Significant New SJEHG Initiative in the West Bank

In this issue, we are delighted to announce both a major honour for the Hospital Group and the long-awaited launch of an exciting new West Bank screening project for Diabetic Retinopathy.

Describing retinopathy from the other side of the slitlamp, former Nursing Director Jackie Jaidy makes a welcome return to the fold – this time as a patient.

And, finally, SJEHG bids a fond farewell to an old friend and welcomes a new face as Chairman.

Vanguard Screening Project in Southern West Bank

SJEHG to Work with United Nations and World Diabetes Foundation

Following the successful US-AID funded diabetic retinopathy screening project piloted at our Gaza Clinic in 2011, we are delighted to announce the inauguration of a three-year screening and treatment project for diabetic retinopathy in the southern West Bank.

Thanks to the generous support of the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF), procurement of equipment and recruitment of staff for the project is already in progress. Medical activities will commence in autumn 2012.

Founded in Denmark on World Diabetes Day in 2002 by global healthcare company Novo Nordisk, the WDF has since supported 284 projects in the developing world, thereby playing a not inconsiderable part in the on-going fight against the diabetes pandemic.

At 12 to 15% of the population, the prevalence of diabetes in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) is three times higher than in the West. Diabetic retinopathy affects up to 80% of all diabetics and can only be prevented by screening for the disease early, before symptoms arise.

Expects Dr Jeanne Garth, Medical Director at SJEHG, “We see the devastating effect that diabetes has on the vision and lives of the people we serve, and we have, for a long time, felt morally and ethically obligated to try to help prevent this blindness, but preventable disease – only being constrained by finances.”

In partnership with United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the SJEHG project will establish the first dedicated screening programme for diabetic retinopathy in the West Bank – and will thus expedite the early detection and management of retinopathy, particularly amongst the refugee population. The programme will begin in the refugee camps in the southern districts of the West Bank.

In addition to safeguarding and improving the vision of diabetic Palestinian refugees, this vanguard project will build capacity of UNRWA staff and educate refugee communities and others as to the causes and dangers of diabetes and its effect upon the eye.

The current goal is to screen 40,000 patients over the three year period, 10,000 of whom will then require some degree of treatment for retinopathy. Jerusalem Scene will keep you up-to-date with this exciting new venture.

We would like to thank WDF and UNRWA, as well as the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and Vision2020 UK for endorsing this project.

Feryal Awan
Fundraising and PR Officer
Thoughts from our Chief Executive

Welcoming a New Chairman and Bidding Adieu to an Old Friend

From the end of June, 2012, I am pleased to welcome Mr. Nicholas Woolf as the newly appointed Chairman of the Board and Order Hospitaller.

Mr Woolf joins the St. John family bringing with him a wealth of boardroom experience gained within the charitable sector. We all look forward to working closely with him for the benefit of our very special organisation.

Mr Woolf takes over the position from long-time Director and friend of the Hospital Group, Philip Hardaker.

Those who have had the privilege of working closely with Philip over the past six years all echo similar sentiments: An organisation could not have wanted for a more committed Trustee who is as passionate about its Mission and Values.

Philip has worked tirelessly and expertly in his role as a Director with responsibility for Finance and, over the course of the past year, has combined this taxing role with that of Chairman and Order Hospitaller.

He has supported the Hospital Group during the highs and given us all encouragement on the few occasions we have faced lows. A worthy leader with an astonishing work ethic, travelling to Ben Gurion Airport following a busy visit to the hospital in Jerusalem, he will spend the entire journey on his mobile phone wrapping-up outstanding issues. E-mails follow immediately he arrives home – poor Lesley!

My colleagues and I extend to Philip our heartfelt gratitude for his involvement with the Hospital Group and also for his great friendship.

Rod Bull
Chief Executive Officer

SJEHG to Receive Gandhi Foundation International Peace Award for 2012

Hospital Group Recognised in Prestigious Honour

Jerusalem Scene is delighted be able to announce that the Trustees of The Gandhi Foundation have chosen to present The Gandhi Foundation International Peace Award for 2012 to The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group.

In a letter to Philip Hardaker, Peace Award Committee Convenor, Dr S. Omar Hayat wrote that, “The Trustees felt that the Eye Hospital has been guided by one of the highest forms of humanitarian ideals, that of bringing medical care to an impoverished and politically unstable area.”

After acknowledging the cost of preventable blindness to the oPt and the poverty-relieving nature of the work that we do, Dr Hayat continued, “The charity in performing this work has engaged all communities in that area and in doing so, we believe, is helping to find common ground between the different people of that region.”

Readers of Jerusalem Scene will know that our Joint Teaching Programmes with the Hadassah and Shaare Zedek Medical Centres in Israeli West Jerusalem have not only permitted our local Palestinian Residents to benefit from outstanding educational opportunities, but have brought them into direct and intimate contact with their Israeli neighbours for over ten years now.

In response to news of the award, Mr Hardaker said, “We have always hoped that – in some small way – this project was helping to facilitate trust and understanding.

The Hospital Group is both delighted and humbled to have been awarded this symbolic honour.”

The award will be presented formally in October 2012.

With the support of The Gandhi Foundation’s Life President, Lord Attenborough, The Gandhi International Peace Award was inaugurated in 1998. In 2011, it was presented to Dr Binayak Sen and Bulu Imam for their practice of nonviolence and their humanitarian work in Pakistan and India.
Noble Progress and a Fond Farewell

A brief word from Philip Hardaker

The last few months have seen continued high levels of activity in the Hospital Group, particularly at the clinics in Gaza and Anabta. We are making good progress in securing the finance to commence construction of the new facility in Gaza. In the meantime we are developing our diagnostic provision at the existing site thanks to state of the art equipment supplied through USAID. In Anabta, we are hopeful that, later this year, we will be able to move the clinic into larger space within the existing building. We are currently undertaking renovation works on the wards which will provide us with a day case unit including an operating theatre.

I write this note as I come to the end of my term on the board after serving for my allotted two triennia. I will have demitted office as Chairman of the Board and Order Hospitaller on 28 June and have agreed to remain available in the short term to ensure continuity.

The last six years have seen a lot of progress for the Group, not least in developing our clinics in the West Bank and Gaza. Around 50% of our outpatients are now seen in our static facilities away from Jerusalem. In addition much has been achieved in keeping our main hospital up to date and working to the highest standards.

The dedication and professionalism of our staff throughout the Group have made a lasting impression on me. A positive impact of our training and education programmes is that almost all of our staff in the Holy Land are now ethnically Palestinian.

I take this opportunity of thanking all the staff in the Group for their support and friendship. I should also like to thank all of our volunteers and other supporters for their efforts. I am pleased to say that I have made many friends in the St. John family over the last six years.

My successor as Chairman of the Board and Order Hospitaller is Nicholas Woolf. Like me Nicholas is a Chartered Accountant and is also a Chartered Tax Adviser. He has extensive experience as a non-executive director and chairman of charities operating in the healthcare sector. I am sure that you will all give him the same levels of support that I have enjoyed over the years.

Philip Hardaker, FCA
Chairman and Order Hospitaller 2011 – 2012
Trustee and Company Secretary 2006 - 2012
After spending over 40 years as an Ophthalmic Nurse it came as something of a shock to me to discover that I was suffering, not only from Diabetes, but also from the associated – and potentially blinding – complication of Diabetic Retinopathy.

Thank goodness for St John Eye Hospital Group, I thought, as I headed to the Hebron satellite centre from my home in Bethlehem.

As I am a resident of the West Bank and, although Bethlehem is only six miles (9.6 kilometres) from its centre, I cannot enter Jerusalem without a permit from the Israeli authorities. This takes time. My British passport does not allow me to pass through the checkpoint and Bethlehem is surrounded by the Israeli Separation Wall so there was no choice but to travel the 13 miles (21 kilometres) to Hebron for treatment.

I had spent much of my career as the Nursing Director of the Eye Hospital – as it was then – as part of the team that set up the satellite clinics in Hebron, Gaza and Anabta. Little did I realise how valuable the now Hebron Hospital would be to me in the future.

Upon arrival at the Hospital, I was immediately examined on a slit lamp; an invaluable piece of equipment for the ophthalmologist. It gives a microscopic view of all parts of the eye and is the starting point for any patient eye examination.

Fortunately, Dr Ghassan Modieh, the Medical Retinal Consultant at the Jerusalem hub was working in Hebron. So, without delay, I moved on to the visual fields examination and a Fluorescein Angiography (a technique for examining retinal circulation). Both are recorded on two highly technical pieces of equipment.

Later, I underwent an Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), a diagnostic procedure that gives a detailed and segmented view of the back of the eye.

I was very pleased to see that my attending nurse, Nader Hajjaj, had learned to operate all of this technical equipment and now functions as both nurse and technician.

It is also the case at the Jerusalem Hospital that nurses have become technicians, opticians and orthoptic assistants. It is most gratifying to me that our nurses have become so flexible and adaptable, based upon their St John basic ophthalmic nurse training.

After examination, it was decided that I would require laser and Avastin treatment and, straight away, I was started on laser treatment, which helps to shrink the abnormal blood vessels caused by retinopathy. Today’s lasers are portable and sit on a table top. The first laser I remember at the Jerusalem hospital was large enough to fill a room and was water cooled. Nurses had to be sure to remember to turn the water pump on and off for each session!
The following week I had my first experience of intravitreal Avastin, probably the most unpleasant part of the whole experience.

The drug Avastin stops the leakage of the damaging new blood vessels and is injected directly into the eye. In the event, this actually proved to be painless and the improvement it afforded my vision was amazing.

After several trips to Hebron I had to begin to travel to the Jerusalem Hospital for my treatment, which is on-going. By then, Hebron was no longer open on Sundays; the only day my husband had been free to drive me there.

The staff in Hebron were magnificent at a time when I was newly diagnosed and aware of the potential, very negative possibilities of Diabetic Retinopathy. I am indebted to Dr Ghassan for his attention.

But the opportunity to see all my many friends in Jerusalem was incentive enough. The hospital in Jerusalem is like a second home to me and – once a permit had been obtained for me by the hospital and I was actually there – I was pleased to see changes happening that point to progress and advancement in all directions; not least the new Medical Retinal Unit, which provides a quiet waiting and treatment space for patients who are anxious and unsure.

Travelling to Jerusalem by car, however, is a luxury of the past for most Palestinians – and post-surgery travel on the crowded buses is not something I recommend. I feel for the patients who have to walk through the pedestrian only checkpoints, sometimes waiting in long queues, to get to the Hospital for treatment, or to get home.

Now one of them, I see the patients who make the effort to come here in a very different light. I appreciate the work of the Hospital Group even more than I did when I was on the other side of the slit lamp.

Mrs Jacqueline Jaidy Hospital Group Matron and Nursing Director, 1996 - 2009
The St. John Family

As always, thanks go out to all in the St John Family across the world.

So far this year, you have provided a grand total in assistance to the Hospital Group of £501,620 ($788,710).

The league table of individual country contributions so far for 2012 stands thus: the Priory of England have donated £219,538, the Priory of the United States £170,423, the Priory of Scotland £347,778, the Priory of Canada £324,545, the Priory of New Zealand £30,303 and the Priory of Australia and New South Wales £14,324.

Jerusalem

In Jerusalem, in May, we were more than delighted to announce that we have received a donation of $1,000,000 (£638,300) from His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifah Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, as a first instalment towards the cost of developing our new Day Case Hospital in Gaza.

