

Provincial Priory of London

Knighly Topics



Issue 26

Autumn 2013

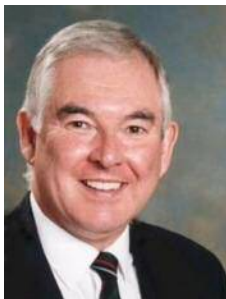
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Editorial

Dear Bro Knights

As you can see from the article on the right, Stuart Henderson will be publishing Knightly Topics from the Spring 2014 issue. Please send him your news and features to get him off to a good start. His picture and contact details are below



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George Hodge - Adieu

In the year 2000 when Eddie Goodwin was Provincial Vice Chancellor and Alf Day was Provincial Prior, I was Provincial Warden of Regalia. I had difficulties communicating with all the Knights in the Province about the inexpensive delights I could offer them from my Provincial Regalia Shop. My solution was to create a Provincial newsletter, and after discussions with the Provincial Vice Chancellor and the Prior, the first issue was published in the Spring of 2001 and we called it Knightly Topics. Two issues a year were produced, these are now posted on the Provincial website rather than being printed and distributed by snail mail.

In April this year, almost overnight, wet Macular Degeneration in my one good eye led to a serious deterioration of my sight. It soon became clear I would be unable to continue the editorship of Knightly Topics and should pass it on to a younger Knight. Stuart Henderson has agreed to publish it from 2014 and I am very grateful to him for carrying forward this publication which is very close to my heart. I know you will all support him, as you have me, and I wish him all success in his endeavours.

Knightly Topics would not exist if Alf Day and Eddie Goodwin had not put their faith in me to create and publish this newsletter for the last 13 years, and I am most grateful to them for their continued support. I have had a completely free hand editorially and that has made it a joy to produce. I would like to thank all those contributors who met my deadlines and accepted my editorial changes without complaint. I should not name any from their ranks, but there is one I must, who readily picked up his pen whenever I needed a feature. His writing was always humorous and interesting and he was an inspiration to me masonically. I am of course referring to Jack Dribbell, our first London Prior who is sadly missed. My best wishes for the further success of Knightly Topics and my good wishes to you all.

*George Hodge,
Editor*

In Case You Missed it the First Time!

Continuing our series re-publishing articles from previous issues.

The following two articles were included in our Autumn 2003 and Spring 2004 issues

Coromandel Preceptory No 73 - Its Origins & the French Knights

On Friday 12th July 2002 Coromandel Preceptory No 73 was re-established as a Preceptory in the Province of London in the presence of the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master (M.E.&S.G.M). The Rt E Provincial Prior entered the temple at 10 Duke's Street, appointed his Officers and opened the Preceptory. The M.E.&S.G.M entered in procession, assumed the chair, and addressed the gathered Knights on the purpose of the meeting. He began by saying what a rare and remarkable occasion this was and what a significant day of the month the 12th is to the Preceptory, from establishment and confirmation of establishment to change of name, Centenary and now reponement today 12 July 2002. He commented on the lively chequered existence it has had and that the meaning of Coromandel work is lacquer work in which an incised design is filled with gold. This led him to hope that the Preceptory will continue the work and service to the Order which it has exhibited throughout its 174 years, to make a positive contribution to the R E Prior and the Province of London, and to inlay that work with the gold of love, honour and affection, commitments of our beloved Order, along with our precepts which are incised on our hearts.

After the Warrant of Confirmation was read the M.E.&S.G.M presented it to the Rt E Provincial Prior who had resumed the chair. The Rt E Provincial Prior then declared the 34 members elected and installed the Eminent Preceptor Elect into the chair.

The E Preceptor then appointed and installed his officers, conducted the business of the Preceptory and then closed it. The Preceptory will meet on the second Friday in July and the third Thursday in December with the installation of the Preceptor taking place at the December meeting.

It is believed that Coromandel Preceptory No 73 was consecrated in India in 1828 and worked for about 30 years by dispensation until around 1860 when a permanent warrant was issued. In those early days it was called the Encampment of St John of Jerusalem and changed the name to Coromandel around 1916. The Preceptory thrived until the early 1980s with about 45 members but then declined until in 1982/83 it could no longer function effectively. Attempts to revive it, notably in 1986, failed and in 1989 the final meeting was held with only 5 subscribing members remaining.

