

nurses came up with a nursing dress and a name badge for me because I was doing so much to help Oliver. I felt there weren't enough nurses around and made my feelings known. I was always grateful for any help but I didn't see why I should be the one who had to be in ITU from 8 in the morning until 8 in the evening. The diary note of that day recalls Oliver seeing Mr. Dhasmana again and the big smile that Oliver had given him.

45. Oliver celebrated his first birthday on 7 October 1994 in intensive care (see page 107). We were determined to put on a party for him and Helen Vegoda helped us with balloons and things. October continued with Oliver being quite stable. At some time in November we were informed that he would have a routine bronchoscopy on 7 December. My diary entry for that date is on page 117. He had had so many bronchoscopies before that we were not too worried and thought he would be back in an hour.
46. However, the moment we saw Mr. Dhasmana and Pat Weir, the anaesthetist, coming towards us we knew something was wrong. They were both crying and told us that the patch which had been on his trachea had come away and had blocked both bronchials and that Oliver had died. Mr. Dhasmana, and later the coroner, informed us that the camera had dislodged the patch which had already been traumatised by infection. We felt that fate had dealt the final blow, after he had been a fighter for so long. We now know that due to infection it was only a matter of time before the patch became dislodged. The camera just brought about prematurely what we believe to be the inevitable. We do not blame anyone. During the year in ITU I was involved with several families that endured bereavement and feel that they, as well as ourselves, were treated with great compassion and care during this extremely distressing time. We had the news of Oliver's death broken very gently and privately to us. Privacy, at

times like these, was uppermost on the minds of the staff. We were given the option to clean Oliver up and prepare him after his surgery which I declined. We were then allowed as much time as we required just to be with him alone. I remember being spoken to about the necessity of a post-mortem and inquest because of the circumstances under which Oliver died. We did speak with the coroner at a later date about the findings of the inquest.

47. Throughout our time at the hospital we had every faith in Mr. Dhasmana and his team and we still hold him in the highest regard despite the fact that our story has an unhappy ending. We had 14 months of heartache punctuated with the happier times when Oliver was having a good day. We believe that if it was not for Mr. Dhasmana or the others involved in prolonging his short life, we would not have had those special times and memories that we hold dear.
48. However, we have been disgusted by what has come out in the Inquiry regarding organ retention. We don't believe that we signed anything regarding the hospital retaining Oliver's heart, and were certainly not aware that there was a possibility that anything could be retained. In March of this year we received a disgracefully insensitive letter from Mr. Barrington, the Chief Executive of the UBHT Trust, giving us various choices as to what we wanted done with Oliver's heart. We have recently picked it up from the hospital and will be burying it with Oliver. It is wrong that anybody should have to endure the trauma and distress of having to do this 5 years on. We feel that the system let Oliver down and it is something that we will never come to terms with
49. I have made this statement because I wish our views of Mr. Dhasmana to be on the record. From the autumn of 1996 to July of this year we lived in the USA. We followed the English press reports on the Internet. We felt very distressed and isolated