



**St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group**



Knights Templar Newsletter



Easter 2023 | Issue 5 | St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group Newsletter

Welcome to your Easter Newsletter

We are so grateful for the support you have shown to us – particularly those of you who have undertaken fundraising initiatives and supported us with donations.

I'm always keen to know what you are up to with your fundraising and answer any questions you may have; you can contact us on: Info@stjohnseyehospital.org

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Hospital Update

In the midst of political uncertainty, the security situation in Jerusalem remains very fragile and further escalation is expected during Ramadan, which commenced on the 22nd March and runs through to the 21st April. At St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, we are monitoring the situation closely and all staff have been informed that they should never take risks when coming to or leaving work.

Additionally, following the recent earthquake affecting both Turkey and Syria, Israel has been reevaluating its preparedness for such an incident. Consequently, our hospital buildings will be assessed regarding their resilience to withstand powerful earthquakes and evacuation training will be rolled out to all staff.

These issues make it harder for us to plan as there is more uncertainty surrounding funding that we can rely on. This means that our supporters around the world are more pivotal than ever to our work and the vital services we can offer to disadvantaged communities. We'd like to extend our thanks for your continued support.



SOA Conference at SJEHG in Jerusalem

A special conference and celebration of the fourth international symposium for St. John Ophthalmic Association was held at the St. John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem on November 4th, 2022.

The purpose of this conference is the continuous education and development of our Ophthalmologists across the SJEHG network in Jerusalem, Gaza and West Bank. In addition, this conference is a great chance to exchange experiences through connecting clinical professionals from England, Canada, Italy, and of course hospitals in the Middle East.

World Sight Day Celebrations

At St John Eye Hospital Group, we held a special celebration for World Sight Day. Our Communication Officer, Lubna Saheb, and Olivia Odeh, Assistant Director of Development and Grants, spent a wonderful time with the children at the Pediatric Clinic in Jerusalem. The children enjoyed making colourful glasses as well as colouring and crafts.



Highlights this year so far...

The number of **outpatients** we have seen in **Gaza** has **increased by 17%** compared to this time last year. We have also seen a huge **increase of 42%** in **cataract surgeries** undertaken in our Gaza hospital!



Welcoming a new trustee!

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group are pleased to announce that we have a new trustee joining the Board. Please welcome Dr. Umaiye Khammash, who is a Medical Doctor and Senior Public Health Specialist.

With over 40 years of experience in all aspects of primary healthcare, Dr. Khammash currently serves as the Director of Juzoor for Health and Social Development, a leading Palestinian NGO.

Throughout his career, Dr. Khammash has practiced medicine in different West Bank hospitals and managed several local and international health programs. Prior to his current post, Dr. Khammash served as the Chief of Health for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the West Bank for over 14 years.

We are excited to have Dr. Umaiye Khammash on board and are looking forward to working with him closely!

What can my donations to SJEHG do?

- £7.00 / US\$ 8.50 could fund an initial eye consultation.
- £25.00 / US\$ 30 could provide eye drops (which are typically the main treatment for conditions such as glaucoma).
- £70.00 / US\$ 85 could pay for diabetic-related eye treatments.
- £250.00 / US\$ 300 could pay for cataract treatment for one person.
- £250.00 / US\$ 300 could provide an operation to correct a child's squint.
- £500.00 / US\$ 600 could fund urgent eye surgery.



Fundraising Corner

Recipes Required!

Lyn Hunter, Hospitaller for Cheshire County Priory Group, is compiling a recipe book to sell in aid of St John Eye Hospital and is on the lookout for contributions. If you would like to be involved and contribute a recipe, please contact Lyn on Lyn.Hunter@sja.org.uk.



St John Gateway Fundraising



On 9th March, the St John Gateway Branch of St. John Fellowship presented a cheque for £300 towards the work of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. The St John Gateway was created to attract younger people to the Order of St John and to raise awareness of all that it contributes to Society. This donation will fund the equivalent of a vital operation to correct a child's squint and two sets of eye drops which are typically the treatment for glaucoma. Thank you very much to St John Gateway for their generosity.

Presenting the Cheque at St John's Gate, left to right: Naomi Booth (SJEHG Fundraising Officer), Christopher McCorkell, MStJ (Joint Vice Chair of the St. John Gateway Branch) and Keith Schnaar, CStJ, (Hospitaller for The Priory Fellowship).

Representing St John Eye Hospital at the St John Ambulance Conference

On 25th March this year, Paul Herbage, MBE, KStJ, DL, Priory Hospitaller, represented St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group at the 'All St John Leadership Conference', held at the University of Warwick.

Paul Herbage spread the word about the Hospital Group and raised awareness to the St John Family about our vital work. In total, Paul raised £100 through donations and selling merchandise – well done Paul and thank you for all of your hard work! We'd also like to thank everyone who attended this event and supported St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group.



Regular Giving

Would you like to support us regularly? A monthly donation is the most effective way to support our work. Just £7 a month would fund an initial eye consultation for one person.

Regular gifts allow us to plan our work – donating this way enables us to know how much income we'll likely have in the future. It also allows you to plan your giving and every time you hear about our work, you'll know how important your contribution was.

