SUMMER 2025

DONOR FAMILY NETWORK

CONNEXIONS

Registered charity
1098781

The
Gift of Life
Memorial

The Precious Gift Event

Our annual event will be held on Sunday 21st September at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, DE13 7AR. All donor families and friends, recipients and families and anyone who is interested in our work is welcome to attend. There is no charge apart from car parking which can be pre-booked via their website:www.thenma.org.uk.

The Arboretum opens at 10 am, allowing for plenty of time to wander around the 400 memorials, including our Gift of Life memorial. Our event will start at 1pm in the Aspects Centre and end around 4pm. We will play music, listen to poems and hear the experiences of a donor family and a recipient. There is an opportunity for everyone to light a candle in memory of their loved one or donor. Following the event there will tea and cake and time to meet other donor families and recipients. During the afternoon we show a rolling scroll of photographs to honour the donors. If you would like your loved one to be included, please send us a photograph with their full name. We also offer Certificates of Appreciation that include the donors name. If you would like to receive one, please let us know when you book.

For catering purposes we need to have an idea of numbers, so please let us know if you are joining us and the number in your party, by the end of August, by e-mail or telephone.

This is an emotional event where we remember and honour those who have given the gift of life to others.

We will also hold our bi-annual AGM on 21st September, commencing at 12 o'clock in the Aspects Centre. We would be very grateful to any of our members who are able to join us for this.

We thank everyone who has kindly raised funds or made a donation to the Donor Family Network recently

Thank you to our regular donors:

Roger Quick
Patrick Gallagher
Keith Astbury
Emma Watt-Jones
Darren Cox
Paul White
J Fletcher
Pauline McDonnell
S Hall
A Heron

Donations have also kindly been received from:

Bird & Co Solicitors

Anna Brunton in memory of her husband Alan

Macaila White in memory of her partner Gary Truefill on the first anniversary

R & V Livingstone in memory of their son Peter

Brigette Lilley in memory of her daughter Claire

Alan Shorrock in memory of Gavin Shorrock

Brenda Turnbull in memory of Michael Frost

Christine Fallow in memory of her husband Andrew

Donations in memory of Joseph Roberts

Our grateful thanks go to **Louise Blackburn** who continues to raise monies for the Donor Family Network, most recently running in the Brighton Marathon, in honour and loving memory of her brother **David Sheppard.**

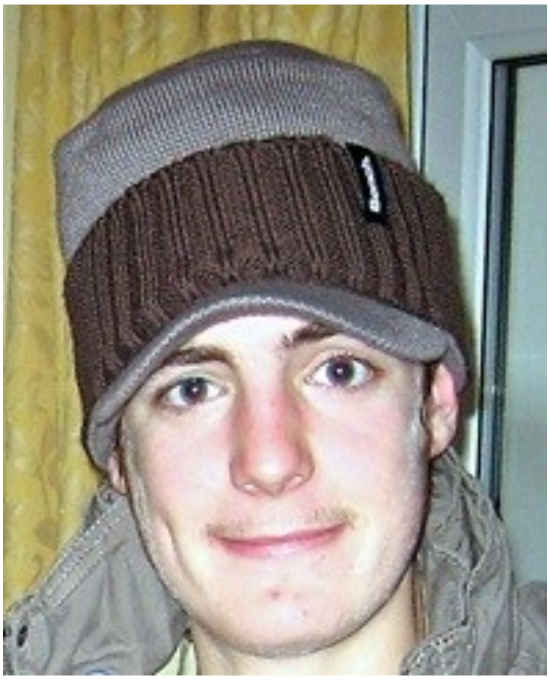
The family of **Eoin Douglas** has raised funds in his memory via Much Loved. The family say: "Eoin had been given the go ahead for a rare liver and lung transplant before he got his infection. We went from hope to despair in three days. Eoin would never have wanted his organs to go to waste, especially as we had been on the other side: hopeful. We hope that his organs saved other families from the same pain."

Christine Mason who set up a Just Giving page in favour of the DFN, ran in this year's Hull 10k Marathon on June 8th, completing it in 1hr 20m 52s. She ran in memory of her son-in-law **Sean Barmore** who donated in 2024 following a road accident. The family were honoured to receive the Order of St John Award for Organ Donation in April 2025.

Joanne Mc Veigh set up a Just Giving page to raise funds in memory of her mum **Shannon**, who donated her liver and kidneys. She says: "As devastating as it was losing her, the Donor Family Network helped to support us and comfort us in what is probably the most difficult time of our lives."

Fiona Morris has kindly raised funds in memory of her partner **Blair Longley** who donated in January 2025. She says: "Blair was a true legend who loved life and was loved by everyone. In his passing he gave the most generous gift to two others."

In loving memory of Matthew



Matthew (Matt as everyone called him) was born on 2nd May 1990, first of 3 children to Gillian and Andrew Ferguson. Matthew's early life was as a typical boy; football, rugby, golf, cubs / scouts and being forced to support Everton by his dad.

Originally from Chester, where all 3 children were born, the family moved down to Warwick in March 2003 due to Andrew's work. As part of his final year at school, Matthew signed up for a months World Challenge expedition to Uganda and Western Kenya. The trip developed Matthew's leadership and organisational skills, which included assisting at various orphanages working with the local children and learning their culture, whilst assisting them in life and education skills.

Matthew also joined the Young Warwickshire Fire Fighter Association where he first learnt about organ donation and, of his own volition, decided he wanted to be an organ donor if the situation ever arrived.

Matthew also started an apprenticeship in landscape gardening and his NVQ's in horticulture in 2007.

Andrew and Gill's lives took a tragic turn in early April 2008 when Matt was involved in a car accident only 2 miles from home on his way to work.

To this day nobody can explain why the accident occurred but it resulted in a serious head injury. He did not have a single broken bone from the accident. Matthew was airlifted to hospital where he was scanned and it showed a severe intracranial haemorrhage and traumatic brain injury. A phone call was made to Andrew, who was working in South Africa and the Police contacted Gill at work. Andrew returned to the UK the next day.

Throughout the next three days in the hospital, the nursing care was first class and nothing was too much trouble. Only on day three did the consultant explain the serious nature of Matthew's injuries, telling Andrew and Gill that Matthew was not going to recover.

Matthew was transferred to the Critical Care Unit but unfortunately never regained consciousness. He passed away just 2 weeks before his 18th Birthday.

Andrew says: "As you can imagine at that time it was a rollercoaster of emotions. Fortunately, we knew Matt's wishes would have been to bring hope and new life to others. The subject had been talked about at home previously as part of the Young Fire Fighter training."

Due to the Transplant nurse's professional approach at letting the bad news filter in rather than pushing the matter all at once, Andrew and Gill were able to process it (as much as possible) and were able to respect their son's wishes, feeling that it would be such a waste of a young fit person's life if they did not take such a decision.

Following their decision, the Donor Transplant Co-ordinator became involved and guided them through the process and they were offered the opportunity to be with Matthew during the tests to establish death, which was of great comfort to Gill.

Matthew and the donations team had to battle very hard for a number of hours in the final stages but the team's skills and the spirit of Matthew in making the donation happen was of great comfort to Andrew and Gill at that very difficult time.

Matthew was able to donate his heart, liver, pancreas and kidneys and bone and skin were used for medical research.

A film crew that was coincidentally following the organ donation co-ordinator for the day was able to capture the events and Matthew was part of a TV programme promoting the benefits of donation. Andrew and Gill have also attended many hospitals and colleges telling Matthew's story to the medical profession to promote and encourage organ donation.

Andrew says: “It is now 17 years since Matt died. In that time we have been supported and have supported the wonderful Donor Family Network. Through the organisation you come to appreciate the numbers of people and families who have had the courage and desire to donate their loved one’s organs for the benefit of others. We have been able to see firsthand the recovery of the people who have received transplants and the quality of life they now have.

