

Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust

Looking after the vision of your community

Charity Number: 1100501



GETT NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2018

What a summer it was!

We hope that you have all enjoyed the warm (or hot?), dry days and beautiful evenings. For some people the extra daylight has enabled them to see better, which for them was a blessing. But we spare a thought for those people who found the bright sunlight particularly disabling; for them the autumn clouds may be a welcome relief.

Since our Spring Newsletter we have hosted the Dorothy Fasey Coffee Morning. A report of that social and fundraising event is inside this newsletter, and we were particularly pleased that Professor Peter Scanlon came along to give us a talk about the assistance that he has provided to the eyecare service in China. Chinese patients who have diabetes are fortunate to benefit from Peter's expertise (and in Gloucestershire we have his expertise on hand almost every day!).

John Ferris and his other two Amigos did a fantastic job in the Fred Whitton challenge in May. A report is included here. Their supporters raised over £3000 for GETT which is a wonderful achievement, and we will put their donations to good use.

As ever we appreciate all your support. The cost of healthcare innovations goes up and up and if we in Gloucestershire want to maintain and improve upon the high standards of ophthalmic care that we've become accustomed to then GETT's financial help will be needed even more in the future. We appreciate every pound that you contribute and hope that you can continue to be as generous as possible.

Steve Guilford, Chairman



<https://www.facebook.com/Gloseytherapy>

Join our e-newsletter mailing list (to save costs and the environment)

Contact admin@eyetherapy.org

Fundraising in the community

Last year GETT paid for several Goldmann tonometers which are now used by community optometrists to improve their detection of glaucoma. We would like to thank those patients who, having visited their community optometrist, then donated to GETT via the collecting tins located in the optometrists' practices. These tins have raised over £1000 so far, and rising! A special mention to all our volunteers who collect these funds for us, especially Mike Hayden who has clocked up quite a few miles on our behalf!

If you would like to join our team of collection volunteers, please contact Gemma admin@eyetherapy.org

This year we have also received generous donations from other charities (The George Cadbury Foundation and The Charles Irving Trust), fundraisers and grateful patients, and we have been named as a beneficiary in a will. Thank you to everyone who donates, or who raises money for us, and a special mention for Andria Smith and Sue Ansdell.

Rob Johnston Fund:

Total to date: £6,300. We are still receiving kind donations in memory of Rob Johnston, Consultant Ophthalmologist. These contributions are from grateful patients, staff and all those who Rob had touched.

We are looking forward to updating you with further details on fund allocation.

Many thanks to the Cheltenham Bowls Club for the use of their committee room again this year.

Renishaw Continue to support GETT

Despite being a global engineering company, Renishaw is a strong supporter of local community organisations and charities through its Charities Committee, which has existed for over 35 years, and also a sponsor of multiple festivals across the Cotswolds, including the Lechlade, Nibley and Wychwood music festivals. It is therefore very pleased to support the important work of the Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust.

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Renishaw is Gloucestershire's largest private sector employer, with 2,400 people located at its five sites in the county and a further 2,400 people employed in the 36 countries where it has offices. The company exports 95% of its products and its largest markets are China, the USA, Germany and Japan.

Renishaw's products are used by manufacturers globally to produce high quality components for industries such as aerospace, automotive, construction, agriculture and consumer electronics, including PCs, TVs and smartphones. It also makes additive manufacturing (3D printing) machines, which 'print' parts from metal powder.

Coffee Morning 2018

Our annual Dorothy Fasey Coffee Morning was moved to the springtime this year. Held in April we were joined by many supporters, including ophthalmic staff from the community and hospitals across Gloucestershire. Our cake stall was as popular as ever, (thank you to the Cheltenham General Hospital Eye Secretaries for their baking). We raised £2,000 on the day including large donations from The George Cadbury Foundation and Andria Smith, our Fundraising Superstar! Thank you to all who attended and supported us. We look forward to seeing you all again on Saturday 13 April 2019.

Professor Peter Scanlon gave us all a very interesting talk about his work in China where he has been helping to develop and improve the ophthalmic care of patients with diabetes. Screening for eye disease resulting from diabetes is a long way behind that of the UK but with Peter's help great strides are being made to improve that situation. Peter set up the Gloucestershire Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service about 20 years ago, supported by a generous donation from GETT.

Contact the Elderly organises free, monthly Sunday afternoon tea parties for people aged 75 or over who live alone. If you are an older person who would like to try a tea party, or if you know someone who would benefit from coming along, then we would love to hear from you. Contact Emma McPhilbin (Emma.McPhilbin@contact-the-elderly.org.uk) or Miranda Buckle (miranda.buckle@glos.nhs.uk) for more information, or visit <http://contact-the-elderly.org.uk>

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We invite you to the Dorothy Fasey

Coffee Morning

Emmanuel Church, Fairfield Parade,
Leckhampton, GL53 7NT

Saturday 13 April 2019

10am - 12 noon

We are really looking forward to seeing you on
13 April at our coffee morning.

If any of you would be able to bring a gift for our raffle that would be very much appreciated. If however you are unable to attend but could still offer us a gift please contact Gemma and she will arrange to collect it from you. Thank you.



Fundraising for GETT

John Ferris and Friends – The 3 Amigos raised over £3k for GETT!

Just over 18 months ago the Gloucestershire Eye Unit lost one its most dynamic and innovative consultants, Rob Johnston.

Rob was not only a gifted surgeon and a fantastic colleague and friend, he was also totally committed to the Gloucestershire Eye Unit and during the last year of his life he worked tirelessly to help design, fund and deliver a state of the art Eye Clinic in Cheltenham General Hospital. This project was generously supported by the Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust (GETT), one of the many donations that have helped to make our department one of the most well equipped eye units in the country.

Rob, was also a talented athlete and ran many marathons, raising money for medical charities, he also had a great love of the mountains and wilderness. So it was fitting that in an effort to raise further funds for the GETT that I opted to take on the Fred Whitton Challenge, the toughest cycling sportive in the UK, which covers 113miles and 4000m of vertical ascents over the 6 highest passes in the Lake District. I was joined in this venture by my two cycling buddies Jonny Mayes and Chris Hardy, who successfully completed “The Fred” last year. Together we put in many miles of training over the winter months, up and down the hills of the Cotswolds, in an attempt to get in shape for Lake District passes.

“The Fred” has been running for 19 years, but rarely in that time has the weather been as kind to the 2,000 cyclists as it was on the 13th of May. After a slightly chilly start as we headed out of Grasmere at 7.30am, heading for the Kirkstone Pass, the early morning clouds cleared and for the rest of the day we were bathed in warm spring sunshine, with hardly a breath of wind. The Lake District scenery was absolutely breath taking, even when we were summiting the lung-busting Honister Pass the panoramic views were the perfect antidote to our aching legs. At every corner, hill crest and outside every pub there were crowds of people cheering on the riders and ringing cow-bells, making us feel we were riding in the Tour de France. With 95 miles under our belts we left the last food stop, having refuelled with flapjacks and cups of tea, en route for the legendary Hard Knot Pass and its daunting 30% gradients! Many cyclists had opted to get off their bikes and walk, but we were determined to stay in our saddles and after 15 minutes of thigh burning pedalling we made it to the summit and even managed a smile for the camera!

The last stretch back to Grasmere was mercifully mainly downhill and at 4.30pm we crossed the finish line. Dismounting our bikes and slumping into the nearest comfortable chairs, we all felt a tremendous sense of relief and satisfaction that we had completed “The Fred” and in so doing had helped to raise funds for such a fantastic charity.

We would like to thank all of our friends, family and colleagues who have so generously sponsored us.



GETT Tote Bags on Sale

£3.00 per bag or £5.00 for 2 bags! (plus £1 postage for single bags and £1.50 postage for 2 bags.)

We are selling Tote Canvas Shopping Bags! Our useful and strong bags can be used for shopping and everyday use. This is perfect way for local people across the county to see our logo!

Courtesy of our 'Chief Fundraiser' Andria Smith and The Renishaw Group for their continued support!



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Please Support Us

Ways to Donate

There are several ways you can support us and raise vital funds for equipment and research. Here are a few examples, but please contact us if you need any more information, call us today on: **07761 268010**

Gift Aid

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Gift Aid is an easy and effective way to maximise the value of your donation to GETT. Your donations could be worth an **extra 25%** without it costing you more.

Donate online



Visit our web site, www.eyetherapy.org and click through to our Virgin Money Giving Page.



Sign up to EasyFundraising to turn shopping points into cash for GETT. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>



By Post

To donate by post, please make cheques payable to Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust and send to the address below.

Fundraising & Events

In order to continue our valuable work, we need your support. Without you we simply wouldn't exist. There are several ways you can help, and in doing so, you too can help preserve the vision of the Gloucestershire community.

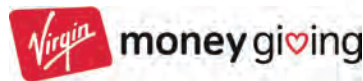
Fundraising

Throughout the year we run several events, such as coffee mornings, open days at the hospital, awareness raising events etc, but as individuals you might be able to help too. Organising an event is a great way to raise funds for the equipment purchases and research we fund. If you are interested in planning a fundraising event for GETT, it can be anything from a coffee morning, quiz evening or charity dinner party, then we would love to hear from you.

Personal Sporting Challenges

We are also interested in finding individuals who might like to set themselves a personal challenge, such as participation in a running or cycling event in aid of GETT or something more extreme such as a trek or parachute jump.

We also have a link with Virgin Money Giving on our website www.eyetherapy.org so we can support you with a fundraising page.



Trustees

President

- Sir Henry Elwes KCVO

Chairman

- Steven F. Guilford BSc (Hons)
MCOptom

Trustees

- Anne Cadbury OBE JP DL
- Doctor Andrew Crowther
MA BM BCH
- Elaine R. Day SRN
- Jacqueline E. Lane
- Professor Andrew I McNaught
MD FRCOphth

Officers

- Hon. Solicitor John Clarke, Esq.
- Consultant Advisor
Mr R. Caesar

Become a Friend

By becoming a friend you will be joining other people county wide raising money for the Trust and you will receive:

- A twice yearly newsletter.
- An invitation to special events such as open days at the hospital to meet staff and see the latest equipment you have helped to buy.
- Invitations to fund raising days.

To become a friend the annual subscription is £5 (minimum).

Contact Address

Administrator

Flat 3, 2 Lansdown Terrace
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
GL50 2JT

Telephone: **07761 268010**

