



Moorfields
Eye Charity

People's sight matters

Visibility

Autumn 2025 | Issue 26



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Viewpoint

Robert Dufton, our chief executive

Welcome to our autumn issue of *Visibility*. The days may be getting shorter, but we're certainly not short on updates. I am delighted to share the latest news and developments from Moorfields Eye Charity, and our partners at Moorfields Eye Hospital and the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology.

In this issue, you will hear about some of the ways Moorfields Eye Charity has supported the Moorfields network sites – eye health centres both in other hospitals and within the community. At the Brent Cross site, the charity supported a

'transforming future service delivery' springboard award, and in Bedford a patient support grant that transformed clinical spaces for children. You'll also read an update on the progress of the new eye health centre; find out the winners of

the charity champion award and the innovation and improvement award at the recent Moorfields Stars awards ceremony; and, we reveal the four lucky runners who got spots in the TCS London Marathon 2026 to support Moorfields.

Thank you to all of our supporters who invest in the research, education, and innovation that we fund. Every gift we receive has a real impact on our work and the patients of Moorfields. We hope you enjoy reading more in this issue.



Professor Pete Coffey

On behalf of the staff and trustees of Moorfields Eye Charity, I would like to pay tribute to our colleague, Professor Pete Coffey, who sadly passed away in June 2025. Professor Coffey was professor of visual psychophysics at the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology and theme lead for regenerative therapy, lasers, and medical devices at the NIHR Moorfields Biomedical Research Centre. He was also a leading researcher in developing treatments for age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and had been awarded several grants from Moorfields Eye Charity to support his work for over a decade. Professor Coffey's work leaves an important legacy – his pioneering research has not only improved outcomes for people affected by AMD, but it also offers a fantastic basis for future research in stem cell therapies.

New centre for advancing eye health

We're excited to share the latest on our new, world-class centre for advancing eye health – A centre for cutting-edge research, education, and innovation that will help transform the lives of those living with sight loss.

The centre, due to open in St Pancras, London, in 2027, is a partnership between Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, and Moorfields Eye Charity.

Since our last update earlier this year, work on the building's exterior (façade) has moved into its final stages, with the last tower crane taken down in October.

The roof plant screen (structure to provide visual screening

and protection for rooftop plants and machinery) has also been installed and solar panel installation is underway. Inside, teams are busy with fit-out-works, from architectural details to mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. The atrium, the heart of the new centre, is taking shape and is due to be finished in the New Year.

The final construction hoist has been removed, allowing the last façade sections to be closed. The plant room (dedicated space to

host essential equipment for the operation of the centre, such as electrics, lighting and plumbing) works are progressing, and we have started preparing for building energisation and testing.

Works coming up include finishing the roof and façade, installing external doors, continuing interior and plant room fit outs, completing the atrium, and starting system commissioning and energisation.

Thank you to all our generous donors who have supported the creation of our new centre. We look forward to new and continuing conversations with others interested in supporting our ambitious plans.



Image: Gary Britton

To find out more about the new centre and our fundraising to realise this world-leading project, please get in touch with Rachel Jones at rachel.jones310@nhs.net or 07872 422219

We proudly supported Moorfields' Stars, the annual award ceremony that recognises the outstanding achievements of staff and volunteers at Moorfields and the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, that took place on 17 September at The Honourable Artillery Company in Moorgate.

Moorfields' Stars

There were over 900 nominations received this year for Moorfields' Stars, showing colleagues' passion and dedication in providing excellent eye care and innovations in research - changing patients' lives.

We were delighted to have sponsored two of the awards including Moorfields Eye Charity champion award and the innovation and improvement award.



Louise Robertshaw, trustee and chair of fundraising and communications committee at Moorfields Eye Charity and Professor Sajjad Ahmad

Charity champion award

The charity champion award is our opportunity to thank staff and volunteers for their support whether through fundraising activities, being an ambassador for the charity, showcasing what we do or helping in another way.

