



The Link



ASIA PACIFIC MEETING - March 2006 by Pippa Hoyland



Above: Dr Lam Cho Yee, second from left, and Susanna Chow of Hong Kong, flanked by delegates from Singapore, at the Asia Pacific Meeting held in March 2006 in Hong Kong.

The St John Association of Hong Kong was the excellent host for the 2006 meeting of the Asia and Pacific Region. Besides Hong Kong, representatives were present from the Associations of Malaysia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka. The meeting also welcomed participation from the Priors of Australia, Canada and New Zealand and our sister Order in Germany, Die Johanniter. The Order Secretariat was represented and the meeting was chaired by the Deputy Lord Prior (Establishments), John Strachan.

Apart from business sessions and sharing of information among delegates about the progress of their Associations over the past 12 months, two workshops were included on the agenda. The Priory of New Zealand, represented by Michael Brooke, delivered an excellent session on Working with Youth; and

Pippa Hoyland from the Order Secretariat invited participants to think about capacity building. These sessions encouraged a great deal of sharing among the different Associations who were clear about the benefits of working together and learning from each other.

St John in Hong Kong pulled out all the stops to make the experience enjoyable and to ensure that in a short time, all present could taste and experience some of the delights and beauty of Hong Kong. Being introduced to many St John Hong Kong members and supporters was a great pleasure and many delegates were totally impressed by St John's specialist dental chair for use with people in wheelchairs and the high level technology and professionalism apparent everywhere.

Thank you Hong Kong!

Secretariat Restructuring by Sophie Cornford, Associations Support Coordinator

Matt Holton has joined the Secretariat as St John Associations' Training Coordinator. Matt's role will be to support the first aid and training needs of St John Associations including the development of the LIFAC programme. He will work half-time opposite Sophie Cornford, who will also be working half-time as St John Associations' Support Coordinator.

Many of you will know Matt already as he is no stranger to St John. Matt started in the Badgers in Buckinghamshire and has held a variety of volunteer

posts at Division, County and National Level in St John England. He has been teaching first aid for 15 years and has done voluntary work in Jamaica, Ghana, South Africa and Sri Lanka, where he taught at the International School and was involved in tsunami relief work.

Matt has just returned from Cyprus to take up his position and is looking forward to working with all the Associations.

Twinning of Malta and Surrey by Franco Piccinino, Marketing Director, Malta



Left: Major John Griffiths, Commissioner of Surrey, handing the keys of the ambulance to Professor JJ Cremona, Council Chairman Malta

As the friendships continued to grow Franco J. Piccinino, Malta's CEO / Secretary of Training and Victoria Vincenti - Deputy Secretary of Courses visited Surrey in June 2005. The idea of twinning was discussed during that visit and subsequently agreed by all parties.

On 31st March 2006, Malta and Surrey County - UK signed a Twinning Agreement. Eleven senior managers from Surrey travelled to Malta for the occasion when they also donated a second hand Peugeot Talbot ambulance to Malta. The ambulance had been driven over land to Malta.

Surrey and Malta first made contact with each other in August 2004. St John Malta had just published its web site and James Daborn of Surrey, a frequent visitor to Malta, contacted Malta through the web site and quickly made friends with St. John Members there. Later that year in November, Malta hosted the St John Mediterranean Regional Meeting when Surrey's Commercial Manager, Ralph Brown gave a session on training. This was followed by a further training visit (on AED) from Surrey in April 2005.

While in Malta, the Surrey Team was taken on a tour of St. John Heritage Sites. They also visited Fort Madalena; HQ of Malta's St. John Rescue Corps. The Surrey Team were also given the chance to abseil!!

For further information on this twinning arrangement please contact:
HQ@StJohnAmbulanceMalta.com

New Bailiffs Grand Cross

Two Bailiffs Grand Cross were appointed earlier this year.
They are Mr John David Spencer AM (Priory in Australia) and Mr David Robert Samuel Kingan OBE DL (Commandery of Ards).

Regional Meetings

The next Regional Meeting for St John Associations in Africa will take place in Ghana, 20-22 September. The Caribbean Regional Meeting is scheduled to be held in Grenada, 13-14 October. We hope to include reports of these meetings in future issues of the Link.

**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 Esther@orderofstjohn.org
Please note that PDF versions of each new Link can be found on the Order of St John website**

Grand Council 2006 **by Albert Mena, Chairman, St John Gibraltar**

Priories, Associations, Lord Prior, Secretary General, Deputy Lord Prior Establishments; these are all terms and titles that roll off the tongue when referring to St John, however their function and purpose is sometimes difficult to comprehend. Like pieces of a large jigsaw we can understand each in isolation but it is only when they combine that a true picture emerges. In May this year I had the opportunity to attend the Grand Council Meeting that was held in Edinburgh and I was fortunate to have this picture revealed to me.

