

The staff newspaper for Barts and The London NHS Trust

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## Taking in the view

June 2003



Ground control: Groundspeople Ron Ali and Eileen Lee-Moy relax and enjoy the View Day proceedings after an early start sprucing up the Square

**B**arts once again opened its doors for View Day, on May 14. The event is a tradition dating back 452 years, when governors instituted an annual inspection of their properties. Nowadays, it offers patients, staff, and local people the opportunity to find out more about the Trust's services and visit parts of the hospital they wouldn't normally see.

It's also a popular annual event for the masters and clerks of the ancient livery companies, who are invited to a traditional View Day Service in St Bartholomew the Great Church, followed by lunch and speeches in the Great Hall and tours of stalls in The Square, departmental exhibitions and wards.

This year's highlights included a chance to see the Saving Faces exhibition, a collaboration between artist Mark Gilbert and the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department charting patients' physical and emotional transformation during facial surgery treatment.

Stalls laid on by staff offered everything from advice on healthy

eating to a two-minute head massage. Live music kept the mood buoyant and demonstrations of Sanjuro - an aerobic workout that uses martial art techniques and flexibility training - reminded staff of the huge range of sports activities available on site.

The afternoon saw the ceremonial arrival of Sir Alan Traill, The Lord Mayor of London, and Mrs Brewer, the Aldermanic Sheriff's Lady, who were escorted by senior Trust staff on a tour of the hospital, which took in the opening of a new lithotripter suite. The suite hosts a state-of-the-art lithotripter machine, the first of its kind in the UK, which uses an extra-powerful shockwave generator to break up stones in the urinary tract.

The special guests also helped kickstart the Trust's new handwashing campaign when Alison Knapp, Director of Nursing for The Royal London, made them wash their hands after their tour of Garrod Ward. The campaign is just one proposal put forward by the Trust's new Patients' Forum.

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