



The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael



Newsletter - Summer 2009

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A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

I am writing this as we excitedly await the birth of our eighth grandchild and at a time when the chivalric orders are growing in popularity and mutual friendship.



It was particularly pleasurable to welcome one of the leading members of today's Teutonic Knights to the Annual Meeting , H.E. The Surgeon Commander, Dr David R Starritt, and our Grand Chancellor, Barry Uttley, is hoping to attend their UK Meeting in Aberdeen to represent the Order and ensure that this important link is continued.

I have also represented the Order at a number of functions held by other chivalric orders, including St. Stanislas, St. George, the Order of the Fleur de Lys, the Knights Templar and the Royal Confraternity of Sao Taotonio.

I have recently returned from a tour of Sicily and was particularly interested in the various buildings and fortifications that date from the years after the Conquest when the Normans ruled as Christian chivalric knights, who adopted many of the Saracen social habits including keeping a harem. They hired the best Saracen architects to build their cathedrals, so that the buildings are an awe-inspiring mixture of classical 'Moorish' and western mediaeval architecture. The two best examples in Sicily are at Palermo, their capital, and Monreale which is famous worldwide for its remarkable gold mosaics representing scenes from the Old

Testament and contains the tombs of William 1st and 2nd of Sicily. In Palermo, there is a beautiful tiara belonging to Constance of Aragon, who was married to Frederick I of Sicily and who later became Holy Roman Empress. There is also a wealth of buildings dating back to the time of the Ancient Greeks and I visited the famous Valley of the Temples at Agrigento where there are around seven, one of which is almost complete. Then on to Syracuse, where Archimedes was killed and where the best of the Greek Temples has been incorporated into the Cathedral, yet another example of how one religion was subsumed architecturally into another. An island really worth visiting.....!

A really good development this year has been our relationship with Whizz-Kidz, under the able leadership of Chevalier Ian Tough. This charity is doing brilliant work with children with very severe mobility problems and provides specially made or adapted wheelchairs which enable the children to attain an active lifestyle. I am so grateful to the Order for the initial donation of £1,000 and I must urge you all to help Whizz-Kidz carry on their valuable charitable work by giving generously in the future.

As regards the news from the Conclaves, St. Martin at Sees continues to be active in the north of England and St. William of Rochester meets regularly in Kent. I have recently received a tentative approach with a view to forming a new Conclave in West London and, if anyone is interested in this, please let me know and I will put you in touch.

Finally, I should like to thank all the officers who so generously give of their time and effort to keep the Order running and growing whilst at the same time being busy in business or other concerns. It is my intention to include a profile of one of them in each of this and future issues and I hope this will be of interest to you all.

May you all continue to receive the Blessings of the Order and I hope to see as many of you as possible at the next Annual Conclave on Saturday 16th January 2010, which once again will be held in Peterborough.

M.E. The Chevalier Howard F Doe, GCSR, GCSM, Baron St Raphael,
Grand Master

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2009 fell due on 1st July. If you are a member of a Conclave you should receive notification from your Treasurer and payment should be made direct to him. If you do not belong to a Conclave, then please forward your cheque for £20 direct to the Grand Treasurer – contact details at the end of this Newsletter.

OBITUARY – CHEVALIER BARRY WILDE

It is with great sadness that we have to report that Chevalier Barry Wilde passed away on 16th February after a courageous battle with cancer. Barry was born and brought up in Salford, and worked in the chemical engineering department at Salford University for 32 years.

He was involved in many voluntary roles, and also served as a magistrate, and joined our Order only two years ago as a member of the Conclave of St Martin at Sées.

Barry is survived by his wife Helen, a Dame in the Order (who wishes to remain involved), and two sons and five grandchildren.

Requiescat in pace

BARRY UTTLEY – A PROFILE

Barry was born and educated in Blackpool. He joined the Civil Service in 1958 as a plans officer in H.M. Land Registry and later qualified as a land surveyor within the Registry. After a brief transfer to the Register of Sasines in Edinburgh and with no prospects of advancement, he transferred to H.M. Customs and

Excise and finally retired as a commissioned senior officer of H.M. Customs and Excise in 1994.

