



The Link



President Mandela made Bailiff Grand Cross

Former South African President Nelson Mandela has been appointed a Bailiff Grand Cross in the Order of St. John. In their citation for the nomination, the Priory for South Africa expressed their opinion "that the former President has exercised with distinction both the leadership of the Republic of South Africa, which has indirectly resulted in considerable



as a Knight of St. John, continues to benefit the Order.

He has further demonstrated integrity, loyalty and devotion to the benefit of mankind, not only in South Africa but internationally, which again, has resulted in indirect support for the Order".

He was first appointed to the Order as a Knight of

benefits to the Order of this Priory and his subsequent position as a general peace-loving role-model with local and international powers, which,

Grace. The highest Grade in the Order (Bailiff/ Dame Grand Cross) is composed of the Great Officers, former Great Officers and 21 other Bailiffs and Dames Grand Cross.

New Zealand Hit By Worst Flooding in 100 Years

During February, the lower parts of the North Island of New Zealand were badly affected by what have been described as 100-year floods and dangerously high winds.

Three St John facilities and several vehicles were damaged, one vehicle having to be written off.

Most of the affected communities are small towns that operate ambulance stations staffed by volunteers, and in the true tradition of the Anzacs, St John members rallied around to help.

In the township of Feilding, for example, St John members turned out with a health shuttle and the events vehicle to evacuate residents from a local rest home. The St John Area Chairman at Hunterville, who is also an ambulance volunteer, waded through floodwaters and moved the community's ambulance to higher ground before any damage could be caused.

Road closures placed added pressure on ambulance work, with many jobs taking far longer to respond to than normal. Many volunteer

ambulance officers turned out to their stations and maintained long vigils to ensure full crews could respond to call outs if required.

Several vehicles from St John metropolitan centres were dispatched to supplement rural services as part of a coordinated civil defense effort.

Two members who serve on their local St John committee, and who are also volunteer ambulance officers lost their home and all its contents. Another couple lost some possessions and the Palmerston North Area Committee has undertaken a working bee to help them restore their section.

The areas that suffered from flooding are all rural and some 2600 farmers were affected - about 800 of them seriously. Around 20 farmers may have to abandon their properties.

The New Zealand Government predicts the total cost of the flooding – the worst natural disaster to hit the agriculture sector in at least 30 years - at about NZ \$300 million.

South African St John Cadets Take To The Mountains



Youngsters are taught how to make water safe to drink as well as the benefits of recycling. Children are taught about HIV/Aids through the use of games.

Cadets take advantage of the beautiful setting by taking part in nature walks around the farm as well as learn to express themselves creatively during art sessions.

These camps have proven to be very successful, not only for the youngsters who get to experience the beauty and tranquility of the countryside but also aid in recruiting new members for the Cadet Programme.

As part of their Cadet Programme, members of the St John Ambulance Brigade in Johannesburg, South Africa run developmental camps for new Cadets from Alexandra Township. The camps are held in the beautiful Magaliesberg mountains just outside of the city and are used as a training tool for new Cadets with older Cadets who act as mentors for the younger children. Having mentors on the camps for the young Alexandra Cadets is vital as many of the youngsters have never left the boundaries of the township.

Cadets are taught various life skills through topics such as 'Stranger Danger', 'How to activate the EMS (Emergency Management Survey)', 'Handicap Awareness', 'Sense Training' and the 'Environment Around Us'.

Above Left and Below: Photographs of the children participating in the Cadet Programme



News from St John Cyprus

St John Cyprus had a face-lift as from 1st January 2004 when the new constitution was implemented. There was an overall change in the members of the Council and the district Committees aiming at improvement of all services and raising the prestige of the Association.

Major Targets:

- ◆ Give emphasis for First Aid at Work, taking in consideration the EEU requirements. For this reason, Government and private institutions have been approached and the respond so far is encouraging.
- ◆ Offer First Aid lectures to persons involved in sports and athletics i.e. trainers, coaches, Aid on the spot. Make sure that the proper facilities and equipment are available so as to be able to offer First Aid on the spot. Make sure that the facilities and equipment are available.
- ◆ We are happy to announce the agreement reached with the Cyprus Athletic Association which was confirmed by its chairman at a news conference and persons will be trained in the in the next 2 months all over Cyprus.
- ◆ Offer help for the establishment of Cadet divisions at secondary schools. A New Cadet Division with over 50 students has been recently established in one secondary school, and the initiation is programmed for end of this month.
- ◆ Seminars were organised at all districts for First Aid Teachers to acquaint them with the changes in the 8th edition of the First Aid Manual compared to that of the 7th edition. Also written multiple choice during the course and at the final examination has been introduced.

Does anyone have anything they wish to write about, or let people know about for the next issue of The Link? All items welcome. Just contact alicefoot@orderofstjohn.org.

St. John Supplies celebrates its 125th year

Originally known as The Stores Depot, we opened our doors for business on Wednesday 12th February 1879 at St. John's Gate in Clerkenwell. From here we began supplying First Aid equipment such as horse-drawn ambulances to Hospitals, Armed Forces, Railway companies, the City of London Corporation and St. John Ambulance.

