

# Provincial Priory of London

## *K*nighly *T*opics



Issue 10

Autumn 2005



### *A Profile of Kemeys Tynte &*

### *Temple Crossing No 45*



*Paul Calderwood, Registrar, outlines the history of his Preceptory*

Preparations are underway to celebrate next year the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of Warrants to the two Preceptories that today make up The United Preceptory of Kemeys Tynte & Temple Crossing No 45.

This united Preceptory - which, incidentally, has the longest name of any Preceptory in London - has a most interesting history and one that lies well outside of London, with claims to be the oldest surviving Preceptory to have met in any of the three counties of Essex, Kent and Surrey.

It is a story that began in 1856, when Warrants were granted to Temple Crossing Encampment No 45, to meet in Essex, and Kemeys Tynte Encampment No 48, to meet in Kent.

The first to be consecrated was Encampment No 48, which took its name from Col Charles Kemeys Kemeys-Tynte FSA who was the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand Master between 1846 and 1860. Indeed, on the same day that the Encampment was Consecrated (19 May 1856) – and at the same venue (The Railway Tavern, Blackheath) – the Grand Master consecrated a new Provincial Grand Conclave for Kent.

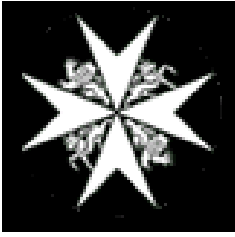
Although it had been granted its warrant first, Temple Crossing Encampment was not consecrated until 4 February 1857 and this took place at The George Hotel in Colchester. This Encampment took its name from the village of Temple Crossing (near Braintree in Essex) which had been part of a Templar estate in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A great wheat barn,

erected by the Order around 1250 is still standing in the village – not far from the remains of a medieval Templar church with its distinctive round shape.

After consecration, both Preceptories met at a succession of different venues. In the case of Kemeys Tynte Encampment this included Blackheath and Woolwich before it moved in 1874 to the Hall at 33 Golden Square, London. Temple Crossing Encampment met at Colchester and then Romford in Essex before it moved to Surrey – where it met successively at Kennington, London Bridge and Greenwich.

Sparsely attended meetings finally drove both Preceptories into each other's arms in 1892 when both met on the same day at 33 Golden Square and the proposals for Union were approved unanimously.

Since that time, all meetings of the United Preceptory have been held in London and its present home is at 10 Duke Street. Over the years, the Preceptory is proud to have numbered amongst its past Preceptors several Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters in the Craft, the High Rulers of other Masonic degrees - as well as a Grand Master of the Grand Loge National de France - and a number of distinguished clergymen. Its membership has also included a European Royal Prince and several French Aristocrats. Currently its members claim to be ordinary but very enthusiastic Bro Knights. Proud of this antiquity, this remarkable Preceptory is now gearing itself up to celebrate 150 fascinat-



# *The Order of St John Eye Hospital Jerusalem*

*David Pythian of the New Temple Preceptory No 117 researched  
and wrote this paper to present to his Preceptory*

## **History and Development**

**T**he Hospital can trace its origins to the eleventh century when the Order of St. John was first formed to protect pilgrims in the Holy Land at the time of the first Crusade. From early days the hospital made no distinction between religions – Christians, Muslims, and Jews are all treated alike. With time the Hospital of St. John became a military order, and having been expelled from Palestine in the thirteenth century, was later in occupation at Cyprus until 1310, Rhodes until 1523 and Malta until 1798. However the Hospitallers never forgot their devotion to the sick and built hospitals in all of their headquarters.

The Order in England was for a long time rich and powerful and was arguably the largest ecclesiastical landowner in the country. It was eventually dissolved in 1540 leaving many reminders of its presence scattered about the country. St. John's Gate in Clerkenwell for example, on the opposite side of the main road to the Provincial Christmas Carol Service's venue, was built in 1504 but not destroyed at the time of the dissolution, was regained for the Order in 1874. The Order was re-established in Britain by Queen Victoria, who was the first Sovereign head, and eventually it was constituted as The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. It was decid-

ed to concentrate on ophthalmic disease, this being a particular blight in the area, and a mandate to build an eye hospital in Jerusalem was acquired from the Ottoman government. The Eye hospital became one of the two foundations of the Venerable Order. The other was the St. John Ambulance, which was started in 1872, encouraged by the post Crimean War interest in first aid.

## **The Hospital in Jerusalem**

Since the time of its foundation in 1882, the Hospital has been in continuous service and it has established a worldwide reputation for its work. At the end of the British mandate in 1948 the Hospital site was abandoned and is now the Mount Sion hotel. It was rebuilt in its present position in the



*The Hospital on Mount Scopus*

Sheikh Jarrah district of East Jerusalem and opened in 1960.

On Mount Scopus at an elevation of 2000 feet the 72-bedded hospital occupies a 3-acre site within a kilometre of the old city and within a 15-minute walk from it. It is close to the French

hospital and the British Consulate. In recent years the structure has been extensively modernised and all the facilities of a modern hospital are present. The equipment in both outpatient and operating areas is to a very high standard, enabling sophisticated diagnosis and treatment of ophthalmic disease.

