



The Newsletter of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group - The only charitable provider of expert eye care in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem; treating patients regardless of religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay



Muristan Garden Opens to Public

In late November our Muristan Peace Garden and Museum, which is attached to the new Muristan Eye Clinic in the Old City of Jerusalem, opened to the public.



Our honoured guests at the opening were

Dr Michael Dan (pictured), who together with his wife Amira funded the project. Mark Coreth our Tree of Hope Sculptor, and landscape architect Brayan Muntasser were also in attendance.

Dr Michael Dan said of the opening:

“The opportunity to rebuild a thousand year-old medical clinic in Jerusalem, on its original site, according to the original vision of its founders, is a rare privilege indeed.

For over a thousand years, the Order of St John has cared for the

sick and the poor, with sensitivity and with compassion, without regard to ethnicity, religion, or political ideology. These are eternal human values that can be found in every great religion of the world, and also in modern secular society. The rebuilding of this clinic, according to these principles, using literally the same stones as a thousand years ago, bears witness to the indestructible nature of human compassion.

Health and peace go hand in hand, which

is why we have a peace garden right next door to this eye clinic. When we close the gaps in what are called the social determinants of health (income, education, employment, social status, and poverty), we build a foundation for peace. When we bring the best eye care in the world to the people of Jerusalem who might not otherwise have access to an eye clinic, we build peace in this city of peace. And when we bring peace to Jerusalem we bring peace to the entire world.”

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CEO Update

This will be an interesting and challenging year for the Hospital.

The political situation is, overall, even more uncertain over the next twelve months and, whilst we stay steadfastly away from politics, we are directly and immediately

and some supporters have had to reduce their donations owing to financial difficulties of their own.

We are doing all we can to generate funds locally. Our fundraising office in Jerusalem achieved above its target, we have negotiated better deals with both the Palestinian

grant from American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) and The Linbury Trust to allow us to create a corneal suite which we can use for refractive surgery. This kind of surgery falls largely under the so-called heading of desirable rather than essential surgery. It will allow us to charge – and

Our HMIS system, which is the digitilisation of all our patient records, is almost fully implemented (more on page 3).

The new hospitals in Gaza and Hebron as well as the new clinic (five months old) in our old Muristan building (900 years old!) are all working well but need some further development in 2017.

Other challenges include fully setting up a new genetics research laboratory, reforming our training and education of young doctors, re-organising our clinical staff to be able to use them across the group to greatest effect and using our office space more efficiently.

All in all, 2017 will present a lot of challenges but we are not afraid to tackle them head on. We have made so much progress recently and are all set to continue in this vein. All we need to make it happen is your continued support, for which we are indeed very grateful!

Brigadier Tom Ogilvie-Graham



Tom Ogilvie-Graham showing guests around our new Muristan Museum at its opening.

affected by political changes.

We are feeling the effects of Brexit in that our income from the UK is now effectively 20% less owing to the Pound's devaluation against the Shekel. In addition, we have more staff costs resulting from minimum wage increases

Authority and the UN to obtain more reimbursement for their referrals, we reduced overtime and, sadly, are having to make some posts redundant as well as introducing some private practice.

Regarding the private practice, we have been able to get a

we hope to have one of the most modern units in the country and so we should have plenty of customers – and that will generate valuable income. We are also looking at renting some spare accommodation and making money out of a coffee shop in the garden of the Muristan Clinic.



St John Eye Hospital goes digital!

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group (SJEHG) has made further steps towards the modernisation of its services with the introduction of our new Health Management Information System (HMIS).



Record Office Clerk, Khaled Zawareh, will be able to work much more efficiently thanks to our new HMIS system.

The project, which was three-years in the making, has seen the digitalisation of our entire patient records system.

This has numerous benefits for our charity. Most importantly it will offer increased efficiency and quality of care for our patients, which remains our number one priority.

As the HMIS was custom-developed

based on the Joint Commission International standards (the gold-standard for healthcare worldwide), it helps our staff continue to meet these standards. For example with infection control during surgery, doctors can no longer move past a certain stage of an examination without marking that they have performed a certain hygiene check on the system. This will reduce (our already below average) MRSA cases.

Under the previous system, patient records would also occasionally go missing. Thankfully this is now almost impossible as data is now stored under a maximum security level within the HMIS, meaning that patients can be rest assured the confidentiality of their records is maintained.

There is also now a backup on the cloud (satellite internet) and in a disaster data recovery centre. If our own server stops working the down-time will not be more than one minute

as it connects automatically to either back-up, ensuring our patients' records are always readily available when needed.

The system has also drastically reduced waiting times. Previously the average waiting

SJEHG is the largest provider of ophthalmic care in the oPt. This makes it especially crucial that we have accurate data for people we treat. The data will help our onsite researchers to analyse patient information and develop treatment programmes. For example, we need to



Thousands of patient records will be secured in our digital Health Management Information System (HMIS).

time for patients was 30 minutes - now it takes no more than 1-2 minutes for the electronic file to be uploaded. This will help us to see and treat more patients than ever before.

The HMIS is also going to massively help with our onsite research.

increase research on Diabetic Retinopathy as the national database is lacking information on the disease. We can now analyse accurate and readily available data and direct the findings to programmes custom-developed to meet the most urgent needs of the population.

USAID four-year project comes to a close

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have supported St John with an incredible \$2 million USD for a four-year project entitled “Improving Eye Care Services For Palestinians,” which drew to a successful close this January.

Improving Eye Care Services for Palestinians can take many forms, especially when coupled with such a generous donation. Firstly the project funded one of our two Mobile Outreach Units – allowing us to reach thousands of vulnerable patients in the most isolated communities of Palestine.

USAID also funded phacoemulsification surgeries – the most modern form of cataract treatment. This modern technology allows us to perform up to fourteen cataract surgeries per day. Patients receiving the treatment will walk in to our surgery suite with little to no vision, on the arms of a carer and often walk out with near



CEO Tom Ogilvie-Graham, Head of Development and Grants, David Dahdal with HE Donald Blome, US Consul General, and representatives from USAID.

perfect vision completely unassisted. It is safe to say the surgical funding has had a truly drastic impact on the lives of the 1,500 patients which it helped to treat.

Finally the funding also aided St John in our development of the new state-of-the-art Health Management Information System, the digitalisation of

our patient records, which will increase our quality of care, patient efficiency and greatly aid in our on-site research into treating eye conditions in Palestine (see page 3).

In total, over 33,400 patients were reached and screened or treated by the funding.

Our Head of Development and Grants, David Dahdal, recently appeared on Palestine TV to discuss



Patient Ni'mat Kurd waiting to receive her cataract operation in our Jerusalem Day Case Surgery, September 2016.

Goodbye Dr Jeanne

USAID's support, and a video on the project was also shared on the USAID's Facebook page. You can watch both videos on our website's news section www.stjohneyehospital.org/news

We now look forward to our new collaborations with USAID. A sub-section of the organisation, American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) have awarded us an incredible \$900,000 towards our new corneal laser refractive surgery suite. This will allow us to perform laser eye surgery on-site, which we hope will bring in private practice patients (the profits for which will then feed back into treating our most vulnerable patients) – helping us to achieve greater

financial sustainability. Another subsection of the organisation, USAID's Childhood Blindness Programme, has also recently provided \$350,000 for paediatric operations. Over one third of surgery which takes place at St John is on children, a demographic which make up 40% of the population of Palestine. By fixing eye conditions early these children will go on to receive a better education and increased job prospects.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank USAID for their incredible support, which has changed, and will continue to change the lives of thousands of people in the communities in which we serve.



Medical Director Dr Jeanne Garth with Nursing Director Dr Ahmad Ma'ali

This year we say goodbye to our Medical Director of over fifteen years Dr Jeanne Garth.

Dr Jeanne joined St John as a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon in 2001 and became Medical Director in February 2002. She has seen our services grow from treating around 50,000 patients per year to over 125,000 in 2016, and has been involved with our many other achievements over the past fifteen years. Dr Jeanne looks back on her fifteen years,

commenting that:

“Naturally, I feel some sadness at leaving St John, nevertheless, I leave confident and satisfied that I have been instrumental over my tenure in developing Palestinian ophthalmologists of a very high calibre, who will continue to deliver eye care of a first world standard to their people.”

Thank you for your many years of service to St John Dr Jeanne, we wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours.



Model of new corneal laser refractive surgery suite which American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) have funded.

Corneal transplants performed for the first time in Gaza

Our Jerusalem-based corneal expert Dr Abu Hantash and one of our Medical Residents, Dr Radwan Junaidi visited our Gaza Hospital in February to perform 20 corneal transplants.

This corneal transplant has been made possible by our new state-of-the-art Gaza premises which allows us to offer more services from within the Gaza Strip.

Dr Hantash expressed his gratitude to be able to draw a smile on the faces of our patients, and stressed that this is part of intensive efforts to ease the burden and harsh conditions our people in Gaza are exposed to during their travel from Gaza to Jerusalem for treatment. The corneal transplant operations were done in a record time; a day and a half for 20 patients. He also performed several cosmetic operations for a number of patients and followed up many specific cases that needed further diagnosis. The medical

resident, Dr Radwan, who was shadowing Dr Hantash throughout the procedures added the following:

“God help them. How difficult it must be for the Gaza patients to get through the Erez crossing. I have a doctor’s permit, I can’t imagine what it is like as a patient.”

Dr Walid Shaqura director of our Gaza Hospital is extremely pleased to be able to offer this service within the Gaza Strip. Many patients could be waiting for more than a year to receive a corneal transplant, **“the great dilemma lies in the transfer and supply of the required corneas to the Gaza Strip, especially in light of the complex Israeli procedures that require a high degree of coordination and follow-up with all the official authorities.”**

Dr Shaqura added:

“However St John Eye Hospital Group will



The first corneal transplants being carried out in our Gaza Hospital by Dr Hantash (seated).



Dr Hantash with Gaza Hospital retinal expert Dr Al’Halimi and Gaza Hospital Manager Walid Shaqura.

exercise all efforts to provide services that are not normally available. Everyone here knows the meaning of referral from the physiological and emotional impact of it so it is great we can offer treatment here in Gaza.”

The patients and their families were grateful for the arrival of Dr Abu Hantash to the Gaza Strip to perform corneal transplants for their loved ones. Abdullah Ismail, a corneal transplant patient added:

“I’m very proud that we have a hospital in Gaza of this high standard, cleanliness and expertise. It’s easier for patients who would find it hard to get to Jerusalem

for treatment. Thank you so much to the St John for my treatment.”

It is worth mentioning that the number of patients who are in need for cornea surgeries at our Gaza Hospital has reached 95 patients, whereas the number of cases that need follow up and examination have reached 300 patients, making it imperative to develop our services in the area.

At the end of the day however, this is a major step forward for eye care in the Gaza Strip and, as Palestinian reporter Sally Al Akuni surmised, **“a new opportunity for life in Gaza.”**

You can watch the full report on our website www.stjohnseyehospital.org/news



International Women's Day



Patient Case Study: Saja

Saja recently received treatment at our Jerusalem Hospital. Below is her story, in her mother's words:

“ Saja, my eldest child, was born weighing 3.2kg. I remember the day like it was yesterday. One of the first things I noticed was one eyelid was more closed than the other. But when I asked the doctors they told me that it probably happened during the birth and not to worry.

When my second child, my son Ibrahim, was born he had the same problem. This was when I realised it was perhaps a more serious issue.

Society is ruthless these days, it can be difficult. Saja is very young but I could already tell she was being discriminated against. When she was three and began playing with other children she often got asked 'why is your eye like that?' What was worse was when she was asked what was wrong with her by adults too. It made her very shy

and unsure of herself around other people.

I took Saja to be checked at St John, where we met Dr Bashar. She was diagnosed with a ptosis, or a droopy eyelid. After the laboratory tests and eye examinations they told me they would tighten the tendons of the eye. I was worried about the risks and if this might cause damage to the eye, but Dr Bashar reassured me that it would not cause her any harm. In fact it was likely to improve her vision.

Three months post operation my daughter is like a different person! I am very happy because as she sees herself in the mirror and how normal she looks I think she's forgotten what she even looked like before. She is even prettier than she was before, if that is possible. And most importantly her state of mind when she is with other children is also much better. She can interact with the other children now she feels just like them. ”

At St John Eye Hospital we treat children like Saja every day.

Unfortunately the visible nature of eye conditions such as ptosis can lead to social stigmatisation just like Saja received. The burden of this stigmatisation is exacerbated for girls because they can damage their chances of finding a suitable partner. Young women with sight issues are therefore caught in a cycle, many already living in poverty, without appropriate support for their education, unable to work, not able to meet a partner, and stuck at home depending on aging parents.

Ptosis also carries the added risk of developing limited vision, which

impacts on a child's ability to learn and develop.

With their sight fully restored, children like Saja have full access to education. Good sight opens up many doors for them, including further education and work. They will be able to support their family, rather than being forced to rely on them.

Saja is one of the 42,700 children we screened or treated at St John Eye Hospital in 2016. She is featured in an online video story which you can watch at www.stjohnehospital.org/sajas-story To support children like Saja please get in touch via the information on the back page or by contacting diana.safieh@stjohnehospital.org.

Saja after her surgery, she is now much more confident amongst her peers





International Women's Day

St John celebrates International Women's Day

As it was International Women's Day on March 8th 2017 we are turning our attention to the incredible women who work across our services. At St John, women are afforded the same opportunity as men in the workplace.

One woman who knows this to be true is Marlene Katansho, who has worked her way up from our nursing school to become the Clinic Coordinator for our new Muristan Clinic in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Marlene joined our hospital when she was just nineteen years of age, as one of our first School of Nursing students. After graduating in 1994, Marlene was offered a permanent position within our services and her career has flourished ever since.

Here is Marlene Katansho's experience at St John in her own words:

“ When I got my job at St John I felt incredibly lucky. It was recommended to me by my friends who

had studied there. At the time it was extremely difficult for a woman to simply get a job in this country but being female at St John has not hindered me at all. The hospital offers a collaborative and supportive atmosphere to every employee – no matter of their position or their gender. Those with children get given the most flexible shifts to help them fit work around their lives.

However St John doesn't just offer employment for women – it offers a career. My first training in the hospital was as an Ophthalmic Licence Practical Nurse with the nursing training school. However I have been encouraged into further training whenever my superiors see an opportunity they feel I would be the right fit for. For that I attended Bethlehem University and gained a degree in General Nursing, and after that I was trained again in St John Nursing School as an Ophthalmic Nurse Practitioner. Throughout my degree St John ensured I had flexible shifts to fit in with my studies and offered



Marlene Katansho in our Jerusalem Hospital Gardens, September 2016

extra support and training to help me earn my qualification. This is similar for every person, female or male, who wishes to further themselves at St John – they will even pay for you to go abroad for further education if they feel it will be of benefit to your career. I could not ask for a more supportive environment to develop in.

I am one of the luckiest people in the hospital as St John Norfolk (part of the Priory of St John England & the Islands) sponsors me and have been there for me since my very first days as a student. They are often checking on my progress, which inspires me to reach further, and have even invited me to visit them in the UK on a few occasions. I am excited to be delivering a talk on my experiences at the St John Priory Symposium in London on 8th May.

Along with helping women under their employment, St John also aids women in the wider community. The

outreach and satellite services we offer especially help women as it is often the females from the isolated areas that are not able to travel to Jerusalem to seek treatment. [In fact 70% of mobile outreach patients are women and children.] By coming to them we provide equal access to eye care, proper health education and new insights for a better life and future.

My new position as Muristan Coordinator is truly a dream come true for me. I come from the Old City, so I am now helping to treat my friends and neighbours. People living here so appreciate having the clinic so close to their homes, shops and schools and many have complimented me on the beautiful transformation the building has had in the past year.

Other than the vital role of running the clinic and treating our patients, I'm also really enjoying playing tour guide to the many tourists who visit our new Muristan Peace

“We are worse off, all of us, including men and boys, if our society is not developing and empowering 100% of the resources of humanity, including women, and girls”

Sally Kohn
(American lawyer and political commentator)

Women in our Theatre Team celebrate International Women's Day with a handmade cake from the Jerusalem Hospital kitchens.



Garden and Museum. As a local it's great fun to show off my beautiful home, and as a member of the St John family I am proud to show off the fantastic work that we do. Please do come visit our new clinic and see for yourselves, I'll gladly show you around.

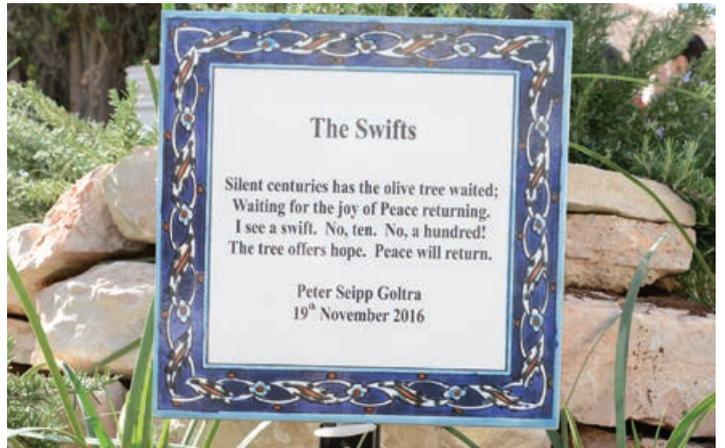
We would like to take this opportunity to applaud our women working across our services, and Palestinian women in general. We promise to strive to continue to open eyes and open doors for you.



Fida Odeh, one of the winners of the Jacqueline Jaidy MBE Cup for Nursing Excellence



An aerial shot of our new Peace Garden.



→ Continued from page 1

If there were more people with Dr Dan's mindset the world would be a better place! Thank you for your moving words, and most generous support.

As you will remember from our last issue, our Peace Garden features our beautiful Tree of Hope and its canopy of swifts. One of our other

loyal supporters Mr Peter Goltra wrote a beautiful poem about our swifts, which is featured in our Peace Garden and can be seen in the picture above.

It is almost time for the real swifts' return migration to the walls of Jerusalem, and we are hoping they will be attracted by our new nest boxes which have been placed in the Peace

Garden. Likewise our bronze swift sculptures have begun to migrate their way around the world flying as far and wide as Australia and the United States. If you would like to purchase your own swift, designed by the world renowned sculptor Mark Coreth, you can fill the donation form on the back of this newsletter, visit our online shop or contact us on 0207 253 2582.

Do you have a trip planned to Jerusalem this year? Please drop into our Muristan Clinic (near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre), to experience the Peace Garden, Tree of Hope and Museum with your own eyes! A space of tranquillity in the hustle and bustle of the Old City, we look forward to welcoming you.



Graduation Celebrations at our Nurse Training Programme in Gaza

A massive congratulations to the 15 nurses who received their diploma in ophthalmic care in Gaza in January!

This is a course run every two years to train nurses, working for St John Gaza but also other healthcare institutions, in specialist ophthalmic care. Here they can be seen with their diplomas and former Hospitalier Tony Chignell.

One of the recent graduates Maysoon, has

shared her experiences with us:

“I was so lucky to be selected in St John, though I am just starting my first step on my career, the teaching staff gave me enough confidence to complete my training. St John is an entity to me that is not just a place to help sick people - it has a complete mission to brighten our community and help us to achieve the best and be the best.”

Graduate Maysoon takes a selfie with Nursing School Head Lecturer Nasrallah Khalileh and a fellow graduate.



Our Ocularist Sa'eda Qawas completes advanced training at Aravind Institute

Although a competent ocularist, having completed a course at Moorfields Eye Hospital over 15 years ago, Sa'eda knew she would benefit from acquiring new skills to support ophthalmologists with difficult cases of deformed eye sockets. In November 2016, thanks to generous funding from Consolidated Contractors Company, Sa'eda underwent a three week ocularist intensive training course at Aravind

Institute in India. She very much enjoyed the experience of learning new skills at an extremely busy department serving a diverse community.

During her training, Sa'eda acquired additional skills in the arts of fitting, shaping, and painting ocular prostheses. She has mastered the intricate art of creating custom designed eyes. As a result she no longer

Sa'eda Qawas at work with one of her prosthetic eyes in her Jerusalem Hospital workshop, February 2017.



relies heavily on adapting prosthetic eyes that are ready made, which are often not designed for people with dark eyes, which is common in Palestine.

She is now able to provide a more comprehensive and higher quality of care for our patients. Congratulations on your new qualifications Sa'eda!

CEO, Tom Ogilvie-Graham receives treatment at St John Eye Hospital



Tom Ogilvie-Graham (centre) with Jamil Abu Hani, Dr Bashar and Manal Obeidiyeh, the medical team responsible for his operation, snapping a pic post successful operation.

One of the conditions commonly found in the dry, dusty conditions of Palestine is chalazion.

The CEO was afflicted with this and needed a small operation in January. It was an opportunity to see the operating theatre staff in action and nothing concentrates the mind better than being on the receiving end! Tom found that Dr Bashar, Theatre Coordinator Jamil and all the staff were fantastic, calm, reassuring, professional and very efficient throughout – having broken, dislocated or ruptured well over 30 bones, joints and tendons during his Army service, Tom is no stranger being

a surgical patient but the service here was a good as any he has seen. Not a bad recommendation!

Denis Sevaistre, the CEO of the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, also recently received treatment at our Jerusalem Hospital:

“An attribute the Holy Family Hospital and St John Eye Hospital Group (SJEHG) share is our commitment to delivering the highest standards of care possible to our patients. It is this commitment that gives our institutions such a brilliant reputation in the region. I am always happy to see

both expatriates and locals coming to deliver their babies in our Holy Family Hospital – and I know it is the same for those needing eye treatment who head to St John. When I began to struggle with a cataract in my right eye the obvious choice was to seek treatment at SJEHG.

I was not disappointed - I received exemplary treatment from the surgery team there, the likes of which you would find anywhere else in the world. I highly recommend SJEHG to anyone needing treatment in the region.”

Employees of the month

If you would like to sponsor any of these individuals please get in touch.

October 2016:

● **Majed Edwan** (Maintenance/Technician) has won employee of the month as he is a team player, hard worker, cooperative and can tolerate pressure, especially during the implementation of our HMIS.

November 2016:

● **Tamer Hreibat** (Staff Nurse) has won employee of the month as he is an experienced nurse, always available when needed and strives for future development.

December 2016:

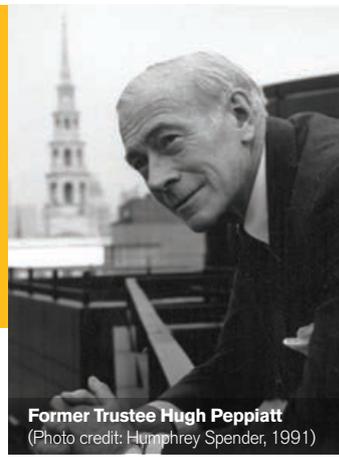
● **Cassandra Ali** (Staff Nurse) has won employee of the month as she is very active, flexible, shows initiative and she is doing a great role in helping in all clinical areas.

January 2017:

● **Khawla Ghaith** (Staff Nurse) Khawla has won employee of the month as she is a hard worker with good communication skills with other departments and is flexible.



Former Hospital Warden, Dr Keith Batten treating a patient in our Jerusalem Hospital, mid 60s.



Former Trustee Hugh Peppiatt
(Photo credit: Humphrey Spender, 1991)

In Memory

Dr Keith Batten CBE KStJ

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr Keith Batten.

Dr Batten served as the chief surgeon and Hospital Warden for a decade between 1969 to 1979, and later as our Hospitalier between 1989 and 1992. He oversaw many of the momentous occasions in the history of our hospital and left an incredible impact on the region through his service. Above is a happy memory of Dr Batten treating one of our patients.

Our thoughts are with his wife Patricia and family at this time.

Sir John Swire CBE KStJ

It is with regret we announce the death of one of our most loyal supporters, Sir John Swire.

Sir John was the head of a family trading empire – the Swire Group. Throughout his life the already thriving company was steered to greater success as they fully embraced the emerging strengths of the Asian markets.

However, it is his involvement with St John Eye Hospital Group for which we are most grateful for. Sir John was made a Grade II Knight, the second highest honour in the Order in 2013. He was certainly worthy of this accolade – as he was one of our longest-standing supporters.



Sir John Swire, one of our longest-standing supporters, passed away in December 2016.

He served in Palestine as liaison officer and it was here in 1948, he learned of our work on a visit to the hospital and began his lifelong association with our charitable cause.

Since this first visit he has almost annually given major gifts towards the charity through his trust – an incredible almost seven decades of commitment. His loyalty was reaffirmed when in 2013 he gifted St John Eye Hospital Group with a £1 million endowment fund. As it was

unrestricted this has gone on to have a tremendous impact on the work of our charity, and continues to this day to provide much needed funding.

Through Sir John's support of our nursing training programme, doctors training and patient relief fund, to name a few of his areas of interest, one can say that thousands of Palestinian patients have had their lives transformed as well as dozens of staff.

Our thoughts are with his wife Moira and their three children at this time.

Hugh Peppiatt CStJ

Former Trustee Hugh Peppiatt passed away peacefully in December, surrounded by his family. Hugh served on our Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2006, as a trusted legal advisor for St John Eye Hospital steering the Group to new strengths throughout his tenure.

He was well qualified for a position on our Board as a former senior partner of Freshfields and Chairman of Moorfields

Eye Hospital. He was a beloved husband of Claire, loving father of five, and devoted grandfather to his 20 grandchildren.

A service of thanksgiving and a memorial service were held in his memory, with all donations in his memory going towards St John Eye Hospital Group – raising an incredible £3,880. We would like to thank Claire and the rest of the family for this generous gesture which will surely be put to great use in our services. Our sympathies are with you all.

Phyllida Stewart-Roberts CVO OBE DStJ

Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, who has died aged 82, devoted most of her life to voluntary public service, notably as an ambassador for St John Ambulance and as a popular Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex.

Not only did she have a passionate belief in the work of St John Ambulance, she was also a staunch supporter of the Eye Hospital, and showed her support through her active membership in our Guild.

Annual Visionaries Forum Thursday 27th April

If you are a regular giver or legacy pledger please get in touch for more information

Bishop Waltham's Garden Fair Sunday 30th April

Please join for some fun in the sun in the beautiful Wintershill Hall Gardens! There will be refreshments, crafts, birds of prey, a hog roast, an 'ask the expert gardener' session, musical entertainment and much more!

Vision Express Sunday 18th June

Get yourself on the right track with our luncheon on a Golden Arrow Pullman steam-hauled train, in aid of our work. Tickets are £100 + £100 suggested donation and include a journey on the historic locomotive through beautiful scenery with a drinks reception and three course lunch and wine.

Gift of Sight Fair Wednesday 29th November

Our ever popular Gift of Sight Fair is back for another day of festive fun! Get your Christmas shopping done in style at the exquisite Chelsea Old Town Hall, with independent and ethical crafts, fashion and food.

Please contact Diana Safieh (diana.safieh@stjohnehospital.org/ 0207 553 6960) to register your interest in any of our upcoming events.

Supporter's Corner: Ailsa Williamson-Powell

"To those of us with access to state-provided healthcare, we can often forget what a burden the cost of medicine can be. St John gets money quickly to where it is intended. The pleasure of helping to restore sight is immense."

*Ailsa Williamson-Powell,
Regular Giver*

Ailsa Williamson-Powell, an orthoptist from Buckinghamshire, has been involved with our charity for many years. From her first involvement as a medical volunteer in 1987 to her current regular giving and volunteer work Ailsa is an active and valued St John supporter. In her own words she describes why our work is so significant:

“ I first heard of St John when I met Judith Musallam (the current Senior Orthoptist at St John) when we were colleagues at Kings College in London. There were vacancies advertised to become a Medical Volunteer with St John and she encouraged me to get involved.



Ailsa Williamson-Powell with Fathi Quasi and John Hougham, former Commander of St John Kent, 2011

It was a truly inspirational experience. I was moved by what a positive impact the charity was having in an area of deprivation and political difficulty. It was fantastic getting to work with the hospital staff, who were so professional and welcomed me into their team.

Since my experience volunteering I have also had the pleasure of representing St John Eye Hospital with the Kent County Priory Group. Our Priory Group fundraise to sponsor the hospital's Medical Engineer Fathi Quasi, who studied at Kent University as part of his training. I have had the pleasure of meeting Fathi on several occasions on my return visits to the hospital. It is great to personally connect with him, and see exactly where our sponsorship money goes

– he's a very talented individual.

As a result of my fantastic experience with St John, and with understanding the true importance of sight, I have chosen to set up a personal Regular Giving donation.

At the end of the day the positive work of the charity, in terrible political circumstances, can only continue with financial help. ”

Regular Giving makes up the backbone of our funding, ensuring we have a regular flow of income year round, ready to invest where it is most needed. If you would like to set up a regular donation please contact our office (see back page) or go online - www.stjohnehospital.org/support-us

Priority Funding 2016:

£ **Australia - £146,000 Canada - £242,000 England - £407,000**
New Zealand - £139,000 Scotland - £112,000 USA - £1,760,000 Wales - £40,000

\$ **Australia - \$179,000 Canada - \$299,000 England - \$500,000**
New Zealand - \$172,000 Scotland - \$138,000 USA - \$2,267,000 Wales - \$49,000

Funding Today

None of our work would be possible without our kind donors, whose generosity allows us to continue saving sight and changing lives. We would like to thank everyone who gave to us in 2016, and everyone else who has taken part in or organised any fundraising activities on our behalf.

Major Donors 2016:

- American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA)
- The Estate of Mrs Sheila M Bell
- Dr & Mrs Anthony N Bethell
- Attalla Contracting Company
- The Big Heart Foundation: Salam Ya Seghar
- The Estate of Gwyneth Rosemary Botting
- The Brillig Charitable Trust
- The British Humane Association
- The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
- The Cadogan Charity
- CHK Charities Limited
- Children of Peace
- Christian Blind Mission (CBM)
- Christian Foundation of the West
- The Clothworkers' Foundation
- Mr Mark Coreth
- The Estate of Mrs Jaqueline Alice Cummins
- The David & Ruth Lewis Family Charitable Trust
- The Dr Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation
- The Edwina Mountbatten & Leonora Children's Foundation
- Mrs Tara Elliot
- The Eranda Rothschild Foundation
- The EU Partnership for Peace Programme
- The Evan Cornish Foundation
- Fred Hollows Foundation
- Mrs Caroline Gavin
- The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- The GNC Trust
- The Gosling Foundation Limited
- The Hugh Symons Charitable Trust
- Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOAC)
- The John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust
- Johanniterhjälp
- The Kadoorie Charitable Foundation
- Mrs Julietta Khoury
- The Knights Templar
- Sir Ian Gainsford (In Memory of Professor Anthony Mellows)
- Medical Aid for Palestinians UK
- The MBC Heritage of Islam Trust
- The New Zealand Embassy in Ankara
- Mrs Denise Magauran
- Mrs Elizabeth Mellows (In Memory of her husband Professor Anthony Mellows)
- Mr Guy Morton
- Dame Mary Perkins DBE
- The PF Charitable Trust
- The Park House Charitable Trust
- The Pilkington Charities Fund
- Pro Victimis Foundation
- The Representative Office of Czech Republic to the Palestinian Authority
- The Secretariat of the Alliance of the Orders of St John
- The Sobell Foundation
- The Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM)
- St John Association Malaysia
- St John Commandery in Western Australia
- St John Fellowship
- St John Fundraising Guild
- Mr Michael D Swan
- The Tamari Foundation
- The Thriplow Charitable Trust
- The Estate of Pauline M Tullett
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- USAID Child Blindness Fund
- The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
- The Valentine Charitable Trust
- Welfare Association
- Mr & Mrs Robert Wilson (In Memory of Olivia Marie Wilson Scott)
- World Diabetes Foundation (WDF)

Hospital Wish List

All items are **urgently needed** across our services, any donations would be greatly appreciated. Each item has an average 10 year lifespan. **Over one million patients** will use our services in that timeframe – your donation will be a major part of their individual story. Significant donations can lead to a potential naming opportunity.

Staff Uniform £20 (each)

Presentation is key in a hospital which prides itself on its standards. Help to fund one, ten or 100 uniforms and keep our staff looking their best.

