

Provincial Priory of London

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OPICS

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Editorial

Well Bro Knights, your news sheet has expanded from 2 to 4 pages, an increase in size of 100%. This has been made possible by the generosity of Kt Simon Brookman who prints Knightly Topics for the Province. He is a great support to me as Editor – thank you Simon.

With extra space I shall be able to include some interesting items from the Province in future issues. We have a number of Preceptories with very interesting histories and some are included in this issue: Annus Mirabilis who sustain interest in their history by reading part of it at every installation festive board. King Edward VII, that lively Preceptory whose centenary is described herein. Coromandel, with its origins in India and the Britannic of Madeira Group with its origins in 19th Century Madeira will be included as soon as space permits. There are many more so please send details of your Preceptory to allow the remainder of the Province to “Read all About It”

Don't forget, if you have an item of interest write to me by January 15th for inclusion in the Spring issue and June 14th for the Autumn issue

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The Provincial Prior's Address to Provincial Priory

This meeting of Provincial Priory marks the 10th birthday of the Province of London, the youngest of the Provinces in the United Orders and, while young it may be, small it certainly is not, with 28 Preceptories under its Banner.

The principal event at this meeting today is the retirement of David Williams as Sub-Prior and the appointment of Eddie Goodwin to take his place. When I gave thought to what I should say about David I turned for information and inspiration to my good friend and mentor, R E Kt Jack Dribbell, KCT. I turned to Jack because David Williams' tenure as Sub Prior of London has spanned the Priorship of both Jack and myself, in fact his involvement in high office preceded the creation of the Province.

Jack has been persuaded to write an article on this subject for Knightly Topics (*See page 3 - Editor*)

The Prov Prior then quoted from that article after which he continued:

When I became Provincial Prior in 1997 I had no hesitation in asking David to carry on as Sub-Prior. He has therefore served high office in London Knights Templar masonry for twelve years. That is twelve years of service during which he has demonstrated the greatest

loyalty and devotion to the Order and the Province. All this in addition to his high office in the Mark and Cryptic degrees where he is Provincial Grand Master and District Grand Master respectively.

During the last seven years or so he has presided over our Provincial Malta meeting with dignity and great distinction. His Great Priory rank of Past Second Great Constable (active in 2001) is indicative of the esteem in which he is held by everyone.

David, the Knights of this Province owe you a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid. Thankfully David has told me that he will continue to be active in the Province in any way required of him and I think that is also indicative of the generous heart of the man. On behalf of all the Knights of this Province I thank you, David, for all your help, support and friendship over that long period of time.

For the last three years E Kt Eddie Goodwin has been a most capable and efficient Vice-Chancellor and I had no hesitation in turning to him to fill the office of Sub-Prior. He is a long serving, busy mason and a dedicated member of this Order. Much of his expertise has been gained through his involvement in the Craft where he is Deputy

Chairman of the Stratherne Group. He is also Assistant Grand Master in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Masons of London and will be installed as District Grand Prefect for London in the Allied Masonic Degrees in November 2002. Eddie, we offer our congratulations and wish you well in that appointment and in your new Office today.

Eddie's move to Sub-Prior meant that I needed a new Vice-Chancellor and it seemed to me that E Kt Mike Fox might have the necessary attributes to fill that position. Mike, we also wish you well in your new Office and following your investiture today, a further experience awaits you in the not too distant future when you will be welcomed into the Vice-Chancellors Mess. This is popularly known as the Vice Squad for very good reasons as you will find out. Eddie Goodwin, Donald Maclean and I have all experienced time in the Vice Squad and some say that we have not been the same since! Brother Knights, since our last Chapter of Provincial Priory we have added two

Preceptories to our list in London. Londinium Preceptory No. 632 - a Preceptory for Installed Preceptors of and in the Province - was consecrated in December 2001 with some 70 odd Founders. All Preceptors in the Province ought to belong to this Preceptory so please ask the Registrar for an Application Form. In October of last year the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master invited me to accept into London an ailing Preceptory from Madras. I was pleased to accede to his invitation and although arrangements for the meeting produced some difficulties for me Coromandel Preceptory No 73 was duly reponed into London in a splendid meeting presided over by the Grand Master. *(A description of this meeting will be published in the next issue. Editor).* The Preceptory is now firmly established in London with good cross-sectional membership. I hope this will allow some of the younger members to experience good masonic habits from their more experienced colleagues. This Preceptory although more than 100 years old is established as our 28th

Preceptory in London. Whilst the Preceptory started life in London with a relatively small membership this will be gradually increased from all ranks over the next few years.

I congratulate all those whom I have invested with or promoted in Provincial Rank today. To those receiving rank or office for the first time I say that ranks in London do not come easily but are given for duty performed for your Preceptory and imposes a further duty to serve our Province. To those promoted I remind them that promotions are earned by continued support for your Preceptory and Province. Wherever you fit into the pattern I wish you well and hope you will get much satisfaction from your office because it is well earned.

Our Provincial Malta meeting will take place here at Mark Masons Hall on Wednesday 29th January 2003. The new Provincial Sub-Prior will be in action and the new active Provincial Officers will have the opportunity to be just that - ACTIVE. I hope to see you all there. Brother Knights I thank you.

King Edward VII Consecration, Centenary and Banner Dedication

At Mark Masons' Hall on Thursday 18th May 1902 the King Edward VII Preceptory No 173 was consecrated by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, the Earl of Euston, GCT as fully reported in the Masonic Illustrated in June of that year. Kt Imre Kiralfy was installed as its first Preceptor and later he proposed the toast to the M E & S Grand Master who responded that "it had afforded him great pleasure to consecrate the Preceptory for, with 37 founders he felt it bound to succeed." *(A sound prophesy - Editor).* "He had known E Kt Kiralfy for many years, and he knew he would be the man to place their preceptory in the front rank of KT Preceptories."

In the same year it formed the Preceptory of Instruction.

Because of its large membership and consequent restriction of progression to the chair a daughter Preceptory was formed in 1903, The Empress Preceptory No 178. Meeting on the same day as 173 it also has the same Registrar and initially no member could be EP in both.

On 29th November 2002 the Preceptory celebrated its Centenary at 10 Duke Street with a membership now of 52 Knights and 6 waiting to join. In the presence of the M E & S Grand Master Leslie Felgate Dring, GCT, the R E Provincial Prior installed R E Kt Michael Walsingham, KCT as Preceptor who then appointed his officers to be invested at a subsequent meeting.

The Grand Master addressed the Knights informing them that King Edward VII had given permission for his name to be used, although he was not crowned King until later that year and, after hearing a short history of the Preceptory, delivered the Centenary Warrant to the Preceptor. He then dedicated the Preceptory Banner, which had been presented by the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement. A dramatic oration on banners in general and the design of this one in particular was delivered by V E Knight David Williams acting as Gt Prelate. This most interesting address will be reproduced in a future edition of Knightly Topics when space permits.

V Em Kt David I Williams - A Tribute

Rt Em Kt Jack L C Dribbell, KCT, P Prov Prior writes:

In the autumn of 1990 the then Grand Master, M. E. & Sup. Kt H D (“Bob”) Still, announced that the twenty-four unattached London Preceptories would be formed into two groups each under a Group Inspector. The development was not universally popular. These Preceptories included such independent-minded units as Mount Calvary “D” (Time Immemorial), Faith & Fidelity (Early Grand Encampment of England), Connaught Army & Navy, and Public Schools, to mention only four.

Twelve of the units met in 10 Duke Street and the other twelve at 86 St James’s Street. It was decided to name the new entities the Duke Group and the St James’s Group. Curiously, the allocation of Preceptories did not follow this logic, each Group was given six units meeting in one location and six in the other.

When the announcement was made, one robust registrar observed forcefully “Look, they’re putting a Group Inspector over us. That’s all we need!” He had no cause to worry, the St James’s Group, into which his Preceptory was brigaded, was given as its Group Inspector V Em Kt David Ivor Williams. In no time at all any residual reservations were quickly dispersed and indeed the registrar concerned was soon an active, committed member of the



Group team. The fact that both were Welshmen might conceivably have influenced the outcome.

After only twenty-two months the Grand Master changed the structure again. He abolished the two Groups and included all twenty-four Preceptories in a new Provincial Priory for London. It was the Inspector of the Duke Group, somewhat longer in the Order (and in the tooth) who was nominated as Provincial Prior. If David was chagrined by this decision, he never gave the slightest hint of it to anyone. The new Prior invited V Em Kt Williams to be his Provincial Sub-Prior, in which capacity David acted with signal distinction throughout the first Prior’s five-year term.

When Rt Em Kt Alfred John Day became Provincial Prior in 1997, he immediately invited David to continue as his Sub-Prior. Now, after nearly two years as Group Inspector and ten years

as Provincial Sub-Prior, David has decided to relinquish office. His tenure, especially when one calls to mind his very high responsibilities in other Degrees, has been outstandingly devoted and successful. Two examples may serve to illustrate the whole.

When the Provincial Prior was hospitalised with broken bones following a fall, David presided over the annual chapter of Provincial Priory, attended by distinguished visitors from far and wide, with all his customary dignity, military bearing and cheerful warmth.

Those knights who were at the Provincial meeting of the Knights of Malta in January 2002, when David was in the chair of the Priory and did the whole ceremony including the Address to the Candidates, will agree that it was one of the best and most inspiring Malta ceremonies they ever witnessed.

Unlike the Craft, which has its Order of Service to Masonry, the KT has no separate honour for those who serve above and beyond the call of duty. If such an order were ever instituted, David Ivor Williams would be a prime candidate for membership.

Meanwhile the Knights of the Province of London owe V Em Kt Williams a debt that cannot be repaid. We wish him a happy and richly earned retirement.

Sydenham Preceptory No 251 now possess a splendid banner, which was dedicated on Friday 20 September 2002. The banner features as a centrepiece the Parish Church of St Bartholomew in Sydenham which has connections with the Preceptory. The original meeting place for the Preceptory was the Church House attached to the church and when the present pulpit was installed in the church in 1874 three of the eighteen carved shields surrounding it depicted the cornerstones of Masonic belief, Faith, Hope and Charity. The background to the banner is the Templar Red Cross-patée on a white background and surmounted by the White Malta Cross. The banner dedication was conducted by our Provincial Prior, R E Kt A J Day ably supported by the Rev William Marston, Prov Prelate and Bob Upton Prov Marshal. Derek Blumson, in the absence of the Eminent Preceptor - whose arrival had been delayed - installed a new Knight.

French Knights!

At an extraordinary meeting on 31st January this year Coromandel Preceptory installed 18 French Royal Arch Masons at the request of Great Priory. An unusual task but is it a first?

A Good Cause

Barry Clark, an honorary member of Britannic of Madeira Preceptory and Past Sub-Prior of the Province of Essex is a teacher. At his school he has a young boy with a prodigious talent for piano who has won a place at a prestigious music school but is unable to pay the fees of around £1,700 per year. Barry organised a concert at school to pay for the lad's first year but he needs further support. Londinium Preceptory has donated £100 – Can anyone else help please?

Regalia Sale

The following used items are in stock and available from the Provincial Warden of Regalia:

Sundry mantle badges, Provincial and Great Priory
Tunic for a slim knight
Mantle for a Preceptor
Mantle for a Knight
Sash for a knight
Sash for a Provincial Officer
Cap for a knight (58 cms circ)
Breast jewels

For any these items or new Provincial ties please contact George Hodge: Tel/Fax 0118 973 0966 or email george-hodge@lineone.net.

Dates to Meet - 2003

Great Priory	Wed 21 st May
Londinium Prec	Fri 4 th July
Provincial Priory	Mon 29 th Sep
Gt Priory of Malta	Tue 18 th Nov
Londinium Prec	Wed 17 th Dec
Carol Service	Thur 18 Dec

A River Party



Ian Brooks, a member of the Provincial Bodyguard, wrote to Knightly Topics to describe

an end-of-season Garden Party at the riverside home of the Provincial Bodyguard Commander, Capt Dick Fogwill, RN, P Gt A-de-C. The date chosen, 11 August 2002, was obviously a good one, for the sun shone and the Bodyguard accompanied by their ladies enjoyed a fine day by the Thames in the company of several Officers of the Province.

Caught on camera is their host pictured chatting to David Williams, then

our Sub-Prior and Eddie Goodwin, then Provincial Vice Chancellor and

now our Sub-Prior.

Several bottles of champagne were disposed of with due ceremony before the demolition of an excellent buffet with its distinct hints of a shopping trip to France.

As the afternoon shadows grew longer entertainment was provided by Terry Dodd, a taxi driver, demonstrating his skills on the river by providing trips for the party members in their host's run about.

Annus Mirabilis Preceptory No 206

Each year at the festive board of its installation meeting Annus Mirabilis practices a most delightful custom. It reads the portion of the history of the Preceptory reproduced below:

As a result of a meeting of a number of Knights, held at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, on Wednesday the sixteenth of October 1918, a petition was presented to the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, praying for a Warrant empowering the Petitioners to form themselves into a new Preceptory.

It appears that many names for the Preceptory were considered and that the name originally favoured was the City of London Preceptory. But, by a letter dated the 29 November 1918, the Great Vice Chancellor informed E Kt Harry Hughes, the acting Registrar, that the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand

Master had been pleased to sanction a Warrant for the new Preceptory provided that some name other than City of London Preceptory was submitted for approval. No reason was given for the refusal to allow the use of that name.

According to Sir John Cockburn, the first Eminent Preceptor, the name Annus Mirabilis Preceptory was adopted because it characterised the year 1918 which saw not only the end of the 1914-18 War but, in particular, "the entry of a victorious Christian Army into Jerusalem and the rescue of the Holy Sepulchre and the cradle of our Faith from the domination of the Turk". The Preceptory was to stand as an enduring memorial of the latest and last of the Crusades. The Preceptory was consecrated at Mark Masons' Hall on Monday the 10th of February 1919 by the M E & S Grand Master R Loveland Loveland assisted by 11 Officers.