



## Message from the President

**A**S WE START ANOTHER YEAR, we find many changes – among which, your President. I have the honour – and most onerous task – of succeeding Rupert Lowenstein, whose years at the helm were of great distinction, and whose actions on behalf of the Order in this country, and, indeed, internationally, have benefited so many.

Over the last year we have been busy as always, with many projects underway. Our work with the Orders of St John Care Trust homes expands apace, our hospital and hospice commitments keep us full of activity, visits to the elderly housebound and meals on wheels projects continue with great dedication in Scotland, our Foreign Aid Service fundraises with grand success for Order projects abroad with its annual dinner and its carol concert, and the Order of Malta Volunteers' White Knights Ball this year has raised exceptional sums for their annual pilgrimage to Lourdes with the handicapped and holiday camps in Somerset and Ireland. You can read more about all these activities elsewhere in this Newsletter.

A particular highlight for the Order this past December was the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to our hospital of S. Giovanni Battista in Rome. Welcomed by our Grand Master, Fra' Andrew Bertie, His Holiness celebrated Mass for the hospital patients and their families, the staff and volunteers and members of the Order and visited the Reanimation Unit, one of the most well known in the country.

The Order's spirit of pilgrimage continues strongly, with our own special events at Walsingham and Malta, and in October we joined the international pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Around 1400 members from 21 nations came together to trace the steps of Christ, to see where the Order itself began its mission, and to visit our Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem. For all who were privileged to be there, it was a most splendid and moving experience. This May we celebrate, with confreres from around the world, the 150th anniversary of Lourdes, with many of you among the participants – a time of renewed vigour in following our mission to help the poor and the sick, without regard to religion, race, origin or age.

May I wish you and your families a happy and peaceful 2008.

Charles Weld, President

**T**HE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NEW CARE HOMES and facilities continues apace. Over the past four years the Orders of St John Care Trust has invested over £24m in the building of six new homes and 20 more are planned at a cost of a further £130m.

In 2007 we opened the Isis Care and Retirement Centre in Oxford with 60 nursing care beds, 20 residential care beds and 20 extra care apartments. 2008 will see the opening of our largest yet development which we are building in partnership with the Primary Care Trust on the site of the old community hospital in Malmesbury, Wiltshire. The new home will have 40 nursing care beds and 40 residential care beds; the extra care housing will have 28 two bedroom apartments.

Work will also start this year on two £5m Gloucestershire schemes, phased over two years. The Quedgeley scheme will be an 80-bed specialist dementia unit designed with the help of Stirling University and will replace two old homes, Woolstrop House and Podsmead House. An 80-bed unit at Brockworth will also replace two existing homes, at Horsbere House and Saintbridge House. And building has started on a new £4.6m Meadowcroft home in Thame, Oxfordshire, to be built in two phases with the existing residents moving across in July.

**A lot done. A lot more to do.**

## Trust Homes in continuing development

Chairman Peter Loyd outlines exciting plans



'Les patineurs' – resident Mrs Annie Walker and Sharon Wheeler, activities manager: the Trust's Isis Care and Retirement Centre, Oxford

## The Volunteer Army

Time, money, prayer – it all helps

Hospitaller Tim Orchard explains how

**S**INCE LAST JUNE the British Association has had a new Hospitaller – me. All of you who dealt with my predecessor, Peter Loyd, will rush to commiserate: among acts that are hard to follow, Peter presents the maximum degree of difficulty. During his six years in charge, he brought about several step-changes, whether measured by the number of people volunteering to serve our lords the sick, or by the amount of money raised for charitable projects of the Order.

Our Association has been steadily winning a reputation as a reliable "team-player" as far as the Order's international activities are concerned – especially those undertaken by Malteser International (the emergency relief arm of the Order, based in Cologne). Many of you will remember the 2006 appeal for money to help rebuild clinics and churches in Lebanon after the conflict there. Thanks to your generosity, we were one of the largest donors. Then, not long after I had taken over as Hospitaller, we responded to an appeal for funds to help the victims of the earthquake in Peru. Within a few weeks, we were again one of the biggest contributors.

