



# The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael



Newsletter - Summer 2011

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

Yesterday I was privileged to attend the Queen's garden party at Buckingham Palace and it was very interesting to contrast the calm atmosphere and the sumptuous hats and dresses with the clamour and despondency of some of the world around. It was also interesting to see how everyone crowded around the diminutive figure of the Queen as she made her way down line after line of people.



This, I think, amply illustrates the value of symbols even in the modern world and how much symbols still mean to the man in the street. The monarchy stands for strength and order just as chivalry stands for a code of behaviour which is increasingly less common in life today.

That is why Orders such as St. Raphael are still of great importance and value in the present world as it is this selflessness and care for others that we need always to continue to practise and exhibit.

I recently toured Portugal staying at Pousadas, which are mediaeval castles or religious foundations that have been converted and therefore saved from destruction and are today used as first class hotels, whilst still keeping much of their original character. During the holiday we visited Sintra, which contains some splendid examples of chivalry including one in particular from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

This is the magnificent palace of Pena, which sits on a mountain top just outside the town and was built by King Ferdinand II of Portugal as a place where the royal family could meet in a knightly atmosphere, with the best view from the windows being a large figure of a Crusader carved from a nearby rock, which symbolised Ferdinand's commitment to the code of chivalry.



This code is that of which we are the modern heirs and we need to remember this in all we do and say. So often I read correspondence from Knights and Dames in dispute with one another – in other Orders! – and I wonder how often they stop to think how wounding are ill-considered words and whether they have taken the trouble to look for the best construction in others, whilst realizing the faults in themselves.

I am pleased to say that our Order continues to make steady progress and as many of you may know we had a splendid occasion at Peterborough in January and I would like to thank Barry Uttley, Margaret and Julian Gunnell and all the others who put in so much effort to make the Investiture such a success.

Recently, we have received a petition to form a new Conclave in West London – based at Putney – and I hope to consecrate this in a few weeks' time. I also hope we shall soon be able to form a Conclave in Scotland and we have already had approaches regarding this.



On the charitable front we have continued to support our chosen charity, Whizz Kidz, which helps very handicapped children to achieve mobility and I do hope we can do even better in the coming 12 months.

May I conclude by hoping you will have an enjoyable summer during which I intend to visit the Conclave of St. Martin at Sees, which is progressing well under David Haywood's excellent leadership. I also hope

to see you all at Peterborough on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012 for our Annual Meeting & Investiture.

May God bless you all.

+Howard

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

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions for 2011 become due on 1st July. Following the meeting in January at Peterborough, a number of procedural changes were made, so please read on carefully!

The preferred method of payment of annual subscriptions is now by annual standing order, direct to the Order's Bank account. Standing orders are an excellent way of keeping the Order's affairs in good standing, for there is no need to chase members for outstanding payments. With a standing order, no personal information is given to the payee, and the member remains in full control of the payment with his bank.

If you are a member of a Conclave, in recent years you will have made payment direct to your own Treasurer, who would in turn forward this to the Grand Treasurer. From next year we are asking all members to pay direct to the Grand Treasurer, either by the preferred method of standing order, or by cheque. The Grand Treasurer will return the Conclave element of the subs back to the Treasurer. The new Grand Treasurer, Chevalier Geoffrey Berry, will be writing to all members shortly with details of the new arrangements, but in the meantime please send your cheque for 2011 as normal, using the enclosed payment slip.

The annual subscription for members is £20, this amount having been agreed in 2008. £12 of this goes towards the running costs of the Conclave/Order, with £8 being a donation towards the Order's nominated charity, which is currently Whiz-kidz.

There are a number of Life members of the Order, who made a one-off payment to the Order when it was being set up, to enable the purchase

of various items of equipment for which we had no funds. Such members will continue to enjoy the benefits of full membership of the Order in return for their payment, but of course they will not be making the charitable donation that other members now make. We are therefore asking all Life Members to consider setting up a standing order of £8 per annum for this purpose. This will not be enforced, but your co-operation would be most appreciated.

Thank you very much for your assistance and understanding.

R.E. Barry Uttley, GCSR, GCSM  
Grand Chancellor

### **ANNUAL INVESTITURE AT PETERBOROUGH**

This year's Investiture was held on 15th January, again at Elindon, Peterborough. This year's event was not quite as well attended as last year, with only 36 in attendance. Details of postulants and promotions appear below.

The Grand Master and all those who attended were delighted to once again receive our honoured guest, Ashley Westpfel, Regional Fundraising Manager for Whizz-Kidz. As you will recall, Whizz-Kidz was chosen by our Grand Master as the charitable focus for the Order. Funds raised from the raffle, and contributions made at the AGM amounted to £500, which the Grand Master was delighted to present. You can read the subsequent letter of thanks on our website.

