



Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends

Once again we take stock of a year, reviewing what the world has suffered in those twelve months, and what we have been able to do to help at least some of the sufferers.

On the international level, a year later, the Order of Malta is continuing its support of Haiti earthquake victims, whose tragedies have increased with the arrival of cholera in their midst. The Order is on the ground, and the British Association and its Foreign Aid Service have been proud to send support, both in funds and personnel. Our commitment to those hit by catastrophe or civil conflict is not only to attend them during emergency, but to help them rebuild their lives and livelihoods. As our Grand Master stated in his annual address to the Order's Diplomatic Corps in January, in all these situations the Order is there for the long term.

At home this year, we have been proud to host the Order's International Summer Camp for Young Disabled for the first time (see right). The event was spectacular – and no less was the energy, commitment and sheer hard work of the Association and the OMV, as well as friends and volunteers, all of whom gave of their time and their cheer unstintingly. Nothing daunted the intrepid young – not the weather, not the cold – not anything. They were there for a wonderful time in a splendid environment, visually spectacular, personally warm, spiritually enriching – and it all happened. My heartfelt congratulations once again to all our wonderful 'Order family'.

Another triumph was the recognition of the Orders of St John Care Trust homes in their innovative approach to dementia sufferers, which was covered by the BBC and the national press. This latest inspiring development in our work for older people – a trend that is taking hold around the country – is featured in this issue.

All this adds up to our continuing care for those in need, and to our carrying it out in true Christian spirit.

Charles Weld, President of the British Association



The happy Summer Camp for Young Disabled gather at Pembroke Castle, Wales

Fireball of joy!

The Order of Malta's Summer Camp 2010

Hospitaller Tim Orchard explains why

FOR 26 YEARS the Order of Malta has organised a Summer Camp every year for young disabled people and their helpers. National associations take it in turn to stage the Camp. But it was not until 2010 that Great Britain played host for the first time. Almost three years of preparation culminated in an utterly magical week at Bluestone holiday village in Pembrokeshire last July. About 350 young people – half disabled guests, half helpers – came from 21 countries, plus another 70 or so volunteer Camp staff. Both the Grand Master and the Grand

Hospitaller travelled great distances to be there too, as did other friends and sponsors.

It is easy enough to give a factual account of what happened. Each day was filled with a huge variety of activities (from scuba-diving to laser-clays, from funfairs to flying), mixed with Mass (together as a Camp or in small groups) and time for reflection and friendship. Particular highlights were the midweek Mass in St David's Cathedral, and an action-packed evening at Pembroke Castle starring the Band of the Welsh Guards. Although the 2010 edition of the

Camp had a distinctly – and deliberately – British flavour to it, several perennial favourites were transposed to the Pembrokeshire setting, including the nightly wheelchair disco (mind your ankles) and the Christopher Cup (think Harry Potter-themed croquet).

But it is impossible to convey in words the fireball of joy that engulfed Bluestone for those seven days last Summer. If we are lucky, our lives will include a handful of occasions when earth and Heaven seem almost to touch – and then the moment is gone as quickly as it

arrived. For those of us fortunate enough to be there, the Summer Camp was one of those rare occasions – a vision of life as it should and could be lived. Above all, it was life-without-frontiers; without the superficial distinctions of physical ability or nationality.

Help from our extended family

Not only was this the first time that the Summer Camp had been held in this country; but it was also the first time that the British Association, the Order of Malta Volunteers and the Companions of the Order of Malta had worked together on a large-scale project. This extended family contributed in many different ways – from raising the very grown-up amount of money needed to pay for it all through to welcoming the country teams as they arrived at several airports. You know who you are. The organising committee of the Camp – and, indeed, the guests and helpers who came to the Camp – will never be able to thank you enough. In case you are curious about what your help made possible and have not already seen the daily Camp videos, go to www.maltacamp2010.org.uk/uk/news. These films are the next best thing to having been there.

