



St John



The Commandery of Ards

**St John
Ambulance**



A charitable company limited by guarantee

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Whilst every effort is made to provide totally accurate information, no responsibility is taken for inaccuracies and omissions contained herein.

Foreword



As Knight Commander of the Commandery of Ards, I am delighted to have the privilege, once again, to welcome you to the St John Directory.

I take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Order, volunteers of St John Ambulance throughout Northern Ireland, staff and trainers based at Erne and elsewhere, together with family, friends and stakeholders, for their continuing support of the work of the Order and its foundations in the province.

Our annual service of re-dedication was held on 9 June 2013 in Ballywillan Presbyterian Church in Portrush. Particular thanks go to our chaplaincy team, led so well by Rev Dr Gordon Gray and the Rt Rev Dr Gordon McMullan.

On 22 May 2013 I presided at the annual investiture and award ceremony at Hillsborough Castle. We were honoured by the presence of the Lord Prior, Professor Anthony Mellows, who kindly agreed to conduct the investiture. Mrs Elizabeth Mellows also attended. It was a pleasure for me to welcome the newly appointed members of the Order present and to meet all the volunteers who received medals and bars marking individual voluntary service to our first aid and ambulance service.

On 21 May 2013 the Lord Prior and Mrs Mellows attended a dinner held in the Culloden Hotel to mark the tremendous service given to St John by Dr Wilson Clarke, who retired as Lieutenant and Chairman of St John Ambulance (NI) on 31 December 2012. Those attending represented all sectors of St John in Northern Ireland, together with guests from the St John Ambulance Brigade of Ireland and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

On 3 March 2013 I was delighted to open splendid new premises for Enniskillen Division at Lackaboy. Rev Canon Walter Quill performed the dedication, while Mrs Angela Thompson and Mrs Pam Gunn welcomed visitors on behalf of the Area and Division respectively.

On 16 November 2012 I hosted my annual reception at Erne. This is an occasion which I enjoy immensely, as it gives me the opportunity to pay tribute to those volunteers who have performed outstanding service for St John Ambulance.

On this occasion we also welcomed two educators from Cyprus. These ladies were with St John in Belfast for a week, during which time they observed the activities of the training department, toured the facilities at HQT division and accompanied our volunteers at Belfast City Hall for the switching on of the festive lights for Christmas. For those who are not already aware, the Commandery of Ards is twinned with St John in Cyprus and we offer St John on that island support and advice on first aid matters.

Report of the Chairman – St. John Ambulance (NI)



I have pleasure in presenting my second report as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St John Ambulance (NI). As I have emphasised in the past, the Board has responsibility for determining the strategic direction of the charitable company, particularly public first aid training and operational activities.

Our thrust remains as follows, namely, to render the organisation more fit for purpose:

- Raising standards in first aid and ambulance training
- Strengthening IT to support a growing volume of work
- Reviewing property needs to deliver cost effective services province wide
- Implementing clear policies to comply with our regulated internal and external environment
- Continuing emphasis on delivery of public benefit.

In practice this means that the Board is directing funds and resources towards support of training for ambulance drivers, improving first aid skills and the development of leadership skills.

An IT company has been retained to develop all our requirements in IT and on the internet. The benefits of this initiative will begin to emerge in the autumn of 2013.

New premises have been commissioned for Portadown, Enniskillen and Londonderry. Other property needs will be addressed on the basis of the development of operational hubs.

Work continues on the formulation of policies which will be promulgated in due course through our new websites.

The past year has been busy and challenging. During 2012 around 4,000 students benefited from formal training on statutory first aid at work and related courses. In addition a diversified range of other courses were delivered by the training department to the general public.

Our 893 adult volunteers treated 1,649 casualties, which represented delivery of a major public benefit at no cost to those treated.

The financial results showed an increase in overall income of 3%. Costs of charitable activities rose by 8%, reflecting our commitment to the delivery and enhancement of our charitable mission in spite of a difficult economic climate.

I wish to place on record my commendation of the dedication of volunteers and staff to St John. It is only through this commitment that the charity continues to prosper and lead the field in first aid services and training.

C T Hogg MBE UD JP DL

The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital

The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is the only charitable provider of eye care in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, where rates of blindness are ten times higher than in the West. Over 100,000 patients are treated annually.

The first Eye Hospital was established in Jerusalem in 1882. It was replaced by the present hospital in 1960. Since then satellite centres have been opened, taking expert eye care to the people of Gaza, Hebron and Anabta. Two mobile outreach clinics are in operation, bringing vital services to those unable to travel easily.

Training local doctors and nurses is also an essential objective. In training local people, St John invests in the region and helps to rebuild its fractured infrastructure.

The Hospital is a peace orientated organization, advocating strong interfaith relationships. Its supporters include both Jewish and Muslim individuals and institutions. All patients who are in need are treated regardless of ethnicity, religion or ability to pay.



St John Eye Hospital.

Commandery Officer Reports



Hospitaller's Report

This is my first report as Hospitaller. I am delighted to report that in 2012 the Commandery of Ards raised £16,000 to assist the Hospital Group with their provision of eye care to those in need across the Palestinian territories. Everyone associated with the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group have expressed their warmest gratitude for our continued enthusiasm and support. Your contributions to this work are vital. On behalf of those patients who have received the priceless gift of sight, may I thank all the volunteers, members of the Order and the Fellowship who have helped to raise funds for this most worthy of causes. Your generous and sacrificial giving at a time of financial austerity is most admirable and is a practical outworking of the mottoes of the Order *For the Faith and for the Service of Humanity*.

You will all be aware of the conflict which took place in November 2012 resulting in very difficult circumstances for staff members their families and patients attending the Eye Hospital and the clinics in Gaza and the West Bank. Currently the ceasefire between factions in Gaza and Israel is holding, which has allowed attention to be refocused on the proposed state-of-the-art Day Hospital which has been given the green light to proceed by both the Municipality of Gaza and the Ministry of Health, with a target of taking possession of this new facility during 2014.

In 2008 the Clinic treated 17,000 outpatients, and this had spiralled to 24,000 by 2012. Similarly major surgical operations increased from 282 to 1,136 over the same period. These statistics reflect the wonderful achievements of the Hospital staff in what is currently an inadequate facility to meet the needs. It is all the more remarkable given the conflict situation which pertained between Gaza and Israel during the last quarter of 2012.

An evening of choral music with Capella Caecilliana was held in Hillsborough Castle on Thursday, 30 May 2013. This was a joint fundraising event with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, with the proceeds being donated to the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem (one of the foundations supported by the Commandery of Ards) and the Maternity Hospital in Bethlehem (supported by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta).

May I personally express my thanks to all of you who have supported the Eye Hospital and encourage you to continue to do so. By extending the hand of friendship to those in need, you have added your contribution to help hold this world together. Thank you.

L Murray MBE

Your legacy is priceless...



Continue your support for St. John Ambulance
by including a legacy in your will.

We rely on donations, gifts and legacies to carry out our work.

Please help us if you can.

For further advice telephone the Commandery Secretary or ask your solicitor.

Telephone (028) 9079 9393 Website: www.ni.sja.org.uk



**Caring
for Life**



Librarian's Report

Acquisitions. I continue to receive many papers, reports, certificates, books, brochures, programmes, uniforms and other ephemera, which are indexed and put away in the collection.

Banner of the late Colonel Cotton. The personal banner of the late Bailiff Grand Cross, Colonel Bertrand Cotton, has been presented to the Commandery by his family. It hangs in the corridor leading to the Commandery Room.

Diamond Jubilee of Commandery. A dinner was held in the Culloden Hotel on 16 June 2012 to mark the 60th anniversary of the revival of the Commandery in 1952. To mark the occasion Mr James Allison from the Sovereign Military Order of Malta presented the Knight Commander with a historical book *The Irish Crusade*¹. This book has been added to the library.

New Commanderies of Bailiwick of Jersey, Bailiwick of Guernsey and Isle of Man. The Commandery presented suitably inscribed books to the three new Commanderies on the occasion of their inauguration.

Visit of Librarian of Western Australia. The Librarian of the Commandery of Western Australia, Harry Oxer, visited Erne on 15 October 2012. He presented a plaque of the Commandery. He was much interested in the Commandery sword, having written a monograph on the Order's swords of jurisdiction.



Fellowship. The Knight Commander hosted a reception for the Fellowship on 17 October 2012 in the Braid Museum, Ballymena. Thirty members were present. The NI Representative on the Central Committee, Jim Lilley, presented the Knight Commander with a diamond jubilee plate of the Order of the British Empire marking the 60th anniversary of the coronation of the Queen. The plate is on permanent display.

