



## DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE



### North Devon CET Event—25th February 2015

A local North Devon CET Event will take place on Wednesday 25th February 2015 at 7.30pm at the Barnstaple Hotel, Braunton Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1LE.

A buffet and tea/coffee will be available from 7pm.

To book on the event email Guy Osborne from Allergan on [Osborne\\_Guy@Allergan.com](mailto:Osborne_Guy@Allergan.com)

For further information and a copy of the agenda for the evening click [here](#)

### Devon LOC pays tribute to Joy Filon

In September last year Joy Filon was diagnosed with cancer.

It is with great sadness that Joy passed away shortly after diagnosis aged 52 at Rowcroft Hospice with her family by her side.

Joy pursued a career in optics and became a qualified dispensing optician, manager and for the last six years director of Specsavers Torquay. She was also a member of the Devon Local Optical Committee until 2010.

Our condolences and thoughts go to her family, friends and all her colleagues at Torquay Specsavers and across the area.

## Chairman's Introduction

Happy New Year!

January is a time for New Year's Resolutions and a time for reflection on the past 12 months. However, I believe it's more important to look forward.

What are our New Year's Resolutions for the Devon Local Optical Committee?

1. Increase sight test uptake throughout Devon
2. Utilise Optometric Practices for Eye Healthcare Needs

This will be done by continuing to raise the awareness of Eye Health with the general public.

We will also continue to add pressure on the local NHS for more commissioning of community eye care services. As we are well aware from recent media exposure, A&E services are under pressure. One of the ways NHS Commissioners can alleviate the pressure of A&E is by making more use of High Street Optician Practices. We have developed business cases proposing cost saving options which are yet to be taken forward by the local commissioners.

It makes good sense to free unnecessary time taken up in hospital A&E and GP surgeries by using the skills, equipment and availability of Optometrists in High Street Practices.

**We feel that Optician Practices, as local care centres, have a part to play for community eye care for this and future generations. We urge you to contact your local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to apply pressure (please use the template letter [here](#) to send to the CCG). We have also written to all GP Practices in Devon to see if this can push things forward (see the letter [here](#))**

Remember, we are the gatekeepers of eye care and the LOC are working hard on your behalf.

Charles Bill,  
Chairman

### Patients back Diabetic Retinal Screening at local Opticians Practices

A recent patient survey of the Plymouth Diabetic Retinal Screening Service has shown that patients prefer their screening to be carried out at a Local Opticians Practices.

Results from the survey show that 87% of the respondent's stated that they would prefer their screening to be carried out "At this Optometrist practice and/or "At the Optometrist where you go for your sight test".

For further information and a copy of the press release click [here](#)



## **OPTICAL SECTOR TO HELP EASE A&E CRISIS** (Recent press release from LOCSU)

NHS Commissioners can ease the winter pressures on A&E by making more use of high-street optical practices, LOCSU insists.

With crisis-hit casualty departments seeing an estimated 270,000 eye-related problems each year, eye health organisation LOCSU (Local Optical Committee Support Unit) is urging commissioners to use local optical practices to help reduce A&E pressures and improve capacity.

Responding to the latest figures revealing that A&E waiting times are the worst for a decade, LOCSU Managing Director, Katrina Venerus said: "With an more than a quarter of a million A&E visits and up to 4.5 million GP appointments attributed to eye problems, it makes good sense to free up unnecessary time taken up in hospital casualty and in GP surgeries by using the skills and availability of optometrists in high street practices to quickly treat patients at convenient locations.

To see the full press release click [here](#)



## **Fully funded Optometry PhD studentship with Plymouth University**

PhD Studentship: Relating Structure to Function in Healthy Aging and Neurodegenerative Disease

The University seeking to attract a PhD candidate of outstanding ability to join their exciting and rapidly expanding Eye and Vision Research Group.

If you wish to discuss this project further informally, please contact Dr Stephanie Mroczkowska: Tel: 01752 587549; Email: [stephanie.mroczkowska@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:stephanie.mroczkowska@plymouth.ac.uk)

Closing date for applications is 22/02/2015. For further information and application details click [here](#)

## **CONTINUOUS EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND EVENTS**

A full list of local and national CET Training and Events is found on our website—click [here](#) for more information

### **Taunton CET Discussion Workshop and Peer Review**

A CET Event will take place on Wednesday 4th February 2015 in Taunton starting at 2pm. Topics covered will include Retinal Lumps and Bumps' – should I be worried?, Dry Eyes and their management and ACES Peer Review.

For further information and to book on the event click [here](#)

### **College of Optometrists Regional Events 2014/15**

The second of two College regional events will take place in Plymouth on 1st July 2015.

The event is completely free to members and the event provides a minimum of three interactive CET Points. To find out more and book your place visit: [www.college-optometrists.org/regionalevents](http://www.college-optometrists.org/regionalevents).

### **Association of Optometrists CET and Events Guide 2015**

The AOP have produced a helpful CET and Events guide supporting your professional development. Click [here](#) to view this guide.



### **Conference—Vision UK 2015**

The seventh annual Vision UK Conference will be held on Thursday 18th June 2015 at Central Hall, Westminster in London. Titled 'Working together to deliver the UK Vision Strategy'.

Book your early bird ticket before 17th April by going to the [Vision UK registration website](#)

### **Job vacancies—Devon LOC website**

Click [here](#) to see job vacancies on the LOC website. To place a job advertisement on the website please email Jonathan Drew directly on [jdrew@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:jdrew@devonloc.co.uk)



NOC organised by the AOP for LOCSU and the Optical Confederation

for Local Optical Committees (LOCs), optometrists, opticians and optometric advisors.

The event organised by the AOP on behalf of LOCSU and the Optical Confederation, provides an unrivalled opportunity to find out first-hand the latest news about enhanced eye services and to share knowledge with colleagues from around the country.

To book on the event click [here](#)

### **National Optical Conference 2015:**

5 and 6 November 2015 Hilton Birmingham Metropole, B40 1PP.

The National Optical Conference (NOC) is the must-attend conference specifically organised

for Local Optical Committees (LOCs), optometrists, opticians and optometric advisors.

The event organised by the AOP on behalf of LOCSU and the Optical Confederation, provides an unrivalled opportunity to find out first-hand the latest news about enhanced eye services and to share knowledge with colleagues from around the country.

To book on the event click [here](#)



**Devon Local Optical Committee:** Representing, supporting and communicating with local contractors and performers to ensure, as gatekeepers of eyecare, effective delivery of Ophthalmic Services across the whole of Devon.

### **Devon Local Optical Committee**

Deer Park Business Centre, Haldon Hill, Kennford, Exeter, EX6 7XX

T: 01392 834026 @: [www.devonloc.co.uk](http://www.devonloc.co.uk)



Scan to view Website (QR)

Chair: Charles Bill ([chair@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:chair@devonloc.co.uk))

Vice Chair: Peter Noakes ([vicechair@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:vicechair@devonloc.co.uk))

Secretary: Fiona Hiscox ([secretary@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@devonloc.co.uk))

Treasurer: Daniel Tabb ([treasurer@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@devonloc.co.uk))

### **Committee Members:**

Paul Bradford, Nicola Burke, Mark Bushby, Josie Forte, Max Halford, Eiohn Hayes, Ian Holten, and Nicki Pullen

**Business Manager:** Jonathan Drew ([jdrew@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:jdrew@devonloc.co.uk))