

Perth Festival Report

A warm, sunny day helped to make the St John Festival in Perth a real success in the midst of the city's 800th anniversary celebrations of the granting of the Royal Burgh Charter in 1210.

The beautiful St Ninian's Cathedral proved to be the perfect venue for the investiture service which took place at 11am and was led by the Very Reverend James Harkness, the Dean of the Priory of Scotland.

It was the first St John Festival for the Prior, Sir Malcolm Ross. Alfie Ingram, the Chairman of the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland gave an entertaining talk after lunch.

The civic reception was held at the Concert Hall and hosted by the Provost, John Hulbert.

Those invested in recognition of their work for the Order of St John were:

In the grade of Commander
Melville Jameson CBE
Annie Twiname

In the grade of Officer
Martin Callaghan
Duncan Chisholm
James Delaney

Sheila Ferguson-Smith
Kirsty Fullerton
Sylvia Hutchison
James Rutherford
Marjorie Rutherford

In the grade of Member
Mark Duncan
Neil Gardner
Diana Glazebrook
Alana Gowans
Duncan McSporran
Pearl Mathewson
Mary Matthews
Gordon Price
Vivienne Robertson
David Sherman MBE
Jean Sommerville
Harold Steven
Keith Tulloch
Charles Woolley

Also admitted as a Member but unable to attend was Rose-Ann Fergusson-Cuninghame.

The following were invested in Perth as they were unable to attend an earlier event:

As Officers : Gordon Forbes MBE and Ruth Leslie Melville. As Members : Joan McEwan, John Paterson, Brenda Wighton.



Processing past St Ninian's Cathedral



Preparations under way by Perth & Kinross committee and volunteers

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Pictured are two St John Christmas cards produced by the areas.

The first was produced by the St John Art Group Perth and Kinross. Please order through Sheila Ferguson-Smith (01764 663535).

The second is a view of Ben Lomond beyond Inchmurrin kindly donated by Graham Kinder to St John Dunbartonshire. Please order through John Brown (01436 674827).



How to get involved

“Membership has given me a wonderful opportunity to help a variety of local causes and overseas projects. At the same time, it is a real pleasure to meet and work together with like-minded people.”



St John Scotland operates through 12 Area Committees:

- Aberdeen and the North-East
- Angus and Dundee
- Ayrshire and Arran
- Central
- Dumfries and Galloway
- Dunbartonshire
- Edinburgh and the South - East
- Fife
- Glasgow
- Highland
- Perth and Kinross
- West Lothian

These committees help achieve the mission of St John Scotland: to improve the safety, health and quality of life of people in need. The committees are involved in all kinds of charitable projects ranging from providing transport for people in need to supporting other local charities with similar aims. They raise funds by holding events in their areas and for larger projects can apply for additional support.

There are many ways you can support the work of St John Scotland in your area. The first step is to complete and send in the form below. Your details will be passed to your area secretary who will then contact you. Alternatively, you can contact your area secretary directly by going to www.stjohnscotland.org.uk where you will find the contact details.

Members receive the newsletter two or three times a year and are invited to attend meetings and fundraising events such as garden parties, raffles, art shows and race nights. For people with more time to offer, there is the opportunity to volunteer, either occasionally or on a regular basis.

ST JOHN SCOTLAND MEMBERSHIP FORM

Title

Surname

Forename

Address

.....

Town Postcode

Telephone

Email

Date

Please return this form or a photocopy to:

Audrey Leighton, Priory Administrator, Order of St John,
St John's House, 21 St John Street, Edinburgh EH8 8DG
Thank you!

(Photo credits: DC Thomson and T Norris)

Welcome back Dael!



Cyclist, Dael Wilson from Fife, completed his epic trip around the coastline of Scotland in June as planned.

Retired policeman, Dael, completed his 1000 mile cycle ride on 19 June after six weeks in the saddle. His journey was not short of adventures including witnessing an emergency call-out to the mountain rescue team to help a man in difficulties while hill-walking on Arran.

Dael raised over £700 for St John Scotland to help with its support of the mountain rescue teams in Scotland.

Pictured above: Dael arrives in St Andrews, weary but triumphant having achieved his goal



St John

InFocus

www.stjohnscotland.org.uk

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NEW BASE FOR OCHILS RESCUE TEAM



The official opening of a state-of-the-art mountain rescue base for the Ochils Mountain Rescue Team was carried out by HRH The Duke of Gloucester on Thursday 1 July.

He was undaunted by the request to unzip a propped up casualty bag which revealed an easel displaying the engraved plaque for the new building.

The 50 or so guests enjoyed a tour

of the new base and learned about various aspects of mountain rescue with displays and demonstrations.

This is the 11th mountain rescue base in Scotland which St John Scotland has funded. It took some time to find suitable land for the base which is by Tillicoultry, but it was well worth the wait. Since the team was founded in 1971 it has occupied a range of buildings from a police cell to a scout hall.

“We are delighted at the provision of a building that is not only fit for purpose but has been designed to keep energy use to a minimum and therefore reduce the cost of running for a charitable organisation,” said Kev Mitchell, leader of the Ochils Mountain Rescue Team.

The total financial support from St John Scotland given to Scottish Mountain Rescue since 1998 is over £2.5m.



Top right - HRH Duke of Gloucester with the Prior, Sir Malcom Ross
Above - HRH Duke of Gloucester unzips the plaque for the new base



Displays of rescue equipment and demonstrations from the volunteers gave the guests an insight into what is needed to carry out a rescue

Editorial

The essential and exceptional work of St John volunteers continues to span the globe in the wake of natural disasters.

