

# Heritage and history update: paintings on the move

*July 2019*

It's not just staff and services who are relocating from the Min, many of its artworks will be settling into new homes, namely the RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre.

## Paintings on the move

Five 18<sup>th</sup> century portraits, including the much-loved painting that hangs above the stairwell at the Mineral Water Hospital, are to receive extensive conservation treatment so they can be re-hung in the new RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre.

The paintings (listed on the next page) will be removed by specialist art removers on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July and carefully transported to Accredited Paintings Conservator and Technical Art Historian, Sarah Cove, who is based in Cornwall.

## Oil painting conservation

Sarah Cove has a background in Fine Art and Art History and qualified as a Paintings Conservator at the Courtauld Institute of Art. In 1999 Sarah Cove was one of the first British Conservators to gain Professional Accreditation. She has significant experience with British paintings, notably portraits from the Tudors to the present.

The paintings will undergo extensive conservation treatment, involving repairing the frames, cleaning and fitting them with a museum grade UV acrylic glazing.

This glazing will protect them from UV light and pollutants allowing them to be installed in the new RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre in late September. This means patients, visitors and staff can continue to experience and enjoy the rich cultural heritage of our city's medical past.

## Which paintings are going to the conservator?



(Pictured left)

Oil painting titled:  
Dr Oliver and Mr  
Peirce examining  
Patients with  
Paralysis,  
Rheumatism and  
leprosy by William  
T. Hoare



Portrait of Mr. John Morris, first  
apothecary by English School 18<sup>th</sup>  
Century (pictured below)



Pictured above: oil painting titled:  
Portrait of Henry Wright by William  
Hoare



(Pictured left) Hygeia: English School  
18th Century



(Pictured right) Portrait of Sir  
William Cockburn, attributed to  
Thomas Barker of Bath

### **Where will these paintings be displayed upon their return?**

These paintings will be installed in the Rheumatology waiting room, on the main stairway and in the seminar room of the new in the RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre.

### **What is happening to the rest of the artworks that have been removed from the Mineral Water Hospital site?**

Three portraits which were removed earlier this year and received extensive conservation treatment now form part of an exhibition at No 1 Royal Crescent called 'Image Control' which runs until January 2020. The pastel self portrait of William Hare will go on loan to the Victoria Gallery who can provide the appropriate conditions to preserve this fragile work of art.

### **What is happening to other artworks at the Mineral Water Hospital site?**

We are in the process of reviewing and prioritising the other paintings that remain and have a medical or local history.

We may be able to bring these paintings to the RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre or other areas of the RUH such as the original entrance to the RUH known as the Lansdown entrance.

Work also continues with Bath Medical Museum to select artefacts for display in our 'Cabinet of Curiosities' in the RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre.

## **Art at the Heart of the RUH**

Art at the Heart supports the RUH with an award winning art and design programme that stimulates healing and well-being and creates an uplifting environment for patients, visitors and staff.

The team are supporting the integration of new and existing art works into the RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and Bernard Ireland House – the new home for many of the staff and services from the Mineral Water Hospital site.

If you would like to find out more please visit [artatruh.org](http://artatruh.org) or contact [ruh-tr.ArtatRUH@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.ArtatRUH@nhs.net)

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