



# The Link

**St John**  
International

*Sharing news from St John International*

## Hello!

Welcome to our autumn newsletter.

Read on for the latest stories from St John around the world. We hope you will enjoy reading the latest updates.

## FIND US ONLINE

[www.stjohninternational.org](http://www.stjohninternational.org)



You can find all the latest international and Order news, information on St John Establishments and many ways to support us.

## Appointment of Great Officers



Sir Malcolm Ross GCV OBE

The Right Reverend Timothy Stevens CBE

The Order of St John is very pleased to announce that Her Majesty The Queen has approved the following appointments:

- Sir Malcolm Ross GCV OBE as Lord Prior of The Order.
- The Right Reverend Timothy John Stevens CBE as Prelate of The Order.

Sir Malcolm has said, *"I am humbled by the task that I have before me. Although St John is a vast organisation I recognise that we have magnificent leadership at every level and I wish to thank you for the work you and your teams are all doing around the world; I look forward to working with you all during my term in office."*

*"I know that I will be well assisted during my term by you all and I have great pleasure in announcing that joining us will be the new Prelate The Right Reverend Timothy Stevens CBE, whose appointment was also approved by Her Majesty today."*

*"As long as I have the strength I will do all that I can to serve the Order."*

## New mobile outreach clinic launched in Malaysia



St John volunteer with a woman and child in Kampong.

St John Ambulance Malaysia continues its effort to support communities in rural areas by launching its first mobile clinic run by the southern Selangor branch. The mobile clinic was donated by local businessman Datuk Nelson Tan.

The clinic is staffed by four volunteer doctors and is reaching out to Orang Asli (indigenous peoples of Malaysia) in Kampong to provide regular healthcare.

One of the volunteers, Dr Lee said, *"Most of the people are below 50 with a large number of children - around 4 to 5 per household. We observe many of them with problems such as wounds, fungus, impetigo, dermatitis. Our area of focus will be on paediatric, skin, and work-related chronic injuries caused by hard labour"*.

## Teaching first aid to over one million school children in Australia



*Awarding school children with First Aid certificates.*

Since 2012, St John Ambulance Australia has trained more than one million school children across Australia in First Aid to ensure they know how to assist in emergencies, whether at home, at school, or on the sports field.

One such First Aid hero is 8 years old, Charlette Portuguese who saved her mother's life. Feeling unwell, Charlette's mother, Jessica decided to lie down. Her breathing had become increasingly laboured, before stopping completely.



*8 years old Charlette Portuguese saved her mother's life with CPR.*

Charlette knew something was very wrong and called Triple Zero where Nicholas Lee, a Triple Zero operator, talked her through performing CPR while waiting for the ambulance to arrive. With his guidance, Charlette calmly performed compressions on her mother until paramedics arrived.

Unknown to Charlette, Jessica had suffered a stroke which may have been fatal had she not acted so quickly – her First Aid training saved her mum's life.

## Reaching out to families affected by jigger fleas in Kenya



*Volunteers helping to remove a jigger infestation from a woman's foot.*

St John Ambulance volunteers in Kenya are continuing their efforts in reaching out to families in places such as Shinyalu where households have been infested by jigger fleas.

Jiggers, or chigoe fleas, are sand fleas found in Sub-Saharan climates that burrow into the skin and lay eggs. They cause swelling, itching and infection which can lead to amputation and even death in the worst cases. Cutting the fleas out of the foot and soaking it in alcohol or another disinfectant is the only way to treat



*Volunteers handing donated items to families to help control the infestation of jiggers within their homes.*

the disease once an infestation has occurred.

In Kenya, an estimated 1.4 million people (roughly 4 per cent of the total population) suffer from jigger infestation.

Not only are the St John volunteers helping those who have been infected; they are also cleaning the homes and teaching household members how to control the infestation of jigger fleas.

## Saving lives for the past 30 years in Malta



For the past 30 years, the St John Rescue Corps (SJRC) in Malta has been the only one of its kind worldwide, providing a uniformed voluntary corps of organised and fully trained volunteers to carry out various rescue operations and first aid efficiently in support of the constituted authorities of the Maltese Islands.

The Corps has around 90 volunteers, most of whom are involved in rescue operations whilst others are involved in logistics, support and administration.

When one joins the SJRC, they undergo a basic training programme before becoming rescuers. It takes between 6 to 8 months, and includes first aid, casualty handling, the use of stretchers, basic firefighting, use of ropes, map reading and radio communication.

Inspired by the rescue operations in Malta, St John Ambulance in Malaysia (SJAM) have set up an Emergency and Rescue Unit (ERU) and will receive technical assistance in the development of their new unit from the Rescue Corps.

During an annual inspection in April this year, attended by representatives of SJAM, Minister Abela recognised the Corps members dedication and commitment and said, *"It is very reassuring for the Maltese public to know that St John Rescue Corps is here to provide a backup rescue service to the Civil Protection Department. You have proven your capabilities at times of challenge, and for that, you have our gratitude."*

## St John Ambulance Western Australia Conference 2016



Over 1,500 of St John Western Australia's staff and volunteers attended this year's 'St John Experience'. Held over three days in September, it showcases aspects of St John in Western Australia that make it a leader in first aid training and ambulance services.

Among the achievements celebrated at the event was the connection of St John to the community of Western Australia. The organisation responded to over 289,000 ambulance cases in 2015/16 and delivered first aid training to over 317,000 individuals.

According to St John Western Australia's CEO, Tony Ahern, the two aims of the event are *"to ensure an environment is created for people to come together, have a lot of fun, and learn some things"* and also to

*"feel a part of the larger St John organisation".*

To that end, St John Western Australia dedicated a stall in its display area to showcase the work of St John International, and St John Eye Hospital Group.

*"It is important for our people to remember that St John is a worldwide organisation that exists to provide health solutions tailored for local conditions and in areas of urgent need"*, Tony said.

*"So while we in Western Australia focus on addressing the needs of the Western Australian community, through ambulance and first aid, we should not forget the work of our wider St John family throughout Africa, for example, in addressing maternal health and neo-natal care, or in the Middle East, addressing widespread eye disease"*.

The 'St John Experience' encompasses all aspects of St John Western Australia's integrated operating model, where staff and volunteers, in metropolitan and country areas, across ambulance and first aid services, all operate together to improve health outcomes for Western Australians.

Next year's conference is scheduled for August 24 to 26.

## Our tribute to Professor Riley-Smith



With much sadness, The Order of St John announces the news that Professor Jonathan Riley-Smith died on 13 September 2016 aged 78 after a long battle with lung cancer.

He was the former Dixie Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Cambridge, and was one of the world's greatest historians of the medieval crusades.

For more than 40 years, he was a leader in the study of the history of the Knights of St John. He was a great advocate for the Museum, and his role as the Librarian of the Order of St John, and as a Bailiff Grand Cross of the Order, recognised the value of his contribution to this area of academic study, and to St John as a charity.

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.

He is survived by his wife, Louise, and by two daughters and a son.

## An update on Lapel Badges

During its meeting in Hong Kong in May 2016, the Grand Council agreed to a proposal, developed through the Order Honours and Awards Committee (OHAC), to amend the Regulations and subordinate documentation concerning indications of membership of the Order on any appropriate occasion when not wearing insignia or miniature insignia.

In anticipation of amendment to the Regulations, there are now only two lapel badges authorised by Grand Council when not wearing insignia (full-size or miniature). They may be worn in the buttonhole of the left-hand lapel of a jacket or coat, or as a brooch on the left-hand side of a dress, jacket or coat, as follows:



*Bailiff/Dame  
Grand Cross,  
Knight/Dame  
of Justice*



*Knight/Dame  
of Grace,  
Commander,  
Officer,  
Member*

Further information, including details of suppliers, is in the International Office Memorandum dated 1 September 2016, which may be found under 'Member Information' on the website.

## Welcoming our new Relationship and Development Manager



Joining the International Office, Stephan Beschle's focus will be to strengthen the organisation's fundraising efforts. Previously, he has worked with Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Berlin for over 4 years as a fundraiser, specialising in corporate partnerships and sponsoring.

Within Johanniter, he was heavily involved in developing strategic partnerships to help the European refugee crisis as well as supporting various German and international projects. During his career, Stephan also worked in the private sector, such as media companies or an international hotel chain.

His past experience in the not for profit sector includes working as a communications manager for Save the Children in Germany, where he helped to establish the organisation on the German market.

## Upcoming Event Dates

**6 - 7 October** - Council of the Alliance and triennial Alliance/SMOM Meeting (Rome)

**10 October** - Investiture by Chancellor (Malta)

**8 - 9 November** - Steering Committee and OHAC (London)

**10 November** - Installation of Great Officers

Investiture and reception of Knights and Dames  
(Priory Church, London)

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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