

KNIGHTLY TOPICS



PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF LONDON

Issue 31

Spring 2016

EDITORIAL

In this issue there are a number of innovations, including a section entitled *Letters to the Editor*. The Provincial Prior is keen that members of the Province should have an opportunity to air their views.

You can send your letter to me at stuardhenderson@btinternet.com with the letter as an attachment or in the body of the email. Please let me know whether you wish your name to be published or not.



The first letter in the *Letters to the Editor* section on page 9 is about the ritual and the role of Eminent Preceptors in making the ceremony of Installation memorable for every Knight.

Hence another innovation, which is to reprint sections from the Ritual Book. This time, we look at the Investiture of Officers and Salutes generally.

There are articles about the historical Templars on pages 7-8 and 11 and a piece about the Order of the Fleur de Lys, an Order of Chivalry founded in 1429; an interview with the Provincial Sub-Prior, Victor Parnis, and details of Grand Rank appointments and promotions this year.

What a great and historic order we belong to.

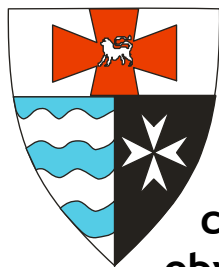
It is apocryphal that if a Knight Templar was to be told that he could only be in one order, he would choose Knights Templar as that one.

We are Christian Knights, who must go, in due course, on that last great pilgrimage, which ends in the Holy City.

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PROVINCIAL THOUGHTS



Provincial Meetings – a General Appraisal

Attendances by Knights of the Province at the September (Temple) and January (Malta) meetings have, over the last couple of years, been showing signs of decline. This is obviously a matter of concern that should be addressed.

There are perfectly good reasons why some members have difficulties in attending Provincial meetings. Members' health is a very real factor, as are matters related to family and work commitments. But there are other factors.

Unlike other Provinces, for example, our membership comes from far and wide, not just from central London and the suburbs; from the Home Counties, around London in particular, but also from farther (in some cases much farther) afield.

Consequently, the Province of London lacks the inherent cohesiveness and local convenience that is enjoyed by other Provinces. We should not see this as a disadvantage, but as the source of a rich and vibrant community collecting its members from a broad base of Masonic experience.

To date, it has been the practice in the London Province to avoid convening Provincial meetings at weekends, recognising that working members in particular may prefer to spend time with their families, friends and on personal activities. As a consequence, meetings are usually held on working days (Monday to Friday) and at a time when members who work may not in every case be able to leave early enough to attend. Members might, on balance, prefer Provincial meetings on Saturdays - would such a change enhance or deter attendance?

The cost of dining for those who would like to stay for the after-proceedings may in some cases also be a deterrent. Efforts have been made in recent years - and will continue to be made - to minimise the costs.

But there is a limit as to what can be achieved without increasing annual Provincial Dues or reducing the quality of the meal.

There is believed already to be a reasonably good balance between cost and quality that adds to the overall enjoyment of the occasion.

It may be that some members, perhaps those who are not receiving Provincial Honours or who have no active duties in the ceremonies, may feel that there is little point in supporting the Province by attending. But attendance by individual Knights enriches their own experience as well as the experiences of those with whom they come into contact, especially those who are receiving Honours and appointments to Provincial Office.

Furthermore, members of Preceptories should need little encouragement to support their Preceptory when it is the Banner Preceptory, or to support other members of their Preceptory when they are to receive honours. Attendance at Provincial meetings is also a factor that is taken into account in the selection of Knights for appointment to Provincial Honours (Past Ranks and active Offices). Provincial Honours are necessary stepping stones to recommendations for appointments to Great Honours.

There have been complaints in the past that some members did not receive, or not receive soon enough, summonses and dining slips for Provincial meetings. The papers have more recently been issued to Preceptory Registrars for onward transmission to their members by ordinary post or by email and during 2015 the papers began to be posted on the Provincial web site.

For the Malta meeting in January 2016, all members for whom email addresses were held should also have received a copy of the summons and dining slip directly from the Provincial office; this is likely to be a permanent feature in future.

One fact remains certain:- the Province's reliance upon the good will and effectiveness of the Preceptory Registrars, in providing information and encouragement to the Knights of their Preceptories (especially those Knights that do not use computers, or choose not to receive emails), will continue.