The winner: Professor Sajjad Ahmad, consultant ophthalmic surgeon at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, and professor of corneal regeneration at the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology.

Professor Ahmad has gone above and beyond in supporting Moorfields Eye Charity, contributing to last winter's fundraising appeal, featuring in social media content, and being supportive of philanthropy workshops by sharing his own experiences with colleagues, as well as making introductions, and advocating for the charity within his networks.



Scan here to find out more

Innovation and improvement award

This award recognises pioneering innovations and improvements which benefit Moorfields' patients.

The winner: St George's theatre team.

The team consistently demonstrate efficiency, effectiveness, and a strong safety culture, which is reflected in their outstanding turnover times. Their recent contribution to the hospital's first rare and complex osteo-odonto-keratoprosthesis procedure was a landmark achievement for Moorfields. The team consistently exemplifies excellence, fosters an inclusive workplace and equitable care, embodying our shared values.



Robert Dufton, chief executive at Moorfields Eye Charity and St George's theatre team

The London Marathon 2026

Earlier this year, we were excited to announce that we secured four charity places for the TCS London Marathon which is taking place on Sunday 26 April 2026! We received many applications with supporters all wanting to step up to take on this once in a lifetime opportunity to give back to Moorfields.

After careful consideration we chose our four runners, and we are delighted to share who they are:



"I'm fundraising for Moorfields Eye Charity because Moorfields has been there for us since Shelly, our four year old was born with microphthalmia in her left eye and a coloboma in her right eye. The journey has been challenging but the staff have always been so caring to Shelly."

Ben Cohen, father of Moorfields patient



"I want to raise funds for Moorfields Eye Charity to help them continue their amazing work. Although a diagnosis of sight loss is devastating and living with sight loss is challenging, I have met the most fantastic people, learned so much and get amazing treatment and support at Moorfields."

Blanche Morrissey, Moorfields patient

We can't wait to cheer on our runners at the world's greatest marathon as part of Team Moorfields! And everything they raise will be supporting those living with sight-loss at Moorfields, across the UK and worldwide.



"I am fundraising for the Moorfields Eye Charity because it is an opportunity for me to make a personal contribution to help continue changing the lives of many children and their families." **Luke Collier, clinic coordinator at the paediatric, strabismus and neuro department at Moorfields Children's Eye Centre**



"I'm fundraising for Moorfields Eye Charity because Moorfields has been there for us since my younger sister Annie was a baby. Over the past (nearly) 25 years she has undergone multiple vision saving surgeries. The team at Moorfields are absolutely incredible." **Ella Still, sister of Moorfields patient**

Network site news

Innovation under pressure: rethinking eye care delivery during COVID-19



The COVID-19 pandemic led to unprecedented challenges for healthcare systems. Infection prevention and control protocols were rapidly established across the NHS to protect patients and staff, while hospitals prioritised urgent care.

Waiting times for routine diagnostics spiralled as hospital capacity became strained. In response, clinicians and researchers at Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and several departments of UCL – including the Institute of Ophthalmology, the Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, and the Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care – explored new care models to ease pressure on the NHS, reduce infection risk, and improve patient flow – all outside traditional hospital settings. The project, led by Professor Paul Foster – professor of ophthalmic epidemiology and glaucoma studies at the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology and consultant ophthalmic surgeon at Moorfields Eye Hospital – is called HERCULES: Healthcare

Exemplar for Recovery from COVID-19 by Use of Linear Examination Systems. Project HERCULES – initiated by the NIHR Moorfields Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) – was supported by Moorfields Eye Charity through a ‘transforming future service delivery’ springboard award, which was used to help design efficient and safe spaces in high-volume settings. The result was a community-based ‘pop-up’ eye clinic, launched in 2021 in north London’s Brent Cross shopping centre. A key innovation of the model was to recruit people with transferable skills and train them as technicians. Some of the new recruits had been unable to work in their previous roles during lockdowns, such as flight attendants and retail workers.

