



HOW IT ALL BEGAN



In this, our 25th year, Dr Paul Strickland OBE, Founder and Honorary Medical Director of the Centre reminisces.

"Less than thirty years ago, CT scanning had just left the drawing board stage. One or two pioneering machines were in use, carrying out important clinical research and a small handful of centres had acquired a CT scanner for radiological work. If you were lucky and knew the right people, you might even get a scan done for a patient on the 'old boy' basis.

At the time I was working as a Senior Clinical Oncologist at Mount Vernon Hospital and was determined to get scanning for cancer there. Mount Vernon was, after all, one of the largest cancer treatment centres in the country. The Health Authorities could offer no support for this idea, saying that the scanners should be used first in the big teaching hospitals and at some future unstated date Mount Vernon's turn would come.

At this stage rage and enthusiasm spurred me on. So intense was my belief that these new CT scanners could save the lives of cancer patients through early diagnosis, that I set about raising the money to buy one.

I must say even I was amazed at the way our well wishers rallied round with unbelievable enthusiasm, and within six months we had raised enough to place a firm order for one of the first CT scanners in Britain. So great was the support from individuals, companies, Rotary Clubs and other organisations that we ordered an MRI scanner as well, which was one of the greatest advances of the last century.

Since those early days we've never looked back. The vast majority of our work is done for the NHS under contract on a low profit basis, and for the private sector, which gives us the funds for continued original research into cancer. The Scanner Centre is now world famous and as well equipped as any in Europe. We attract the finest Consultant Radiologists to work with us, each an expert in their field.

Over the past 25 years we have remained true to our original intention of being at the forefront of scanning technology, providing our patients with the best chance of life. We can all be intensely proud of that."