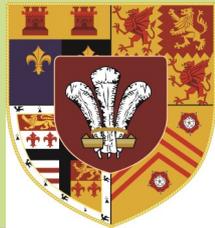


27 March 2021

A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 27



A little Knight Templar news does you good

Staying in touch

At 5pm on Easter Sunday many of us will repeat the act that we try to observe on Christmas Day by remembering our Brother Knights and unite in the following prayer :

Preserve O Lord our Brother Knights, by land or sea or air and as we hold them in our thoughts so keep them in thy care.

Dear Brother Knights

Imagination is a wonderful thing and - while physical restrictions still exist - it allows us in a sense to spread our wings. This issue of the newsletter takes us to Spain, Malta, Swansea and West Wales among other places.

We all look forward to the time when the lifting of more restrictions will allow us to enjoy the wonderful world around us to an even greater extent – and to resume meetings, old associations and the company of our friends again.

That day seems to be fast approaching but in the meantime I hope that you enjoy this newsletter and let your imagination take you where you will.

Yours in the bonds of the Order
R E Kt Paul Calderwood

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Great News

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, announced in March the full list of re-appointments, promotions and first appointments in Templar Great Rank which – to the delight of all – included the following seven members of our Province:



- R E Kt Revd Malcolm Clifford George Lane re-appointed as Great Prelate
- R E Kt Ryan Andrew Williams re-appointed as Great Vice-Chancellor
- E Kt Carl Douglas Davies re-appointed as Deputy Great Marshal
- E Kt Harry John Randell promoted to the rank of Past Great Registrar
- E Kt Richard John Phillips appointed as Past Great Aide-de-Camp
- E Kt Dr Anthony John Strachan appointed as Past Great Warden of Regalia
- E Kt Peter John James appointed as Past Great Captain of Guards

Warmest congratulations to all of the above Brother Knights.

These appointments will come into effect on the date when Great Priory would normally have met, namely 19 May 2021. Well done all !

Exploring Templars in Spain

By Kt Luke Stokes

In August 2020, between lockdowns, I went on holiday to Spain. The primary purpose was to visit my son who is currently living near a city called Palencia. During my visit I felt that I had a great opportunity to visit Templar sites in Spain.

Spain has a wealth of history about the Templars and they are proud to show it. I have found many Templar sites and routes but due to my limited time in Spain I could not visit them all. I focused on the Templars in Toledo, Ponferrada and pilgrimage route "Way of St. James". Although I did not attempt the pilgrimage, it did bring back vivid memories of my installation as a Knight.

The City of Toledo is a must for anyone that has an interest in history, and the swords that they make there are of the finest quality. I managed to pick a beautiful firing sword as well as fine jewellery that is only made in Toledo for my wife.



There are several key places to visit in the city for those with an interest of the Templars. Firstly, the Castle of San Servando, This Castle overlooks part of the city and surrounding areas. Unfortunately, it is not open to the casual tourist, the only way to see the interior is to book one of the beds as it is now a youth hostel.



The next part of my visit to Toledo led me to the Templar museum, which has a wealth of knowledge and artefacts from the Templars and other Chivalric orders, with one called the Knights of Santiago. I read a brief history on how the Templars came to the different regions in Spain like Castile, Leon, the lands of Valencia and Aragon. If anyone wishes I will be happy to forward the articles.



The next Templar site that I really wanted to see was the Castillo de los Templarios, "a Templar castle which covers approximately 16,000 square meters. In 1178, Ferdinand II of León donated the city to the Templar order for protecting the pilgrims on the Way of St. James who passed through El Bierzo in their road to Santiago de Compostela. The castle also hosted the Knights Templar's Grand Master of Castille"

Castle at Ponferrada

The gatehouse is fine, and I thought the stone carving of a single “Tau” was particularly interesting, (please see the picture of the gatehouse) As I was going around the castle I could not really find much information of the Templars themselves. In reference to the area and the castle, historical placards in English were dotted around, and gave a history of the castle after it was confiscated, when the order was disbanded.



Particularly interesting was the main hall and the method of entering it... There was an outer chamber before one could enter that had small window to the Left of the door (Looking from the Main Hall). It was clear that when a Templar Meeting was in session the door entrance to the main hall was very secure. If a “Tyler” was present it would be impossible to eavesdrop.

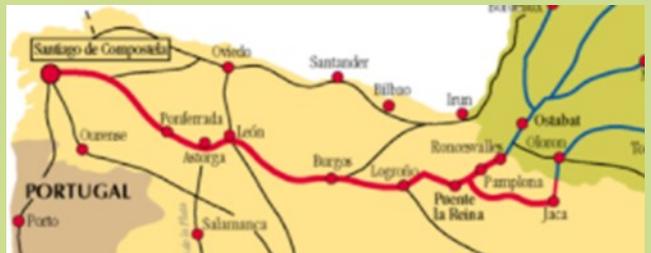


The Camino de Santiago (Way of Saint James)

While in Ponferrada I noticed a symbol of a scallop shell and when I went to my next destination, I saw the same symbol and I wondered what it could mean. I found out that it was a pilgrimage route that is made up of a 500 mile route that runs from the west coast of Spain and leading to the shrine of the Apostle Saint James the Great which is in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in North-western Spain. It takes between 30 – 35 days. There is also a shorter route through France.

Route of the pilgrimage

On my journey I had an issue with accommodation, and I decided to book a bed at a hostel on the Camino de Santiago between Leon and Burgos. This was an



interesting experience as the primary purpose for the hostel is to host pilgrims on their way through. The hostel is very basic, no bedding, cold showers but the bar was good! The hostel had a Templar theme and each room was named after a Templar Grand Master

Spain is a fantastic place to enjoy Templar history and I thoroughly recommend any Knight to visit it.



Hopefully when we get back to a normal, I would like to investigate further Templar sites in Spain and I would invite any Knight to join me in the endeavour.

THE TEMPLAR QUIZ E Kt Naunton Liles kindly supplied this week's Quiz.

1. What do Knights say instead of So Mote it Be?
2. When should you *not* say Amen
3. What does 'Liber Ordinis Templi' describe?
4. Does the ritual refer to St John the Baptist or the Evangelist?
5. What is the equivalent rank to Great Almoner in the Malta ceremony?
6. What is meant by 'Trinitarian belief'?
7. Is Marshal spelt with one or two LLs.
8. Which Psalm does the Chaplain recite during the Closing?

Answers below.



The Hospitallers in South Wales

Further to the fascinating series of articles about the presence in Wales of the military religious Orders, more has been discovered about the area around Slebech since the last issue of A Beauceant was published.

Kt Jonathan Morgan tracked down a most interesting article which you can read on the website of the National Library of Wales. The article appeared in the Summer 1948 issue of the National Library of Wales Journal (Cyf 5 Rh3) on page 179.

An online demonstration of the Malta Ceremony

Last week, almost a hundred Brother Knights attended an online demonstration of the Malta Degree ceremony. They included the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, as well as a number of other knights from the Province of Monmouth & South Wales.

Organised by the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement, it was a fascinating evening and learning experience, with many welcome reminders of the right way to do things.

As soon as the date for the next online demonstration is announced it will again be forwarded to all members of the province.

The Provincial Almoner, E Kt Tony Jones, kindly sent me some more photos last week showing the wonderful make over that is transforming Swansea Masonic Hall.



Please remember that the Almoner can be contacted at ddrawg1323@gmail.com

Answers to the Quiz: 1. Amen 2. Following the personal blessing given to the new EP by the Chaplain. 3 Orders from the Great Priory 4 Both 5 Great Hospitaller 6 Belief in Father, Son & Holy Spirit 7 Marshal, with one L, is a military rank 8 Ps.122