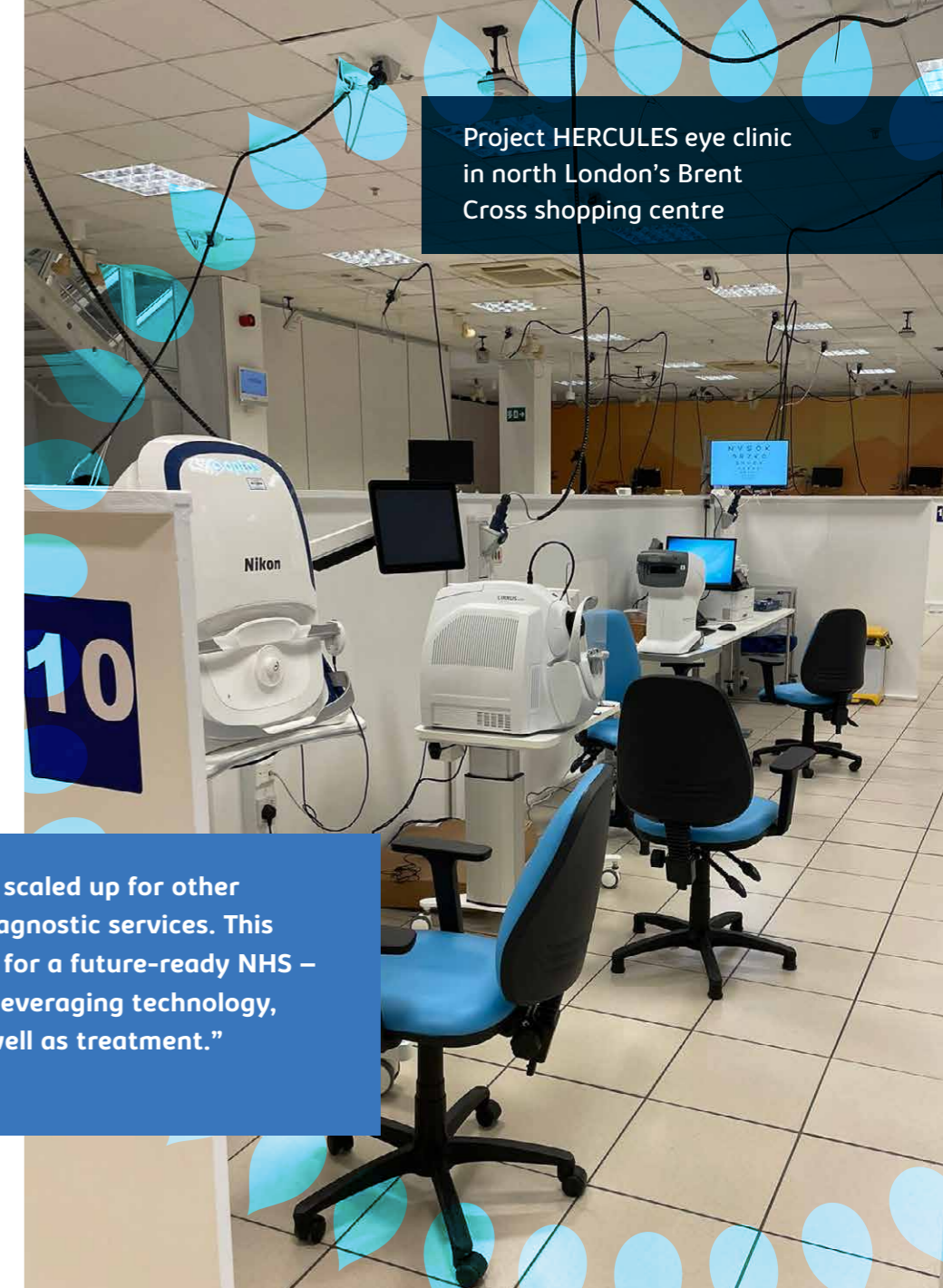
These technicians were trained to perform routine eye scans for conditions such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration. Siyabonga Ndwandwe – research fellow in health economics at the UCL Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health – led aspects of the project’s evaluation. He said: “The technicians largely had some form of client-facing role previously. They were trained to take the images and were supported by senior clinicians; these were not high-risk tests.” The images were sent to clinicians for analysis, and results were shared with patients later. The findings informed patients whether they were to be discharged, continue their regular monitoring via the hub,

