

Knightly Topics

Issue 38
Provincial Priory of London



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Your newsletter needs you: it has always thrived on content from you, its readers. Any items of Preceptory news, history of the Orders, Ritual, Symbolism or other relevant subjects should be submitted to the Editor at:

media@londonprovincekt.org

We look forward to hearing from you and remember the more we have of *your* material, the less you will have to read contributions from the Editor.

A message from the Editor

E.Kt. Angus Rhodes P.Prov.A.-de-C.

Dear Brother Knights,

Since the last issue I am delighted to inform you that the Provincial Priory YouTube channel has been formally launched and may be found here: [Click here](#) to view

This enabled the broadcast of an excellent address by the Provincial Prior in lieu of the Annual Provincial Priory of the Temple meeting. That is available now on YouTube here: [Click here](#) to view and a transcript is produced in this issue.

We are also privileged to be able to share with you the recollections of Eminent Knight Brian Francois as he moves on from his role as the Right Eminent Provincial Prior's Bodyguard Commander and takes up the role of Provincial Registrar. His successor as Commander, Ian Drury, and Bodyguard Chaplain, Rev'd Niall Johnston have also provided most interesting articles on their pilgrimage to the Holy Land, including Acre.

The Provincial Sub-Prior has kindly provided a further recipe to keep you busy whilst we await the full resumption of activities. This time it is a Middle Eastern flatbread, which dates back to at least Mediæval times. For those of you interested in Mediæval cooking I would note that the University of Durham is running an online course with Blackfriars Restaurant in Newcastle over five days from 2nd November 2020. An article about that may be found here:

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/10/online-mediæval-cooking-course/> I warn you though, it is on the pricey side!

The answers to last issues Crossword are provided later in the issue and you may also wish to test your wits against the Provincial Quiz, which was held in support of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. You will also find details of the forthcoming Gift of Sight Fair and the Twenty-Four hour Relay completed last month around central London.

As indicated in the previous issue: We would be delighted to hear and publish YOUR stories (especially the fun ones).

How has your Preceptory dealt with the suspension of formal Masonic activity? How have you kept in contact one another? Have you formed a WhatsApp Group or had regular Zoom calls? Have you undertaken any additional challenges for charity? Or do you have any amusing photographs of beards grown, hair shaved, et cætera? Are there any lessons you have learned during this time that you think we could use to improve how we keep in touch outside of meetings both as an Order and a Province? This newsletter is by and for members of the Province so please help us tell your story by contacting us here:.

media@londonprovincekt.org

As we await full resumption of activities, please never forget your Brother Knights are here for you and do not hesitate to get in touch with them if you need support or simply a friendly voice to break up the boredom! Keep well all.

Warmest fraternal regards and Yours in the Bonds of the Order.

† E.Kt. Angus Rhodes P.Prov.A.-de-C.

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Emails to you from the Province

The new Mailchimp email system has proved very effective in sending out the communications for your attention from the Province including the details of the Service for the Feast of St John the Baptist, updates on the annual Provincial Meeting, the recent quiz and virtual tours as well as the Provincial Prior's address.

If you are not receiving these, please check your junk mail first and then let me know and I can ensure that we are using your correct email address.



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KnightlyTopics



Issue 38
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www.londonknightstemplar.com

An address from the Provincial Prior

Rt. E. Kt. David Thompson – Provincial Prior for the Province of London



"Brother Knights

Today, on the feast day of St Michael and all Angels, we were due to gather together for our annual meeting. Unfortunately, the scourge of Coronavirus has put paid to our plans and we have had to cancel. Whilst it is deeply disappointing that we are unable to meet for the highlight of our London Provincial calendar and to have the opportunity to congratulate those being appointed in or promoted to Provincial Honours, it is far more important that you all remain safe and well.

The last six months have been a strange and unsettling time, but while we have been unable to meet physically, I do hope you have been able to enjoy some of the activities the Provincial Team have put on.

The two virtual tours of the Western Wall and its environs were fascinating, the Provincial Quiz amusing, the virtual service for St John the Baptist uplifting and the Provincial Prelate's letters thought-provoking. There have also been two virtual meetings for Registrars and editions of Knightly Topics. I hope these have all given you joy and I warmly congratulate all those who have been involved in their production. You are of great credit to the Province.

To those appointed and promoted today, I offer my congratulations on your preferment. I thank you for your past services but also ask that you continue to show your commitment to the Order in general and the Province in particular. This will be especially the case when this pandemic ends. I now charge you to help bring our normal business back to the Province's Preceptories when masonic activities fully resume.

In the meantime, the Provincial team will continue to provide ways to enlighten, amuse and entertain you. For instance, the

next issue of Knightly Topics is due out in early October, there are plans to increase the number of videos that you can view on our Provincial YouTube channel and there will of course be our annual Carol Service whether in physical or, more likely, virtually format.

May I ask you in turn to remember Charity, especially to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital and also to continue to pay voluntary contributions to our Meeting places so that we will be able to resume fully our activities once this pandemic has ended. I am really looking forward to meeting you again in person when it is safe to do so, but in the meantime, stay safe, stay happy and may God bless you all."

You can view the full address on the London Provincial YouTube channel:



[Click here](#) to take a look



Rt. E. Kt. David Thompson
Provincial Prior for the Province of London

The Everyday Hero Scheme is being replaced by JustGiving

The Province has raised over **£19,000** for the St. John Eye Hospital this year, of which **£5,000** has come through the Everydayhero scheme

The Everydayhero online fundraising platform service is **closing down in November** so please do not make any further donations via that page on the Provincial Relief Chest. **The service will be replaced by JustGiving**, an innovative fundraising platform trusted by thousands of organisations and millions of people worldwide. The Provincial Almoner will provide more details as soon as they become available from MCF.

Masonic Charitable Foundation

Relief Chest Scheme

Your page is currently inactive. Learn how to activate it by [Clicking Here](#).

£4,500 MY GOAL £5,307.50 GIVEN EDIT GOAL [Give Now](#)

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group
مستشفى سان جون للعيون
ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM EY...

Recollections of a Commander of the London Provincial Prior's Bodyguard

In September I completed twenty-one years as a member of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard, commencing in October 1999 and concluding in September 2020 after having served under four Provincial Priors namely Alf Day, Eddie Goodwin, Mike Fox and now David Thompson. It might be of interest as to how such a lengthy period of service came about.

Having retired from the Metropolitan Police in 1998 and not wanting a real job, I took up the post as Beadle to the Worshipful Company of Fletchers. As with most Livery Company's they have an annual church service, in the Fletchers case, at St Bartholomew's the Great, Smithfield. The Master Fletcher at the time was V.E.Kt. Bob Upton a former Provincial Marshal.

Following a detailed rehearsal at 10.00am, located on a lectern was a large Bible from which The Master, Bob Upton was to read a lesson. During the service, the time arrived for Bob, escorted by me, to move to the lectern, arriving only to find that the large bible that had been present during the rehearsal had disappeared.

Unruffled by the absence of the bible Bob reached into his pocket and produced a little red book from which he read a portion of scripture. As I escorted him back to his place I whispered, "What was that you read from?". He replied "a KT ritual book, aren't you in the KT?" replying in the negative, he whispered those immortal words, "I'll send you a form".

In September 1998 I was Installed as a Knight in the Guild of Freeman Preceptory of which Bob was Marshal. That meeting was attended by the Provincial Prior, Alf Day together with his Bodyguard commanded by E.Kt Ernie Bond. Ernie and I were members of Salus Populi Chapter Rose Croix No 999, which is a Chapter then restricted to members of the emergency services. After my Installation, Ernie remarked "You'll be alright for the Bodyguard boy", which totally went over my head as at that time I had no idea what the Bodyguard was. About three days later, through the post, I received a Bodyguard Cross with a demand for a cheque for £15.00. If anyone knew Ernie, who was a retired CID Commander at New Scotland

Yard, there was no question of a refusal.

For the next ten years I remained a member of the Bodyguard during which I had the privilege of visiting almost every Preceptory, in the Province of London, on any number of occasions, and became totally hooked and committed to the Order and of course to the Bodyguard. The Bodyguard was, and still is, full of exceptional people who it has been a pleasure to serve with, many of whom have gone on to be senior members of the Province and the Order in General.

On a Tuesday morning in 2009 and totally out of the blue, I received a telephone call from the then Provincial Prior, Eddie Goodwin, asking if I would be prepared to be appointed as Deputy Commander of the Bodyguard. I must say that initially I was quite taken aback, for whilst I had been a member of the Bodyguard, by then ten years, I thought that there were other members more qualified than me and pointed this out to Eddie. I mentioned that I was a former CID Officer more used to 'sloping about' rather than being 'regimental'. Eddie was another one you couldn't say no to and in September 2009, I became Deputy Commander, which for me was a great privilege.

The year of 2009 was quite a change, The Commander for the previous nine years had been V.E.Kt Capt. Dick Fogwill who had taken over as Commander from Ernie Bond and Capt. Dick was then standing down in favour of E.Kt David Phythian who had been Deputy Commander for the previous three years. Consequently, the Bodyguard had a new Commander and Deputy Commander simultaneously. Although depleted in numbers for all manner of reasons, in the main due to promotions, the Bodyguard continued to cover its responsibilities with members giving up more and more of their time and showing total commitment.



...he whispered those immortal words, "I'll send you a form."

Commander of the London Provincial Prior's Bodyguard
E. Kt. Brian Francois PGAdC

Recollections of a Commander contd.

It has long been the rule that Bodyguard Members retire from the Bodyguard on receiving Provincial Honours. However, the Bodyguard carried on supporting the Province in any way they could and, as always, morale was high. In the main because the dedication of the members and the friendship or esprit de corps that existed amongst them.

Five years later in 2014 David Phythian retired as Commander and naturally there was internal intrigue as to who was to take over as Commander. Whilst I was a past Preceptor, by that time, the Bodyguard had always been Commanded by quite senior members. Ernie Bond PGAdEC, Dick Fogwill PGHer, and David Phythian PDGSwdB. There were any number of senior members of the Province who were without a role and all were highly suitable to Command the Bodyguard. It was very much a surprise to me that Mike Fox, then Provincial Prior, asked me to take over the job.

Unlike the Provincial Officers, (other than the Constables), who do not take on their office until after the Provincial Meeting, the Commander and Deputy Commander of the Bodyguard, get thrown in the deep end immediately, even prior to their formal appointment. Those who regularly attend Provincial Meetings cannot be unaware the pressure the Bodyguard are under, to get it right and not embarrass the Province and Provincial Prior, in front of the visiting Provincial Priors and other dignitaries of the Order.

For the Commander its even worse. Having beforehand allocated the various jobs of Escort Knights, Arch of Steel Knights, Alms collectors, Carousel Knights, Temple Banner Bearer, and Malta delegation Banner Bearer and having sent out the procedure by email some weeks before, there is no knowing who might drop out on the day or at a crucial time forget his left from his right. Despite all the prior planning, preparation and briefing if a key member is late or fails to attend on the day, where does a replacement come from. For the Temple Provincial Meeting there is a requirement for twenty-four knights plus the

Commander and Deputy Commander. The Bodyguard Registrar has any number of administrative duties to perform on the day as well as keeping the flock of members in one place, they do have a tendency to wander off, a bit like stray cats.

The Commander and Deputy need to liaise with the Provincial Marshal and his team who are themselves under pressure. The point of this is that for the Temple Provincial Meeting the Bodyguard need to produce from our number a minimum of twenty-seven attendees. It is for this reason that currently the Bodyguard needs an establishment of at least thirty-five as illness, work or personal commitments always seem to preclude eight to ten members who are unavailable. For the Malta Provincial Meeting the requirement is slightly less at a minimum of twenty.

In conclusion membership of the Bodyguard over the past twenty-one years has played a major part of my Masonic life and for all the accolades I have received in the Craft, Royal Arch, Mark RAM and Rose Croix etc., my various roles in the Provincial Priors Bodyguard have been the highlight of them all.

Should anyone reading this dialog who might be minded joining the Bodyguard and has the time, commitment, posture and dedication, speak with the Bodyguard Registrar, the Commander or Deputy Commander. I can assure you genuine enjoyment, friendship and a real involvement that you will never regret.



Having served as Commander for six years it is time to move on and give other younger members the opportunity to take on the responsibility, which is as much behind the scenes, as is open to view. Naturally due to the complexity of life Bodyguard Members come and go. Keeping up numbers of suitable members is a constant issue, for the commitment of being a member of the Bodyguard should not be taken lightly and both time and finance precludes many.



The KT Provincial Charity Quiz 2020

The questions from the quiz!

Back in June and under the safe tutelage of the Quiz Master **Jamie Ingham Clarke**, three rounds of questions were asked to 28 Knights from nine Preceptories – the Eye Hospital, General Knowledge and Knights Templar in general.

For those that were unable to attend, the three rounds of questions are shown below and, if you want to pit your wits against the winning team, the answers can be found towards the back of this edition.



ROUND 1

The St. John Eye Hospital

- 1) When was the eye hospital founded?
- 2) How many more times is eye disease prevalent in the middle east than in the west?
- 3) The hospital is a foundation of which British order of chivalry? (full title for the mark)
- 4) Name a prevalent genetic eye disease treated at the hospital
- 5) One of the key hospital sites is in the old city at a location called the Muristan. This is a Persian word. What does it mean in English?
- 6) How long has the KT been supporting the Eye Hospital?
- 7) King Hussein of Jordan was a long-time supporter of the hospital and gave his corneas to it, but at which British public school was he educated?
- 8) When was the current hospital building opened?
- 9) Name the four sites in the oPt where we have a hospital building (4 marks)
- 10) Name a trustee of the hospital.
- 11) Who is the Charities Finance manager at MMH?
- 12) What are the dates of the British Mandate?

ROUND 2

General

- 1) Who designed the lions at the base of Nelson's column?
- 2) How many ravens are usually kept at the Tower of London?
- 3) Where is the English headquarters of St John?
- 4) How many bridges are there between Tower and Chelsea Bridge? Include both of them and pedestrian and railway bridges.
- 5) Which is the most southerly area covered by the British Shipping Forecast?
- 6) Which composer's 250th anniversary is celebrated this year?
- 7) How many bottles of champagne in a jeroboam?
- 8) What is the name of this horse in Cornhill?



- 9) Where were 12 Victoria Crosses earned before breakfast?
- 10) Which famous classical piece did Eric Morecombe try to play, conducted by Andre Previn?

ROUND 3


Knights Templar

- 1) What station name is common to both London and Paris Undergrounds?
- 2) What was Jack Dribbell's unusual second name?
- 3) What Rose Croix Chapter was founded by members of Faith & Fidelity Preceptory?
- 4) What is the Ensign of the KT Order?
- 5) What are the Sacred Symbols of the KT Order?
- 6) Why shouldn't you cross your legs in a KT Meeting?
- 7) What was the name of the Sultan who captured Rhodes?
- 8) What is a Baillie?
- 9) What is the name of the quartered badge in the Malta Ceremony?
- 10) What additional offensive weapon may a G.C.T. wear?
- 11) What is the three barred cross worn by the Grand Master called?
- 12) What is the name of the Preceptory that meets in Bristol?
- 13) What is the equivalent of Great Vice Chancellor in Malta?
- 14) Why might the current Grand Seneschal be polychromatic?
- 15) What do you call a TI Preceptory in the Euston room of MMH?

The Gift of Sight Fair 2020

An opportunity for early Christmas shopping?

The Fundraising Guild* of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital run several events every year.

This year these have included a broadcast of the: 

- Eyes of St John documentary by Vanessa Redgrave, with questions and answers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HBbLmMq-uk>,
- Online talks by the CEO, Ahmad Ma'ali: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkbSSoecY3w>,
- Newscaster, Jon Snow: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uR4D4eEMiFs> , and
- A very moving presentation from war artist, Arabella Dorman, which should be available online in due course.

In normal times their events also include the annual **Gift of Sight Fair** held at Chelsea Town Hall with an array of stalls selling all manner of goods providing the opportunity for Christmas shopping whilst supporting our primary charity. A percentage of the profits made by each stallholder goes to assist the Eye Hospital. Naturally such an event is not possible in 2020.

A picture of the editor and his wife from 2017 with some of the splendid Chelsea Pensioners present.



Due to the present circumstances the Guild has therefore moved the Gift of Sight Fair online for 2020. The fair will be active on this page from **NOW to 15th November for silent bids**:

<https://www.givergy.uk/stjohnauction/?controller=home>

There is always an excellent array of goods available and you may find this useful for your Christmas shopping. My mother traditionally starts hers in the January sales, so you may not consider this early! This year there is also an online fundraising auction, which will be here:

<https://www.givergy.uk/stjohnauction/?controller=home>

Please note that the pages will only be active during the above period.

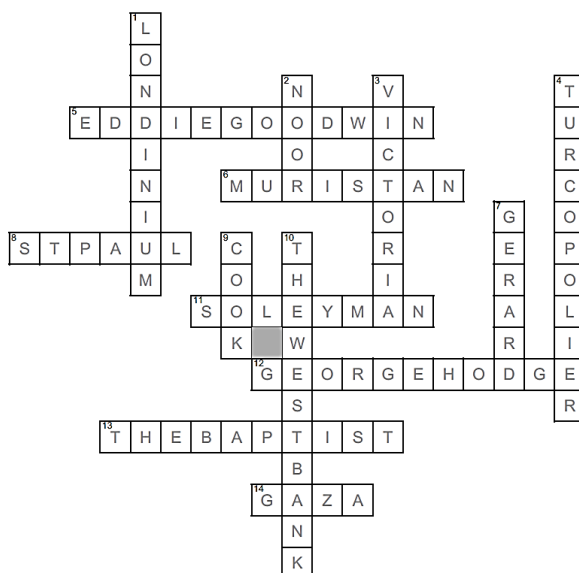
[*The Fundraising Guild was founded in 1926 as the Ladies' Linen Guild – Ed.]

† E.Kt. Angus Rhodes P.Prov.A.-de-C.
media@londonprovincekt.org

Answers to A Knightly Crossword Issue 37

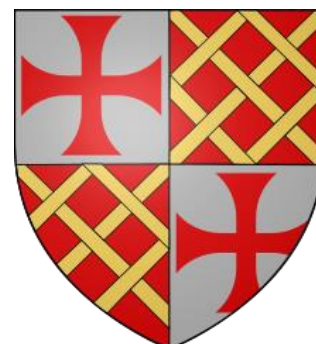
Congratulations to all that got it correct.

Now see how you can do in the Provincial Quiz in this issue!



Whose shield?

This shield features in one of our London Preceptories, but to which Grand Master and to which Preceptory does it belong?



What is better than a pilgrimage to the Holy Land?

