



A Brief History of St John Ambulance Jersey

The Jersey Centre, as part of the Association of the Order of St John, was formed in 1884. However, it was not until 1948 that the Brigade was granted a separate Foundation and was merged as St John Ambulance in 1968.

During the Great War, work by members included sending food parcels to Jersey residents who were prisoners of war, and clothing to military hospitals. Our first motor ambulance was purchased for £204 and used extensively in the Island at this time.

Between the Wars, the Centre grew in strength and capability and many First Aid courses were run. Work continued during the Occupation of the Island by German Forces, (where we were the only organisation allowed to continue to wear uniform) which included running First Aid and nursing courses for members of the public and the police. St John distributed the Red Cross parcels sent to the Island towards the end of the war, at a time when food was very scarce. On 7th June 1945, Their Majesties, The King and Queen, visited Jersey and met members of the Brigade and the Centre.

In January 1947 the inaugural meeting of the Council of St John for Jersey took place and His Excellency, The Lieutenant Governor, presided. In that same year, the land on which our Headquarters now stands was purchased from Major General Hind for a "sum considerably below market value" (£2,000). In July 1950 the Foundation Stone was laid by The Countess Mountbatten of Burma and the Headquarters building was officially opened one year later on 8th July 1951.

Considerable progress and development has taken place over the past 60 years, including the provision of the St John Ambulance Hall at St Martin and a Care training room at our Midvale Road Headquarters, in 2001. Public Duties in support of major events, commercial and non-commercial training courses, and taking part in local, inter-insular and UK competitions are but a few of the activities undertaken by St John

Ambulance Jersey. There have also been a number of Royal visits more recently, including by HRH Princess Anne and the Countess and Earl of Wessex.

Our members provided over 22,000 hours of voluntary service in 2011, which represents more than 100 hours from every Adult, Cadet and Badger member. However, some individual members contribute over 500 hours a year. For example we attended 149 public events and treated 559 patients, of which only 53 were taken to hospital. Many of those events could not take place without the attendance of our volunteers. We also involve our younger members in public duties, where appropriate. We have approximately 90 Adult, 80 Cadet and 70 Badger members, plus about 100 members in our Fellowship, who play a very active role in supporting all of our activities.

SJA Jersey programmes cover:

1. Commercial courses, to train up first aiders in the work place. Profits from these help fund our free and not for profit courses for our community, our equipment costs, and other running costs. It is also worth noting that we currently have over 120 defibrillators on the Island, all provided by SJA, and many donated as a result of sponsorship raised by SJA, e.g. in the Parish Halls. Training is provided by SJA.
2. Our community courses are either free or 'not for profit', (which means that a small charge is made to cover the first aid materials used during the courses) include: essential first aid, emergency and life support (child and infant), road users first aid, and Carers support sessions. Carers support is a key area where SJA contributes to our community and is expanded below. We also provide first aid training and advice to a large number of sports clubs and adult and youth associations. We would like to expand these programmes, particularly in the West of the Island and are currently seeking a suitable venue in the West. We have built up our reserves to above normal levels to help cover this project.
3. Our (free, thanks to generous sponsorship) schools programme continues to deliver the Young First Aider scheme to 39 of the 41 schools in Jersey. As a result, nearly all Year 6 children receive a nationally recognized Schools First Aid Certificate.

4. Our (free, thanks again to generous sponsorship) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) programme issued over 1000 CPR kits to all Year 6 school children from 2009 to 2012.. We issued another 1000 plus kits to all Year 8 school children in 2010, who were in their Year 6 before we started the programme. Our feedback forms indicate that a further 3 people (typically Mum, Dad and another sibling), try the skill of CPR within the home, for every kit we issue.
5. We train our own members, adults, cadets (teenagers) and Badgers (5-10 years old) in first aid, competitions, presentations and other life skills. We also help train our young members for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. In common with other youth organizations (although we cover a wider range of activities than just youth) we provide a number of programmes to develop and engage young people. We could, in fact, have a far larger youth section had we been able to acquire extra premises to train them and attracted some extra Youth Leaders.

In 2011 we trained a total of 4,839 people in various first aid courses, which represents 4.93% of the population (of 97,857). In UK the SJA county target is to train 5% of the population over 5 years-we achieve this every year. As our certificates are normally valid for 3 years before re-qualification is necessary, at any one time some 18% of the population have had first aid training and could assist to prevent accidents or to give help at the time of an incident.

We provide courses and pamphlets in Portuguese and Polish, having pioneered these within the UK.

A key area of support to our community is the front line back-up SJA provides to the States of Jersey Ambulance Service in the event of a major incident or medical emergency. This would include contingency planning for a major incident at the airport or the harbour, as well as for the various forms of flu pandemic that could come our way. This support comprises 4 ambulances and crews, giving nearly a 50% reinforcement to the States of Jersey Ambulance Service, plus our ability to deploy a further 30-50 personnel within an hour or two, from both our members and our Fellowship (who are all ex-SJA), to give first aid, take records, and look after the walking wounded and their

families. A Memorandum of Understanding between SJA and the SoJ Ambulance Service was formally endorsed by the Minister of Health and Social Services in Dec 2006. There have been a number of major incidents since then, to which we have deployed our vehicles and first aiders, the most recent being the major fire at the gas depot in St Helier.

Another key area is that we provide free, (thanks to sponsorship) support courses for informal, home carers (i.e. this does not include training professional staff at care homes). We estimate that there are over 7,000 informal/home carers in Jersey, some full time some part time and some perhaps only occasionally. This may involve looking after a spouse, child, parent, relative or friend. We currently run 3-4 courses a year, with 10-12 carers per course. The courses cover principles of care, practice in handling techniques in a safe environment, stress management, advice from Social Security on benefits, advice from the Fire Service on safety in the home, and first aid. We have been successful in raising sponsorship for these courses so far and they are provided at no cost to the carers or to the States. We work closely with the Jersey Association Of Carers Incorporated and Social Security. Along with the SJA in Dorset, we pioneered these courses within the UK, which are accredited by the Royal College of Nursing and the SJA National Headquarters. We could expand this programme to train more carers (if we can get them and attract sponsorship or other funding), and suggested this in our response to the Jersey Health and Social Services White Paper in July 2012.

Following our research with schools and the success of our adult Carers programmes, we pioneered, within UK, the provision of courses for Young Carers, typically 11-16 years old, who usually help look after a parent or sibling at home, some before and after school and some every day and every weekend. One Secondary school alone has so far provided two cadres, each of about 10 schoolchildren, over the past 2 years. This gives an indication of the potential size of the issue, which could affect 400 plus children Island wide. We have worked closely with the Education Department, Children's Services and the individual schools and their, relatively new, social workers to develop this programme, but there is still a lot more to do. These courses are provided through sponsorship to date, at no cost to the schools or the States.

Finally, we also help train our young members to take part in local, regional and national first aid competitions and train teams from a number of schools (not SJA members) for the UK National St John Ambulance Schools Competition, with considerable success in recent years. We have had sponsorship to help cover some of the costs, as most of our young members, or schools teams, and their families are unable to pay the travel and accommodation costs and would otherwise not be able to participate.

This year we have purchased a new replacement ambulance and an initial two first aid bicycles, all funded through local sponsorship. We are also planning to extend our office and training facilities at our Midvale Road Headquarters.

On 28th June 2012 the first board meeting of THE COMMANDERY OF THE BAILIWICK OF JERSEY OF THE MOST VENERABLE ORDER OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM GUARANTEE COMPANY LIMITED took place and the series of events leading up to the Inauguration on 16th September 2012 was put into place.

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