As a direct result of a DFN event, and completely by chance, we met the parents of a recipient and started talking and the timelines of donation and receipt matched. It turned out their teenage daughter, who had only weeks to live, had received Matthew’s organ donation and had gone on to make a full recovery. Following further discussions, their daughter and ourselves agreed to meet. From that meeting we have become good friends and are delighted that the young lady has gone on to have a full life, including bringing three lovely children into the world. For ourselves this is the full circle of life. We have learnt, the very hard way, how precious life is and how the gift of life to somebody is so important. However tragic the circumstances, there can still be some positives for us and others from organ donation.”

QUOD The Quality in Organ Donation (QUOD) initiative facilitates research into organ donation and transplantation by providing researchers with samples from organ donors. The researchers will then look at the factors that influence the success and failure of transplantation.

You may have been asked to consent to participate in the QUOD programme at the time of your loved ones donation. Small samples are taken at various stages of the donor management. In addition QUOD are able to use organs for research that are not suitable for transplantation. Samples collected are processed and stored anonymously at the QUOD bio- bank, from which researchers can apply to access the anonymised samples. All research requests are reviewed by a committee to ensure that research projects make good use of the samples.

A small group of our donor families has been meeting with the UK Organ Donation and Transplantation Research Network (UKODTRN) and QUOD to discuss the donor family perspective of the work of QUOD and ways in which the Specialist Nurses can be assisted in the consent conversation regarding research.

Heart recipient **Gary Lee** recently completed his 100th park run on his 70th birthday. Truly magnificent for someone who was not particularly sporty prior to his transplant. Our Trustee Karen was there to support this wonderful occasion at Roberts Park in Saltaire (West Yorkshire).

Gary received his heart transplant at Withenshaw Hospital in April 2019, having been on the transplant waiting list for 9 weeks. He was admitted to hospital in February 2019 when he became extremely unwell. Hooked up to machines and pumped with lots of drugs, he was uncertain what the future held. Until, one day, the ICU nurse came with some reassuring news that a donor match had been found and he would receive a new heart.

He has a condition called Fabry's Disease, a rare genetic condition inherited from his mother. It's also something that sadly affects 5 of his 6 brothers (2 of whom have sadly passed away from this disease and one of whom is now extremely ill) and has passed onto his two daughters via the X-chromosome gene.

Gary doesn't let the fact that he had a transplant stop him from keeping active and he took up the Park Run to help encourage others to take part, no matter their age or physical fitness. The Roberts Park run is regularly supported by around 500+ people, with a mix of all ages and abilities. Some just run for fun, some push themselves to achieve a personal best and some run to celebrate an achievement or birthday.

These events highlight a community spirit and family-friendly atmosphere, something that Gary's 3 children, 5 grand-children, as well as 10 other family members have committed to take part in to support Gary.

Gary also volunteers at the Withenshaw transplant support group meetings, where he talks to other patients and their families about their illness. They share their stories and experiences, in the hope that it will bring a smile and some comfort to others.

Shortly after his transplant, Gary became aware of the transplant team at Withenshaw Hospital through chatting to the team managers Linda and Jane. He went along to Newport in 2019 to watch the British Transplant Games and was overcome with emotion at the passion and joy of those competing. He decided he wanted to take part too and his first time competing was in Leeds 2022 in the 100m running, where he got a bronze medal and the long jump, where he got a silver medal. Quite an achievement for his first transplant games.

He has since gone on to win further medals in the 100m and long jump, as well as a gold medal in the high jump, and has competed in both Coventry and Nottingham. He will be representing Withenshaw in Oxford this year.

Gary has now been invited to represent Team GB at the upcoming World Transplant Games in Dresden, Germany where he will compete in long jump, high jump and possibly the 5000m and 800m running. Gary says: "This is a great sense of pride for me, one which has spurred me on to keep training and maintaining my fitness."

