It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to The Manchester Royal Eye Hospital Bicentenary Open Day. I recall walking up Oxford Road 20 years ago to commence my first job as a Senior House Officer at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital and how I was impressed, not to say a little intimidated, by that imposing Victorian red brick edifice. To me that venerable building represented a state of permanence, a fixed point in the lives of the people of Manchester. I had little idea then that the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital had started in much humbler circumstances to serve the unmet needs of its population and that within my lifetime we would see a further iteration of the MREH in all its modern, state of the art glory in the heart of the Central Manchester Foundation Trust.

Reflecting on this, it is apparent that one’s pride in the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital is less to do with the buildings in which it has been located, but more to do with the men and women who have built a reputation for the highest standard of ophthalmic practice that has endured and flourished through the last 200 years. Today the MREH boasts a host of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals who are leaders in their field. The complex job of delivering all this care would not be possible without the oversight of our administrative and managerial staff, without whom the hospital would come to a grinding halt.

Despite, or perhaps because of, the pressures of seeing and treating around 250,000 patients each year, we can be rightly proud of our high standards of care and innovative practice, our cutting edge research and the much valued teaching we impart.

I’d like to thank the MREH 1814 Bi-Centenary Open Day Committee members for their dedication and commitment to celebrating our bicentenary year in a memorable way. Their efforts to plan events and exhibitions that have reached a global audience have instilled pride in everyone who works here. Without them, this day and the many events throughout the year would not have been possible.

I hope that you will get a flavour of all this during your time with us on our Bicentenary Day and I am sure you will also get a sense of the history and achievements of the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital over the last 200 years. We hope you enjoy your time with us and we look forward to a further 200 years of excellence in ophthalmology.

Susmito Biswas
Consultant Ophthalmologist and Clinical Head of Division at Manchester Royal Eye Hospital
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Access</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td><strong>Atrium Display</strong> 1st Floor poster display and theatre tours</td>
<td>Open to the public / schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00am - 12.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Atrium Display</strong> 1st Floor poster display and theatre tours</td>
<td>Open to the public / schools</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Tours of MREH</strong> Ground floor (every 15 minutes)</td>
<td>Open to the public / schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00 noon</td>
<td><strong>Celebratory Lunch</strong></td>
<td>Staff &amp; invited guests</td>
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<td>12.45pm</td>
<td><strong>Chairman’s Speech</strong> - Atrium</td>
<td>Open to the public</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Executive Tour</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.15pm - 3.15pm</td>
<td><strong>Atrium Display</strong> 1st Floor poster display and theatre tours</td>
<td>Open to the public</td>
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<td><strong>Staff &amp; Alumni Tours MREH</strong> Ground floor (every 15 minutes)</td>
<td>Staff &amp; invited guests</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Event closes</strong></td>
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Finding your way around

Manchester Royal Eye Hospital Ground Floor

KEY

21 Prosthetics
20 Vitreo-Retinal
19 Oculoplastic Team
18 Optometry and Low Vision Awareness
17 Ultrasound Exam 2
16 YAG Laser
15 Paediatric Team
14 Corneal Team
13 Glaucoma Team
12 Visual Acuity
11 Vision Science
10 Henshaws
9 Research
8 Clinical Effectiveness & Audit
7 Patient Experience & Quality
6 Ophthalmic Imaging
5 Orthoptics
4 Nursing Through the Ages
3 Eye Bank
2 Dispensing Opticians
1 Meet & Greet
Your Open Day

This is a unique opportunity to look round areas of Manchester Royal Eye Hospital that you would normally not come across, and we hope that you enjoy the information, activities and demonstrations on offer. Staff will be on hand at all times to answer any questions you may have.

In the Atrium

The dispensing opticians will display ophthalmic dispensing products old and new, including handmade frames and other specialties. (2 Ground Floor)

Manchester Eye Bank will be displaying information about corneal donation, corneal grafts, and explaining the vital work they do with the NHS Blood and Transplant team to increase cornea donations at the hospital. Not for the squeamish – but there may be the opportunity to see footage of a real-life transplant… (3 Ground Floor)

Learn more about how nursing has developed throughout the last 200 years with displays and posters featuring nursing practices at the hospital. (4 Ground Floor)

The orthoptics team will be performing vision tests alongside the ophthalmic imaging team, who will be demonstrating diagnostic equipment and the special non-mydriatic fundus camera that photographs the eye. (5 & 6 Ground Floor)

