

SCOTLAND'S CHARITY AIR AMBULANCE



INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE

2021 SCAA's BUSIEST
YEAR EVER

CREW VOX POPS

BRANDON'S STORY

2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WELCOME

Welcome to the latest edition of your Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance newsletter - the first in a new year offering hope, challenge and an ever-increasing demand for our life-saving service.

You will read of our busiest ever year in 2021 as the demand for pre-hospital emergency care continues to grow and our crews play an increasing role in meeting that need.



The fact that three quarters of our airlifted patients were flown to one of the country's four Major Trauma Centres shows the high-acuity trauma our crews are dealing with.

SCAA's speed and level of care have proven to be life-saving and our crews' impressive work - during another challenging year - has seen us delivering more emergency care than ever before which reflects the demand for our service.

You will also read of one patient's touching story, learn about some recent fundraising successes, see where our missions have taken us and learn a little more about the personalities behind our life-saving team.

It's been a trying time for everyone but you - our amazing supporters - continue to keep the charity in your hearts, with your ongoing generosity enabling SCAA to take more care, more quickly to more people throughout the whole of Scotland than ever before.

So, please, keep buying our merchandise, keep playing our lottery, keep following all our news, keep fundraising, keep supporting - and keep helping to save lives. We can't do it without you.

Enjoy your read - and thank you.

David Craig | CEO

WHAT CHALLENGE WILL YOU TAKE ON FOR SCAA IN 2022?



Scan here for more information and to register or just **click here**.

For any queries regarding events, contact Fiona at fundraising@scaa.org.uk or call **0300 123 1111**.

MARCH

18 SuperNova Run

A fantastic 5k run with a difference, held at dusk and providing an illuminated journey around The Kelpies!



APRIL

10 Kilomathon

Kilomathon takes place in Edinburgh and is run on the beautiful Edinburgh cycle path network.



MAY

15 Etape Caledonia

This cycling event attracts thousands of riders to take on one of the most breathtaking rides through the Scottish Highlands.



JUNE

20 Men's 10k Glasgow

On the go since 2004, this event is THE run for men in the west!

23 Run Balmoral

5k and 10k runs through the stunning Balmoral Estate.

28 Edinburgh Marathon Festival

Be part of Scotland's largest running festival with 5k, 10k, relay, half and full marathon distances through the country's iconic capital city.

AUGUST

21 Dundee Kiltwalk

Don your tartan and walk 6, 11, or 25 miles around the city of Dundee!



27 Ride The North

Two routes of 100 miles and 57 miles start and finish in picturesque Elgin.



24 Glasgow Kiltwalk

Don your tartan and walk 6, 15 or 23 miles around the city of Glasgow!

SEPTEMBER

18 Edinburgh Kiltwalk

Don your tartan and walk 5, 15 or 24 miles around Scotland's capital.

18 Scottish Half Marathon & 10k

Fast and flat, both routes in Edinburgh are perfect if you want to set a personal best!

OCTOBER

2 Loch Ness Marathon

Quite possibly one of the most stunning marathons in the world.

23 Men's / Women's 10k Edinburgh

This event is a stunning 10k run through the heart of Scotland's beautiful capital city.

SKYDIVING - various dates throughout the year!

Experience a 120mph tandem freefall from Auchterarder or St. Andrews airfields - available most weekends. No experience is necessary as all training is given on the day!



Make a donation

GETTING TO KNOW OUR CREW

We've asked some of our frontline crew at Helimed 76 Perth and Helimed 79 Aberdeen three questions:

1. *What would you like to be if not in your current job?*
2. *What's your favourite view when flying?*
3. *What's your favourite thing about working with SCAA?*

Here are their answers...

Paramedic Claire Allan

1. A lorry driver. My Dad was one and he used to take me out on his runs and I loved it.
2. Hills and lochs anywhere when there's heavy snow. I was mesmerised the first time I saw it from the air - spectacular.
3. Being able to deliver vital care quickly and the fact that the view from the office window is different every day.



Paramedic Rich Garside

1. Playing cricket at international level. I was a skilled demon swing bowler in my youth.
2. Anywhere on the West Coast - the Paps of Jura, Arisaig and the beaches beyond, looking up Loch Linnhe towards Fort William or flying above Lismore. All equally beautiful.
3. The sense of adventure you get knowing the next job could take you anywhere in the country and hearing positive feedback from the people we have helped.



Paramedic Team Leader John Pritchard

1. A Countryside Ranger because of my great love of the outdoors, the countryside and wildlife.
2. The West Coast - its rugged nature, changing landscapes, turquoise seas and sandy beaches.
3. Working as part of a great team - both crew and charity staff - and the amazing support of the public.





Pilot Captain Pete Winn

1. I'd still be a pilot. It's what I always wanted to be.
2. Flying over the Cairngorms - challenging, majestic, beautiful.
3. The variety of flying I do all over Scotland and witnessing the amazing work of the paramedics at close quarters.



