

20.08.21

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Media Release

Cancer patient thanks RUH with artwork gift

A cancer patient is presenting staff from the Oncology department with an original artwork in thanks for his care and treatment at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust.

Dan Griffin, aged 49, from Bath, was told in 2020 that his illness, a rare form of lung cancer, was incurable.

He said: "Throughout my cancer journey I have had the expert guidance and support of Oncology doctors and the amazing team of lung nurses, Macmillan Cancer Support staff and countless others at the RUH. I wanted to show my appreciation with the gift of a painting that I hope will add a little colour and positivity to the lives of those affected by the darkness of a cancer diagnosis."

He says that the news that his illness was terminal inspired him to make many changes, one of them to pursue his passion for painting. He now has his first ever public exhibition at 44AD Gallery in the centre of Bath, opening on 24 August, called 'Dignitastic! Where Art Meets a Terminal Lung Cancer Diagnosis'.

Dan's painting gift is an abstract piece in acrylics titled 'The Spectre of Homer Simpson, Samurai'.

He said: "I have always been fascinated by imagery; by shapes and colours; by beautiful design and by our interactions with them; how they can raise our spirits and show us light in times and places of overwhelming darkness. It is my honour to be able to present a specially-produced work that will, I hope, offer an additional dash of colour perhaps at a time when it is needed most."

RUH Oncology Matron Caroline Gilleece said: "We would like to thank Dan for his very generous gift and his hope that it will bring pleasure to other patients. His story is an inspiring one and we wish him all the best with his first art exhibition."

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Note to editors:

For more information contact Dan W. Griffin on press@danwgriffin.com and phone 07718 605 690

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.

The Trust provides 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk