

The New Year was brought in with very sad news as we were told of the passing of one of our keenest supporters, an 18-year-old young lady who had heart transplant surgery ten years ago. I was honoured to speak at a very emotional service of thanksgiving for her life which touched so many people. We were also very saddened to hear of the passing of a little baby in Birmingham following complications after surgery.

Following our aims, we again provided support to many families whose children were either undergoing surgery or had just been diagnosed with a congenital heart defect.

We continued with our project of supplying, as and when funds permitted, defibrillators to schools and youth groups and the trustees thought that while this was a very worthwhile project, family support must and will be the main thrust of our efforts.

We have continued to be members of the Family Engagement Group, collaborating with other charities in helping to provide for a seamless service between the Royal Victoria Hospital for Sick Children and Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin. There are some minor difficulties with transport and obvious communication problems, and it is hoped that this will be sorted very soon.

There are some similar difficulties with families travelling to mainland Britain and again work is currently underway to alleviate these.

Our fundraising, for a voluntary charity, was once more very good and our thanks go to the many volunteers and individuals who raised funds on our behalf. Without their help and support it would prove impossible to carry on the work we currently undertake.

*Irwyn McKibbin.*