or be referred for face-to-face appointments. Siyabonga noted that the clinics had a significant impact on appointment delays. **“The average delay across the network as a whole in 2021 – before the site opened – was about six months. By April 2022, it was down to two months.”** Siyabonga Ndwandwe

This model saw waiting times at Moorfields fall by over a week each week, expanding capacity by opening up the workforce. Having technicians conduct tests freed clinicians for urgent and complex cases. Siyabonga added:

“We believe this model could be scaled up for other high-volume, low-complexity diagnostic services. This aligns with government policies for a future-ready NHS – moving care closer to patients, leveraging technology, and focusing on prevention as well as treatment.” Siyabonga Ndwandwe

Dr Angus Ramsay – principal research fellow at the UCL Department of Behavioural Science and Health – said evaluation was built into service development. “The evaluation was co-designed with a whole range of researchers spread across different departments of UCL, with different specialties including operations research as well as qualitative and quantitative health research.” He explained that the clinic was reorganised several times, with careful consideration of equipment placement and patient flow.



Project HERCULES eye clinic in north London’s Brent Cross shopping centre

“It also included architectural experts from the Bartlett School, with people wearing little tags to capture movement and flow through the system.” Dr Angus Ramsay

This ensured maximum efficiency and adherence to infection prevention protocols. Dr Ramsay emphasised that the charity’s support led to better outcomes:

“Contributing to this service potentially will have saved people’s eyesight or improved their ongoing independence and quality of life. It’s an important intervention that has given back dramatically to patients.” Dr Angus Ramsay



Nat Waters in the Safari room

Transforming clinical spaces for children: a case study from Moorfields at Bedford

When Nat Waters joined Moorfields at Bedford Hospital as the paediatric senior lead nurse, the clinic she would be moving into was under renovation. “It was a blank canvas,” she explained, whilst pointing at the colourful murals which now adorn the surgery walls. “We were looking at ways to make the space child-friendly.”

For most of the week, Moorfields at Bedford is set up for adults, but on Wednesdays, it transforms into a paediatric unit. The clinic provides multidisciplinary ophthalmic diagnostics and treatments for babies just a few weeks old, as well as children and adolescents. On those days, the waiting room becomes a lively play area with toys, books,

an arts table, and a miniature kitchen where children socialise over pretend cups of tea. Nat shared how hospital appointments can be tiring for children, and that it’s crucial for their ongoing support that they don’t associate hospital visits with traumatic experiences. “We get a lot of children who are frightened. They might have had

blood tests done, or they’ve just had some invasive procedure. We want to alleviate that stress so they’re not worried when they come back.” Nat saw the impact that wall paintings were already having on children in the hospital’s paediatric outpatients department, and she asked Moorfields Eye Charity about



Disney celebration

funding for something similar in the Moorfields clinic at Bedford. “I filled out the application, got the costings, and it was granted,” she said.

The designs needed to be engaging for children, but also suitable for adults during the rest of the week. Nat’s colleagues on the unit shared ideas for landscapes they’d like to see printed on the walls. There’s a safari room, a London cityscape, a Disney celebration, a coastal theme with beach huts, and a country garden with wildflowers, butterflies, and peacocks.

