

Friends of Millbank

March 2022 Newsletter



National flag of Ukraine (Flagpedia.net)

Dear Friend of Millbank

I am dedicating this second newsletter of 2022 to the people of Ukraine, and especially to those who have been killed or wounded following Putin's unprovoked invasion of this sovereign European country on 24 February, barely four weeks ago as I write. I would also like to ask you to join me in praying for the Ukrainians, for those caring for the wounded or bereaved in hospital or in make-shift shelters throughout their besieged and war-torn country, under continuing aerial and artillery bombardment, and for those who will be killed or wounded in the coming days.

And let us not forget the killed, the wounded, and the bereaved on the Russian side of this conflict. They are victims of Putin too, and just as much in need of care and of our prayers.

To paraphrase Bernhard von Langenbeck, pre-eminent German surgeon in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 – 1871, in the words first taught me by another pre-eminent surgeon, Ian Haywood:
A wounded enemy is no longer an enemy, but a human being in need of help.

I had introduced my Chairman's AGM Report on 28 January with these words:

Militarily ... The looming crisis is a threatened invasion of Ukraine, with many thousands of Russian troops massing on her borders, and NATO bolstering its presence in neighbouring countries. Putin will not back down easily, watch this space. And don't forget China.

Prescient words indeed.

How can Friends of Millbank, as your Association, as an Association that is committed to promoting the ongoing relevance of military medicine through our Constitution, through our website, and through our talks, best contribute towards the care of the war wounded in the Ukrainian conflict?

Read on to see what we are doing and can do for starters.

Haywood Memorial Lecture

On Friday 25 March, we have our second Haywood Memorial Lecture, by renowned surgical historian Tom Scotland, speaking on 'Sir James McGrigor (1771-1858), Father of the British Army Medical Services'. Registration for this online talk at 1830hrs is via www.friendsofmillbank.org

The following accolade to Ian Haywood was written by Major General Jack Coull, life member of Friends of Millbank:

I was privileged in my 4 years as Director of Surgery to have Ian as Professor at the same time. I greatly admired his surgical skills but, particularly his enthusiasm for teaching. His lectures were always captivating and displayed his wide knowledge and interest in all fields of military surgery. They were not only of sound content but always interspersed with anecdotes of military history and tales from his personal experience and fun.

His training in ATLS skills in the States proved of immeasurable value in both military and civilian situations and his BATLS courses improved greatly front-line care of the injured. Countless lives and limbs have been saved as a result of Ian's teaching.

Sadly, Ian died age only 53 when he still had so much to offer. Who can envisage how many more accolades he would have gained had he survived? Goodness me, his CV lists a vast array acquired in his short life.

Those of us who worked alongside him were privileged to have known him.

The David Nott Foundation – our 'supported charity' for the care of the wounded

In the context of the war in Ukraine, and in memory of Ian Haywood, with the wholehearted agreement of Margo Haywood (Ian's widow), Tom Scotland (Haywood Memorial Lecturer) and Dr John Blair (FOM President), the Friends of Millbank committee has decided to donate the unprecedented sum of £500 from membership funds to the David Nott Foundation. This was co-founded by Professor David Nott and his wife Elly in 2016 with the simple aim of delivering the specialist training that surgeons need to save more lives in areas of conflict and catastrophe.

Our donation is in recognition of David's inspirational delivery (on Saturday 5 March) of an all-day online war surgery course to almost 600 Ukrainian surgeons and doctors to help them care for the war wounded in Ukraine. Our donation will help fund this and David's various initiatives in teaching war surgery in other war zones throughout the world. We have chosen the David Nott Foundation as our 'supported' charity for 2022.

I also warmly encourage all Friends of Millbank to consider donating individually through Gift Aid to this Foundation, see <https://davidnottfoundation.com>.

The Communications Officer for the David Nott Foundation has sent us the following:

In response to the Ukrainian crisis, our Co-Founder David Nott and Former Consultant Surgeon at St George's Hospital Henry Marsh joined forces to deliver a 12-hour surgical training course to 573 healthcare professionals on Saturday 5th March. The Foundation are now sharing an online recording of David's training with those who could not attend.

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine, David Nott rapidly developed a surgical training course for doctors who are working, or will work, to save lives in Ukraine as the devastation continues to unfold.

David condensed our 5-day surgical training course into a comprehensive 12-hour course online. To ensure healthcare professionals in Ukraine are best prepared for complex war injuries, the course included triage, damage control, burns, cardiothoracic, orthopaedic, paediatric, and plastic surgery sessions. Former Consultant Surgeon and pioneer of surgical advances in Ukraine, Henry Marsh, led the neurosurgery session of the course. The attendees learned a range of skills that can be used when faced with limited resources, from learning how to create make-shift pelvic binders to knowing when to operate without a CT scanner.

Since then, the team have worked hard to further condense the course into a recording, which can be viewed on any device and accessed by any surgeon in Ukraine to watch and learn in their own time. This powerful resource has been shared with the Ukrainian embassy and hundreds of doctors in the country at this devastating time.

What's more, the David Nott Foundation team have set up a private forum for surgeons in Ukraine to discuss surgical cases directly with David and Henry Marsh.

Our full story here: <https://davidnottfoundation.com/ukraine/>

Christie Norris
Communications and Engagement Manager
David Nott Foundation

And a few words from our Haywood Memorial Lecturer

Dear David,

You have my full support to link the Haywood Memorial Lecture and James McGrigor to the David Nott Foundation and the need to relieve awful human suffering today. I am pleased to have an opportunity to mention the current state of affairs in my talk. Not to do so would be a serious omission. James McGrigor would have thoroughly approved, as would Ian Haywood.

Tom Scotland

Lastly, **Jennifer Haywood** (Ian's daughter) would like to draw your attention to lots of online history talks about Ukraine by leading world historians on 26-27 March, see <https://historyforukraine.co/>

I look forward to seeing you online at our Haywood Memorial Lecture on Friday 25 March, and at our talk two weeks later by Jane Orr, on Friday 8 April, which will be at Millbank and online (please note the date for this is earlier than usual). Register for each talk via www.friendsofmillbank.org.

In Arduis Fidelis

David Vassallo

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