The cheque was presented to a Hospital Group team led by Rod Bull by Dr. Saeb Erekat on 23 May 2012, on behalf of President Mahmoud Abbas.

We would also like to acknowledge dedicated supporters, Welfare Association, who have, this year, granted the Hospital Group an award of $450,000 (£287,235). Welfare Association is a leading Palestinian civil development foundation which contributes to the advancement of the Palestinian people, conserving heritage and identity, and supporting and building civil society. Some of the award will be used to purchase state of the art equipment required in the performance of cataract and corneal surgeries. Some will be incorporated into our Patient Relief Fund, and used to cover the cost of treating those unable to pay. The remainder will help fund specialist training for our Doctors and Nurses.

Finally, in Jerusalem, we would like to thank the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), who have awarded $200,000 (£127,660) to be used to purchase medical and surgical consumables in support of the Jerusalem Hospital.

David Dahdal
Fundraising Manager, Jerusalem

London

In London, as well as the wonderful award from the World Diabetes Foundation, we started off the year with a second £65,000 ($101,832) tranche from the Jersey Overseas Aid Committee towards our work on Outreach in the West Bank.

Pictures on Walls have come aboard as new – and rare – corporate supporters, giving £50,432 ($79,009) for an Intraocular Lens (IOL) Master for our clinic in Anabta. Corporate supporters Olayan Europe Ltd have continued in their support of our work, giving £15,000 ($23,500) to be used where we need it most.

We have received much-appreciated repeat support, so far this year, from The John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust, The Clothworkers Foundation, The Karl Kahane Foundation, The Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust, The Evan Cornish Foundation, The Sobell Foundation and The Valentine Charitable Trust.

We would also like to thank the CHK Charities Limited for coming aboard with a wonderful donation towards the costs of our Sir Stephen Miller School of Nursing in Jerusalem and new supporters Olayan Europe Ltd for coming aboard with a wonderful donation towards our Outreach work.

Legacy Pledge Form

Finally, we would like to thank all those of you who have chosen to leave the Hospital Group a gift in your Will, or who have donated In Memoriam towards our work.

Life in Many Voices

In November 2011 BBC World Service Radio commissioned a 30 minute documentary on the work of SJEHG. A crew, led by Mike Greenwood of UK Production Company, Pier Productions, visited the Hospital at that time and conducted interviews with patients and staff. The documentary entitled ‘Life in Many Voices’ aired in February 2012 to great reviews.

Friends of SJEHG, Carole Hayman and Josh Pulman were also on this trip, collecting film material for their own documentary. Depending on funds raised, we hope the documentary will air on TV very soon.

Please visit our website at www.stjohnsyeohospital.org/media-publications to listen to the BBC Radio Programme and to watch the trailer for the film.

Feryal Awan
Fundraising and PR Officer
The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group would like to thank Mr Peter Heavens for bestowing a generous gift in memory of his late mother, Dr Agnes Muiriel Hamilton, towards the build of the new St John Day Case Hospital in Gaza.

Dr Hamilton, an important figure in pre-war SJEHG history, lost her battle with cancer in June 1945, leaving behind a husband and her nine year old son.

Born in Glasgow in 1900, Dr Hamilton graduated as MB ChB (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) from Glasgow University in 1925, winning the John Hunter Medal for Clinical Surgery. As one of the very first women to qualify as MB ChB she found it difficult to be accepted by her chosen profession and to find employment. Her father, Mr Peter Muir Hamilton, a forward looking Victorian gentleman, noticed an advert for a Surgeon at the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem and suggested she apply.

Dr Hamilton was accepted for the post of Registrar and was invested with the insignia, ‘Serving Sister’, on 1st May 1928. In 1929, she was commended for her work under trying conditions.

While in Jerusalem, Dr Hamilton met Mr Arthur John Heavens and married him at the Anglican Church in the city in 1934. Her son, Peter, was born in Glasgow in 1936. During the war years Dr Hamilton worked in a military hospital in Alexandria, Egypt where her husband had been transferred, but was soon forced to return home after she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Dr Hamilton was only 45 years old when she succumbed to the disease.