The murals are printed onto laminates which adhere to infection control standards, making them ideal for busy clinical environments. Nat described how staff use the images to help lower children’s anxieties about being in hospital. “If a child is worried, you can point at things on the walls and start a conversation, so you don’t have to begin by talking about their assessment.” She added, “It inspires the next



London cityscape



Country garden

generation of staff to think about projects they want to be involved in to improve patient experience. When you are part of Moorfields, you are part of that exceptional care, but we need the support of the charity to provide services that normal budgets can’t always cover.

It’s about going that extra mile for our patients.” Nat’s eyes lit up as she spoke about the positive comments she’d heard from patients and staff regarding the murals. “Thank you to the charity – it’s made such a difference,” she said at the end of the tour.



Coastal theme



Tribute to Elaine Manna

With our deepest sympathies and heartfelt gratitude, we pay tribute to Elaine Manna, a Moorfields patient, a supporter of our charity, and an important advocate for patient involvement in research and innovation who sadly passed away in July 2025.

Elaine came to Moorfields as a patient in 2013 and was under the care of consultant ophthalmologist, Pearse Keane. During their appointments, Elaine and Pearse became good friends.

“Meeting Elaine - who had lost sight due to delays in being seen before she came to be my patient at Moorfields - inspired me to explore AI for earlier detection of eye disease, enabling those most at risk of imminent sight loss to be prioritised for treatment. This led to the Moorfields collaboration

with Google DeepMind in 2015-2016, and to the founding of the INSIGHT Health Data Research Hub in 2019, with Elaine playing a critical role as our patient champion. Her articulate,

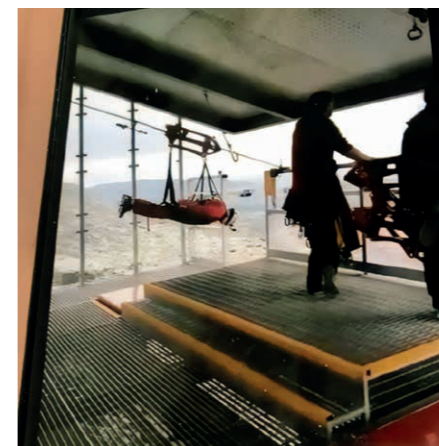
passionate voice has had an incredible impact on advancing medical AI in eye care, which will ultimately benefit millions of people for generations to come.”
— Pearse Keane

Moorfields-Google DeepMind collaboration

Elaine became the patient advocate for the Moorfields-Google DeepMind collaboration, which produced an AI algorithm that could detect up to 50 eye conditions on par with a human expert. In addition to participating in media interviews, Elaine demonstrated the AI system with Pearse Keane at the 2019 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures, in front of hundreds of children, which was broadcast on TV.

INSIGHT Health Data Research Hub and insitro

In recent years, Elaine was a patient champion for the INSIGHT health data research hub at Moorfields, speaking on the benefits of using anonymised patient data for research – to develop tools for earlier detection and to improve the management of sight-threatening conditions. She was the patient voice for the collaboration between biotech company insitro and INSIGHT at Moorfields. She met with insitro CEO Daphne Koller and expressed her excitement for the potential of using AI for drug discovery.



Oriel Advisory Group

Elaine was integral to helping to shape the new centre for eye health, due to open in St Pancras in 2027. Elaine gave time and enthusiasm providing input on how the new centre could better serve its patients, vitally ensuring accessibility, especially for those with sight loss, was at the heart of the new centre’s design. Elaine’s legacy at the new centre will be felt by patients, staff, and students for years to come.

Moorfields events, including a reading at our charity’s carol service in December 2019. Elaine was always willing to share her story with donors and fundraisers, including being a part of supporter engagement events and the charity’s fundraising appeals. Sharing her own story of sight loss and the transformative care she received at Moorfields has given hope to other patients and inspired them to get involved with vital fundraising for research.

Elaine previously said, “I’ve got two hearts – one for my family and one for Moorfields.” Her Moorfields heart will live on in the research, care and education we will continue to support in the years to come.