If you were unable to attend the AGM and would like to make a donation to Whizz-Kidz, you can contact Ashley on 0207 798 6138, or mobile number 07788 554906, or email him: [a.westpfel@whizz-kidz.org.uk](mailto:a.westpfel@whizz-kidz.org.uk) If you are a taxpayer, do please Gift-Aid your donation.

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.

Following the splendid luncheon, The Grand Master opened the Grand Council meeting. Items discussed were as follows:

## **Appointment of Grand Prior and Grand Sub Prior**

We have still not been able to find a Church of England vicar to take on the role, which would be a great help in obtaining permission to hold future investitures in a Cathedral. Chevalier Geoffrey Berry said that he had contacts within the Church of England and would make enquiries. The Grand Master asked that any suggestions for a new Grand Prior be made through the Grand Chancellor in the first instance.

## **Appointment of new Grand Treasurer**

The Grand Master announced that Chevalier Geoffrey Berry, a Chartered Accountant, would be taking on the role of Grand Treasurer. The existing accounts, to the end of June, would be completed by the outgoing Treasurer. The Grand Master thanked Chevalier Ken Bamber for all his hard work in the role over the years. A number of suggestions were made regarding the accounts. It was agreed that the year end would be changed to 31<sup>st</sup> December, so a set of accounts for six months would be produced this year to bring these into line. It was also suggested that the preferred method of payment for subscriptions would be by standing order, and this was agreed unanimously. Chevalier Geoffrey Berry also had some other suggestions for the accounts which he would take up once in post.

## **Charitable donations**

A discussion was held about the Order's nominated charity, and it was agreed that we would continue to retain Whiz-kidz as our sole nominated charity.

## **Presentation of Accounts**

The Grand Treasurer, Chevalier Ken Bamber, presented revised accounts for Y/E 30.6.2010. These were accepted by Grand Council. A number of queries were raised by various members and answered by the Grand Treasurer.

## **Grand Custodian of Insignia**

Dame Margaret Gunnell stated that after some teething problems supplies from Central Regalia could now be relied on and that she had made significant sales of insignia and cuff-links etc. at this investiture.

## **Consecration of a new Conclave in London**

The Grand Master stated that no further progress had yet been made with this new Conclave, which is proposed to be centred on Putney. The Grand Master would take the matter up again with Chevalier Richard Thomas, and if no progress could be made within six months he would take it over himself.

## **Progress report on the activities of existing Conclaves**

Chevalier David Haywood and Chevalier Stephen Turner gave reports on the activities of their respective Conclaves. Details and reports of all events can be found on the website.

## **Future dates for Investitures**

The meeting had agreed last year to retain the meeting on the third Saturday in January, and despite a small amount of opposition it was agreed to continue this. However, Chevalier Julian Gunnell stated that because of the ways that the dates fell, next year this date would coincide with the Centre's celebration of Burns' night and that it would not be available. It was therefore agreed that we could continue on the third Saturday of January unless it was unavailable, in which instance we would move to the fourth Saturday of January. It was confirmed that next year's meeting would be held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 4.00pm.

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

## **New members admitted (KSR)**

Chevalier Dr Dyn Parry, Dame Josephine Baker (DSR), Dame Susan Austin (DSR)

## **Promotions**

Kenneth Bamber promoted to Knight Commander (KCSR)

Julian Gunnell promoted to Knight Grand Cross (GCSR)

David Haywood promoted to Knight Grand Cross (GCSR)

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

### **To Member (MSM)**

John Warham

### **To Knight Commanders (KCSM)**

Len Feist



## ST MARTIN AT SÉES WEEKEND VISIT TO EDINBURGH

Following a successful visit back in 2003, the Conclave decided that it was time to revisit the famous Rosslyn Chapel, near Edinburgh, and a small group of members travelled north for the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May. Having met up just over the border for a pub lunch, we travelled north to our accommodation at Newbattle Abbey College, near Dalkeith. This is Scotland's only adult education residential college, and is also open for conferences and small groups of visitors. It is set in 125 acres of beautiful parkland and the historic 16<sup>th</sup> century building and peaceful surroundings made it an excellent base for our weekend. On our way to eat in the crypt refectory on Friday we passed an oak chest said to have come from the Spanish Armada, and the chapel contains a stone font said to have been used to baptise Mary Queen of Scots.



After a pleasant evening socialising and visiting the cold and windy city centre, on Saturday we took our first guided tour of nearby Gilmerton Cove. This is a series of hand carved passageways and chambers about ten feet below street level. The caves are said to be several hundred



years old, but fell into disrepair and were only re-discovered a dozen years ago. Now restored, the Cove is open to visiting groups, who are full of admiration for the works. There are many inscriptions carved into the rocks, including a number of masonic symbols, but despite tales that the

site may have been used by the Knights Templar and even housed the Holy Grail at some time, archaeological surveys have been unable to find

the truth of the site's use. It really is one of Scotland's hidden gems, and if you want further information please visit the website at [www.gilmertoncove.org.uk](http://www.gilmertoncove.org.uk), and don't miss the short video clip!

