

## The James Tudor Foundation

In 1935 a gentleman named James Tudor established a 'penny a day' welfare scheme in Bristol. In the days before the National Health Service, the scheme provided for the medical needs of the subscribers. It was therefore known as the Bristol Contributory Welfare Association.

On 5th July 1948 a new publically funded healthcare system came into being in the United Kingdom, the National Health Service (NHS). The founding principles of the NHS called for funding out of general taxation to provide services free at the point of use and open to everyone (even people temporarily resident or visiting the country).

BCWA, as it would come to be know, continued business as a mutually owned contributory healthcare contributor and progressed as a provider of private medical insurance.

Early in the 21st century the directors of BCWA performed a strategic review. With considerable foresight they concluded that the long-term security of the association and its staff would be best protected by seeking an acquirer. The Hospital Savings Group (HSA – and latterly known as SimplyHealth) became preferred suitor. After long negotiation BCWA became part of the SimplyHealth group.

In consideration for the members' agreement, a capital sum was set aside for charitable use. The endowment was the seed of an independent charitable foundation that would be formed to honour and perpetuate the original objectives of BCWA's founder, that of the relief of sickness. In 2004 the James Tudor Foundation registered with the Charity Commission and commenced charitable work based on the philanthropic provenance it had inherited.

As an interesting twist, the chairman of directors at the James Tudor Foundation is the maternal grandchild of James Tudor.

In the first three years of existence the James Tudor Foundation donated over £3 million to charitable causes and established a programme of support for palliative care, medical research, health education and the direct relief of sickness. Although the amount granted per annum has diminished so that future beneficiaries are not disadvantaged, the Foundation continues to provide support to a wide range of organisations in the greater Bristol area, the United Kingdom and worldwide.