The word Coromandel refers to the coastline area from just north of Madras southwards to the southernmost boundary of Tamil Nadu. The beach at Madras is the largest single expanse of beach in the world. The area has now been re-named Chennai.

The centenary warrant was the only warrant in existence and this was brought back to England by E Kt Rev Desmond Payne-Jeremiah who was appointed the first Eminent Preceptor.

The first members of the Preceptory were all invited to join by the Rt E Provincial Prior who decided to reward those who had given service to the Province.

At the lunch following the reponement meeting the Rt E Provincial Prior proposed the toast to the E Preceptor and outlined his vision for the Preceptory, to become a Preceptory of Excellence. To this end he had selected the members for their masonic experience and had included no less than three Provincial Grand Masters in their own orders, one of which is the Marshall.

A delicious lunch was held at Mark Masons Hall accompanied by good wine after which the members left to wend their way home feeling very satisfied with the day's work.



The French Knights

In January 2003 the Preceptory convened an extraordinary meeting to act as agents for Great Priory to install 18 candidates from France so that they could form a regular authority near Paris. One with a good command of English was chosen as representative candidate and our Preceptor duly installed the candidates as Knights. The Provincial Prior gave the Accolade, Trevor Dutt the charge and Tim Stock the symbols. Everyone involved in the ceremony performed splendidly to produce a meaningful and moving experience.

Later, at the festive board Jack Dribbell gave a welcoming address in French in which he described the origins of the ceremony in the middle of the 18th century when the German nobleman, Baron von Hund, collated seven groups of degrees in the Rite of Strict Observance at Unwerde. He went on to say that the continental origin of our ceremonies is demonstrated by the fact that the first examples in the Anglo-Saxon world were to be found in seaports – Portsmouth, Bristol, Boston (Mass) and Nova Scotia (Canada). He then described the sequence of events during the ceremony ending with – “Dear Bro Knights; all Masonry is a search. The long search of our Order ends – or, more exactly, pauses, at the summit of Mount Calvary.

The senior French Knight replied inviting members of Coromandel Preceptory to their consecration ceremonies in Paris.

The Coromandel Preceptory Banner

At the meeting of the Preceptory held last December (2003 - Editor) V E Kt E B Goodwin, Provincial Sub-Prior, Immediate Past Preceptor, Coromandel Preceptory, gave the following description of the banner.

Brother Knights, it is usual on these occasions to give a broad description of the history of banners in general before proceeding to describe the particular banner in question. We have a very full agenda today and most of us are familiar with the history and so I shall confine myself to a brief description of the banner of the Coromandel Preceptory. I should say at the outset that this banner has been donated by a Brother Knight who wishes to remain anonymous.

The banner depicts both the origins and the current situation of the Preceptory.

On the dexter, or right-hand side from the position of the bearer of the shield, is shown the outline of the map of India, the country of origin of the Preceptory.

The sinister, or left hand side, shows the location of the current home of the Preceptory, here depicted by Tower Bridge, well known as a London landmark throughout the world.

The colours on the Indian side are important because they correspond to the colours on the flag of India, a tricolour of saffron, white and green. Saffron stands for courage, sacrifice and renunciation, white for purity and truth, and green for faith and fertility. In the centre of

the flag is a wheel in navy blue to indicate Dharma Chakra, the wheel of the law in the Sarnath Lion Capital. This symbol, known as the Chakra is a Buddhist symbol dating back to 200 BC. It has 24 spokes, which are meant to indicate that there is life in movement and

death in stagnation. Rather appropriate really to the situation of this Preceptory.

The vivid red line delineates the Coromandel Coast, which runs from just north of Madras southwards to the southernmost boundary of Tamil Nadu. The beach at Madras is said to be the largest single expanse of beach in the world.

The London side depicts the Tower Bridge, with its centre spans raised as if to receive the device known as the “Sun in Splendour” symbolising the rise in the fortunes of Coromandel Preceptory

and the welcome afforded it by the Province of London. A further spread of influence and knowledge from east to west.

May this Preceptory, which appears to have been consecrated in India in 1828, and then known as the Encampment of St John of Jerusalem, long prosper in its new home and under its new banner.



***Right Eminent Knight
Edwin Bryant Goodwin,
Great Prior of Malta, Past
Provincial Prior***



An Illustrated Guide to Sword Drill - Part 4

The Eminent Knight Rodney L A Bancroft, TD, PGtSwdB, Marshal of The Provincial Priory of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, felt the need to improve the sword drill in the Province. To achieve this he decided to produce a Guide Book to teach all the aspects of sword drill and so enable Brother Knights to practise alone.

Rodney has graciously given permission to publish the contents of his guide in Knightly Topics and over the next few issues I will include a section of drill movements until the whole guide has been covered - from the method of drawing the sword to the investiture of an Officer, and a Preceptor's use of the baton.

Editor

Reverse Swords

This order is given when there is to be a requiem for a deceased Knight. This is usually given by the Marshal. You will already be at the position of the **Carry** and initially move only on the command **Swords**.



Reverse Swords 1

The word **Reverse** should be slightly drawn out in order to give the Brother Knights advance warning that they are to react. The ideal words of command are:

Brother Knights, Reverse (slight pause) Swords

Turn the sword over to the left until horizontal.



Reverse Swords 2

Grasp the blade with the left hand until the sword is vertical, in line with the centre of the body, hilt upwards. Drop the right hand to the side. Bend the head forward keeping the eyes fixed upon the hilt of the sword. The return to the **Carry** is a complete reversal of the above **without** going to the **Recover**.

NOTE: For Eminent Preceptors pass the baton into the left hand holding the baton in line with the centre of the body.

The Challenge of a Pilgrim



The challenge of the Pilgrim is given by firstly the 2nd Constable and then by the 1st Constable.

It must be stressed that this is a challenge and should therefore be forthright, that is to say in a positive manner, with the sword being levelled at the Pilgrim's breast in a swift and threatening manner. This is accompanied by "Who are you who —"

After the initial dialogue with the Marshal, The Constable (s) should relax the challenge but maintain the threat as shown in the third figure. After the Pilgrim has given the sign and word bring the sword to the *Recover*, then to the *Carry* and say "Pass in the name of —"

