

Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust

Looking after the vision of your community

Charity Number: 1100501



GETT NEWSLETTER SPRING 2015

Welcome to our spring 2015 edition of The Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust Newsletter.

I have the pleasure to announce some exciting news following our Trustee meeting in February. The Trustees have agreed to put 50% of funding towards the purchase of a RetCam 3 for the Neonatal Unit in Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. This camera will be used to screen premature babies and will replace the RetCam 2 purchased by Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust in 2005. There will be an article written by a mother whose baby was diagnosed using the scanner in the next newsletter. The Trustees also agreed to award funding for the purchase of an indirect ophthalmoscope simulator and software for use in training. The total cost of these purchases is approximately £163,500. This has only been possible because of all our members and friends, their generosity and hard work in raising valuable funds for the Trust. We want to thank all of you most sincerely.

The Trustees were disappointed to note that at the beginning of the New Year our website had been hacked for the second time in 8 months. Many apologies to anyone who has been trying to access it! We are extremely grateful for the services of Ric Caesar, consultant advisor to the Trust who has offered to reinstate it free of charge. He has been working hard to get the website up and running again to enable us to launch it sometime in the near future. Although the format is slightly different it will still retain the same function and design. Hopefully we will be back on-line very soon.

If any of our members would like to submit their own stories about experiences in our county's eye units they will be greatly appreciated!

Rachel Chitty
Trust Secretary



A huge thank you to all our friends who have worked tirelessly to raise funds for the cause.

Fundraising

The Grand Spring Sale

The Grand Spring Sale in Oddington Village Hall on 26th March was attended by an enormous number of people from all over Gloucestershire. Mr Charles Hartley came and gave a short talk explaining the work of the Trust, thus helping to raise awareness of The Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust charity.

The day made £1,650.15 to help us support Gloucestershire's NHS Eye Department with supplementary equipment so they can continue to be one of the best in the Country and the most sought-after for training ophthalmic specialists. We are particularly indebted to Mrs Susan Ansdell who initiated the event and worked so hard to bring it to fruition. We must also thank her family and friends who set-to and made it a really fine social occasion for the village. Many local companies supported the venture with generous Tombola prizes and there were fabulous stalls with a wide range of handicrafts and artistic work on sale. These donated 10% of their takings to the Trust.



Chairman Mr Charles Hartley talks to event organiser Mrs Susan Ansdell.

In reporting the results, Mrs Ansdell said "We are all thrilled with the results which are beyond expectation".

We, too, are thrilled to have such enthusiastic fund-raisers now in the Northeast of the County, in addition to the Forest of Dean and Cheltenham.

Sister Fasey Coffee Morning Report

The Gloucestershire Eye Therapy Trust would like to thank everyone who supported our annual Sister Fasey Coffee morning on Saturday 29 November 2014.

We all enjoyed a lovely sunny morning and it was such a wonderful opportunity to thank all our loyal members and friends. We are delighted to announce that we raised a grand total of £4,550.00, including some extremely generous donations on the day!

The Trustees were impressed and amazed by the efforts of our star fundraiser Andria Smith – who by sheer hard work and determination through fundraising, presented a cheque for £3,000.00! In total, over two years, Andria has raised a staggering £10,350 for our charity. We are all overwhelmed by her energy and enthusiasm working for a cause that is very close to her heart. Thank you so much Andria!

The Coffee morning was also attended by 5 year old Rafferty Vollans-Bentley, who had to undergo several operations to remove cataracts and have artificial lenses inserted. Since then his eyesight has dramatically improved and much to the joy of his parents announced that he could see "twinkling lights in the sky"! Rafferty has been helping his parents to



Our youngest friend Rafferty – raising funds by selling raffle tickets

raise money to buy iPads for the children's' wards to distract and calm the children before surgery. The Trustees would like to thank Rafferty and his parents for organising a cake raffle on the morning which raised over £80.00.

The 2015 coffee morning is already booked for Saturday 28 November, don't forget to make a note in your diary!