These emergency appeals are not something that we launch lightly. We

only do it when the Order makes an explicit appeal for funds. Nevertheless, the way in which our supporters give their money is testament to their faith in the Order of Malta's capacity to do good and difficult things in far-flung parts of the world.

The response to emergency appeals tells us there is a deep wellspring of support among members and friends in this country for what the Order does. And their numbers have been growing steadily. This has prompted a lingering question: can better use be made of this reservoir of support than ad hoc appeals for money when disaster strikes somewhere on the planet? Surely it can.

### The Companions of the Order of Malta

In fact, there already exists an organisation that brings together supporters of the Order's work: the Companions of the Order of Malta. But it has confined its activities – and drawn its membership – largely from Scotland since its foundation there nearly 20 years ago. Those running the Companions share my ambition to develop it into a nationwide structure. In this way, everyone who wants to support the Order and its

work will have a tangible and durable way of expressing that support. Work is still going on to prepare for the expansion; but I expect to be able to tell you more about it within a few months.

Turning from future plans to past events, 2007 was another busy year for our hospitaller activities. Our pilgrimage to Lourdes, made up of 60 malades and about 250 helpers, had a happy and holy week under the leadership of His Grace Archbishop Mario Conti. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the apparitions; and the 2008 pilgrimage is sure to be something special. Back on home soil, our June pilgrimage to Walsingham was joined for the first time by a contingent of malades and helpers from the OMV – which added much joie de vivre, as well as lowering the average age by a decade or two. Finally, the 20 or so pilgrims who ventured to Holywell in August defied January-like weather to follow the ancient pilgrimage route along the Lleyn Peninsula and were compensated by prodigious

hospitality from Caroline Armstrong-Jones and her family.

Over and above the Peru appeal, there is much else to tell you about the Foreign Aid Service arm of our hospitaller work. Nicolas Reutner (my deputy) covers this ground elsewhere in "The Hospitaller".

I have been on the May pilgrimage to Lourdes since 1997, but went there many times in the 1980s with the OMV (I am the first Hospitaller to have graduated from the ranks of the OMV). So I have been around long enough to know that our charitable work happens only because so many people give so much of their time, so much of their money and unquantifiable amounts of prayer to keep the show on the road. I am very lucky to have inherited this "volunteer army", made up of so many good people. I look forward to serving you as Hospitaller – and will try to remember to thank as many of you as I can along the way.

Tim Orchard, Hospitaller  
January 2008

### Volunteers:

a complimentary presence

The Pope, on his return from his visit to Austria (5-8 September), in his Wednesday audience in Rome mentioned his meeting with voluntary groups in Vienna.

"Volunteer work must not be seen as 'filling the gaps' left by the State and public institutions," he said, "[but] rather as a complementary presence, vital to ensure that attention remains focused on the least advantaged."

## Setting limits: the origin and nature of the just war

Charles Guthrie's timely analysis discusses the similarity in thinking between the faiths and the international law of war

Almost every society known to history has had to face the reality of war, and has at the same time had some accompanying notion, however incomplete, crude or odd it may seem to modern eyes, of moral limitation applying to war – a recognition that even in the fierce struggle to prevail there are some things that absolutely ought not to be done, such as poisoning water supplies, cutting down the other side's olive trees (because they would take so long to grow again), executing disarmed prisoners, or killing women and children.

All the great religions of the world have contributed to this setting of limits, and so indeed have some non-religious approaches such as rationalist humanism. They have developed thinking on moral values, rules and understandings to govern

and restrain the use of military force. Both the Islamic and the Judaic faiths, for example, have substantial concepts in this field. The structure of ethical analysis that has been most widely written about and most extensively developed, however, is the one shaped over a long span of time by Christian thinkers in what is called the 'Just War' tradition (even though the historical record of Christians in observing it faithfully is far from unblemished). Elements of this tradition underlie much of the international law of war accepted by all the member states of the United Nations.

