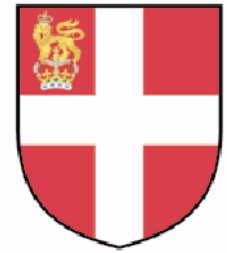




# The Link



## St John Swaziland

*Pippa Hoyland*

When I told friends and family that I was travelling to Swaziland, the common response was "where is it?!" The idea which I was developing of Swaziland as a well kept secret was reinforced when my plane from Johannesburg to Manzini contained a total of 14 passengers. I counted them!

St John in Swaziland had invited me to visit with the aim of facilitating a two day workshop. By the end of the two days, we wanted to have produced a draft Strategic Plan for St John. Thanks to the hard work and commitment of all the participants, we achieved our goal.

Swaziland is a small mountainous kingdom bordering Mozambique to the east and encircled by South Africa to the south and west. The history of St John in Swaziland has been closely linked to the Priory for South Africa which continues to provide generous support to the Association today.

St John in Swaziland has its HQ in Manzini, the commercial capital, on a plot of land owned and used by the Fire Service. The building is provided to St John rent-free but it is in need of some renovation work. A recent grant from the Order Secretariat Assistance Programme will assist in this area.

Commercial first aid training remains the core activity of



St John in Swaziland and one which it is hoping to expand further given many opportunities within the country. With all its activities currently centred in Manzini, the Association also plans over the next 3 years to take its services out to the other regions and constituencies of Swaziland. Other plans include developing programmes for youth and young people in and out of schools.

HIV and AIDS is having a devastating impact on all levels of Swazi society. I have rarely seen national newspapers with such large obituary sections. One of the many sad social consequences is the number of households headed by children whose parents have died from AIDS.

St John in Swaziland is supporting a home care centre in a rural area some 120kms north of Manzini. They make regular deliveries of food and groceries and provide logistical and practical support. A recent success has been the re-connection of running water to the house. The Association is seeking funding to continue its support to this worthy project. St John members took me to visit the home where the young people entertained us with traditional song and dance.

Thank you St John Swaziland for giving me the opportunity to visit your Association and your country. It was a really enjoyable first visit and I hope it won't be the last!

## St John Rescue Corps Receives Vehicles and Equipment

by Aaron G P de Giorgio, Staff Officer Gr V, Press and Pr, St John Association Rescue Corps, Malta



*Above: Mr Tom Sefton of MF&RS with the two vehicles prior to their delivery to Malta.*

The overseas and international connections of the St John Rescue Corps in Malta have once again resulted in donations of equipment to the Corps, this time from the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.

Through the agreement reached between both rescue organisations, the St John Rescue Corps has received the loan of two fire and rescue vehicles, a Dennis Excalibur fire engine and a Ford Transit rescue van.

The Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service has also donated thermal imaging cameras, resuscitation kits, fire fighting equipment, road traffic collision equipment, Paraguard stretchers, fire suits and further specialised rescue equipment.

The friendship and mutual co-operation between the St John Rescue Corps and the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service goes back two years, following the donation of two fire ladders and items of surplus equipment, fully supported and aided by the British High Commission in Malta.

The Rescue Corps is particularly indebted to the assistance and intervention of Mr Tom Sefton, a retired fire-fighter who continues to contribute his services on a part-time basis to the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.

The equipment was acquired by the Rescue Corps following the visit of a delegation from the Merseyside Service to Malta, on the invitation of the Corps Commander and Commissioner (Rescue) Captain the Chevalier Reuben Lanfranco. Various high-level meetings were held in Malta during the delegation's visit

in order to pave the way for further co-operation.

The link between the rescue organisations is of significant benefit to the Rescue Corps, which has a large, impressively dedicated and fully voluntary manpower, but lacked modern and specialised rescue equipment which is extremely costly and would otherwise be impossible for the Corps to acquire.

This donation will also benefit the Corps' demanding rescue training programmes through the use of specialised equipment.

Captain Lanfranco, stressed that the vehicles will also be used in support of the local authorities when the need arises. The St John Rescue Corps looks forward to finalising a twinning agreement with the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service in 2008.

The Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service is one of the best rescue services in the United Kingdom, holding a rating of "excellent" - one of only two Fire and Rescue Services in the UK to receive this rating.

The members of the St. John Rescue Corps have words of gratitude for many who have made this co-operation possible and who have helped in the transportation and procurement of the leased vehicles and donated equipment, including the Secretary-General of the Order of St John Rear-Admiral Andrew B Gough, Mr Robert Ehinger Krehl from the St John Auxiliary Foundation in Basel, Switzerland, the Ministry of Finance, Valletta Gateway Terminal, Sullivan Maritime Limited, FWD Freight Services Ltd and a number of other persons and entities.

In particular, the Corps is grateful to Tony McGuirk, QFSM, MSc, MIFireE, Chief Fire Officer of the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, who was instrumental in making all the necessary arrangements for the vehicles and equipment to be sent to Malta.

In recognition of their contribution to the St John Rescue Corps, Mr. Tony McGuirk, Mr Paul Gibson, Mr John McDonough and Mr Tom Sefton from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service were appointed Honorary Officers of the St John Rescue Corps in Malta, an honorary designation accorded to persons who have contributed significantly to the Corps, or who have distinguished themselves in humanitarian and voluntary enterprises in furtherance of the Corps' aims.

**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 [estherbloom@orderofstjohn.org](mailto:estherbloom@orderofstjohn.org)**  
**Please note that PDF versions of each new Link can be found on the Order of St John website**

## Deputy Lord Prior (Establishments) visits Nigeria

*Dr Patrick Orumbie*



district headed by Dr Patrick Orumbie, during which he met with pooled members of the adult and cadet brigade who put up a demonstration of First Aid and parade skills. He also met with the management of the hosting hospital, the Lagos University Teaching Hospital who have promised support for the organization after the awareness created by the visit of the Deputy Lord Prior. He also witnessed donations of 15 standing fans to the children's ward of the hospital by the Association of St John in Nigeria.

The Deputy Lord Prior met with the governing council of the Association of St John in Nigeria on the third day of his visit, in a special meeting of Council during which he provided guidance on the new constitution and agreements with the Order of St John. He also promised much assistance to the further development of the Association in Nigeria part of which he showed by soliciting for support from the Deputy British High Commissioner in Lagos, Mr Chris Dix, on the fourth day of his visit.

The Deputy Lord Prior (Establishments), Mr. John Strachan, visited Nigeria for four days from Tuesday 17th to Friday 20th July 2007. He was received at the airport by the Chairman Mr Folarin Mabadeje and Dr Patrick Orumbie, Commissioner of Lagos University Teaching Hospital College of Medicine, Lagos.

He was hosted on the second day by the LUTH/CMUL

## Ambulance Training in Ghana

*Trevor Brooks, County Nursing Officer, Avon St John*

Avon County has worked with Ghana St John for the past 10 years with various training visits for both adults and cadets including hosting a group of trainers from Ghana in Bristol to develop their skills as tutor trainers.

For this visit, in May 07, ambulance equipment and training resources were dispatched to Ghana so that all the equipment we needed would be available. We would then deliver a programme of ambulance training in Accra.

St John Ghana had been provided with an ambulance by the Ministry of Health but needed the ambulance equipment and training to support the delivery of a quality service. A 3 person team (myself, Vicky and Bob Russ) delivered the training and assessments over 2 weeks of intensive practical workshops and theory sessions with 16 participants - 13 from Ghana and 3 from Nigeria. The training was adapted from the UK ambulance service and St John courses but specifically designed to be relevant to needs in Ghana. The outcome was a well equipped ambulance with a group of competent staff.

In addition we were able to provide defibrillators. The training will also help to support St John Ghana's plans for the African Nations Cup football competition that will take place in 2008.

Avon is now planning to return to Ghana for re-

assessments next year. This should further enable the training team in Ghana to deliver ambulance training themselves so that the training becomes self sustaining over time.

I felt at one moment that my moment of fame had come as local journalists interviewed me for national TV!

As always it was a great pleasure to work with St John Ghana to experience their exceptional commitment to developing their Association into one of the leading healthcare organisations in Ghana. Thank you to both Ghana and Avon St John.



## Introducing STAPLE

### What is STAPLE?

STAPLE stands for Short Term Assistance Plus Local Effort. It is a new approach designed to assist Associations in their operational needs (First Aid training and updates; Continuous Professional Development etc).

### How does it work?

STAPLE recognises that within the St John family there is a wealth of expertise and experience which can be shared for the benefit of those Associations which need it. Typically, a Priory or larger Association would agree to provide an agreed level of support over a specific

period of time (perhaps 3 - 5 years).

### If I am interested, who should I contact?

The Order Secretariat is willing to provide any further advice or information (please contact [sophiecornford@orderofstjohn.org](mailto:sophiecornford@orderofstjohn.org)) A document describing the STAPLE programme in detail has been circulated to all Associations but is also available from the Order Secretariat. Each Priory has a designated "stapler" - a person taking on particular responsibility for the STAPLE programme. A list of "staplers" is available from the Order Secretariat.

## Dr Patrick Orumbie

*Nigeria*

### How long have you been involved with St John?

About five years. The former Commissioner, Dr Mrs Oteri, who worked in the hospital with me, asked me to join. I had cold feet about it, but she held my hand and dragged me downstairs to join!



### What does a typical day involve?

We hold meetings every Thursday at about 3.30pm, after office hours, so more people can participate, as most of the volunteers are workers. We hold meetings and parades and lectures on Thursdays, and hold

meetings at other times when needed.

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

St John in Nigeria is still in its infancy, but we do engage ourselves in small outings covering school events and are involved in training, to disseminate information to the public on First Aid.

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

We hold an event in our hospital (Lagos Teaching Hospital) called Luth Day, which is a day when staff old and new come and visit, and St John covers the event. When John Strachan visited, he made presentations in the children's ward.

And training is a highlight.

## The St John Eye Hospital

*Anthony Chignell, Order Hospitaller*

This year the Hospital in Jerusalem celebrates 125 years since its foundation in 1882.

Various events have been organised to mark this important milestone and the high point was our weekend of May 26-27 in Jerusalem. Numerous friends from the St

John international family, many of who had travelled great distances, gathered to be with us. The focal point of the occasion was the service of celebration and thanksgiving, followed by an investiture and prize giving held in St George's Cathedral.



The moving words of the Prelate of the Order during the service reminded us of those who had served the Hospital in the past, often in extraordinarily difficult circumstances. The recognition of what they achieved acts to inspire those of us who serve the Hospital today and helps us to rededicate ourselves to the tasks that lie ahead.

The political situation in which we find ourselves reminds us that our work in Jerusalem and the surrounding region will continue to be difficult and arduous but we can be assured that the St. John Eye Hospital, will continue to act as an international humanitarian beacon of hope and service.