



Beaucéant

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KNIGHTS TEMPLAR ENGLAND & WALES



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Knights and Dames from around the world assemble in Bristol Cathedral

The Bristol Grand Convent General was sandwiched between several sessions of the Grand Magistral Council.

The GMC is the 'business' side of the event, where OSMTM makes decisions, delivers reports and receives reports from the Grand Priors. Additionally, Training Sessions delivered the particular aspects of the activities carried out on our behalf at the various United Nations venues throughout the year, and also acts as a training ground for

future UN delegates. A further session, 'Future Leaders' focused on preparing future grand priory delegates for the work necessary to keep our national and international order going.

The final session was a presentation from the Grand Master, which was inspiring, as he explained what is going on behind the scenes and our challenges for the future.

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This was interspersed with great news about our continued work in the Middle East, not least of which was our contribution at the international level to the Jordan River Project. You can read the Almoner's thoughts on this project elsewhere in this edition.

As Grand Prior, I feel confident in writing that having invited OSMTH to Bristol was a great idea and has proved to be a huge success. Those attending learned a lot, or had gaps in knowledge filled, and misconceptions altered.

We now know that it is a vehicle for little and large Grand Priorities to work together to effect change on a global scale that is not possible to complete when acting alone. Being part of something much bigger, which has a wonderful reputation on the international stage, is worthwhile and we can see how our brothers and sisters throughout the world value our contribution.

George MacLean

Grand Prior

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CORRECTIONS

In the last Beaucéant edition, the originator of the idea to mark the 1307 Suppression by holding a Commemoration Service was incorrectly identified. It should have been **Brian Hartill**, Warden of Insignia, of the Preceptory of St Michael & All Angels.

The Editor expresses his regret at not checking facts first.



Andy Strickland (KTEW) and Paul McGowan (Commandery of Scotland, GP France) at the front of the parade in the Cloister of Bristol Cathedral.

Hosting Bristol GMC & GCG

George MacLean

We have had the honour in our Grand Priory of now having hosted two international events, an ordinary Grand Magistral Council in 2005 and now the Grand Convent General (GCG) in 2014.

What is a GCG? This is the biennial event where knights and dames, novices and postulants can attend, ask questions and hear what the international Order is doing in its many spheres of operation. It is also the occasion where other Grand Priorities speak of what is happening in their nations, such as their recruitment plans and charitable activities. Not least of course, is the opportunity to build Templar friendships with the participants across all the 21 Grand Priorities.

Whilst the days were filled with delivering and listening to reports, breaks and evening free time were opportunities to mix and discuss Templar activities and to listen to each other in a more relaxed environment.

For me, there were two highlights. Firstly hearing praise heaped on our Tour Guides from the international Friends and Family who went on the tours to Bath and around Bristol. Stand up Rudi Staffieri and Kevin Reilly - a fantastic job!

Secondly, standing next to our own Grand Priory Chaplain General, Fr Michael Brain, throughout the Cathedral Service and looking down the nave to see so many happy knights, dames and friends following our community worship in their service books. You can read a report on the Cathedral elsewhere in this edition.

Special thanks are due of course to those KTEW helpers. Without your presence, actions and hard work at the GCG we would not have been able to host what was undoubtedly a GCG of the highest standard which will be remembered for its efficient running, friendly atmosphere and good company. We have managed to set a very

high standard for future events. Some of the GCG Helpers have contributed articles to this edition of Beaucéant, giving their own reviews, which as Editor I have not altered.

Finally a huge “well done” to the Chair of the Organising Committee, Anthony Cuthbert, our Chancellor. The purse strings were tied tight. The planning was meticulous. On-the-spot changes to timetables and schedules were met with a smile. Delegates and Friends & Family members were encouraged to mix and steered towards interesting new Templar friends. The 40+ hours a week spent organising the GCG in the months beforehand was well worth it.