If you are interested in finding out more, please email:

Info@stjohnseyehospital.org



Events Calendar

30th April 2023: Bishop's Waltham Garden Fair

Come and join the Bishop's Waltham Garden Fair for their 20th anniversary! The mature trees and flowering shrubs provide the perfect backdrop for this lovely family fair; featuring fashion, jewellery, and homeware stalls, as well as refreshments, gardening stalls and a Birds of Prey display from Falcon High. Over the past 20 years, the Bishop's Waltham Garden Fair has raised well over £220,000 to sponsor Houda Said, an Orthoptic Assistant at SJEHG. This event is organized by St John Hampshire.

Wintershill Hall, Durley SO32 2AL

Doors 10-4pm

Admission £5, Pre book on line £4.50

Children under 14 free

Free parking

www.bishops-waltham-garden-fair.org



2023 Challenge Events

Want to do a sponsored physical event to fundraise for us? Maybe you'd like to raise £250 to correct a child's squint but don't know how? How about joining one of our challenge events?

This year, we are putting on four challenge events for you to choose from! These events are sponsored runs and take place throughout 2023. If you would like to get involved, you can sign up via our website here:

<https://www.stjohneyehospital.org/fundraise-for-us/>

Any questions, please contact: Info@stjohneyehospital.org

June - Battersea Park 5Km/ 10Km

Entry fee: £15

Suggested Sponsorship: £100

Battersea Park is one of London's most picturesque parks and has been a favourite course for those wanting to run a PB as the course is totally flat. Starting and finishing at the Park's Bandstand, this course laps the park – making it easy to follow and great for any spectators to watch.

[Fundraise for Us - St John Eye Hospital](#)

How we'll support you:

- FREE running vest!
- Training Plan.
- Support emails and lots of running tips.
- Souvenir Certificate.



21st May – Hackney Half Marathon

Entry fee: £35

Suggested Sponsorship: £300



Get immersed in London's East end with vibrant street art and an amazing atmosphere as you run Hackney Half Marathon. This course is reasonably flat and would be great for any first-timers or seasoned pros after a personal best!

[Run For Charity - Event Registration Page](#)



2023 Challenge Events



9th July – ASICS London 10K

Entry fee: £25

Suggested Sponsorship: £250

Join thousands of runners taking part in this atmospheric 10Km fun run! You'll run past some of central London's top landmarks including, St James' Palace, Westminster Bridge and Big Ben to the sound of live bands, DJs and cheers.

This flat route is perfect for beginners as well as regular runners aiming for a PB! Whatever your ability, sign up to raise £250 which can pay for life-changing a cataract treatment for one person.



[Run For Charity - Event Registration Page](#)



8th October – Royal Parks Half Marathon

Entry fee: £35

Suggested Sponsorship: £300

Why not join us for one of the most scenic half marathons in London? The legendary Royal Parks Half Marathon takes participants on closed roads around four of the capital's Royal Parks – Hyde Park, Green Park, St James' Park and Kensington Gardens.

Sign up now to help us raise vital funds for our amazing charity!

[Run For Charity - Event Registration Page](#)



Ways to support us...

If you would like to make a one-off donation or set up a direct debit, you can do so by visiting our website at: www.stjohneyehospital.org.

To stay in touch and keep up to date, you can subscribe to our Jerusalem Scene newsletter via our website or by calling the office on

0207 553 6963 or emailing Info@stjohneyehospital.org.

If you would like to fundraise for us, please get in touch! We have many fundraising resources available to download from our website, including how-to guides, posters, and leaflets.

Here at St John Eye Hospital Group, we rely on donations to help support our vital work. The funds you raise help support us in a variety of ways from helping us purchase blankets for patients to carrying out sight-saving surgeries.

Fundraising Ideas:

- Bake Sale
- Dress down day
- Sponsored activity
- Donations instead of presents for your birthday
- Quiz
- Open house/ garden
- Sponsored walk
- Golf day



If you are organising a fundraiser, please do let us know as we would love to send some resources to help. Below is a list of items we have available.

Resources Available (lone basis):

- Pop up banners
- Collection boxes
- Collection buckers
- Tabards



*Please note, if you would like to borrow any resources on a lone basis, we would need at least one months' notice from the event date and we would need to receive the items back within two weeks of the event taking place.

Resources Available (to keep):

- Leaflets
- Jerusalem Scene
- Posters



Merchandise

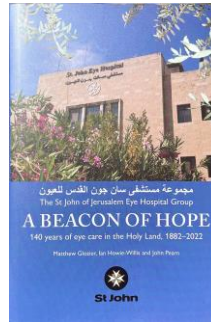
We have a variety of merchandise available to buy through our website here:

[St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group Shop \(stjohnseyehospital.org\)](http://stjohnseyehospital.org)

You can also send a cheque with a note of the items you'd like to purchase to our office address.



**St John Eye Hospital
Silk Tie**
£25



**'A Beacon of Hope: 140
years of eye care in the Holy
Land: 1882 -2022' Paperback**
£36



SJEHG Pen
£5



**Swift Tree Cards (pack
of 5, blank inside)**
£5



Cream Tote Bag
£3.50



'Treasures' by Tom Foakes
£50



**Unisex SJEH Tshirt
(White) S/M/L available**
£15



**Unisex SJEH Tshirt
(Gold) S/M/L available**
£15



Lapel Pin Badge
£5