St. John Eye Hospital is a centre of excellence providing ophthalmic care of high quality and relevance to the people of the Holy Land irrespective of race, creed, social class and ability to pay.

2007 was an exceptional 125th anniversary year for St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital that culminated in a very special Royal visit when The Grand Prior and HRH, The Duchess of Gloucester visited the Hospital. We further extended our charitable activities in response to the needs around us. Our achievements have been made despite working within an increasingly difficult political environment. We owe thanks to all the Hospital staff for their continued dedication and hard work.

Over 83,300 patients were treated, an increase of over 13,000 from the previous year. Clinical activity has increased greatly, in part due to the opening of two satellite clinics, Hebron in the South and Anabta in the North. Our satellite clinic in Gaza continues to operate despite the escalating humanitarian crisis there and our two Mobile Outreach Programmes go from strength to strength. Our Teaching and Training Programme for Doctors and Nurses continues to develop as we strive to provide the best education possible to the next generation of locally based medical practitioners.

To this effect our international visitor/volunteer programme continues to bring new expertise into the Hospital. The year also saw improvements to our Jerusalem based Hospital as major renovation of key work areas was undertaken. None of our achievements could be done without the continuous and loyal support from members of St John, our external donors, supporters and Trusts & Foundations – we wish to extend a personal heartfelt thank you to all who help us in our charitable endeavours.

Introduction

Improving Sight, Changing Lives

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An Icon was created, carved out of Jerusalem stone that was symbolic of the Hospital’s charitable work and a call for funding support of our charitable endeavours. The Icon went on a year-long international journey across the St John world. Its journey started on 11 January 2007 at St John’s Gate, London, when it was handed over from Lord Vestey to The Grand Prior in a symbolic gesture at the start of the journey.

“The need of those we serve at the moment in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza is very great and so, at the time of celebration of our 125th anniversary, we have launched our International Patient Relief Appeal. This Icon is a symbol of our Appeal.” Lord Vestey

The Icon visited two locations of great significance in the history of the Order, the Crusader fortress of Acre in the Holy Land and Malta. In Malta the Deputy Lord Prior, Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards and Order Hospitaller, Anthony Chignell, visited the convent of the Ursuline Sisters in Valletta where the relics of the Founder of the Order, the Blessed Gerard, are preserved. This special visit was kindly arranged by the President of the Sovereign Military Order of St John, HE Dr J Cremona, who accompanied the visit along with members of St John Ambulance, Malta.

Many celebratory events, led by the Chairman of the Board, The Lord Vestey, marked this special year. The Grand Prior, Lord Prior, Vice Lord Prior, Secretary-General and the Board of Trustees, have been particularly supportive of the Hospital and generous with their time during the year, for which we are very grateful.

During the weekend of 26 May, over 300 overseas guests and 200 staff and members of the local community joined together in Jerusalem to celebrate our anniversary. There was a special service at The Cathedral Church of St George The Martyr, Jerusalem which was followed by an Investiture of 50 Postulants.

The Grand Prior, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by The Lord Vestey, and the Hospital CEO visited St John Ambulance, Hong Kong, where they were presented with a cheque for £81,380 towards The International Patient Relief Appeal. This was the first time that such an event has taken place, linking a St John Association directly with the Hospital.

Throughout the year the Icon travelled to most Priories across the St John world and was welcomed in countries as far afield as Australia, the USA, South Africa, Wales and New Zealand.

The Icon’s journey concluded in December with the visit to the Hospital of the Grand Prior and HRH The Duchess of Gloucester. We were honoured that Their Royal Highnesses were also able to join us for our annual Christmas Carol Service. The Royal visit was a fantastic success and a wonderful end to the journey of the Icon.
Our Achievements

Eye Hospital Jerusalem

Our main hospital continued its busy schedule of clinical activities as over 38,000 outpatients were seen and 2,400 major operations undertaken. The Hospital benefited from the additional support of 23 international volunteer medical and surgical specialists. They managed complex cases and other aspects of sub specialty care and also, importantly, passed on their invaluable skills to staff at the Hospital.

Thanks to funds donated we were able to carry out major renovation work in 2007 which resulted in improvements to the Nursing Home, Women and Children Ward, Doctors Apartments and the renewal of two main Hospital staircases.

Our Visitors

“I have always thought of the work of the Eye Hospital as reflecting the values of the Order, and as relevant now as at the inception of the Hospital 125 years ago. My recent visit to Jerusalem has reinforced that view, and I was particularly impressed by the enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism of all those working for the Hospital under difficult circumstances. HRH The Duke of Gloucester.”

The year was made all the more special by the Royal visit, when The Grand Prior and HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, in December, visited the Hospital and our satellite clinic in Anabta. During their visit The Duchess of Gloucester officially re-opened our newly refurbished Children and Female Ward and unveiled a plaque commemorating the visit. The refurbishment was made possible due to the generosity of the Priory of the USA.

The Hospital proudly welcomed a number of other prestigious visitors and supporters. Memorable visitors included the USA Under Secretary of State, Nicholas Burns, the Rt Hon David Blunkett MP the Japanese Ambassador, Yoshinori Katori and the UK Foreign Secretary, the Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Beckett MP. We wish to thank the British Consul-General, Richard Makepeace, and his staff for arranging this visit when Mrs Beckett formally opened our newly refurbished Male Ward, work on which was completed in late 2006. The renovation was made possible following donations received from the British Government, the Pontifical Mission and a number of individual donors. We also wish to thank the Japanese Ambassador and the Japanese Government for confirming their commitment by donating US$79,000 for the purchase of a state-of-the-art digital fundus photography system.

Teaching & Training

We continue to build a sustainable and highly professional pool of skilled local eye care practitioners by providing teaching and training for locally based doctors and nurses. In 2007 the Hospital funded four Resident Doctors on their four year training programme and two Trainees, placed at the Israeli Hadassah Hospital. Our Training Programme is fully recognised by the Jordanian and Palestinian Councils of Ophthalmology and our benchmark is equivalent to that approved by the UK Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

“I wish every person I treat will go home and be an ambassador for peace and co-existence”

Dr Keren Haas

Dr Keren Haas from Ashdod, Israel, joined St John, part-time, bringing necessary expertise in Vitreo-Retinal surgery (VR). Dr Haas is another excellent example of the Palestinian – Israeli co-operation at our Hospital.

A review of nursing was undertaken by senior staff from Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, and gave guidance for the future direction of nursing at the Hospital. Training Ophthalmic Nurses is the priority of the Sir Stephen Miller School of Nursing whose post-graduate Specialist Ophthalmic Nursing course is recognised by Thames Valley University in the UK. The School is also responsible for training Nurse Practitioners and Nursing Staff professional development.

Research

Behel’s disease is a chronic condition due to disturbances in the body’s immune system. Funding from The Ridley Foundation enabled the continuation of the study into this disease. The study includes creating a patient registry and collecting DNA samples for sequencing. An academic collaboration is in place with Hadassah Hospital, Jerusalem and St. Thomas’ Hospital, London.

Thanks to a grant from The Linbury Trust, a major Epidemiological Study will be undertaken in 2008. It is more than 25 years since a research project of this scale has been undertaken at the Hospital. There has been a substantial increase in the Palestinian population and no national blind register exists in the region. The Hospital’s Director of Medical Education, Nick Sargent, who is in charge of this project said

“The findings of this research will help focus the Eye Hospital tremendously in planning our humanitarian services, and will also enable the effective monitoring of all our current eye care programmes.”

Nick Sargent
As internal travel restrictions and poverty make it difficult for the majority of our patients to reach us, our Satellite and Mobile Outreach Clinics become more and more important in our aim, in line with the WHO “Vision 2020: The Right to Sight” initiative - to abolish preventable blindness by 2020.

The Anabta Clinic was opened in May 2007 and its focus is the screening and treatment of Diabetic Eye Disease with Paediatric eye care also a high priority. Regular visits are made by the Orthoptist and Paediatric specialist. Other specialists from the Hospital, including expatriates, also visit regularly.

Our Gaza Clinic saw 17,000 patients, an increase of 3,500 on the previous year and in Hebron we treated 14,000 patients, an increase of 3,000 compared to 2006. Hebron also increased the number of major operations performed by over 50% from the previous year. Our Outreach teams treated 10,000 people in 2007.

None of the ongoing and development activities of our charity would be achievable without the generosity and commitment provided by the St John Family and from donations received from all of our other supporters including individuals, companies and charitable trusts.


To mark our 125th Anniversary, renowned artist, Elisabeth Harden, wife of Former Warden, Alec Harden, created a watercolour image of our Hospital Cloisters. She generously donated the beautiful image for our use as the Christmas Card for 2007.

Our supporters helped us raise £2.888m to enable us to continue our vital work. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped us make a difference to the lives of people in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

We are extremely fortunate to count amongst our hard working supporters our Priories throughout the world. Our friends at The Guild, chaired by Mrs Lauretta Ridley, organised a wonderful fundraising dinner event that was attended by approximately 400 people. The Alliance Orders of St John, linked Associations and the St John Fellowship continued their hard work on behalf of the Hospital. We would also like to thank The Friends of East Jerusalem Hospitals and the Knights Templar for their continuing support.

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During 2007 expenditure, in the furtherance of our charitable activities, amounted to £3.616m, representing 8% of total expenditure, with governance costs at 11%.

As can be seen in the charts above, funding amounted to £4.453m and expenditure £4.477m, resulting in a net operating deficit of £24,000. Year-on-year the Hospital relies on voluntary income as a major provider of funds.

In 2007, voluntary income of £2,888m, constituted 65% of incoming resources; while £1,305m (29%) of total incoming resources came from the Hospital’s charitable activities. The remaining 6% of incoming resources related to income from investments. £1,095m of the voluntary income was donated.

Uses of Funds (£4.477m)

$29% Hospital Income 
$25% Priory Funding 
$40% Grants, Trusts, Donations and Gifts 
$6% Investment Income 
$60% Patient Care (Jerusalem) 
$17% Outreach Program (Smalls, Stoth & static) 
$4% Teaching and Training Funds 
$8% Cost of Generating Funds 
$11% Governance Costs (Management & Admin)

Sources of Funds (£4.453m)

$29% Revenue 
$25% Charitable Donations 
$40% Investments 
$6% Other Income
If you would like to donate to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital via cash, cheque or credit card please send your details to the above address, or alternatively visit our website to donate online or set up a regular donation.

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www.stjohneyehospital.org