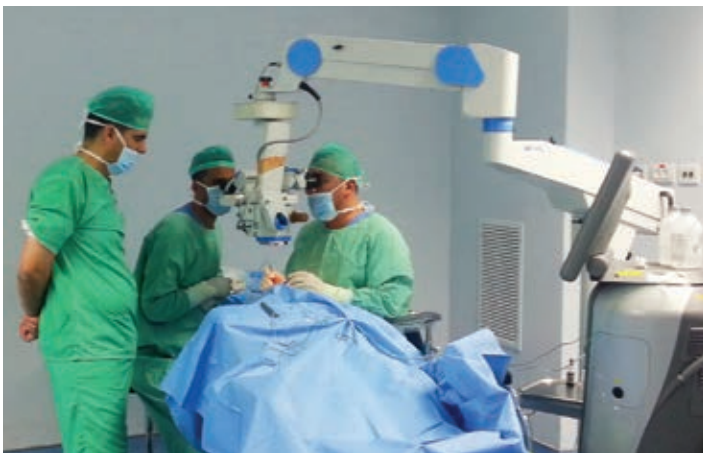




The Newsletter of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group - The leading provider of expert eye care in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, treating patients regardless of religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay

New and refurbished operating theatres in Jerusalem

Helping us to meet the high demand for eye care



We are delighted to announce that the new theatre wing is fully operational.

The Jerusalem hospital now has three fully-functioning theatre rooms to cope with the ever-increasing numbers of surgeries.

Thanks to our dedicated donors, we were able to refurbish the two existing operating theatres, which have served for almost 60 years without a break. We also created a day-care theatre in response to the need for more operations. The demand for extra

surgical capacity is due to the high prevalence of eye diseases in Palestine. We plan to dedicate the two recently refurbished operating theatres to complex procedures, such as vitreo-retinal surgeries and others which require general anaesthesia. The newly established day-care theatre will be used for operations such as cataract which do not require an overnight stay.

This project was financially supported by the Islamic Development Bank (Saudi Arabia), who donated \$400,000, Johanniter International Assistance (Germany),

who donated €100,000, the Representative Office of Japan, who donated \$120,620, and an anonymous donor who donated €36,000.

We would also like to thank The St Lazarus Charitable Trust and His Excellency Mahfouz Marei Mubarak bin Mahfouz for their support.

The Eye Hospital Group is so grateful to all of our donors who have helped us to improve and expand our services. These theatres will help us change the lives of Palestinians who require serious intervention to prevent their sight being lost or damaged.

David A. Dahdal
Head of Development & Grants (Jerusalem)

Archbishop Desmond Tutu on our work

"I heartily support the work of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. Many Palestinians find it hard to move around and reach expert medical attention, due to the effects of the occupation, wall, checkpoints and settler-only roads. St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group helps

suffering Palestinian people gain access to healthcare no matter what their circumstances or location. Without this vital institution, many would go without eye care. In treating patients from all backgrounds regardless of their ethnicity, religion or ability to pay, this organisation is a bastion of hope for peace and health across the Middle East."



Archbishop Desmond Tutu with the London fundraising team

A Word from our Chief Executive

As I write this, the second of our two new microscopes has just been fitted.

This is significant as our two newly refurbished operating theatres in Jerusalem, along with our new day-case theatre, are now fully functional. The whole process has taken over 6 months – longer than first thought as we had to carry out major roof repairs and replace all the air conditioning along the way – but we should now be able to do so much more for our patients.



The CEO with the US Consul General during his recent visit to the Hospital

Outside of Jerusalem, our staff in Gaza have continued to work flat out despite all the difficulties there, including severe flooding (fortunately, not directly affecting the clinic) and heavy snow. We have been held back yet again in starting to build our new clinic in Gaza as a new ban on importing building materials has

been imposed, but we are currently actively petitioning the Israeli Defence Forces. In the West Bank, Anabta goes from strength to strength but Hebron's rented premises are now becoming increasingly expensive to maintain and its situation on the outside of town is inconvenient. The Board has decided we should consider a purpose-built facility in the centre of Hebron that would provide more effective care to greater numbers. Firstly, however, we have to find the

funding to support such a move.

