



The Link



Sharing news from St John International

Hello,

Welcome to our autumn newsletter.

We hope you will enjoy reading the latest updates of St John around the world.

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.



Death announcement of Former Lord Prior Lieutenant Colonel Eric Barry CD

It is with much sadness that the Order announces that the former Lord Prior, Lieutenant Colonel Eric Lawrence Barry CD, died on 24th August 2015 aged 88.

He became a St John Ambulance (SJA) volunteer in Montreal in 1968. His deep commitment to SJA, the Priory of Canada and the world-wide Order of St John culminated in his appointment as Lord Prior from 2002 to 2008. As a Canadian, he was the first non-British Lord Prior.

He served in the Canadian Forces Reserves for 17 years and was commanding officer of the Royal Canadian Hussars (Montreal) from 1960 to 1964. He was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration in 1960 and was also a life member of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps Association.

Eric's business career concentrated on the management of not-for-profit organisations. In 1979 he was appointed president and chief executive of the Canadian Textiles Institute. An expert in international trade negotiations, he was an adviser to the Canadian Government during negotiations for the GATT Multi-Fibre Arrangement, the Canada- US Free Trade Agreement and the North American Free Trade Agreement. He also held the federal appointment of director of the Standards Council.

An avid skier and runner, he enjoyed travelling and felt very blessed to have seen most of the world during his lifetime. He is survived by his wife of 62 years Christine and his five children.

The Great Officers, the Secretary-General and the staff at the International Office in London extend their sincere condolences to his family at this very sad time.

Donations in Eric's memory may be made to St John International:

<https://www.justgiving.com/orderofstjohn/>



St John Brigade Singapore reaching out to communities in Cambodia

Besides strong economic ties between Cambodia and Singapore, many Singaporeans living in Cambodia also provide humanitarian assistance to the country.

St John Brigade Singapore (SJBS) has led volunteer missions in Phnom Penh, Kampong Thom and Kampong Speu provinces.

Having lived in Cambodia for many years, Andrew Tay, managing director of Himawari Hotel Apartments and president of SJBS Zone 2, understands the importance of reaching out to Cambodians in need.

“St John aims to improve the health and well-being of people around the world, our mission in Cambodia is the same,” he said.

Since SJBS first started operating in Cambodia in 2006, the organisation has successfully built 20 wells, two of which were fitted with pumps, conducted health screenings and donated medical supplies to thousands of Cambodians. In addition, they conducted first aid and hygiene classes and vocational training for rural villagers.

“After several missions, with the support of the St John Priory of Singapore and St John International, and with our work being recognised by the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Singapore, our organisation has decided to take a leap forward by registering our organisation as an NGO in Cambodia,” he said. Visit <http://www.sjas.org.sg>



St John Ambulance Western Australia Conference

Held across three days in August at the Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre, the annual St John Ambulance Western Australia ‘Experience’ brings together staff and volunteers, showcasing aspects of St John in Western Australia which make it a leader in first aid training and ambulance services.

St John Ambulance Western Australia Chief Executive Officer, Tony Ahern, said: *“The purpose of the conference is to give staff and volunteers from around the state the opportunity to connect with the broader St John community. Through such connections, staff and volunteers feel part of the organisation, proud of it and their own contributions, and motivated to continue their service.”*

“Delegates from Vietnam and Malaysia attended the Experience as a continuation of the work we have been doing in those countries to help develop first aid and ambulance services, and we also hosted Ms Isla Richards, Director of Fundraising at the St John Eye Hospital.”

In 2014/15, St John Ambulance Western Australia sent a number of staff and volunteers on humanitarian missions to developing countries. In Vietnam they worked with health and government officials to develop ambulance and first aid services. Staff were also sent to Klang in Selangor, Malaysia to work with the St John local organisation to help develop ambulance services.

Additionally, the organisation continued to fund three nursing positions at the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.

“The St John Experience is designed to fulfil its purpose of promoting a ‘One St John’ concept,” Mr Ahern said, *“and in particular in making our people, staff and volunteers, from all around our vast state, feel that they are connected to the broader organisation – state, national and international”.*

Next year’s St John Experience will be held in Perth on 1-3 September.

For the Faith and in the Service of Humanity



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Mrs Kenyatta with St John Ambulance members

First Lady of Kenya praises St John Ambulance Kenya work on maternal and child health

First Lady Margaret Kenyatta has welcomed the St John motorcycle ambulance project to boost maternal health in areas without adequate infrastructure in Kenya.

