



THE ROLE OF THE CPG

The County Priory Group (CPG) act on behalf of the Priory at a county level and carry out a number of non-operational activities such as:

- Undertaking fundraising
- Supporting local St John Ambulance Units
- Managing the Honours and Awards process
- Conducting the annual Organ Donor Award ceremonies (in partnership with NHS Blood and Transplant Service)
- Generally acting as Ambassadors for St John in the county

ST JOHN FELLOWSHIP IN ESSEX

Essex are fortunate to have 4 fellowship branches and are actively seeking to increase that number. Its members bring a huge amount of value to the organisation and actively support CPG activities across the county.

Anyone interested in joining or starting a fellowship branch should contact our Essex County Fellowship Representative - Keith Allen on (01376) 323925 or via e-Mail at allen3839@talktalk.net

Current Branches are:
Braintree & Bocking,
Chelmsford & District,
Sandon (Pitsea) and we also
have an Essex County Branch:

Congratulations from the CPG

Celebrating the investiture of Essex volunteers

On April 4th, three Essex volunteers were recognised for their significant dedication and service at the Priory Church in Clerkenwell.



Anthony Blanche was also invested as a Member. Anthony is an Area Manager in South Anglia. He started at Chelmsford, before moving to be Unit Manager at Maldon

Karl Noonan was invested as a Member. Karl currently runs the Clacton Unit. He started in Burnham on Crouch and has also held Clinical roles within the district



Tony Walters was invested as a Member. Tony is Chairman of the Essex County Priory Group (CPG). He started in 2010 as County Treasurer for Essex and has spent the last two years working with the CPG to promote St John throughout the county.



The Order of St John is a Royal Order of Chivalry, membership of which is conferred by Her Majesty the Queen in recognition of appropriate service. A nomination for admission or promotion of a candidate may be submitted irrespective of his or her religious belief, and a nomination is considered on its merits alone. The major criterion should be outstanding service to uphold the aims and aspirations of St John. If you wish to nominate someone for membership of the Order – have a look at the final article on page 4 of this newsletter.



South Anglia Annual Awards

RECOGNISING ESSEX VOLUNTEER SERVICE

On June 30th the Adult Volunteer Award ceremony was held at Fox Crescent in Chelmsford. 19 Awards were presented to recognise service across the county. Congratulations to everyone involved.



We would like to make special mention of Ray Williams who received his 50 years Laurel Leaf from Lord Petre – the Lord Lieutenant of Essex. Ray is currently based at our Colchester Unit.



The CPG CUP

This year the CPG Cup was awarded to Neil and Rebecca O'Mahony. The Cup recognises volunteers and/or staff who have been (and continue to be) of exceptional assistance to the CPG throughout the year.



ST JOHN CHARITY SHOPS IN ESSEX

Essex is the only county in the UK blessed with charity shops. The volunteers manning the three shops generate between them around £115,000 per year towards the work of St John and the Eye Hospital of Jerusalem. If you want to visit them and say hello – see the location details below:

Chelmsford:

2 Melbourne Parade, Melbourne
Avenue, Chelmsford
CM1 2DW

South Woodham Ferrers:

7 Trinity Square,
South Woodham Ferrers
Chelmsford, CM3 5JX

Thaxted:

Park Street
Thaxted, Dunmow
CM6 2ND

If you have items that could be sold please contact Keith Allen on 01376 323925 – or visit your closest shop !

Thanks to Waitrose Southend



Customers shopping at Waitrose in Southend donated £317 for their local St John's Ambulance divisions through the Waitrose Community Matters Scheme in July this year. Sally Hollman, Community Matters Co-Ordinator with Waitrose said: "St John Ambulance have a huge impact on the local community through first aid training and their ambulance cover of local community events and we are proud to support them."

Pictured receiving the cheque from Sally Hollman (Waitrose) are Allan Richards and Tony Walters



A MEDAL FOR LORD PETRE

This year marks the last that Lord Petre will preside as Lord Lieutenant for Essex, and to mark his long service and dedication to St John, Michael Messinger presented him with his St John Service Medal.

Tony Walters commented on Lord Petre's career with St John which spans over 25 years and noted that Lord Petre is one of the few Knights of the Order in Essex. Tony thanked him for his work on St John Council in Essex and his ever-enthusiastic support for our volunteers.



Many thanks to The Rev. Gay Ellis, The Rev Dr Robert Beaken, Doreen Barton, Frances Walters and all of the team (including those at the church) who helped make the Little Maplestead service such a success.

Little Maplestead CHORAL EVENSONG

The annual Choral Evensong service was held at Little Maplestead Church on the 5th June. The weather was extremely kind to us and guests included Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Lord Petre, the High Sheriff Simon Hall MBE and the Chancellor of the Priory of England and the Islands Michael Messinger. The sermon was delivered by Rt Rev Hugh Allan O.Praem, Prior of the Norbertine Community in Chelmsford.



Alan Cook leading the precession into the church



Rt Rev Hugh Allan in deep conversation with the High Sheriff Simon Hall



Refreshments were on hand – with enthusiastic Badgers and Cadets in attendance

Little Maplestead village and the picturesque church of St John the Baptist have links to St John through the Knights Hospitaller dating back to 1185. The precession ahead of the service used to start in the village and make it's way up to the church. This annual event is unique and very special to St John in Essex.

Grades of Member

There are five grades of Membership of the Order of St John. Each represents a greater achievement or contribution to the Order.

Grade V	Member
Grade IV	Officer
Grade III	Commander
Grade II	Knight or Dame
Grade I	Bailiff or Dame Grand Cross

RETIRED FROM THE CPG LAST YEAR:

Chris Williams

Chris joined St John in Essex in 2002. While on the Council he specialised in Property, and was instrumental in getting the buildings constructed at Hawkwell and Hockley, and also at Halstead. In recent years Chris also served as County President until his retirement in 2016.

Allan Richards

Allan served on the Council from 2006 where he specialised in managing the insurance of St John property. He was also a keen fund raiser – something he continues to do following his retirement in 2016.

Honours and Awards

THE PROCESS

One of the duties of the County Priory Group is to co-ordinate any recommendations for membership or promotions within the Order of St John. Anyone can be nominated, but the first hurdle for any nomination will be the Essex Honours and Awards Committee. They will initially assess whether the person is a worthy candidate for the grade being suggested. The nomination is then sent to London where it undergoes further assessment before finally being put forward for approval by the Queen.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE ?

It can be as short as several months, or as long as several years.

CAN YOU FIND OUT HOW IT IS GOING ?

Once the Honours and Awards Committee acknowledge the receipt of a nomination, you will hear nothing more. No updates will be provided, and you will only find out your nomination has been successful when the person being nominated receives their invitation to an investiture.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A NOMINATION FAILS ?

You will not be told if a nomination fails – and it is therefore very important that the person being nominated is not aware that they have been put forward.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ?

You can get more details on the process and how to make a nomination from your Unit Manager, or directly from the Chairman of the Honours and Awards Committee – John Hopkins (fennman15@gmail.com)

If you would like to know more about any of the articles shown here – or the work of the Essex County Priory Group, then please drop an e-mail to tony.walters@sky.com

Fund Raising – CPG Campaign for 2018

A NEW SMALL MOBILE TREATMENT CENTRE FOR ESSEX

The CPG are currently raising funds to purchase a new Small Mobile Treatment Centre for Essex. These vehicles are in constant use throughout the County and a new one would be put into immediate service – providing a safe and secure environment for patient treatment and recovery onsite at an event.

To purchase and equip a new vehicle like this will cost £63,000, so we have a lot of work to do. We will let you know how the campaign is progressing later in the year.



If you would like to help raise funds or make a contribution – then contact Tony Walters (tony.walters@sky.com)