Sadly, we have had to reduce from two mobile outreach units to one (still sponsored by USAID) until we can raise more funding for this, but we have at least retained one nurse practitioner from the second team and will be able to attach this

individual to the Sovereign Military Order of Malta's outreach team from Bethlehem. They look after mothers and small children and we have been giving support to them with specialist ophthalmic care for many years.

We continue to partner up with other hospitals, especially teaching hospitals, wherever possible. Four of our staff have just received diplomas in Orthoptics from Tel Aviv University and, funding permitting, we are now well-placed to undertake important research in conjunction with Moorfields Eye Hospital in London and Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. The new Hospital Management Information System (also funded by USAID), which will provide electronic patient records, should be installed later this year and will help enormously with any research efforts.

There are many challenges for 2014 but also many exciting prospects and I would like to wish all our many supporters and friends a belated Happy New Year!

CEO Brigadier Tom Ogilvie-Graham

Rod Bull receives New Year Honour



It was announced in 2014's New Year Honours List that Rod Bull had been awarded an OBE for 'services to healthcare in the Occupied Palestinian Territories' as CEO of St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, a role Rod held for six years. He stepped down in March 2013.

Rod was the longest serving Chief Executive of the Eye Hospital Group. The number of patient visits almost doubled during Rod's six year tenure and he also oversaw the establishment of satellite units in Anabta and Hebron.

Everyone at the Eye Hospital Group extends their heartfelt congratulations to Rod, whose efforts truly deserve this recognition.

St John Ambulance Cadets visit the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem sponsored by the Knights Templar

Our Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt D Gary Read, set the Province of Staffordshire and Shropshire a Challenge:

to sponsor two Cadets of the North District of the Midlands Area of St John Ambulance to visit the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.

James Manley and Charlotte Crook were selected to be sent out to Jerusalem. The visit aimed to provide them with a life-changing experience.

Upon the Cadets' return they gave a presentation about their trip at the Staffordshire and Shropshire Preceptory No.545. James and Charlotte recounted the shock of the everyday conditions under which local inhabitants were living. They had nothing



Charlotte Crook and James Manley presenting a cheque to Brig Tom Ogilvie Graham (CEO) and Ahmad Ma'ali (Director of Nursing)

but admiration for the staff of the Eye Hospital and marvelled at the amazing results that they manage to achieve.

They toured the facilities in Jerusalem, Anabta and Hebron, and also went out with the mobile outreach team. They also squeezed in CPR training for

hospital staff at the School of Nursing. They were extremely grateful to the Knights Templar for giving them the opportunity to go on such an amazing visit, and to the English Prioress of St John, Col (Retd) Sheenah Davies, who had very kindly agreed to act as their guide for the trip.

Whilst there, the Cadets presented the hospital with a cheque for just under £2,200 on behalf of the Province.

RN Haysom
Staffordshire
and Shropshire
Knights Templar



St John Eye Hospital parade their work at the Lord Mayor's Show

Only the second woman in 800 years to do so, Saturday 9th November 2013 saw Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE DStJ take the office of Lord Mayor of the City

of London. The Lord Mayor is the wife of our Chairman, Nicholas Woolf. St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group was fortunate to have an entry in the parade, thanks to the kind support of St John Ambulance, Quattro Plant and Hermes Fund Managers. Their support

contributed to our float being the largest entry in the entire parade!

Eye Hospital Group staff and supporters took to the streets to march with our float to over half a million spectators while millions more watched at home.

Trustee Report: Sir Vincent Fean



Nicholas Woolf (Chairman) presenting Sir Vincent Fean with a gift commemorating his time with St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group (SJEHG) is all about people: Palestinians in need of eye care, and people committed to meeting that need, across East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, in the challenging circumstances of occupation.

I had the privilege of witnessing what good the people of SJEHG do

during my three years in Jerusalem and on the Board.