Here are facts issued by Jaimes Wood CEO of St John New Zealand, which provides the national ambulance service, following the Christchurch earthquake.

"In Christchurch, there were 16 ambulances available within 30 minutes to deal with any patients from the immediate aftermath. Call volumes to the Southern Communications Centre increased immediately following the earthquake, and between 4.30am-10.30am there were 687 phone calls to the Centre (usually it receives around 150 calls).

Volunteers in the Christchurch area were contacted by SMS message mid-morning and around 85 volunteers answered the call and started working three shifts in the welfare centres. Extra St John volunteers were called in to help at Christchurch Hospital Emergency Department.

Non-clinical volunteers were available to support patients and their families or supporters who came to the emergency department. Other St John members including St John Youth, Operations and governance members played key support roles to their colleagues who are working by preparing meals, keeping supplies of water topped up, and helping clean work areas.

All volunteers give their time freely to help the people of Christchurch. Many of them had also suffered damage to their own homes, personal belongings and properties.

Feedback from an aide to the Minister of Health was: "visited St John - again, just quiet efficiency and getting on with the job"."

Carolyne Nurse

Communications Officer

NITH BOAT LAUNCH

The Nith Inshore Rescue Team has a new lifeboat named 'St John' to reflect a generous donation from St John Scotland.

Costing £65,000 the new vessel was launched in August by Provost Jack Groom and Commodore Charles Stevenson, Royal Navy.

It means the team, which is based at the Glencaple Lifeboat Station, has a vessel which meets the latest regulations issued by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. The St John covers the north Solway, river estuaries and inland waters in the area. Only the day before the launch there were two call-outs and one the day after the launch – none was serious.

Fundraising for the new boat began in 1997 and relied on the varied efforts of many local people who took part in cycle races, parachute jumps and ran a charity shop.



Area Round Up

Edinburgh and the South-East

The Area has a packed programme for the Autumn which includes:

Sat 16 October – Annual Open Meeting at the Waters of Leith Visitor Centre

Sat 30 October – Autumn Fair and Coffee Morning, Saughtonhall United Reformed Church, 10am-12noon

Wed 17 Nov – Duns Castle event

Fri 29 Nov – Jailhouse Rock – Disco, Saughton Prison Officers Social Club

Sat 4 Dec – Christmas Lunch with talk from the Prior, Ellersly House Hotel, Edinburgh

Contact Wayne Pearson 07808 064122 or 0131 667 3261

Perth & Kinross

Sun 5 December - Christmas Concert in conjunction with the Friends of Perth Cathedral Music in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth at 3pm. The programme is titled 'A Renaissance Christmas by Candlelight in Perth Cathedral', featuring the vocal ensemble Cantiones Sacrae, who will sing a beautiful selection of Advent and Christmas carols and motets. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served. Tickets are £10 and can be booked on 01764 663755 or john@fergusonsmith.co.uk

Glasgow



A very successful coffee morning book sale was held in Glasgow.

Dumfries and Galloway

Leading medical figures attended a first ever palliative care event named after a Stranraer doctor and sponsored by the Order of St John.

It was the first John Calvert Memorial Education Event, in Stranraer on October 1, and attracted fifty delegates from across the country. It was organised by Dr Jane Gall of Stranraer Health Centre who has been assisting the local St John branch on health issues.

There was much interest in medical circles and all the places were taken up. It is hoped that the health conference will become an annual event.

Dr Gall and her husband Derek – also a doctor at the health centre – are taking up new appointments in Australia next month. Dr Mary Donnelly of Sandhead has agreed to assist the local committee in her place.

Also in the diary was the annual art exhibition at Stranraer Museum, organised by the Committee.

THE CALVERT SUITE



Mrs Pat Calvert (right) and her family with the new committee chairman, Kenneth Paterson at the naming of the Calvert Suite at Galloway Community Hospital.

Dunbartonshire



Princes Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall visited the new Three Villages Community Hall at Arrochar this summer. Presented to Prince Charles were Arrochar Mountain Rescue Team leader Mark Leyland (centre) and his deputy, Brian Cook (right). St John Scotland paid for the Rescue Team's base and one of its Land Rovers, and St John Dunbartonshire has supported the team annually for over 25 years.

Highland



Picture shows Mr Bob Fullerton, Chairman of St John Highland with the recipients of £1000 donations representing the following Highland charities: from L-R, Mr John Gordon of the Seagull Trust Cruises; Bob Fullerton; Marjory Jagger of Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers and Paul Monaghan of Gateway Highland Homeless Trust.

In the background are members of the Crown Church Band who, along with other local artistes - Alison and Marlene Rapson, The Songbirds, Alastair Sutherland and Stuart Robertson and Gordon Straube – entertained the audience.

Fife



Jim Delaney (right) and Lawson Rennie with Tu Edwards from Maggie's Centre at the Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy where they made a donation of £500.



Fife Committee members, Mary Gilmour (left), Lawson Rennie and Jim Delaney present an ECG machine to Carol Allen of the new St Andrews hospital

Sir Malcolm Ross, the Prior, and his wife attended the Fife Annual Open Meeting in April at Elmwood Fairways Restaurant by Cupar.

Recent events include the Annual Golf Challenge Cup which was held at Elmwood on Wed 6 October.

Also in Fife are a concert at Balgonie Castle on the 14th October at 7pm and the Carol Service on the 5th December at 5pm in the Upper Largo Church.

Contact Jim Delaney to book 01334 477085