*Excerpted from Just War – the just war tradition: ethics in modern warfare, Charles Guthrie and Michael Quinlan, London, Bloomsbury, 2007. pp 1-2.*

## Care through the centuries

His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, in his homily at the Order's S. Giovanni Battista Hospital in Rome, delivered 2 December 2007

...THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES, the Church has declared its 'nearness' to those who suffer. Your prestigious Sovereign Military Order of Malta, which from its earliest times dedicated itself to the care of pilgrims to the Holy Land in its hospital there, reflects this spirit.

In following its mission to defend Christianity, the Sovereign Order of Malta has dedicated itself to caring for the poor and the sick and those marginalised by society.

Dear Knights of the Sovereign

Military Order of Malta, dear doctors, nurses and all who work here, you are all called to render an important service to the sick and to society, a service which demands great self sacrifice.

In everyone who is sick, no matter who, you must recognise that you serve Christ; let them perceive through your actions and words the signs of His merciful love...

*The full text can be found on the Order's website at: [www.orderofmalta.org](http://www.orderofmalta.org)*



Pope Benedict XVI greeted by the Grand Master, Fra' Andrew Bertie. Photo by L'Osservatore Romano

## Knights return to Fort Sant'Angelo

Julian Allason was among the pilgrims



THE KNIGHTS HAVE RETURNED to the scene of one of their greatest triumphs. Fort Sant'Angelo, the redoubt from which the Great Siege of Malta was fought off and the Turkish navy crippled, is once again in the care of the Sovereign Military Order.

Following the grant of a 99-year lease from the government of Malta the Knights have reoccupied the mighty bastion guarding Grand Harbour, and an extensive restoration is in hand.

In September thirty members of the Scottish Delegation of the Order and several English members and their families made a pilgrimage to the site at which so many knights were martyred – a number being crucified by the Turks – in 1565.

### The Fort and the Citadel

After several hair-raising attempts the convoy of minibuses surmounted the ancient ramp, negotiating a sharp turn into the fortified gateway from which boiling oil would have been poured upon attackers. At the summit of the Fort is the simple Romanesque chapel dating from 1531 in which Grand Master de la Valette and his knights fortified themselves in prayer for the

onslaught of the invaders.

Within its cool sanctuary Archbishop Mario Conti of Glasgow, principal chaplain of the British Association of the Order, gave a discourse deriving inspiration from the courage of the hospitaller brothers who had again taken up arms in the successful defence of Christendom from the Moor. What, he asked, could the modern knight draw from this?

As if in answer Adrian Strickland of the Maltese Association conducted a tour of the citadel, indicating the strong points from which battle had been directed and the Turkish guns silenced. A feature of interest was the oubliette, a bell-shaped subterranean cell in which the artist Caravaggio, then a novice knight, had been confined in 1608 after one brawl too many. His subsequent escape and flight were taken to constitute resignation from the Order. Caravaggio's painfully realistic 'Beheading of the Baptist' still hangs in the co-Cathedral of St John, the former Conventual Church of the knights.

The visit to the Fort followed celebration by the Archbishop of Malta at the co-Cathedral of the annual Requiem Mass for those who

Photograph by Julian Allason

fell in the Great Siege. The event was meticulously organised by the Maltese Association. After Mass all processed to the cenotaph marking the grave in which the knights who perished in the siege lie buried. The simplicity and silence of the setting moved many present, inspiring a rededication to the aims of the Order.

Adjacent to the Fort is the Sacra Infermeria, the hospital to which the sick were admitted regardless of status or religion for treatment. Here up to 600 patients were treated by the physicians and serving brothers of the Order. Studying the historical exhibition a modern day surgeon nodded in appreciation of the skill – and hygiene – exercised here four centuries ago. It was good, he concluded, that the knights were back.

Up on Fort Sant'Angelo a flag bearing an eight pointed cross was being hoisted on the staff crowning the summit. To passengers aboard the ferries ploughing into Grand Harbour, and to those gazing up from the Old Town it signalled a reassuring message: the Hospitallers are back.