As the Grand Prior, I was able to sit back and let it all happen, knowing that the Chair and his KTEW Helpers had it all in hand. Having vowed on the Tuesday never to offer to host one again, by Saturday I was ready to host another, but our next turn will be some years off!

As I head to Tomar, Portugal, to represent you all at the next Grand Magistral Council in April 2015, I can sit back and r-e-l-a-x...

...Both for me and for the members of our delegation it was a real pleasure to attend the GMC in Bristol. I would like to thank both you and the members of GP England and Wales for your care and the excellent organisation of the event.

God bless you all,

With fraternal greetings

nnDnn

Roumen Raltchev GCTJ

Grand Prior of Bulgaria

“AND SO THEY CAME.....”

This was the title of an article I penned for our Templar News following the last International meeting of Templars at Marlow in Buckinghamshire in 2005.

It was a good heading for 2005, and so it is only apt that although 9 years have passed, and the number of Grand Priories has doubled, the sentiment still rings true for 2014. “And so they came” this time in October to Bristol, with the Mercure Hotel as the centre for fellowship and meetings; for good food; and thankfully comfortable chairs on which to sit/slouch and listen to the reports and discussions by and from the Grand Magistral Officers and those elected as Grand Priors from the now many nations belonging to OSMTH.

Each day’s proceedings were opened and closed with prayers, something we at KT E&W expect of all our meetings, be they local or national. GP E&W manned the sales table in the corner of the main room on the 5th floor, and we are happy to say that we raised several hundred pounds for our own Grand Priory funds. Our unique and neat lapel badges will be adorning the clothing of Knights and Dames all over Europe and North America for a long time yet.

Chevalier Andy and Ceri Strickland did a wonderful job promoting and selling raffle tickets - the prize, a week’s stay in an apartment in Chicago was won by a knight from Italy. Every ticket purchaser also received a signed print of the Chevalier Denys Le Fevre’s painting of the Templar Church in Bristol, in itself a wonderful memento.

Full credit to Chevalier Anthony Cuthbert and Grand Prior George for the hard work they put in over the last few months to make sure that every part of the 5 days went without too many hitches, and I am sure Anthony had to take the odd ‘calming pill’ at times!

John Harcourt



Simon, Barbara and Denys Le Fevre (KTEW) with Vicar General Ron Matthewman (GP Canada) in Bristol Cathedral.

... I trust you have had time to rest up from the strain and stress of last week's meetings. I thank you and you team for what I thought was an excellent time together; enjoyed Bristol, Hotel, Cathedral, people and what we accomplished - Thank you, and look forward to meeting you again soon.

Blessings.

Ron Matthewman

Vicar General of OSMTH

Bristol Reflections from the Almoner

Mavis Jacobs

The Convent General in Bristol was a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting weekend, but more than that was of considerable significance for me as it dispelled many of the previous ideas I held about our involvement and relationship with OSMTH - and changed them for the better.

I know from conversations some of us have had over the years that many of you shared my concerns. We were never, as “ordinary” Templars, privileged to sit in on meetings at similar functions and so any information about the activities of OSMTH was usually what it was assumed we wished to know and frequently entirely inadequate.

I am happy to say that there has been a sea change and on this occasion I was able to listen to as much of the debate as I wished and I believe that this will be the future pattern. The only thing missing was a printed agenda.

The biggest turn around for me was what I learned about the Jordan River Project. I had previously understood this to be an exclusively Lutheran enterprise that King Abdullah had made land available to the Lutheran Church; that a large worship complex was to be built and that the Lutheran congregation would happily make it available to other denominations. I now understand that King Abdullah is concerned to extend his protection to the threatened Christian communities of the Holy Lands and has made land available to all denominations. The Lutheran and Coptic Churches are just the first to build.

I was fascinated by the video about the Jordan River Project and the recently discovered archaeological evidence which suggests that this site is the place at which Jesus was baptised by St. John Baptist. In the year before the Six Day War I took a party of school children to the Holy Land and we were taken to a lonely, totally rural spot by the Jordan where our Bedouin guide told us that “this is where WE believe Jesus was baptized” .



Fr Michael Brain (KTEW), Grand Commander Marcel di Picciotto and Vicar General Ron Mattewman (GP Canada) in Bristol Cathedral.

Another Bedouin dismounted from his camel, waded in and filled old Coca-Cola bottles with water for a tip. Two years later we were taken to a different, more sophisticated site. No camel there. A couple of years ago I returned on pilgrimage and was taken again to the second site which was even more touristy and expensive - almost a Baptism theme park. I have a strong feeling that the place I visited in the mid '60s was always known to the indigenous population and is where excavations are now taking place and where this extraordinarily generous gift of land has been made available.

I do hope that in the future you will all feel much more involved with Templars overseas; it is up to us on Chapter to keep you informed and encourage you to attend meetings when time and, alas, money permit. Just putting a face to a name helps. We can get involved and I had the positive feeling that our Grand Priory and officers are respected and have much to contribute.

We need to look to the future and it is my personal hope that some of you younger Templars are mentally preparing to take the reins from some of us old hands - I am rapidly reaching my sell by date!

United Nations and International Organizations Break-Out Sessions

Heather Boyle

Grand Master Patrick Rea and Grand Commander Marcel de Picciotto co-chaired this very interesting morning session that outlined the role of current and prospective OSMTH delegates to the United Nations both from a theoretical and practical perspective. The meeting gave clarity and direction to International Peace Bureau (IPB EUFRA) and DPI/NGO representatives and outlined a framework for successful delegation by stressing the importance of a common code of conduct through non-political association, advocacy and diplomacy. GP Patrick Rea gave a detailed and comprehensive account of the importance of maintaining and securing OSMTH's pivotal and key position in the UN and its relations with other NGOs and government agencies.

OSMTH has been a full member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations in consultative status with United Nations since July 2002. As such they are entitled to make written and oral contributions to the UN on a variety of issues and in the three international cities of New York, Geneva and Vienna. A discussion of the proper mechanisms to obtain UN admission and ground passes for both permanent and temporary delegates proved both helpful and beneficial to all in its clarity and purpose. Bob Bateman skillfully reviewed the delegate handbook and explained the procedures for the appointment of Special Meeting Attendees by the UN Chief Operating Officer. He went on to outline and explain the role of the four GPUUSA members and a further brothers' role from the Grand Priory of Canada. Further updates were given regarding the NGO Committee on the status of Women in New York.

The final part of the session covered the work of the International Peace Bureau and

the Department of Public Information (DPI-NGO) The DPI proactively reaches out to representatives of approximately 1,300 members of civil society and the IPB continues to work closely with OSMTH to achieve their common goal. Grand Master Patrick Rea summed up the session and on closing reiterated the fundamental requirement and importance of 'bridge building' and neutrality when serving as a UN delegate so as to maintain and support a critical and functional presence in all matters associated with the role OSMTH and its code of conduct.



Heather Boyle (KTEW) unfurls one of the facsimile documents from the Vatican Secret Archives' "The Trial of the Templars"