We wish him and all the Team GB athletes success in Dresden.

A tragedy turned into the hope of New Life

Martyn Smith says: "On New Years Day 2006 my wife Christine celebrated her 55th birthday with family and friends. She was an experienced legal secretary and an accomplished linguist who enjoyed needlework, playing social golf with the ladies, travelling and walking in the country and was much looking forward to everything life had to offer as we both moved towards early retirement.

Shortly after, tragedy struck. Without any warning Christine suffered a massive brain haemorrhage and was discovered unconscious by my son Christopher on the kitchen floor at home. We subsequently discovered she had suffered a burst blood vessel in her brain.

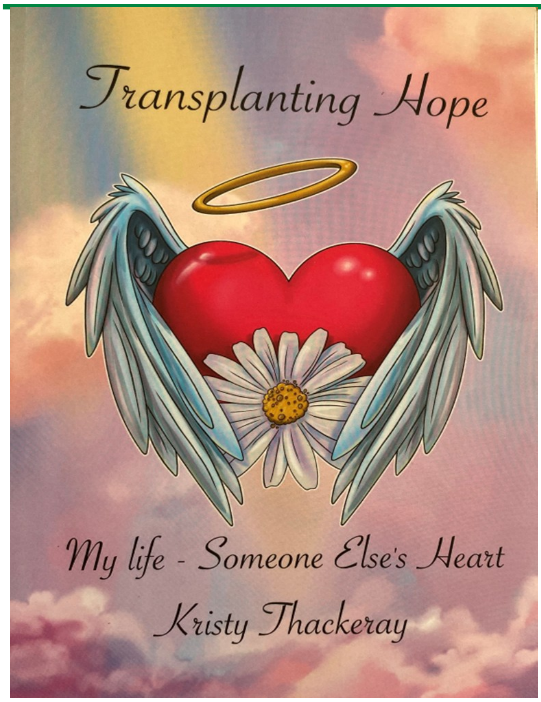
Christine was rushed to the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford. She was immediately assessed by the Emergency Department and quickly moved up into the Critical Care Unit. To this day I am grateful for the amazing care and support Christine received and for the way the staff regularly communicated to my son and myself with their open and realistic assessments. Christine was immediately placed into an induced coma to try and prevent any further haemorrhaging. Sadly, despite the fantastic efforts of the medical team, Christine was declared brain stem dead at around 21.00 that evening.

The subject of organ donation was not a topic ever discussed within the family and we did not know too much about it. Twenty years on that situation has radically changed, helped by the significant work of the Donor Family Network and other related organisations.

Once that sad final diagnoses had been made a member of the specialist transplant team very gently but professionally raised with us the whole subject of organ donation. From the start we knew that time was of the essence but without any pressure we quickly realised that there was the opportunity to potentially gain a real positive from what was a tragic event. We knew from Christine's kind and caring nature it was something she would have immediately approved of.

Having only just had a sad and difficult telephone conversation with Christine's elderly parents, a second call was quickly made. Although still in shock they equally realised the positives and relief that they would get from their daughter's donation. I subsequently found out just how significantly it helped them get through the next few days and weeks and of course Christine's funeral and beyond.

Within 30 minutes of our initial conversation our permission to go ahead was given. From that moment a well drilled procedure calmly kicked into place. The transplant team at Kings College Hospital in London had already been placed on alert and a team was on standby to travel to Guildford. We were then given an excellent, caring briefing of the procedure and the time frame. In the meantime, we were given a 2-hour window for any close family members to travel to the hospital to say their good byes to Christine. The retrieval was scheduled for just after midnight and we were last to say our goodbyes 30 minutes before so she could be prepared for theatre. Overnight the transplant team successfully removed Christine's heart, kidneys and liver and operations were already underway in London for the recipients. The loss of Christine was a tragedy for all her family but the knowledge that people had received the potential of new life was of great comfort."



A rare diagnosis of lymphangectasia (enlarged lymph vessels) left 13 year old **kristy Thackeray** feeling very ill. She was told that she would need a heart transplant and on 31st January 1996 Kristy went on the Western Canada transplant list. On 25th May 1996 a donor heart was found.

When she was told that she needed a new heart, Kristy described her feelings: "I thought the worst had happened. I needed a new heart. Then another thought entered my head. Someone had to give me a heart. Someone had to die so I could live."

After surgery she recalls: "I started thinking about my donor family and what they were going through. Two families were coming together to share a tragedy, one to rejoice and one to grieve."

Kristy subsequently discovered that her donor was Dawn Tremblay and whilst Dawn's parents were grieving the loss of their daughter from a car accident her heart helped Kristy to live. At 19 Kristy became the first North American heart recipient to give birth to twins. Two years later she found out that her daughter Shaylynn shared her rare heart disease and needed a new heart. Kristy was once again fighting for a life.

In her book Kristy shares her insight into daily life with someone else's heart. Kristy dedicated her book to Dawn saying: "You are my hero and my angel. This all started when you shared your heart with me. And to our unknown donor hero who gave Shaylynn the gift of life on 23rd January 2024."

At the end of the book Dawn's mum Coral describes her experience as a donor mum meeting the recipient of her child's heart. Neither family knew how their lives would cross in the bittersweet aftermath of Dawn's donation. Coral explains the thrill she felt when she was able to meet Kristy and hear Dawn's heartbeat once again.

(This book can be borrowed from the DFN library at no charge. We just ask that you cover the cost of the return postage. Please see our website for a short synopsis of all of our books, some of which are suitable for children. Please contact us if you wish to borrow any of the books).

Our grateful thanks go to **Daniel and Becci**, the parents of liver transplant recipient **James Gregory** for sharing their story with us. Daniel says: “James was born 6 weeks premature in July 2019 at the Royal Bolton Hospital, weighing 4lb 14oz. He was cared for by the staff in the special care baby unit for 17 days whilst he established feeding successfully. James was then allowed home and, as far as we were aware, we were taking a healthy baby home. Over the next few weeks, James continued to look ever so slightly jaundiced and so arrangements were made to see a paediatrician back at Bolton Hospital. Blood samples were taken when James was 9 weeks old and to our shock his liver function tests came back worryingly abnormal. A phone call was made from Bolton to Leeds on the afternoon and by Monday morning we had been admitted to the liver ward at Leeds General Hospital. We were told that James’ diagnosis would most likely be either Alagille Syndrome or Biliary Atresia. A 7 hour operation called a Kasai was performed when James was 10 weeks old to remove his gallbladder and try to correct his bile flow issues. We were told the success rate was only 33%. Initial tests and bloods were promising; however about 6 months later James developed Ascites and Portal Hypotension. To our utter shock we got the devastating news that the surgery had not been successful and that our baby boy would need a liver transplant in the very near future. We spent James’ first Christmas in Leeds Hospital and on Christmas Eve 2019 James went live on the transplant list. In January, James was fitted with a Broviak line for his medication that was ultimately a stepping stone to getting home. I went to St James’ Hospital for testing to see if I could be a live donor for James. I was a match but unfortunately the size difference would have been too much. Becci was unfortunately not the same blood group so couldn’t even be tested. By the end of January, James was eventually home after 68 days in hospital. We had community nurses coming out to the house twice a day everyday to administer diuretics through his line. It was just a case of waiting for a call, not knowing if/when this would come. We got told it could be up to 12 months. The nurses were just amazing. On the morning of 5th February James woke up and was not himself at all. Crying, very unhappy and irritable and starting with a rash. We took him straight to Bolton where blood tests confirmed that he had an infection going on somewhere in his little body. He was immediately transferred to Leeds on blue lights in an ambulance where we learnt James was suffering with line sepsis. Strong antibiotics were given and James came through it. However, because of this, we were told he was too poorly to be at home and would have to remain in hospital until the transplant came. After a lot of consideration, we made the decision to share James’ story on social media, and urged anybody that fit the criteria to get tested. The plea got 6.7k shares and 1.5k comments from people offering support and, more amazingly, people asking how to be tested.

