Tribute to Richard Gregory  
(psychologist, Bristol University)  
Remarks at what he called his fun(neral), 30 May 2010  
Michael Berry  

What a mind! – a delicious mind, animated by wisdom, wit, and whimsy, unable to have an unoriginal thought, casting light on everything it lighted on.  

An example from my own trade. In physics, our cherished second law of thermodynamics – disorder inevitably increases – declares:  

“You can’t unscramble an egg”. “Yes you can,” said Richard,  
“Feed scrambled egg to a chicken”.  

Deconstructing those six words takes you deep into understanding what the second law means.  

A big man, with generosity to match. Soon after he arrived in Bristol, I sent him a paper about distorted images in perfectly reflecting spheres: “Reflections on a Christmas-tree bauble”. He responded by presenting me with a beautiful old witch ball that he had inherited – his generosity was physical as well as intellectual.  

We miss you Richard, all the more for the sad irony that you – an unsentimental man – would surely have appreciated: the software needs the hardware and, in the end, your material brain destroyed your beautiful mind.