The teamwork is impressive: between the offices in London and Jerusalem, the Hospital and the Gaza and West Bank clinics, including the mobile teams. The transition to Nicholas Woolf (Chairman) and Tom Ogilvie-Graham (CEO) was seamless. I like the way Tom has reached out to the Palestinian and

international communities by celebrating the Feast of St John with them, bringing together staunch local supporters like the Welfare Association and the Bank of Palestine alongside the EU and USAID – all vital to SJEHG's wellbeing. I admire the commitment of the entire team, including road runners and London fundraisers Isla Richards and Diana Safieh, and Jerusalem fundraiser David Dahdal, whose enthusiasm is infectious. Let us hope that Tom and he can persuade philanthropists in the Gulf, with the help of friends of St John Eye Hospital, to attract funding from the Arab world and more widely. SJEHG's people get on with their jobs without fuss – like Orthoptist Judith Musallam, who examined my eyes and told me very kindly that no treatment was advisable

– news I was very glad to hear!

The most visionary action SJEHG took in my time was to make a Trustee of Dr Maged Abu-Ramadan, a distinguished Ophthalmologist and Mayor of Gaza City. He helps to cement together Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem – a consummation devoutly to be wished – and knows what works, both in his field of expertise and in Palestinian society. In the best interests of St John Eye Hospital, we need more like him.

Alastair McPhail has now succeeded me as British Consul-General and as a Trustee of SJEHG. I wish him, and SJEHG, all the best.

Sir Vincent Fean
Trustee

A tribute to Alison Smith

We are sorry to announce that Alison died in January, a year after being diagnosed with leukaemia.

She had visited the Jerusalem Hospital in the summer of 2013 and had done some extremely valuable customer service training with staff. She loved her time in the

hospital and in Jerusalem; it was one of the highlights of her last year. Alison's family very kindly asked for donations from her funeral to be sent to the Eye Hospital Group.



Farewell and Thank You to Nelson 'Madiba' Mandela

**Thursday 5th
December
2013 marked
the passing of
the remarkable
Nelson Mandela**

- a member of St John, a supporter of Palestinian rights and a truly unique and irreplaceable human being.

In response to the news of Nelson Mandela's passing, an official statement from St John read;

"It is with deep sadness that we have learnt of the death of the truly unique and irreplaceable Nelson Mandela - a man who taught so many of us the power of love, compassion and forgiveness and who will be dearly missed by the world.

"We are truly honoured that Mandela used some of his boundless spirit to help St John's global charity work, as he was a dedicated and treasured senior member appointed as a Knight of Grace and Bailiff Grand Cross of The



Order of St John many years ago and we will be forever grateful to him for the selfless commitment and wisdom he gave us throughout the years.

We send our heartfelt condolences and prayers to his family and friends at this sad time. May he rest in peace."

2013

Patient Numbers

Outpatients seen:

114,154
(37,157 children)

Major operations performed:

4,294
(675 children)

Jerusalem Hospital:

42,176 outpatients
(14,163 children),
2,653 major operations

Gaza Clinic:

25,769 outpatients
(8,035 children),
1,207 major operations

Anabta Clinic:

21,512 outpatients
(6,886 children)

Hebron Hospital:

11,631 outpatients
(3,725 children),
434 major operations

Outreach Teams:

13,066 patients
(4,348 children)

In our Winter issue of Jerusalem Scene, in the photo caption on page 4, we mistakenly identified Dr Husam Rahal as Dr Riad Bannayot. Dr Bannayot was unable to receive his award and Dr Rahal received it on his behalf.

Case Study: The struggle for vision

Habsa is a 60 year old housewife from Hebron. She manages her home and takes care of her children and grandchildren.

Habsa noticed that her vision was becoming increasingly blurry, which was making her life very difficult. She could not carry out her ordinary daily activities without assistance. Her world was being turned upside down.

preventable sight loss. Diabetic retinopathy takes the form of retinal damage to the eye, which can lead to blindness. It affects up to 80% of those who have had diabetes for more than 10 years but 90% of these new cases can be reduced if the eye is properly treated and monitored.

While patients are screened for instances of diabetic retinopathy,

One person losing their vision can have a shattering effect on their entire family unit, throwing routines and work demands into disarray. This makes it even more important for eye problems to be diagnosed and treated as quickly as possible. In the West Bank in 2012, one in five patients, companions and visitors who applied through the Palestinian Authority for Israeli permits to enter Jerusalem to access hospitals were denied. This makes maintaining our satellite clinics around

“I could hardly identify my grandchildren except by touching them or hearing them talk,”

Habsa said.

“Now I’m independent. My children are back to work as I can look after their children.”



Habsa was diagnosed with diabetes two years ago and this encouraged her to visit the St John Eye Hospital in Hebron. Last year the hospital started running a screening programme for diabetic patients to catch cases of diabetic retinopathy early and stop

medical staff also look for other eye diseases. In her case, Habsa was identified as having a cataract. Surgery was quickly scheduled, and Habsa experienced rapid vision improvement which has allowed her to return to her normal life.

the West Bank one of our top priorities.

It is through your support and generous donations that we are able to treat our patients at Hebron and screen for diabetic retinopathy across the West Bank. We could not do it without you.

Employee of The Month

October

● **Taghreed Fer'oun**
(Cleaner)

Active and responsible, always keen and works with a smile on her face

November

● **Manal Obedieyh**
(Nurse—sponsored by St John Nottinghamshire)

Strives for improvement and higher qualifications, always covers late shifts or emergencies

December

● **Hamzeh Abu Sneineh**
(Cleaner)

A hard-worker and very cooperative, always willing to help others



(l-r) Judith Musallam, Rima Zaben, Dr Hadas Meshulam (examiner), Professor Yair Morad (examiner), Younes Abdel Jawwad, Ruba Sayej and Huda Abu Aleis at Tel Aviv University after hearing the results of the exam.

All St John Orthoptic Assistants Pass Accreditation Examination

We are pleased to announce that all our Orthoptic assistants have successfully passed an examination of Tel Aviv University (TAU) with excellence, allowing them to apply for professional registration in Israel.

Ruba Sayej, Younes Abdel Jawwad, Rima Zaben and Huda Abu Aleis were examined in November 2013. They were questioned on orthoptic theory and practice, and asked to justify their responses.

The Orthoptic Course at St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem was designed because the patient

load had increased so much that the demand exceeded the capacity of our orthoptic service. There was no orthoptic training available in either Israel or the occupied Palestinian territories and training overseas was not cost-effective.

Our course curriculum was created by Jane Tapley, a British Orthoptist and external examiner for the Orthoptic degree at Sheffield University, England, who was working with us at the time.

In 2008, the late Professor Saul Merin, an Israeli Medical Retina Specialist who was then helping at the Eye Hospital, was consulted by the Israeli Minister of

Health. They realised that they needed to create a course in orthoptics urgently. In 2010, a two-year diploma created by TAU was accepted as the standard for orthoptic education in Israel.

The International Orthoptic Association encouraged collaboration between our two courses in order to unify and standardise orthoptic education in the region. Therefore three TAU students have come to us for their three month internship in orthoptic practice; Ruti Weisrose, Vered Brucker and Ahuva Ravid-Saffir. It was very successful and we were glad to hear that all three students have since qualified as orthoptists.

The acceptance of TAU to examine our students was a pleasing response of good will and respect for the education of our students and our professional practice. Our students look forward to receiving their certificates and will then formally apply for professional registration to the Ministry of Health. We wish them every success for the future.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Knights Templar, who sponsor our Orthoptics Department.

Judith Musallam,
D.B.O.(D)
Head Orthoptist



(l-r) Nicholas Woolf (Chairman of the Eye Hospital Group, Lady Dowager Ursula Westbury (Guild President), Della Tamari (Event Sponsor), Patricia Tallon (former Guild Chairman) and Denise Magauran (former Guild Chairman)

The History of the Guild

Originally founded in 1927 as The Ladies' Linen Guild, this group was composed of ten ladies who took a close personal interest in the work of the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.

The Guild was responsible for collecting funds from the ladies of the Order of St John for the supply of all the linen to the hospital.

Over the years the Guild began to raise funds for other areas of their work. In 1965 it was restyled as The Ladies' Guild, and more recently as The Guild, to embrace gentleman members too.

The Guild organises several fundraising events in the UK, notably the annual Gift of Sight Fair which is held before Christmas. Every year we aim to at least cover the Director of Nursing's salary at the Hospital, a position held by Ahmad Ma'ali. Members of the Guild also support the fundraising team in London with campaigns, events and practical help such as stuffing envelopes.

The membership of the Guild has evolved too, to include those with a special interest in the health and welfare of the Palestinian people. We are united in our commitment to supporting the amazing work of the Eye Hospital Group in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. Many of our members over the years have been able to visit the Hospital, returning with renewed enthusiasm to raise funds for such a unique institution.

As ever, the Guild is very grateful to all the friends of the Eye Hospital Group who support our events so regularly, including our sponsors.

Sarah Shilson is the new Chairman of the Guild. Please contact Sarah at stjohngiftofsight@gmail.com if you have a fundraising idea or might like to sponsor one of our events.

Guild Update



Since the last update, Guild members have been particularly busy organising the annual Gift of Sight Fair in aid of the Eye Hospital Group.

This was held at Chelsea Old Town Hall over two days in November 2013, with the help of generous sponsorship from the Tamari Foundation.

A record number of guests attended the evening reception and the next day many visitors came and left with

bagfuls of goodies for Christmas.

The Guild would like to thank everyone who supported the Fair, including those who kindly sent donations. It was a huge success, raising an amazing £30,000.

Plans are in hand for a bridge afternoon in April, a summer drinks party and a visit to Jerusalem in September. This year's Gift of Sight Fair will be held on 1st and 2nd December.

In 2013, the Pories raised £1,491,600.75 (\$2,334,056.85)

Priory of Australia	£69,538.00 (\$108,813.06)	Priory of Scotland	£111,000.00 (\$173,692.80)
Priory of Canada	£88,099.90 (\$137,858.72)	Priory of USA	£542,715.23 (\$862,654.00)
Priory of England	£512,276.76 (\$801,610.67)	Priory of Wales	£25,000.00 (\$39,120.00)
Priory of New Zealand	£142,970.86 (\$223,720.80)		

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 2013.

With special thanks to:

Heather Baker and family
Bank of Palestine
The British Humane Association
CBM
CHK Charities Limited
The Clothworkers' Foundation
Dr Michael Dan
Lesley F Dring and family
The Edwina Mountbatten and Leonora Children's Foundation
The Eranda Foundation
Flagship Project- USAID
Fred Hollows Foundation
The George Cadbury Fund
The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Islamic Development Bank
Johanniter International

The John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust
The Karl Kahane Foundation
The Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust
Margaret Lewis and family
The MBC Heritage of Islam Trust
Olayan Europe Ltd
PalTel Foundation
The Park House Charitable Trust
Porticus
The Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority
Ian G Sims
St. John Order in Sweden
The Ulverscroft Foundation
The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
The Valentine Charitable Trust
The Vitol Foundation
Welfare Association
World Diabetes Foundation
World Health Organization (WHO)

We would like to thank the Knights Templar who raised £143,000 in 2013, an increase of 25% on 2012!

Thank you

We extend our warm thanks to the whole St John family for their much appreciated support.

We would also like to thank the Guild for their generous support and the great effort they put in to

helping our cause. We say goodbye to two trustees, Rod Bull and Sir Vincent Fean, who stepped down in December 2013. We are grateful for their hard work and valued contributions.

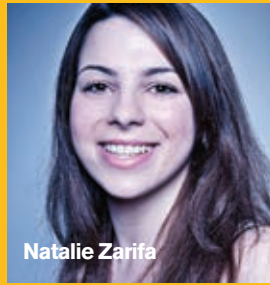




James Denselow



Tony Ablett



Natalie Zarifa



Giles Richard Falcon



Jawad Akhtar

St John Eye Hospital take on the London Marathon

We are happy to announce that we have secured five places for this year's Virgin London Marathon on Sunday 13th April 2014 through Mr David Lewis MBE JP, Area President of the Royal Borough of Greenwich for St John Ambulance. We would like to thank him for this generous donation.

Please see below to read more about our runners. We have included links to their fundraising pages if you would like to support their efforts. To make an offline donation, please contact the London office.

Lisa Smith, who works in the London office, was meant to run the Marathon this year. Unfortunately she has had to pull out due to an injury. If you had been planning on sponsoring her, Lisa asks that you consider sponsoring one of our other hardworking runners.

James Denselow
"I currently work for Crisis Action. I used to work for Medical Aid for Palestinians and have lived in the West

Bank, working with Unipal and UNRWA. I've been lucky enough to visit the Eye Hospital and I saw for myself the vital work they do to protect sight. I look forward to being able to promote their work, and do the hard miles for the marathon in their name!"
uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JamesDenselow

Tom Ablett
"Having worked at a desk for over ten years, I decided to get out from under it and take up running. I'd just got to a fitness level I was happy with, competing (or rather, taking part) in a couple of half marathons, when the opportunity to run my first London Marathon for the Eye Hospital Group popped up.

I've learnt so much about the charity and all the outstanding work being done. I am very grateful to raise funds for this important cause."
uk.virginmoneygiving.com/TomAblett

Natalie Zarifa
"Since I was a little girl I always watched the London Marathon and imagined myself

being cheered on by the supporters. The opportunity knocked on my door when I read in Jerusalem Scene that the Eye Hospital Group was looking for people to run the London Marathon.

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is a cause very close to my heart as not only is my heritage Palestinian, but I also have family and friends that have been treated there. This is my opportunity to help a noble cause and raise awareness of the health needs of the Palestinian people."
uk.virginmoneygiving.com/NatalieZarifa

Giles Richard Falcon
"When I looked up the London Marathon sign-up procedures I was overwhelmed at how late and little prepared I was. I was giving in to being better prepared for 2015. Then the serendipitous moment! My Uncle, now a retired ophthalmic surgeon who has dedicated some of his professional time for St John's in Jerusalem in the past, suggested laconically that I should try to email or ring someone at St John

because he had read in Jerusalem Scene something about future events, and perhaps – yes – the Hospital was looking for runners in the London Marathon.

It was simply marvellous – my best Christmas present: knowing I could actually run for a hospital in which my Uncle had operated and which wholly represents my idea of selfless and professional help, with no barriers of faith, race or economic means."
uk.virginmoneygiving.com/GilesRichardFalcon

Jawad Akhtar
"I ran my first marathon in 2012, it was such an amazing experience that I thought I'd do it all over again! This time I have been very fortunate to run for the Eye Hospital Group.

The work done by them is amazing. By protecting sight they are changing lives every day. Thank you for allowing me to run for this charitable cause."
uk.virginmoneygiving.com/jawadakhtar

Upcoming Events

Virgin London Marathon

Sunday 13 April 2014

Please contact us to join our team of spectators.

Bishop's Waltham Charity Garden Fair

Wintershill in Bishop's Waltham near Southampton

Sunday 4 May 2014

This fair, held in aid of the Eye Hospital Group, will have lots of stalls, entertainment, refreshments, and even birds of prey!

Sponsored Events

London to Brighton Bike Ride

Sunday 7 September 2014

The London Triathlon Saturday 2 – Sunday 3 August 2014

We have charity places with the above events. Please contact us to participate in these or other events on our behalf.
diana.safieh@stjohneyehospital.org
0207 553 6969

Supporter Corner

Dr. Peter Doherty has been a regular donor to St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group for many years. He chose to give to us for reasons that were very close to his heart.

In the 1950s, he and his brother, Dr. Kevin Doherty, worked in a refugee camp in the Jordan Valley which took in Palestinian refugees after the first Israeli War. The brothers had just returned from National Service (Dr. Kevin Doherty from the Navy in Hong Kong and Dr. Peter Doherty from Egypt). He says, *'It was an enormous camp originally founded by the British Red Cross and later handed over to UNRWA, as it had become so expensive to run. We used to send eye patients to the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.'*

Dr. Peter Doherty's donations to the Eye Hospital Group were prompted by the death of his brother, after which a Trust was formed from his estate. The Trust funds development projects in



various parts of Africa and the Middle East.

Dr. Peter Doherty has chosen to support the School of Nursing as we are the main provider of specialist ophthalmic nursing training in the Middle East and the only one focused on training Palestinians. The School of Nursing trains local Palestinians (which invests in the shattered local infrastructure) and allows them to utilise their expertise across the region and the Middle East.

Having supported the Eye Hospital Group for years, Dr. Peter Doherty has seen the Eye Hospital Group grow and change. He describes its development as

'stupendous', particularly mentioning that it is, *'capable of the highest ophthalmological practice.'*

Dr. Peter Doherty and his wife regularly visit the Hospital on their travels in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Becoming a regular supporter allows us to plan our resources for the future and reduce our administration costs. Receiving regular donations every month, quarter or annually means we can confidently plan and fund even more initiatives to help our patients. Please see the back page of Jerusalem Scene for details of how to set up a regular donation.