We couldn't believe it. Whilst all of this was going on in the background, after 73 days we got the call we had been longing for. A potential liver had been found. Thankfully the surgeons were happy with the liver and the operation went ahead. Recovery was slow. I think James probably encountered every complication he possibly could have done in the early stages, so what should have been a 4 week stay actually turned into almost 8. For the first 3 weeks of this, all 3 of us could be together, however then the Covid lockdown hit and I had to be sent home. The ward implemented a 1 parent only rule to reduce the risk of Covid coming onto a ward of immunosuppressed children, meaning Becci had to do the remaining 5 weeks alone and I had to wait at home. I wasn't allowed back on the ward until they were discharged. This was incredibly hard, but we got through it together as a family.

Five years have now passed since James received his life saving gift. We think of James' donor every day because it is thanks to them, and their brave and courageous family, that we get to see our little boy grow into a big boy. We know without this gift James would not be with us today. James is doing really well, loving life and loving school. He has more energy than the rest of us put together! He is just thriving and it's so wonderful to see. He is the most beautiful, kind, well mannered little boy we could have ever wished for; it is an absolute pleasure to be able to call him our son. In the last couple of years, we have joined many other families at the British Transplant Games in Leeds, Coventry and Nottingham as part of Team Leeds, and are super excited to be attending this year's games in Oxford. It is an incredible event; the donor run especially has to be the highlight of our weekend. All made possible by organ donation. A gift that definitely keeps on giving. There are no words to thank all the staff at the Royal Bolton Hospital and Leeds General Hospital for everything they have done and continue to do for James, It is a fact that without their amazing care and organ donation James would not be here today. Most importantly, and the biggest thank you of all, to James' donor and their family for your incredible gift to our son. We will be forever in your debt and eternally grateful for allowing us to be parents to our James."

The **Royal Albert Edward Infirmary in Wigan** is home to this stunning sculpture to honour organ donors and is called "Forget-me-Not". Collaborating closely with the hospitals donor families, two unique sculptured designs were proposed. The final choice includes a mesmerising archway, compiled of intertwined shimmering foliage, vibrant butterflies and forget-me-not's crafted from stainless steel. The butterflies symbolise the transformation process for recipients.

It is positioned at the entrance to the hospital inviting visitors to venture beneath the arch to read the information plaque and reflect, whilst sitting on the integrated bench.

On behalf of NHS Blood & Transplant and
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust,
we dedicate this memorial
to all the Organ and Tissue Donors, and their families,
who have selflessly transformed the lives of others
through the ultimate gift.

GIFT OF LIFE

May their lasting legacies continue to live on through
the lives of others.

'In their final hours they gave a lifetime'

Record your decision on the organ donor register,
and share it with your friends and family.
Organ Donation is an act of great kindness
that can save and transform the lives of many people.

ARTWORK BY HOSPITAL ART STUDIO

Nottingham Hospitals honour organ donors

As one of the UK's leading centres for organ and tissue donation Nottingham University Hospital's Trust carries out around 60 transplants a year; an incredible achievement that continues to save and improve lives. None of this would be possible without the dedication of the transplant surgeons, specialist nurses and, most importantly, the donors and their families who have given the ultimate gift of life.

Funded by Nottingham University's Hospital Organ Donation Committee this artwork stands as a heartfelt tribute to donors and their families, a symbol of gratitude, remembrance and hope. A special ribbon cutting event was held to mark the unveiling.

The Nottingham Organ Donation Team shared:

"We are immensely passionate about organ donation and wanted to create a tribute dedicated to our donors. We hope that all of our donor families know how special they are and feel proud of this artwork as a tribute to their loved one's selfless donation."

