trolley visiting the wards and knows how much it means to the patients.

### **SPEECH BY THE LADY MAYORESS**

Mrs Elisabeth Mainelli gave a charming and witty address and said one of the happiest memories of her year as Lady Mayoress was donning a hard hat and visiting the Great Hall restoration works with Will Palin.

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Mr Gregory Moore, Deputy Town Clerk, City of London, gave an entertaining and informative talk on the history of the City from Roman times to the present day.

The meeting concluded with afternoon tea.

*Continued on page three.*



*Steve Edmondson, new Guild Chairman.  
Photograph: Bob Cooper*



*Gregory Moore receives a gift from  
outgoing Chairman Chris Hayward.  
Photograph: Neil Ritson*



*Lady Mayoress Elisabeth Mainelli.  
Photograph: Bob Cooper*

## Guild AGM 2024 cont.



*Ann Wickham catches up with long-time friends Wendy Mead (L) and Elizabeth Shaw (R).*

*Photograph: Bob Cooper*



*Neil Ritson staffing the stall.*

*Photograph: Bob Cooper*



*Jean Stevenson (L) with Jayne and Patrick Jennings.*

*Photograph: Bob Cooper*



*Long-standing supporters Penny and Martin Wainwright.*

*Photograph: Bob Cooper*



*The top table at the AGM.*

*Photograph: Bob Cooper*

## Letter from the new Guild Chairman

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Steve Edmondson writes after succeeding Chris Hayward as the Guild's new Chairman.

Dear Guild Members and Volunteers,

May I take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new Chairman of Barts Guild having officially taken over the chairmanship at the recent AGM on Tuesday October 22nd.

I take on this role with great pride and humility and am truly honoured that your management committee members have entrusted me with this vital role, which strictly speaking is as Chairman of the Management Committee which de facto is regarded as Chairman of the Guild.

I believe it is no secret that my appointment was with a view to forging closer links with the Hospital in anticipation that my role as a senior clinician and member of the Hospital Executive Board would enable us to strengthen and further capitalise on the existing relationship between the Guild and the Hospital.

I first joined the staff of Barts forty-two years ago in October 1982 as Senior Registrar in Cardiothoracic Surgery and was appointed as Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon to the Hospital in January 1984.

I have remained at Barts ever since and have therefore seen the Hospital go through enormously challenging times including the threat of closure in the early nineties to its present-day position as a highly prestigious cardiac and cancer hospital, as well as a vital member of the Barts Health group of hospitals.

I was the first Clinical Director of the Surgery Directorate of the newly formed Barts Heart Centre which became the largest Cardiac Centre in the UK following its inception in 2015. This involved the amalgamation of the previous cardiac divisions from St Bartholomew's, The London Chest and National Heart hospitals.



*New Chairman and Vice-Chairman,  
Steve Edmondson and Jean Stevenson,  
pictured after their appointment at the AGM.  
Photograph: Bob Cooper*

Having led the successful bringing together of these three legacy surgical centres, in 2018 I was appointed as Chief of Surgery for the whole Barts Health NHS Trust and continue in that role as well as being a member of the Group Executive Board.

I led and coordinated the London region's emergency cardiac surgery response to the Covid-19 pandemic and in 2021 was appointed Clinical Director for the regional network covering all cardiac services across London.

Although I continue in my Chief of Surgery and regional Clinical Director roles, I have now retired from routine clinical practice, which has afforded me the time I believe is necessary to fulfil my commitments to the Guild. Therefore, I very much hope that my years of senior clinical experience allied with senior managerial roles within the Hospital and more widely will give me the necessary abilities and opportunities to serve the Guild as effectively as possible.

I do want to offer you that same commitment to do my very best on your behalf to lead the Guild in a way you all deserve as a result of the time and effort you all give so generously to support the Guild.

*Continued on page five.*

## Letter from the new Guild Chairman cont.

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On behalf of the management committee, I would like to express our great thanks again for all the tremendous hard work you all put in, whether it's the shop, the trolley or elsewhere to support the work of the Guild, which is very much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to offer my enormous gratitude to Chris Hayward, my predecessor and outgoing Chairman. Chris has been Chairman for the past three years and has done a magnificent job in taking the Guild from strength to strength in unprecedentedly challenging times covering the Covid-19 pandemic. We therefore find ourselves making more grants and having more funds under management than at any time previously and doing so with a very engaged and effective management committee, thanks in very large measure to Chris's excellent stewardship.

Your President Ann Wickham gave a very fulsome address of thanks to Chris at the AGM

and I'm sure we all join with Ann in expressing our gratitude and best wishes to Chris as he steps down.

In the same vein and in reflecting the charity's healthy financial position, I would also like to thank your honorary treasurer Keith Bottomley for all the great work that he does on our behalf taking care of the Guild's finances.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in due course and I really want to offer an open access policy to all our members and volunteers.

Therefore, if you have any comments or suggestions you would like to make relating to the Guild, please feel free to contact me by email: [stephen.edmondson1@nhs.net](mailto:stephen.edmondson1@nhs.net)

With very best wishes,  
Steve Edmondson

## Did you know?

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That the Memorial to Wat Tyler on the Barts' wall facing Smithfield was unveiled in July 2015 by film-maker Ken Loach?

Tyler was the leader of the Peasants' Revolt in 1381, when thousands of rebels, inspired by the radical cleric John Ball, marched on London from Kent to protest at a new poll tax, amongst other things.

During a confrontation with the young King Richard II at Smithfield Tyler was fatally stabbed by the Mayor of London, William Walworth, and a royal squire, and then beheaded. His head was displayed on London Bridge.

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## Trouble-free Christmas Shopping

The Guild Shop is full of Christmas cards and gifts to suit all tastes. We have a wide range of books, cards, clothing, prints and souvenirs to help you to put a tick next to every name on your Christmas list.

The new Guild calendar (pictured right) features the Hospital at work and is now on sale at great prices of £2 for the desktop version and £2.50 for the wall calendar.

Our very popular hoodies and sweatshirts are just the thing to keep you cosy on a winter's day and, if you visit the Guild Shop in the atrium of the KGV building, you may be able to snap up some of our fast-selling handmade clothing, toys and novelties for babies and children.

The Shop is open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4pm, while the online souvenir store is open 24/7 and your purchases will be delivered to your door.

Make everyone's Christmas merry by shopping at the Guild!



*The Guild Calendar 2025 is available in both desktop and wall-hanging versions, suitable for the home and office.*



Hoodies - black, green, maroon, navy

£29



Sweatshirts - black, green, maroon, navy

£26

## Trouble-free Christmas Shopping

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Guild Christmas Cards are £3.50 for a pack of 10 identical cards, with ten designs to choose from.



Please visit our online store to see all of the available designs, where you can also select from our full range of books, cards, clothing, prints and souvenirs.

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

## Honours for the Guild

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2024 has been an excellent year, with three of our volunteers receiving deserved awards.

President Ann Wickham, Mandy Handley and Jan O'Neill were all recognised for their volunteering over many, many years. Congratulations to all!

### Ann Wickham BEM

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President Ann Wickham was awarded The British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours, in recognition of her 57 years of volunteering with the Guild at Barts.

During that time, Ann has volunteered in a variety of roles, notably serving as both Guild Chairman and President, and she fought with many others in the 1990s to prevent the Hospital from closure. Ann was also instrumental in the creation of the Princess Alice Garden, which to this day provides a relaxing quiet haven for both patients and staff.

For the full story, see BGN Issue 23.



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

*Photograph: Andy Newbold, Newbold PR & Media*

### Mandy Handley

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Mandy has volunteered for 12 years in the Guild Shop at Barts. She serves patients, staff and visitors with snacks and treats and, like all our volunteers, finds time to listen to their worries.

Notably, Mandy worked with a small team of four volunteers to keep the Shop open during the Covid-19 pandemic and helped to triage patients and their companions.

The compere at BBC Radio's 'Make a Difference' Awards 2024 ceremony, where Mandy came second in the London volunteer category, said that she is a credit to Barts.

Commenting on her award, Mandy said: "I was nominated by a family member and was overwhelmed by the number of votes I received. I feel that the award is an achievement for the Guild and for Barts."