E.Kt. Rev'd Niall Johnston P.Prov.A.-de-C.

The answer is obvious:

a Knights Templar pilgrimage!

Far too early in the morning of 17 January this year, in the days before Covid-19 when the Knights of the Province of London were young and carefree [Editor's note: you are typically generous and deluded!], a group of 40 made up of Knights from across Great Priory, some accompanied by their lady, set sail boarded a flight to the Holy Land for the first ever Province of London pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Organised by the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard, with the Prior's gracious permission, we believe that it was only the second official KT pilgrimage and what a corker it turned out to be!

I could dilate at length on any or all of the holy and historical sites but, while following in the footsteps of our Lord and those worthy knights of old is, of course, an essential part of any pilgrimage to the Holy Land so is the opportunity to experience the wonderful spirit and commonality of interest that is generated between pilgrims who may not know many others at first.



Whether walking the Via Dolorosa, travelling on the coach or through the many meals and post-dinner digestifs, friendships were made and new insights acquired. Those pilgrims, a significant number, who are not regular church attenders spoke of the opportunities to learn, experience and put things into context but I know that a pilgrimage to the Holy Land will have a profound effect on the most hardened churchgoer and often at the most unexpected moment.

Knights across Great Priory, and those of London especially, are very proud of our

support for the Eye Hospital and many members of the Province, and their partners, have raised magnificent sums of money to support the Hospital's work. Few of us, however, have been lucky enough to see the work of the Eye Hospital Group in person.



We were delighted to be able to visit the historic site of the original Crusader hospital at Muristan, within the Old City, on a Sunday; the clinic is closed then but the Facilities Manager gave up part of his day off to show us round and to give us time to explore the grounds, in which sits the Tree of Hope.

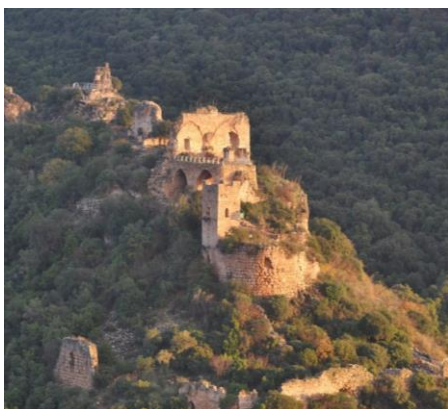
The following day, after a rather soggy visit to the Temple Mount, the staff of the Eye Hospital hosted us for small group tours and a magnificent lunch (paid for by us). For some, the highlight was a presentation by the Chief Executive followed by the opportunity to have photos taken recording the donations made by various Provinces. For others, myself amongst them, it was the opportunity to celebrate Holy Communion in the multi-purpose chapel and to be joined in the celebration by Christian members of staff.



A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land contd.

When we were visiting Bethlehem, we had a further opportunity to see how the Eye Hospital Group benefits the wider community when we met staff working at the Bethlehem Arab Rehabilitation Centre who had been trained at the Eye Hospital.

Having explored Jerusalem and its environs, we set off to Galilee to explore the area of Jesus' early ministry, travelling along the coast via the magnificent aqueducts and ruins of Caesarea Maritima, the Hospitaller fortress at Acre and the remains of Montfort. The Deputy Commander of the Bodyguard and historical advisor to the pilgrimage E Kt Ian Drury writes elsewhere in this edition of the establishment of the new Acre Encampment and its emotional formation. For some, especially the ladies, the memory of this day was the glorious sunset across the valley as gazed on the ruins of Montfort as the sun set.



All of us remember with amazement the skill of our driver as he navigated the coach through lanes that were hardly passable for a car before bringing us to Nazareth and our modest home for the remainder of the pilgrimage.

Water plays a big part in any pilgrimage to the Holy Land and not just when we experienced the occasional January cloudburst! Paddling on the shores of the Sea of Galilee at the traditional site of the miracle of the loaves and fishes, celebrating Holy Communion on board a fishing boat crossing the Lake and being amused by conflicting signage at the traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount are part of the experience for everyone. So, too, is the

opportunity to renew baptismal vows on the banks of the River Jordan. On this pilgrimage, I was privileged to baptise one of the ladies, something that caused ripples of emotion and delight throughout the group. A passing group of Kenyans who had no priest of their own prevailed upon me to renew vows for them and a small number of hardy individuals chose to renew their vows by total immersion, a sight that a few of our group will never forget (although I was fortunate enough to have my back turned at the moment when they climbed out of the water).



There were so many moments of joy and camaraderie during the pilgrimage that it is impossible to identify a single high point. Was it walking the Palm Sunday route; exploring Belvoir Fortress; evening drinks on the rooftop overlooking the Damascus Gate; an outdoor Eucharist at the Shepherds' Fields; listening to Betjeman's 'Christmas'; or perhaps the Elvis diner near Emmaus with its souvenir mugs? Each of us pilgrims will have our own special moments but I am certain that all of us will remember the raw emotion of the final blessing and rendition of the Templar hymn as we approached Ben Gurion airport on our journey homewards.



Another pilgrimage is planned for 19-28 November 2021, subject to prevailing public health and travel restrictions. Details are now available from Rev'd Niall Johnston (masonic@nialljohnston.org) although bookings will only open once UK Government travel advice permits travel to the Holy Land.



Acre Encampment 2020

E. Kt. Ian Drury – Commander of the London Provincial Prior's Bodyguard



The great city of Acre, capital of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem since the loss of the Holy City, fell to the Mamluks on 22 May 1291, signalling the end of the Crusader kingdoms in the Middle East. The Knights Templar and the Hospitallers both had their headquarters there, and which were only taken after grim last stands, ending with the beheading of those knights who fell into enemy hands. The Templar's castle next to the port was undermined and destroyed in the fighting. However, the magnificent citadel of the Knights Hospitaller still stands today; extensively excavated over the last few years, large parts have been beautifully restored. Visiting here was one of the highlights of our 2020 pilgrimage, but we had in mind something more ambitious than sightseeing.

The underground chambers and passageways are vast, and we were able to secure ourselves in a hall that could be tyled. The stage was set for the inaugural meeting of 'Acre Encampment'. We thought that turning up armed with swords and full kit might complicate our visit, but if we lacked regalia, the setting more than compensated. For the first time in more than 700 years, the Registrar called the roll, and 24 knights answered. As he recorded in the minutes:

'The Encampment was opened in solemn prayer at 2.45 pm by the Eminent Preceptor with the salute proving a very moving experience for all. Every Knight took the opportunity to consider just how many hundreds of years had passed since these

very walls of history had last reverberated to the enthusiastic cries of "à B _____" towards the Preceptor with such vigour. The muster roll then resonated throughout the halls, with the responses from each Knight clearly heard by all. The magnitude of the occasion was not lost on any Knight present, and it seemed to be a very special individual moment for each Knight in turn, as they announced themselves willing to once more step up and perform their duty as many Knights must have done so before.'

It was profoundly moving to reflect on the history of this city, and above all, the heroic achievements of the military orders during the Crusades. We ended proceedings in fine form, taking advantage of the superb acoustics.

'Two verses of the Templar Hymn echoed magnificently throughout the halls with all Knights in fine voice.

There was no further business, and the poignant meeting was closed in prayer and a single verse of the National Anthem was sung at 3.00pm.

The Bro. Knights then re-joined their guests for the remainder of the time spent in the Hospitaller Fortress.'

It was only as we headed for the exit that we discovered the gift shop had swords for sale!

Next time then. . . .

The Commander and Registrar of the London Provincial Prior's Bodyguard at the inaugural meeting of Acre Encampment 2020



E.Kt. Ian Drury
Commander of the
London Bodyguard;
Literary Agent; Historian

“Welcome, partake of bread, the staff of life”

E. Kt. Antony Legge – Food Correspondent (Baking)

It is no co-incidence that bread appears at the start of our ceremonies. The breaking of bread is about more than just food. Since it would be difficult to poison a shared loaf without risk to all those partaking, the breaking of bread is taken to symbolise fellowship, friendship and peace. Bread is also used as cutlery in the Middle East, with flatbreads used to scoop up foods, and as plates in the Western trencher bread. Welcoming a traveller with bread is to welcome him into the community.

Of course, yeast was also an essential element in beer making and the close relationship between beer making and bread making has been traced back to 2,000 BC in Egypt. More recently, writing shortly after the death of Our Lord, the Roman historian, Pliny, praises the Celts of the lightness of their bread, which was made using the foam formed on the top of brewing beer. (It is more likely that travellers would have been offered beer with their bread instead of water).

Bread is thought by historians to have been eaten for around 12,000 years. Nor would this have been hard, barely chewable unleavened bread, as a loaf of yeasted bread was discovered in late Neolithic levels in Switzerland. Ancient Egyptians added half baked bread that had been soaked in water and date juice to make fresh bread. This principle continues today in the practice of keeping a yeast culture alive in a mixture of flour and water.

Thus, at the time of the origin of the Knights Templar, we can assume that there would have been a range of breads available. Made from different flours and using both wild yeasts and brewing yeast as leavening, the breads would have been very different from what we find in our shops today. So what bread would our forebears have broken?

Postscript from the Bodyguard Chaplain; “Brother Knights, please remember Matthew 4:4”.



Welcoming a traveller with bread is to welcome him into the community

Being based in the Middle East, it is probable that the first Knights Templar would have eaten both flat breads and unleavened breads. The two should not be confused as flat bread contains yeast. The main difference between flat bread and a classic loaf being the shorter second proving time for flat bread and the heat at which it is cooked. (Tandoor ovens in which naans are cooked can reach 500°C).

The following is a recipe for flatbread, taken from Paul Hollywood's Bread, I hope you enjoy it:

Maneesh

Preparation time: 1-2 hours
Cooking time: 10 to 30 minutes
Serves: Makes 3 large Maneesh

Ingredients

500g/1lb 2oz strong white flour, plus extra for dusting
10g / ½oz salt
25g / 1oz caster sugar
10g / ½oz instant yeast
20ml / 4 tsp olive oil, plus extra for kneading
360ml / 12fl oz tepid water

For the topping:

6 tbsp sesame seeds
4 tbsp dried thyme
2 tbsp dried marjoram
a little olive oil

Method

1. Mix together the flour, salt, sugar and yeast. Add the olive oil and 270ml/9½fl oz of the water. Using your fingers, mix the ingredients together. Gradually add the remaining water until all the flour has come away from the sides of the bowl and you have a soft dough (you may not need all the water; the dough should be soft and not sticky).
2. Pour a little oil onto your work top. Place the dough on top and knead for 5-10 minutes. The dough will be wet in the beginning but will form a smooth dough once kneaded.
3. Once a smooth dough is achieved, place into a clean oiled bowl, cover and leave to double in size.
4. Line three baking trays with parchment paper.
5. Tip the dough onto an oiled work top. Knock the dough back by folding it on itself, repeating this until all the air is knocked out and the dough is smooth. Split the dough into three and roll into large circles.
6. Place onto the lined baking trays and cover each tray with a carrier bag. Leave to rest for 20 minutes.
7. Mix the topping ingredients with a little olive oil until you have a thick paste. Preheat the oven to 230C/450F/Gas 8.
8. Just before baking, brush the surface of the breads with olive oil. Spread the topping over each of the breads and bake for approximately 15 minutes.
9. Remove from the oven and transfer to a wire rack to cool.

Twenty-Four Hour Relay

In aid of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital

From **Midday on Saturday 5th until Midday on Sunday 6th September**, a Team of Knights of our Order, one Knight Rose Croix, and two of their wives completed a Twenty-Four Hour socially-distanced relay around London organised by the Editor of this publication. Six Team Members were Knights from Preceptories in the Provincial Priory of London. They chose as the team name "The Knights of the Vision Beautiful" to reflect both our membership and the role of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital

The route started at the New Temple, the second site of a Templar Headquarters in London, by the entrance to Temple Church and covered approximately five and a half miles. En route it passed a number of historical and relevant sites including (not exclusively) churches, Knightrider Court, the College of Arms, the Tower of London, Masons Avenue, the Guildhall and the Charterhouse where the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group office is based. The last leg took the Knights through St John's Gate, London headquarters of both the original and modern Orders of St John and then back to the start via the Old Temple site past the Knight Templar Public House.

The real challenge was to have a team member in motion around the course for every moment of the twenty-four hours. The longest lap completed was that by a Middlesex Knight's wife who became lost accompanying him on a hire cycle and ended up taking in picturesque Hackney! The shortest was completed by a Surrey Knight who is a London black cabbie. Somehow, he managed to complete the correct course (we know from GPS!) shaving off a third of a mile. We assume this must be the effect of having the knowledge.

The London Knights, in order of laps, were **Angus Rhodes, Paul Asante, Ian Williamson, Wayne Krause, Seirios Kokkalis, Chris Griggs** and his wife **Rosalia**. The Editor did several laps, but not as many as Seirios.



Our team Pheidippides decided to turn up an hour early in order to run an extra (distanced) lap with E.Kt. Wayne at 23:00. He then proceeded to cover further laps from Midnight until 05:00! We believe he completed at least six laps making him an ultra-marathon runner if he was not before.

This challenge was successfully completed and well supported by our London Knights and the Knights of other Provinces.

The financial target was £11,670 to cover the purchase of a surgical stall to enable sensitive eye operations to be completed at the Hospital. At time of writing, the Team total raised is £12,608.12, including gift aid and offline donations. .

...contd.



Twenty-Four Hour Relay contd.

The above total includes donations already made in relation to the Editor's personal challenges for the Eye Hospital. At the end of September, he successfully completed ground school for a solo skydive as part of these challenges and is now waiting for the airfield to announce a good weather prediction to enable him to complete this further challenge. Pictures and the video of this will be available in due course.

The Team Page remains open should you wish to support the other Team Members or know more:

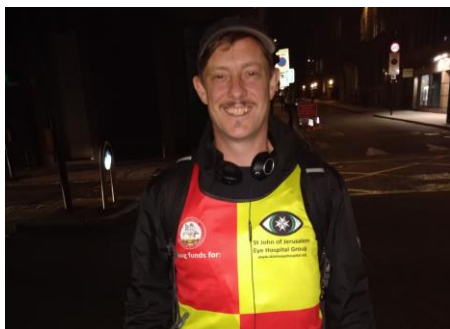
<https://www.justgiving.com/team/Vision-Beautiful> and the Editor's page is here,

should you wish to support his continuing appeal for the Eye Hospital as he prepares to fall from the sky:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Angus-Rhodes>

Plans for the 2021 Team Challenge are already being worked on. This should take place in time for the Great Priory Cathedral Service at Wells Cathedral in September and is to involve opportunities to run or cycle this time. Anyone interested in taking part should contact the Editor.

There may also be a more sedate option, which is being worked on. More details to follow in future issues.



St Botolph and his churches

For the past several years the Provincial Priory Carol Service has been held at St Botolph's-without-Bishopsgate. There used to be four churches in London dedicated to his name, including the Billingsgate church destroyed in the Great Fire of London. The remaining churches are in Aldgate and Aldersgate. The Twenty-four hour relay was designed to pass by all three of the remaining London churches.

So who was he? St Botolph was a renowned Anglo-Saxon Saint from the seventh century, more accurately spelt and pronounced as "Botwulf", but the other spelling was adopted later. He appears to have been the builder and Abbot of the

Monastery of Icanho in Suffolk, thus he became popular in East Anglia. At the peak of his popularity up to seventy-one churches appear to have been dedicated in his name.

The name of Boston in Lincolnshire allegedly came from a St Botolph's church being located there with the name coming from a shortening of "Botolph's Town". Thus Boston, Massachusetts ultimately would have taken its name from the same source.

Whilst in the broader church St Christopher is known as the patron saint of travellers, St Botolph became the English equivalent as well as being patron of boundaries, trade and farming. This may be why churches

were dedicated at four of the great gates of the City so that travellers could pray and receive a blessing on entering or leaving London.

St Botolph's-Without-Bishopsgate



The KT Provincial Charity Quiz 2020

The winners and the answers from the quiz!

Did you beat the three teams of winners?
All equal on 23 points!



Congratulations to our winners

Coromandel Team 2:

Wayne Krause; Alan Brumwell

Bard of Avon

Neil Hutchings; Niall Johnston

Sancta Maria

Ian Drury; Derek Duffill; Damian Kennaby



ROUND 1

The St. John Eye Hospital

- 1) 1882
- 2) 10
- 3) The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem
- 4) Glaucoma or Diabetes
- 5) Hospital
- 6) Approx. 100 years
- 7) Harrow
- 8) 1960
- 9) Jerusalem, Anabta, Hebron and Gaza
- 10) See <https://stjohnseyehospital.org/our-people/>
- 11) Linda Read
- 12) 1919-1947 +/- one year

ROUND 2

General

- 1) Landseer
- 2) 6
- 3) Clerkenwell
- 4) 17
- 5) Trafalgar
- 6) Ludvig van Beethoven
- 7) 4
- 8) Copenhagen
- 9) Rorke's Drift
- 10) Grieg's Piano Concerto

ROUND 3

Knights Templar

- 1) Temple
- 2) Lodewyck
- 3) Grand Metropolitan No 1
- 4) Black Ribbon or sash
- 5) Lamb, Dove and Cock
- 6) It's an allusion to Christ on the Cross
- 7) Suliman 1 or the magnificent
- 8) Alderman or Magistrate
- 9) Orle
- 10) Dagger
- 11) Cross of Salem
- 12) Baldwin
- 13) There isn't one
- 14) Because he is Andrew Rainbow
- 15) Mount 'Carvery'

A few final thoughts

Brother Knights

As you know, this year marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War as well as the Eightieth of the start of the Blitz and the Battle of Britain.

Many of our past Brethren and Knights gave their lives to secure freedom for future generations and as we approach the season of remembrance our nation traditionally recalls all those who gave their lives serving their fellows.

Perhaps this is an opportune moment to remind ourselves of the words our Chaplains

pray when providing the requiem for fallen Knights. These are even more poignant words in our present circumstances:

Our Brother Knights have heard and obeyed the Great Captain's word of command and their place here will know them no more for they have departed on that pilgrimage which ends in the Holy City.

O Father of All, we pray to Thee for those whom we love but see no longer. Grant them Thy peace; let Thy light perpetual shine upon them and in Thy loving wisdom and Almighty power work in them the good purpose of Thy perfect will.

A—men.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and Giver of all comfort, deal graciously with those who mourn, that casting care on Thee, they may know the consolation of Thy love.
A—men.

This year we are also mindful of all our NHS and keyworker heroes that have kept the country going throughout.

May the Great Captain of our Salvation bless you and all your families as we approach the latter parts of this difficult year. Let us pray for a better and brighter 2021.