

Winter Edition 2017

SCAA NEWS



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ISSUE**

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WELCOME TO THE WINTER EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER



We hope you enjoy catching up on all the latest news from Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA).

It's been a busy few months for the charity, including new partnerships, fundraising successes and welcoming a very special new team member.

G-SCAA flying high

Our helicopter spent November undergoing its annual maintenance service and at the same time had a few technical upgrades to help SCAA serve Scotland better than ever.

The EC135 T2i helicopter, registered G-SCAA, has had a touchscreen navigation and mapping system installed that will enable our crew to operate their radio, navigation and GPS from one streamlined unit.



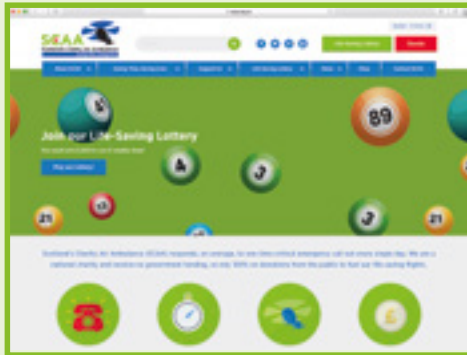
An upgraded transponder has also been installed, allowing our pilots to track real time flight radar through a range of audible and visual signals, increasing our cockpit capabilities.



The helicopter maintenance service is a complex operation which sees the aircraft being stripped back and every element, no matter how small, being checked by highly skilled Babcock engineers.

We were pleased to welcome G-SCAA back to base and to see it return to saving lives across Scotland.





New SCAA website takes off

We are excited to announce that our new website is now live. The updated site includes many changes to navigation and content and is now mobile responsive, making it easier to read on the go. We've also improved the structure of our content, giving you more up to date and relevant information on what we do, including a timeline of how SCAA is tasked when a 999 call is made. Our donation platform has been enhanced and for the first time ever we've introduced an online shop. There's a whole host of smaller but impactful changes, all designed to improve your experience of the site.

We are delighted with the site and are extremely grateful to MTC Media for generously gifting its design and build.

Take a look and let us know your thoughts at www.scaa.org.uk.



Keeping in touch helps us to save lives

On 25th May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will be implemented across Europe, including the UK. This new law aims to give you more control over your personal information and specifically who contacts you and by what means.

In preparation for the introduction of this law, we will be reaching out to our supporters to ask if you would like to keep in touch – to continue to hear our news, read about our campaigns and see how you can support our life-saving work.

Your continued support and engagement helps us to keep saving and improving lives in Scotland, so please keep a look out for a letter from us regarding GDPR in the new year.

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2017 SCOTTISH CAR OF THE YEAR DONATION TO SCAA

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We are delighted that Land Rover chose to celebrate their 2017 Scottish Car of the Year title by **generously donating a Land Rover Discovery to SCAA** until mid-2018.

The car, which has been branded to complement the SCAA helicopter, will be seen across Scotland as it is used to transport people and equipment to events, talks and fundraisers in communities nationwide.

Jeremy Hicks, Managing Director at Land Rover UK, said: “We are honoured to be supporting such a fundamental and worthy cause.”



Meet our newest team member – Scotty



In September, we welcomed Scotty to our team – who has kindly been sponsored by **Watermans Accident and Claims Care**. The eight-foot, fun-filled paramedic mascot has already become a firm favourite at events across the country, especially with our younger supporters.

A Facebook competition saw over 300 people suggest a name for our new mascot – with John Graham's suggestion of Scotty being selected as the winning name after a lot of team deliberation – thank you John!



Lead Paramedic wins coveted National Health Sector Award

Congratulations to SCAA Lead Paramedic John Pritchard who received the Leader of the Year award at the 2017 Scottish Health Awards.

John, who has been with SCAA since day one, was nominated for the prestigious award by his paramedic colleagues. We are all very proud of his success.



Looking forward to welcoming SCAA's first baby

As many of you will already know, Georgina Hood, our Volunteer Co-Ordinator, started her maternity leave at the beginning of November.

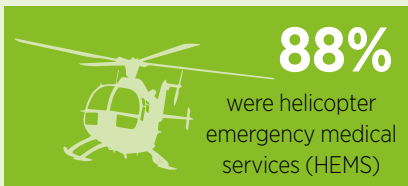
We'd like to send our very best wishes to her and we look forward to meeting her new arrival in the New Year.



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS*

306

emergency responses to patients in urgent need of medical assistance



We flew patients to **14** hospitals across Scotland

12% were unscheduled transfers

1 in 5 of our emergency call outs were to road traffic collisions

We helped patients of all ages, including children and adults

0-17 years	12%	18-64 years	55%	65+ years	33%
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* Figures correct at time of print

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR SCAA CREW

In November, SCAA was shortlisted for two Association of Air Ambulances Awards of Excellence – Pilot of the Year and Special Incident of the Year, both in relation to one incident – which truly highlights the different challenges our crew face.



Special incident report

When the call came in, the on duty crew knew they were in a race against time to save a seriously injured 51-year-old male forestry worker – bleeding heavily from a penetrative chest wound – in a small, sloped wooded area miles from a main road.

On route medical requirements, logistics, aviation demands, receiving hospital options and possible kit were discussed.

Teamwork ensured the crew landed safely and close to the patient rather than landing at the foot of the hillside, several miles from the casualty.

After the challenging landing, paramedics found the patient in a serious condition, with a puncture through the chest from a link from a broken high-speed chainsaw – which acted as a bullet, smashing through the cab windscreen, firing into his collarbone, ricocheting through his lung and embedding itself in his shoulder-blade, causing great concern over internal injuries.

Paramedics had to cope with the restrictions of the vehicle to access and assess the casualty, quickly getting him on oxygen and using a relatively new specialist dressing – a Russell Chest Seal – to allow air to escape but prevent air entering the chest wound.

Tayside Trauma Team arrived with a consultant who administered a chest drain before a decision being made to fly the patients to Ninewells Hospital at Dundee – just a 15-minute flight away. The same journey would have taken over an hour and a half by land crew.

The additional weight of the casualty and consultant saw the aircraft operate on reduced power as it lifted away from the scene and onwards to Ninewells Hospital at Dundee.

There is no doubt that the crews speed, skill, judgement and quick actions, coupled with the smooth, rapid transfer to hospital aboard SCAA, played a vital part in the forester's survival.



Pilot's report

It started as a fairly routine mission for pilot Captain John Stupart, however, it began to deliver some unique problems.

“Once overhead, we quickly spotted the tree felling machine and a police car in a small clearing with a large log pile on the sloping hillside”, explains John.

As the helicopter hovered lower, the paramedic in the rear noticed a large timber lorry strap obscured by debris. As it lowered, the downwash from the rotors lifted the strap dangerously and John had to pull out of the approach.

A call through the communications channel saw police move their vehicle and collect the strap as John went into a second approach.

All six eyes watched out for anything else that might rise including loose chips, small branches and larger obstacles.

“It was one of the most challenging landings I have done as an air ambulance pilot,” said John.

There is little doubt that the alternative landing site some distance away could have seriously compromised the patient's chances.

John's skills helped save the injured forester – if the paramedics had to be offloaded miles away, time-critical medical treatment would have been delayed.



Patient's report

Andrew's first thought was that he had been shot as the metal missile smashed through the cab windscreen and punched into his chest.

It was only when he saw the chain of the saw hanging limply at the end of the mechanical arm that the experienced forestry worker realised it was a broken link that had fired into him.

“All I heard was a loud bang then the impact punched me out of my seat, the pain kicked in and I thought I was going to pass out – it was horrendous. Clutching my chest, blood hissed and bubbled out – I knew I was in real trouble. I thought it was over for me”, said Andrew.

Willpower gave Andrew the strength to try and stop the bleeding – and turn the air conditioning on to keep him awake – while managing to press redial on his phone to get help.

“I was told help was on the way but I worried they wouldn't find me in time,” said Andrew.

“Adrenaline kept me going through the pain as I put the tractor into crawl mode and guided it out of the trees so they would see me.” Andrew's quick thinking helped SCAA locate him easily.

“I don't know how they landed there,” said a grateful Andrew.

Andrew was unconscious before being loaded onto the helicopter for a flight to critical care. His injury was very serious – had it been a few millimeters further over, it would have hit the vascular tree and Andrew would have bled out within seconds. The fact that the offending link was still somewhere unknown in his body raised the danger of it shifting during any patient movement. Andrew is in no doubt that the fast, smooth transfer by air ambulance helped prove a lifesaver.

“SCAA is a lifeline for all rural workers,” said Andrew. **“It gives us all peace of mind to know they will move heaven and earth to get to you when the worst happens. I will be forever grateful for what they did for me that day – they are amazing.”**

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



As a national charity, our life-saving missions are fully funded by donations from people like you – we can never thank you enough! Here are a few recent highlights.

Started by local man, Gary Hamilton, and now organised by a small committee, Spittalfield Party on the Green – an annual live music event – took place for the third year running. This event has now raised a fantastic total of £2,696.55.



After being airlifted from the Isle of Mull, Lily Henderson from Falkirk arranged a sponsored walk with 20 friends around the Kelpies and a coffee morning, raising a wonderful £3,817.85.

The 2017 Forth Rail Bridge Abseils, held in May and October, welcomed a total of 51 participants from all over Scotland and raised a magnificent £27,264 – our most successful year yet!



Members of the British Association of Ski Patrollers (BASP) working at Glenshee, Cairngorm, Glencoe, Nevis and The Lecht raised £6,800 for SCAA at their 30th Anniversary Charity Ball.

Dunedin Harley Motorbike Owners Club generously raised £2,400 by hosting two raffles in aid of SCAA, once again highlighting our strong link with the Scottish motorbiking community.



The 2017 Lanrick Challenge was an outstanding success, with over 300 participants and £24,000 being raised, which has been split equally between SCAA and the Sandpiper Trust. Keep an eye out for details of the 2018 event being held on 4th August – registration will be opening soon.

Blair Castle Equi-Trek International Horse Trials turned in a faultless round of fundraising during their four day event, raising over £17,000 for SCAA – their 2017 official charity partner.



Nationwide Building Society, who kindly selected SCAA as their Charity of the Year, completed an ambitious triathlon, taking staff completely out-with their comfort zone. Their notable sense of adventure saw them raise £1,750.



SCAA Vice-Chairman and founding Trustee Mike Beale set off on a 160-mile walk to mark his 70th birthday. His walk linked in nine golf courses, in recognition of SCAA's relationship with the golfing community and raised a fantastic £10,939.



MRH Retail Ltd is giving customers the chance to make their pennies count for SCAA. The Pennies initiative encourages you to donate your small change. To date, 90% of MRH Retail Ltd's Scottish sites have agreed to roll out the initiative in forecourts across the country, giving your small change a big purpose when buying fuel.



SCAA relies on volunteers who have become a major part of the work we do.

We currently have a family of 100 volunteers who help at fundraising events, talks and in our office. As a national charity which covers over 30,000 square miles, we always need volunteers, especially in the communities where we currently have very few, if any, volunteers living locally.

If you are interested in donating some of your spare time to SCAA, we'd love to hear from you.

JOHN'S STORY



John has been volunteering for six months after hosting a fundraising event to celebrate his 60th birthday and the 75th anniversary of his family being at their farm - which raised over £1,000. Since becoming a volunteer, John has helped at the International Motorbike Rally, a House of Bruar collection and he also donates a few hours every week to help in the office.

"I gain great pleasure from volunteering for SCAA and feel lucky being able to give something back to society. SCAA is a very visible charity and I feel proud when I see it passing in the sky, doing their good work. The charity team is very friendly and I enjoy spending my time with them."

John - SCAA volunteer.

