



The Link



Sharing news from St John International

Hello,

Welcome to our winter newsletter.
As this year comes to an end, we reflect on the many achievements of St John around the world.

We hope you will enjoy reading the latest updates.
Warm wishes from everyone at St John International!

You can read the Link online.
Go to

www.stjohninternational.org

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

Also click on the red links within the Link for more information.



Christmas message from the Grand Prior, HRH The Duke of Gloucester



"I would like to wish all our Volunteers, Staff and Supporters a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

"Your work in providing care to those most in need has again been outstanding and you can all feel justifiably proud of the work you have done."

- HRH The Duke of Gloucester

Americas Regional Meeting 2015



In the past, St John organised Regional Meetings in the Caribbean, however for the first time an Americas Regional Meeting was held. The meeting brought together the Pories of Canada and the USA, with all the Associations of the Region.

Hosting their very first regional Meeting in Miami, the USA enabled all those attending to share experiences and ideas that benefited all.

Paramedic who spent 18 hours with ambulance patient receives award



Brian Odhiambo receiving an award from CIC General Insurance MD Elijah Wachira

Brian Ochieng Odhiambo, a student from St John Ambulance in Kenya, who stayed in an ambulance for 18 hours attending to a patient because he could not get admission at a hospital, has been rewarded.

He received a standing ovation during the Association of Kenya Insurers Road Safety awards ceremony held at the Carnivore Grounds in Nairobi on 12 November.

Alex Madaga involved in an accident was not able to get help even after visiting 4 hospitals. This was because some of the private hospitals turned him away as they had that 'no money no admission' kind of policy and others did not have the resources to attend to him.

He was then forced to spend 18 hours in an ambulance waiting to be admitted but sadly passed away.

Brian reveals that Madaga could have survived saying that "He had been hit at the lower back of his head. He was stable and I knew he would survive if we got him to hospital for the critical care he required."

"I hope this incident is a wake-up call to the Ministry of Health over the state of health in the country."

"It broke my heart when I heard he died. He would have survived." he said.

For more information about St John Ambulance Kenya, visit <http://stjohnkenya.org/>

Dalai Lama thanks volunteers from Wales for helping Tibetan refugees



St John Cymru Wales volunteers with the 14th Dalai Lama

St John Cymru Wales volunteers have taught life saving and first aid skills to Tibetan refugees in India for a decade, and have been thanked in person by the Dalai Lama.

Meeting them at his palace the 14th Dalai Lama said:

"I would like to thank you and all members of St John Wales who have provided first aid training to my people for the past 10 years, for their commitment and

valuable work.

"Please continue the valuable work for us."

Group leader Des Kitto, who has been on every St John Cymru first aid trip to northern India for the last 10 years, said:

"The St John volunteers who have trained over the past 10 years all say that it has been a life-changing experience."

The link began after St John Cymru Wales was asked to help by people who had visited the area who were shocked by the lack of medical knowledge and facilities among refugees in an already poor place.

Since then, volunteers have taught more than 4,000 Tibetan refugees in the area, including medics, trainee doctors, child care workers and orphans.

For more information about St John Cymru Wales, visit <http://www.stjohnwales.co.uk/>

Antiguan woman honoured for her contribution in providing care for the terminally ill



Front Row L-R: The Order of St John Deputy Sub-Prior, Mr John Chew Mah; Mrs Agnes Meekers; Her Excellency Lady Williams and Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams

An Antiguan, Agnes Meekers, was recognised at an Investiture Ceremony held at the St John Hospice in late October.

Attending the ceremony in Antigua were the

Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, Sir Rodney Williams and his wife Lady Williams, along with the Administrator of the Hospice Mrs Jane George- John, staff and friends of the Hospice. Agnes was invested as an Officer of the Order by the Deputy Sub Prior, Mr John Chew Mah.

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams who is a Knight of Justice of the Order commended the St John organisation for giving public recognition to the work of Agnes.