I have only been Chairman of St John Association in Gibraltar for a very short period of time and although I have been involved with the St John organisation for seven years, and often heard these terms and indeed met many of the individuals to whom these titles pertained, the precise structure and method of operation had eluded me. It did not however take long, after being in Edinburgh, to identify that there is a very clear structure and once all the pieces started to fall into place a picture begins to emerge of a cohesive sense of family and of individuals that operate with a common theme and purpose. Within the overall structure there are organisations/associations of different sizes and individuals that represent either larger or smaller

groupings, however after spending two days in Edinburgh it was clear to me that there is a strong bond that unites us based on the foundation of wanting to help others and indeed the issues that we face, either as a small association or a larger Priory, are very similar.

The meetings conducted in Edinburgh took place to an agenda which had been set out and specified, however all points were addressed by way of discussion and consensus across the board. There were, as there will always be, in a group of twenty odd people, differences of opinion and different perspectives, however the meeting chaired by the Lord Prior and under the careful steer of Professor Anthony Mellows ensured that it sought the views of everybody and ultimately arrived at its decisions by way of consensus.

What emerged after the two day period was definitely a sense of family and belonging, an admiration for individuals that dedicate their time to driving this organisation forward and giving the St John direction, and a recognition that, be it large or small, the issues we all face are very similar.

Jerusalem Eye Hospital



Above: Children of the staff at the Jerusalem Eye Hospital attending a First Aid Club after school, run by Valerie Young, a nurse volunteer from Buckinghamshire. The class ran for seven weeks and ran a mock car accident and mock injuries.

Capacity Building Column

by Pippa Hoyland, International Development Officer, Order Secretariat

Thank you everyone who has provided feedback to me on this column so far! Since the beginning of this year, the capacity building programme has been backed up with a budget - made available through a generous legacy to the Order Secretariat. The first three months of 2006 have seen a focus on the St John Associations of Kenya and Uganda where consultative workshops have led to a prioritisation of challenges facing these Associations at the regional level in Kenya and nationally in Uganda. For each country an action plan for capacity building has been developed. Areas where capacity building will provide some help include: training

in financial management; strategic planning; marketing and resource mobilisation and fundraising skills. St John Uganda has paid a learning visit to St John in Kenya through the capacity building programme. St John Zambia has received support in revising their governance documents and the programme is working with St John in Malawi to provide back up support following their successful training in Home Based Care from the Priory for South Africa.

If you have questions or comments please contact me: pippahoyland@orderofstjohn.org

Around the World In Brief - Malawi

by Sophie Cornford, Associations Support Coordinator

St John Malawi is based in Blantyre, Malawi's biggest city and main commercial centre. It began in 1957. As well as first aid training and related activities, a Community Health Care programme was established in 1988. The project is based in Ndirande and Mbayani townships and provides family health care services through home visits. Recent funding from the Priory of Scotland has allowed the community health programme to expand so that there are currently 68 trained community health workers working as volunteers within their own communities.

The Priory of South Africa have recently conducted training in Home Based Care as part of the Grand Prior's Appeal, funded by the Priory in Australia.

Key data

Population	13 million
GDP per capita	US\$600
Life expectancy	42
Adult literacy rate	63%

People

There are St John Establishments (Priory or Association) in 40 countries around the world. In each issue of The Link we talk to somebody who is making a significant difference in one of these countries. In this issue we talk to Doug Kelson in Papua New Guinea

How long have you been involved with St John?

I have been involved with St John since 2001. I started out as the National Capital representative on the St John Ambulance Service management committee. Following the death of Executive Director/Superintendent Graham Keake in May 2003, St John PNG collapsed, resulting in my appointment as Executive Director to rebuild the ambulance service. However the organisation was in such bad shape I



took the challenge on as a full time volunteer. Today, three years on the 26 August St John PNG is quite vibrant with ambulance services operating in three provinces, St John Blood Service located in 34 locations around Papua New Guinea, a steady growth

in volunteers in six provinces and a similar growth in Training. Our St John Blind Service has just taken on a new lease of life with eye screening being conducted in schools and villages.

What does a typical day involve?

Start every day at 9am and finish around midnight except when the Governor General wants to go for an early morning walk starting at 5.30am for 1.5 hrs. 9 to 10 am dealing with Directorate matters, 10 to 12 noon usually government meetings, 1 to 4pm Branch meetings, 4 to 6pm interact with the wider community, 7 to midnight paperwork, clear the desk

What benefit does your work have for the people in your country?

Our services are mainly directed at serving the poorer end of the community such as settlements and villages where services are most needed and almost no money exists to pay for services

What has been the highlight of your work for St John?

The rebuilding of both the ambulance and blood services where the general population are receiving a professional service.