Mrs Kenyatta commented that the project will complement her 'Beyond Zero' campaign that is aimed at eradicating maternal and child deaths in the country.

"I am encouraged that St John Ambulance has made safe pregnancy one of its top priorities," the First Lady said.

She spoke during the 87th annual St John Inspection Parade at KICC, Nairobi on Sunday 22 June. The occasion is used to celebrate the ambulance services provider's achievements in the past year. The First Lady also commended the organisation for establishing 18 rescue centres at notorious accident black spots across the country to offer emergency medical care to accident victims.

"Stocked with life-support equipment and firefighting gear, the centres will improve the county's emergency referrals and disaster response," she said.

Mrs Kenyatta stresses the need for training more Kenyans to offer first aid during emergencies. Visit www.stjohnkenya.org for more information.

Improving access to clinical services for mothers and babies

With the support from St John International, plans for improving access to clinical services in the urban township of Chunga in Zambia, and in peri-urban township of Mbayani in Malawi are being implemented.



Mbayani Blantyre Malawi

The health centre aims to bring health resources closer to those who cannot reach the nearest clinic especially for pregnant women, new mothers and newborn babies.

This support includes basic clinic refurbishment and other recurring costs, such as travel for nurses and midwives.



St John Malawi staff and volunteers

To learn more about the Mother and Baby Programme, visit: <http://www.stjohninternational.org/saving-the-lives-of-mothers-and-babies>

St John Ambulance Malta New Chairman

Dr Michael Frendo, the former Speaker of the House of Representatives and former Foreign Minister, is the new chairman of St John Ambulance Malta.



Dr Michael Frendo

He succeeded former Chief Justice John J. Cremona, who has retired after holding the post for 30 years.

St John Ambulance in Malta carries out first aid and nursing duties at public events and organises training courses at its division centres and on-site courses at various companies and organisations. The St John Rescue Corps trains volunteers in civil defence duties to deal with national emergencies.

Co-operation with the Alliance Orders

At a meeting held in Zeist on 20 June, the Chapter (the governing body) of the Dutch Order of St John presented the former Lord Prior Professor Anthony Mellows with the rare award of the *Sint-Janspenning* (right). Professor Mellows is now the Honorary President of the Alliance of the Orders of St John, and he was recognised for his encouragement over many years of co-operation among the Orders of St John. This is the first award since 1988, and it is thought to be the first time ever that it has been given to a non Dutch recipient.



Professor and Mrs Mellows with the Grand Chapter of Johanniterorden

History was also made a week later when both Professor Mellows and Mrs Elizabeth Mellows, who is herself a Dame of the Order, participated robed in the formal Investiture Service of the Johanniterorden in Germany and subsequently at the meeting of the Grand Chapter of that Order.

Only men are admitted to the Johanniterorden, and this was the first occasion in which a female member of any of the Orders of St John has participated in such events. We wait to see whether a trend has been set!

St John Ambulance Singapore Annual Presentation of Medals

Celebrating their 130th anniversary, St John Ambulance Singapore held their Annual Presentation of Medals at Nanyang Girls High School on 5th September attended by Mr Patrick Burgess, Chancellor of the Order of St John.

Mr Burgess said:
"It is a great honour and a pleasure as Chancellor of the Order to mark officially the 130th year which has passed since the first beginning of St John in Singapore."



To see the highlights, visit:
<http://www.stjohninternational.org/News/st-john-singapore-annual-general-inspection>

Upcoming Event Dates

- 7th Oct - Archbishop Desmond Tutu's birthday
- 9th - 10th Oct - Council of the Alliance (Berlin)
- 26th - 27th Oct - Americas Regional Meeting (Miami)
- 26th - 27th Oct - Pro Fide Committee Meeting
- 10th - 11th Nov - Steering Committee and OHAC (London)

St John Ambulance volunteers honoured in Bermuda

During the annual St John Day Service held at the Anglican Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, several St John volunteers were awarded.



Chairman and St John Commander, Justin Williams, thanked all of those involved for their dedication and service.

"You all volunteer your time selflessly to ensure the well being and safety of the community," he said.

"From our doctors and medical officers to our ambulance drivers, first aiders to our Police and Regiment liaison officers, to Brigade members, I am grateful to and proud of you all."

"We look forward to continuing to serve the community and to remaining on station to ensure its wellbeing."

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



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