Equipment Purchases

Purchase of New Simulator – March 2015

Thanks to the generosity of the GETT we are one of only 15 units in the country to have an EyeSi cataract surgery simulator. This virtual reality simulator has enabled our trainees to develop their surgical skills away from patients, so improving the safety and efficacy of surgical training. Consultants in the Eye Department have also been instrumental in developing simulation model eyes, which can be used in the actual operating theatre. The recently launched Simulated Ocular Surgery website, demonstrates how these model eyes can be used to simulate almost every type of eye surgery. (www.simulatedocularsurgery.com).

These simulation facilities are one of the reasons why the Severn Deanery was ranked the number 1 Deanery in the UK for trainee "Overall satisfaction" in the 2014 General Medical Council Trainees' Survey.

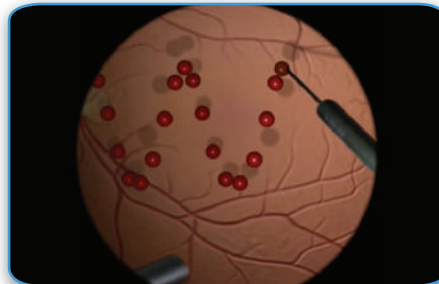
Rather than "resting on our laurels" the continued support of the GETT has enabled us to purchase simulation equipment that will enhance our retinal surgical training and the teaching of retinal examination skills.

Retinal surgery is perhaps the most complicated and demanding type of eye surgery. Although many of the skills required to be a competent retinal surgeon are similar to those needed for cataract surgery, operating at the back of the eye poses its own unique challenges. Trainees have to learn how to handle different surgical instruments and how to move these instruments safely in the back of the eye, without damaging the delicate retina.

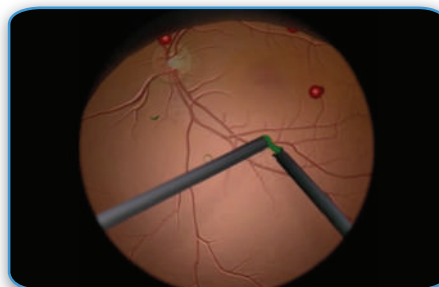


The vitreoretinal surgery module on EyeSi simulator provides a multitude of virtual reality simulations that enable trainees to practice all the manoeuvres which might be required during retinal surgery such as;

1) Learning to move the instruments accurately around the back of the eye without touching the retina.



2) Cutting structures close to the retina without damaging the underlying retina.



Like the cataract version of the EyeSi the simulations are incredibly realistic and enable trainees to develop these new skills before they operate on patients and this greatly enhances patient safety.

The addition of the VR module to our current EYESi will further enhance the quality of our retinal surgery training.

One of the most difficult skills our trainees have to master is examining the fundus (back of the eye) with a head mounted viewing system known as an indirect ophthalmoscope. The indirect ophthalmoscope is particularly useful for examining suspected cases of retinal detachment. VR Magic, the company that invented the EyeSi, have created a fantastic virtual reality indirect ophthalmoscope simulator, which not only allows trainees to practice their examination skills, but will also present real cases to test their clinical knowledge. A number of the GETT Trustees were able to see the indirect simulator "in action" during our recent Deanery Teaching day in Cheltenham. The feedback from the trainees was excellent, in particular they were impressed by how realistic the retinal images were and the interactive component of the simulation.

We are due to take delivery of the indirect simulator in April, making us the first department in the UK to purchase this type of simulator.



Thanks to the generosity of the GETT the quality and the safety of the training we provide for our aspiring young eye surgeons continues to improve year on year. For those readers who would like to try their hand at retinal surgery or examining the back of the eye, there will be the opportunity to use these simulators under supervision, at the Cheltenham Science Festival on the 6th and 7th June at the Sandford Education Centre, so please come and see us!

Submitted by John Ferris – March 2015

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

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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.



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

- Charles Hartley FRGS

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
- Steven F. Guilford

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).

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