

The Link



Sharing news from the Order of St John

Crossing borders - St John Gibraltar travel to Morocco



St John Ambulance First Aid Trainers recently travelled to Rabat in Morocco where they spent a week training a large group of staff from the British Embassy as well as those from the British Consulates in Marrakech, Tangiers, Agadir and Casablanca.

The Embassy were very keen to train as many of their staff as possible, in order to be able to safely deal with emergency incidents occurring at the Embassy and also in public areas. St John does not work in Morocco but St John Gibraltar has worked with the Rabat Embassy before when they repatriated a sick patient back to Morocco last year, and they were happy to help.

The training team left Gibraltar with an ambulance packed with all the training equipment required; resuscitation dummies, bandages and dressings and training aids. The trainers found that the staff were keen learners and a fun group to work with. For four days, the students learnt lifesaving First Aid skills including Resuscitation of Adults and Children, as well as dealing with Choking, Severe Allergic Reactions, Diabetic Emergencies and all other required subjects for their First Aid qualification. The trainers were pleased to announce that all students passed the course with flying colours.

St John wants everyone to be an Everyday Hero

To help more people to improve their first aid skills St John New Zealand has developed and launched a new 'edutainment' product, called The Everyday Hero.

The Everyday Hero is an innovative online space where anyone can test their first aid knowledge and skills in various scenarios. It is the first edutainment programme in New Zealand that is focused on first aid.

The Everyday Hero is found at www.everydayhero.org.nz (right). St John Commercial Director Gerry Fitzgerald says, "St John wants to help members of the public to have the skills and confidence to make a real difference on the scene of an emergency."

Gerry encourages everyone to go and have a look at the website, "Anyone can visit The Everyday Hero and test their skills against some very real everyday scenarios. It doesn't take long to complete and is an informative and entertaining activity."

How is St John Zimbabwe?

Following our article in Issue 27 about St John Zimbabwe's work in the cholera epidemic - we have had many people asking for an update.

St John received £77,000 from around the St John world and have been working flat out providing care. They also received a very generous donation of equipment. The crisis has now reduced and a full update on St John's activities and their ongoing work with orphans in Zimbabwe will be coming up in the next edition!



St John in Jerusalem - the work of the Eye Hospital



© Steve Sabella

St John Ambulance organisations are renowned world-wide, but how many people are aware of The Order of St John's other Charitable Foundation, The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group? The original Eye Hospital was established in Jerusalem 127 years ago, in 1882 and the Group is now the only ophthalmic charity providing services to the people of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, where they can access essential health care free of charge. In 2008, we treated 94,426 patients - 25,579 under the age of 18.

The occupied Palestinian territory (OPT) constitutes one of the world's most difficult environments in which to provide or access services of any kind. The unrelenting political stalemate that prevails in the region undermines any progress towards peace. Ongoing hostilities obstruct the provision and development of a system of public services for ordinary people - including vital health services.

Although 80% of all blindness is preventable, the people of the OPT have a rate of blindness ten times higher than the West. The reality of the situation in the region is that people are unable to travel in order to access such services as there are. By 2008, over 600 checkpoints and barriers obstructing road travel had been erected. The building of the Separation Wall further inhibits access to services, and isolates

people from land and workplace. Poverty levels are high at 51.8%.

The inability of residents living within immured areas to meet those from outside is leading to a rise in consanguineous marriages and in children born with congenital diseases, including eye problems. Indeed, there is often more than one child in each family with such conditions, and children with squints or similar conditions are often hidden at home and not sent to school, leading to social and employment difficulties in later life. Cataract and diabetes related conditions are also rife.

In line with the World Health Organisation's initiative, Vision 2020: the Right to Sight, our goal is to eliminate preventable blindness in the region. To help as many people as possible, we have established a further hospital in Hebron in the south of the West Bank, a clinic in Anabta in the north and a clinic in Gaza. To ensure that we reach those in the remotest areas, refugees and others living in extreme poverty, we also operate two mobile Outreach Units. Training locally based nurses and doctors is another crucial

aspect of our work. But only with financial support can we carry on helping those in the region who need it most.



© Steve Sabella

If you would like to make a donation, or help in any way, please contact Nicky Wynne on 0207 553 6969 or email nicky.wynne@stjohnehospital.org. Please also visit our website at www.stjohnehospital.org.

Stop press!

We are moving!

The Order Secretariat has found a new home in London, just down the road at Charterhouse Square. We will be moving into our news offices in November but our telephone numbers and email addresses will remain the same. Full details will be provided in the next edition of the Link.

Regional focus - St John in the Caribbean

3..2...1.....Lift off! June 2009 saw the launch of the St John Disaster Preparedness programme in the Caribbean, which has been funded by the Federal Foreign Office in Germany, The Johanniter and the Order Secretariat. Support for the project in the region has been widespread and Mr Ronald Jackson, Head of the Office for Disaster Preparedness in Jamaica launched the project saying ***“Disaster planning is the centre piece to our survival. Our responsibility is to build the capacity of communities so that they can help themselves. This is exactly what this project aims to do and it will be hugely beneficial”***

St John Associations are now running free one day training sessions which will help prepare Caribbean communities for disasters, such as hurricanes and flooding. During the day students will receive a free First Aid kit and booklet as well as learn:

- ✓ about the different types of disasters
- ✓ how to identify hazards in the home & to make an emergency family plan
- ✓ what to do during and after an emergency
- ✓ basic emergency First Aid
- ✓ improvising during an emergency and multiple casualty management



In August, St John trainers from each of the seven countries (above) came to Grenada for the Train the Trainer event, facilitated by Marcus Aust from The Johanniter and Dot Kaines from St John England.

The trainers worked tirelessly for 7 days and the end result was a fantastic display of knowledge and practical skills. *“The content of this course is of great importance – on which much emphasis is being placed in the region at this time”* said Glenn Wilson from St Lucia. The trainers are now back in their countries and the first training events have taken place. We will keep you updated over the next 16 months!

Developing a Caribbean First Aid training programme

In June 2009 in Jamaica, the first meeting took place to discuss the development of the Regional First Aid training programme and manual.

First Aid trainers from seven Caribbean countries came together to discuss the content, topics and structure for a regional manual - which is planned to be completed by next year.



St John

“CARIBBEAN TRAINING MANUAL WORKSHOP”

Partnered by



The new training programme and manual will be relevant to the Caribbean in terms of the topics covered, the images used and most importantly it will standardise training in St John countries of the region.



St John Guyana are thinking ahead!

From its well maintained headquarters in Georgetown, St John Guyana offers first aid and home nursing courses to individuals and businesses in Georgetown itself and in Linden and New Amsterdam. Its work is vital in a country of approximately 770,000 people, many of whom do not have access to health care. Despite strong governmental investment in national health services, many trained personnel leave Guyana to seek opportunities in North America.



With a strong and committed council and young dynamic trainers, St John Guyana is poised to grow and expand its activities. A two day Strategic Planning workshop, organised by the Secretariat's Capacity Building Programme, was a first step towards a new direction and the event was characterised by enthusiasm and creativity! The County of Essex (England) who are planning a programme of support to St John Guyana through STAPLE was also represented at the event.

During the workshop, St John Guyana identified its priority areas for the coming 3 years. Such as, increasing income through marketing initiatives, expanding first aid training to other parts of Guyana, developing more courses and to start a schools programme!

News in brief....



Gibraltar host Harry Potter Charity Screening - July 2009

St John organised the first screening in Gibraltar of the new Harry Potter release 'Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince'. It is the first time an event like this has ever been done in Gibraltar and has raised awareness of the work of St John.

"We chose this film due to it's massive appeal to all ages, it seemed a good reflection of the St John organisation which also appeals to both young people and adults of all ages." said Kerrie Edwards of SJ Gibraltar.

Guests had the choice of coming in Harry Potter costume or Red Carpet attire and St John members pulled out all the stops. The event also raised vital funds for St John.

Are you logging on for all the best resources?



Log onto the private area of the Order's website and you can download useful reports, minutes and documents from St John but also links to lots of websites which are jam packed with ideas on fundraising, projects, community development...you name it, we've found it! Log on today by visiting

www.orderofstjohn.org/members-area. Contact gemma@orderofstjohn.org if you need the username and password.

St John Uganda sink their teeth into new project - July 2009

Volunteers from the Nsangi division of St John Uganda organised the first ever dental out-reach programme in the Nsangi area.

15 dentists from Mulago Referral Hospital came to sensitise the people on how to care for and clean their teeth, do routine check ups and either refer the patients to Mulago or extract teeth on the day.

Many people from the local community came to take advantage of the free service, which was supported by the Secretariat's Small Grants Scheme.

St John volunteers mobilized the people, organised the venue, prepared meals for the dentists and transported the dentists from their homes to Mulago. A vehicle stocked pain killers and antibiotics was also organised and relevant supplies were given to the patients.

Christine Kasirye, National Secretary of SJ Uganda spoke about the day *"It was a really great day as we helped so many people who had been having sleepless nights with tooth aches. Thanks to the Order Secretariat for the facilitation. We are very grateful."*



Dates for the diary...

- 17th-20th Nov: Steering Committee meeting, London
- 23rd-24th Nov: Caribbean Regional Meeting, Dominica
- 21st Dec - 1st Jan: Secretariat closed
- 22nd - 24th Feb: African Regional meeting, Uganda

For all the latest news and resources from the Order go to the website www.orderofstjohn.org

If you have any stories you would like to be covered in The Link or you would like any information on any of the news featured in this edition, please contact Gemma Mullick at the Order Secretariat at gemma@orderofstjohn.org or 0044 (0)20 7251 3292