Jerusalem Scene would like to thank Mr Heavens for sharing Dr Hamilton’s remarkable story and reminding us of her mother’s great service to the Hospital. If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one, it can be arranged through the funeral directors or directly by contacting Feryal Awan at feryal.awan@stjohnyehospital.org or on +44 (0)207 553 6960.

Feryal Awan
Fundraising and PR Officer

Supporting our Staff
...in the fight against avoidable blindness

Readers of Jerusalem Scene may remember that, back in 2009, we ran an Appeal in support of our Staff Sponsorship project, which helps offset our staff costs.

Now, in 2012, and, indeed, more than ever, it remains true that the cost of our staff is the single largest expense incurred by SJEHG every year. Salaries within SJEHG amount to some 60% of our total expenditure every year.

However, in order to provide the standards of care that are required in the remarkable and troubled region in which we work, we are ever reliant upon our 216 strong team of professional and dedicated staff.

In addition, SJEHG is a major, local employer. Unemployment rates in the oPt are high. In the West Bank, the unemployment rate is currently 23.5%, while in Gaza, it rises to 40%. In giving work and experience to local people from the communities neighbouring our Hospitals and Clinics, we help to build capacity and sustain the local economy.

If you would like to help support our staff costs, you can do so by filling out the donation form on the back page of this edition, or by logging onto the website at www.st-johnyehospital.org.

If you are interested in Sponsoring a Staff Post, please contact Head of Fundraising at the London office, Margaret Martin, on +44 (0) 207 553 6964, or at margaret.martin@stjohnyehospital.org, in order to discuss the various options that are available.

Any amount, no matter how great or small, is most welcome. Thank you.

In Memory of an Inspirational Woman
Son of Historic SJEHG Figure Champions Gaza Hospital

In Memory of an Inspirational Woman
Son of Historic SJEHG Figure Champions Gaza Hospital
The Guild Bridge Day on 1st May in London – held at the magnificent, Kensington Gore home of Mrs Freddy Mossanen – raised in excess of £10,000 towards the work of SJEGH. A spectacular result, enabled in part by one very generous donation.

An event in London is scheduled for mid-September, and then we have the Holy Land Tour from 23rd to 29th September. Please contact patricia.tallon@btinternet.com for a brochure. The Gift of Sight Fair will take place on the 6th (Preview night) and 7th November, so do please make a note in your diaries of this wonderful, annual happening.

Finally, although not a Guild event, members happily went to the assistance of my Co-Chair, Denise Magauran, who had organised a fashion show in aid of SJEGH for the Order of St John Gloucestershire County Office. Showcasing the work of Beatrice von Treskow, Stowell Park was generously lent as venue for the occasion by our Patron, The Lord Vestey, on 24 April. It was well attended and raised £6,000 towards our work.

Patricia Tallon
Co-Chair, The Guild

Organising an Event
If you’re taking part in an organised event to raise money for charity, or wish to organise your own personal challenge, why not consider organising an event to raise money for charity, or wish to organise your own personal challenge, why not consider

A Legacy Gift
Whenever a gift is made to the Eye Hospital Group in memory of a friend, relative or loved one on we can enter their name into our Book of Remembrance with the date of their passing.

In memory gifts can be arranged through funeral directors or directly by contacting Feryal Awan at feryal.awan@stjohneyehospital.org or phoning 020 7553 6964.

Regular Giving
You might choose to make a regular donation to help us plan our future charitable works with confidence.

If you would like to give via Direct Debit, please go to the Regular Giving page at www.stjohneyehospital.org. There, you will also find a Standing Order donation form, which you can complete and send to us by post.

You can also arrange regular and one-off donations at the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital page at www.virginmoneygiving.com.

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Even and Recent Successes

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There are many ways in which you can support the work of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. Some of these are listed below:

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