## Foreign Aid Service

Nicolas Reuttner reports on a splendid fundraising year

THE FOREIGN AID SERVICE raised about £120,000 in 2007. The largest single fund-raising event is still the FAS dinner, held in October at Boodles.

As in past years, the event sold out in just a few days, and a great group of younger members and friends gave generously.

In the autumn, we ran a hugely successful appeal for the victims of the earthquakes in Peru, and the Christmas Carol Service, which has now become a firm part of the BASMOM calendar, supported the maternity hospital in Bethlehem.

An increasing number of people

are also signing up for regular monthly donations, either through direct debits, or via the Justgiving website. Even very small monthly amounts make a huge difference, so please do consider this as an option.

Through the year, we made a number of important grants to projects around the world. These included:

- Funding a meals on wheels service in Romania for the whole year, which feeds 25 families through the year
- Continuing support of Blessed

Gerard projects in South Africa

- Supporting CIOMAI's work to fight leprosy in Cambodia
- Funding one month of the soup kitchen in St Petersburg, which feeds 600 people every day
- Supporting Order-wide activities to help the 40,000 families affected by the earthquakes in Peru
- Support to the Mexican Association of the Order, to help victims of the floods in Mexico
- Supporting the Order's maternity clinic in Bethlehem.

We thank very much all who have given their time and money to support these works.

We have been able to make an important difference to some of the most in need in the world.

## British Association in the Holy Land

**Nick Crean, organiser and Secretary General, leads an energetic group on an unforgettable journey**

IT WAS A GREAT HONOUR to have been asked over lunch last spring to become Secretary General of the British Association of the Order. I accepted well before the first course was over, but it wasn't until coffee that the President said:

"One thing I forgot to mention: you will have to organise the pilgrimage to the Holy Land that the Grand Master has asked us to go on in the autumn." Ah. "But doesn't the Hospitaller do pilgrimages?" I hopefully enquired.

"I am afraid not this one. It's all up to the Secretary General and it is this October – but you've still got plenty of time."

Plenty of time! Maybe not. All the direct flights to Jerusalem were full: the pilgrimage coincided with the Jewish holiday of Succoth. Hotel rooms were in very short supply or strangely full of rather grand Italians. Additionally, there seemed a vague directive "from Rome" that there should be three occasions where the whole pilgrimage should come together somewhere in the Holy Land, but the rest was over to me.

In our age of reality television, this international pilgrimage, this edition of "I'm a Confere get me to the Holy Land," represented by some 32 national Associations involving some 1400 travellers all being coordinated by the Italians would surely have pulled in the viewers.

Consequently, patience and flexibility, neither of which I am

known for, became my penance. Luckily, entirely thanks to John Bellingham, I found unlimited support in Michael Hodgson of Maranatha Tours, without whose guidance we may never have met as one group at Terminal 3, bound for Amman then overland across the Allenby Bridge and on through the Wadi Kelt up to Jerusalem.

Nothing daunted Michael. All the questions I didn't know the answers to, he did. All those enquiries about trousers versus skirts, sun hats, swimming pools, what kind of sensible shoes, choir dress and regalia, even changing for dinner (as only the Order could ask), he fielded politely and amusingly.

### Filling in the gaps and facts

Michael's historical knowledge of the Holy Land, balanced with his contemporary analysis and enriched by his local guides, filled the gaps and the facts of our own imaginations. The team brought back to life our great crusader forts of Belvoir and Acre; rebuilt the walls of Jericho; the deeds of the Good Samaritan; the humbleness of Bethlehem; the serenity of the Sea of Galilee; the miracles of Capernaum and the Life and Passion of our Lord through the streets and olive groves of Jerusalem. They also painted an equally sombre picture of life in the region today, so well illustrated by the drive through the dividing and divisive wall between Jerusalem and Bethlehem en route to see the important work of the Order's Holy Family Hospital.