Designed as a three-dimensional piece it extends from the wall to create a sense of movement. The heart represents the enduring connection between donor and recipient. Covered in wild flowers, butterflies and bees, their movement reflects the delicate nature of life, carrying new beginnings.

This artwork is dedicated to all our local organ and tissue donors and to their families

In their final hours they gave a lifetime

Let us all be wildflowers,
Our souls growing wild and free,
Our essence a gift of life,
Scattered to those who need,
In the places where hope is renewed,
Our hearts a flourishing garden,
Sharing light between us,
A life revitalised as new.

GIFT OF LIFE

The movement of butterflies and bees between the heart and this plaque represents the continuous renewal of life.

Scan the QR code below for more information or to record your donation decision on the NHS organ donor register.

Nottingham University Hospitals
Organ Donation Committee

Artwork by Hospital Art Studio

British Transplant Society / NHSBT Congress

Trustees Nigel, Sue, Eunice and Jim attended the joint BTS/NHSBT Congress in Brighton in March. Over 900 delegates registered for the Congress from all aspects of transplantation, including donor families, recipients, nurses and clinicians. The DFN was able to have a stand in the exhibition hall, together with Kidney Care, UKODTRN, NHSBT and a number of pharmaceutical companies. This enabled us to talk to the delegates about the work we do.

One of the first speakers of the day, Beatriz Dominguez-Gill, Director General of the Spanish National Transplant Organisation, gave an enlightening presentation on organ donation in Spain. What was particularly interesting was the difference in the numbers of deceased organ donors compared to the UK. In 2024, in the UK, there were 1510 deceased donors and 3713 transplants took place from these donors. In the same period in Spain there were 2562 deceased donors and 6400 transplants. Spain currently has the highest number of deceased donors in the world. Consultant Nephrologist Ellie Asgari then gave a presentation on how Artificial Intelligence will be used in transplantation over the next decade. AI will be used to improve the matching process between donor and recipient, predicting better success rates. The quality of organs will be able to be assessed and the information acquired will be used to predict long term outcomes.

There then followed a Pitch at the Pier, where four physicians were invited to explain how they would spend a "Golden Ticket" of £10 million. They included pitches for lung/heart research, kidney transplantation, publicity / promotion of organ donation and a living donor. A small panel debated and the delegates then voted for the winner. Dale Gardiner, National Clinical Lead for Organ Donation won with an overwhelming majority, having spoken about the need for promotion for organ donation, starting his pitch by saying, "without the donor there would be no transplants." Unfortunately, the £10 million was not real money!

During the day we heard an inspirational talk from Christine Cox MBE, whose brother Peter died and donated in 1989. Peter had indicated his wishes to donate to his family but at that time there was no register for potential donors. This led to Christine and her family taking on a 5 year campaign to successfully introduce the nationwide Organ Donation Register in 1994.

Recipient Lucy Ryan then spoke passionately about her journey as a heart recipient. She received her new heart 32 years ago, at just 3 years old. She has an incredible zest for life, is determined to raise awareness of organ donation and will once again represent Team GB in the World Transplant Games 2025.

A group of recipients spoke about the difficulties faced both pre- and post-transplant, including the tremendous amount of information and instructions they have to deal with. They explained the need for psychological support and the importance of peer support frequently provided by groups of recipients sharing their experiences and learning from each other.

Towards the end of the day the National Awards for Organ and Tissue Donation were presented in a number of categories, including "Best Volunteer". We were so proud when our very own Jim Fallow won this award. This is so well deserved! Jim works tirelessly as a DFN Trustee, an Organ Donation Ambassador and continuously advocates for organ donation. DFN members Brenda Hogarth and Diane Taylor were also highly commended.

The day ended with a Donation Celebration bringing together invited guests who were donor families, recipients, Organ Donation Ambassadors, members of the Donor Family Advisory Group, Organ Donation Committee Chairs with NHSBT and BTS colleagues from donation and transplantation. Overall, the Congress offered all of us the opportunity to meet and network with the CLOD's and SNOD's from around the country.

