# E-Newsletter - January 2022

## Webinar: Professor Dominic Ffytche - Visual hallucinations and Charles Bonnet syndrome

Join us for the first Webinar of 2022 on Thursday 27 January at 7.00pm, where we will be joined by Professor Dominic Ffytche, a world leading expert on visual hallucinations and Charles Bonnet Syndrome.

Professor Ffytche will provide an explanation of what Charles Bonnet Syndrome is, the science behind it, and share some potential coping strategies for people who experience visual hallucinations.

[Find out more and register](https://retinauk.org.uk/information-support/retina-uk-events/webinar-professor-dominic-ffytche/))

## Local peer support groups

Our local peer support groups are starting again following a break over the Christmas period. Some remain online whilst others are planning face-to-face groups. More information is available at [www.RetinaUK.org.uk/groups](https://retinauk.org.uk/information-support/retina-uk-local-peer-support-groups/).

Forthcoming groups are as follows:

* [Kent (online)](https://retinauk.org.uk/information-support/retina-uk-local-peer-support-groups/kent-local-peer-support-group-meetings/) - 8 February, 7.00pm - 8.00pm
* [Manchester (online)](https://retinauk.org.uk/information-support/retina-uk-local-peer-support-groups/manchester/) - 22 February, 7.00pm - 8.00pm
* [Somerset (face-to-face)](https://retinauk.org.uk/information-support/retina-uk-local-peer-support-groups/somerset-local-peer-support-group-meeting/) - 7 March, 5.30pm
* [Hampshire (face-to-face)](https://retinauk.org.uk/information-support/retina-uk-local-peer-support-groups/hampshire) - 28 March, 10.30am - 12.30pm

These meetings offer an opportunity to meet others living with inherited sight loss in your area. There are also some great speakers with interesting and informative topics.

## Volunteer roles January 2022

Are you looking for something new for the New Year? Come and volunteer with Retina UK! Do you have an inherited retinal condition? Do you live in Cardiff, Kent, Liverpool, Milton Keynes, Somerset, Belfast or Brighton? We need Group facilitators and helpers in these areas to support with our Local Peer Support Group Network. Please email [volunteering@retinauk.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@retinauk.org.uk) for more information. “I'm proud to volunteer for such a brilliant charity”

A group of people sitting with their backs to the camera with the caption 'Working as a volunteer ... has been one of the highlights of my life."

## External events

Members of the Retina UK team will be speaking at the following external events in the coming weeks:

* Genomics England: Sight loss and your genome

Thursday 27 January, 5.30pm – 6.30pm

[Find out more and register](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AWaSjiBeQ8C9DOaxHl3IiA?fbclid=IwAR0lwGoK_8AMJgjwZIH1mhkfnnXlMa6S_T4SS8lbeU58vmGgJGvsVL_kbdY)

* Vista: Inherited retinal dystrophies

Tuesday 1 February, 11.00am – 12.00pm

[Find out more and register](https://www.vistablind.org.uk/news-events/events/vistas-virtual-activity-talk-retina-uk/))

* BAME Vision: Understanding your diagnosis of retinitis pigmentosa, retinal dystrophy conditions and genetics

Thursday 24 February, 7.00pm – 8.30pm

[Find out more and register](https://retinauk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Retinal-Dystrophy-and-genetics-workshop-Feb-2022.pdf)

## Take on a challenge in 2022

Kick start your new year with #TeamRetinaUK. Dust off your trainers with a sponsored run; take steps with a trek or cycle for change on your bike. However you challenge yourself we’ll be here to help with expert support, guidance and fundraising tips all the way to the finish line. [Find your 2022 challenge](https://RetinaUK.org.uk/2022) and help support people affected by inherited sight loss to lead better lives today and accelerate the search for treatments for the future.

## Exciting developments for new treatment research

Towards the end of 2021, JCyte announced additional findings from the phase 2 trial that clarify the circumstances in which the treatment has the most potential. They suggest that it gives hope for a significant number of those living with RP.

The trial data has shown that people with RP with a central visual field diameter greater than 20 degrees (before treatment) experienced a significant positive response to the jCell injection. This aligns with the earlier news that trial participants with a greater retinal thickness experienced the best results. jCyte’s scientists believe that jCell’s potential for restoring the function of cone photoreceptors, which are responsible for seeing fine detail and colour, is dependent on there being sufficient surviving rod photoreceptors nearby. Cones rely on rods to supply them with an important substance called Rod derived Cone Viability Factor, and the density of rods is high in the area of retina corresponding to a visual field diameter between 20 and 45 degrees.

[Read the full article](https://retinauk.org.uk/research-news/exciting-developments/))