



Beaucéant

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE GRAND PRIORY
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR ENGLAND & WALES



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Grand Prior's Message

Fellow Templars and Friends,

This edition of Beaucéant covers part of the "summer" of 2015, where we have not exactly been blessed with summer weather! Still, there has been a lot going on as you can read inside.

In addition to the items you can read here, our two charitable Trusts, the THT and TPT have been busy with meetings and grant-giving, and in the case of the TPT sending a representative to speak at a high school in Leyland, Lancashire.

This is the kind of outreach we need to develop further, targeting and explaining to a younger audience what it is to be a Templar, with focus on assisting those in need at home and abroad.

In recent years, guidance from the Charity Commission has changed slightly to encourage "public benefit" and focusing our giving on national and international recipients helps us meet this key criteria.

This summer, in addition to the regular support that the TPT gives to pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land and to Walsingham National Marian Shrines, the TPT has assisted two young schoolgirls to travel to Lourdes, the Roman Catholic shrine in the south of France.

There, these recipients will act as helpers to the many disabled pilgrims from their diocese. Both of these girls are students at the Leyland school which was visited by one of our members on behalf of the TPT. Whilst the sums paid out in support are not huge, the benefit goes beyond finance, as grant recipients become aware that they are supported by a group outside their immediate community.

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The TPT are to be applauded for their excellent programme of donations in both scope and variety.

I am pleased that part of our annual programme of donation-making goes towards the wonderful work of the Templar Pilgrimage Trust and the Templar Heritage Trust.

nnDnn,
George MacLean
Grand Prior

Members and Friends are invited to visit the new TPT website:

www.templarpilgrimagestrust.org.uk

Grand Priory Finances

Thinking ahead...

As you know our Grand Priory is managed by our Chapter. These are elected individuals who have offered their time to help improve and expand our Order.

In the amendments to our Constitution in 2014, it was agreed to shorten the term of Chapter from four years to three. The next election cycle will begin in January 2017, and although this seems a long way off, the time is now for those who may be considering offering themselves for election then, to start attending Chapter and perhaps even shadowing a current Chapter officer to see what the job is all about.

Chapter meetings are open to all fully paid members of the Order, indeed it was by attending and observing that I first got the “bug” to want to participate more in the management and direction of our Order when I first joined KTEW.

Our membership who have at one time held Chapter office are all approachable and willing to share their knowledge, and remain an important source of advice for every new generation of Chapter officeholder.

Seeking higher office in our Order is not only a time commitment, but also a financial one, as each Chapter officeholder finances their own travel and on occasion, accommodation to attend meetings. That is why Chapter is held in various places throughout the year, to even out the expense of travel for each of us.

Your current Chapter has a very high attendance record. This is quite different from the previous administration where there were 18 Chapter members, many not attending for a long time. The current “experiment” in a much reduced Chapter is working well, the smaller size allows for decisions to be made amicably and quickly, and I would recommend keeping the next Chapter size roughly the same as currently.

Over the next editions of Beaucéant, there will be a focus on each Chapter office, with input from current and previous officeholders. I am sure many of you will be inspired to consider your own future interest in Chapter office, bringing fresh eyes and ideas to how our Order progresses in the future.

George MacLean
Grand Prior

Annual Subscriptions

Our Full Membership subscription is £52 (£1 per week) and has remained so for many years.

However there are some members who are perpetual late-payers or under payers, and this is limiting our ability to plan and execute our annual donation programme. At the time of writing, almost half of our Full Membership subscription remains outstanding and this has meant delaying some of our regular and important charitable activity on behalf of the full membership.

Several years ago the Treasurer began a programme of allowing subscriptions to be paid on a quarterly cycle of £13, and many members took the opportunity to spread the cost of their membership through a quarterly Standing Order. This allows the treasury function to be easily managed and membership records are easily updated. The role of the Treasurer has been incorporated into that of our Chancellor now, and sending our many reminders several times a year to chase subscriptions is not a good use of the Chancellor’s voluntary effort.

For those members paying by annual cheque, please remember that your fee has to be paid before the end of the first quarter, so that when the bank statement arrives in April a full account of members can be drawn. The deadline for paying or starting to pay by Standing Order is 31 May, [Constitution: Regulations:3.2]

Being a Templar has both privileges and rights. One of these is the right to vote, and this voting right is suspended for those members who do not pay. This is specially important this year as we consider the future geographical reach of the Grand Priory, and later in 2017 when electing a new Chapter.

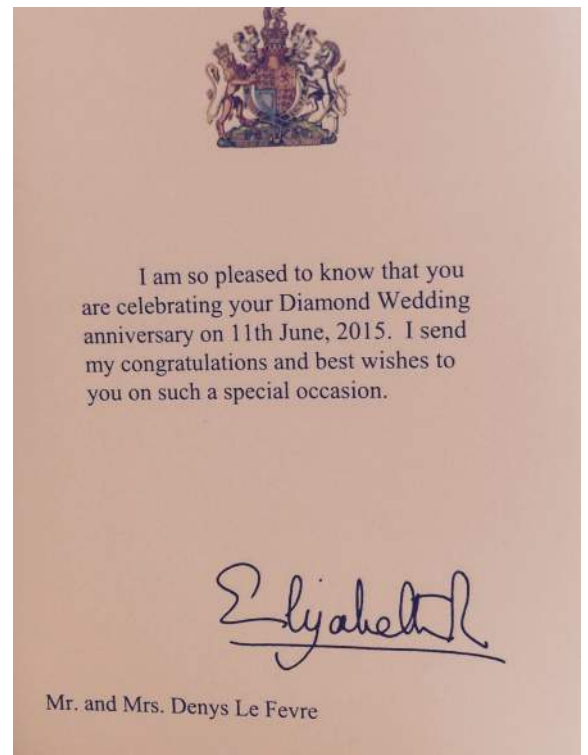
Please consider taking out a £13 per quarter Standing Order to ensure that your right to participate in the future of the Order during any and all votes is not lost.

Anthony Cuthbert
Chancellor

Diamond Wedding Celebration

In June two of our longest serving Templars celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary.

Denys and Barbara LeFevre, known to all for their many years of dedicated service not only to our Order but to their own community, welcomed friends and family from far and near on a beautifully sunny day. Several members of the Order were invited along to enjoy this wonderful event in Sandwich in Kent. On behalf of the Order, we all wish them very many happy years together.



Summer to Remember

This really has been a summer to remember!

On Saturday 04 July, one of our very own knights completed an important stage on his journey to becoming an Anglican priest. Joseph Fernandes was ordained Deacon at Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford in front of friends, family and fellow Templars. It was a wonderful day to witness, being the achievement and recognition of many years of Christian personal pilgrimage. Those who were in attendance at our AGA earlier in the year, will have listened to Joseph recounting his own personal journey towards ordination.



The service was held in the wonderful atmosphere of Christchurch, which is a small but perfectly fitting cathedral, with internal televisions everywhere, so nobody misses out on the key points of the service. Joseph was ordained by the Bishop of Buckingham, the Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson.

Our Order was represented by Grand Prior George, Deputy John Harcourt, Grand Priory Chaplain General Fr Michael Brain (concelebrating), Chancellor Anthony Cuthbert, members Steven Whitely and Basil Egawhary-England and Friend of the Order, Jenny Egawhary-England. We were entertained after the joyful ordination in Jesus College where the celebration continued.

Reverend Joseph will have his first position in the south of Oxford Diocese and I am sure will be keeping Joseph and his family and parish in our prayers.

The Annual General Meeting and Gala Dinner of the UK Priory of the NATO Grand Priory

A pleasant sunny break in what was an otherwise wet week in May, saw Simon Le Fevre and myself sharing a coffee break with OSMTH Grand Commander Marcel de Picciotto upon Eton Bridge. The occasion was that of the UK Priory (within the Grand Priory of NATO) 2015 Annual General Meeting and Gala Dinner.

The setting was a Spa and Hotel (which claims a somewhat spurious link to Sir Christopher Wren) residing on the banks of the River Thames. I'm sure Windsor has more to offer than a bewildering array of Royal souvenir shops, trendy bars and celebrity chef eateries, but I'm afraid the wedding party cramped on the deck of a quarter sized imitation of a Mississippi steamer held more interest than anything the Queen's household had to offer!



The meeting itself proved to be a more convivial experience and one which sailed along with military precision; unsurprisingly as the NATO UK Priory's members are made up of reserve officers of the Services. The whole event was conspicuous in the disappointment that their Prior, Colonel Brian John, was unfortunately unwell and unable to be present. His success in leading the Priory over 15 years was vocalised throughout proceedings and culminated in his receiving (in absentia) significant tokens of esteem and his elevation to the post of Prior Emeritus.

Once the main business was concluded, Grand Commander Marcel addressed the meeting on the recent developments within the International Order, especially highlighting the role that OSMTH's UN delegates have played and also the special relationships that have been built with the Government of the Philippines and with the King of Jordan, who has taken a personal interest in protecting Christian communities at risk in his country and elsewhere in the Middle East. Marcel also took the opportunity to brief everyone on a successful fresh water programme in the Philippines and the support that was being given to projects empowering women in Muslim countries.

Squadron Leader Peter Harris, who has held all senior offices within the Priory, was welcomed as the new NATO UK Prior and extended the hand of friendship once again to the Priory's fellow Brothers and Sisters in the Grand Priory of England and Wales. Simon conveyed our Grand Prior's regrets, that a previous commitment prevented him from attending, and reiterated the close ties we have with the NATO UK Priory, and reminded them of the open invitation their members have to join us at future events.

As a past serving member of the armed forces, I especially warmed to their decision to support, as their chosen charity, 'Combat Stress', which provides important support for the well-being of service men and women suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of modern warfare.

In the evening, an impressive array of mess uniforms, resplendent in medals and honours, complemented early-summer gowns and formal suits. The atmosphere was convivial and conversation flowed freely, benefiting further by its setting within the Orangery of the Hotel. The Gala Dinner included the novelty of Eton Mess, which apparently has made generations of public school boys' clothes shrink! This information left me with the dilemma of which to choose, the dessert or the port. The decision was fortunately taken away from me as a succession of toasts caused the port to win favour.

The proceedings culminated with the presentations of various international awards to the NATO UK Priory's officeholders in recognition of their service over many years. I was delighted to applaud their dedication to the Order and I was profoundly grateful to share in such a pleasant and informative gathering. Long may we be associated with this fine body.

Kevin Reilly

Summer to Remember—continued

Congratulations to Preceptor Nick Swift and his wife Patricia for another successful Charity Party in June.

Every few years the Swifts open their wonderful garden to friends and neighbours to raise funds for GAIN , the Guillain-Barre & Associated Inflammatory Neuropathies support group - <http://www.gaincharity.org.uk>

Yet again this was an occasion for Templars from Kent and beyond to mix in conversation with friends and neighbours of the Swift's over wonderful home baling, strawberries and clotted cream and of course gallons of tea!



Those who had not seen the garden before were amazed at the variety of blooms and interesting garden architecture. For those not able to attend, make it a date for your diary for 2017! A fine sum was raised from the raffle and sale of cakes and locally produced crafts.

Well done Nick and Patricia!

Dates for your Diary

Retreat and Fellowship Weekend	12-13 September 2015 (Saturday and Sunday)	Aylesford Priory, Kent
Temple London Visit and lunch	18 October 2015 (Sunday)	London Temple
Advent Dinner	28-29 November 2015 (Saturday and Sunday)	Canterbury Cathedral Lodge