Direct Ophthalmoscope £1,000

Equipment used across our services daily to examine the retina, the first window into a patient's eyes. Two are needed.

Treatment Chair £4,000

Chair used when performing our most common procedures, will see thousands of patients treated over its 10 year life.

Ophthalmic Ultrasound Probe £8,200

You will be familiar with ultrasound checks in pregnancy – but a similar technology can be used on the eye to provide advanced diagnosis for a range of issues.

Research Unit Infrastructure £12,000

Help St John make history by providing funding for the infrastructure of our new Research Unit, where we will be looking into new treatments for genetic eye conditions.

Muristan Furniture and Coffee Area £20,000 (out of a total £30,000)

Leave your mark on one of the most famous areas in the world – the Old City of Jerusalem by funding the furniture for our Muristan complex.

Retinal Laser £24,600

Used in treatment of diabetic retinopathy, one of the most common eye conditions in Palestine. Funding this equipment will have an impact on thousands of lives in the region. Two needed.

Gifts from St John Shop



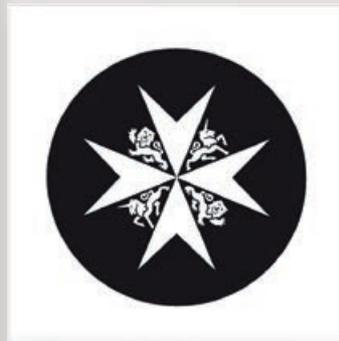
NEW

Lapel Pin - £5.00



NEW

Phone Battery Charger
(with all connectors)
£10.00



St John Blank cards:
SJEHG Coat of Arms or
St John Logo - £4.40
(107mm x 107mm)



**4GB USB Memory
Stick - £8.00**

Swift Appeal

Sponsored:

£3,950 (USD\$5,000)
to sponsor one of 150
birds on the tree itself in
the Old City (you will also
receive a large swift to
take home). Your name or
that of a loved one will be
associated with your bird.

Large
£850 (USD\$1,100)
to buy a large swift

Mini
£350 (USD\$450)
to buy a mini swift



Tote Bag - £3.50



Flashlight Pen - £5.00

To order by phone:

Please call
0207 553 6960
to pay by card

To order by post:

Complete order form
on back

**All prices include
postage & packaging**
(except Swift Appeal, see
back for details)

Order Form

Item	Cost per unit	Number of units	Total (£)
Sponsor a swift on the tree itself in the Old City (includes a large swift to be sent to your home) Postage (UK £20, Europe £35, USA £65, Australia £90, please contact office for other destinations)	£3,950 Please add postage		
Large Swift - Postage (UK £20, Europe £35, USA £65, Australia £90, please contact office for other destinations)	£850 Please add postage		
Mini Swift - Postage (UK £20, Europe £35, USA £45, Australia £50, please contact office for other destinations)	£350 Please add postage		
Lapel Pin	£5.00		
Phone Battery Charger	£10.00		
Blank Card - SJEHG Group Coat of Arms	£4.50 pack of 10		
Blank Card - St John Logo	£4.50 pack of 10		
Flashlight Pen	£5.50		
4GB USB Memory Stick	£8.00		
Tote Bag	£3.50		
		Merchandise total	
		Donation (optional)	
		Total to be paid	

Donation Form

- I would like to support the work of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group
- I would like to support an item from our Wish List (page 15).....
- I would like to support other:

I would like to donate:

£25 £50 £100 £1000 Other

Please return to: The Editor, Jerusalem Scene, St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, 4 Charterhouse Mews, London EC1M 6BB

Please fill out your details and sign here

Signed _____

Title Name

Email

Address

Postcode Phone

Please tick if you are a UK taxpayer and would like St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group to treat all donations you make from this date forward as Gift Aid donations, until you notify us otherwise* (**WE CAN ONLY CLAIM GIFT AID ON DONATIONS**)

Please tick if you would like to receive information about Legacy or In Memory Giving

Please tick and complete your details if you do not want to receive future issues of Jerusalem Scene

*Gift Aid Notes: I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand that other taxes, such as VAT and Council Tax, do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p on every £1 that I give after 6 April, 2008. I understand that the charity will reclaim 28p on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April, 2008. **Please notify St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group if you:** Want to cancel this Declaration; Change your name or home address; No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code. **St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, 4 Charterhouse Mews, London EC1M 6BB Tel +44 (0) 20 7553 6969 info@stjohneyehospital.org Thank You very much for your support**

I will pay by Cheque/Card (delete as applicable) Cheques to be made payable to 'St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group'

Mastercard Visa Switch/Maestro

Card No.

Security Code Valid From Expiry

Issue Number (Switch/Maestro only)

Date