Married to Dianne for 44 years with two daughters, Lorraine 39 and Sarah 34, nine years ago Barry received the Freedom of the City of London and is currently a member of *The Freeman of England and Wales* of which he is very proud. On St. Andrew's Day 2003 Barry was elected a Fellow of *The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*.

For many years Barry was a member of *The British Falconers Club*, learning "the sport of Kings" firstly by controlling a lowly kestrel and finally was one of the last falconers who was granted a licence by the Department of the Environment under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, to take a bird of prey from the wild for the purposes of falconry. The licence was for a Common Buzzard which has the romantic Latin name *Buteo buteo* but in reality the bird was named Balla Wray after the wood where the nest was located in the English Lake District. Nowadays of course, all birds of prey used by falconers are aviary bred. (They don't make falconers like they used to!). It is an energetic sport and Barry is now quite happy for younger men to take over. The memory however still lingers and those happy days are recorded by the fact that a buzzard forms the



crest on his coat of arms recorded by the Judge of Arms and Herald Principal of The Order of St. Lazarus viz: Argent, on a grassy mound in base three oak-trees all proper, and on a chief or, a rose-bud gules, slipped and leaved vert, between two roses also gules, seeded or, leaved vert: upon a helm mantled vert, reversed or, as a Crest: On a wreath or and vert, a buzzard statant with wings extended proper:

and as a Motto: Frangas Non Flectes.

Barry's main interests now are with the Orders of Chivalry and in *The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael* he holds the position of Grand Chancellor, being a Knight Grand Cross of the Order (GCSR). This year (2009) he was promoted to Deputy Grand Master of the appendant Order of *The Most Meritorious, Spiritual and Military Order of St. Mark* with the corresponding accolade of Knight Grand Cross (GCSM).

He joined *The Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem* in 1996 and until May this year was the Herald to the Grand Bailiwick of England and Wales, which entailed editing and producing the Grand Bailiwick newsletter. In May Barry was invited to join *The Constitutional Grand Priory of England and Wales* in the capacity of Commander of Cumbria Commandery. His present rank within the Order is Knight Commander (KCLJ) and has been awarded the rank of Commander of the Companiate of Merit (CMLJ) and the Bronze Cross of Merit (BCrLJ). He is a Director and Trustee of *The St. Lazarus Foundation*, registered charity No. 1014866.



Barry is also a Knight Grand Cross (KGL) and holds the position of Grand Almoner and Treasurer in *The Order of the Fleur-de-Lys* which has an annual Muster at Queens' College, Cambridge. He is a Trustee of *The Fleur-de-Lys Foundation*, registered charity No. 1116928 and a Director of *The Fleur-de-Lys Company*.

He is now enjoying retirement in the sleepy hamlet of The Green in the Lake District.

ST MARTIN'S ANNUAL LECTURE

On 13th June 2009, members of the Concalave gathered for the annual lecture at Villaggios Restaurant, near Warrington.

The speaker this year was Tony Hilton, an Officer in the Order of St Lazarus, and a keen historian, with particular interest in the subjects of Chivalry. Tony gave an enlightening talk on the subject, in particular the Knights Templar, and the audience took great interest, with the subject matter being so close to heart. Tony kindly waived his usual fee, and asked that this be passed on to the Order's chosen charity.

As has become custom, the talk was followed by a delightful meal in the restaurant to round off a splendid day.

WHIZZ-KIDZ

As you may already be aware, the Grand Master has chosen Whizz-Kidz as the charitable focus for the Order.

It is a relatively young charity, aimed at providing mobility impaired children with the opportunity to realise their true potential and the chance to live their life to the full. All children need the right start in life. Disabled children are no different in this regard. Movement is an important stimulus in early life and is central to a child's development.

Without the means to move around on their own, disabled children may fail to develop the skills and confidence to achieve their potential in life. They can become passive and reliant on others, which not only impacts on their early years, but also means that as adults, they are often unable to fully participate and contribute to the community.

Disabled children have virtually no chance of receiving a powered wheelchair on the NHS. Nearly all of the families who come to Whizz-Kidz for mobility equipment are on low incomes and have been referred to Whizz-Kidz by their local NHS therapist because the service available is unable to meet their individual mobility needs. In addition to equipment, the wheelchair training, specialist advice and life skills provided by Whizz-Kidz further increases their independence and potential to lead a more active childhood.

These are difficult times for all charities, and I realise that many of you are involved in a number of different Orders, all with their own charitable focus. However, we are off to a very good start with our first £1000 contribution. This includes £600 donated by St Edmunds Conclave, £224 raised at our AGM in Peterborough on 17th January, and a further £50 donated from two cancelled dining fees that day. Many thanks to all for your kind generosity. If you go through the link to Whizz-Kidz on our website, you will see there the different ways you can contribute. You can contribute individually, either direct to Whizz-Kidz, or through me

as Grand Hospitaller. You can have your own event, coffee-morning, raffle etc and donate the proceeds, again either directly, or through me. If you prefer, you can make regular donations by direct debit. If you make your donations direct to Whizz-Kidz, all I ask is that you refer to the Order of St Raphael on the donation form. It would be helpful if you could let me know how much you are contributing so we can keep our members informed of our accrued giving. I can assure you of complete discretion and respect for your privacy as you require.

Remember the word of St Paul: " And now abideth Faith, Hope, Charity, these three, but the greatest of these is Charity."

Many thanks for giving this your attention.

IAN W TOUGH JP GCSR GCSM
GRAND HOSPITALLER

MORE ABOUT WHIZZ-KIDZ

On Thursday 19th February, the Grand Master, accompanied by the Grand Treasurer Ken Bamber and myself, visited the headquarters of Whizz-Kidz in Allington Street, Victoria, London. We were hosted by Whizz-Kidz Regional Fundraising Manager, Ashley Westpfel and Regional Fundraiser, Alysia Nadaraju.

Ashley and Alysia gave us some of the background to Whizz-Kidz in a most enlightening and informative talk. Whizz-Kidz is in fact the working name of The Movement for Non-Mobile Children, the Registered Charity which enables disabled children gain mobility and discover independence.

Last year, they raised £4.7m in voluntary income. 74p in every £1 donated goes to their front line services. It costs on average £10 per day to provide Whizz-Kidz services to an individual young wheelchair user. Over a 16 year period, it costs £60,000 to support a child. Across the whole of the UK, there are some 4000 children receiving support with ages ranging from 4 to 18.

There are around 480 pieces of mobility equipment in use provided by Whizz-Kidz.

The charity has a staff of 18 Fundraisers, and an Ambassador network of 300 young people from age 8 to 25. The younger ones bear the title of Junior Ambassador. There is also a network of volunteers who assist in practical ways. One fascinating innovation is the Kidz Board of 13 young people – mainly teenagers, who represent different areas across the UK.

We in turn explained the aims and objectives of the Order of St Raphael. The Grand Master described how he had selected Whizz-Kidz for our charitable focus, this being a charity known to him through his former work at the Peabody Trust. We were delighted to present to Whizz-Kidz our first donation of £1000.



Ashley Westpfel would be delighted to come and present at meetings of our Order, so members, friends and guests can hear about the work of Whizz-Kidz first-hand. There are a number of ways our members can help. In particular, Whizz-Kidz are looking for people who can give short talks on the work of the charity, to organisations, clubs etc. as a means of getting the message across.

ANNUAL INVESTITURE AT PETERBOROUGH

On 17th January 2009, in excess of 40 members and guests attended the annual Ceremony of Investiture at Peterborough – even better than last year, which in itself was one of the best attended occasions in the history of the Order. Many members arrived well before the ceremony to meet up with friends old and new, and once again ten members from the Conclave of St Martin

at Sees stayed the previous evening at a local hotel, and enjoyed a meal at a nearby restaurant.

At 11am, the Grand Master's procession entered the Chapel, where the guests and 2 Postulants awaited. Just three postulants were invested this year, but still with the usual pomp and decorum, and with an "acting" Prior this year in Chevalier Julian Gunnell, since the Prior and Sub Prior had resigned from the Order.

Before the ceremony commenced, we heard from our special guest, His Excellency Dr David Starritt, Commander of the British Isles of the Ordo Militaris Teutonicus, which is our "mother" Order, who said that he was actively looking for new members of that Order, though admission and membership fees were extremely high. If anybody is interested in learning more, they should contact our own Grand Chancellor, RE Barry Uttley.

Following the Investing of the Postulants and the promoting of existing members, the Grand Master made his Appointments of new Grand Officers, and a number of members also received promotions in the Meritorious Order of St Mark. Congratulations to all those who received awards.

After the formalities had been completed, we retired into the adjoining dining area for lunch, where everybody had the chance to get to know each other or renew old acquaintances. After the dinner, a raffle was held which raised close to £300 towards our new Charitable objective, Whiz-kidz.

Photographs of the event can be viewed in the Gallery on the Order's website.

A meeting of the Grand Council was held after the dinner, the main agenda items being as follows:

- Regalia suppliers - the Custodian of Insignia has been making progress with a new supplier and hopes to have new Insignia available in the near future. Also for sale are Order ties and

Paperweights. These can be viewed and ordered through the link in the News pages of the website.

- Constitution - the Grand Chancellor has completed the new Constitution and it is available to view on the website.
- Ritual update - the Grand Marshal has now revised the ritual and it was used at today's Investiture.

The Grand Master thanked everybody for attending and declared the meeting closed.

New members admitted (KSR)

Stephen Robert Kenneth Nimmons

Ronald Hughes

Ralph Apperley

Promotions within The Most Meritorious, Spiritual and Military Order of St. Mark

To be Commanders (CSM)

Paul James Hooley

Christine Maria Baker

Janice Elizabeth Bamber

John George Rice

Christopher Wilson Guy Ansell

Richard Christian Andrews

Trevor John Harrison

Ian William MacKenzie

Ronald Ball

To be Knights (KSM)

Arnold Baker

Julian Keith Gunnell

Peter William Robins

Norman Lionel Offield

Alan Blackstone

David John Haywood

To be Dames (DSM)

Margaret Gunnell

To be Knight Commanders (KCSM)

Ian Charles Burnett

Leslie Grout

To be Deputy Grand Master – Barry Frederick Uttley

ORDER ACCOUNTS

At the time the newsletter was published the accounts were not available. As soon as they are ready a copy will be posted on the Order website.

www.orderofstraphael.org.uk

MEETING OF ST WILLIAM OF ROCHESTER CONCLAVE

The St. William of Rochester Conclave met on Wednesday 29th October at the Balmoral Masonic Hall under the Command of E.Chev. Terry Bowler. Also present were The Most Excellent Grand Master, M.E. Chev. Howard Doe along with six other Chevaliers, two Dames and Mr Trevor Clive Gray.

Those present stood to Order in memory of Major General Vitez Janos Karaszy-Kulin Grand Master of the International Knightly Order of St George and a member of this and many other Orders.

We then proceeded with the main item of business and Mr Trevor Clive Gray was admitted into the Order and thereafter received as a Knight. The ME Grand Master then spoke of the Annual Investiture in Peterborough at which we were likely to have three Candidates and also spoke about ritual, regalia and the new book of Constitutions.

E.Chev Len Feist then advised that he had managed to track down some of the records for the original Conclave that had met in Kent some years ago and it was hoped that further investigation would lead to us being able to persuade former members to re-activate their membership. The meeting was then closed and a fish and chip supper was enjoyed by all.

KEY CONTACTS

This section has been omitted from the online version of the newsletter

The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael

The Order is not an Order of Merit, but a stateless International Order of Chivalry. It exists for the express purpose of healing the sick, giving spiritual refreshment to those who suffer, the protection of the Wisdom Religion of the Ages and the creation of a Nobility of Spiritually Enlightened men and women to work for Universal Brotherhood.

All communications should be addressed to:- 89 Haig Road, Bury, BL8 2LG. Tel: 0161 764 4786
email: gh@orderofstraphael.org.uk