

Registered Charity
No 274839

Wessex Medical Research

Funding research to fight disease



The newsletter of WESSEX MEDICAL TRUST

Autumn 2015

NEW FOREST SHOW 2015



We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to this year's New Forest Show which was held at the end of July.

The researchers responded magnificently and over the three days of the Show, we were able to engage with a large number of members of the public, many of whom were quite unaware of our existence! We certainly felt we were able to raise our profile significantly in the region and we are extremely grateful to the management of the New Forest Show—and also to our Patron Pamela Kimber—for making it all possible.

We were delighted to receive a visit from Mrs Sarah Troughton, Lord Lieutenant for Wiltshire and one of the Trust's Patrons. She is seen here emerging from the 'inflatable colon'.



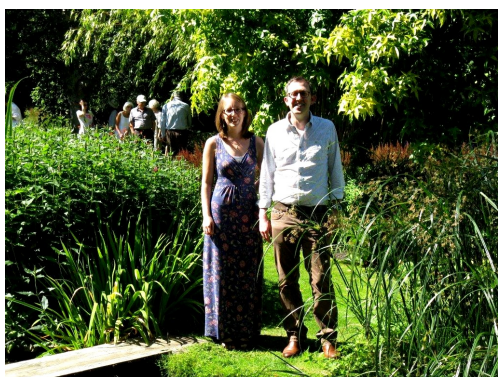
Children are absorbed by the Gene Mountain whilst on the left, members of the Centre for Biological Sciences demonstrate their work and in the back ground, Professor Eugene Healy, consultant dermatologist, explains the danger of melanomas as a result of over-exposure to the sun.

The surgeons had great fun attracting youngsters, first with bubbles and then by showing them how to model body parts using play dough. Whilst their children were absorbed, we had a chance to explain to the parents some of the more serious aspects of medical research.



CERVICAL CANCER Appeal—an update

We are making good progress with our Appeal and are hopeful that we will have reached our target of £30,000 by the end of the year. Major contributors during the summer were the Romsey Music Evening. (held, by their kind invitation, at the home of Norman and Gillie Oldmeadow) [£1,229] and the New Forest House in the Woods Evening (by kind invitation of Count Nicolai Michalowski) [£1,154].



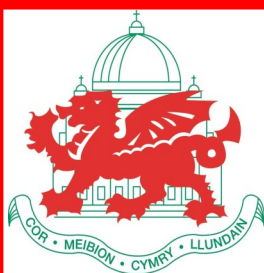
Dr Edd James and Dr Emma Reeves at Longstock Water Gardens

At both events the principal entertainment was provided by Dr Nick Evans (medical researcher—holder of several Wessex Medical grants—and accomplished concert pianist) and we are very grateful to him for his support of our cause.



Dr Nick Evans introduces one of his concert pieces watched by Pamela Kimber and Lesley Courtney

In addition, the Soroptimist International Southampton & District organised an event at Longstock Water Gardens near Stockbridge (by kind invitation of John Lewis) which raised the superb sum of £3,800—very well done and many thanks to them for this wonderful effort. There are a number of events planned for the autumn in support of our Appeal (see our website for details).



We are delighted to announce the return of the LONDON WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR

who will be performing at Romsey Abbey on Saturday 2nd April 2016

Their previous performances for us in 2009 and 2013 were both sell-out events so, to avoid disappointment, book your seats now with Wendy Burchall on 07792 586243 or email on wendy.burchall@wesmed.org.uk. Prices are £24 and £22: payment will be due and tickets sent in late January 2016.

Innovation Grants 2015

The Trustees have this year awarded five Innovation Grants, each of up to £20,000, to the following:

Dr Fernando Calahorra
Centre for Biological Sciences

“A microfluidic assay for drug discovery in Autism spectrum disorders.”
Developing tools to identify new ways to use drugs in treating Autism.

Dr Mariana Vargas-Caballero
Centre for Biological Sciences

“What are the mechanisms of synapse loss in early Alzheimer’s disease in human neurons?”
Exploring the mechanism of memory loss in early Alzheimer’s disease.

Dr Katrin Deinhardt
Centre for Biological Sciences

“Targeting TrkB turnover: Identification of the TrkB E3 ubiquitin ligase.”
Developing tools drug discovery in Autism spectrum disorders.

Dr Emma Reeves
Faculty of Medicine

“The impact of Ankylosing Spondylitis associated ERAP1 allotype combinations on HLA-B27 misfolding.”
Improving understanding of the causes of the autoimmune condition Ankylosing Spondylitis.

Mr Marc Bullock
Faculty of Medicine

“Identification and characterisation of deregulated long non-coding RNAs during colorectal cancer progression – interplay between tumour stroma and epithelium.”
Investigation of a new biological mechanism that may underlie colorectal cancer progression.

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