Interested in the patient experience and clinical effectiveness here at the hospital? Hear patient stories and pick up a special edition of ‘Lessons Learned’, a publication that discusses how we have learnt from risks and incidents at the hospital. (7 & 8 Ground Floor)

For information and displays on the clinical trials which have happened or are currently happening at Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, pop over to our research stall and chat with the team there. (9 Ground Floor)
Henshaws, the society for blind people, who have a permanent team based at the hospital, are here to chat about their work and the support they offer our patients. (10 Ground Floor)

Before joining one of the tours, don’t forget to visit the Vision Sciences stand. Here there will be demonstration of abnormal colour vision and electrophysiology, including the chance to look at some virtual reality eyewear. Lucy Burscough, our resident artist and creator of the ‘Look 200’ project, will be alongside Vision Sciences discussing her exhibition and doing caricatures on the day. Lucy has been working hard in the Atrium throughout the year creating an innovative project to celebrate the bicentenary. Her paintings focus on the cutting edge research into the way we see, especially colour-blindness. Do take the time to stop and look at her work. (11 Ground Floor)
Due to health and safety areas 12-24 can only be accessed as part of an official tour, so please book onto one in the Meet and Greet area.

First on the tour is the visual acuity team, who will be doing a demonstration of this important method of ascertaining the clearness of a person’s vision. (12 Ground Floor Tour)

Next, our glaucoma, corneal and paediatric teams all have stands as part of the tour. As well as displays, this is a great opportunity to learn more about the role of the specialist nurses, doctors and their teams – and get shown how to correctly administer eye drops at the same time! (13-15 Ground Floor tour)

The tour will then take you into the laser and ultra-sound departments, where these clinical functions will be demonstrated. (16-17 Ground Floor tour)

The optometry team will be explaining through posters and displays their specialist optometry services, including low vision rehabilitation, contact lenses, glaucoma and macular service. (18 Ground Floor tour).

Before heading upstairs, stands from oculoplastics, the vitreo-retinal team and the ocular prosthetics team are all available for visitors to learn more about these perhaps unknown departments. Here you’ll be able to see a demonstration of custom iris painting techniques in prosthetics, videos and other information about what goes on behind the scenes in the lab. (19-21 Ground Floor tour).
1st Floor Tour

After a tour of the macular department where you can watch a DVD about this common condition, the tours will take you to the operating theatres. Staff will be on hand to explain the instruments and equipment used on a daily basis. They will also be able to demonstrate the advances in surgery with displays of old equipment. Footage will also be played of a ‘real life’ operation. Hear more about the anaesthetics used in operations, and see presentations from members of our theatre staff. (22-24 First Floor tour)

And finally…

Before you go, please pop over and say hello to our charity team, who will be based by the lift junction in the Atrium. They will be able to chat to you about the 200 for 200 Appeal, the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital Charity’s Bicentenary appeal, which aims to raise £200,000 in the bicentenary year to make a significant difference to the paediatric eye service.

Finally, don’t forget to have a look at the bicentenary exhibition in the Atrium, a vibrant and engaging display to mark 200 years of Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. The artwork was designed by Lime Arts, our award-winning in-house arts charity, and highlights the changing nature of diagnosing and treating eye conditions through the years.
The founder of the institution now known as the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital was William James Wilson. Born in Leeds, after qualifying in medicine he was apprenticed to surgeons in Lancaster, Chester and London, where he developed an interest in ophthalmology. He moved to Manchester to set up practice.

At the time, the only provider of eye surgery was the Manchester Infirmary, and the surgeon best-known locally for his eye expertise had recently died. Wilson canvassed local opinion, and having gained support, arranged an inaugural meeting at which the supporters gathered to declare open the Manchester Institution for Curing Diseases of the Eye. The meeting was held on Trafalgar Day, October 21st 1814, the 9th anniversary of the famous battle. The inaugural announcement was published (see left).