SET YOURSELF A NEW YEAR CHALLENGE – BECOME PART OF #TEAMSCAA IN 2018

Run Balmoral – Sat 21st April 2018

Held on Balmoral Estate, this event is a chance for runners of all abilities to take part in one of the best events in the North East. This year marks the 21st event, which welcomes more than 5000 entrants and as many spectators each year. We have places available in both the 5k and 10k runs, a great way to set yourself a challenge and fundraise for SCAA.



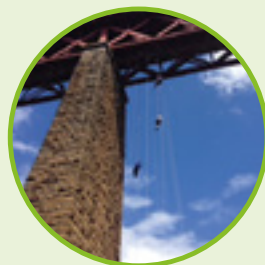
Kiltwalk –
Glasgow 29th April / Aberdeen 3rd June /
Dundee 19th Aug / Edinburgh 16th Sept

Mighty Stride (26miles), Big Stroll (13miles),
Wee Wander Adult & Child (6miles)

With four locations and three distances, the Kiltwalk has something for everyone in 2018. This is a unique way to raise funds for SCAA as an incredible 140% of every penny you raise comes directly to SCAA.

Forth Rail Bridge Abseil – Sunday 10th June 2018

This is your chance to abseil 165ft SAS style, from the iconic Forth Rail Bridge onto the sandy beach below. No previous experience is necessary and the charity team will do everything we can to help you reach your fundraising target.



For further information or to register for any of these events call **0300 123 1111** or email **fundraising@scaa.org.uk**. For information on other 2018 events please visit **www.scaa.org.uk/support-us/fundraise**.

Gardening Scotland to help grow awareness for SCAA

We are delighted that Gardening Scotland has kindly chosen SCAA to be their 2018 charity partner. The premier gardening event will take place at the Royal Highland Centre, Ingilston, Edinburgh 1-3 June, coinciding with our 5th birthday celebrations. This event provides a fantastic opportunity to celebrate all that SCAA has achieved since launching on 22nd May 2013. Planned celebrations include a birthday marquee with a range of activities for children such as party games, face painting, colouring competitions and appearances from SCAA's mascot Scotty; and a competition to design a floral display to commemorate our birthday with some fantastic prizes on offer.

Keep an eye on our website for further information in the new year – www.scaa.org.uk.



Institute of Fundraising award for renowned SCAA supporter

In October, one of our longest standing supporters, Pitlochry Station Bookshop, won the Best Voluntary Fundraising Group award at the Institute of Fundraising Scotland Awards.

Pitlochry Station Bookshop has now raised an incredible £25,000 for SCAA, selling second-hand books from their platform shop to visitors from all over the world. Run by volunteers, the bookshop has donated over £225,000 to a variety of charities since 2006. Congratulations from everyone at SCAA!



New Will writing partnership with Watermans Legal Ltd

Writing a will is one of the most important things you can do to ensure your family is looked after when you're no longer here and that your wishes are carried out, yet an incredible 53% of adults in Scotland do not have a will. We have teamed up with Watermans Legal Ltd, who specialise in Property, Family, Private Client and Commercial Law, to offer our supporters the opportunity to have a simple Will made or amended without being charged. While we are very grateful for any donation or legacy we receive, there is no obligation with this service. For further information on this offer or about leaving a gift to SCAA visit www.scaa.org.uk/legacies or contact our Legacy Officer, Katie, on **0300 123 1111** or k.wylie@scaa.org.uk.

Thanks to
Clydesdale Bank
for producing
this newsletter
for us.



THANK YOU!

We would like to thank you for continuing to support us throughout 2017 and wish you a very happy Christmas and healthy 2018.

In 2017, our supporters helped us raise £2.5 million – 20% more than in 2016 – these vital funds help us to keep saving and improving lives across Scotland.

We love hearing from people we have helped or airlifted. Being able to share their stories helps to keep us flying – by raising awareness of the life-saving service we deliver and the range of emergencies we respond to.

We rely on people coming forward so if you've been airlifted by SCAA we'd love to hear your story. Please get in touch and our Media Manager will arrange to have a chat in confidence.



DONATE



Online scaa.org.uk

by direct debit and debit or credit card



Phone 0300 123 1111

by direct debit and debit or credit card



TEXT SCAA14

and your donation to 70070



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