



## PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

### MCT TRICENTENARY COMMUNITY AWARDS – PRESENTATIONS TO THE ‘GIFT OF SIGHT’ APPEAL, SOUTHAMPTON GENERAL HOSPITAL AND THE FLUTTERBY FUND, SOPHIA’S HOUSE, SOUTHAMPTON



*Jon Whitaker presenting the certificate to Mr Jay Self*

Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Jon Whitaker, together with W.Bro. George Mars, Provincial Grand Orator, visited Southampton General Hospital to present a certificate to the Gift of Sight Appeal. Resulting from the public vote in the Masonic Charitable Foundation’s 3 million pound Tercentenary Community Awards, the Appeal received £6,000.

The Gift of Sight Appeal was established with the aim of funding world-class research into the prevention and treatment of blindness. University

Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust has established itself as one of the leading nystagmus research groups in the UK and is led by Associate Professor and Consultant Ophthalmologist Mr Jay Self who specialises in degenerate eye diseases of children. It runs one of only three dedicated eye movement clinics in the UK and receives referrals from across the UK. At the start of Mr Self’s work, few groups were looking at this particular eye disease and no nystagmus causing genes had been identified.

Nystagmus is often known as ‘wobbly eye’. It causes the eye to wobble and creates strobe vision, making it difficult for people with the disease to see moving objects, recognise familiar faces or perform everyday activities. Although the condition can develop in later life, it is most commonly found in babies and young children.

Mr Self’s research team have put together a video which you can [see here](#) and you can find out more information about the Gift of Sight from their [website here](#).



## PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

W. Bros Jon and George also visited Sophia's House at Bursledon, Southampton to present a certificate to the Flutterby Fund. The Fund received an award of £4,000 in the MCF Tercentenary Community Awards.



*George Mars with Rosie McMillan and Aleksandra Loskot*

Sophia's House offers high quality therapy treatments for children with special needs of any age, inspiring and supporting both children and parents. Highly qualified therapists can provide a wide range of treatments for children with special needs including Global Development Delay, Learning Disabilities, Cerebral Palsy, Autism and Asperger Syndrome in a happy and relaxed environment.

A small local charity, the Flutterby Fund solely supports Sophia's House with the aim of providing support to low income families with physically or mentally handicapped children, who might otherwise be unable to access the services and equipment available.

You can read more about this charity and it's work by following this link <http://www.sophias-house.co.uk/>