Premises were now needed, and one of the supporters of the Institution owned a house “near the top of King Street” which had some spare rooms. These were rented for the sum of £25 per annum, and the Manchester Eye Institution was open for business. Financial support was provided firstly by annual subscription from those who would become Governors and Trustees, and secondly from donations. The history of the Eye Institution’s first decades
would be a story of constant striving for enough funds to support an organisation which became immediately popular amongst patients, the cooperative societies and workhouses who often funded them. In due course the second post of Honorary Surgeon to the hospital was appointed, and filled by Samuel Barton. He would go on to become one of the most long-serving members of the Honorary Medical Staff. Together these two doctors serviced the patients of the Eye Institution without fees, and later in 1815 the first annual report was composed. A brief summary of activity in the minute book showed:

This, the first record of patients treated, was the beginning of an inexorable rise in numbers during the following decades, accompanied by constant efforts to generate enough revenue to support their care. At the end of 1815 a full annual report was published, showing that the newly-founded Eye Institution had already treated 1885 patients. The report incorporated a breakdown of the eye diseases treated, giving a fascinating insight both into the prevalence of various conditions at the time, and into the methods of diagnosis.

Patient numbers gradually increased, and ultimately became too difficult for 2 surgeons to deal with, and a third, John Windsor, was appointed in 1818. The premises too became inadequate, and firstly alterations were necessary, secondly larger premises were

<table>
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<th>The minute reads:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discharged cured</td>
<td>702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relieved</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incurable</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remain on the books</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1005</td>
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sought. In 1822 the Eye Institution moved to rooms within a new house at No. 35 Faulkner Street, but these also soon proved inadequate, and the Eye Institution moved to No. 7 Princess Street, again simply a small house, used for hospital purposes. The next expansion, in 1835, would be to take, in addition, a front room at No. 13 Princess Street, and in due course the whole hospital moved over to this address.

The rather peripatetic nature of the Manchester Eye Institution in its first twenty years was problematic, but very gradually the funding became more secure and in 1838 the Board considered for the first time that it was possible to purchase a house. This was at No. 3 South Parade, one of a row of houses facing the Church of St. Mary. It was bought for £1,333, with an £800 mortgage. The suitability of this and adjacent premises as small hospitals was clearly not just noted by the Board of the Eye Institution – next door would be the Lying-in Hospital for Women, which would later take the name of the church opposite, and become St. Mary's Hospital.

This momentous occasion of a house purchase (even though supported by a large mortgage) was marked by a change in name. The organisation until then known as “The Manchester Institution for Curing Diseases of the Eye” would be renamed as the Manchester Eye Hospital.

This new building clearly provided advantages, and yet the patient experience was still decidedly Victorian. Patients queued in the rain in the back yard, until funds were found to erect a shed, to make their sometimes long wait rather less uncomfortable.

For those who needed to be inpatients, the cost of board was 3/6d per week, payable in advance! The salary of the resident House Steward (and his wife, the Stewardess) was £70 per annum, with board, and two servants were permitted, with pay of £8.10s per annum and board equivalent to 6s weekly.

In 1862, for the first time, a House Surgeon was appointed to the hospital staff, and although not resident, working full-time for the Hospital.

In 1865 the Hospital moved away from South Parade, selling No. 3 and buying instead No. 24 St. John Street, a house that nevertheless required considerable extension, alteration and refitting. The number of inpatient beds was doubled from 25 to 50. It was felt appropriate to seek Royal status, and in due course the Home Secretary confirmed Her Majesty’s approval. Henceforth it would become The Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.
The Royal Eye Hospital is shown below in St. John Street, late in the nineteenth century. It is the tallest building on the right side of the street, near the far end. St. John’s Church, still there in this photograph, was demolished in the early 20th century. The building occupied by the Royal Eye Hospital still stands, and has been used, as so many others in the street, for private medical practice.

The hospital at St. John Street served well for nearly twenty years, but throughput increased inexorably and in 1879, four cottages behind No. 24 in Artillery Street were purchased for expansion to 65 beds. Predictably this proved inadequate, and the medical staff proposed the need for a further increase of inpatient space to 100 beds, which could only be achieved by a substantial new build, and owing to the space needed, outside the city centre.
After investigation, a site south of the city in Chorlton-cum-Medlock was decided upon, at that time a well-to-do residential area. A special appeal obtained funds for the purchase of land, and a design of the architects Pennington & Bridgen was chosen, and the hospital was opened for business in 1885. An extension was completed in 1910, creating the frontage so well known today.

The hospital is seen here shortly after its opening. The House Staff, including House Secretary, nurses and House Surgeons, together looking after 100 inpatients, gathered for a photograph in 1895.

The Great War closely followed, the Hospital coming under the strain firstly, of losing staff to war service, and secondly losing 50 beds to the care of the war wounded, whilst dealing in 1917 with 39,000 outpatients and over 2,000 inpatients. Immediately after the war the practicalities of running St. John Street became insuperable and in 1920 it was closed after being used for over 50 years. Instead, three houses opposite the Oxford Road hospital were purchased for use as additional outpatient space and staff quarters. In due course however, the inevitability of inadequate space supervened and the decision was made to commission an entirely new outpatient building on Nelson Street, to include a residence for nursing staff. This was occupied in 1937, and of course finished to the most modern style, being tiled floor-to-ceiling.