Order of St John Award Ceremony

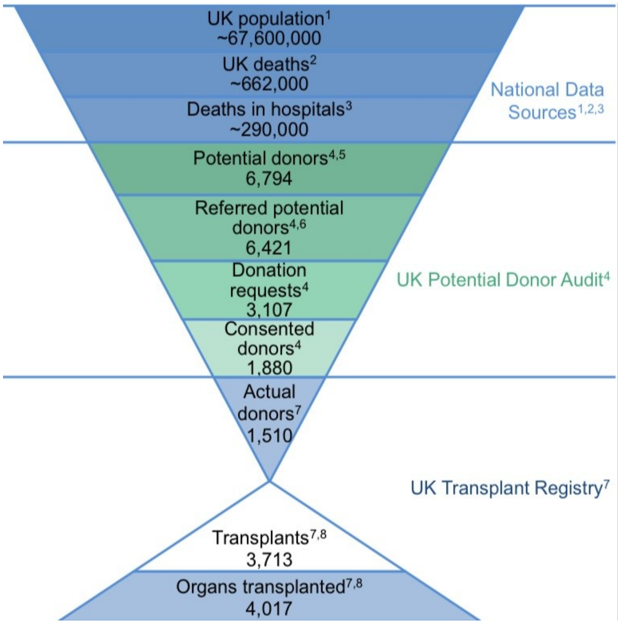
DFN Trustees Nigel and Sue recently attended the Order of St John Ceremony in Scunthorpe at the beautiful Normanby Hall. Numerous families attended to collect the award in memory of their loved ones who had given the Gift of Life. It is always an emotional event but everyone was very proud to be there. The awards were presented by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant, East Riding of Yorkshire, Mr James Dick OBE and Deputy Lieutenant, Lincolnshire, Mr John Burke.

There was plenty of time to talk to the families and meet the Lord Lieutenant and his team after the ceremony. Numerous of the Specialist Nurses also attended to offer support to the families.

DFN Trustees attempt to attend as many of the award ceremonies as possible to meet donor families and talk about the charity. Please note that if you are in the first year of bereavement you may not get invited to one of the award ceremonies until next year.

The Order of St John Award (which is a pin badge) was instigated in 2013 and is given posthumously to the donor, accepted on their behalf by a relative. Families may attend the ceremony in person or request the award be sent through the post. Families of tissue donors also receive a certificate in the post.

If your loved one donated prior to 2013, you are welcome to receive the award. Please contact either the specialist Nurse for Organ Donation in your region or the Donor Care Service at 14 Estuary Banks, Liverpool, L24 8RB for further information.



Statistics Spain is a global leader in organ donation, achieving the highest rates worldwide for four consecutive years.
The number of deceased donors per million last year:
Spain 47
USA 44
France 27
UK. 22
Figures in the UK for the year end 31.3.24
Number of deceased donors: 1510
Number of transplants : 3713
Number of people on the waiting list: 7484
Figures in the UK for the year end 31.3.25
Number of deceased donors: 1405
Number of transplants: 3591
Number of people on the waiting list: 8094

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“A Special Butterfly”

A butterfly came floating by
And I thought I knew its face
It landed on my shoulder
And spread its wings of lace
I looked and saw it smiling,
As it winked and flew away
I’m sure I heard it whisper,
We will meet again one day

A butterfly came calling
And I’m really not sure why,
It just came down upon me
As it tumbled from the sky
It didn’t stop for very long
But its beauty did inspire
For it made me smile when I was low
And life was feeling dire

A butterfly has flown away
For I watched it on the breeze
Though its visit now has warmed me
And made me feel at ease
Its hard to show the grieving
And the pain I have within
But a butterfly has shown me
How a new time can begin

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS
SO THAT WE CAN UPDATE OUR DATA BASE