The Challenge of a Novice

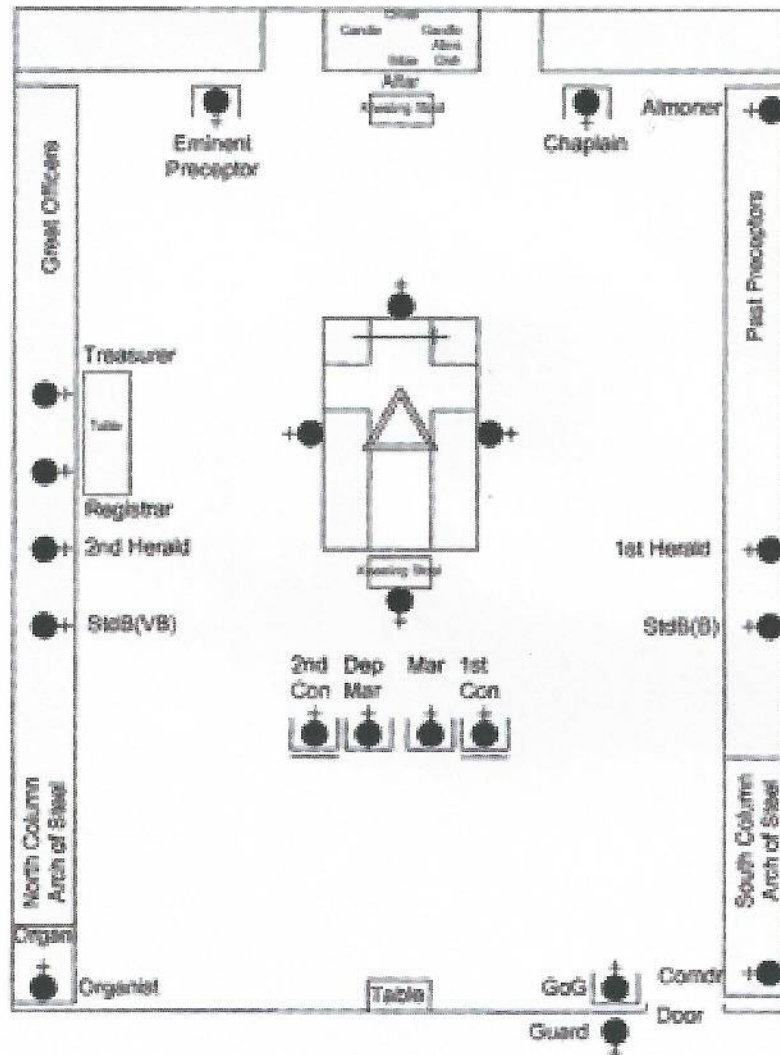


The Marshal explains to the Novice - when challenged, "Guard your head with your sword". The challenge is made by a downward sweep of the sword, as if to strike at the head of the Novice: this is parried by the Novice holding his sword horizontally above his head with the right hand: when the blow is parried the two swords form a cross. The Past Preceptor relaxes the parry but maintains the threat until the Novice has completed the response. Then bring the sword to the *Recover* before returning to the *Carry*.

The Novice, accompanied by the Marshal, proceeds round the Preceptory and is stopped and challenged, in the first round by a Past Preceptor in the South East, in the second round by the 1st Constable in the South West, and in the third round by the 2nd Constable in the North West.

Guarding the Sepulchre (4 Knights).

Guarding the Sepulchre (4 Knights)

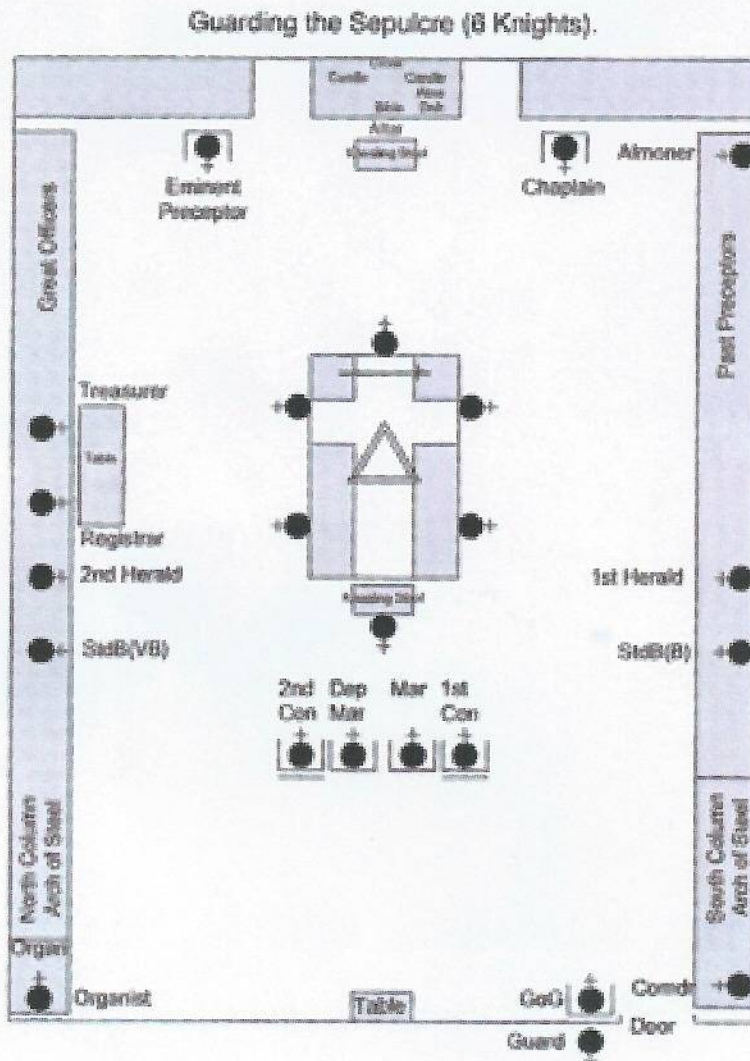


Option 1 - 4 Knights

Guarding the Sepulchre is ordered before the Pilgrim is conducted around the Sepulchre. These instructions are given by the Marshal

The nominated Knights who are to 'act' as Guards on being ordered to, '**Guard the Sepulchre**' move directly to their designated places at the top, bottom and sides of the Sepulchre. Once all have arrived in position on the 'nod of the head' from the Knight at the top position, all Knights, right about turn and remain until ordered to '**Resume their Stations**'.

Guarding the Sepulcre (6 Knights).



Option 2 - 6 Knights

Resume your Stations.