Registrars do a hard and time-consuming job, for which the Province and its members will continue to be grateful.

Members should be aware that every year in July there is an informal Registrars' Mess, convened by the Provincial Registrar and attended by the Provincial team and by Preceptory Registrars. The Mess is an occasion when matters of interest and concern can be discussed freely and without formal record. Members of Preceptories who have comments or concerns about the Province and its management should feel free to address them to their Registrar as items to be raised during the Mess. The next Registrars' Mess will be on Wednesday 20 July 2016.

It is important for the future of the Province that members' views are known. The Registrars' Mess is one avenue, but individual members of the Province of London are encouraged to write to the Editor of Knightly Topics to express their personal views and concerns. They have the choice of having their name published or not. In future there will be a regular column for readers' letters.

Many Preceptories are visited each year by senior Officers of the Province and these visits also provide opportunities for members to express their views, providing helpful feed-back.

Knights of every rank are valued Members of the Province and, by making their views known, they will be taking more collective ownership of the Province to the mutual benefit of us all.

The overall objective is to strengthen the partnership between our London Preceptories and our Province.

Next Provincial meeting Friday 30 September 2016

For the next Provincial Temple meeting, it is intended to try out an innovation - to introduce in procession Knights newly Installed during the year since the previous Temple meeting.

If this innovation proves a success, it will become a regular feature of future Provincial Temple meetings. This will give the Province an opportunity to welcome the new Knights formally, much like the annual Malta meeting, and will also give them the opportunity to experience the workings of the Province and to see their Preceptory as part of the wider Provincial family.

The Provincial Prior will be writing to each new member installed as a Knight since the beginning of October to encourage him to attend, preferably supported by his Proposer, his Preceptory Registrar and / or the Eminent Preceptor.

Provided that Registrars make sure that new Knights are properly and promptly recorded by the Provincial Vice-Chancellor, it is hoped that senior members of the Preceptories will lend their own encouragement and support to their new Knights as part of their commitment to the Freemasonry-wide Mentoring process.

KING EDWARD VII

The Preceptory of Improvement meets at Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street, London SW1 at 6pm on:-

Wednesday 22 June 2016, Tuesday 6 September, Tuesday 22 November, Tuesday 10 January 2017, Tuesday 28 March, Tuesday 23 May, Wednesday 21 June, Tuesday 5 September, Tuesday 21 November and Tuesday 9 January 2018.

Knights of the Order are cordially invited. No regalia is required, as swords and belts are provided.

The Registrar is Dennis Fountain, Gay-Reel, Allhallows Road, Lower Stoke, Rochester, Kent. ME3 9SL. 01634 270587.

dennisfountain1941@talktalk.net

From the Ritual Book

INVESTITURE OF AN OFFICER

During the investiture of Officers in a Preceptory, the following is the procedure to be used:-

When his name is called out, the Knight will rise in his place, draw his sword and come to the *Carry*. He is conducted by the Marshal to the EP, where he halts and

1. Turns his sword over [via the left] point towards the ground
2. Grasps the blade, near the hilt, with the left hand
3. Moves his right hand from the hilt to the blade, below the left hand, and continues to turn the sword until it is again horizontal, hilt to the left
4. Stands before the EP and presents to him the hilt of the sword, resting the blade [near the hilt] on his left forearm.

The EP takes the sword by the hilt with his right hand and brings it to the *Carry*.

After addressing the Knight, the EP transfers the sword to his left hand by grasping the blade just above the crossbar, and presents the hilt to the knight, who:-

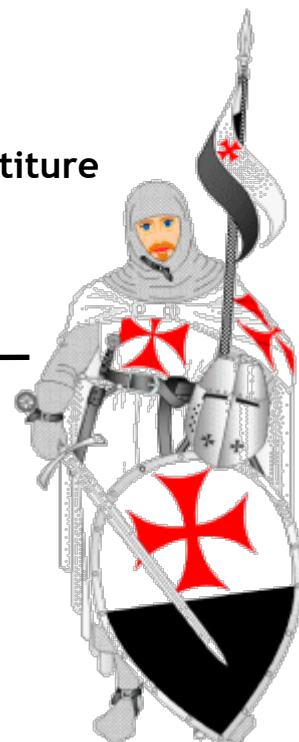
5. Grasps the hilt of the sword with his right hand and brings it to the *Carry*
6. Salutes the EP with the S of a Crus. with his sword
7. Is conducted to his place by the Marshal where he returns his sword and takes his seat.

The Captain of Guards keeps his sword drawn.

The same procedure will be used in Great Priory for the investiture of a Great Officer, or in a Provincial Priory for the investiture of a Provincial Officer.

SALUTES GENERALLY

A Knight on entering or leaving the Preceptory or when addressing the EP, draws his sword and salutes the EP with the S of a Crus. The salute may be given with the hand on occasions when the sword is not drawn.





ORDER OF THE FLEUR DE LYS



The Order of the Fleur de Lys is a military non-masonic Order of Chivalry founded in 1439, which is open to both men and women. In many respects it is similar to the masonic Knights Templar, but without the ritual. Not surprisingly most of the male members are Freemasons. The gender balance within the order is more or less equal, since husbands, wives, partners and their friends tend to join.

The Order is very much value driven and aims to promulgate better citizenship amongst peoples based upon the ancient Knightly code. On admission, Postulants vow to live by the precepts of honour, duty, truth and justice as personified by the ancient Orders of Chivalry and they are asked to put honour above self, duty above wealth, justice above the law and truth above all.

The Order was formed in 1439 by Rene d'Anjou, Cosimo de Medici of Florence and John de Montgomery, who would become Constable of the Scottish Army in France. The Army was in fact a group of mercenaries and Men at Arms, but high born, who fought in the 100 Years War in France. Joan of Arc is one of the Order's heroes - she flew the Fleur de Lys insignia on her personal pennant at the Battle of Orleans.

Since its formation in those early years, the Order has been ruled by an unbroken succession of Sovereign Grand Commanders, descended through a bloodline from each of the three initial founding Commanders.

In that succession one sees a move from Italian / French leadership of the Order to the families of the Scottish founders when King James V of Scotland married Mary of Guise in 1538.

One notable Sovereign Grand Commander of the Order was John Graham of Claverhouse, known as *Bonnie Dundee*, who was killed at the Battle of Killiecrankie in 1689.



So in the past few hundred years one has seen a strong Scottish influence in the Order with the Montgomery

name featuring strongly in its leadership.

The present Sovereign Grand Commander is Professor Hugh Montgomery, Comte Hugh de Montgomery, who is descended directly from the original Montgomery Commander.

Today the Order is an independent Sovereign Order of Chivalry, with a non trading company limited by guarantee (company No 6807143) which holds the intellectual property rights of the Order.

Additionally the Order has a charitable arm known as the Fleur de Lys Foundation, which is a Registered Charity No. 1116928.

The Grand Patron of the Order is HRH Princess Elizabeth Karadjordjevic of Yugoslavia, who is a cousin to our own Queen Elizabeth. The Royal Patron, Princess Elizabeth, has issued a Royal Warrant granting the present Sovereign Grand Commander and his successors in office the right to grant arms for use within the Order.

Compared to the masonic Knights Templar, the Order is small, having about 500 members. There are three companies in the UK, one of which is in London. There is a company in Belgium, one in the USA and one being formed in Australia.

Each company has its annual muster and is commanded by a Knight, who holds the Rank of Knight Commander. It meets in the city of its location.

Additionally there is an annual muster of the entire Order in the chapel of Queens' College, Cambridge, followed



by a banquet in the ancient dining hall. On the left is a picture of the annual muster in Cambridge in October 2015.

Unlike masonic Knights Templar, the Order does not have a ritual,

but there is an ancient historical ceremony, which takes place in a chapel or a church. For example, the annual muster of the London Company is held in St. Columba's Church of Scotland in Pont Street, Knightsbridge, followed by a banquet.

The Order has a promotional structure as one would expect in an organisation, which recognises both service and merit. Typically men enter as Companions, women as Ladies; they then progress through Knighthood into the command structure and in many cases are awarded personal coats of arms.

A unique feature of the Fleur de Lys is that men, women, Freemasons and non-Freemasons feel comfortable within the Order.

Anyone wishing to know more about the Order should contact the author of this article, E.Kt. Ian Minkley *Prov.Swd.B.* (mobile 07710 469096), the Great Chancellor and Chief of Staff of the Order and a member of the London Company.



GREAT RANK

Appointments & Promotions

These Knights are due to be invested by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master on Wednesday May 18 2016 at the Great Priory meeting.

They will be invested with the equivalent Malta rank at the Great Priory of Malta meeting on Tuesday 15 November, 2016. Both meetings are in London at Great Queen Street.

Great Herald

Stuart David Henderson D, 251, 614

Great Capt of Guards

Antony Fabian Legge 300, 321, 614, 632

Past Great Herald

Keith Leslie Florence 128, 576

Past Great Herald

John Healey Gilbert 183

Past Great Herald

Edmund Ian Savage 282

Past Great Herald

Colin Woodcock 251, 632

Past Great Standard Bearer(B)

Andrew William Dobson 128, 632

Past Great Aide de Camp

Ian Douglas Brooks 131, 614, 632

Past Great Aide de Camp

Roger Paul Charter 173, 178, 632

Past Great Aide de Camp

Henry John Emms 512, 632

Past Great Aide de Camp

Royden Rees D, 632

Past Great Warden of Regalia

Eric Percival Garner 282

Past Great Chamberlain

Tony Robert Pattison 117



THE PROVINCIAL SUB-PRIOR

E Kt Victor Parnis PGtStB [B]

What about your early years?

I was born in the little village of Tanga - now a city - on the coast in what was Tanganyika - a British Protectorate, which became Tanzania on independence. My parents moved to Mombasa in Kenya on the outbreak of WW2. I was sent to England with my brothers during the struggle for independence and finished my education at the local grammar school.



I was awarded a Major Scholarship to University, graduating from London University 1964 BSc. I was an Essex County runner in the 440 and 880 yds; and in the 1st XV Rugby at both School & College. A left winger in those days - and my team won the University Championship in 1960-62.

What was your employment before?

I set up my practice of Chartered Surveyors & Valuers in 1970 based in Mayfair with an office in Paris to the mid 70's and continued the London practice until 2012. I became a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in 1967.

What is your employment now?

I am now semi-retired and do not actively seek clients, but will act for those who seek me out.

Which Preceptories are you in?

I joined King Edward VII and Empress in 1991 and was EP in 1998 and Registrar of both from

2004 for 5 years. I am a founder [2001] of Londinium, joined Mount Calvary in 2002 and Coromandel in 2013. I was promoted by Great Priory to PGtStdB (B) in 2013.

How did you come to be Sub-Prior?

I was Provincial Vice Chancellor from 2009 to 2012 and became Sub-Prior at the invitation of the new Provincial Prior, Michael Fox.

I enjoy the role, particularly the challenge of the large bit of ritual in the Malta in January each year.

What is best about being Sub-Prior?

The Order's members are relaxed about proceedings, but take them nevertheless seriously. It is a very friendly atmosphere, with a lot of camaraderie.

Which Lodges are you in?

I was initiated into Centre Lodge No. 3701 in 1989 and was its WM in 1995 and its Secretary 1998-2004. I joined Mensura Lodge 3724 - the surveyors' lodge - in 1997 and was WM in 2001-02.

I was exalted into Centre Chapter 3701 in 1991, becoming its First Principal in 2000 and 2001, being Scribe E from 2005 - 2010. Appointed Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works in 2005 and SVO in London in 2007.

About you?

I like golf, rugby, travelling and reading. My wife, Ingrid, is Dutch, but was brought up in New Zealand. We spend part of the year in Portugal.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS



The Provincial Prior wishes to see if there is sufficient interest (and ability) to form a Provincial choir, which would attend, and lead the singing, at the Provincial Carol service in December.

As wives and family are invited to attend this service, the composition of the choir is not limited by gender or age. It is probably best that the choir members select their own leader/conductor.

Any member who is interested should please register that interest with the Provincial Vice-Chancellor. (rafrac@btinternet.com)

THE CHARGES MADE AGAINST THE TEMPLARS

by E Kt Angus Rhodes

Commander of the Camp of Antiquity TI Preceptory [Somerset]

Most of us, as modern day Masonic Knights Templar, probably know that the members of the historical Order in France were arrested on bizarre heresy charges on Friday 13 October 1307 by order of King Philip IV of France (known as Philippe le Bel meaning *the Fair*).

Looking back with the knowledge we have now, what weight should we give to these allegations?



Looking at it from a legal perspective, I would first note that a number of the Knights in France confessed to varying numbers of the charges. Surely that puts the matter to bed? Well no in fact.

The confessions were extracted under torture, which was standard practice in most European countries at the time on the basis of the principle: "*Confessio est regina probationum*" or confession is the Queen of proof / evidence.

Nowadays Article 3 of the ECHR prohibits torture stating: "*No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.*" The reliability of confessions obtained under torture has also been widely discredited by modern studies indicating a high percentage of torture victims will apparently simply agree with whatever is put to those who retracted to stop the pain.

I would add that numerous confessions were retracted later on, including that of the last Grand Master, *Jacques de Molay*. This led to Philippe burning them at the stake in Paris.

Edward II of England is generally remembered as a weak King. Defeated by the Bruce's smaller, less well-equipped army at Bannockburn and later murdered at the behest of his wife. Surprisingly he resisted the pressure from France to follow suit and expressed faith in the Order. He eventually ordered arrests, following instructions to do so from the Papacy pending investigations, but English legal tradition did not include the use of torture to gain confessions.

As a result it took the Inquisitors sent from France nearly four years, and increased autonomy to mistreat, to obtain three limited confessions in the entire country. Surely this in itself casts doubt on the veracity of the French investigation.

In our ritual we assert that the Order was "*suppressed by the cruelty and avarice of Pope Clement V and Philippe le Bel, King of France*". If we believed the charges doubtless we would not want to be involved with an Order emulating them. This raises the issue of the character of the accuser. Philippe had inherited the throne from his grandfather, who had greatly indebted his country. This was partly as a result of Louis IX's crusading fervour.

Philip also spent a lot of funds and effort consolidating his hold on different parts of what we now know as France.

He owed money to Jewish money-lenders, Lombard merchants and the Knights Templar. Interestingly he levelled the same accusations against the previous two groups, prior to getting around to the Templars and had already done the same thing to them.

He also took money from the Church in France and entered into a power struggle with the Papacy.

When Philip fell out with one of Clement's predecessors, Pope Boniface VIII, who excommunicated him, he had the Pope arrested for heresy by Guillaume de Nogaret, his main henchman.

De Nogaret beat the Pope almost to death and released him shortly before he was clearly going to die in order that he would not die in the custody of the French King.

Benedict IX succeeded Boniface and reversed the excommunication, but excommunicated De Nogaret and his compatriots for their behaviour.

Benedict lived less than a year after becoming Pope. There is no solid evidence to back up the accusation, but De Nogaret was accused at the time of having poisoned him.

Philip's regard for himself over the Pope and the Church was, in many ways, a precursor to the view adopted by the English King Henry VIII two centuries later.

This calls to mind a quotation by Martin Niemoller, which I will adapt to this situation:-

*First they came for the churchmen and I was not a churchman
so I did not speak out for them.*

*Then they came for the Lombard merchants and I was not a merchant
so I did not speak out for them.*

*Then they came for the Jewish money-lenders and I was not a Jew
so I did not speak out for them.*

*Then they came for me
and there was no one left to speak out for me.*

Pope Clement ultimately dissolved the Order in 1312, which was arguably unavoidable by that stage.

Nonetheless recent research, including a translation of the Chinon Parchment permitted by the Vatican in 2001, has established that Pope Clement V acquitted the Templars.

He also tried hard to resist the King. This is remarkable considering he was based in Avignon, so was within reach of Philip and was aware of what Philip had done to Boniface and possibly Benedict.

Additionally, the Catholic Church, which has extensive records in its archive, is so lacking in concern on this subject, it has even allowed a modern equivalent of the Order to be founded in Italy.

A number of authors still argue there may be something to the allegations made against the Templars.



However there is much money to be made by fanning the flames of such drama and little to be made by putting the issue to bed once and for all.

Arguably, Philip's bad character and history of accusing those to whom he owed money or who disagreed with him of heresy and then persecuting or killing them, completely discredits these charges.

Perhaps we should refer to him from now on as Philip the Foul?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Province of London.

MINIMUM STANDARDS OF RITUAL

Dear Editor,

As a Knight, who visits London preceptories frequently with the Provincial Bodyguard, there are certain preceptories which fail to meet, in my opinion, a minimum standard for Knights Templar.

It would be good for all Preceptors to be given a little reminder of what a proud and historic order we belong to, and as Preceptors, give a little more effort in their ceremonies, this not only makes for a more enjoyable ceremony, but makes the installation of a new knight an event to remember.

One way in which this could be achieved is that twenty minutes prior to a Provincial visit, members of the Bodyguard, who are qualified, would advise the officers of that Preceptory who are not quite so sure of the manner in which they should conduct their ritual.

I have done this on several occasions where it is obvious the officers have no idea what they are doing, but once shown what to do, show great relief.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order,
Name and address supplied

COSTS OF MASONRY

Dear Editor,

I am struggling. My pay has not risen in line with inflation, but my household bills have definitely increased. Over the past three years, there have been two years of no pay rise at all. Suppose I should be grateful for the job.

I am keen to remain a London Mason after all it is where it all began, but the high cost of meals and subs is a problem. If I join outside London, each meeting and dining is a lot cheaper, but there are many more meetings.

I have reviewed some memberships, but will stay in London and still be a Mason

Yours in the Bonds of the Order,
Name and address supplied

DISCIPLINE AND DECORUM

Dear Editor,

I have always been very keen on my participation in Knights Templar and have a very high regard for the Order. This originates I think from the fact that my father was a Provincial Sub-Prior and died in post, with the bitter sweet result that a Preceptory now bears his name. I joined in London away from his Province, but he had been responsible for introducing me to a London Preceptory through friends he knew there and he came to the ceremony as a guest; a very memorable occasion for father and son.

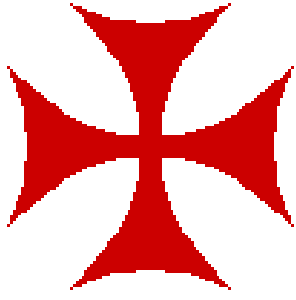
Imagine therefore my shock and surprise when a friend of mine, who is very senior in another order, said to me that whilst he was a member of KT he did not regard it very highly, suggesting that it was frivolous and immature.

However this did get me to thinking. There are occasions when we as an order maybe do not always conduct ourselves with the discipline and decorum which the Order demands. Of course ceremonies are to be enjoyed, but they need to be respectful and serious. My friend has something of a military background and I am sure one area he would find difficult is the sometimes quite lackadaisical approach of some Knights, even at Provincial meetings, to their stance and sword drill; we are after all supposed to be a military order so it would be nice to smarten us up to a level somewhat above that of Dad's Army.

Whilst I would hope that such a comment would be taken seriously, I emphasise that it is made to be considered in order to enhance our performance and enjoyment of ceremonies and not as a pure negativism. This is after all an Order on which I am particularly keen and in which I am particularly proud to participate.

We belong to an excellent Order and I am very keen that we preserve it as such with all the dignity that it deserves. I will continue to enjoy my Knights Templar masonry at every opportunity and hope I can contribute to its preservation and continuation in the appropriate manner.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order,
Name and address supplied



ON THE TEMPLAR ROAD

Saint Eulalie de Cernon is in the Aveyron Department of France, near Larzac. On their return from the Crusades, the valiant Templars, received land and several abbeys from rich local lords, who hoped therefore to have God's protection on the road to Jerusalem.

In 1158 the King of Aragon gave them the entire village, a large part of Larzac, as well as the right to build. For the Templars this gift marked the beginning of a period of considerable expansion. They refurbished the church, then built the commandery and brought back the people who had left. They made Saint Eulalie their headquarters.

The commandery, where the Master of the Templars lived, was to the end in the 12th century the only one in the Rougerie, the ancient province of France corresponding to the modern day department of Aveyron. Almost all of the fortifications survive and it is one of the best preserved in the South of France.

