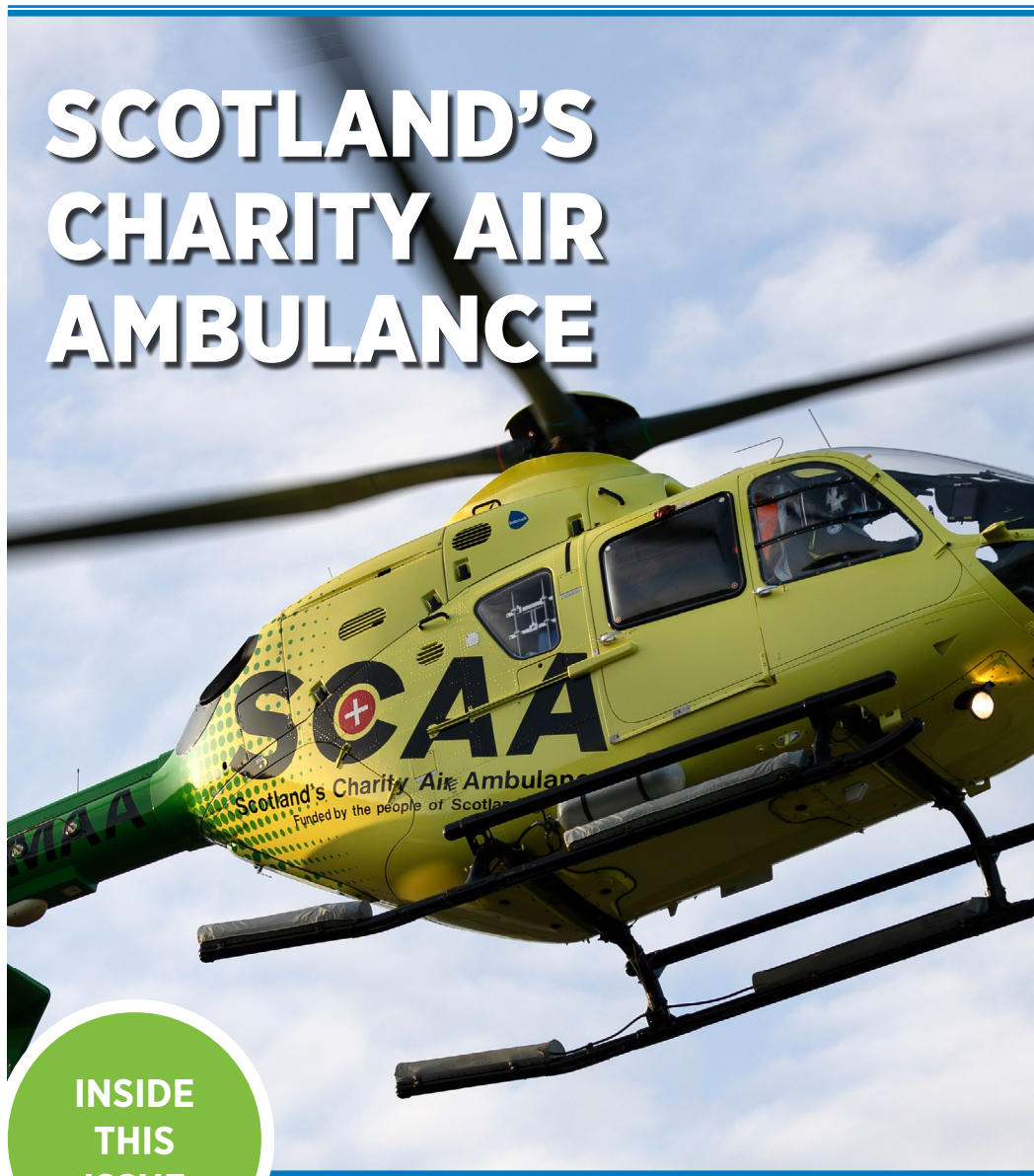


SCOTLAND'S CHARITY AIR AMBULANCE



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WELCOME

Welcome to your Winter Newsletter!

I trust this finds you safe and well. The last eight months have presented us with a global situation that I hope we never see again in our lifetime or that of our future generations. In what is now considered our 'new' way of working, we have all had to adapt how we live our lives, in the full knowledge that we are likely to know someone who has sadly been impacted by Covid-19.



One constant in this health crisis, however, has been the unwavering support of you and the great people of Scotland. Despite this pandemic, your commitment to SCAA has continued and I wanted to thank you all for your much appreciated contribution. Your vital support has enabled SCAA to remain fully operational and helped us to provide more care, more quickly, to more people across the country.

During what would have been our busiest period for community, volunteer and fundraising events, almost all of these important activities have been abandoned. While we are slowly reintroducing some initiatives, (you may have seen our lottery canvassers outside retail units), the resulting impact is that the charity is likely to suffer a significant loss in this financial year. While we have made a good start in the first six months with your support, it may be difficult to maintain this over the next six months. If you are able to support us further, perhaps by increasing your £1 weekly lottery play to £2, or signing up to be a new regular donor, this would make a substantial difference to the charity.

We are the People's Helicopter, your service, and it is unthinkable that we won't be there for you at this time of need – as you have been there for us, from the very beginning.

Thank you,
David Craig | CEO

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance is delighted and extremely proud that our Chairman, John Bullough, one of the founding Trustees at SCAA, has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition of "Services to Emergency Healthcare in Scotland and to the community of Perth".



[DONATE NOW](#)

COVID-19 UPDATE



As we all continue to battle through the Coronavirus pandemic, our government and healthcare providers continue to develop critical guidance to manage its spread. While it is impossible to know how long these measures will last, the one thing we do know is that the provision of our life-saving air ambulance service across Scotland is there 365 days of the year, and while we hope that you'll never need us, you can rest assured that we're there if you do.

As a charity that relies entirely on funding donated by the public, SCAA's ongoing challenge for our charity team is to sustain the level of donations required to fund our service when most of our fundraising activity has been suspended. All our traditional fundraising events have been indefinitely postponed or cancelled, providing fewer opportunities for people to get out there and support SCAA.

Since lockdown commenced, we have been working hard to develop and promote other ways that people can support us, including playing our Life-Saving Lottery, signing up for Amazon Smile, fundraising through Facebook virtual events and promoting Regular Giving as an impactful way to support SCAA.

We are hugely grateful for the ongoing support of the community, our corporate partners and charitable trusts to sustain our life-saving service, including Stagecoach, Apache North Sea, Watermans, Home Bargains Stores and players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

To ensure that we are there for people in their time of critical need, we need to raise over £4 million each year just to maintain our air ambulances. During these difficult times, we understand that many families are facing their own significant challenges and quite rightly the priority will be taking care of your loved ones.

As we all face this unprecedented challenge, we would ask that if you have the means to support us, please consider donating whatever you can afford to help our critical life-saving work to continue in Scotland.

It's your support that will keep us flying and saving lives in Scotland. The easiest way to donate is online by clicking the 'DONATE NOW' button below. Alternatively, you can click 'DONATE' on our Facebook page, text 'SCAA' and your donation amount to 70085 or call us on 0300 123 1111.

Thank you.

DONATE NOW

SAVING TIME, SAVING LIVES

Experienced climber Steve Grant remembers clearly his surprise when, while abseiling, his rope ran out and he found himself hurtling in free fall to the ground below.

He also remembers leaping to his feet in frustration at a stupid mistake that had caused his fall. And then he remembers crumpling to the ground in agony as he realised his crash landing had caused serious spinal injuries and he was all alone.

With the remote accident scene at Dollar Quarry proving inaccessible to land vehicles, Steve, a Police Scotland officer, knew he was in real trouble.

“I was sitting on steep grassy ground trying to brace myself from falling any further,” he said. “I managed to phone 999 and they kept talking to me and reassuring me that help was on its way but the pain was excruciating.