He also showered praise on Agnes for her significant contribution in providing professional care for the terminally ill in Antigua and Barbuda and opening the first hospice in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) with the assistance of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Hospice was opened on 1 December 2011 with 11 beds, 13 aides, 2 registered nurses, 2 volunteer doctors, 1 housekeeper, and 1 administrator. Donations and fund raising efforts helps to keep the Hospice running.

Commemorating WWI St John Ambulance Members



The President's Advisory Group of the Priory of England is organising an event at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on 1 July 2016 to commemorate the 1,077 St John Ambulance members who lost their lives in the First World War and as a reunion.

All members of the Fellowship in the Pories around the world would be most welcome to attend.

For more information and tickets, please contact Esmee Salkeld in the National Fellowship Office, St John's Gate, St. John's Lane, Clerkenwell, London EC1M 4DA (esmee.salkeld@sja.org.uk).

Mobile Outreach Clinic in Malawi

St John Malawi runs a mobile outreach clinic to reach communities in rural areas like Kauma outside Lilongwe.

These mobile outreach clinics are set up for the local communities (pregnant women, mothers and newborn infants) to have access to health information, antenatal and postnatal care, growth monitoring, immunisation and HIV tests.

To learn more about the Mother and Baby Programme, visit:

<http://www.stjohninternational.org/saving-the-lives-of-mothers-and-babies>



Women and infants in Kauma



St John Malawi volunteers with a health surveillance assistant

St John Ambulance Malaysia Annual Parade in Perak



- 1) St John Ambulance Malaysia Annual Parade
- 2) HRH the Sultan of Perak, Nazrin Shah

In September, St John Ambulance Malaysia, State of Perak held their annual parade in Ipoh, Malaysia followed by their annual inspection and presentation and awards. The occasion was graced by HRH the Sultan of Perak.

Meanwhile Dato' Dr Low Bin Tick, Chairman of St John Council of Malaysia and Commander-in-Chief of St John Ambulance Malaysia (SJAM) has been awarded the BrandLaureate ICON for his contribution in building SJAM as one of the largest first aid organisations

St John International Advent Calendar



Check out our new interactive advent calendar which shows the good work St John is doing around the world. Each day features a St John establishment with their unique programmes and activities dedicated to saving lives.

<http://www.stjohninternational.org/News/advent-calendar>

Upcoming Event Dates

- 23 Dec - 4 Jan - International Office closed for Christmas and New Year
- 25 - 26 Feb - Steering Committee
- 26 Feb - OHAC
- 12 March - Fellowship Conference (Loughborough University)



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[youtube.com/c/StJohnInternationalOrgUK](https://www.youtube.com/c/StJohnInternationalOrgUK)

For the Faith and in the Service of Humanity

www.stjohninternational.org

in Malaysia. SJAM currently has close to 100,000 members, 150 ambulances throughout the country, and 20 haemodialysis centres. For more information, visit: <http://www.sjam.org.my/>



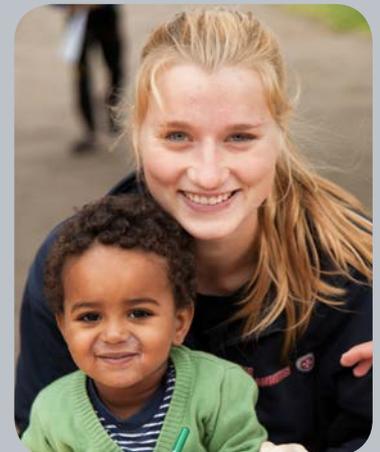
Centre: Dato' Dr Low Bin Tick

Helping refugees in Europe

Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe (JUH) Germany has been involved in helping over 33,000 refugees in Europe since September.

Hundreds of members and volunteers have built emergency shelters within hours while delivering medical assistance and taking care of people arriving at the rail stations.

JUH Germany supports more than 80 refugee facilities across the country. Medical assistance, emergency shelters and accommodation facilities are currently provided in eight regions.



Volunteer with child
Pictures by JUH Germany/
Birte Zellentin

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: chiao.kwan@orderofstjohn.org