Paramedic Chriss Doyle

1. I'd be really advanced in urgent care within a similar role.
2. Orkney - what a unique view. SCAA flies there regularly so it's a familiar and striking landscape.
3. The wide variety of jobs we attend and the places we see.



Paramedic Julia Barnes

1. A marine biologist. Exploring the world, diving the oceans and studying sea life.
2. A clear approach to our Perth Airport base at the end of a late job.
3. It's so different to any other ambulance work I have done. It is NHS work but we are also part of the charity and knowing we have the support of the people of Scotland really buoys us up.



Paramedic Team Leader Rich Forte

1. A fast jet pilot - who wouldn't?
2. The Trossachs. I got married there and flying over Callander and Loch Ard heading towards Ben Lomond is stunning.
3. Hearing from patients when they have recovered and getting the chance to meet them. It closes the loop for us - it's a nice thing.



RELIANCE ON SCOTLAND'S CHARITY AIR AMBULANCE SOARS IN HIGH DEMAND YEAR

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) has recorded its busiest ever year as the country emerged from lockdown with an increased demand for the life-saving service.

Emergency call outs soared well beyond pre-pandemic levels with crews at the charity's Aberdeen and Perth airbases deployed 810 times during 2021 - a 76% increase on the previous year's workload.



810
TOTAL CALL OUTS



76%
INCREASE
IN CALL OUTS

These deployments saw a record number of seriously ill or injured patients flown rapidly to advanced hospital care from every part of the Scottish mainland and many of its islands.

A total of 333 people were airlifted by SCAA (+140) with nearly three quarters being flown to the country's four Major Trauma Centres at Aberdeen, Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh.

Traumatic injury cases continued to dominate SCAA's mission log in 2021, showing a 49% increase and accounting for around 40% (323) of the year's call outs. Of these, the greatest number (135) were to road traffic collisions which accounted for nearly 42% of all trauma emergencies and 17% of the year's total deployments.



TRAUMA | 40%

Other trauma emergencies attended by SCAA included falls (97), industrial accidents (23) and equestrian-related injuries (24).

Throughout the year, SCAA's helicopters airlifted advanced medical teams directly to the scene of 111 emergencies, delivering critical care as quickly as possible to those most in need.

Crews were also quickly on scene for those taking seriously ill including cardiac related emergencies (136) and strokes (22).



STROKE | 3%



CARDIAC | 17%

A total of 160 missions involved air transfers from remote or island locations to advanced mainland hospital care where hours were saved on journey times for vulnerable patients.



RETRIEVALS & TRANSFERS | 20%

In addition to airlifting patients to hospital, SCAA's paramedics were at hand to treat and assist in cases ranging from major multi-casualty trauma incidents to single patient illnesses.

SCAA impacted on the outcomes for both sick and injured from the islands of The Hebrides and Orkneys to Aberdeenshire and The Borders.

The majority of emergencies attended by the charity's distinctive air ambulance helicopters were in Highland (27%), Grampian (24%) and Tayside (19%) health board areas.



HIGHLAND	27%
GRAMPIAN	24%
TAYSIDE	19%

Patients helped by SCAA ranged from babies to the elderly, with the majority being adults aged 18-64 (55%) and 34% involving patients aged over 65.



34%
OVER 65

SCAA's 2021 mission log shows that the emergency response helicopters' busiest month was July, while Thursdays saw the greatest demand for the charity service.



BUSIEST DAY
THURSDAY

BUSIEST MONTH
JULY

Throughout 2021, SCAA airlifted patients to hospitals throughout the country. More than 15 different hospitals from Orkney to Newcastle were visited by SCAA to hand over seriously sick and injured patients.

Responding by both land as well as air, SCAA paramedics attended 219 emergencies in their Rapid Response Vehicles - 27% of the year's call outs.



Rapid Response Vehicle
219 CALL OUTS

The charity, funded entirely by public donations, is now in its ninth year of operation. The latest statistics reflect the growing demand for SCAA's rapid response to time-critical emergencies, delivering pre-hospital care across the whole of Scotland and its island communities. All of this is only made possible thanks to the support of you and all our donors and supporters across Scotland.



615
Flying hours



74,329
Nautical miles
flown

Make a donation

A BROKEN NECK AND FAR FROM HELP

Many people played a part in Brandon Bissett's chain of survival the day he broke his neck in a motocross accident. But the 22-year-old apprentice plant fitter from Fife is in no doubt that Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance's role was among the most important.

"I don't know what I would have done without them," he said. "They got me out of an almost totally inaccessible location and made sure I got to specialist surgical care in the fastest possible time with the minimum impact on my injuries."

Brandon's day out on the trail bikes with his Dad at a popular disused quarry turned to terror when his front wheel hit a concealed root and he was catapulted over the handlebars.