We are delighted that Mandy's contribution has been acknowledged by so many Londoners.



*Mandy with her BBC Radio 'Make a Difference' award.*

*Photograph: Jan O'Neill*



## Jan O'Neill

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The League of Mercy was founded in 1899 by Royal Charter of Queen Victoria. Its objective was to establish a large body of voluntary workers to assist voluntary hospitals and “otherwise relieve sickness and suffering”.

Every year The League awards The Order of Mercy to around 50 volunteers from all over the UK. The presentation ceremony is a glorious mixture of music and pageantry, with the Mansion House the venue for this year's presentation.

I found it humbling to meet some of the other recipients, some of whom do quite remarkable things, and given the relative rarity of the award the Guild has done very well over the past 20 years.

I am sure that all of our volunteers deserve a medal and I'm sure that, like me, previous Guild recipients felt that the award is for all of them.

JAN O'NEILL



*Jan receives The Order of Mercy medal.  
Photograph: Courtesy of The League of Mercy*

## The Order of Mercy - Guild Recipients

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|------|--|
| 2004 | Mrs Elsie Halsey<br><i>Ran the souvenir shop</i>   |
| 2010 | Mr Malcolm Crisp<br><i>Organised grants for the wards</i>                                  |
| 2012 | Mrs Pauline Hirst<br><i>Chairman 1980 - 1989</i>   |
| 2014 | Mrs Joyce Malpas<br><i>President 1997 - 2008<br/>Chairman 1989 - 1992</i>                  |
| 2016 | Mrs Ann Wickham<br><i>President 2008 - present<br/>Chairman 1992 - 1995; 2000 - 2004</i>   |
| 2024 | Ms Jan O'Neill<br><i>Editor of Barts Guild News<br/>Organiser of the Christmas Concert</i> |



## To the Butchers via Barts

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*Guild Trustee Hilary Tarr describes a walk which gives a glimpse of bygone days.*

I am a walker, and I love long walks. Particularly since the pandemic, I hardly drive anywhere and prefer to walk or take our local, well-integrated public transport. But by walking, I really mean proper walking, ie. 8-11 miles on most Saturdays, in London or in the wonderful countryside of the London/Surrey border. Bucks, Herts and Kent are also within reach.

It has been exciting to discover a new walk, not shown on any map, full of interest and which terminates on the doorstep of Barts Hospital. This is the Porters' Way, also known as the Black Path, about 8 miles long between Walthamstow and Smithfield.

Back in the days before railways, motorised vehicles or well-bonded, smooth roadways, the farmers of Walthamstow and other settlements brought their produce and stock from the countryside into the markets of London along this route. Produce would have been taken by horse and cart to Spitalfields while animals in carts or on the hoof arrived in the open expanses of the Smithfield area. The name is a corruption of 'smooth field'. Drawings made about 1855 show wooden pens right in front of the Henry VIII Gatehouse, extending into the foreground and stretching into the distance, while some sheep and cattle appeared to be wandering free.

The Porters' Way appropriately commences at Walthamstow market, said to be the longest open-air street market in Europe and which sells all manner of goods including exotic foodstuffs (fresh and cooked) and vibrant fabrics. The walk moves from one surprise to another, passing some startling artwork on the sheer end walls of housing, mosaics at the entrance to St James Street Overground station, and a Victorian Pumping Station which dealt with Walthamstow's sewage network of the period. It contains a museum with original steam engines, and a Victoria Line underground carriage which you can book to hold an event.



*Hilary walking in the South Downs, near to where she grew up.*

Next comes an industrial estate, not without 'good to know' interest as a well-known bakery chain advertises on a notice: "This is a nut-free site". At this point the animals and cargos would be approaching the marshy land adjacent to the River Lea which they would have to cross. Moving on towards Hackney, no doubt the pace slackened as the animals and carts had to ascend from the river valley.

