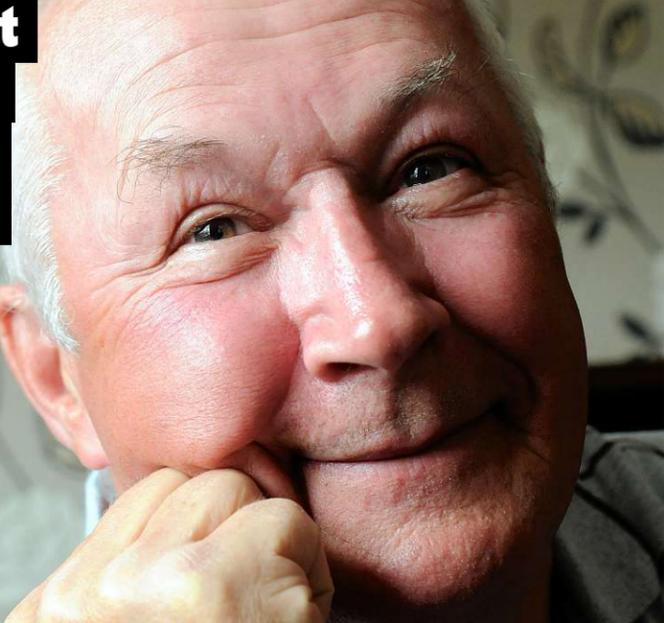


News

HEALTH: Barry Phillips has had his sight saved TWICE, once thanks to the grieving families of young donors and once thanks to technology

Without my ops at the Royal Derby I would be using a white stick today ... I'd be blind, unable to drive and probably unable to work



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BARRY Phillips faced going blind twice but pioneering corneal transplants and a double cataract operation saved his sight. Twenty years ago, the 61-year-old needed donor corneas to stop him from going blind.

Without these two operations at the Royal Derby I would be using a white stick today, said Barry who lives on Windsor Close.

I would be blind - unable to drive and probably unable to work. Twice I've had my eye sight restored and I can see brilliantly well now. My vision was foggy and now it is not.

I can see everything. I can see the ball when I play golf and I can see the float in the water when I go fishing.

Way back, before my corneal transplants, I could only see black and white. And trying to do anything close up was impossible.

After my most recent operation, having my cataracts removed, I could see the drops of water on my skin when I was in the shower.

Barry is singing the praises of consultant ophthalmologist Maghzi Anandan at the Royal Derby Hospital. He says he is a 'miracle worker'.

Barry's wife, Angie, 58, who retired from work last year said: "We feel like we have won the lottery. In fact, it's better than winning the lottery."

And we can't thank the families enough who agreed for their loved ones to donate their organs after their deaths.

"We know that the two people who gave their corneas to Barry were not old. We were told that they were young and that their corneas were extremely healthy."

"Without these donations, Barry would not have lived the life he has. He was fantastic after the donor corneas were transplanted."

"And when he was told he had cataracts in both eyes, which were causing him cause for concern, he was dealt with really quickly."

Knowing that they were young people made him feel very sad. He says he wanted to let the families grieve for their lost loved ones.

Barry said: "Without these donors, I would not have been able to have the operation. Twenty years ago, when I was going blind for the first time, there would have been no treatment available."

"Gosh, am I relieved that I could have the donated corneas."

To celebrate Barry's restored sight and Angie retiring from work, the pair enjoyed a trip-of-a-lifetime to Australia.

They say they would not have booked the six-week holiday if Barry had been struggling to see.

"There would have been no point," said Barry "How could I have travelled round Australia without my eyes?"

"It was wonderful. I got to snorkel in the Great Barrier Reef and see the most wonderful fish."

"We went in a helicopter ride over Sydney too. It was the most amazing holiday but without my sight I would not have been able to make a trip like this."

Barry was 40 years old when he needed two donor corneas to correct a hereditary condition called

Fuchs's disease - a progressive disease which affects the eye.

Changes to cells interfered with the work of the cornea, the round dome covering the eye's iris and pupil.

Last year, when his eyesight started to deteriorate again, he feared his 20-year-old corneas were wearing out. But after a consultation at the Royal Derby, he was told he had developed another problem - cataracts.

"When I received the donated corneas, I was told that they might not last me a lifetime," he said.

"She knows that we've all had transplants and there really is nothing to be anxious about."

"There was a chance that I might need to have another set of transplants later on."

"When my eyesight started worsening, I immediately thought



Barry Phillips had a cornea transplant. Above left, Barry with his wife Angie, and right, on their dream holiday to Australia.



Barry Phillips had a cornea transplant. Above left, Barry with his wife Angie, and right, on their dream holiday to Australia.

that it would be my corneas. I was surprised when I was diagnosed with something else."

Barry's condition runs in his family. His dad, aunt, sister and two cousins all have the hereditary problem.

And Barry's daughter, Joanne, is currently experiencing a small issue with her sight.

"I reckon Joanne might need cornea transplants later on in life," he said. "She's in her 30s now, but she's got nothing to worry about."

"Mr Anandan is such a professional."

Mr Anandan performed 70

corneal transplants during 2014. And in the last five years, more than 300 of these pioneering operations have taken place at the Royal Derby Hospital.

Mr Anandan said: "The Royal Derby Hospital is a high volume corneal transplant centre in the UK."

"In Barry's case, he had corneal transplants in both eyes more than 20 years ago."

"His corneas were both irregular shapes and then he developed cataracts in both eyes."

Mr Anandan says performing cataract surgery after corneal transplants can be tricky.

He said: "Doing cataract surgery risks losing the endothelium, one of the important parts of the cornea.

HOW CATARACT SURGERY IS DONE

CATARACT surgery is a relatively straightforward procedure that normally takes up to 30 to 45 minutes.