There are no disasters to report. Well, one pilgrim lost some rather racy swimming shorts in the Dead Sea (how has never been explained) and another briefly mislaid a bottle of duty free gin, but this group of such merrie pilgrims will, I hope, remember our times and travels, our prayers and petitions, for many years to come.

For all of us it is now impossible to listen to any reading from the Gospels without having a very real and personal picture of where and how those Great Events happened, and of the desperate need to support the communities living the Christian message in the Holy Land today.

## Fairy tale ending: A happy family thanks the donors who have made their story possible

**Suzanne Hofstetter, CIOMAL Secretary-General, was there**

THIS FAMILY'S STORY is a kind of fairytale-come-true. Han Ran and Kong Vy met at the CIOMAL (the International Committee of the Order of Malta) centre in Cambodia. They were both suffering from leprosy and had come to be treated at the Kien Khleang Centre. It was there that they fell in love and decided to marry.

Kien Khleang is not only a medical treatment centre – it is also concerned with the patients' futures, offering training programmes such

as teaching patients how to read and write, ways to regain their self confidence, to how to start as soon as possible realistic life projects which allow for their handicaps.

Kong Vy first thought of raising pigs. With a loan from CIOMAL for his project, he earned money by selling the piglets born to his sow, to buy a motor scooter and collect rubbish, selling it to a recycling plant in Troenung village. He was able to pay back the CIOMAL loan within a year. His wife, Ham Ran,

learned to sew, and made clothes to sell to a retailer in Kompong Cham village.

### The dream comes true

Since their marriage in 2000, they had dreamed of having a family, but nature decided otherwise. Their village friends knew of this dream and one day a man arrived in the village, carrying a 6-months old baby boy who had been abandoned in the nearby forest. He gave the baby to the local health centre which was very near to Han and Kong's house. On hearing the news, they asked to adopt little Kong Ty.

He is 14 months old now – a happy, healthy, well adjusted youngster. His new parents are full of joy for this miracle in their lives as they tell me about it in their quiet modest way.



### CIOMAL: FIGHTING LEPROSY

CIOMAL is the Order's leprosy foundation. Since 1990 CIOMAL has cured 17,000 sufferers of the disease. Based in Switzerland, CIOMAL runs programmes in Cambodia and Brazil to cure lepers (it need take only 6 months of treatment for the paucibacillary form of leprosy and one year for the more complicated multibacillary cases) and rehabilitate them in society.

Greatest challenge: detection of the disease – highly contagious

among poverty-stricken groups, it can lie dormant for 20 years. CIOMAL urgently needs your support to continue this vital work for a forgotten, but virulently present, disease.

*John de Salis, President, CIOMAL*

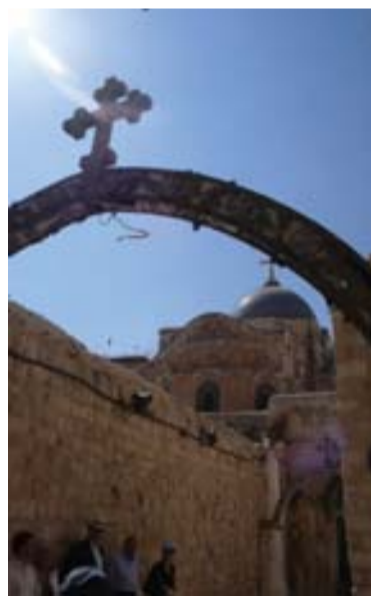
For more information: [www.ciomal.ch](http://www.ciomal.ch)

Please send your donations to: British Association of the Order of Malta, 58 Grove End Road, London NW8 9NE, marked **CIOMAL**. We thank you very much for your support.

### THE ORDER IN FIGURES:

- projects in 120 countries;
- 56 Order Associations and organisations;
- 12,500 members worldwide;
- Over 13,000 employees most of whom are medical;
- 80,000 permanent trained volunteers;
- 30 ambulance corps;
- bilateral diplomatic relations with 99 countries.
- Spend for activities worldwide 2007: USD 1 billion

PHOTO: NICK CREAN



## Your chance to make a difference

**Nicolas Reuttner explains how you can help the FAS**

ONE OF THE QUESTIONS FREQUENTLY PUT TO ME is about volunteering to help the Foreign Aid Service (FAS). Rarely a day goes by when the news doesn't tell of some humanitarian disaster. Our hearts go out the victims; many of us want to actively help.

