

The West of England Medical Journal
Bristol Medico-Historical Society Proceedings
Dr Jazz and the Scanner Appeals

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In 1985 Mr John James had agreed to give a gift of £1million pounds to provide an MRI scanner for Bristol Hospitals which was to be housed at Frenchay Hospital. This much is known history.

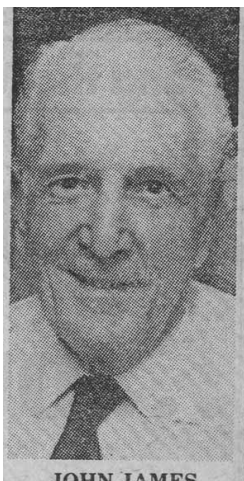


Figure 1
Mr John James (1985)

But there is a back story.

In 1984 we had set up a committee to raise money for MRI in Bristol. The chairman of the committee was the author of this paper, Paul Goddard (consultant radiologist BRI).

The committee included Professor Rhys Davies (Bristol University), Clive Johnson (Radiologist, Southmead Hospital), Gordon Thomson (Neuro-radiologist, Frenchay Hospital), and Jill Bullimore (Radiotherapist, Bristol Radiotherapy Centre).

The Special Trustees agreed to give us an interest free loan of £100,000 to employ a professional fund raiser to raise the money for MRI.

I considered it would cost around £2 million in all, including the building and initial running costs.

In early 1985 I was approached by a charity based in Bridgwater. They told the committee that they wished to raise money with us and that their main aim was to help brain damaged children. They

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had heard that MRI was an excellent method of studying the brain. I naively gave them my business plans, fund raising contacts, research papers and ideas. They returned to Bridgwater and wrote me a nasty letter. They then approached all the contacts I had listed using my business plans in order to raise money for themselves.

These included John James who then spoke to his son-in-law, Clive Johnson. Clive suggested to Mr James that he should contact me. This he did in mid 1985 and offered to provide £200,000 if I agreed to raise the rest of the money without the use of a professional fundraiser. I declined the offer and he very generously raised the sum to £1.25 million if I agreed to his terms. I did agree.

(Subsequently the sum was reduced to £1million and eventually the scanner was purchased by Mr James for £900,000.)

The conditions that Mr James set were, however, rather difficult:

- No professional fundraiser
- We (the doctors) had to raise the money ourselves to match the sum
- A new chairman would be set in place: Dr Terry Beddoe, retired GP.

The initial publicity unfortunately gave the strong impression that Mr James had given all the money that was needed and that no further funds were required. The fundraising was restarted by the television, radio and press appearances of Dr Jazz, the fund raising band.

Figure 2

Terry Beddoe, centre, flanked by John Cope MP cutting the turf and Geoff Mortimer, chairman of Frenchay Health Authority.



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Figure 3a



Figure 3b

Early publicity shots of the band. Hugh Coakham and Paul Goddard in both shots plus Geoff Hancock and Richard Bolton in Figure 3a and Lois Goddard and Chris Chivers in Figure 3b

The band initially consisted of myself (keyboards and vocals), Hugh Coakham (neurosurgeon, Frenchay) on sax, Richard Bolton (SR in radiology, BRI) on vocals, Geoff Hancock (Regional HA architect) on bass, and Chris Chivers (paramedic) on drums but was subsequently added to by Lois, Jeremy and Mark Goddard, Graham Leavey, John Lyall, Chris Hemming, Gordon Haig and Ken Baber.

This effort was ably supported by huge teams of people throughout the South West assisted by the members of the Bristol MRI Scanner Fund committee, in particular Gordon Thomson and Clive Johnson assisted by Terry, the chairman. The people and associations who helped included many sports clubs (such as Thornbury Cricket Club which raised £13,000), pubs, small businesses, such as that run by garage proprietor Les Weekes, and schools. In addition separate committees were set up in Bath by Joan Sewell and in Bristol by Frank Ross. Both of these raised about £100,000 each. At the BRI Gladys Miles had a stall on level 2 in front of the lifts and also raised £100,000 single-handedly.

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In 1987 the building was up and the scanner was in. The first year of operation saw over 1200 patients scanned and the second year the figure rose to 2000.



Figure 4 Gladys Miles and Paul Goddard at the BRI

The on-going funding was much supported by the donation of the private fees for MRI by the radiologists who worked at the MRI Centre.

In 1992 a second scanner was put into the MRI centre by the Bristol MRI Scanner Fund and an MRI scanner was purchased and installed at the BRI by UBHT with some staffing costs



*Figure 5
The scanner being delivered in 1987*

met by BRIMSA. These funds are now held by the renamed Special Trustees: **Above and Beyond** for Bristol Hospitals.

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These funds are presently supporting research into the development of a robot for use in an MRI machine and have also provided some of the running costs that have permitted the West of England Medical Journal (WEMJ) to be published on the Bristol Medico Chirurgical Society's website.

Subsequently Dr Jazz have continued as a fundraising group and have raised funds for a considerable number of medical and other charities including St Peters Hospice, Childrens Hospice South West, RICE, arthritis research, Bone marrow transplant, Chinese earthquake appeal, sherpas in Nepal, Bristol Med Chi Society and the Lord Mayor's Appeal.



Supported by new band members Moses T Jones and Damien Cheung, the band is still playing and will happily undertake private engagements for a fee which will go to our own charity and subsequently to charities or causes that we choose.

Figure 6. (above) The Lord Mayor of Bristol, Royston Griffey, presenting tireless fundraiser Les Weekes with a cup and a certificate in honour of his work raising money for the scanner appeals and for Dr Jazz Charitable Funds



Figure 7. Dr Jazz playing for the Bristol Medico Chirurgical Society at the Spire Hospital. From left to right: Damien Cheung, John Lyall, Graham Leavey, Hugh Coakham, Moses T Jones and Paul Goddard