Castleboy. Probate has still not been settled since the owner, Kevin Smith, died in 2008. The site has been designated for preservation, so its disposal requires the approval of DoE. No preservation work can be carried out until a new owner takes occupation. The monument continues to be visited periodically by the DoE warden, who reports on its (deteriorating) condition.

J W Hughes OBE

¹*The Irish Crusade* by Niall Byrne KM – A history of the Knights Hospitaller, the Knights Templar and the Knights of Malta, in the South-East of Ireland. 470pp. Published 2007 by Linden Publishing, Dublin.

**St John
Ambulance**



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- Emergency First Aid at Work
- AED (Defibrillator) Operator
- Principles of Moving and Handling
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FAW and Emergency First Aid courses have been approved by CITB for grant assistance to levy paying companies.

Tel: **028 9079 9393**

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Email: **districthq@ni.sja.org.uk**

Registered with the Health & Safety Executive (NI)

St John Ambulance (NI)

Incorporation

St John Ambulance was incorporated on 31 August 2000 as a company limited by guarantee with no share capital (NI 39213) and recognised as a charity by the Inland Revenue (XR 38256). Members of Commandery Chapter can elect to become members of the charitable company.

Objects

The objects of St John Ambulance (NI) include the management of the assets of the Commandery of Ards as vested in the charitable company and to support the work of the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem and St John Ambulance, in the training of persons in first aid at work and the provision of first aid, care and ambulance services to the public.

Trustees

The directors of the company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and are referred to collectively as trustees. As at 24 June 2013, the trustees were as follows:

C T Hogg MBE (Chairman)
Mrs M Andrews OBE WD JP DL BSc (Hons) PGDICE
Sir William Hall KCVO
J W Hughes OBE
C Murdock MHSM DipHSM MCMI
M A Taylor FRCS
A L Thompson
J A Williams

Secretary and Company Secretary

Ms H R Patton BA FCA

Staff

Amanda Kerr ACA	Finance Assistant (P/T)
Anne McSpadden	Course Co-Ordinator
Alison Stephens	Finance Assistant
Heather Shields	Administrative Assistant
Joan Bennison	Administrative Assistant (p/t)
Keith Smith SRN RMN	Training Manager
Kerri Grieve	Administrative Assistant (p/t)
Margaret Turner	Finance Officer
Paul Geraghty MA BSc	Operations Support Officer (Compliance)
Susan Conn	Assistant Operations Secretary
Tony Logan	Sales Officer

St John Ambulance Operations

Dr Maureen Howie MBE MB DA. FFSRH holds the volunteer role of District President, St John Ambulance.

Commissioner & Emergency Planning Officer John A Williams, RGN ENP,
6 Killowen Grange, Lisburn, BT28 3HQ.
Tel: 028 9260 2773.
Email: john@williams1639.freeserve.co.uk

District Staff

Medical Officer Mr Mark A Taylor, MB BCh BAO PhD FRCSI
FRCS(ENG) FRCS (GEN),
39 Village Green, Doagh, Ballyclare, BT39 0UD.
Tel: 028 9334 4449.
Email: m.taylor@doctors.org.uk or
mailto: mark.taylor@ni.sja.org.uk

Deputy Medical Officer Dr Paul W Miller, MD, DMH, MRCPsych
(on leave of absence)

Defibrillation Controller Dr Tom G Trouton, MD BSc FRCP,
Consultant Cardiologist, Antrim Hospital,
85 Bush Road, Antrim, BT41 2RL.

Nursing Officer Miss Sadie Greer, MBE, SRN SCM,
4 Cloyne Crescent, Monkstown, Newtownabbey,
BT37 0HH. Tel: 028 9086 0645.
Mobile: 0771 9784050. Email: sg_sjani@hotmail.com

Ambulance Officer Eddie J Shanks, PA REMT AMILM,
5 Thornhill Gardens, Ballyclare, BT39 9RF.
Tel: 028 9334 9763. Mobile 078359 42747.
Email: eddiejshanks@sky.com

Asst Ambulance Officer Tom McGarey, CMIPD, Dip ED, MA Ed, SRPara,
10 Meadow Mews, Ballygowan, Newtownards,
BT23 5XT. Tel: 07979541635

Training Officer Vacant

NORTHERN AREA

Area Staff

Headquarters	St John House, 11a Corlea Gardens, Ballymena, BT43 7AR. Tel: 028 2564 7426.
President	To be appointed
Vice President	Ms Helen Kilpatrick, 58 Riverside, Antrim BT41 4BJ. Tel: 028 9446 8830.
Area Commissioner (Acting)	Eddie J Shanks, PA REMT AMILM, 5 Thornhill Gardens, Ballyclare, BT39 9RF Tel: 028 9334 9763. Mobile 078359 42747. Email: eddiejshanks@sky.com
Medical Officer	Dr Michael Armstrong, 7 Academy Street, Gracehill, Ballymena, BT42 2NJ. Tel: 07771611146. Email: mgarmstrong1@yahoo.co.uk
Nursing Officer	Claire Gracey, 27 Carnbeg Green, Kilbegs Road, Antrim, BT41 4RF. Tel: 07858 377792. Email: clairegracey11@hotmail.co.uk
Youth Officer	Vacant
Staff Officer (Youth)	Vacant
Badger Leader	Vacant
Training Officer	Mrs Lynda Hill, 8 Greenland Grove, Larne, BT40 1DP. Mobile: 07919 263826. Email: Lyndaphill@hotmail.com
Operations Officer	Vacant
Ambulance Officer	John Hemphill, BA (Hons) MCPara, 72 Bann Meadows Ballymoney, BT53 7RN. Tel: 028 3764 9164. Mobile: 07738197589. Email: johnhemphill@tiscali.co.uk
Public Duty Officer	Chris Stewart, BSc (Hons) RN, 27 Carnbeg Green, Kilbegs Road, Antrim, BT41 4RF. Mobile: 07825 448840. Email: chris.stewart@ni.sja.org.uk
Radio Communications Officer	Nicholas Alexander, 19 Old Park Drive, Ballymena BT42 1BG. Tel: 028 2586 1001. Mobile: 07922 462072. Email: nickalexandermd@btinternet.com

Opening of St John Hall in Enniskillen



A new St John Hall was opened on 3 March 2013 by the Knight Commander, Sir William Hall, accompanied by Lady Hall.

The Area Commissioner, Mrs Angela Thompson, chaired the event. There were a large number of guests, including Mrs Little, a Deputy Lieutenant for Fermanagh. Mr CT Hogg, the Chairman of St John Ambulance (NI) attended together with Mr David Kingan, a Bailiff Grand Cross of the Order of St John.

The District President, Dr Maureen Howie, and the Western Area President, Mr Richard Doherty, were present, along with senior Area staff. Also

present was the founding Divisional President, Lady Belmore, now the Divisional Vice-President.

The Knight Commander unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion. The building was consecrated by the Rev Canon Walter Quill, a Commandery Chaplain.

The opening took place on the 25th anniversary of the registration of the Division. To mark the occasion, the Knight Commander presented the Divisional President, Mrs Eva Ewart, with a Commandery Vote of Thanks.

In her address, the Superintendent, Mrs Pamela Gunn, recalled that a volunteer nursing division had been formed

in Enniskillen in 1939 on the outbreak of the Second World War. It closed following the cessation of hostilities.

The ambulance station is needed to meet the growing demand for ambulance cover at public and sporting events in Fermanagh. Crews also undertake the transfer of discharged patients from hospitals to their homes and between hospitals.

The unit has 60 active adult volunteers, who are trained as first aiders and patient and emergency transport attendants. In 2012 the volunteers gave



Photographic Album



St John Ambulance volunteers participate in study group during residential course held at Greenmount College.



St John Ambulance volunteers in practical session at Greenmount College.



District Commissioner John Williams with St John badgers.



District Commissioner John Williams with 2012 Cadet of the Year Aiofe Carson.



Knight Commander Sir William Hall and Chairman Mr C T Hogg welcome two first aid trainers from Cyprus, Pavlina and Marina, to the Commandery of Ards.



Western Area volunteers, who competed in St John Ambulance National competitions, with colleagues and supporters at Erne.



Phil Brooks, Newtownards St John Ambulance unit leader, with guests on the occasion of the celebration of 40th anniversary of the formation of the unit.



St John Ambulance volunteers participate in outdoor training.



St John Cadet of the Year, Niall Edwards, accepts Dean's Christmas Sitout donation from Belfast City Mayoress.