



The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St. Raphael



Newsletter - Summer 2010

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A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

To say that this past year has been unusual would be a massive understatement. We opened the year with the most heavy and enduring snowfall, which meant sadly that we could not go ahead with the Grand Meeting of the Order on our usual January date. I would like to apologise to those who were unable to join us later in the year but we have decided to revert to the January date in the hope that lightning [or in this case snow!] does not strike twice.



I was, however, very pleased that so many of you did make the revised date in May and we were able to admit three new Members as well as making a number of promotions. Whilst all the promotions were to recognise the generous support given by so many of you to the Order, I hope you will not mind if I mention two names: -

Margaret Gunnell was made a Dame Commander of St. Mark to thank her for the enormous amount of time and patience she has put in to ensuring that at last we have a reasonably secure flow of regalia when we need it. She has also redesigned the Order's cufflinks and lapel pins which are in my view much more tasteful than their predecessors, even though they can still be worn.

David Haywood has made an outstanding contribution by producing our newsletter once again and sorting out a proper database of our membership – he was accordingly made a Knight Commander of St. Mark as a token of our appreciation.

I would also like to thank both Barry Uttley for his unfailing kindness and hard work as Grand Secretary and of course Julian Gunnell for so much help in arranging the Grand Meeting.



The recession this year has of course had its effect on all of us but nowhere has it been worse felt than among charities, who have seen their level of donations drop through the floor, whilst the needs of their clients grow. I was therefore very pleased that at the May meeting we were able to donate to Whizz-Kidz over £450. Still more is needed and I do hope that one or two of our members will make a personal donation



via our Grand Almoner, Ian Tough, to help some of the most disabled children in the U.K. achieve a better level of life.

There is a further lesson I feel to be learned from the economic problems we all face and that is that many of those whose main goal in life is material prosperity have little or nothing to show for their efforts and become what they term 'disillusioned' with their existence. This perfectly illustrates the guiding purpose of chivalry – a code of conduct based on the need to dedicate one's life to higher goals and thereby better serve the Almighty and our fellow beings. These values which we share are not subject to the vagaries of fashion or economic climate but are the timeless background that gives permanent meaning to our earthly existence.

This may lead us to ask ourselves how much of our time and effort do we really dedicate to learning more about the inner life and how often do we direct those lessons to improve the welfare of our fellow beings?

I want in our next issue to start to pass on some of the basic techniques for giving practical expression to our healing and teaching aspects and to encourage more of you to write in and give the Order the benefit of your own research, techniques or experience. This will truly create a useful climate of mutual learning which we can all share.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2010 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.

A review of the membership list has revealed that a significant number of those members who are marked as “Active Member” have not been paying their oblations, which is clearly unacceptable, and also unfair to those who pay regularly, and on time. This year, therefore, I propose to undertake an exercise to cleanse the membership database, and any active member who has not paid their oblations by the end of December will be marked as inactive and will not receive any further correspondence or invitations.

This may seem to be a very draconian action to take, but it is one that is long overdue and I hope that genuine members will not be offended by it. You can check your current status in the Order (according to our records) on the back page of this issue.

You will also find that the back cover of this issue has been devoted to the inclusion of your personal data. It may well be that some of this has become out of date, so I would ask that you please check this and let us know if anything needs correcting.

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 had been postponed in January because of the bad weather, and was held on 8th May, again at Elindon, Peterborough. This year's event was again well attended, with nearly 50 in attendance. Details of postulants and promotions appear below.

The Grand Master and all those who attended were delighted to 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.



Addressing the assembly, Ashley described how the recession had put great financial pressure on most charitable organisations, materially affecting their ability to deliver the much



needed help and care they exist to provide. Whizz-Kidz, the provider of mobility equipment and training for children with restricted mobility – services not provided by the NHS - had seen a decline in financial contributions as a result, although recent figures in 2010 were more encouraging. It

was also clear that public expenditure constraints were likely to add to the problems of many of the families concerned.

Funds raised and contributions made at the AGM amounted to £452, 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 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 Annual General meeting. Items discussed were as follows:

Appointment of Grand Prior and Grand Sub Prior

The Grand Master indicated that his wish was for the Order to eventually hold an annual investiture in a cathedral and that the appointment of a new Grand Prior was proving difficult. It was unanimously agreed that the Rev. Paul Butler should be appointed the Grand Sub Prior of the Order and Paul agreed to accept this appointment.

Appointment of new Grand Registrar

The Grand Chancellor stated that the previous Grand Registrar, Chevalier Arnold Baker, had become inactive within the Order and that a replacement should be found. There were no volunteers at the meeting. (Subsequent to the Grand Council Meeting Chevalier David Haywood, who was unable to attend, volunteered to undertake the duties of Grand Registrar). I am very grateful to David for his offer and am confident that the Order's record of appointments, promotions and resignations are in good hands.

Appointment of new post of Grand Almoner

Due to a continuing illness our Deputy Grand Marshal, Chevalier Ian Burnett, confirmed some time ago that he would be unable to continue in this post. He telephoned me prior to the Investiture to tender his apology for not being able to attend but volunteered his services for the post of Grand Almoner. Ian's kind offer has been accepted by the Grand Council; thank you Ian.

Presentation of Accounts

The Grand Treasurer, Chevalier Ken Bamber, presented revised accounts for Y/E 30.6.2008 and also accounts for Y/E 30.6.2009. These were accepted by Grand Council.

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 received over £600 from the sale of insignia and cuff-links etc. at this investiture.

Consecration of a new Conclave in London

The Grand Master stated that he had given his consent for the formation of a new conclave which would meet in Putney to be called 'St. Thomas Becket – Martyr'. Chevalier Richard Thomas was working hard to create this new conclave which should be consecrated in the near future.

Future dates for Investitures

After a general discussion the Grand Council conceded that our meetings on the third Saturday in January each year, despite the inclement weather, was still the most acceptable date to the majority of our members and it was agreed to revert back to this time of the year. [Our Grand Steward, Chevalier Julian Gunell, in his legendary efficient manner, has already booked the venue for next year – Saturday, 15th January 2011].

The Grand Master closed the Grand Council Meeting at 3.30pm.

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

New members admitted (KSR)

Chevalier Lord John Goodenough of Hollyport

Chevalier Geoffrey Berry

Chevalier Caie Graham



Promotions

Norman Offield promoted to Knight Commander (KCSR)

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

To Member (MSM)

Richard Thomas

Helen Neaves-Wilde

Trevor Gray

Stephen Nimmons

Ronald Hughes

Ralph Apperley

To Dames (DSM)

Patti Ansell

To Dame Commanders (DCSM)

Margaret Gunnell

To Knight Commanders (KCSM)

David Haywood

ST MARTIN'S ANNUAL OUTING

On 8th August, 16 members of the Conclave travelled to the small but very picturesque city of Ripon for our annual gathering.

After attending the morning Mattins service in the Cathedral, we were given a short tour of the Cathedral by Major Geoffrey Berry,



who was admitted into the Order last year, and who is a member of the Parochial Church Council at Ripon. The Cathedral building was begun in the 7th century, when Saint Wilfrid built one of England's first stone churches on the site, and within the nave and choir you can see the evidence of 800 years in which master craftsmen have expressed their faith in wood and stone.

We then travelled the short distance to Geoffrey's impressive residence, where we were entertained to a picnic lunch in the grounds, followed by a visit to the local church and a game of croquet on the lawn!



Our annual outing has become a welcome opportunity for members of the Conclave to meet up informally, and it is something that we all look forward to each year. In 2011 we are planning a weekend visit to Rosslyn Chapel, near Edinburgh, and a summer canal trip on the Leeds and Liverpool canal.

INSIGNIA

Margaret Gunnell is delighted to inform members that a new supply of insignia and gifts is now 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
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 30th June 2009

INCOME	2008-09		<u>2007-08</u>	
Annual Subscriptions	443.00		75.00	
less Reserve for Doubtful debts	0.00	443.00	<u>0.00</u>	75.00
Admission fees		150.00		50.00
Sales of insignia, capes & gift items		540.00		273.00
Functions Income				
Donations Received		1025.00		10.00
Proceeds of Raffle		<u>136.00</u>		<u>123.00</u>
		1,161.00		531.00
EXPENDITURE				
Printing, postage, stationery & sundries		246.64		204.86
Purchase of regalia		579.71		1423.75
Purchase of paperweights & ties				112.50
AGM lunch				50.00
Donations (Whiz Kidz)		<u>1000.00</u>		<u>50.00</u>
		1826.35		1791.11
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) for the period		467.65		(1260.11)
BALANCE SHEET as at 30th June 2009		2009		2008
ACCUMULATED FUNDS				
Balance as at 1 st July		2854.66		4114.77
Add Surplus (Deficit) for year		<u>467.65</u>		<u>(1260.11)</u>
		<u>3322.31</u>		<u>2854.66</u>
Represented by:				
ASSETS				
Ceremonial Cushions, Sword & Gavel		62.00		62.00
Cash at Bank		3205.51		2737.86
Chain of Office		<u>54.80</u>		<u>54.80</u>
		<u>3322.31</u>		<u>2854.66</u>
LIABILITIES				
Sundry Creditors		<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>
		<u>3322.31</u>		<u>2854.66</u>

Kenneth W Bamber, KSR, KSM, Hon Grand Treasurer

KEY CONTACTS

Not available in 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 the Grand Herald, details as above: