

# Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust

Looking after the vision of your community

Charity Number: 1100501



## GETT NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016

### Welcome to our spring 2016 edition of The Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust Newsletter and our New Chairman!

Recently I had the honour of being invited to take up the position of chairman, and I was delighted to accept. My immediate past chairman was Charles Hartley, and before Charles was Anne Cadbury, both of whom gave much of their time to help, support and guide our charity. We are most grateful to them both and I am delighted that they will continue to serve on the Board of Trustees as I take on my new role. I would now like to introduce myself to you all and to supply a short summary of our activities during the past financial year.

I moved to Gloucestershire in 1986, to work as a community-based optometrist, and I was immediately impressed by the overall standard of eye care in this county. There were many reasons for this, one of which was the Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust (GETT) which was already playing a significant role in funding a variety of eye care improvements and innovations.

Two years ago I was asked to join GETT's Board of Trustees. We assist eye care professionals and others in their attempts to make Gloucestershire's eye care amongst the best in the country, and in the last twelve months alone we have paid out £326,255.00 for some top of the range pieces of medical equipment and training instruments. We have also committed £25,500.00 towards the waiting room facilities in the new eye clinic at Cheltenham General Hospital. Our financial support will provide significant benefits to patients, and we look forward to seeing the new clinic in operation in just a few weeks' time.

Looking forward we need to continue supporting innovations in eye care, and to give the ophthalmic patients in our communities the best possible standards of eye care as our NHS services evolve. With the ever increasing demand on healthcare finances there has never been a more important time for GETT to provide support and assistance. We have some wonderful fundraising supporters, including the incredible Andria Smith whose single-handed efforts since 2012 have raised over £16.5K for our cause. We are most grateful for her dedication and wonderful support for our charity. Other GETT supporters offer personal donations; some offer a bequest in their will and we are most grateful that they took the opportunity to arrange for this at the appropriate time. But we must look to increase our fundraising capabilities further and I would ask everyone to consider making a donation each year, or each month (perhaps by standing order), or to consider leaving a bequest.

Sight is possibly our most precious sense and I am delighted to serve as the chairman of this worthy charity. Thank you for supporting us and our aims.

**Mr Steven Guilford**, Chairman – March 2016



## Equipment Purchases / Fundraising

### Purchase of Ultrasound Biometer – November 2015

Thanks to the generosity of GETT the Department of Optometry and Orthoptics is now using the Axis Nano high precision Biometer. This piece of equipment is indispensable in the pre-operative assessment of certain patients prior to cataract surgery. This top of the range equipment uses ultrasound to measure the axial length of the eye and help the surgeon decide on the best lens implant. It is the only way of taking a measurement in many cases where there is an advanced cataract or additional complications.

It is small and portable and can easily be taken to the cataract assessment unit or if necessary into the operating theatre. The device is linked to a computer to enable high quality images to be recorded and printed. It will be especially useful in the assessment of particularly vulnerable patients such as those



with severe mobility issues, learning difficulties or dementia. This invaluable piece of equipment will be of benefit to staff and patients alike for many years to come.

Many thanks to all the supporters and Trustees of the charity for your continued generosity.

Article by Catherine Billington, Orthoptist and Laura Wilkin, Optometrist – January 2016

### Invitation to Sister Fasey Coffee Morning

**Many apologies for the unexpected cancellation of our coffee morning last November. It was a situation which we were all very sad about – but it couldn't be avoided.**

You are all invited to attend our annual Dorothy Fasey coffee morning on Saturday 26 November 2016 from 10-12 at Emmanuel Church Hall.

Consultant Ophthalmologist John Ferris has kindly offered to attend to demonstrate the EyeSi cataract surgery simulator which the Trust funded last financial year.

Donations of good quality prizes for our wonderful raffle would be very welcome, as always. Please let me know if you would like me to come and collect.

This is our opportunity to thank our friends for their loyal support over the years. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Rachel Chitty**, Secretary

Gloucestershire  
Eye Therapy Trust

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We invite you to the Dorothy Fasey

# Coffee Morning

Sat 26th November 10am - 12 noon



# State-of-the-art Spectralis Eye imaging Equipment Purchased for Gloucestershire Patients

**Patients across the county will soon benefit from more accurate diagnosis and improved treatment for eye conditions and diseases thanks to a generous donation from the Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust. The £200k grant enabled our Ophthalmology Department to purchase a new Spectralis OCT angiography device as well as a new combined SLT/ YAG laser.**

The SLT/YAG laser is in the purchasing process at present. It will allow treatment to early glaucoma patients without any side-effects or drops and will provide one machine, located at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, that can treat more than one type of patient. This will provide a more efficient service for glaucoma, iridotomy and capsulotomy patients across the county.

The Spectralis OCT angiography device has already been purchased and is in situ in Cheltenham General Hospital, and will become fully functional in the next few months. It will enhance the diagnosis and management of many eye conditions. The scanner gives more high resolution images of all the layers of the retina and additional details of the vitreous (jelly like compartment in the eye) and choroid (deeper vessels under the retina). The Spectralis tracks the eyes and performs repeat images in the same spot - comparing these images the software can detect moving particles such as blood cells allowing visualization of blood vessels at different depths in the retina. These images can be obtained without the need for an injection of dye into their veins and is quick and painless allowing repeated tests to check

for changes and the ability to get pictures on children and patients with allergy to contrast dyes. This machine is quicker than standard OCT machines and takes wider field images, reducing the time in the Outpatient clinic for each patient and producing more detailed images which allow better diagnosis, more accurate monitoring and better treatment decisions.

Consultant Ophthalmologist Quresh Mohamed said:

Thanks to the generous contribution from Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust patients with eye problems in Gloucestershire will have access to one of the most advanced imaging machines in the world which allows pictures to be taken of the blood vessels in the back of the eye without dye.

We will be one of the first NHS hospitals in the UK to have access to the SPECTRALIS HRA FA/ ICG + OCT Multi Colour incl. HRA +OCT device. We expect that approximately 500 patients a month will benefit from more accurate diagnosis and improved treatment as a result of this machine being available to our clinicians.

We are extremely grateful for the Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust's continued and very generous support.



Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – Comms Team  
– March 2016

# 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: **07841 144129**

### Gift Aid

*giftaid it*

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](http://www.eyetherapy.org) and click through to our Virgin Money Giving Page.



### 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](http://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
- Charles Hartley FRGS

### Officers

- Hon. Solicitor John Clarke, Esq.
- Hon. Advisor C.T. Hart Esq. FRCOphth
- 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 £3 (minimum).

### Contact Address

#### Rachel Chitty

Amikaro, 57 Church Road,  
Swindon Village, Cheltenham,  
Glos. GL51 9RE

**Telephone: 07841 144129**