"I managed to pull off my helmet and then realised I couldn't sit up or move my body. It was terrifying," he said. "I was conscious and could move my arms and legs but I knew something was seriously wrong."

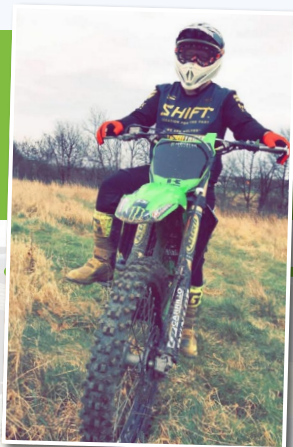
As Brandon's Dad stayed at his side to comfort him, fellow bikers set off to get help and guide an ambulance crew along an overgrown disused railway line to reach the quarry.

"They knew there was no way they could get me out by road so an air ambulance was called," explained Brandon.

"It really lifted my spirits when I heard SCAA approaching and landing nearby. Shock was setting in, I felt freezing cold and in a lot of pain.

"The SCAA paramedics were absolutely amazing - calm, reassuring and comforting," recalled Brandon. "They cut my clothes and put on a neck brace. I didn't know at this stage how serious my injuries were but I knew I was in the best hands possible."





“

“There were times when I thought the worst,” he admitted. “Would I be paralysed, would I ever walk again? These dark thoughts go through your mind but I had to push them away and think positively.

SCAA had got me to hospital carefully, comfortably and quickly - they’d given me the best chance of coming through this.”

”

Friends, family and bystanders all helped paramedics carry Brandon on a stretcher across difficult terrain to reach the waiting helicopter and within minutes he was airborne and making the short flight to the Major Trauma Centre at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee.

Scans showed Brandon had broken four vertebrae in his neck as he underwent a series of tests.

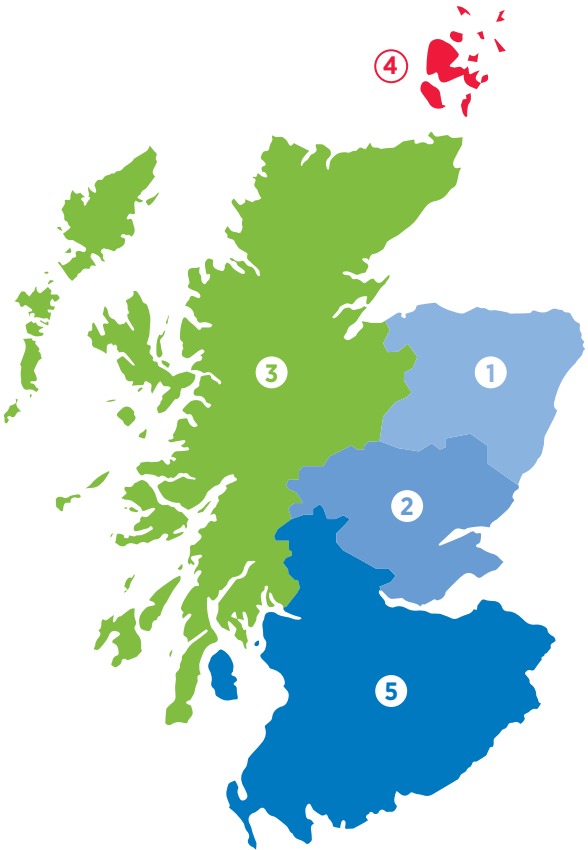
Brandon’s optimism paid off and after a tortuous three months wearing a metal head and neck brace, he’s well on the road to an expected full recovery.

“It’s a miracle,” he said. “I owe so much to everyone who helped me that awful day - from fellow bikers, family, emergency services and bystanders - but I know it was SCAA that made the difference. I will be forever grateful to an amazing charity.”

Make a donation

TASKING MAP

SCAA 2021 TASKING MAP (810 total call outs)



1

Grampian

24%

2

Tayside/Fife

19%

3

Highland / Western Isles

27%

4

Orkney

8%

5

Ayrshire & Arran, Lothian, Dumfries, Borders, Forth Valley, Greater Glasgow, Lanarkshire

22%

Aircraft:
Busiest month – July
Busiest day – Thursday

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Volunteer roles now available across Scotland:

- + Volunteer Speakers
- + Event Volunteers
- + Collection Co-ordinators
- + Fundraise for us
- + One-off Volunteering
- + Events and SCAA Mascot

**You can help us
to save lives in
Scotland**



**Interested in
joining our team?
Get in touch now!**

Contact Rebecca at:

volunteer@scaa.org.uk
07751 921 980

or just scan here



Make a donation

Thank you for your ongoing generosity. We can only keep flying and saving lives in Scotland with your support.

To make a donation, go to:
www.scaa.org.uk/donate
or just scan here



Other ways to donate:



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PAPER

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