Members and friends of BASMOM have for years volunteered their time, energy and money to help. With the FAS, we are making an important step in developing our support capability within an increasingly challenging environment.

A tragedy of aid work is that often well-intentioned, but misdirected efforts, not only go to waste, but can cause major problems both for helpers and victims. Some examples: the mountains of food that are brought but never correctly distributed; the reprisals between factions if one group is favoured; or the tax and legal compliance requirements for charities both domestically and in the sphere of operation.

Malteser International and the FAS work in many extremely demanding locations. Our trained teams have an average of 10 years'

field experience. They routinely confront difficult decisions, like the prioritisation of our aid within socio-political, medical and legal constraints, or how to deal with bio-ethical dilemmas in conformance with Catholic beliefs, or simply whom to trust. International legal and financial requirements have also mushroomed. For the Order, with qualified people we can rely on our efforts being well directed.

So how can you help? There are at least four ways:

- **Trained volunteers:** Because of the required professional qualifications and the nature of our work, we usually cannot offer short-term volunteering opportunities. However, those who can commit to at least 12 months can be offered full training (typically 6 months) and then a field assignment.

Recently two OMV members took this exciting step.

- **Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU):** Many emergency situations require immediate help on the ground. The Order, with its established international presence and diplomatic status, can act more quickly than most other charities. The RDU is made up of people who can be available on 24 hours' notice to go anywhere in the world and help as required. They attend regular international training sessions, and then wait for the phone to ring. Britain has funded several volunteers to do this course and already sent volunteers on active duty during the Lebanon crisis.
- **Fund-raising:** Almost all the aid we give is based on financial power – whether an emergency response or longer term

regenerative activities. In comparison to many other charities, our overheads are tiny, as so much of the management is volunteered. However, what victims usually need most are material supplies, and these must be paid for. So if you can help by making a contribution, organising a fund-raising event or encouraging others to do so, this is a wonderful and practical way to make an impact.

- **Prayer:** Volunteering your prayers, for both victims and carers, is a real and valuable help.

To find out more go to [www.orderofmaltaFAS.org](http://www.orderofmaltaFAS.org) or contact us at [info@orderofmaltaFAS.org](mailto:info@orderofmaltaFAS.org). Everything we do is completely dependent on your volunteering. You help many who are desperately in need.



Staff at Mayott House taking delivery of bottled water donated by BASMOM

## Rain, rain and then floods

**Crisis always brings out the best in people notes Peter Loyd**

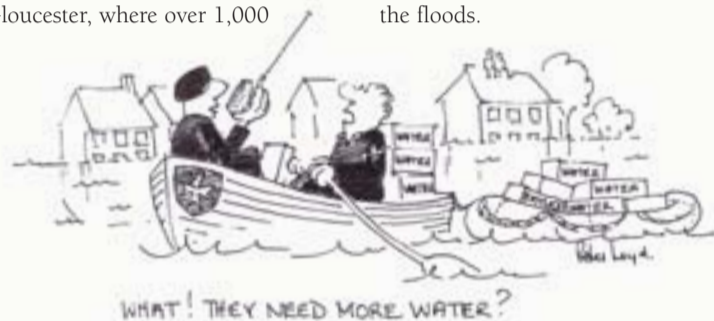
THE WEEKEND OF JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> 2007 will not be forgotten by the residents and staff in several of our Orders of St John Care Trust homes. Fortunately, none was actually flooded but some were hit by power cuts, one in Oxfordshire was evacuated and ten in Gloucestershire were left without mains water for over two weeks.

As water lapped at the door of Mayott House in Abingdon, the 43 residents were evacuated to the newly built Meadows in Didcot where they remained for five days. In high spirits, they were accommodated in the day centre and slept on camp beds

provided by the army. Fortunately, apart from a lift shaft having to be pumped out, there was no other damage.

### Water, water everywhere...

The biggest impact was in Gloucester, where over 1,000



residents and staff were affected and OSJCT's Major Incident Plan implemented. There was little actual water damage but the total absence of water from washing to drinking gave huge administrative problems. During his visit to the affected homes, Chairman Peter Loyd was telephoned by the President of Malteser International generously offering support. However, the floods had started to subside and instead a donation of £7,500 was authorised by the president of BASMOM to cover the essential purchase of tens of thousands of litres of bottled water and skin wipes.

Crisis always brings out the best in people and tales of heroic service by staff and families abound. Many waded to work from their own flooded homes. On 5th September HRH The Duchess of Gloucester made a much appreciated visit to residents, staff and volunteers of the Trust at Mayott House to hear about the floods.

## White Knights to the rescue

**George Norton, White Knights Ball Chairman, on how to make a good party a record event to help those in need**

THE ORDER OF MALTA VOLUNTEERS started the year in style on Saturday 5th January at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, with their annual fundraising event, the White Knights Ball. Over a thousand guests sat down to dinner, as the Ball Chairman thanked the record crowd for coming and all the volunteers for helping, OMV Chairman Adam Fudakowski explained where the money would be going and Chaplain Father George Bowen said grace.

### Counting the generosity

Before long the entire room were on their feet, hands on their heads or their bottoms as they tried to guess the toss of a coin, before the Slaughterhouse Seven jazz band took over the entertainment throughout dinner. Guests tried their luck on the Tombola or put their hope in the Raffle, before coffee was served and Sotheby's auctioneer Adrian Biddell began the auction. With a holiday in St Lucia, a top string quartet for an evening, a stay in Montenegro and the talents of a renowned chef among the lots, the OMV raised almost £30,000 from the auction alone. 29 Fingers then took to the stage and soon the

dance floor was full, as volunteers, friends, families and other supporters of the charity saw out the highly successful night in style.

### Vital input

The evening went so smoothly that nobody would have guessed that both Isabella Reuttner, the organiser, and Rowena Campbell, in charge of tickets, were new to their positions. Although the final total is yet to be confirmed, the generosity of all present ensured a very healthy amount of money was raised - vital in running OMV activities such as the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, holiday camps in Somerset and Ireland, and the Christmas Reunion at Worth Abbey.



George Norton encourages the bidding...

## The Knights of Malta Ball

The Assembly Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh  
Friday 15 February 2008 at 7pm

Tickets: Secretary, The Knights of Malta Ball,  
Castle Craig, Blyth Bridge, Peeblesshire EH46 7DH  
Tel 01721 725363; Email: info@castlecraig.co.uk

## Force Majeure

Our star is Caroline who is always helpful and kind and sympathetic. The British Association of the Order has got used to counting its lucky stars.

## Another successful fundraiser for St John's Hospice

Anne Jaffray and her team once again organised a musical evening with the Borodin String Quartet and supper to fund raise for the Hospice. In 2007, this highly enjoyable annual event took place in the splendid Norman Shaw rooms at Imperial College, Queen's Gate, and raised over £3,000 for the Hospice.

St. John's Hospice provides care to the terminally ill across eight London boroughs. Services are free of charge. It costs approximately £2.4 million per annum to provide this care.

## What's that you said? We didn't hear the news...

Send us yours, tell us about the BASMOM activities in your area, what you are planning, what volunteer work is underway, how your fundraising is going. We are what we do - and we should tell the world about the Order's works for the poor, the sick, those marginalised by society: *The Editor, The Hospitaller, 58 Grove End Road, St John's Wood, London NW8 9 EH*  
Or email: [basmom@btconnect.com](mailto:basmom@btconnect.com) marked for the attention of The Editor.

## Saintly lives

**The Grand Prior reflects on examples of saintly living**

I HAVE BEEN to two funerals this week. Both were of people in their late 80s. There the similarity between them appeared to cease.