We're proud of our long partnership with St. John Ambulance, and will be celebrating our anniversary throughout the year. As part of this we have compiled a set of limited edition collectors' cards for those who register to save and enjoy. Each card features historical imagery and facts dating from 1879 right through to the present day as well as exclusive offers.

Throughout our 125 years' history, we have continuously expanded our products and services to keep pace with advances in technology and legislation, as well as meeting the demands of our many customers St. John Supplies now operates through our printed catalogues and website.

We currently have an extensive range of approximately 6000 products including:

At St. John Supplies we always strive to be at the forefront of innovation in First Aid and Health & Safety equipment, as this picture from the late 19th Century clearly shows!



- ◆ First Aid Kits and Health & Safety Equipment
- ◆ Specialist Life Saving Equipment
- ◆ Clothing and St John Uniform
- ◆ Training Products
- ◆ Insignia
- ◆ Publications
- ◆ Gifts and Fundraising

St. John Supplies is a major trading organisation serving both public and private enterprises around the world. As one of the leading suppliers in the First Aid and Health & Safety market, we are able to offer extremely competitive prices. With our Price Promise if you find the product cheaper elsewhere we will match the price and refund the difference.

If you would like to contact St. John Supplies please do so on +44 20 7278 7888 or go to www.stjohnsupplies.co.uk

Professor Jovan William Mabude Kiryabwire

Professor Jovan William Mabude Kiryabwire was the Chairman/ Commander of St John Ambulance Uganda from 1995 to his death in January 2004.

From September 1998 to the time of his death Prof. Kiryabwire has been a member of the Health Service Commission. In his 46 years of professional service, he was based in Uganda. Despite several offers that he got to work abroad in a more lucrative situation, Prof. Kiryabwire deliberately chose to remain and offer his services in Uganda.

He added much to his country in his role in St John Ambulance and will be sadly missed.



St John Canada Therapy Dog Noah, Shares Unconditional Love

Close to 50 volunteers and their dogs provide cheer and comfort to people throughout the North Okanagan, Canada, thanks to the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog program. Coordinator Jo-Ann Johnston said the program now has volunteers visiting 30 places around town, including schools, group homes, hospitals, retirement residences, nursing homes, extended and day-care centers and support group meetings.

Jo-Ann said every day she is warmed by the stories told by her volunteers. A good example was when Jean Millar took her Basset Hound, Noah, to visit patients – some terminally ill – at Vernon Jubilee Hospital. Sporting an angel costume in celebration of Halloween, complete with wings and bells, Noah was a big hit.

“The nurses came out from everywhere to look at him and three doctors stopped by to pat him,” said Jo-Ann, who accompanied Jean and Noah, as it was their first visit to the hospital.

One patient commented, “Oh how wonderful – I have had a very bad day and this just makes me so happy.” Jo-Ann took photos, with the patient’s permission, and returned the next day to distribute them.

“When Noah was visiting one man, we told him the name of the dog. He raised his head up and smiled at Noah,” said Jo-Ann.

“He was too weak to pat him, so he just looked and a smile came across his face. The nurses told me he passed away later that night, and that his name was also Noah.”



Jo-Ann said her volunteers make a tremendous difference in the lives of the people they visit. By offering their time and sharing their dog’s loving, accepting nature, someone’s day will be brightened by this simple but generous act.

“Our dogs do what animals have been doing for centuries – offer unconditional love and friendship to the sick, lonely and helpless. Dogs are non-judgmental and undeterred by human frailties and accept human illness, handicap or disfigurement, confusion or tears.”

52 Year Service Recognition

The Order is to recognise 52 or more year’s service with the award of a new gilt laurel leaf emblem, to be worn on the ribbon of the Service Medal.

Each year more and more of our members worldwide, are recording long service, which is currently recognised by the award of gilt Bars worn on the Service Medal and gilt crosses on the Medal ribbon bar.

Fitting the bars and crosses to ribbons, which record such a huge contribution is becoming awkward and a gilt laurel leaf is to replace them.

The award of the new emblem is effective from January 2004 and is one of the changes to the Order’s Regulations. The emblem is also available in miniature for wearing with the miniature Service Medal and medal ribbon bar.

Supplies can be obtained from either St John Supplies or Cleave (UK)



Grand Council 21/22 April 2004

This year’s Grand Council will be held in Cardiff, Wales. Representing the St John Associations will be:

Cyprus	Dr Andreas Markides, Chairman
India	Dr. (Mrs) J Ganthimathi, Deputy Commissioner-in-Chief
Singapore	Mr Peter Ngo, Chairman
Swaziland	Mr Nigel Fenwick, Vice Chairman

Changes to Order Regulations

The amendments to the Regulations were intended to implement the decisions which were taken by the Grand Council at its meeting in Washington in 2001. The Regulations in particular cover the duties and responsibilities of the Great and Principal Officers and other Officers of the Order, the Grand Council and Honours and Awards. The main changes are expanded appendices covering the Life Saving Medal and the Service Medal. There are also some changes in respect of the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.