“I knew something was terribly wrong with my back and as I waited for help to come I couldn’t help but think what a simple mistake might have cost me - my work, my active life, my adventures with the family - it all ran through my head.

“When I saw the helicopter circle nearby I felt this huge wave of relief. These were the guys who could reach me and help me.”

Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance landed on

the nearest level ground which was still some distance away and paramedics faced a steep and difficult climb to reach Steve.

“I was so grateful when I saw the two SCAA paramedics walking through the trees with their kit in hand - I was no longer alone and knew help was here,” recalled Steve. “They were a very welcome sight and they soon gave me morphine to quash the pain and set about assessing me and preparing me for extraction from the quarry.”

A specialist unit from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service arrived shortly after SCAA and, working as a team, they set up security ropes and carried Steve on a spinal board and stretcher down the crags to the unit’s all-terrain vehicle.

“They laid the stretcher across the back of the vehicle and we slowly made our way to the helicopter,” said Steve. “It was really bumpy but the paramedics managed my pain and soon I was in the helicopter and heading for hospital.

“Their professionalism, teamwork and speed were so impressive - I knew I was in the hands of an expert bunch of guys who were



going all out to get me safely and quickly to hospital care.”

A CT scan at Ninewells hospital revealed Steve had broken his back in four places and it was later the following day before doctors could reassure him there would be no permanent damage.

“We didn’t know how severe the injuries were when we were out on the crags and time became a crucial factor for both survival and recovery,” added Steve. “Without SCAA on my side that day it could have been a completely different outcome.”

After seven days in hospital and months of dedicated rehabilitation, Steve has made a full recovery and is back at work. And he acknowledges the “vital” role SCAA played in his rescue.

“SCAA is a tremendous service and we should all play our part to ensure it’s there for those in need anywhere in Scotland,” he said. “They went the extra mile to reach me that day and made all the right decisions that kept me stable and secure for the onward journey.”



STATIC VENT
KEEP CLEAN

SCAA'S LIFESAVING CREWS



From its two bases in Aberdeen and Perth, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance operates 12 hours a day, 365 days a year, flying vital life-saving pre-hospital care to those seriously injured or ill throughout the whole of Scotland.

Working alongside two Government-funded helicopter air ambulances based in Glasgow and Inverness, SCAA's Helimed 76 and 79 are tasked through Scotland's 999 emergency response service and deployed by the emergency services specialist control team wherever and whenever required.

A vital part of the emergency response network, SCAA's two EC135s serve a landmass of over 30,000 square miles and a population of over five million.

SCAA's dedicated teams of paramedics and pilots are there for YOU because you are there for SCAA.



DEDICATED TO SERVING YOU



Continued support from individuals, communities and businesses all across Scotland have helped us meet the increasing demands on the airborne service.

Your generous donations continue to fund this unique Scottish charity, which has now responded to more than 2,600 emergency call outs (to end September 2020).

In August and September alone, our crews were tasked more than 120 times, taking them to all parts of the country - from the Orkney Islands and the Western Isles to the Scottish Borders and into Northern England.

Operating independently as paramedic-led crews, or airlifting specialist consultant-led teams to the scene, SCAA's fast response, professional care and rapid transfer to critical hospital care capabilities have proved life-saving time and time again.

Our crews at Helimed 76 and 79 want to thank everyone who helps to keep them in the air, flying help and hope to those most in need. We couldn't do it without you.



[DONATE NOW](#)

NO TWO DAYS ARE THE SAME

The skies above Scotland have become a second home for SCAA's longest serving pilot, Captain Russell Myles.

The 56-year-old airman has served as senior pilot with the charity since the life-saving service began in May 2013, following a high-flying career with both the RAF and civilian/commercial operations.

With nearly 40 years' experience as a fixed wing and rotary pilot in a wide variety of roles and aircraft behind him, Russell has many career highlights. His current role at the forefront of SCAA's life-saving work, however, ranks at the top.