One was that of a grand peeress who in the 1930s had been one of the most beautiful models in Europe. She was a highly intelligent patron of ballet and a much loved and extremely successful hostess and gardener. She contributed immensely generously to the welfare of those with mental handicaps.

The other was of an extremely rustic humble Northumbrian farmer. He was a minor expert on sheep breeding and an extremely effective and much loved and respected Master of Foxhounds. As far as I know he had never travelled out of Northumberland except to go as far as Cumberland. He was one of the kindest and nicest men

I have ever met.

These two people could not possibly have been more different and yet they were both greatly loved and not only loved by different people but by some of the same people. The reason for the vast numbers of people attending both their funerals was the fact that they had in different ways touched the lives of those by whom they were surrounded.

Christ expects us to live our lives for the benefit of others and these two people contributed in their own special ways to the carrying out of his Plan for all of us.

Let us try to follow the example of the Saints we meet every day.

*Fra' Matthew Festing,  
Grand Prior*

## Dates For The Diary, 2008

Birmingham Lourdes Reunion	9 Feb	<b>Council Meetings:</b> Thursdays at 10.30am
Mid Lenten Recollection	27 Feb	24 Jan, 1 May, 25 Sept
Dames Retreat	3-6 Mar	
Association Retreat	6-9 Mar	<b>Finance and Candidates</b>
Solemn Easter Triduum	20-22 Mar	<b>Committee Meetings:</b>
Corpus Christi	22 May	Wednesdays 23 Jan, 30 Apr, 24 Sept
Venerable Order of St. John		<b>Pilgrimages:</b>
Service at St Paul's	21 Jun	The Order's Pilgrimage
St. John's Day	24 Jun	2-9 May
Victoria Mass	8 Sept	The OMV Pilgrimage
London Lourdes Reunion	4 Oct	19-26 Jul
Rosary Crusade of Reparation	11 Oct Tbc	Walsingham
Feast of Blessed Gerard	13 Oct	12-14 Sept
Chaplains' Meeting	19 Nov Tbc	Holywell
Annual Dinner	19 Nov Tbc	1-3 Aug
South Western Day of Recollection	23 Nov	<b>Scottish Events:</b>
Formation Day	27 Nov	Knights Ball
Annual Requiem	27 Nov	15 Feb
Northern Day of Recollection	30 Nov	Castle Craig Handicap Day
Douai Day of Recollection	30 Nov	28 Jun
		Kielder
		9-12 Oct
		Annual Requiem
		13 Nov
		Northern Disabled Outing
		Tba

## Volunteers Wanted

We are justly proud of the high standard of care in our 75 homes for the elderly and infirm but nothing can match the friendship of regular visitors from outside the home. This is particularly precious to those without families nearby and a friendly chat or a drive out can mean so much. If you live in Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire or Lincolnshire and would be interested in becoming a volunteer visitor, please call one of the following numbers. The locations of these homes can easily be found in your telephone directory or Yellow Pages or our website: [www.osjct.co.uk](http://www.osjct.co.uk)

**Wiltshire:** Diane Bowden 01225 710726  
**Oxfordshire:** Catherine Dearden 01865 268888  
**Gloucestershire:** Dawn Sankey 01452 876185  
**Lincolnshire:** Anita Rudd 01522 810524

## 2008 Lourdes Pilgrimage

Friday 2 – Thursday 9 May

### BOOKING NOW

For more information  
or a booking form, contact:  
Hospitaller Ltd  
Shotley Hall  
Shotley Bridge, Consett  
Co. Durham DH8 9TE

## Only connect

**The Dames of London (DOLS) service**

Loneliness affects many people - often the elderly housebound. The DOLS service can offer a routine of visits to those unable to go out who would appreciate a visit. For some, the comfort of a telephone call is all that is required.

If you would like to help, or know someone who would appreciate such support, please telephone Caroline de la Force in the BASMOM office (020 7286 1414) if you wish to offer your services or to suggest someone who would like a visit.