

# Provincial Priory of London

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OPICS

Issue 3

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## Editorial

**D**espite pleas in this column for your news items, not one Preceptory has contacted me. The proposed KT memorabilia visit to Freemasons Hall cannot be arranged because of a total lack of response.

*I beg you Bro Knights please send me news to liven up your newsletter.*

George Hodge

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## An Ode

*This ode is submitted by Roy Bedford, our Provincial First Constable.*

The horse and mule live 30 years  
And nothing know of wine and beers.

The goat and sheep at 20 die  
And never taste of Scotch or Rye.

The cow drinks water by the ton  
And at 18 is mostly done.

The dog at 15 cashes in  
Without the aid of rum and gin.

The cat in milk and water soaks  
And then in 12 short years it croaks.

The modest, sober, bone-dry hen  
Lays eggs for noggs, then dies at 10.

All animals are strictly dry:

They sinless live

And swiftly die,

But sinful, ginful, rum-soaked men  
Survive for three score years and ten

And some of them, a very few -

Stay pickled till they're 92!

## Provincial Priory 2001

Provincial Priory was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> September last year, a meeting rich in dignity, humour and colour. The Preceptory banners were paraded and members stood as their banners were raised, a delightful ceremony. The Provincial Prior, Rt E Kt Alfred John Day, invested those knights honoured with a first appointment or a promotion and then addressed the Priory. He congratulated these knights and those awarded Great Rank especially V E Kt David Williams, our Sub Prior, who has been appointed to the active rank of Second Great Constable. He recommended attendance at the events to come – the Provincial Carol Service, a Centenary celebration, the consecration of the Londinium Preceptory and two banner dedication ceremonies. Then thanking his Officers and the bodyguard of the year for their hard work he finished with the benediction “God Bless You All”

## Dates to meet

Great Priory	Wednesday 15 May 2002
Londinium Preceptory	Friday 5 July 2002
Provincial Priory	Monday 30 September 2002
Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday 19 November 2002
King Edward VII Centenary meeting	29 November 2002
Londinium Preceptory	Friday 18 December 2002

## An omission

In the last issue we published the names of members of the Province who were appointed to Great Rank in 2001, two were inadvertently omitted. These are:

Bryan A Bailes promoted to P Gt Herald

Edward H Last appointed to P Gt A de Camp

## Miscellanea - Beauceant

We are familiar with the two standards in our Preceptories - Beaucéant, a black and white banner and the Vexillum Belli having the Templar red cross-patée on a white ground, but do we know their origins?

Beaucéant is reputed to be the war standard and rallying cry of the medieval Knights Templar which is probably why we use it as a salute. It is a possible derivation from the Norman-French bausant, meaning part-coloured and it has been said that the black and white colours denoted that the Templars were fierce to their enemies and fair to their friends. A further suggestion is that

beaucéant was an antonym of malséant, which means unseemly or unbecoming.

The Vexillum Belli translates as ‘war standard’ causing some confusion with the reputed meaning of Beaucéant. Freddie Smyth, in his excellent book ‘A Reference Book for Freemasons’ suggests that it is reasonable, whatever the true history may be, to regard the Beaucéant as a reminder of Knightly chivalry mentioned above and the Vexillum Belli as a kind of rallying point akin to the regimental flag.

*Editor*

# News From London Preceptories

## ***Londinium Preceptory No 632***

The Preceptory was consecrated by Rt.E.Kt Day our Provincial Prior, assisted by Officers of Provincial Priory, on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2001 at 10 Duke Street.

Before the ceremony the Provincial Marshal, Bob Upton, drilled the large number of Knights-Petitioner to march round the Preceptory and reform with military precision. It is a great tribute to Bob that it worked during the ceremony. After the consecration the Preceptor-nominate, R.E.Kt Jack Dribbell, KCT, P Prov Prior was installed. He then appointed his officers. The Consecration Team were elected as Honorary Members and Bob Upton was singled out for his work in the creation of the Preceptory and made an Honoured Guest.

At the splendid Banquet held at M M Hall the E Kt V Rev Dr Peter Miln, Provincial Prelate, gave the following Grace. (The badges referred to were lapel badges being sold by the Provincial Prior to raise money for charity!)

*We give thee thanks almighty God  
For food and fellowship divine,  
The badges priced above the odds  
And let's not think about the wine,  
Londinium is here to stay,  
And dare I say it makes us gay!*

Londinium Preceptory is open to all installed Preceptors of London Province. Meetings are held in July and December. Contact the Secretary David Morris on 020 8673 1767.

## ***Royal Colonial Preceptory No 321***

The 50th anniversary of the Preceptory passed almost unnoticed. However two Knights felt that the event should be marked in some way and they decided to supply our first Banner. This would be a lasting memento of the anniversary and enable us to be properly represented at the Annual Provincial Meetings. The Preceptory jewel consists of the KT 8-pointed cross on which is laid a circular device with the name and number of the Preceptory upon it. In the middle of the device are two crossed flags and an upright trident. This was copied by my daughter and placed on a black and white banner. The design was then sent via the Provincial Vice Chancellor for approval by Great Priory. Once approved the banner was ordered from the manufacturers, South Wales Regalia, who did a good job.

On the third Wednesday in November 2001 the Provincial Prior in the presence of a goodly number of Knights dedicated the Banner. As the Provincial Chaplain was unable to be present Allan Edney filled that office.

This very interesting and enjoyable occasion will be long remembered by the Preceptory. Now having our own banner we have been asked to act as the Banner Preceptory at the Provincial Priory meeting in January; an event we are all looking forward to.

*Paul Butler*

## ***Connaught Army & Navy Preceptory No 172***

The Preceptory was consecrated at Aldershot in the Province of Hampshire & Isle of Wight on the 30th November 1901. Exactly 100 years later the centenary was celebrated at Mark Masons' Hall.

The ceremony was honoured by the presence of the M E & S Grand Master accompanied by a delegation from Great Priory and our Provincial Prior accompanied by Provincial Officers. Representatives from other Provinces and London Preceptories were also present. During the ceremony the Warrant of Constitution was read, followed by the Centenary Warrant which was then presented to the Preceptor by the Grand Master.

The Preceptor was also pleased to receive a bound copy of extracts from the Provincial Records of Hampshire & Isle of Wight from its Provincial Prior, R E Kt. Trevor Charles Gulliver. This recorded the activities of the Preceptory for the period from 1901 to 1920 after which it moved to London. The celebration concluded with a very happy and convivial Festive Board.

Many letters were received congratulating the Preceptory on achieving its Centenary, the excellence of the ceremonial and the precision of its sword-drill. Suffice it to say that the Preceptory Marshal is none other than the Commander of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard!

## ***Baluchistan Preceptory No 188***

Baluchistan Preceptory originated in Pakistan and was brought back to this country just after World War 2. Although active for nearly 100 years it has not owned a banner before. Kt Chaplain, a recently installed knight whose wife embroidered one for them, rectified this; she received a gift of Victorian china for her work. The banner was dedicated by our Provincial Prior at a ceremony held at Mark Masons' Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2001.