London Fields provided some respite to porters, drovers and animals alike. Animals could rest overnight on the common land so that they could maintain good condition leading up to their sale. Today there are statues of two behatted lady porters holding baskets of produce, surrounded by 12 most realistic sheep, some of which you can sit on, and numerous sacks of recognisable fruit and vegetables such as potatoes, apples and carrots. Much of the display contains mosaic and surfaces embedded with pebbles.

Just past London Fields comes Broadway Market, a very busy place for shopping and eating. You know you are still on the right path because nearby is Sheep Lane; you pass the Cat and Mutton pub and also The Porters' Way fast food outlet which sells fish and chips. There is so much interest still ahead: the Columbia Road market offers a plethora of plants and flowers to background cries of "C'mon, three for two yer Pelargonium".

*Continued on page eleven.*

## To the Butchers via Barts cont.

Eventually reached on City Road is Bunhill Fields, a former Nonconformist Burial Ground which contains the graves of many notables including John Bunyan, William Blake, Daniel Defoe, Isaac Watts and Thomas Newcomen. When you arrive at the Barbican, you can contemplate the Aldersgate Flame (if you can read the old English script) on the wall of the former Museum of London. The area round Aldersgate is closely connected with brothers John and Charles Wesley, and their mother Susanna is buried in Bunhill Fields.

We are now close to the Hospital, with Smithfield just beyond. Street names past and present, such as Cowcross Street, indicate former activity when meat did not arrive here in refrigerated lorries.

I have done this walk several times. I enjoy leading and co-leading for three different walking groups, not only for the exercise but also for what you notice and learn along the way, and no faster method of moving forward would be a satisfactory substitute.



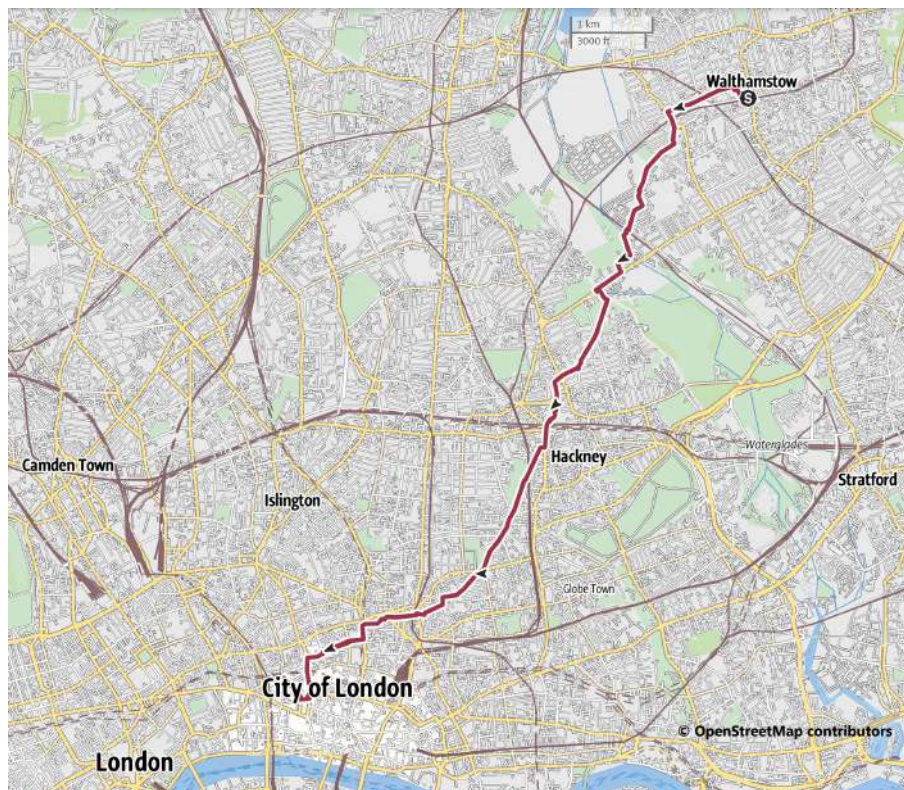
*The porters at London Fields with one of the sheep and mosaics in the foreground.*

*Photograph: Hilary Tarr*

Of course, I must mention the companionship of fellow walkers and tales they tell. The esteemed Geoffrey Chaucer turned such tales into literature for posterity, but I have not written anything down yet.

