

The look of a happy man

By Andy Sibcy

LOOKING into Ray Bisson's eyes, it is all but impossible to tell which one is artificial. The 51-year-old IT expert is one of more than 20 patients who have already benefited from a new service now available to Islanders at the General Hospital.



Since February, ocularist and craftsman John Pacey-Lowrie has been spending the first week of every month in Jersey. He is one of the country's most respected makers of some of the most realistic prosthetic eyes available.

Around 80 Islanders have already been identified who would benefit from his expertise. They may have been blind from birth or have lost an eye as a result of disease or an accident.

Mr Pacey-Lowrie (54), who is based in Nottingham, makes an impression of the eye socket, and from that he creates a plaster-cast that is used to manufacture an acrylic eye. He then hand-paints the bespoke eye and uses strands of red silk to create blood vessels. Finally, the eye is coated with more acrylic and fitted.

*Picture: Ray Bisson – pictured with ocularist John Pacey-Lowrie – is one of over 20 patients who have benefited from the new service