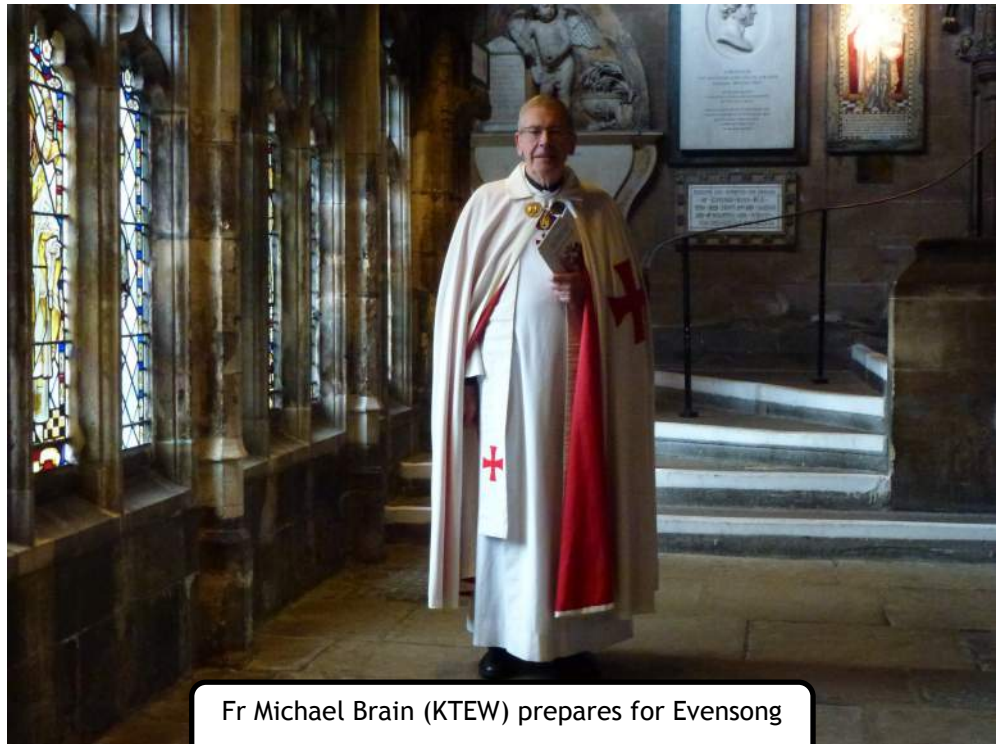
Bristol GCG from the Grand Priory Chaplain General

Fr Michael Brain

Those of us who were able to go to Bristol in October, enjoyed a very interesting few days, each of which began with prayers followed by international meetings and for some, guided tours of Bristol and slightly further afield, to Bath.

On the second day I was privileged to join a party of our visitors on the trip to Bath, to view the beauty of that city. Our leaders, Chevaliers Kevin Reilly and Michael Edwards, together with an official guide, pointed

out the historic Abbey, the Roman Baths and the Pump Room, the splendid Royal Crescent and other places of interest in this World Heritage City.



Fr Michael Brain (KTEW) prepares for Evensong

For many of us the highlight of the week was the service in Bristol Cathedral on the Saturday afternoon. We were graced by the presence of the Lord-Lieutenant of the County and City of Bristol, Mrs Mary Prior MBE JP, Her Majesty the Queen's Representative.

The Cathedral choir sang Evensong, and we followed this with our own Templar service, in which our Grand Prior had an important role. This service was a very moving occasion in that beautiful House of God. Back at the hotel the evening started with a reception where we were able to chat to old friends and make new ones, before moving into the dining room for a splendid Gala Banquet Dinner.

The Master of Ceremonies for the Dinner was Grand Prior George, who made sure that the speeches and toasts were kept short. At our table we had Templars from Italy, the USA, and Finland, and it was pleasing to hear from them how much effort members of our Grand Priory organising committee had put into everything, from the welcomes, to chats over coffees, over drinks, and at meal times.

The only similar event I had attended was the one in Marlow in 2005, and like then, I will remember the Grand Convent General in Bristol for years to come.

My thanks and congratulations to Chevalier Anthony Cuthbert and the group from KT E&W for all they did with such dignity to make this event such a success.

Friends & Family Outings

Kevin Reilly

With the delegates all tucked up in their meetings, it was off to the sites for friends and families. An eclectic mix of nationalities were treated to a very interesting two days of bus tours which took in the highlights of Bristol and Bath. Our very own Chev. Rudi Staffieri took on the task of explaining the historic role that his home town of Bristol has had over the active years of Templarism and a professional job he made of it too.

The visitors joined a throng of school children as they enjoyed a look around the tombs of two Templar Knights in the Lord Mayors Church. This was followed by them circumnavigating the Templar Church, before making their way up the gorge for impressive views from the Suspension Bridge. A Kodak moment if ever there was one.

The following day saw an early start for Bath which included a guided tour by an extremely animated and knowledgeable professional guide. Donned in powdered wig and dandy waistcoat, he treated the friends to an entertaining explanation of Georgian life in the spa City which included a visit to the Hospitalers Chapel. In the afternoon, most of the visitors took the opportunity to take in the Roman baths, the boutique shops and coffee houses, before a late departure back to the hotel.

No significant mishaps, one lost person, lots of happy Italian shoppers and a few sore feet to boot, but all in all, a very pleasant two days was had by all!



Kevin Reilly (KTEW) outlines the safety measures and tour attractions before the coach sets off.

Bath Day Trip

Ceri Strickland, KTEW Friend

On Friday, 32 friends and families of OMTB boarded a coach bound for a day out in the Roman City of Bath. A Professional Tour Guide joined the coach party in Bath, where he gave directions to the Driver whilst highlighting and explaining the architecture, buildings, places of interest and famous people involved with the city as we passed by.

An hour later, the party disembarked from the coach to explore Bath on foot. The tour guide negotiated the party through the narrow streets visiting; Bath Abbey, the Roman Baths, the Pump Room Restaurant, the oldest house and St John's Hospital Chapel of St Michael Within, until finally reaching the Parade Gardens for a packed lunch in the sun.

“Bath on your own” filled the remainder of the afternoon until 4pm. At the end of a very busy day, everyone boarded the coach and in the rush hour traffic headed back to Bristol. (Bus Lanes are great during rush hour!)

OSMTH International Meetings 2005 and 2014

Denys LeFevre

It's difficult to make a comparison between the two International meetings of the Order held in 2005 and 2014 as the Order has moved on quite dramatically.

After discussions in Brighton in 1998, there were steps towards a great coming together, with member bodies of the smaller OIMT- Confederation joining with the larger OSMTH - International. After three groups in this country formed the Grand Priory of Knights Templar in England and Wales in 2003 we hosted a meeting of OSMTH - International in April 2005. However, we were smaller in number on that occasion and the meetings were attended by the members of our Grand Priory, the Grand Magistral Officers and the Grand Priors of 8 overseas countries, with the American bringing the largest contingent.

The overseas participants stayed at a hotel outside Marlow and our accommodation for English and Welsh members was based at nearby Bisham Abbey (once a Templar Preceptory) and now a major centre for the training of sports people. We had a number of outings which included everybody. The first was to Windsor Castle where we attended Evensong in St George's Chapel. Afterwards we had the great privilege of having a tour and talk on the history of the castle, but in particular that of the Chapel and St George's House.

After the meetings on the Saturday we went to the Service of Admission, Investiture and Rededication for the Order held in the medieval Parish Church of All Saints, by the side of the Thames; before returning for the Gala Dinner in the Great Hall at Bisham

On Sunday we were taken by coach to London to attend Sung Mattins in the Temple Church, where we were able to view the tombs of early Knights Templar set in the Round, dating back to medieval times. We then had a traditional Sunday lunch in London, before returning to Bisham on the coach, where we dispersed.

On this occasion the OSMTH International meetings covered four days in Bristol and business meetings were open to all. However, the majority of attendees came as observers, whilst the actual business was carried out by the Grand Priors and Grand Magistral Officers of OSMTH.

The business meetings were very intense and, apart from those attending in Bristol, included members from Argentina, Brazil and the Philippines, who were able to participate by Skype. There were however some problems with this relatively new form of communication.

To my mind the highlight of the four day event was taking part in Choral Evensong in Bristol Cathedral, which we were privileged to attend fully robed. The Service was also attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Bristol, as the Queen's Representative, who remained to see two overseas Knights receiving the award of Grand Cross. (This I felt had elements leaning towards the Masonic.)

Our previous International meeting had a very warm atmosphere and we were small in numbers so it only lasted two days. However, this year's meeting was compacted into 4 days and seemed to be very business-like in its organisation, but with members enjoying the very friendly atmosphere.

For members and 'friends' there were two coach trips, one a tour around the city of Bristol and the other a visit to the historic city of Bath.

The overall organisation of the event was highly commendable and those Templars in charge of the organisation worked very hard to ensure that things progressed smoothly. The hotel staff were pleasant and efficient.

On a personal note, as an elderly observer, it was difficult to absorb all that was taking place, but I was extremely impressed and very pleased to be able to attend. All-in-all, the whole event was very impressive and I am extremely proud to be a member of this venerable Order.

Grand Convent General at Bristol Cathedral

George MacLean

The highlight of our Grand Convent General was undoubtedly our shared church service in Bristol Anglican Cathedral. During the planning stage of the event we had received great help from the Dean, his assistant and all the verging staff and I was looking forward to seeing our plans and preparations in action.

Three coaches of Templars arrived in good time to robe in the Chapter Room, a magnificent room in itself under the cathedral before assembling in rank to parade into the nave and take their seats. We were honoured to have local members of the Grand Priory of NATO, NATO-UK



Convent General begins...

Priory join us for the day. Friends and family were already seated to witness us process in an orderly fashion. Members are fully aware that marshalling the knights and dames of KTEW is a mammoth task when we have to do this, and this is magnified when you have 70 knights and dames from around the world to get into rank and walk together!

The Marshall General of OSMTH, Ennio Senese, and I had the distinct honour of greeting the Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs Mary Prior MBE DStJ JP, and her husband with their cadet escort, and walked them down to their place of honour. At three o'clock exactly, the Dean and Choir processed into the Choir and Evensong began. It is humbling to think that this jewel of Anglican worship has been said and sung within the cathedral walls for a thousand years, and this huge timeframe was not lost on our international guests.

Once Evensong had ended, our own service of Rededication began, with prayers and readings. KTEW played a major role in this part of the service, with Fr Michael, Grand Priory Chaplain General, and Grand Prior George conducting most of the service between them. One highlight was the elevation of two worthy knights to the dignity of Grand Cross, our friends Jean Pelegrin (GP France) and Dejan Sedlacek (GP Croatia). They were warmly congratulated on their new rank by everyone in the cathedral. Fr Michael closed the Convent with the Templar Prayer, very apt for the occasion.

Sadly the Lord-Lieutenant had to rush off to another appointment, but after being escorted to the north exit, passed on her sincere good wishes and thanks for being welcomed and able to participate in our event. Then it was time for our Grand Prior to honour each knight and dame as they marched back up to the west end of the church.

After the ranks had exited the Nave, there was plenty of time for photographs, some of which are reproduced here, before heading back to the hotel for a well-deserved pre-dinner drink.

Grand Convent General at Bristol Cathedral

George MacLean



Cathedral Service book (left)

Frank Garbutt, Nicole Lassaline (GP Canada) and Anthony Cuthbert (KTEW) in the Chapter Room of Bristol Cathedral (right)



Knights and Dames assemble in the Chapter Room of Bristol Cathedral

Grand Convent General at Bristol Cathedral

George MacLean

ANNOUNCEMENT

I am very pleased to inform our readers that Chancellor **Anthony Cuthbert, KCTJ**, has been appointed to the position of Marshall General of OSMTH recently.

This is a great honour for Anthony and our Grand Priory, and we should wish him every success in his role in the years to come.

George MacLean
Grand Prior



John Harcourt and Denys LeFevre enjoy a well earned coffee between meetings



GP NATO members celebrate a new Grand Cross for the Priory of NATO-UK with the Grand Commander and Grand Master



Anthony Cuthbert cements new friendships between KTEW and GPUSA



KTEW members David Jones and Denys LeFevre share a moment with the Grand Prior of GPUSA, Buren Shields

Photography thanks for this edition: John Digilio (GPUSA), David Jones (KTEW) and Andy Strickland (KTEW)