



**St John of Jerusalem  
Eye Hospital Group**



# **Knights Templar Newsletter**

February 2023 | Issue #4 | St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group Newsletter

## *Happy new year!*

Hello! This is Naomi, your Fundraising Officer here. I'd like to wish you all the best for 2023 as we kick start the new year!

We are so grateful for the support you have shown to us in 2022 – 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 me on [naomi.booth@sjeh.org](mailto:naomi.booth@sjeh.org).

## *Inside This Newsletter*

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## Hospital Update - Summary of 2022

We are so grateful for the committed fundraising and generosity St John Eye Hospital has received from all of our dedicated supporters. You make a huge difference to the work we can do and the number of patients we can reach.

In 2022, we were delighted to celebrate our 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing charitable eye care in the Holy Land, which initially began in 1882 to treat a prevalent and blinding corneal eye disease. 140 years later - the Hospital now operates across five different sites, treating more than 140,000 patients and performing over 6,500 surgeries per year. Our celebrations began in June with the launch of our new book about the Hospitals' history: 'A Beacon of Hope: 140 years of Eye Care in the Holy Land, 1882-2022', written by Matthew Glozier, Ian Howie-Willis and John Pearn. This fascinating read is now available for purchase in paperback from our website or through sending a cheque to the office (RRP £36).

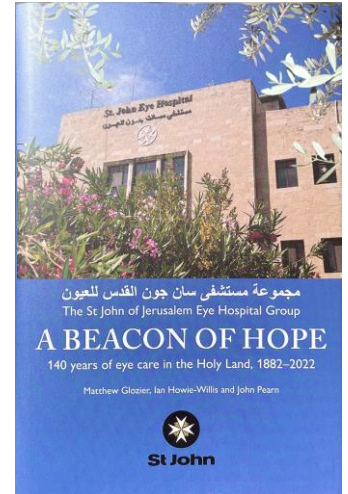


Photo taken at our UNRWA training.

Our highlights of 2022 include: the re-opening of our School of Nursing; achieving JCI Gold Accreditation for our Jerusalem Hospital; and forming a training partnership with the UNRWA. Establishing a second outreach team; the opening of Kufor Aquab Clinic; launching a neonatal retinopathy of prematurity screening initiative as well as the increase in the number of surgical sessions in Gaza by 50%, are all major clinical achievements this year.

We are proud to say that, in 2022, the number of outpatients seen at St John Eye Hospital Group reached **142,876**, compared to 134,000 in 2021 – an increase of 8,876 patients. Furthermore, the Group achieved a new record as we performed **6,916** major eye surgeries, compared to our 2021 record of 6,500 major surgeries. We are incredibly proud of the hard work of all our staff and thankful to our generous donors who enabled us to treat so many patients.



## Hospital Update Cont.

In 2022, we established a second outreach service in the West Bank; outfitted with a new, fully equipped mobile outreach van. The primary focus of the team is to screen patients from refugee camps and isolated communities, and we expect our outreach teams to treat 20,000 patients every year.

In total, 8,047 patients were treated by the two outreach teams, between January and October 2022, in addition to almost 5,000 patients seen at the Kufor Aqab outreach clinic. Our outreach work in Gaza has remained uninterrupted and continues to focus on treating patients with disabilities, women, and the elderly. In total, 5,157 patients were treated by the outreach team in Gaza in 2022.



*Pictured above, is one of our outreach vans.*



Each year, it costs approximately £10.9 million to run our services, and we could not fund this without the commitment and generosity of our donors.

With the uncertainties related to the political situation, as well as the downward trend in the number of referrals from the Palestinian Authority, the Hospital will continue to face challenges in the years to come.

Looking to the new year, we hope to continue our high standard of care, making a difference to the lives of thousands of patients.

We are incredibly grateful that you support our work, sharing our goal of providing essential eye-care to all people in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem.

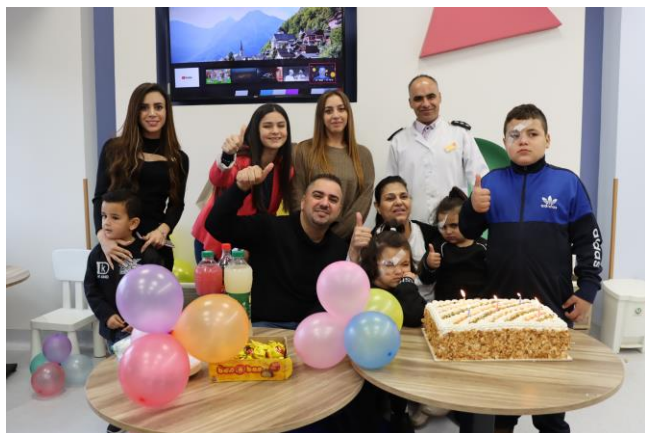
## *In 2022, the Knights Templar funded our new children's ward...*

Between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022, we received a staggering £228,400 from the Knights Templar which funded our new children's ward – the lead centre for pediatric ophthalmology in Jerusalem.

Thanks to the generous funding from the Knights Templar, we opened the doors of our new children's ward in 2022. We had the honor to receive the Grand Master, Paul Clement, and his wife, Molly as well as Ryan Williams and Linda Read, the Knights Templar's finance manager, during this special occasion.



Back in November, St John Staff celebrated successful cataract surgeries for three siblings from a small village called Hajjah near Qalqilya, in the West Bank. Joury, Jawan and Rakan all received successful cataract surgery in both of their eyes. Our surgeon, Dr. Mohammad Daraghmeh, and many of the nursing and admin staff participated in this celebration with the three children and their mother in our new children's ward.



## *Fundraising Corner*

### *Gift of Sight Fair 2022*

Thank you to everyone who supported the Gift of Sight fair 2022 at Chelsea Old Town Hall. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Guild Fundraising Committee who worked so hard, volunteering their time and efforts, to organize such a fantastic event.



### *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](mailto:Lyn.Hunter@sja.org.uk).



## Events Calendar

### 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023: 'A Talk by General The Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL'

The Guild of St John would like to invite you to a talk by General The Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC, who sits in the Upper House as Government spokesman on Military Affairs.

St Wilfrid's Hall, The Brompton Oratory, London, SW7 2RP.

6:30pm – 9:00pm

Tickets £35 inc. wine & canapes

Book online today here: <https://billetto.co.uk/e/talk-by-the-lord-dannatt-tickets-777742>

(Alternatively, you can send a cheque to the office noting that you'd like to book a ticket)



### 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023: Bishop's Waltham Garden Fair

Come and join the Bishop's Waltham Garden Fair for their 20<sup>th</sup> 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. 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](http://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.stjohnehospital.org/fundraise-for-us/>

Any questions, please contact: [Info@stjohnehospital.org](mailto:Info@stjohnehospital.org)

### April/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:

- Training Plan
- Support emails and lots of running tips
- Dedicated member of staff to help with any queries
- St John Eye Hospital Running Vest
- Souvenir Certificate



### 21<sup>st</sup> 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



### 9<sup>th</sup> 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](#)



### 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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.

## Merchandise

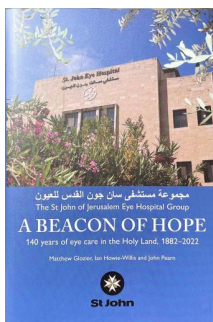
We have a variety of merchandise available to buy through our website here:

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



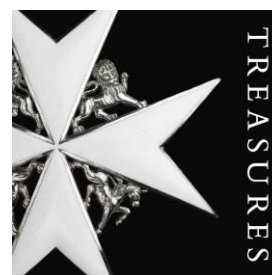
**SJEHG Pen**  
£5



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



**Cream Tote Bag**  
£3.50



**'Treasures' by Tom Foakes**  
£50