



The Link



Sharing news from St John International

Hello,

Welcome to our spring newsletter.

Please read on for 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.



Inauguration of St John Hong Kong



Dr David Mok (left) with St John Hong Kong banner

Operating for over 130 years, St John Hong Kong has provided first aid and health care services which includes ambulance services, home nursing care, youth assistance and dental care to those in need.

On 1st March, St John Hong Kong became a Priory with the ceremony taking place in St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong with the Lord Prior, The Honourable Dr Neil Conn AO presiding at the inauguration of the eleventh Priory of the Order.

Guests invited to the ceremony included representatives from other St John Pories and Associations around the world, many uniformed members of St John Ambulance Hong Kong as well as the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, The Honourable Chun Ying Leung who commended the work and effort of St John staff and volunteers in Hong Kong.

Council Chairman Dr David L.F Mok, who is also a medical doctor was installed as the first Prior. In his address, Dr Mok reiterated that St John Hong Kong will continue its work in serving those in need of first aid.

On behalf of all staff and volunteers within the St John family, we like to wish St John Hong Kong many congratulations and all the very best.

To see the highlights of the inauguration ceremony, visit:

<http://www.stjohninternational.org/News/inauguration-of-st-john-hong-kong>

Our new 'St John around the world' video



Ever curious about what other St John establishments in different part of the world does?

Now you can find out more in by watching this short video below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9guZGvJr_EI

We hope you enjoy!

New Zealander gives up marathon to save a stranger

Barry Eunson, a St John Ambulance Intensive Care Paramedic from Alexandra, Central Otago, New Zealand had trained for five months for the Dublin Marathon 2014.

Along with 15,000 athletes, Eunson was making his way through the streets but half way through the marathon, a young man collapsed in front of him. Initially, thinking the man had tripped, Eunson carried on. But something made him turn around.



"I thought, 'hang on, he didn't trip, he collapsed' and I looked back and he was having a seizure. No-one else had stopped so I went back."

There were a lot of people gathered on the street, and he yelled out for someone to call an ambulance, he said.

"The problem was there were 15,000 runners so getting through the crowd took nearly an hour. The ambulance was only manned by lower-trained staff, they had drugs on board but couldn't use them, so they allowed me to use their gear and drugs."

An advance care officer arrived, and together they put a lifepack on him and Eunson was asked to travel in the back of the ambulance to the hospital. But as they were about to leave, a French woman had collapsed on the road and Eunson offered to stay with her until another ambulance arrived. By now an hour-and-a-half had passed, and the race was well and truly over.

"The really sad thing for me was the people were there all getting their t-shirts and medals. But a finishing medal versus the Irish man's life — I made the right choice. No medal for me but a sense of caring that was appreciated by all."

With a 'Did Not Finish' against his name, Eunson returned home to Alexandra. However Eunson's friend had contacted the marathon organisers and told them his story without Eunson's knowledge.

They sent Eunson not only a shirt and finishing medal, but also paid for a return flight to Dublin for Eunson to get a chance to finish the race this year. The race director hopes to reunite Eunson with the man whose life he saved.

Installation of the new Chancellor

On 24th February, Mr Patrick Burgess MBE was installed as the new Chancellor of the Order by the Grand Prior, His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, in the Priory Church of St John.

The Chancellor is a Great Officer of the Order; as such he is a member of the Order's worldwide governing bodies and contributes to the development of the Order's overall policy internationally.



The Chancellor may act as the deputy of the Lord Prior when the Lord Prior is not available. The appointment has lead responsibility for maintaining the status and integrity of the Order as an Order of Chivalry of the Crown, including the Order's system for the conferment of honours and awards and all its other chivalric aspects; for constitutional issues; and for relations with the other Orders of St John.

On behalf of all staff and volunteers within the St John family, we would like to congratulate Mr Burgess and wish him all the very best for his tenure as Chancellor.

To see Mr Burgess' speech transcript, visit:

<http://www.stjohninternational.org/News/the-installation-of-new-chancellor>

Sculpted Bust Presentation of HRH The Duke of Gloucester



HRH The Duke of Gloucester

Immediately after the Installation of the Chancellor on 24th February, a bronze sculpted bust of HRH The Duke of Gloucester was unveiled at St John's Gate, Clerkenwell in his presence.

It was made by Kate Newlyn of Compton Martin in Somerset with the assistance of Ian Shipton and Adam Rush, respectively a lecturer and student at Weston College of Arts.

The bust was presented by Lady Fiona Barttelot, National President on behalf of the St John Fellowship and accepted by The Honourable Dr Neil Conn AO, Lord Prior on behalf of the Order of St John.

To see more photos from the presentation, visit:

<http://www.stjohninternational.org/News/bronze-sculpture-of-the-duke-of-gloucester>

St John Kenya new CEO

Earlier this year, St John Kenya welcomed a new member to the St John family.

Former Bloodlink Executive Director and founder Mr Joseph Wang'endo is to succeed Selinah Kandie as its chief executive.

He has 20 years experience in nonprofit management and an Advisory Council Board member of the global Certified Fundraising Executives (CFRE) programme based in the US and the Secretary of the Kenya Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Mr Wang'endo's main focus is to diversify sources of funding, and initiate sustainable models of financing the robust healthcare projects of St John Kenya.

"I am deeply honored to be selected to lead this outstanding organization, and to be part of the lifesaving programmes that St John Kenya represents around the country," said Mr Wang'endo.

"I look forward to working with the dedicated volunteers, employees, and partners in bringing innovations to strengthen our projects aimed at helping people in need."



CEO Mr Joseph Wang'endo

Saving new mothers and newborn babies from complications

On 15th March, it was Mother's Day in the UK where we celebrated motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

Sadly in sub-Saharan Africa, many new mothers and newborn babies die every year from complications in pregnancy and childbirth which could so easily have been avoided.

Help us by supporting the St John's Mother and Baby Programme to train more local volunteers within the community to help mothers and newborn babies.

For more information, visit:

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



**INTERESTED IN MAKING A DONATION
VISIT:**

www.justgiving.com/orderofstjohn

St John Scotland starts major defibrillator project

A major partnership between St John Scotland and the Scottish Golf Union was launched earlier this year to provide a life-saving defibrillator device to all Scottish Golf Union and Scottish Ladies Golfing Association national event venues over the next three years.

With better availability of defibrillators, and the necessary training, could lead to the lives of golfers across the country being saved.

Each year 100,000 people die from sudden cardiac arrest in the UK. CPR and early defibrillation with an automated external defibrillator can increase sudden cardiac arrest survival from 5% to over 50%.

The importance of defibrillators was brought into sharp focus in August 2013 when the former Ryder Cup captain, Bernard Gallacher, collapsed and suffered a sudden cardiac arrest during a dinner at a hotel. But thanks to the hotel's defibrillator and the immediate action of trained staff, he survived.

To read more about the new partnership, visit:

<http://www.stjohnscotland.org.uk/index.php/sample-sites-2/282-major-defibrillator-project-starts>



Hamish Grey and Karin Sharp take delivery of a defibrillator from John Ferguson Smith, Douglas Dow, Martin Quinn and Allan Stewart

St John Ambulance Canada new CEO

Earlier this month, St John Ambulance Canada announced the appointment of Allan Smith as CEO. Mr Smith brings more than 30 years of relevant leadership and management experience to his new role, having previously served as President/CEO and Board Director of Saxon Financial; and as a senior executive MD Management, a subsidiary of the Canadian Medical Association.

"We welcome Allan's experience and leadership to the St. John Ambulance family," said Robert White, St John Ambulance Chancellor.

"In his new role as chief executive he will be responsible for developing the first aid training and programme development agenda and an overall product development strategy for the organisation."



CEO Mr Allan Smith

Asia Pacific Regional Meeting 2015

After a most successful inauguration, the newly formed Priory of Hong Kong kindly hosted an Asia Pacific Regional Meeting on 3 and 4 March 2015. Representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka all attended; and for the very first time the Commandary of Western Australia sent representatives.

The Lord Prior, The Honourable Dr Neil Conn; the Deputy Sub Prior, Mr John Mah; and the Secretary General, Sir Paul Lambert all attended together with Ms Mairi Arthur the immediate past Chancellor of Canada. The meeting concentrated on the St John Business model, and supporting regional neighbours. The outputs from the meeting will be reviewed by Mr Mah and a plan for the region will be developed to be reviewed by the Steering Committee. The next meeting will be in approximately 2 years time.



Dr David Mok and the Lord Prior Dr Neil Conn

Upcoming Event Dates

21st March - Committee on the Orders of St John (London)
5th April - Easter Sunday
24th - 28th May - Grand Council (Edinburgh)
20th June - St John's Day

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



[facebook.com/stjohnINTL](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnINTL)



[@StJohnINTL](https://twitter.com/StJohnINTL)



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