



Sussex Volunteers serve drinks and canapés at the welcome reception.



Guests seated in the marquee at Plumpton College.

Sussex County Priory Group raises over £48,000 in donations and pledges for a new ambulance

Over £48,000 has been donated or pledged to a newly launched campaign to buy a new frontline ambulance for Sussex. And, on Monday 17th June, the ambulance fundraiser got off to an incredible start with 150 guests attending a very special inaugural summer lunch at Plumpton College, hosted by the St John Sussex County Priory Group.

The Sussex fundraiser is the first of its kind in the county, and to mark the occasion dignitaries from across the county, including the Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex, Mr Peter Field, and the High Sheriffs of East and West Sussex, Mrs Violet Hancock, and Mrs Davina Irwin Clark, gathered alongside St John volunteers, County Priory Group members, and St John CEO Martin Houghton-Brown, at the ticketed event.

Set as a 'celebration of Sussex' guests were treated to a three course meal using locally sourced ingredients, and wine produced on the Plumpton Estate. Volunteers in uniform served the guests and Martin



Sussex Volunteer serves drink at the welcome reception.

Houghton-Brown officially launched the CPG's fundraising appeal. Donations of over £20,000 were made in response

to the lunch, and The Sussex Freemasons Group has pledged to give a very generous gift of £20,000 towards the campaign

when a £75,000 target has been reached.

In Sussex, the campaign will continue, with an 'Ambulance Pull' competition planned for 28 September 2019 on Hove Promenade in Brighton.

We would like to say an enormous thank you to CPG Chair Dan May-Jones and County President, Caroline Lucas, for giving hours of their time planning and delivering such a special and incredible event. Thank you. ●

Pippa Beets,
London & South Community
Fundraising Coordinator,
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Getting to know you

With Sarah Duthie

Welcome to the latest edition of Priory News!

Last Saturday we celebrated St John's Day starting with a well attended Holy Communion in the Priory church crypt followed by the twentieth General Assembly in Mansion House and a service of rededication at St Pauls Cathedral in the afternoon. What an amazing day it was. It's so good to have the opportunity to meet friends and colleagues old and new and I felt very proud to be part of such a great organisation.

The launch at the General Assembly of our new 2019 – 2022 strategy "Serving your communities" is really exciting and is the start of a new chapter for St John. We all have a role to play in making the new strategy successful and I hope that readers actively seek ways of being part of this exciting new development.

We should of course remember all those St John people who worked so hard behind the scenes to make it all possible. There is an enormous amount of preparation work takes place behind the scenes and I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who made it such a great day.

Tony Shepherd – Editor
Head of County Priory Group Affairs



We are very pleased that our first Getting to know you interview is with Sarah Duthie who is Director of Priory and International Affairs.

Sarah, you came to St John in November 2018, so please tell us a little about what you were doing before.

I've come to St John from Greenwich where I was Director of Public Engagement at the Old Royal Naval College. I have a passion for art and architectural history and have been lucky enough to find myself working in some of this country's most important buildings – I now feel very privileged to be working at the Gate which has witnessed a great deal of change in London over the last 500 years. I've previously done lots of work to encourage people to participate in heritage whereas before, they might never have thought that it had any relevance to them. This can be so beneficial for health and wellbeing. I am incredibly excited to see what we can achieve at St John.

What were your greatest challenges when you first started?

St John is the most fantastically complex organisation I have ever worked in, it is also has the most dedicated and friendly people working and volunteering for it. I feel an enormous sense of pride working here and I think my greatest challenge has been to make sure that I understand the operations, not just in England but also the breadth of impact St John has across the globe.

In the short time that you have been with us what do you think your greatest achievement has been?

The stand out moment for me so far was being part of the planning and development of the St John's Day activities – what an incredible week that was! So many people from across St John, not just the Priory team, took part and we did a lot of things for the first time. I am very proud of what everybody achieved and we have all been delighted with the comments we have received.

Have there been any disappointments so far?

Not so far... Like many people here, I would always like to do more and want to take part in more activities. St John people

are amazing at getting others involved and I have been signed up to take part in the Pride event in London and I'm looking forward to my first stadium cover.

If you had a crystal ball, what do you think the work of the Priory might look like in three years' time?

The new St John strategy focusses on making healthcare more accessible, and the Priory will be a part of that. Our incredible heritage and our worldwide network can be used to really inspire young people and help people of all ages discover our rich history and just how much great work we do. Priory volunteers will feel as though they benefit from the best possible volunteer experience. And look out for some re-presentation of our heritage spaces in the next three years – I hope we can make them even more welcoming and enticing for everybody.

Your areas of responsibility are not only functionally very diverse, they are also geographically spread around Europe and beyond. How will you manage this enormous challenge?

I will ask people to work with me! Yes, our directorate does look after a diverse range of functions, but at St John, we are really fortunate to have some of the best talent in the business. I am constantly seeking advice and guidance from our own experts. Most

importantly, the whole Priory & International Affairs team are incredibly supportive of me and of all their colleagues. It makes all the difference.

If you had a motto for life what would it be?

Work hard and be nice to people.

At some point in the distant future you may decide to move on to a new challenge. How would you like to be remembered at St John?

One of the many things I have learned in St John is that it becomes part of your life. I'm not sure that I need to be remembered – if the work we do makes a difference to more people and is enduring, I will be very happy.

Thank you Sarah for telling our readers a little more about your important new role here at St John. We wish you every success in the future. ●





High Sheriff Dr Andrew Harter, CBE, DL, Ivan Palmer CPG Chair Cambridgeshire, Deputy Lieutenant Ms Lily Bacon DL and Carol Vorderman MBE.

Funding Awarded to Peterborough Unit

We are pleased to announce that Cambridgeshire's County Priory Group, which is led by Ivan Palmer, has been awarded a grant by the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire to refurbish Peterborough Unit's main training room and to replace outdated learning equipment such as tables, chairs and teaching aids.

In Cambridgeshire the High Sheriff's fund was established over 18 years ago to support charitable work. It recognises achievement and awards grants to projects involving young people in positive activities which benefit the community. The fund is managed by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.

The grant for St John will bring many benefits by providing vital equipment for volunteers and the local community to use and offering a unique opportunity for our young people to gain experience in project management which was a requirement of the funding.

Ivan Palmer expressed his sincere thanks for the grant received from the High Sheriff Fund, saying that this project presents a fine example of St John People working in partnership with the High Sheriff, The Lieutenancy and the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation for the benefit of the local community.

Ivan and the youth project board will work with the Facilities Team to get the refurbishments completed and the new equipment in place.

Who are the High Sheriffs?

The High Sheriff is an apolitical role, undertaken on a voluntary basis, at no cost to the public purse.

The origins of the office date back to Saxon times when the 'Shire Reeve' was responsible to the king for the

maintenance of law and order within the shire, or county, and for the collection and return of taxes due to the Crown. Today, there are 55 High Sheriffs serving the counties of England and Wales.

Whilst the duties of the role have evolved over time, supporting the Crown and the judiciary remain central elements of the role today. In addition, many High Sheriffs also assist Community Foundations and local charities to endorse and help raise the profile of their valuable work.

Hopefuls are nominated by the current title holder, who passes a list of suitable candidates to a special tribunal, which sits on 12 November every year, to choose the top three people they believe are right for the job.

Once the decision has been made, the list is shown to the Queen, who picks one name, by "pricking" the list with a sharp needle, or bodkin. This is a tradition dating back to Tudor times, and while originally the monarch really did have the final say, these days, the monarch always accepts the name at the top.