From Gilmerton we made a short detour to visit one of Scotland's best-preserved medieval sites - Craigmillar Castle. It was here that Mary, Queen of Scots convalesced after the birth of her son, James I of England, in 1566.

Without even time for a break it was on to Rosslyn Chapel, where we had booked a local guide to give us the full historic tour. Last time we visited



there was a canopy over the roof to allow the ancient fabric to properly dry out, but that has now been removed to allow its full beauty to be once again visible to the world. Rosslyn Chapel was founded in 1446 and completed in 1484, and the beauty of its setting and the mysterious symbolism of its ornate stonework have



been an inspiration to thousands of visitors ever since. There are countless theories, myths and legends associated with the Chapel, many masonic, and of course Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code* brought these to the attention of the whole world! Probably the most striking feature inside is the Apprentice's Pillar, said to have been carved by the Apprentice Stonemason whilst the Master Mason was in Italy seeking inspiration for its design. You can learn more about Rosslyn Chapel at [www.rosslynchapel.org.uk](http://www.rosslynchapel.org.uk)



On Sunday morning we celebrated Holy Communion in the College's historic chapel, led by Rt Rev'd Geoffrey Robinson. On the journey south we still had time to visit the Buddhist community settlement at Kagyu Samye Ling. Located near Esdalemuir in a



peaceful valley on the banks of the river Esk, Kagyu Samye Ling was the first Tibetan Buddhist Centre to have been established in the West. It is a centre for wisdom and learning within the Karma Kagyu tradition of Tibetan Buddhism and is open to people of all faiths. It was fascinating to see how this community has settled into the middle of the countryside, and to have a rare opportunity to witness the golden splendour of one of their temples. [www.samyeling.org/](http://www.samyeling.org/)

All those who took part in this weekend outing had a great time, and were able to return home in the knowledge that they had taken part in activities representing Healing, Teaching and Chivalry – very appropriate for members of our Order.

### **PERSONAL DETAILS**

It is important that the Order keeps details of its members up to date. The following details have been extracted from the membership database – could you please check that they are complete and correct. If there is any incorrect or missing information would you please let the Grand Registrar know the details. (see back page for contact details)

OMITTED FROM INTERNET VERSION

## **INSIGNIA**

Margaret Gunnell reminds members that a variety of gifts and insignia is in stock, and that orders are now being taken. The price list appears below, and pictures of the various items appear on the website. Margaret's details can be found near the end of this newsletter.

### **Regalia**

Breast Star		£40.00
Collarette & Jewel	(KSR)	£34.00
Bow & Jewel	(Dame)	£38.00
Collarette	(KSR)	£10.00
Collarette	(KCSR)	£18.00
Collarette & Jewel	(KCSR)	£40.00
Bow only	(DCSR)	£20.00
Miniature Jewel (Mark & Raphael)		£18.00 (Ladies bow also)
St Mark Breast Medal		£20.00
Rosette with flashes (Silver)		£ 2.00
Mantle Cross		£20.00
Mantle (Direct order from suppliers)		£117.50 inc. VAT

### **Miscellaneous**

Cuff links	£15.00
Lapel Pins	£ 3.50
Tie of the Order	£16.00
Paper weight	£15.00



## **ORDER ACCOUNTS**

### **INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2009-10</b>		<b>2008-09</b>	
Annual Subscriptions	233.00		443.00	
less Reserve for Doubtful debts	0.00	233.00	0.00	443.00
Admission fees		50.00		150.00
Sales of insignia, capes & gift items		860.00		540.00
Donations Received		349.50		1025.00
Proceeds of Raffle		210.00		136.00
AGM Luncheon		1351.50		
		<u>3,054.00</u>		<u>2,294.00</u>

#### **EXPENDITURE**

Printing, postage, stationery & sundries		188.02		246.64
Purchase of regalia		2552.78		579.71
AGM lunch		1060.00		
AGM lunch refunds		291.50		
Donations (Whiz Kidz)		460.00		1000.00
		<u>4552.30</u>		<u>1826.35</u>

<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) for the period</b>	(1498.30)	(467.65)
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<b>BALANCE SHEET as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
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#### **ACCUMULATED FUNDS**

Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> July	3322.31	2854.66
Add Surplus (Deficit) for year	1498.30	467.65
	<u>1824.01</u>	<u>3322.31</u>

#### **Represented by:**

#### **ASSETS**

Ceremonial Cushions, Sword & Gavel	62.00	62.00
Cash at Bank	1707.21	2737.86
Chain of Office	54.80	54.80
	<u>1824.01</u>	<u>2854.66</u>

#### **LIABILITIES**

Sundry Creditors	0.00	0.00
	<u>1824.01</u>	<u>2854.66</u>

Kenneth W Bamber, KSR, KSM, Hon Grand Treasurer

## **KEY CONTACTS**

OMITTED FROM INTERNET VERSION

### **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 the Grand Herald, details as above: