



The Link



St John
International

Sharing news from St John International

Hello,

Welcome to our summer newsletter.

Please read on for the latest updates of St John around the world. We hope everyone had a wonderful day celebrating St John Day on 24th June.

Warm wishes from everyone at St John International!

You can read the Link online.

Go to

www.stjohninternational.org

and at the top, click on 'News and Media'. You can see photographs and videos of the top stories.

Also click on the red links within the Link to go to the stories on the website.



Grand Council Meeting 2015 in Edinburgh

This year's Grand Council is the largest ever with 11 Priors (St John Hong Kong having been made a Priory in January this year) with the Order having a Chancellor for the first time, and The Hon Dr Neil Conn presiding over his first Grand Council as Lord Prior.

Hosted splendidly by St John Scotland in Edinburgh with Scottish Pipers present, a reception at Holyrood House and a conference on Infant Health - it was a memorable Grand Council in many ways with the Council discussing new governance structure for the worldwide organisation.



During the Council, the members had a conference on Infant Health where Dr Liz Grant, Assistant Principal Global Health Director of Global Health Academy at the University of Edinburgh was the key note speaker.

During the church service held by Grand Council, the new Prior of Scotland Major General Mark Strudwick CBE was invested as a Knight of the Order (*see page 2 for more details*).

Europe Regional Meeting 2015

In the days preceding Grand Council, the Priory of Scotland hosted a European Regional meeting. With representatives from the Priors of England, Scotland and Wales, The St John Associations of Gibraltar, Malta and Cyprus, the Commandary of Ards (Northern Ireland) and the associated organisation of St John Ambulance Ireland attending.

All participants felt that the meeting had been hugely successful with a full agenda discussion which also re-established some important links between Priors and Associations that will bear fruit in a short period.

Major General Strudwick becomes KStJ

Major General Mark Strudwick, who will succeed Sir Malcolm Ross as Prior of the Priory of Scotland, has been invested as a Knight of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem at a ceremony at the Canongate Kirk in Edinburgh on Tuesday 26 May.

Delegates to the Grand Council joined members of St John Scotland to see the former General Officer Commanding the Army in Scotland admitted to the Order by the Lord Prior, Dr Neil Conn.

Sir Malcolm is stepping down in June after the maximum two terms, six years in office. General Strudwick will be installed as Prior at the annual service at Torphichen Preceptory on Sunday August 30.

To read more, visit:

<http://www.stjohnscotland.org.uk/index.php/sample-sites-2/315-general-strudwick-becomes-kstj>



Major General Strudwick is made a Knight of St John, by the Lord Prior, Dr Neil Conn.

St John Scotland support for Mother and Baby Programme

Following the reception evening on Thursday 21 May at the Roxburghe hotel, St John Scotland has launched their support for the St John Mother and Baby Programme in Malawi and Zambia.

The funds will be used to help train volunteers within communities to provide support to women during pregnancy and delivery, and to mothers and newborn children in the critical periods after birth.

Sir Malcolm Ross, Prior of St John Scotland:

"I am immensely proud that we are able to support the mother and baby programme in conjunction with St John International and other St John establishments in Africa to help save mothers and newborn babies lives. It fits exactly with our aim of helping to improve the safety, health and quality of life of people in need."

David Hope-Jones, Principal Officer of the Scotland-Malawi Partnership described the work of St John as **"fantastic"**.

He added: *"I'm really excited to learn more about this new project which is going to go from strength to strength over the next few years."*

"If we stand together, not as two nations, but as one nation in our fight to address the extreme poverty in Malawi in a dignified partnership where both benefit and both contribute, I think that's where the real change is going to come."

Read more at: <http://www.stjohninternational.org/News/st-john-scotland-mother-and-baby-programme>



David Hope-Jones from Scotland Malawi Partnership. Stuart Shilson, Sub Prior and Sir Paul Lambert, Secretary General of St John International



Sir Paul Lambert with Lisa Wood from University of Edinburgh and Sylvia Chopamba, Programme Officer at St John International

SUPPORT THE MOTHER AND BABY PROGRAMME
BY VISITING:
www.justgiving.com/orderofstjohn

Providing humanitarian aid for Nepal Earthquake victims



SJAM staff and volunteers in Nepal

On 25 April, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck central Nepal and just over two weeks later, on 12 May, a second major earthquake hit the country. Current reports suggest 8,000 people have been killed as a result of the first earthquake, with thousands more injured.

St John Ambulance Malaysia (SJAM) has continued to provide relief aid to those affected by the earthquakes in Nepal. With a generous donation of RM100,000 recently from Berjaya, one of Malaysia's largest corporations; SJAM will purchase a four-wheeled ambulance vehicle to help transport victims from disaster sites to the hospital.