Further information and advice about funding in your county

It's entirely possible that the High Sheriff in your county offers small grants for similar projects, it's well worth checking to find out.

You are welcome to contact Ivan Palmer if you'd like his help or advice with this.

Ivan.palmer@ja.org.uk ●

Fleur Smith is given first aid charity's highest award



Fleur Smith

St John Ambulance Cadet Fleur Smith, aged 15 and based at the charity's Huntingdon unit, has been recognised for her commitment to the charity with the presentation of a Grand Prior Award.

The award is the highest a St John Ambulance Cadet can achieve and shows that Fleur has demonstrated a sustained effort studying 24 different subjects – including first aid, communication and working in the community – giving her the necessary skills to become a life saver. She received her award from Ivan Palmer, County Priory Group Chair in Cambridgeshire.

Fleur, who lives in Huntingdon, is currently a pupil at St Peter's School in the town and hopes to go on to Cardiff University to study paediatric nursing. She has been a St John Ambulance volunteer for five years and has used her first aid skills to assist a member of the public as well as helping to teach subjects at school such as lessons on diabetes and other medical conditions. She has attended many Cadet Camps and residential Cadet weekends where she has continued to develop her skills and also teaches first aid to her fellow Cadets at the Huntingdon unit.

Talking of her award, Fleur said: 'Receiving the Grand Prior award has brought the last five years together. It's been hard work and lots of commitment but the organisation makes the subjects enjoyable and I've gained so much out of it.'

Ant Kitchener, District Youth Lead for St John Ambulance in Cambridgeshire, said: 'We are extremely proud of Fleur achieving this award. The Grand Prior Award is the highest qualification a Cadet can achieve. Fleur's success reflects the dedication she has put into studying the various subjects that make up the award!' ●



Sussex CPG Dan May-Jones was delighted to officially receive the keys to a brand new mobile treatment centre, donated by The Mark Master Masons, from Provincial Grand Master, Martin Wilson. The treatment centre will be largely used by the busy

Southwick Unit, as well as being utilised at public events across the Sussex District. The treatment centre is one of two being donated to the District by The Mark Master Masons. The vehicle was dedicated by Sussex Chaplain, The Rev Peter Irwin-Clark.

New Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet for Oxfordshire



For the first time in recent years, St. John Ambulance is pleased to announce the appointment of a Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet for the County of Oxfordshire for 2018/19. Following a selection process that was attended by Cadets from Kidlington and Thame units and an interview by Alex Barnes, Oxfordshire County President and Innes Mason, Oxfordshire County Priory Group Chair, Cerys Billyard, Leading Cadet from Thame Cadet Unit was appointed to the role.

Cerys will accompany the Lord-Lieutenant Tim Stevenson OBE CStJ on a selection of engagements throughout the County along with volunteers from the other Oxfordshire Cadet forces. ●



St John, NHSBT members and Sheriff Green.

London Organ Donor Award Ceremonies

The Order of St John and the National Health Service Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) held its Order of St John Award for Organ Donation Ceremonies at St John Priory Church in Clerkenwell followed by a reception in the Chapter Hall at St John's Gate on the 17th and 24th April 2019.

Sheriff of the City of London the honourable Elizabeth Green presented the posthumous awards to 61 families, showing kindness and compassion at these moving ceremonies at which 225 family members attended. A day for the families to reflect upon and remember the loss of their loved ones and the life they gave to others. ●



The Honourable Elizabeth Green - Sheriff of the City of London and St John CPG Members.



Left to right: Maureen Lewsey DStJ - Priory Chapter, Dr David Barton KStJ - Priory Chapter, Revd Mark Griffin OSTJ - County Chaplain for Kent, Very Revd Nicholas Frayling CStJ - Priory Dean, James London OSTJ - County Priory Group Chair, Dr Ian Jutting OSTJ - County Priory Group Chair for Kent.

Commissioning Service, County Chaplain for Kent

On a glorious sunny afternoon, the Commissioning Service for Revd Mark Griffin as County Chaplain for Kent was held at Canterbury Cathedral during sung Evensong. The service was attended by the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, The Very Revd Dr Robert Willis KStJ DL, also the Priory Dean The Very Revd Nicholas Frayling CStJ who conducted the Commissioning of Mark.



Procession

The Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, The Right Honourable Viscount De L'Isle MBE CStJ and his wife, Lady De L'Isle were present, together with Dr David Barton KStJ, Maureen Lewsey DStJ and James London OSTJ, Chair of the County Priory Group for Kent, Dr Ian Jutting OSTJ County President and members of St John Ambulance who came to celebrate Mark's Commissioning Service. The service was followed by tea, served in the Dean's rose-filled garden.

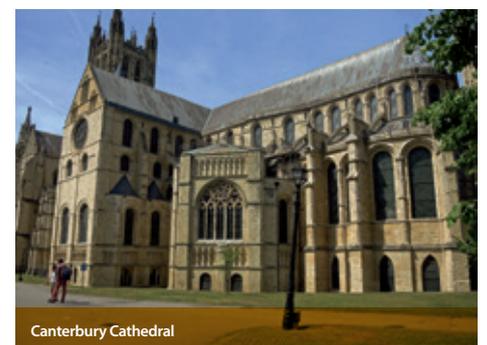
"I thought the service went very well," said Mark afterwards. "It's a bit nerve-racking, but everything went very smoothly. It's a lovely occasion to be in Canterbury Cathedral - it's very special."

Looking ahead, he thinks that more community events would bring St John in Kent closer together and hopes faith will play a greater role in its future. "I'd like to get out and about in the units to get to meet people, and also see if we can have a higher profile

for faith in the life of St John in Kent."

Mark became Rector of St Martin and St Paul in Canterbury in September 2017, having previously served as Vicar of St Luke's, Sevenoaks in the Diocese of Rochester for ten years.

He was ordained in Canterbury Cathedral in 1996 serving his curacy in Walmer and his first incumbency as Vicar of Wingham, Elmstone, Preston and Stourmouth just a few miles down the road. "I was ordained here 20-odd years ago and other times I've been here doing services - so it's a bit like a second home really," he said. ●



Canterbury Cathedral



Left to right: The Mayor of Lowestoft Ian Graham, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk, Clare, Countess of Euston, Laura Wallace, Suffolk CPG Chair and County President, Revd Michael Asquith, Vicar of St Margaret's Church, Lowestoft and Paul Norman, Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Master Masons.

Handover of Mark Master Mason Vehicle

The generosity of the Mark Master Masons in Suffolk was recognised at a Service held at St. Margaret's Church in Lowestoft. After the Service, conducted by Revd. Michael Asquith, a brief Handover and Dedication ceremony was held in the Churchyard for the new Support Vehicle.

The keys of the vehicle were presented by Paul Norman, Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Master Masons, to Anne Chaplin of SJA Saxmundham Unit, representing the operational volunteers of Suffolk.

The presentation took place in the presence of HM Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk, Clare, Countess of Euston, The Mayor of Lowestoft Ian Graham, the Chairman of

Waveney District Council, Priory Chancellor, Mick Messinger, Laura Wallace, Chair of Suffolk CPG and County President, and Paul Norman, Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Master Masons. The presentation was also attended by a number of representatives from the Mark Master Masons and St John volunteers from across all parts of Suffolk. ●



Left to right: Frances Smyth DSJ, Dr Colin Hancock, County President, Chairman's Escort, Penelope Richardson, Sue Saddington, County Council Chairman and Janet Franks, CPG Chair.

Nottinghamshire Organ Donor Award Ceremony

Nottinghamshire Organ Donor Award Ceremony held at County Hall, Nottingham in early May was hosted by the Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Mrs. Sue Saddington and the awards were presented by Col Roger Merryweather, DL, MStJ on behalf of the Lord-Lieutenant, Sir John Peace. 18 Awards were presented in the presence of more than 60 bereaved family members.

Janet Franks said "a truly moving event, giving thanks to those who donated their organs in order for others to live. We were privileged to hear the stories of those donors whose families wanted to share these with us". ●

The Very Revd Nicholas Frayling, Priory Dean, led a service to install The Rev Peter Irwin-Clark as the new Sussex County Chaplain. Held in Peter's own parish church of St Mark's in Staplefield, the event was supported by The Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, Mrs Susan Pyper, and by Peter's wife – the High Sheriff of West Sussex, Mrs Davina Irwin-Clark.



Left to right: Rev'd Canon Andy Hawes, Stephen Hallberg Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Master Masons, Louise Mumford Lincolnshire CPG Chair, St John Volunteer and Jack Geelhoed - Mark Master Mason.

St John in Lincolnshire take delivery of a new mobile treatment centre

St John volunteers from Lincolnshire recently celebrated the delivery of a new mobile treatment centre from the Mark Master Masons.

The Lincolnshire mobile treatment centre is one of over 50 vehicles which are being handed over in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands in a phased programme from October 2017, through 2018 and into 2019.

The vehicles have been secured thanks to a capital grant by the Mark Master Masons through their Mark Benevolent Fund to the Order of St John with the specific aim of providing new ambulances, treatment

centres and support vehicles to St John Ambulance, the Order's operational arm in England and the Islands.

The Lincolnshire vehicle will be put to use at events in the county as volunteers deliver life saving first aid to members of the public.

Stephen Hallberg, Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Master Masons in Lincolnshire, said: 'It is with great pride the Mark Master Masons of Lincolnshire present the keys to this vehicle on behalf of our Mark Benevolent Fund.

We know the wonderful work St John Ambulance does for our local communities and we are sure this gift will be put to good use.'

Louise Mumford, Chair of the Lincolnshire County Priory Group, said: 'The donation of this vehicle is wonderful news for the county and will significantly help enhance patient care and contribute to more lives saved locally. We're immensely grateful to the Mark Master Masons in the Lincolnshire Province and to the Mark Benevolent Fund for their

generosity and we look forward to seeing the positive use made by local St John Ambulance volunteers of the vehicle in the future as they continue the charity's life saving mission! ●



The Royal Military School of Music performance

The internationally famous Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall in Twickenham trains musicians for the British Army's twenty two bands. On St John's Day a number of musicians from the School of Music joined our celebrations and played a wide range of music outside St Pauls Cathedral to entertain both St John guests and a large crowd of passers-by. Their contribution really added to the already vibrant atmosphere outside the cathedral and in nearby Paternoster Square.

Joan Ferrer Garden Party

Bishop's Waltham Garden Fair continues to go from strength to strength. Held once again at Wintershill Hall by kind permission of Carolyn and Jamie Balfour, the beautiful grounds provided the perfect backdrop and were much appreciated by the large crowds that thronged through the gates.

A judicious selection of new stall holders and established old favourites kept things fresh and interesting, with Cuff Billett's New Europa Jazz Band providing background music as people shopped. Falcon High's Birds of Prey display is always popular, attracting a lot of interest and audience participation, especially from the children.

Over the past 16 years, the Fair has raised £160,000 for St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. The money helps to support Huda Abualeis, a qualified orthoptist, whose work involves screening and intervention to treat avoidable blindness in children with squints and lazy eyes. The orthoptist team sees 12,000 children each year in Jerusalem and in centres in the West Bank.

Chairman Joan Ferrer extends her thanks to all the volunteers, Bishop's Waltham Explorer Scouts and Rotary Club plus all our stall holders, whose tireless efforts make the Fair possible. ●

www.stjohnseyehospital.org



Sir Mike Pitt DL is the new CPG Chair in Wiltshire

Born into a military family, Mike spent most of his childhood in various parts of the world. He studied Engineering at UCL and enjoyed the first years of his working life planning, designing and building transport infrastructure projects in this country and abroad. After several career changes, Mike eventually became the Chief Executive of

Cheshire and then Kent County Councils. More recently he has chaired organisations in the private, public and charitable sectors. National appointments included Chair of the (2007) Floods Review, the Infrastructure Planning Commission, the Planning Inspectorate and the Legal Services Board.

Mike was knighted in the Queen's Birthday

Honours of 2005 and appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Wiltshire in 2009.

He is married to Maria and has two grown up daughters. Mike retired recently and his main interests are joinery, walking, gardening, bridge, singing in a local choir and, above all, spending time with his wider family.



Second from the left John Bell, Centre blue suit High Sherrif, Chaplain, Volunteers and Sandra Pritchard, Dr Rebecca Ashton cream dress, Foreground with chain, Provincial Grand Master, Brigadier Maurice Sheen behind his left shoulder with some of the Mark Master Masons.



Left to right: High Sherrif of the Isle of Wight, Geoff Underwood Esq., Provincial Grand Master, George Deacon, Esq., Mark Benevolent Fund Trustee, John Bell, Esq., Sandra Pritchard, IoW Area Manager and SJA Volunteers, Revd Neil Birkett, SJA Hampshire Chaplain, CPG Chair, Brigadier Maurice Sheen, CPG Member, Dr Rebecca Ashton with Masons at Coees.

Full steam this summer on the Isle of Wight

Earlier this year, the Isle of Wight County Priory Group adopted an action plan to increase the work of St John on the Island; the first phase is simple to explain but much harder to achieve. Working with our Volunteers and loyal Fellowship members we aim to raise the profile of St John in our community. If the current pace continues on the Isle of Wight, we are in for a busy season. Sandra Pritchard, Area Manager, assisted by CPG members has put together an impressive list of events across the Island that will enable us to spread our message and recruit new Volunteers.

The first major event was held on St John's Day, which coincided with Armed Forces Day in Newport. Surrounded by veterans, military personnel and bands, members of the public were able to meet St Johners and attempt basic first aid skills if they wished. The tent drew considerable interest, including separate visits by our Lord-Lieutenant, High Sherrif, Member of Parliament and Chair of the Council. We hope to build on this initial success at other popular venues throughout the summer.

In May, we were honoured by the family and friends of seven remarkable people who had given the gift of life to strangers through organ donation. Donor families and friends accepted an invitation to the Order of St John Award for Organ Donation Awards which the County Priory Group organises in partnership with NHS Blood and Transplant. Brigadier Maurice Sheen, CPG Chair, presided over the gathering and the awards were presented by HM Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs Susie Sheldon, in an informal but dignified ceremony at the home

of the County President, retired surgeon Professor Anthony Roberts and his wife, a former GP. Although most guests appeared naturally apprehensive on arrival, it wasn't long before all were smiling in the beautiful grounds of Haseley Manor under glorious sunshine. Many people commented on how appropriate the ceremony was and we were all greatly moved by the knowledge that 28 lives had been transformed by the generosity of the 7 Island donors.

In June, on another sunny day, we were greatly honoured by the gift of a new Support Vehicle presented to St John through the amazing generosity of the Mark Master Masons Benevolent Fund, represented on the day by Mr John Bell from Wiltshire. The High Sherrif of the Isle of Wight, Mr Geoff Underwood joined Brigadier Sheen in thanking the large gathering of Masons and Volunteers and assured them that the gift will be extremely well used across the Island and by our good neighbours in Hampshire. The County Chaplain of

Hampshire, Revd Neil Birkett, dedicated the vehicle and the ceremony was both uplifting and fun. Under the leadership of the Provincial Grand Master, Mr George Deacon, the entire assembly enjoyed a very convivial reception in the Masonic Centre well past the planned finishing time!