**HILARY TARR**

*Trustee, Assistant Treasurer/Bookkeeper*



## Elective Grant - Leila de Costa

During my placement at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), I had the chance to learn about various digestive disorders affecting children.

At GOSH, each type of disorder is managed by specialised doctors who lead teams of nurses, dietitians, psychologists, and other healthcare professionals. This multidisciplinary approach ensures that children referred to GOSH receive highly specialised care.

Children from all over the UK, and overseas, come to GOSH, many with complex health issues. While some have common digestive problems like constipation and acid reflux, others have extremely rare conditions affecting only one-in-a-million children. I was privileged to learn from children with these rare conditions and their families, which I believe will make me a more empathetic and knowledgeable doctor.

At GOSH, children benefit from advanced diagnostic tests that aren't routinely available at other children's hospitals in the UK. Observing these tests helped me understand how digestive problems in children are diagnosed and treated quickly at GOSH.

I attended weekly clinics where I saw doctors discuss treatment plans with patients and their families. On the ward, I joined general and nutritional ward rounds, which helped me see how the team cares for children with digestive issues.

I am also continuing to work on a research project which I started at GOSH under the supervision of the gastroenterologist consultants. The project examines the effects of a gluten-free diet on the growth of children with coeliac disease. I will present this work at the MDT meeting next month, and I hope to present at a national gastroenterology conference soon, with the support of the team.



*Leila in scrubs ready to observe a bone marrow aspirate on a child who was diagnosed with leukaemia.*

*Photographs: Leila de Costa*

During my placement, I gained confidence in communicating with children and their families. I learned the importance of advocating for patients while respecting the wishes of their parents or guardians. I observed how doctors involved children and their parents in decision-making processes, which is crucial for managing chronic conditions.

*Continued on page thirteen.*

## Elective Grant - Leila de Costa cont.

Overall, my placement at GOSH solidified my desire to specialise in paediatrics. I gained valuable insights into common digestive conditions in children, participated in meaningful discussions about public health challenges, and improved my skills in interacting with young patients. This experience has been incredibly rewarding and has strengthened my commitment to becoming a paediatrician.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Barts Guild for providing me with the elective bursary that made this invaluable experience possible. Their support has been instrumental in allowing me to pursue this opportunity and gain such enriching insights into paediatric care.

I really enjoyed my elective and it has definitely strengthened my desire to become a paediatrician! Although it is emotionally difficult to see unwell children, it is also extremely rewarding to be able to help them and their families.

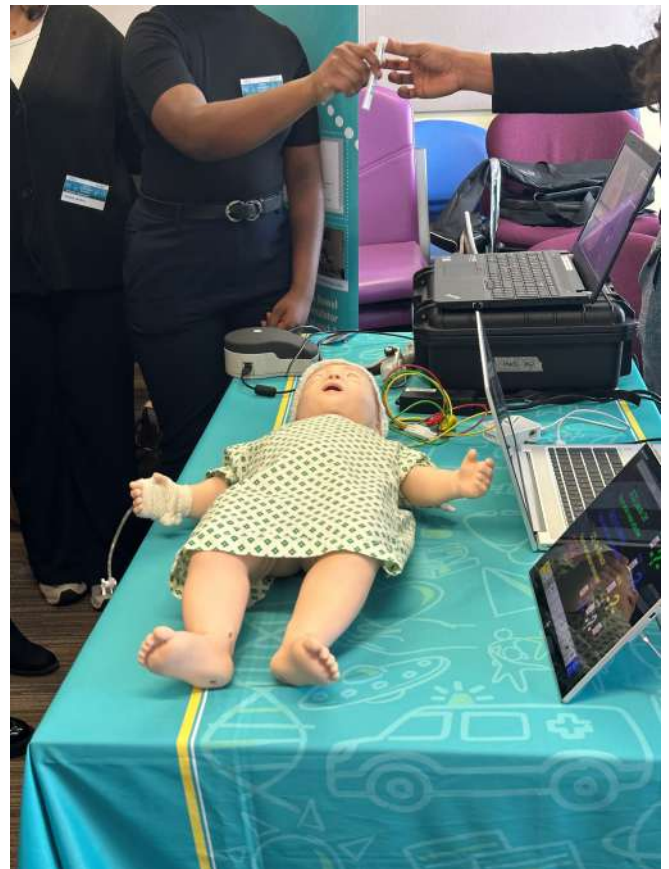
Children are very resilient and it is a privilege to be able to work with them and their families at such a difficult time in their lives.

As an elective student I was also able to attend the GOSH summer school, which is a conference held at GOSH for aspiring paediatricians.

The images from the summer school show one of the therapy dogs and a practise mannequin.

The furry therapy dogs are on the wards ready to provide cuddles to the many young patients, and we used the paediatric mannequins to practise our clinical skills on in simulation training; this provided a safe learning environment to practise our skills.

LEILA DE COSTA



## Sharing Historic Barts - Project Update

The North Wing at Barts has been neatly wrapped in white sheeting for some months now. It may look serene from the outside, but behind this plastic skin teams of builders and conservators have been busily attending to the fabric of the building and its precious interiors.

In July we launched our 'Anatomy of the North Wing' tours - allowing the public to climb to the high-level deck in the Great Hall to watch the work underway and to meet some of our specialist team. The tours are being led by a trained team of volunteers, some of them staff, or former staff, from Barts. As well as the Great Hall, visitors can observe at close quarters the cleaning and repair of the Hogarth paintings, now well underway.

Out of public view, roof works are advancing. The 1960s copper has been stripped off, to be replaced with lead, and the massive original roof slates have been taken up and sorted ready to be re-laid. The 160 windows are being individually repaired and repainted in a temporary workshop above the Guild Room, and the clock and Charter Window have been removed for conservation off-site.



So far, we are on track to finish the works as planned in July 2025. The building we reopen in September when the cleaned and repaired stonework will be revealed and the beautifully restored interiors opened to full public view for the first time in the building's history.

Our conservation tours finish at the end of January 2025 and can be booked online. Tickets are £10 and Hospital staff go free!

*WILL PALIN*  
Chief Executive, Barts Heritage

[bartsheritage.org.uk/sharing-historic-barts/learning/conservation/](https://bartsheritage.org.uk/sharing-historic-barts/learning/conservation/)



*Photographs: Matthew Andrews*

## Hilda Fazzani 1924 - 2024

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Hilda Fazzani died on October 2nd, 2024, where she was determined to be, in her flat near Old Street, London. She was 100 years old and is survived by her niece Lizzie.

Hilda Mary Edwards was born in Shoreditch on August 1st, 1924, and lived in London all of her life, marrying Edward Fazzani in Hackney in 1972. For 34 years, she was a volunteer with the Guild of the Royal Hospital of St Bartholomew.

Although Hilda retired from volunteering at the start of the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, she remained in close contact with Guild Shop Manager Andy Haddon and was always keen to know what was happening with the Guild.

Andy would phone Hilda every week to check how she was doing and, as Hilda became less mobile, would visit her, take her out in her wheelchair and help her with her shopping and other chores.

Andy recalls: "We had many conversations and laughs, some challenges, and became friends. Right up until two weeks before her passing, Hilda and I would occasionally visit a pub for a coffee or half a beer, sit together and put the world to rights. I will miss those happy times when Hilda could leave her flat and see a bit of the outside world."

Hilda will be remembered fondly by her family and her friends and colleagues at Barts Guild as a strong and resourceful woman, engaged in what was happening in the world and never short of an opinion.



*ANDY HADDON*  
*Guild Shop Manager*





*Everyone at Barts Guild wishes you a very Merry Christmas and hopes that 2025 will bring health and happiness to you, your family and friends.*



## **Barts Guild**

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## **News & Events**

We are very much looking forward to the reopening of the North Wing in 2025 and the resumption of Guild events in the Great Hall.

For the latest news, including forthcoming events, from the Guild, please visit our website and the dedicated News section.

[bartsguild.org.uk/category/news/](http://bartsguild.org.uk/category/news/)

## **BARTS GUILD NEWS**

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