"Every day is different," he said. "When you're doing long haul commercial flights it's the same high altitude flying there and back, there and back. Flying an air ambulance brings something new every day and a great sense of achievement and satisfaction at the end of a mission, knowing you got help to someone in need and ensured they got quickly and safely to hospital care.

"Scotland is my favourite place to fly and I've seen practically every square mile of it flying with SCAA.

"Of course Scotland can be as brutal as she is beautiful and sometimes our flights can be taxing and exhausting," he added. "You can take off in sunshine and land in a snowstorm. The challenges posed by the weather and landscape of Scotland mean our pilots have to be at the top of their game and constantly vigilant - but that's real flying and what we all sign up for.

"Sometimes landing on an emergency mission can prove a real challenge - avoiding sloping or rough ground, trees and overhead wires, loose hazards on the ground and inquisitive livestock, people or - worst of all - dogs."

Russell is proud to have headed up flight operations at SCAA's Perth Airport base throughout its entire lifespan, initially flying the charity's Bolkow 105 helicopter and then its upgraded EC 135 air ambulance.



“Being in at the start of this vital new and exciting charity was tremendous,” he said. “I was a big fan of the Bolkow - it was a great starter aircraft for the charity - but upgrading to the EC 135 we have now gave us greater capability.”

SCAA aims to be airborne within five minutes of receiving an emergency call. That means Russell has to have everything primed and ready to fly at a moment's notice.

“A ground run at the start of each shift ensures the helicopter is ready for operations and that the seatbelts and pedals are adjusted for me. Everything I need for a flight is in the aircraft - such as helmet, lifejacket, tech log etc. - and then it's a case of keeping an eye on the weather forecast across Scotland throughout the day.

“Each new mission involves fuel and route calculations but we're good to go pretty quickly and the rotors are running when the paramedics climb on board.”

Russell's flying experience with SCAA is different each time and sometimes up to four or five emergency flights in a day can leave him mentally and physically exhausted.

“It's the same for the paramedics,” he said. “It's pretty intense when things get busy.”

Russell jokingly refers to a former teacher who predicted a less-than-remarkable career path for him.

“My teacher used to reprimand me for daydreaming and said - ‘You will never get a job where you are paid to look out of the window’. Well that's exactly what I have and it's been the best job in the world.”



MISSION STATS

Total Missions Since Launch (May 2013 to October 2020)

2,653 CALL OUTS



Rapid Response Vehicle
462 CALL OUTS

40.7% of all RRV call outs were to cardiac related emergencies



Helicopter
2,191 CALL OUTS



2,079
Flying hours

NAUTICAL MILES FLOWN

237,085



TRAUMA
45%



MEDICAL
19%



CARDIAC INCIDENT
20%



RETRIEVAL & TRANSFER
11%



STROKE
5%



SCAA would like to thank the People's Postcode Lottery and its players for their ongoing support through the Postcode Heroes Trust, which has provided £550,000 of funding towards the life-saving service delivered by our air ambulance crews.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!



SCAA Pack of 10 Christmas Cards **£4.50**



SCAA Teddy **£15**



SCAA 16Gb USB Stick **£7**



SCAA Beanie Hat **£9**



SCAA Jute Bag **£5**



SCAA Sew on Badge **£3**



SCAA Cycling Top **£35**



SCAA Tartan Scarf **£20**

Just click here to browse and buy through our online shop!

DONATE NOW

THANK YOU!

Thank you for continuing to support Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. Whether you donate, volunteer or play our lottery – we couldn't keep flying and saving lives without you.

If you would like to help support SCAA, you could:

- Enter a fundraising event or organise your own
- Become a SCAA Volunteer
- Make a one-off or regular donation
- Play our weekly lottery
- Leave a gift to SCAA in your will



If SCAA was there for you when you needed help, we'd love to hear your story. Email media@scaa.org.uk or call 07778-779-888 in confidence.

DONATE



Online www.scaa.org.uk

by Direct Debit and Credit or Debit Card



Phone 0300 123 1111

by Direct Debit and Credit or Debit Card



Post

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