The CPG plan to raise the profile of the Order on the Island seems to be taking shape and we hope for exciting times ahead. We are determined to reach out across our Island community and prove the fact that there is nothing not to like about St John. ●



The Lord-Lieutenant (front row 4th from left), High Sheriff (front row 3rd from left), Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet front row 2nd from left), Members of the CPG, Members of NHSBT and St John Ambulance Volunteers who provided a Colour Party and First Aid cover.

Organ Donor Award Ceremony Bedfordshire 2019

On Tuesday 30 April 2019, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis CSTJ, attended the Order of St John Award for Organ Donation Ceremony which was held at Cranfield University by kind permission of the Vice Chancellor, Sir Peter Gregson. The ceremony was organised by Anthony Duggan OBE MStJ, The Bedfordshire St John County Priory Group Chair in conjunction with the NHS Blood and Transplant.

Guests present at the ceremony included the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, County Priory Group members, representatives and staff from the NHSBT and the families of organ donors. The Lord-Lieutenant was supported at the ceremony by her Lord-Lieutenant Cadet, Corporal Alissa Morgan, from St John Ambulance.

Families of organ donors were presented with Organ Donor Awards and Citations and thanked by the Lord-Lieutenant for the gift of life that they had given by carrying out their loved ones final wishes.

Speaking after the Donor Awards Ceremony, the Lord-Lieutenant

said, "It is always a privilege to recognise the generous and selfless act of people who, in the midst of tragedy, find the courage and compassion to donate the organs of their loved ones for the benefit of others.

The Bedfordshire St John County Priory Group Chair Anthony Duggan thanked the Families, the Lord-Lieutenant, the NHSBT professionals and the Vice Chancellor for their support to the Organ Donor Ceremony held in Bedfordshire. ●



Left to right: Janet Franks (seated), Anne Ruston, Stan Ruston, Rhona Redfern, Pauline Dowsing (Chair), Pat Bailey (Vice Chair), Stan Dowsing, Claire Florence, Siobhan Green, Sylvia Wilson and Susan Brown

North Nottinghamshire St John Fellowship Branch Cruise

Some of the members of the North Nottinghamshire Fellowship Branch aboard the Newark Crusader (formerly St John Crusader Newark) in readiness for their annual trip on the River Trent.

This year the boat sailed upstream providing the opportunity to view some beautiful countryside and wildlife not usually accessible. The Crusader, now operated by a local charity, continues to give enjoyment to disabled and older people with the provision of twice daily river trips. ●

60 Second interview with Frances Smyth



How long have you been associated with St John?

I joined St John Ambulance in 1959 after my sister and I responded to an advertisement for people to undertake training in Home Nursing and First Aid for the National Hospital Service Reserve which we thoroughly enjoyed. The courses were run by members of St John Ambulance. I remained a member of NHSR until it disbanded and was a member of the local competition team and have a trophy to prove it.

What stimulated your interest in the work of St John?

We were invited to receive our certificates at a meeting of the Mansfield Borough Nursing Division. We had a warm welcome and, hearing more about the history and work undertaken by the organisation we decided to join. My sister later took up nursing full time but as I was enjoying my career with The Boots Company I continued as a volunteer throughout my working life – a decision I have never regretted.

What is your current role in St John?

I am a member of the County Priory Group (CPG) for Nottinghamshire and have held the post of County Eye Hospital Representative for about 15 years. When I retire from this position in June 2019, I shall continue my association as a member of the Fellowship so I shall still be able to support the work of the Eye Hospital and St John Ambulance.

What was your proudest moment during your time with St John?

I am not sure about my proudest moment but I am proud of starting the first official County Cadet Camp when I was County Staff Officer (Cadets) and, with the help of a wonderful support team, continuing to run it for many years and then to hand over to one of my original campers who carried on to run it successfully for many more years. I know that it provided a wonderful experience for many

young people who gained skills and confidence during their time away from home and had a thoroughly enjoyable time whilst doing so. To see them develop gave me great satisfaction and pride and made all the hard work worthwhile. Incidentally, the present Chair of Nottinghamshire's CPG was one of my campers and I have certainly seen her make wonderful and well-deserved progress.

What have been some of your most interesting roles?

I have held numerous roles, moving up through the ranks to County Staff Officer (Cadets), then being appointed the first female County Commissioner for Nottinghamshire. My last uniformed position was that of County Commander – again the first female to hold the position in this county. I have been privileged to be a member of Chapter and a member of the national Honours and Awards Committee. Locally I was a member of the County Council Emergency Planning Committee for many years which was interesting and challenging particularly at the time of the Gulf War and the Millenium and when we undertook very realistic exercises with the emergency services.

What is the most interesting/exciting event you have attended and why?

There are so many it is difficult to single out one. Whether it be a Queen's Garden Party, dinner at the Guildhall, the centenary celebrations for the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem or the Hyde Park Tea Party for the centenary of St John Ambulance Brigade, when we transported a very large replica to the Major Oak to London, it is difficult to choose. Perhaps one of the most unusual events when I was County Commander was the dedication and "launch" of Nottinghamshire's second St John Crusader river cruiser in the middle of the market square (with no water in sight) in the presence of Her majesty's Lord-Lieutenant, some senior Chapter members and civic dignitaries, sailors from HMS Nottingham, buglers from the South Notts Hussars, St John Members and a large crowd of spectators. It certainly produced some excellent publicity. ●

Interviewed by Mike Cunvin, Priory News volunteer.

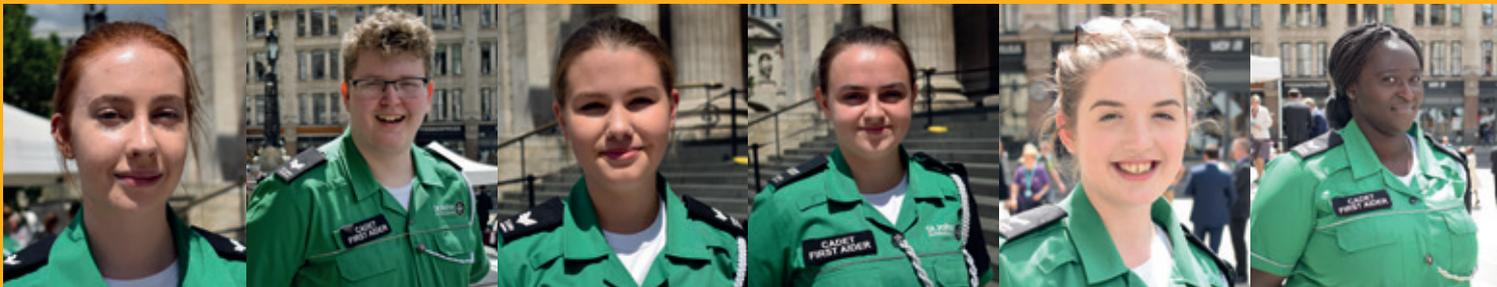


Very Smart!

The Colour Party, formed by members from Northumbria (North Region) representing everyone in the family of St John who wears a uniform. Their prominent position at the heart of our service in St Paul's Cathedral shows how important our volunteers are to the Organisation.

St John's Day 2019





At the Gate

With Keith Horsman and Keith Schnaar



Please introduce yourselves.

My Name is Keith Horsman and I am the Fellowship National Secretary at NHQ and my name is Keith Schnaar and I am the acting Deputy Fellowship National Secretary at NHQ and between us we run the National Fellowship office at St John's Gate.

You both volunteer here at the Gate, how long have you been doing that?

Keith Schnaar – I'm one of the guides at The Museum of the Order of St John and I show people around the main buildings at St John's Gate where the museum can be found.

Keith Horsman – I have been helping out in the Fellowship office since 2015.



July through to October. Last year he had five buckets of honey which is sold in half pound jars in the museum shop.

Tell us about your recent visit to Buckingham Palace.

We had a great afternoon. There were two bands playing one from the RAF and the other from the Royal Marines. The escort for the Queen was made up from members of the Yeomanry Guard who looked very colourful in their uniforms. You had to walk through the Palace to get to the gardens which was very special to see some of the things on display. There was plenty to eat and drink. We had a chance to walk around the Palace gardens which were amazing. His Royal Highness the Grand Prior was accompanying HM the Queen with other members of the Royal family. There were approximately 5,000 people present. It was an honour to represent the Fellowship at this event.



Keith Schnaar– are you officially the Priory Bee Keeper? The honey harvested and sold in the museum sells quickly doesn't it! How long is the process?

Yes – I am the official Beekeeper for the Priory and I will start harvesting the honey in

You also attended the Royal Hospital Chelsea's annual Founder's Day parade; how did that go?

We had a great time at the Annual Founders Day Parade. We met a large number of very interesting people including a number of Chelsea In Pensioners. The pensioners looked very smart in their red tunics and displaying their medals. They had not lost any of their marching skills as they marched passed, they looked amazing and very proud.

St John's Day is coming up – what are your plans for that and how does the Fellowship get involved?

The Fellowship gets involved by helping



the Priory Affairs team with all the behind the scenes arrangements. The Fellowship also supplies a team to carry the Fellowship Nation Standard on the Day. ●

Interviewed by Annie Victory

Care to contribute to *Priory News*?

If you have an interesting story to tell or have an article that would be of interest to our readers please complete a Priory News Submission Form and email it to Annie Victory at annie.victory@sja.org.uk or contact Annie at CPG National Office on **020 7324 4107**. Please make sure that you complete all the details required on the form and that photos are of the highest quality available. We are always looking for interesting photos with captions that are not time limited for our photo library. If you no longer wish to receive Priory News please contact Annie Victory and your details will be removed from our database.

Porsche puts the fun into fundraising



In Gloucestershire we have started fundraising again after the re-creation of the County Priory Group. It's always good to have a target to aim for and an idea to motivate people to support these campaigns.

As many will know – you often start with your nearest and dearest – areas that you are involved with personally or have particular affinity to. Richard Watling who is leading the work with GCPG chair Lady Walker is a classic sports car enthusiast and has been a director of the Porsche Club GB for some years. He noticed that the club was giving away lots of cups of very good coffee at its events and thought that this might be an opportunity to do some fundraising. The Club agreed to be a partner and allow us to attend some of their events to see what could be done. After a successful opening appearance at the Silverstone Classic in July where we learned how to approach members and engage their interest there was an opportunity to attend their Christmas get

together at the Bicester ex RAF station in one of their huge hangars. This time we took along "Sympathy" and she was a star of the show. During the half-day event we managed to raise £500 adding to the £1100 from Silverstone. Supported by several CPG members including President Caroline Penley the word was spread about the work of St John Ambulance and many friends were made. We hope this will be a partnership lasting 2- 3 years and with the demand for great coffee we should do well. Oh, and the ambition is to buy a multi purpose vehicle for training, outreach and fundraising to be used across the region. ●



Bedfordshire St John Ambulance Awards Ceremony

Bedfordshire County Priory Group held its annual awards ceremony on Wednesday 12th June 2019 at the Dunstable Community Fire Station by kind permission of the Chief Fire Officer, Paul Fuller. The ceremony was presided over by Anthony Duggan, CPG Chair with the Service Awards being presented to the volunteers by Mrs Helen Nellis CStJ, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire. The highest award, The Laurel Leaf, was presented to Stephen Nicholson for 52 years of service to St John. He received a standing ovation at the ceremony.

Grand Prior awards were presented by Ann Cable, Chief Commissioner, to four Cadets. 'Super Paw' awards were presented to four Badgers by Mary King, District Youth Lead and the 'Hours' awards were presented to the Adult Volunteers by Brian Heron-Edmends, District Manager.

The ceremony was also attended by: The High Sheriff of Bedfordshire Mrs Meryl Dolling, The Regional Director, Jon Knight, Rebecca Dawson, District HR, Area Manager, Matt Stephens, CPG Members, the volunteers and their families. ●



The Right Worshipful Brother Philip Wills, Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire presents the keys of the new Support Unit to Diana Crabtree, West Midlands County President.



District Cycle Response Officer Kieran Harrison explains the role of the Unit to (L to R) Mike Saxon Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire, Eric Rymer, Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire, Philip Wills Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire, Diana Crabtree County President and Ian Smith Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire & Shropshire with District Manager Chris Houghton at the rear.

West Midlands hosts double dedication celebration

The West Midlands CPG was the proud host to not one but two 'dedication' celebrations at a combined service on 3rd June at the charity's new Union Park facility. The event firstly saw the presentation and dedication of a new support unit generously donated by the combined local Provinces of the Mark Master Masons followed by the dedication of the Union Park facility itself.

Staff and volunteers joined distinguished guests including the Lord-Lieutenant for the West Midlands, the High Sheriff for the West Midlands, the Deputy Mayor of Sandwell and representatives of the Mark Master Masons from the Provinces of Staffordshire and Shropshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. CPG Chair Keith Hunter explained that the Order of St John was an ancient Christian Order of chivalry and the services paid homage its historical roots whereby buildings and other major assets, like the new Support Unit were 'dedicated' to the calling and charitable work of the Order of St John.

Keith Hunter opened proceedings by welcoming everyone explaining that the new Support Unit had been especially kitted out for use by the Districts cycle response team. He explained the vital role the unit would play in expanding the capability of the team and the work they did at large dispersed events. He concluded by offering the profound thanks of all in St John for the ongoing generosity shown by the Mark Master Masons nationally before inviting the Right Worshipful Brother Philip Wills, Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire to present the keys of the Unit to Diana Crabtree the

County President. After the presentation the ceremony continued with the dedication of the vehicle by the Rev. Canon Dr. Mark Pryce, West Midlands County Chaplain.

Keith Hunter next introduced the dedication service for the Union Park facility saying that the new facility was an excellent example of how, whilst St. John may have its roots in history it is today a modern, progressive charity looking to provide first class facilities and resources to equip its many thousands of volunteers and staff with the skills and support they require to help meet the charities vision. He explained the facility was a multi-purpose, multi-use

Admissions and promotions

The Queen has been graciously pleased to sanction the following Promotions in, and Admissions to, the Most Venerable Order of The Hospital of St John of Jerusalem

For Appointment To Grade II (Knight Or Dame)

Roger William Jacob
Judith Kathleen, Mrs Wright

For Appointment to Grade III (Commander)

Griselda Mary, Mrs Clothier

For Appointment to Grade IV (Officer)

Alan Codling
Patricia Ann, Miss Griffin
David John Hallett
Colonel Christopher Young

For Appointment to Grade V (Member)

Catheryn Sarah Louise, Captain Adcock
Ralph Maurice Ashwood
Holly Jean, Miss Barfield
Deborah-ann Felicity Jane, Mrs Cocks
Alan Cooper
George D'arcy
John Francis Fallon
Karl Heydenrych
Barrie John Hill
Patricia, Mrs Jenkins
Mark Perryman
David James Taylor
Deborah, Ms West

John Morley Presentation



CPG Chair Keith Hunter addresses guests, staff and volunteers at the presentation and dedication of the new Support Unit.

building that has required the largest financial commitment ever made by the charity. It was a tangible example of the strategic direction of travel of the charity providing fewer but real 'state of the art' hubs across the country bringing together the many aspects of the charity's work. He explained the facility provided a home for a range of national and regional support functions, a centre for ambulance operations, a training centre not only for volunteers but for significant numbers of employees sent on workplace training courses and in the evenings, it was the meeting place for local volunteer Units. He concluded by saying how it

demonstrated the breadth and depth of what St John did in supporting communities, keeping people safe and responding in times of need.

After the presentation and dedication's, the guests were invited to inspect the new unit, to view demonstrations by the cycle response team and undertake a tour of the facility talking to staff and crews about their work before coming together for refreshments. ●



(L to R) Christopher Houghton District Manager, Ann Cable Chief Commissioner, Eric Rymer, Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire, Philip Wills Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire, Ian Smith Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire & Shropshire, Mike Saxon Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire, Jon Crabtree OBE H.M. Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands.



John, Anne, Philip and Linda thoroughly enjoying the happy occasion in Scarborough on 30th March 2019.

John Morley, Knight of Grace of the Order of St John retired on St John's Day.

Due to the deterioration of his Parkinson's disease he was unable to attend the formal presentation of his Commendation for Excellent Service from Regional Director, Simon Dunn.

His wife Anne also retired as Regional Coordinator North for St John Fellowship at the same time and they are settled in retirement in Scarborough.

It was a privilege then for the County President Revd Philip Carrington and his wife Linda to travel to Scarborough to make the official presentation. It also enabled Linda to take over as County Coordinator St John Fellowship for North Yorkshire & Teesside which Anne had also been.

Anne's large bouquet of flowers were already in a vase!

John joined St John as a Cadet in 1951 and served successively as Divisional Officer, Instructor, County Staff Officer, Area Commissioner, Deputy and then County Commissioner, finally as Secretary in North Yorkshire & Teesside to the County Priory Group and Honours and Awards Committee. He was made a Knight of Grace in 2002.

Simon Dunn passed on a message to John: "You are genuinely welcome to this award and I can only reiterate our thanks for all your sterling work. I trust you are enjoying our early spring and a well-earned retirement". ●

Mary gets a gong!



Mary Nunn – Devon County Priory Group Member and Fellowship Member.

Proud volunteer receives a British Empire Medal after four decades of selfless St John service.

It was all smiles for Devon volunteer Mary Nunn last week, after she was recognised with a British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

The busy 78-year-old – whose husband David is also a volunteer – has been part of St John's Minehead and Tiverton Units, and is now a member of the charity's Devon County Priory Group (CPG) and Fellowship.

"It's very nice to have been nominated," said Mary. "I think my biggest achievement was getting a public access defibrillator installed in the village and training people in how to use it. We live in a rural village – seven miles from the nearest town – so a defib could save someone's life."

Mary joined St John Ambulance in 1978, when she organised first aid training for staff at Hinkley Point nuclear power station. She also spent 14 years as a youth leader, training many teenagers in life-saving skills.

"St John's Cadets are the charity's future," she said. "Even if they don't stay with us as volunteers forever, what's important is that they will use first aid in their everyday lives."

In recent years, Mary and David additionally served as a Community First Responder, providing medical assistance to patients following 999 emergency calls.

These days, Mary's primary St John role is as the Devon's CPG Eye Hospital Representative, raising money for the Order of St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. And she knows from experience that the money she raises is well spent. In 2013, Mary and David visited the hospital to see its vital work first hand.

Congratulations Mary! ●



Sussex CPG Member Awards

The Sussex CPG welcomes over 125 guests at their recent Member Awards evening, where HM Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex Mr Peter Field, High Sheriff of East Sussex Violet Hancock, and High Sheriff of West Sussex Davina Irwin Clark, joined District Manager Trevor Moss, CPG Chair Dan May-Jones, and Sussex President Caroline Lucas, in awarding awards for long service, volunteers hours, Super Badgers and Grand Prior Awards.



High Sheriff of East Sussex Mrs Violet Hancock and Volunteer Tegan Betsworth.



Volunteer Caroline Lucas and HM Lord-Lieutenant Mr Peter Field.



HM Lord-Lieutenant Mr Peter Field and Volunteer Mike Jones.



High Sheriff of West Sussex Mrs Davina Irwin-Clark and Volunteer Andrew Huett.



Front Row from Left to Right: Becky Clarke Team Manager NHSBT; James Puxley, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire; Madam Mayor of The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Councillor Mrs Sayonara Luxton; Clive Lawson Smith Berkshire CPG Chair and Lucy Zeal, High Sheriff Berkshire.

Back Row from Left to Right: Rachel Clare, NHSBT; Hannah Bartlett-Syree, NHSBT; The Reverend Canon Graham Foulis Brown, Berkshire County Chaplain; Bob Windsor, NHSBT; Alison Salmon, NHSBT; Bethan Thomas, NHSBT; Ben Tichband, Berkshire CPG; Diana Balfour Evans, Berkshire CPG; Gareth Greenwood, District Manager, North District, London and South Region St John Ambulance; Ian Mean, Chair NHSBT Gloucestershire; Paul Andreianu, Area President Windsor, St John Ambulance; Richard Carlton, President Rotary Club of Windsor and Eton.

The Order of St John Award for Organ Donation Ceremony for Berkshire, Gloucester and Oxfordshire

Berkshire County Priory Group hosted this years Organ Donation Awards ceremony also representing the CPG's of Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire.

The event was hosted in partnership with NHS Blood & Transplant and held at the impressive Windsor Guildhall, where Prince Charles was married to Camilla Parker Bowles in April 2005. NHSBT had invited a number of recipients and families and in total 80 recipients, family members and other guests attended a moving and emotional evening. The gift of life through organ donation given by the recipients families is one of the most precious things any person can do.

The event was hosted by the Chair of Berkshire County Priory Group, Clive Lawson Smith and the Secretary to the CPG, Diana Balfour Evans. Given the importance of the event the Chair was grateful to have Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire, James Puxley, The High Sheriff of Berkshire, Lucy Zeal and The Worshipful The Mayor of The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Councillor Mrs Sayonara Luxton as support, together with the Reverend Canon Graham Foulis Brown, Berkshire County Chaplain.

There were speeches from Clive Lawson Smith, Chris Winearls, Consultant Nephrologist from the Oxford Kidney Unit at Churchill Hospital and HM Lord-Lieutenant James Puxley. These speeches were applauded by the guests and created part of a special, if emotional, evening for the guests and families.

James Puxley and Lucy Zeal, High Sheriff then handed out the Awards and Citations to exceptionally grateful recipients. Following this the Reverend Canon Graham Foulis Brown gave us the benefit of a Reflection, catching the mood of the room perfectly.

Following this moving service, the guests were able to take refreshments to various tables where all the dignitaries and CPG members visited in turn to speak to each of the families, often listening to the fond memories shared of the loved donors.