Over the years although open to all, the hospital now mainly caters for the 3 million Palestinians in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza: and it is with these people that the Hospital is now identified. To cater for the population of Gaza a separate clinic was established there in 1992. Palestinians have a higher rate of blindness than in western societies and there is a different pattern of disease. Because 25% of the population are under 10 years old and

because of consanguinity, eye disease in children is particularly prevalent. 50,000 patients are seen annually in the Outpatient Department, and 5,000 major operations are performed. 25% of the patients are children and many of those suffer from congenital eye diseases such as Cataracts and Glaucoma, as well as a large number of

trauma cases caused by domestic accidents in the home, and more recently from the civil and military disturbances in the area. The development of the Paediatric Ophthalmic department is a recent achievement and deals with over 11,000 patients each year, most of

whom have serious and complicated eye conditions. The School of nursing at the hospital has a high standard and Jerusalem-trained nurses are widely respected for their skills.

#### **The Hospital today**

During the last two years the hospital has been working under great difficulty due to the current intifada. There is continual disruption of movement of both hospital patients and staff. The number of patients attending has declined from 60,000 in 1999 to 40,000 in 2002 and there has been a corresponding decline in those receiving surgery. Most of the permanent expatriate medical staff have returned home, im-

posing great strain on those who remain.

#### **The Outreach programme**

Established in 1982, an important feature of the clinical activity has been the development of an Outreach programme, whereby a mobile vehicle (with medical and nursing staff) visits

some of the more inaccessible parts of the West Bank to provide help to those who otherwise would have no chance of proper eye care. Two clinics are held per week, travelling to around 200 remote villages in rotation. The political situation is particularly bad in Gaza although due to extensive upgrading of the Gaza clinic, St. John continues to offer high class care.

#### **Governance**

In 1999 the Order of St. John was reconstituted to give parity to its overseas priories. There are now eight Priories – England, Wales, Scotland, USA, Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand but the Order continues to be an order of chivalry estab-



*The mobile vehicle on its rounds*



## **Provincial Regalia Shop**

**M**ay I remind you of your Regalia Shop that not only provides you with cheaper regalia but also adds a few quid to the Provincial coffers to provide the Province with extra facilities such as this copy of Knightly Topics you are reading.

The shop can supply you with:

Provincial ties

Regalia for Great and Provincial ranks both new and used

A mantle badge swap service

A mantle badge alteration service

A used regalia information service.

#### **New regalia**

When you are elected as Preceptor you will need a mantle with red hood lining and Preceptor Cross, a new Cap Cross and Breast Star. All these can be obtained for you. However, your mantle can be altered at a smaller cost if you prefer. When you are offered a new Provincial Rank you will receive a letter from the Regalia Officer explaining how your new regalia can be purchased. If preferred your mantle

badge can be exchanged or altered. For your first appointment to Provincial rank you will need a Provincial sash too. If you want any other kind of new regalia either KT or KM write to the Regalia Officer with your requirements.

#### **Used regalia service**

If you have regalia you wish to dispose of, write to or phone the Regalia Officer giving him details. Please itemise them so that he can keep an accurate record to pass on to prospective buyers.

If you are looking for second hand regalia for a candidate phone the Regalia Officer and he will give you the name and telephone number of a knight who has one for sale. The seller will be expected to make a contribution to Provincial funds through the Regalia Officer.

Your new Regalia Officer is E Kt Stephen Neville, he can be contacted at:

**77 Harrow Drive, Hornchurch, Essex,**

**RM11 1NT**

**Telephone: 01708 446 618.**

**Editor**

## ***A Plea***

***Bro Knights, to maintain the liveliness of Knightly Topics we need your input. Please send me your Preceptory news, letters, research you have undertaken, indeed anything you believe to be of interest to others to help Knightly Topics grow.***

***Editor***

### ***Dates to Meet 2005***

Provincial Priory (Temple)	Thursday 29 September
Great Priory (Malta)	Tuesday 15 November
Provincial Carol Service	Monday 19 December
Londinium Preceptory	Wednesday 21 December

### ***2006***

Provincial Priory (Malta)	Monday 30 January
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## ***Great Honours – London Knights***

### ***Active Great Officers***

Michael Edward Jump, KCT	Great Chancellor
John David Scott Curtis, OBE	2nd Great Constable
John Brackley	Great Vice-Chancellor
Richard Brian Roberts	Deputy Great Marshal
Richard Wilson Lambert	Great Organist

### ***Past Great Honours***

#### ***Promotions***

Jonathan Charles Roberts	Past Great Herald
Peter Denis Hammond	Past Great Standard Bearer (B)
Thomas Roy Hoggan	Past Great Standard Bearer (B)
William Arthur Coates	Past Great Standard Bearer (VB)

#### ***First Appointments***

Derek George Burman	Past Great Aide-de-Camp
Norman Thomas George Price	Past Great Aide-de-Camp
Martin Jeffrey Sale	Past Great Aide-de-Camp
Nigel Francis John Scott-Moncrieff	Past Great Aide-de-Camp
Hubert Small	Past Great Aide-de-Camp
Clive Howard Thompson	Past Great Aide-de-Camp
John Wallace Mitchell	Past Great Warden of Regalia
Arthur William Martin	Past Great Chamberlain
Leo John Zanelli	Past Great Chamberlain

## ***Contact List***

***This list is to enable you to contact the correct person for any query you may have:***

Provincial matters, rules etc	Mike Fox, Prov Vice Chancellor	01322 864 299
Provincial finance	Peter Brassett, Prov Treasurer (Elect)	01277 227 742
Provincial Priory history	Simon Brookman, Prov Archivist	07970 951 371
Provincial Regalia Shop	Stephen Neville, Regalia Officer	01708 446 618