It is usually carried out as day surgery under local anaesthetic, which means you are awake during the procedure and you can go home on the same day.

During the operation, the surgeon makes a tiny incision in the eye so they can remove the affected lens. When the lens has been removed, the surgeon inserts a small plastic lens, called an intraocular implant or intraocular lens, in its place.

If you have cataracts in both eyes, this procedure will usually be carried out on separate occasions a few weeks apart.

This gives the first eye time to heal and time for your vision to return.

WHAT IS A CORNEA TRANSPLANT?

A CORNEA transplant is an operation used to remove all or part of a damaged cornea and replace it with healthy cornea tissue from the eye of a suitable donor.

A cornea transplant is often referred to as keratoplasty or a corneal graft. It can be used to improve sight, relieve pain and treat severe infection or damage.

One of the most common reasons for a cornea transplant is a condition called keratoconus, which causes the cornea to change shape.

The cornea is the clear outer layer at the front of the eyeball. It acts as a window to the eye.

DISEASE CAN LEAD TO BLINDNESS

FUCHS'S dystrophy is a progressive disease affecting the part of the eye called the cornea, the clear, round dome covering the eye's iris and pupil.

By helping to focus light as it enters the eye, the cornea plays an important role in vision.

Because Fuchs's dystrophy is a progressive disease, over time, changes to the corneal cells may interfere with vision. The condition can result in corneal scar tissue, which may have to be removed surgically, and can even lead to blindness.

This can lead to the graft, or the transplant, failing.

"In the past, if a graft like this fails, they will need a bigger full thickness graft which carries a higher risk of the graft failing again."

"We performed cataract surgery on Barry and it was very successful. Barry's corneal transplants also took place in Derby, but they were 20 years ago."

"I know Barry is extremely pleased with the results. He is able to see so much more since these operations."

"He can enjoy all his activities."

Post your comments at derbytelegraph.co.uk

COURTS

Unlicensed fishing

LLOYD Sweet, 44, of Gladstone Street, Heanor, was fined £185 and was ordered to pay £85 costs and an £20 Government surcharge for fishing without a licence at Aldercar Pools in Heanor on September 17.

Driving offences

ROBERT Griffin, 48, of Wingfield Drive, Chaddesden, had his licence endorsed with four penalty points, was fined £175 and was ordered to pay £85 costs and an £20 Government surcharge for driving without due care and attention, for not having the correct treat depth on two tyres of his vehicle and not having an MOT test certificate when on the A610 on September 11.

Was threatening

SARAH Marie Blackmore, 22, of Stamford Street, Ilkeston, was handed a two-year criminal behaviour order, was fined £70 and was ordered to pay £85 costs and an £20 victim surcharge for using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour in Ilkeston on March 7.

Must pay £583

STEPHEN Bradshaw, 43, of Taylor Street, Derby was fined £416 and was ordered to pay £85 costs and an £82 victim surcharge for using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour in Derby on September 5.

Fined for behaviour

TIM Green, 23, of Cavendish Street, Derby, was fined £416 and was ordered to pay £85 costs and an £82 victim surcharge for using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour in Derby on September 5.

Restraining order

LEE Lacey, 45, of Coleridge Street, Derby, was handed a 12-month conditional discharge with restraining order until further notice and was ordered to pay £85 costs and an £15 victim surcharge for harassment in Derby between October 8 and January 30.

Harassment charge

JAMIE Osborne, 24, of Ivybridge Close, Oakwood, was handed a two-year conditional discharge with a three-year restraining order and was ordered to pay £85 costs and an £150 victim surcharge for harassment in Little Eaton on March 16.

Assault offence

SHAWN Stuart, 45, of Holloway Road, Alvaston, was handed a two-year conditional discharge and was ordered to pay £85 costs and an £15 victim surcharge for assault in Alvaston on March 17.

Criminal damage

ELTON Howard, 42, of Kedgeston Road, Derby, was given a one-week jail sentence suspended for 12 months and was ordered to pay £85 costs and an £80 victim surcharge for criminal damage in Derby on February 7.

All cases dealt with by Southern Derbyshire magistrates

POLITICS

Police involved after Tory election posters are defaced

THREE large Tory election billboards in Derby have been defaced with Labour posters ahead of Thursday's vote.

Two were on the Morrisons roundabout on the A61 and another on the westbound A52 at Borrowash.

The Morrisons posters were advertising Pauline Latham, defending her seat in Mid Derbyshire, and Amanda Solloway, running in Derby North. The A52 poster was for Mrs Latham.

Mrs Latham said: "They were plastered with red Labour posters overnight. We've taken them off but of course that's left all the posters damaged. Other posters have gone missing as well, they keep being ripped off and we keep replacing them."

She said the latest incidents were cases of criminal damage and that the police had agreed this was the case. She said: "It's mindless and stupid. It's actually stopping democracy. The responsibility lies with the Labour party because they are Labour posters."

Labour's Chris Williamson, defending his seat in Derby North, said the first he had heard of what happened was when he was contacted about it by the Derby Telegraph. He said: "We stick within



Above, the Conservative posters which were defaced by Labour posters.

the rules of engagement and this is not something we'd officially sanction."

Nicola Heaton, running for Labour in Mid Derbyshire, was unavailable for comment last night.

A police spokesman said: "An officer will be allocated to investigate any incident in relation to the election."

The defacing of the billboards comes after UKIP advertising boards were stolen from sites at Bonnie Prince Charlie Island in Chellaston and private land in Hartsborne Road, Woodville.

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Save money on hearing aids at Specsavers. Includes details about hearing aid packages, contact information for various Specsavers centres, and a Specsavers logo.