The pictures show the new frontage in 1937, together with what would nowadays be styled a “triage” area. The Second War followed, with similar effects to the Great War on staff losses and the secondment of beds to military casualties. On the night of 23rd December 1940 the hospital was bombed, killing two staff members and causing substantial damage. Temporary closure was necessary but part reopening was possible by the following April, with 160 beds.

The end of the war was followed rapidly by the National Health Act in 1946, which transformed the structure
and funding of health services. The new Northwest Regional Hospital Board grouped together the MREH, MRI, St. Mary’s Hospital, the Dental and Foot Hospitals, which in 1948 became The United Manchester Hospitals. Further pressure on space, especially for the University and Orthoptic departments, led to the purchase in 1956 of Lister House, on Nelson Street. This initially became the base of the University Department, also housing orthoptic beds, consulting space and staff accommodation, later evolving in the 1970s into a glaucoma unit of 20 beds, with hospital library and offices. During the 1960s and 1970s, the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital was the busiest provincial eye hospital in the country, and of the 300 consultant ophthalmologists in England in 1965, some
50 had been trained there. Following the creation of the National Health Service in 1948, all buildings, originally created and kept by public donation, were effectively nationalised; at this point, investment in upkeep and development by evolution, virtually ceased, and the declining state of the buildings became an increasing problem. By the 1990s it was clear that the buildings of both MREH and MRI were rapidly becoming unsustainable and a large-scale rebuild was planned. The Strategic Outline Case for a new building was made in 1996. The immensely complex and expensive new build, requiring Private Finance Initiative funding and ultimately including new hospitals for the Mental Health Trust and the Manchester Children’s Hospitals, would be created on the same island site, requiring the continuing provision of all services during the building process. Fortunately the Eye Hospital was able to remain in its Oxford Road premises during this time. The new building was occupied in 2009, 13 years after the initial application to rebuild, and was officially opened by The Queen in 2012.

The new Manchester Royal Eye Hospital occupies a part of the large new building which also provides a new St. Mary’s Hospital for women, a new Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital, and a substantial replacement of the Manchester Royal Infirmary. Its frontage is on The Boulevard, a new road running through the island site.
Manchester Royal Eye Hospital has, over two hundred years, developed and maintained a well-deserved reputation for excellence. The hospital and its consultants attract both secondary and tertiary referrals not only from the Northwest of England, but nationally and internationally. It is one of the busiest eye hospitals in the world. The hospital is well-equipped to provide a high level of service well into the 21st century. We are proud to celebrate the bicentenary of the hospital in 2014.
Thank you for your support.

The difference you can make...

Manchester Royal Eye Hospital’s Bicentenary provides a unique opportunity to not only mark the achievements of our wonderful hospital but also to raise essential funds to enhance the world class care we are so proud to offer.

With your help we want to:

1. Make the Children’s Outpatient Clinic more child and family friendly
2. Recruit a Children’s Eye Clinic Liaison Officer
3. Provide state-of-the-art equipment to improve diagnosis in children
4. Provide specialist equipment to enhance clinical and research excellence in eye care

To make a donation to our Bicentenary Appeal please visit www.virginmoneygiving.com/MREH200 or text MREH00£5 to 70070

To find out more please visit www.cmftcharity.org.uk or call 0161 276 4522
If you enjoyed reading the brief history of the hospital earlier in this booklet, you may be interested in a special illustrated history of the hospital, produced by Consultant Ophthalmic surgeon Nicholas Jones for the Bicentenary.

‘Manchester Royal Eye Hospital 1814-2014: An Inside View’, is a 300 page hardback book containing over 200 illustrations, which documents the vast changes the hospital has gone through since its humble beginnings on King Street, with one surgeon and 24 beds.

Mr Jones has worked at the hospital for over thirty years, and as such was considered a natural choice both for leading the organising committee for the Bicentenary, and for putting together a complete history of this prestigious hospital, told from the perspective of someone who has been part of its transformational journey.

The book is priced at £30, and is available from the Dispensing Opticians at Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.
For more information on the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital please visit:

www.cmft.nhs.uk/royal-eye
www.mreh200.org.uk