Inspired by the care she had received to help preserve her sight, Elaine wanted to give back to Moorfields and embarked upon a series of activities to help raise vital funds for Moorfields Eye Charity. To celebrate her 70th birthday in 2017, Elaine completed a skydive. Then, two years later, went on to ride the longest and highest zip wire

in Europe (in Wales), and in 2021 she took on a wing walk. Through her many activities, which include her own personal donations through our Christmas raffle and charity walks, Elaine raised more than £6,000 for our charity to help fund vital research into eye disease. Elaine was an advocate for patients and took part in many



A gift in your will is an incredible way to support tomorrow’s experts and make a lasting difference to the future of eye care.

Once you’ve looked after family and friends, a gift of just 1% of your estate would help us buy specialist equipment, fund groundbreaking research and provide enhanced facilities at Moorfields that would otherwise be unaffordable under the NHS.

Previous legacy gifts have supported important research projects and initiatives that are already making a difference to the lives of Moorfields patients. By pledging a gift in your will, you will enable us to continue to invest in life changing eye health by funding innovative research, education and care to improve people’s sight.

“It’s important to me to remember Moorfields Eye Charity in my will most of all because of all that Moorfields Eye Hospital has done for me. To have received the care that I have, entirely free, is just incredible, and I want to give something back.”

Justine, grateful patient, legacy pledger and Moorfields Visionary

We offer two will writing options that are free of charge, online through **MyIntent** and face to face through **The Goodwill Partnership**.

If you have decided to leave us a gift in your will, or you are interested in doing so and would like to find out more, please contact Elie Kelpie at elie.kelpie@nhs.net or scan the QR.



Play the lottery

3rd prize
£25

1st prize
£25,000

2nd prize
£1,000

Only
£1
per play

You could win a huge £25,000 in the Moorfields Eye Charity lottery! For as little as £1 a week, you can help us invest in a better future for people with sight loss - and be in with a chance of winning some huge prizes at the same time.

“Enter! Yes there’s a possibility you might win but it’s twofold because the money you’re investing goes towards the amazing life-changing work the charity and hospital do.”

Sarah, previous Moorfields Eye Charity lottery winner



To Enter Scan the QR code:



Or call our partner, Unity on 0370 050 9240

Walk Eye to Eye

Eye to Eye returns for its 12th year and it is set to be the best yet! Join us on this iconic walk around London, taking in our new centre for advancing eye health, opening in Camden 2027.



Our new centre is a partnership between Moorfields Eye Hospital, the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, and Moorfields Eye Charity, which will bring clinicians and researchers together under one roof.

You can choose a 1 mile, 5 mile or half marathon distance through the streets of London – our walk is accessible to all ages and abilities.

Fundraise and be part of the future of eye care

To find out more

Visit: moorfieldseyecharity.org.uk/E2E

Email: holly.hollis@nhs.net



or scan the QR code

How you can get involved

You can support us in many ways: set up a regular direct debit, leave a gift to us in your will, do your own fundraising, play the lottery, or take part in Eye to Eye.

Eye to Eye 2026 - save the date: 28 June 2026, book your place today!

Christmas raffle - win up to £5000. The closing date for postal entries is Friday 12 December 2025, online entries Thursday 18 December 2025.

Regular giving - support us with a regular gift and have an impact on the future of eye health.

Challenge events - cycling, walking or running – we have lots of challenges you can apply for.

DIY fundraising - hold a cake sale, play a 24-hour-game-athon – you can be as creative as you like!

Lottery - play our weekly lottery to be in with a chance of winning £25,000, and support Moorfields at the same time!

Remember us in your will - become part of our supporters' circle, the Moorfields Visionaries.

Philanthropy / major gifts - support innovation in research, patient care and training which makes a difference to patients at Moorfields and worldwide.

Get in touch

Email: moorfields.eyecharity@nhs.net Tel: 020 7566 2565

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Registered Charity No 1140679 Registered No 7543237

Moorfields Eye Charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales Registered office 162 City Road, London, EC1V 2PD

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