The right to build gave the Templars also the right to fortify. Thanks to the gift from the King of Aragon their ownership comprised a number of villages - La Couvertoirade and La Cavalerie just to mention two of the better known. This made the Templars lords of Larzac, owning a large estate, over which they exercised the religious, military and civil powers - just like monarchs.

But who were these men from such a powerful organisation?

They were at the outset a group of Knights from Christendom, who protected pilgrims going to Palestine. Amongst them was Hugues de Payens and André de Montbard. In 1127 these two men went to the Holy Land to recruit new members and to raise funds,. They approached Bernard de Clairvaux, a nephew of André de Montbard, who was the head of the influential Cistercian Order, who persuaded the Pope to grant the Templars a rule. They were officially monks and had the right to recruit new members.

The order was very hierarchical. The recruits at the summit of the pyramid [Knights] had to be born in wedlock, be of noble blood and free of any encumbrance, such as marriage. Once a

member of the Order, a Templar owned nothing but his sword.

Following official recognition, the Templars obtained the support of a number of wealthy landowners and donations flooded in. When Hugues de Payens and André de Montbard returned to Palestine, just two years after leaving, they had the Pope's blessing, the Rule, money and precious objects given to the Order and 300 new recruits sworn to follow Hugues de Payens as Grand Master of the Order. Under the leadership of the Grand Master, there were three class of Templar:- Knights, Sergeants and Clerics. The first, of noble birth, wore a white cloak and rode warhorses into battle. The next, of humble origins, wore a a dark brown cloak emblazoned with a red cross. The third were priests and wore a green habit with the red cross. They ministered to the spiritual needs of the Knights and because they could read and write were responsible for administration and communication.

The Templars were not the only ones to guard the pilgrim routes in the Holy Land, but thanks to the boats



which the Order owned in many European ports, they transported many men, pilgrims and materials. They were also trusted bankers, because of their vow of poverty and their protection of people from theft. Their guarantee led to the development of an efficient banking system, inspired by the practices of their Muslim neighbours. As pilgrims did not wish to travel with large sums, they deposited cash with the Master of the Commandery and in return received a receipt. At each stage of their pilgrimage, they cashed in part and on their return the balance, if any, was settled.

The letter of credit or travellers cheque was born.

To be continued

DIARY DATES 2016

Great Priory [Temple]	Wednesday 18 May 2016.
Great Priory [Malta]	Tuesday 15 November 2016.
Londinium Preceptory	Malta meeting - 1 July 2016.
Provincial Priory [Temple]	Friday 30 September 2016.
Provincial Carol Service	tba.
Provincial Priory [Malta]	Monday 30 January 2017.

REGALIA EXCHANGE

Please send your unwanted regalia, such as mantles, swords, and mantle badges to Eric at the Provincial Regalia Exchange. When successfully sold, part of the sale price will be passed on to you.

Mindful of the costs of regalia, the Provincial Regalia Exchange [PRE] also offers a pre-owned buy / sell and alteration service. Alternatively, the PRE can alter the centre of an existing badge.

For your first Provincial and Great Priory appointments you will need to purchase a Provincial or Great Officer's Sash and a Mantle badge denoting your rank in the Temple and a Mantle badge in Malta. The PRE will also advertise your pre-owned regalia for sale. Email:- eric.p.e.garner@gmail.com

CONTACT LIST

Provincial Matters	Roger Farley <i>Provincial Vice Chancellor</i>	01953 888 344
Provincial Finance	Mathew Hampson <i>Provincial Treasurer</i>	01277 823 667
Provincial Ceremonial	Keith Florence <i>Provincial Marshal</i>	0208 678 886
Provincial Regalia Exchange	Eric Garner <i>Regalia Officer</i>	01647 440 673
Knightly Topics	Stuart Henderson <i>Editor - Knightly Topics</i>	01844 344 960

PROVINCIAL GOLF

The KT Golf Championship will be held on 12 August at Chobham Golf Club near Woking in Surrey. All members of KT are welcome, as are guests provided they are on the square.

Other events are planned during the Summer and Autumn.
If interested in joining, please contact Roger Charter or John Bond.

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