SJAM commander-in-chief Datuk Dr Low Bin Tick said: "We are in contact with the National Eye Hospital of Kathmandu and have met the Nepal ambassador to Malaysia with regards to the fund. We were informed that the one thing they need very urgently is an ambulance. So we will be using this fund to get a vehicle for that purpose. Although it will not be a fully equipped ambulance, it will certainly be very useful to transport victims."

In late May, a nine-member SJAM team including three doctors travelled to the disaster zone for its relief mission and have provided first aid and medical care to members of the communities.

See more at: <http://www.stjohninternational.org/News/st-john-ambulance-malaysia-nepal-earthquake-aid>

St John Ambulance Kenya holds blood donation drive to help Garissa University attacked victims

With 148 people dead and over 70 being wounded by the attack by four gunmen at Garissa University College in Kenya on Thursday 2 April; St John Ambulance Kenya has called for an emergency blood donation to help the victims.



Working with the Kenya National Blood Transfusion Service and Bloodlink Foundation, St John Kenya set up the facility for volunteers to donate blood at a major bus terminal in the centre of Nairobi.

Sir Paul Lambert, Secretary General of St John International commented:

"St John Ambulance Kenya has done a lot of good work supporting the community in times of emergencies. Once again we applaud them for continuing to help those in need during the most difficult of times."

Farewell and thank you to Finance Director Rima Nasser- Ferris

Rima Nasser- Ferris joined St John having previously been in charge of auditing charities for PricewaterhouseCoopers. She brought with her an extraordinarily high level of expertise in both Charity Finance and Charity Law.



Her specialist knowledge was of huge benefit to the Order, as well as to the many St John Establishments she gave advice and guidance to.

In the last year she also provided considerable support to the Governance Review Committee under the Chair of Professor Mark Compton. He paid particular thanks for all her efforts during the last Grand Council in Edinburgh.

Rima will remain connected to St John through her involvement with the Women's Guild which supports the Eye Hospital.

The Secretary General said that the Order has been particularly lucky having had someone of Rima's expertise ensuring the Order was financially fit for all its tasks in the future.

St John Jamaica receives grant to help children affected by HIV/ AIDs

Over 100 children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS will benefit from psychological, educational and social support under a J\$8 million (US\$70,000) grant assistance programme provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with World Learning.

The four-month initiative that will be carried out through three non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which includes Jamaica AIDS Support for Life, EVE for Life, and St John Ambulance in Jamaica.

The programme will provide training for parents/caregivers, as well as increase the skill set of an existing volunteer corps to provide ongoing mentorship and psychological support to orphans and vulnerable children.

Alison Binger, Executive Director of St John Jamaica, commented, "Through our first aid and home care offerings we intend to increase our capacity to reach and serve the needs of orphans and vulnerable children, and their families. This will be done via capacity building of existing volunteers and members as well as developing a corps of volunteer counsellors who will provide psychosocial and general care for these children and their communities."



Alison Christie Binger, Executive Director from St John Jamaica, signing the implementation of the programme (centre) with other NGOs members.

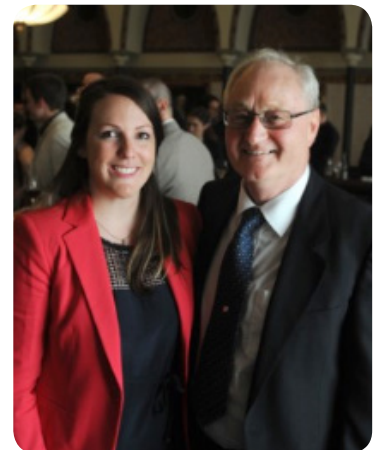
St John Ambulance Canada Life-Saving Award presented at annual Day on the Hill

During the annual Day on the Hill where St John Ambulance Canada engage with Canadian parliamentarians about community services and first aid, a life-saving award recipient was recognised at an evening reception.

Christine Gregory, a nurse from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, used her first aid skills to save a life. During a visit to the local garage for an oil change on 27 June 2014, one of the mechanics, Terry Kerr suddenly collapsed.

Christine assessed his condition and found him to be unconscious, not breathing and without a pulse. She immediately began CPR and continued chest compressions until the Emergency Services arrived with an automated external defibrillator. The casualty regained consciousness and was transported to hospital.

Christine Gregory is to be commended for her quick actions, calm response and for her knowledge and use of first aid in saving a life.



Christine Gregory and Terry Kerr.
Photo Credit: Katie Mulligan / St John Ambulance Canada

One St John Journal

A new on-line historical journal is now available. It will serve the St John community by promoting a sense of unity, fraternity and common purpose across the worldwide family of organisations; as well as fostering interest and pride in the Order's history, heritage and traditions.

To see the first issue, visit: <http://www.stjohninternational.org/News/one-st-john-journal>

Upcoming Event Dates

24th June - St John's Day

1st September - OHAC

1st - 2nd September - Steering Committee Meeting

If you have any stories you would like to be covered in the Link newsletter or you would like information on any of the news featured in this edition, please email Chiao at:

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