The evening could not have been possible without the financial support and hard work of many people who are all mentioned in the Order of Service. ●

St John Historical Society Programme 2019

A TRIP TO THE COAST: INTERWAR FIRST AID ON THE ROADS AND THE BEACH

Thursday 19th September at 7.00pm

Professor Barry Doyle (University of Huddersfield) and Dr. Rosemary Cresswell (University of Hull)

St John Ambulance established first aid huts and posts on the roads and at the seaside, and the counties south of London were particularly busy areas for accidents. This presentation will explore the role of first aiders in the period before the NHS, and will bring some of the skills they performed to life with re-enactments. (Rosemary and Barry have been supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council for their research on the history of first aid in Britain and France between 1909 and 1989).

THE JONATHAN RILEY-SMITH MEMORIAL LECTURE

Wednesday 16th October at 7.00pm

The Hospitallers in Medieval Britain: champions, churches and charity

Professor Helen Nicholson (University of Cardiff)

Professor Nicholson is an internationally renowned authority on the history of the Order. Helen will focus on two particular sources: the report produced by Grand Prior Philip de Thame on papal instructions in 1338 and sent to Grand Master Hélon de Villeneuve on Rhodes, and Brother John Stillingflete's list of properties and patrons from 1434. The talk will be about what these records tell us about the Hospitallers' relations with their patrons and their spiritual and charitable contribution to medieval society.

JOINT LECTURE WITH THE ORDER OF MALTA

Thursday 14th November at 7.00pm

The Knights Hospitaller in the British Isles from the 12th century to 1540

Michael Hodges (Chancellor of the British Association of SMOM)

Michael is the author of The Knights Hospitaller in Great Britain in 1540. He will talk about the survey of the Houses and Churches of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, including those earlier belonging to the Knights Templar.

The Society thanks all those participating speakers for their services and would encourage them where appropriate to consider having their talk published by the Society with the speaker's agreement.

Meetings of the Society are held in the Chapter Hall at St John's Gate unless otherwise specified. ●



Cadets and their managers from Bournebrook and Birmingham Central Units join CPG members and VIP guests at the ceremony. left to right, 4th from left Mr. Keith Hunter – CPG Chair, Mr. Chris Houghton – District manager, Rev Canon Mark Pryce – County Chaplain, Mr John Crabtree OBE – Lord-Lieutenant, Mr. Jon Mannion – CPG Secretary, Mrs. Diana Crabtree – County President, Mr Alan Grigg – Area President, Mrs. Elizabeth Watts – Fellowship Representative, Mr. Mark Worton – CPG Member, Mrs Janet Catto – CPG member, Col Heidi Doughty – Past President, Miss Alisha Rehan – District Cadet, Mr. Steven Liggins – CPG Event Manager, Mr. John Mills – County Vice President.

West Midlands Organ Donors Honoured in moving Ceremony

Over 100 invited guests came together to share an emotional but uplifting ceremony on the 19th June at St Martins in the Bullring Church, Birmingham to present the Order of St John Award for Organ Donation. The award is presented posthumously to the families of loved ones who saved or greatly improved people’s lives through organ donation.

Twenty-one families who gave the ultimate ‘gift of life’ chose to receive the award personally at the private award ceremony. The awards were presented by Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Mr. John Crabtree OBE. Mr. Crabtree was supported in making the presentations by his wife Diana, who is also the County President. The Award, displaying the words ‘add life, give hope’ and a certificate of recognition was presented to each family group by the Lord-Lieutenant who attended them at their tables at the ceremony with quite words and sincere thanks for the great gift that they had chosen to give at a particularly difficult time in their lives. In view of the high number of families attending the Lord-Lieutenant was assisted at the ceremony by Col. Heidi Doughty OBE, immediate past President for St John in the West Midlands.

Mr. Keith Hunter, Chair of the West Midlands Metropolitan County Priory opened the evening expressing how immensely proud the Order was to instigate the Award to recognise the act of organ donation assuring families that the award was given with the greatest of sincerity. Before presenting the awards, the Lord-Lieutenant lit the ‘candle of remembrance’ from which personal candles for each family (sponsored by the CPG members) were lit as each award was made.

After an address from the Lord-Lieutenant the Rev. Canon Mark Pryce, County Chaplain led CPG members, local SJA cadets and guests in “readings from family letters” – a moving tribute from letters sent by donor recipients and their families, whose lives had been saved or dramatically changed by organ donation. With a further address from Zahid Khan. Clinical Lead for Organ Donation Queen Elizabeth NHS Foundation Trust the evening closed with a one-minute silence to honour all who had donated organs so that others could live.

Speaking afterwards Keith Hunter said: “We’re delighted to be able to work with NHS Blood and Transplant to run the Organ Donor Awards for a seventh year. Organ donation so clearly saves lives and it is so vitally important to say thank you to the families whose loved ones have donated their organs to save others. With some 6000 people nationally waiting on the organ donor list for a transplant and 400 dying each year before they receive a transplant its vital that we do all we can to support and encourage organ donation. These donors and their families have carried out an inspirational act to help others to live. We hope the example they have set will encourage many more to follow in their footsteps and become organ donors.” ●



The Lord-Lieutenant starts the award ceremony by lighting the central candle of remembrance from which personal family candles were lit as each award was made.



Families and invited guests gather in the magnificent surroundings of St Martins in the Bullring in central Birmingham for the Award ceremony.

The Fellowship National Standard Party at St Pauls Cathedral

This is the Fellowship National Standard party on St John's Day at St Paul's Cathedral.

From Left to Right – Jane Stafford, Duncan Stafford and Ruth Joyce who represented the Fellowship from Summerset.

They looked very smart and were a credit to the Fellowship.



Seated are the Lord-Lieutenant, and High sheriff with SJA members. Standing are The Mayor and Mayoress also with SJA Members.



Seen here from left to right are two specialist nurses with NHSBT Nurse Manager Alison Galloway Turner and Ivan Palmer County Priory Group Chair and County President.

The Order of St John Award for Organ Donation presented to families in Cambridgeshire

Over fifty people including twelve donor families, local dignitaries, St John County Priory Group members and St John Ambulance volunteers attended an organ donor Award ceremony in Peterborough Town Hall.

Chris Ash, Mayor of Peterborough, welcomed everyone to the Town Hall, and said how please he was to be invited to host this event for the 4th year in succession.

NHS Blood and Transplant Specialist Nurse Manager Alison Galloway Turner gave details of the tremendous effect donors have made on the lives of 1000s of people across the country, and how more donors are urgently required to meet current and future needs.

The Very Revd Chris Dalliston Dean of

Peterborough and County Chaplin, said "In times of a great loss it is very brave to agree the donation of a loved ones organs to benefit others, and I am sure what ever faith you may have helps to console you at this very emotional time".

Lord-Lieutenant Mrs Julie Spence presented families with their Awards and Citations spending time with each, and said "Of all the duties I undertake each year I consider this to be the most moving. I thank

you all for making the decision to donate and wish you well".

As the Lord-Lieutenant spoke with families and presented their Awards and Citations, the Cambridgeshire Cadet of the Year gave each family a small lit candle as a memento of the occasion. The families greatly appreciated this gesture and thanked the Cadet of the Year. ●



Far left is Colonel (Retd) Bob Carruthers OBE MSJ TD, Col (Retd) Andy Taylor OBE DL is second from the left, CPG Chair Herefordshire is third from the left, Major General (Retd) Mark Armstrong MStJ JP DL, CPG Chair Worcestershire, is fifth from the left, and Lt Col (Retd) Philip Saunders OSJ TD JP is centre.

Herefordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire Donor Event

Warwickshire and Worcestershire County Priory Groups hosted this year's Order of St John Award for Organ Donation ceremony at Alderson House in Warwick. Thirteen donor families attended the ceremony along with Vice Lord-Lieutenant Lady Morrison, Michael Fetherston-Dilke and guests from St John and NHS Blood and Transplant. The event was kindly sponsored by The Shakespeare Lodge.



The High Sherriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire Community Service Awards

I am delighted to tell of The High Sherriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire Community Service Awards for 2019 which, this year, was held in Hull's historic and splendid Trinity House. These awards were presented in recognition of the personal commitment and public service given to the community in East Yorkshire over the year.

We were delighted that Chris and Sarah Davies have each this year been presented with an Award, and it was good to publically say "thank you" to them for their unstinted ongoing service through St John Ambulance, and for them to represent our members throughout the County of the East Riding of Yorkshire. Recognition of the service and commitment of our Cadets was also included in the awards ceremony... Especially important this year as there had been a couple of serious incidents where Cadets had played an important role in incident management. In recognition of her commitment and service to St John, our Cadet of the Year Fern Berkley was presented with a High Sherriff's Award.



These awards come "out of the blue" to our members, and expressing the surprise of Chris and herself, Sarah said "When it first arrived we were both very confused and thought that someone had sent it is a joke or an error so I contacted a few people to see if they knew anything about it and see if other people had also received them and was confused that we were the only ones to receive it or seem to know anything about it. The afternoon itself was lovely. We've never been to an awards ceremony like this, or in to the building it was held in, and we weren't really sure what to expect, however we really enjoyed hearing everyone's stories of why they were there and what they had done. To be recognised and stand up next to the other people receiving awards was very humbling as they were an incredible group of people who had achieved so much in

their fields, and it was an honour that people would think that we deserved the same level of recognition."

Fern had a similar experience. "It was a complete surprise when I received the letter through the post. I read the invitation aloud to my Mum which unveiled I had been awarded by the High Sheriff. We were both speechless and stunned. However, we were kept guessing, it wasn't until the ceremony that I found out why I was awarded (my dedication and

hard work within St John Ambulance Youth as well as gaining the title of District Cadet of the Year 2019). This made the occasion even more special - as before I received my award, a short paragraph was read before everyone. The ceremony was held at Hull Trinity House which blew me away by its beauty and the High Sheriff herself was beyond outstanding. The day will be a memory I treasure fondly for eternity."

On behalf of the Priory and St John Ambulance, it is my pleasure to congratulate these members on receiving the 2019 High Sherriff's Awards and thanking the Debbie Rosenberg, the High Sherriff for the East Riding of Yorkshire 2018/9 for recognising the fantastic service and commitment of all of our members through the presentation to Chris, Sarah and Fern. ●

Ralph Marshall, Chair – Humber Priory Group



Left to right: Alan Weir – Unit Leader, Vale & West Unit, Innes Mason – Chair, Oxfordshire County Priory Group, His Honour Ian Alexander QC, Provincial Grand Master, Ian Wright, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Paul Benham, Provincial Grand Treasurer, Barry Prior, Provincial Grand Deputy Secretary and Ray Harrison, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Another Vehicle Presented by the Mark Master Masons

St John Ambulance in Oxfordshire are very fortunate to have been donated a new Mobile Treatment Centre by the Province of Mark Master Masons of Oxfordshire.

The Treatment Centre was presented at a ceremony in the spring by His Honour Ian Alexander QC, Provincial Grand Master, accompanied by several other representatives of the Province. He said "I am delighted to formerly hand over the keys to this very impressive new Mobile Treatment Centre to the Chair of the Oxfordshire County Priory Group and the Unit Leader of Vale and West Unit, Oxfordshire. It makes me and all Mark Master Masons both here in Oxfordshire and elsewhere feel very proud of the

achievements of the Mark Benevolent Fund in being able to support St John Ambulance. I am aware all the volunteers are fulfilling a very worthwhile cause in caring for others and they should all feel very proud of the magnificent work they do."

The Treatment Centre will be available to be used by all units in Oxfordshire and is expected to be in use over the wider Region. In fact the first event took place the day following the presentation. ●



The Bailiff of Egle and members of the Order of St John at the Durham Cathedral North District Rededication.

North District Rededication

On Sunday 2 June 2019 the North District Rededication took place in the beautiful Durham Cathedral. The event was made exceptional by the St John Ambulance Brigade VI Northern District First World War memorial, and to mark its presence in the Cathedral, the Prior was represented by The Bailiff of Egle.

About three hundred people attended, including Badgers, Cadets, and Durham St John Fellowship, all having flag parties bearing their standard; Members of the Order, friends and family members; the Mayors of twenty five local towns and the Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, Mrs Susan Snowdon OSTJ.

Three relatives of those who had died in St John Ambulance uniform in WW1 were present. Professor Douglas Davies MSTJ FBA, who enjoys great affection in County Durham, preached an engaging sermon. Revd Barnaby Huish was installed at the Service by the Priory Dean to take his place as Chaplain. Many people found the occasion memorable and warmly convivial. ●



The Order Dean, Nicholas Frayling, installs the new Chaplain of County Durham, Barnaby Huish.



Left to right: Stephen Frost – CPG Chair, Mary Buck – County Hospitalier, Ann Cable – Chief Commissioner, Sam Rogers – District Events Lead, Angus Campbell – HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset, Carole Lawrence-Parr – County President, Lee Dominy – Shaftesbury Unit and Claire Dominy – Shaftesbury Unit Manager.



Shaftesbury Unit Manager Claire Dominy and HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset Angus Campbell.

90th Anniversary celebrations in Dorset

St Peter’s Church, Shaftesbury, situated at the top of the town’s famously steep and cobbled Gold Hill, was the venue, on Sunday 5th May, for a service to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the formation of a St John unit in the town.

The Shaftesbury unit, and in particular the Unit Manager Claire Dominey, and the Dorset County Priory Group had organised this event and were delighted to welcome Angus Campbell, HM Lord-Lieutenant for Dorset, and Chief Commissioner Ann Cable as guests of honour for the celebrations, together with District Manager Alex Thompson and many other members of the St John family from across the county.

The service, which was conducted by the County Chaplain Rev. Jane Culliford, included the enrolment of new badgers and cadets into the Shaftesbury units who will hopefully form the basis of St John’s continued involvement with the town for another 90 years.

The Shaftesbury Unit President, Derek Beer, presented a short history of the unit in the town including a description of a road traffic accident in 1928 where the unfortunate casualty had to be transported to the nearest hospital in the back of a bakers van due to the fact that the town had no other suitable vehicle. This prompted the Shaftesbury townsfolk to not only set up a St John



Ambulance Brigade division but also raise funds to purchase their own ambulance.

Although that vehicle has long since gone the Shaftesbury unit were delighted that ‘Sympathy’ was part of a display of vehicles in front of the church along with one of the



new Mark Mason Treatment Centres and a 4x4 response vehicle.

Whilst the congregation were attending to the Pro Fides part of our motto in church, the Pro Utilitate Hominum element was also being maintained by Jon Ashworth, the St John Bournemouth Unit Manager and the on-duty first aider for the afternoon, who was kept busy tending to a member of the public who presented themselves to the treatment centre during the course of the service.

Following the service a celebratory tea was held in the Town Hall where the Shaftesbury unit had gathered and arranged a fantastic display of photographs and other memorabilia commemorating St John Shaftesbury’s history and relationship with the town.

The event was a great success, and everyone is looking forward to doing it all again in 2029 for the centenary! ●

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