On being ordered to 'Resume your Stations' march directly to and face your seats, if possible, all arriving at the same time, pause and right about turn.

You will then continue as directed by the Marshal.

NOTE.

The minimum number of Knights required to guard the Sepulchre is 4 (Option 1), top, bottom and one on each side. However 6 (Option 2) is ideal, one at the top and bottom and two on each side.

London Provincial Golf Society

President - Rt E Kt Michael Conrad Fox - Provincial Prior



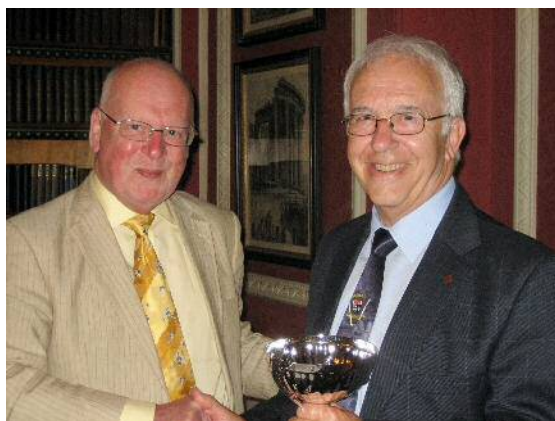
Roger Charter relates the current golf activities in the Province

On 17 May the London KT Golf Championship was held at the RAC Club in Epsom. The event was attended by the Provincial Prior and The Sub Prior (who played) along with the Provincial Vice-Chancellor. The Provincial Deputy Marshal, Richard Roberts also played – a full house!

I am delighted but rather embarrassed to say that I won the event and was presented with the Provincial Prior's Cup by Mike Fox. The runner-up was David Broxup and the leading guest, Allan Dibble.

On 10 June a team from London KT travelled to Clevedon in Somerset to accept a challenge from the Somerset KT Golf Society. Sadly we lost by one point. However, the day was a great success as was the post golf dinner. The respective Provincial Priors attended the event.

We now look forward to hosting Somerset for the return match later this year.



Roger Charter receives the Provincial Prior's Cup from the President ,
Rt E Kt Michael Fox



The runner up, David Broxup, receives his medal from our Provincial Prior



Allan Dibble was the Leading Guest

Knights of Malta Open Soup Kitchens

Reading the Daily Telegraph on the 6th of February this year I spotted this fascinating article on relief to the poor by The Hospitaller Order of St John, not to be confused with the Order of St John based in London whose Priory Church we use for our annual carol service.

Editor

They were once warrior monks who tended to fallen Crusaders and sick pilgrims amid the desert scrub of the Holy Land.

But nearly 1000 years later, the Knights of Malta, once known as the Hospitallers, are opening soup kitchens and shelters across Europe, including Britain, in response to rising poverty and homelessness.

The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta - to give the chivalric order its full title – is this week celebrating 900 years since it was officially recognised by the Vatican, with a decree issued by Pope Paschal II in the midst of the Crusades.

Its 98,000 members and volunteers long ago swapped their chain mail and tunics for doctor's coats and emergency worker overalls. They have traditionally provided humanitarian help in war zones, earthquakes and floods around the world from Congo and Rwanda to Haiti and Afghanistan.

But the Order, which is based in Rome, now identifies deepening poverty in Europe as one of its three main areas of concern, along with the refugee crisis in Syria and the chaos in the Democratic Republic of Congo after years of war.

It has opened shelters for the homeless and mobile soup kitchens in Oxford and Brighton and similar facilities will be set up in London and Glasgow next month.

“We are observing with great concern the fact that the economic crisis is leading to greater numbers of unemployed, more homeless and more people falling through the social net,” said Albrecht Boeselager, a leading member who holds the title Grand Hospitaller.

“The number of people who come to our soup kitchens and medical clinics is increasing dramatically. We’re establishing a stronger presence in Britain than ever before. Until now our main activity in the UK was to run homes for the elderly.”



Diary Dates 2013

Provincial Priory (Temple)	Monday 30 September
Great Priory (Malta)	Tuesday 19 November
Provincial Carol Service	TBA December
Londinium Preceptory	Wednesday 18 December

2014

Provincial Priory (Malta)	Wednesday 29 January
Great Priory (Temple)	Wednesday 21 May

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