The 2011 Camp will take place in Italy – which almost certainly guarantees more sunshine than we had in Wales last July. Then again, as the video of Tuesday's events at the 2010 Camp shows, it takes more than a bit of rain (well, quite a lot of rain) to dampen the Order of Malta's enthusiasm – even on a windswept beach in Pembrokeshire.

Charities after the crunch

Stephen Macklow-Smith, Treasurer, assesses the impact

THE newspapers are still full of gloom about the state of the UK economy, and one of the areas which has provoked wide comment is the impact on charities.

Charities fear that the impact of cuts will fall disproportionately on them. One reason for this is that many charities have become a channel of delivery for government programmes, and as government expenditure is cut, so the budget available for these programmes falls. This leaves charities delivering their services short of revenues, and needing to make cuts to staff and services.

Why reserves are practical

This arrangement between the government and charities illustrates one of the changes that took place under the recent Labour government – namely that charities, by virtue of the tax

concessions they enjoy, were viewed by the government as in some way an extension of the state, and referred to as the third sector. Separately, there has been a lot of pressure from donors to reduce the level of reserves that charities hold, since this is regarded by many of the hot-shot bankers who have given large donations as an inefficient use of the charity's balance sheet. Speaking personally, I have always disagreed with this view about reserves, because charities are not commercial entities, and the needs they serve exist irrespective of the state of the economic cycle. For this reason it seems prudent to hold a fairly large level of reserves so that in the event of a shortfall in donations the charity is still capable of carrying out its work.

Similarly, in my own view the Order is in no way a branch of the

government, and its ability to fulfil its charitable aims needs to be protected whatever the complexion of British politics. Our goal of increasing gradually our level of reserves will make us better able

to expand our work in future, and it will also cushion us against shortfalls in investment income of the sort that we have suffered in the last two years with the sharp reductions in interest rates.



Grand Prior's message

The duties of care and of prayer

The two-fold mission of the Order

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, an interview given to a German journalist by Pope Benedict XVI, reveals the reflections of a thoroughly good, modest and holy man and gives insight into the motives behind his actions. The Holy Father needs our support to carry out his God-given task. Thus it is important that we understand what he teaches, including going to the original sources. Pope Benedict teaches the importance of continuity, gently reminding us that the Second Vatican Council documents must be read in line with the traditional teaching of the church, whilst emphasising that the core of our Faith is God's love for us and our ability to love him in return.

The Order prides itself on special loyalty to the Pope and this loyalty to Pope and Church is one aspect of the exercise of the Order's charism of *Tuitio Fidei*, bearing witness to the Faith. By practising the other – *obsequium pauperum* – we dedicate ourselves to the care of Our Lords the Sick. This 900-year-old title for those we serve recognises two vital aspects of our work: that we do it for Jesus Christ and that we recognise as

our masters those we serve. The Code of the Order sums this up (Art 236): '*Obsequium Pauperum* has its origin in the divine compassion for the misery of the world, which obliges the members of the Order to serve Jesus Christ, who is present in the sick.'

The first implication is that we must have a personal prayer life – a daily time spent in prayer. The second, that we are obliged to devote time to Our Lords the Sick. In Malta the Grand Master worked in the Hospital each week. Succeeding Grand Masters have continued to do similar work.

The Order needs other skills too, to carry out its tasks worldwide, such as organising our pilgrimages, or fundraising for the \$3million needed annually to run the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem. These administrative, organisational and fundraising tasks are vital to keep things going. So if you have a particular skill, I encourage you to offer it to the Order. They are part of *obsequium pauperum*. May God bless you all.

Fra' Fredrik Crichton-Stuart
Grand Prior of England

There is nothing like...

Patricia Talbot acknowledges the Dames' work in the field

2010 WAS A YEAR FULL OF ACTIVITIES for the dames of the Order of Malta, with the visit of the Pope as its highlight. Many Dames attended one or other of the Masses, the rally in Hyde Park or his visit to Edinburgh – a truly memorable few days for His Holiness and for all those wonderful people who witnessed the celebrations.

There are now over sixty dames in our Association, five are dames grand cross of honour and devotion and five are dames in obedience. Our Grand Master is encouraging more dames in obedience so do consider and pray that it might be a step forward for you.

I would like to mention some of the dames who have a particular role in the Order. Caroline Armstrong-Jones, our very hard working secretary general, helped to organise the highly successful holiday camp in Wales last summer. She also organises our weekends for the pilgrimage to Holywell. Victoria Huntington-Whiteley and others do wonderfully running our shop in Lourdes – a big fund raiser. Alice Murphy does a fantastic job in Kenya under very difficult conditions. The two projects that she is working on are fundraising for a new maternity wing in the hospital in Lamu and helping with the TB clinic in the slums of Nairobi. Tot Charlton has just become the treasurer for the Scottish Delegation. We wish her well. Then our hard working Philippa Leslie runs our communications and also works with the Grand Magistry in Rome. All our dames contribute to the smooth running of our Order.



Activities abound across the country

Pilgrimage is a vital part of our work and our lives: Lourdes is our main pilgrimage, and in this country, Walsingham and Holywell. We run an annual reunion in Birmingham for members, volunteers and malades, and days of recollection in various parts of the country, all very well attended by the dames. The dames of London (the DOLs) work hard visiting the sick and elderly in London; some are Companions, another aspect of our Order's work – I encourage more to join. We also have a very happy three day retreat at Ampleforth during Lent each year.

2010 ended with a very enjoyable lunch party in London attended by thirty five dames. It was particularly nice that so many of our new members were able to come. We hope to repeat it next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for everything you do for our Order to further our mission of *tuitio fidei*, *obsequium pauperum*. It is much appreciated. With my best wishes for 2011.

Patricia Talbot, Vice President



Hospitaller footsteps

Julian Allason discovers a living link with the Kingdom of Jerusalem

IT WAS NOT WHAT I WAS EXPECTING in the fleshpots of the Lebanon. To be sure the entrance to the picturesque harbour of Byblos is guarded by twin towers erected by the Knights of St John to protect their galleys. But the survival after almost a millennium of a Hospitaller Church above it came as a considerable surprise, not least because of the country's turbulent past. It is only two decades since the civil war in which churches in Beirut suffered shelling.

But there it was, 26 miles north of the capital: the Church of St John the Baptist, shaded by palm trees. Byblos was already six thousand years old when construction began in 1116, making use of Roman masonry. The church was raised to cathedral of the city, then felicitously named Giblet, in the middle of the twelfth century. The Order appears to have brought

its knowledge of military engineering to bear for it survived an earthquake in 1176 suffering only partial damage. For all the grace of its romanesque arches and baptistry the underlying solidity betrays the anxieties of a period in which targets were regarded as prime targets by the enemy.

The location and safe harbour made the Giblet an important base in the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem and it was protected by a formidable castle, the extent of which can readily be discovered in the environs of the present Frankish castle, rebuilt by Saladin after he took it in 1187, and modernised by the Ottomans. Embedded in the walls is a cannon ball fired by Nelson in a rather later action.

Saladin came to regret the provocation of stabling his horses in the church, to which the knights

took considerable exception, and recaptured the city. It eventually fell to the Baibars in 1266, coming under Ottoman sway from 1516 until 1918. The church underwent a staggered programme of restoration during the French Mandate in the Lebanon from 1920 until 1943 when the country achieved independence.

One of the oldest connections to the Order's history

The Church of St John had however been given to the Maronite Catholic Church (which is in full communion with Rome) in the mid-18th century, since when Mass has been celebrated continuously. Amongst those who visit and quietly support it are members of the Order of Malta, many involved in hospitaller work in Lebanon. As for myself, I found it hard not to be moved by one of the oldest surviving connections to the Order's history and the sacrifice of those who died for their faith here.

In the churchyard, a peaceful spot to the west of the baptistry, exquisite mosaics peep through the grass. Directly below, the harbour is patrolled by captains keen to rent boats of varying degrees of seaworthiness. From the sunny terraces of fish restaurants patrons observe the fashion parade round the port and up cobbled streets to a souq with a difference: in place of butchers and wood carvers are goldsmiths and Memoire du Temps which sells fish fossils – “20 million years old if they are a day” – excavated from mountain strata above.

But it is to the peace of the old church that I and other visitors are drawn, a single point of faith and hope in an uncertain country. For a panoramic image of the site: <http://tinyurl.com/333r9rn>

Walsingham: a journey together

Peter Allingham on the annual weekend he will never miss

THE 2010 ORDER OF MALTA and young Order of Malta Volunteers (OMV) September pilgrimage to Walsingham, Norfolk, was a joyful weekend filled with blessings. A special honour was the presence of Fra' Matthew Festing, our Grand Master.

We were kept updated on the evident success of the Papal visit by Fr David Irwin whose kindness, good humour, thoughtful homilies and fine singing voice ensured that the 'set piece' events were truly inspiring.

Our first Mass at the Parish Church on Friday began with warm reunions, hugs and smiles, and then devotion at the Blessing of Hands and recital of the OMV prayer, which calls for us to focus above all on our guests. Refreshed and inspired, the hours until dinner were spent catching up with our regulars and making sure that new friends felt very welcome.

On Saturday, first stop was the Shrine for Stations of the Cross. Then to Our Lady Star of the Sea at Wells-next-the-Sea for the Mass of Healing where Fr Irwin, joined by the Parish Priest of Wells, anointed the sick and led prayers for our malades, while the OMV's choir led us in musical praise. At our afternoon tea venue, White Hall, a sumptuous spread awaited us – and a visual feast of dahlias, shrubs and roses – and no rain!



In 1061 the Lady Richeldis had a vision in which she was taken by Mary to be shown the house in Nazareth where Gabriel had announced the birth of Jesus. Mary asked Richeldis to build a replica of that house in Walsingham, which is how it became known as England's Nazareth. The British Association of the Order has brought pilgrims here every September for over 50 years.

Newman. We were in fine voice and gave a rousing end to a wonderful pilgrimage, with fond farewells to guests and helpers alike bringing our journey together to a close.

To visit as a pilgrim is to visit with fresh eyes

I grew up just a few miles from the Shrine of Walsingham and have served there for years. To visit a place one knows so well, but as a pilgrim, is to visit with fresh eyes. I am overwhelmed by the love, friendship and kindness of every participant on these extraordinary pilgrimages. Individually we can all do our part but on a pilgrimage we are truly part of something bigger than ourselves. At Walsingham the whole is far greater than the sum of its parts. Here, as one, we lift hearts and souls to God through Our Blessed Lady at a place to which pilgrims have journeyed and prayed since she appeared to the Lady Richeldis in 1061.



(far left) Malteser International outpatient clinic in Pakistan; Haiti – working with the injured (above right); patients are airlifted to the hospital in Milot (below)

2010 FAS report

Vice Hospitaller Nicolas Reuttner outlines the very active British Association Foreign Aid Service (FAS) which which he heads up

Appeal for Haiti

Last January 250,000 people died, 300,000 were injured and over three million people were affected by an earthquake – 7.0 magnitude – in the poorest country in the western hemisphere. The Order of Malta has been active in Haiti for 15 years, supporting a hospital in Milot in the north, and running other initiatives of its embassy. Within days of the 'quake we deployed assessment teams, logistics and medical aid to supplement the medical facilities of the hospital. Specialists and volunteers from the Order all over the world came to help, including a doctor and nurse from Great Britain. Our key activities include:

- Providing immediate medical care for the injured (400 bed hospital)
- Running two mobile medical

facilities for ongoing medical care (eg births)

- Supplying clean water
- Running medical outreach and vaccination programmes
- Offering community and psychosocial care
- Providing material support
- Training and educating the community on medical care and disease prevention

Many of the Order's 47 Associations contributed to a total of about £10 million to help with rehabilitation, with the British contribution one of the largest. What made this such a great success was that friends of the Order passed on our appeal to their friends in turn. Money came from people and organisations quite removed from the Order, all offering support for our work.

Malteser International in Pakistan

Last summer's floods not only devastated homes and killed many, but also took away people's livelihoods and their ability to rebuild their lives. An estimated 20 million are affected and 14 million are in need of help in a flood-ravaged area larger than England.

The Order has worked in the region since 2008, with medical teams on the ground offering care and material support – clean water, food and medicine, as well as teaching people how to keep safe in these extreme environments.

Despite not running an appeal, we received many generous donations and collected £20,000 to contribute to the Order's work in the region. So far over £3 million has been allocated by the Order globally for this work.

Boka Old People's Home project

On the personal initiative of Fra'Matthew Festing, now Grand Master, the British Association has been supporting an old people's home in Serbia since 2003, including sponsoring its complete rebuilding in

2005/6. It is a small home of about 30 people in their 80s who refuse to give in to a lack of pension, family or community support. They care for themselves, thriving on their own entrepreneurial spirit and supported by the local priest.

For the last four years, the home has been self sufficient, but this year they had a financial short-fall and asked us for £4,000. This has been used to build a firewood shed, some essential renovation of the home, the purchasing of maintenance tools, working materials and heating the home through the winter. We are also funding two residents, each costing about £800 to support for the year.

Peruvian Riverboat project

The Order's Peruvian Association reaches some of the remotest communities in Peru by travelling up river with a hospital boat, bringing medical aid and care to isolated villages. The hospital boat travels up the Ucayali and Urubamba rivers with the support of the Peruvian navy to deeply impoverished regions. Their work is only limited by funds available, so we have funded a two-

week expedition of the hospital boat at a cost of £3,600. In a two week period, they care for 22,000 people, which equates to about 15p per person.

St Petersburg Soup Kitchen project

The Order runs a soup kitchen in St Petersburg, feeding some of the poorest families in the city. The team produces balanced and healthy meals and creates a welcoming and warm community space for the recipients to meet and eat during the harsh Russian winter. The fully loaded cost of a meal is around 60p. We have given £11,000 – enough to run the kitchen for a month.

Fundraising

The 8th FAS dinner was held at the Savile Club in London and was another sell-out event. We raised £45,000 to fund projects through the year like those mentioned above. We select our projects very carefully, ensuring they are run by the Order and that our donation can really make a difference to people in need, regardless of race or religion.

Time future contained in time past

Peter Loyd describes an exciting innovation at the Order's Homes

OVER 700,000 PEOPLE in the UK suffer from dementia, predicted to be 1.7million by 2051. There is no known cure, but the Orders of St John Care Trust (OSJCT) is piloting an innovative scheme to improve the symptoms of those in their care. So simple was the idea that last November it hit every national newspaper, BBC Radio 4 and the BBC World Service, with follow up radio interviews on Christmas Eve.

The big idea

Coombe End Court, the Trust's Marlborough home, has created 1950s style rooms where residents can tap into memories of their youth. Pat, who has severe dementia and was quiet and withdrawn, has had a new lease of life. She told the BBC World Service: "I love the wireless and I love dancing and I remember my mum saying that I would wear a hole in the carpet. Life's not just for sitting down and sleeping. It's fun!"

It was the idea of Sue Linsey, the home manager, to create several rooms furnished as they might have been sixty years ago. An old typewriter, a gramophone and a Bakelite telephone all help to trigger memories and prompt conversations about the past with visiting families. Residents who were doctors sit at the desk to bring back memories of their surgeries. Ex-typists use the manual typewriter and Pat dances to old-time music.

Dementia unit manager Claire Walters explains: "In the old days, if someone was distressed in the night, you'd give them a tablet, but now we bring them into these rooms and talk until they're calm and happy."

Dr Simon Manchip, a leading consultant in old age psychiatry and now advisor to OSJCT, says: "Patients are more alert and engaged. It is a simple and inexpensive alternative to treatment with anti-psychotic drugs. Drugs do have a limited role, but if you take them for a year, you are

twice as likely to be dead by the end of that year. What OSJCT is doing puts us well ahead of the government call to reduce the use of these drugs." These time-warp rooms have now been created throughout the Trust.

All 3,790 members of staff plus trustees and our 580 volunteers now receive extensive training to understand dementia and readers of The Hospitaller will be pleased to learn that in volunteering to visit our homes they too will be trained.

Painting is another groundbreaking innovation, developed by the Society for All Artists, and introduced to all homes for dementia sufferers. Part-funded by the Order's British Association and with a growing army of volunteer visitors, these 'Guidelines to Art' water colour kits absorb the attention of residents for hours.

Specialist dementia care advances now in all Trust homes

Wiltshire County Director, Diane Bowden, who maintains the trust as a leading provider of specialist dementia care in the UK, says: "Currently we have 15 specialist dementia care facilities across the



OSJCT operates 73 homes across four counties, with responsibility for the care of 3,300 residents and employing c. 3,500 staff. For more information, see the Trust's website: www.osjct.co.uk

Trust. However, we recognise that some 60% of residents also have some form of dementia. Care in the future will increasingly be about supporting people with this disease, so the good practice advances we are making in our specialist care facilities are now informing the care practice and refurbishments of our existing homes – and the design of future new developments. Our work is further supported through the addition to our team of an admiral nurse and consultant psychogeriatrician."

All new homes built by the Trust are now designed for care of dementia sufferers, including our most recent development in Chipping Norton. In the coming months, two major centres in Banbury and Bicester will be opened.
Peter Loyd, Chairman, OSJCT

Cultural treasure in south west France

Henry Lorimer describes an enchanting visit to an Order of Malta museum at Poitiers

IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE to come unexpectedly across cultural treasures when travelling abroad. None more so, as a member of the Order of Malta, than to discover the fascinating Museum of the Order of Malta at the Chateau de la Roche at Gençay, south west of Poitiers.



It was created by Comte Geraud de Pierredon, the present owner's father. He was the first French Knight in Obedience (1960) and was the Order's Ambassador in France. He was also Grand Hospitaller (1978-1989) and author of 'L'Histoire Politique de l'Ordre Souverain et Hospitalier de St Jean de Jerusalem' – in 8 volumes covering 1789-2000.

The collection at the Chateau de la Roche was built up by his father, Comte Thierry de Pierredon, who also gave 600 items of his considerable collection to the Museum of the Legion d'Honneur in Paris, the first bequest made to that museum. The remainder is on

display in a charming 17th century outbuilding adjacent to the chateau. It presents a history of the Order from its creation by Fra' Gerard to the present day, through maps, decorations, armour, paintings, uniforms and statuary, and includes a beautiful bas relief in bronze of Our Lady of Philermo.

The Museum was officially opened by Grand Master Fra' Angelo di Mojana in the 1970s.

Two new galleries are scheduled to open this year, on the religious aspect of the Order. When visiting the museum, make time to visit the Chateau itself (built between the 15th and 18th centuries), its chapel (1530) and park (designed by Le Nötre). You will be enchanted.

Order of Malta Museum:

T: 05 49 59 31 07, F: 05 49 59 59 78,

E: chateaudelarochefree.fr

Note: Photographs available from Henry Lorimer on request via the BASMOM Secretariat.

Care for youngsters with Down Syndrome

Specialist clinic at the hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth in London

'TWENTY ONE YEARS AGO I gave birth to my third child, Anna, who had Down Syndrome. This event led indirectly to the setting up of the Lejeune Clinic for children with Down Syndrome here in the UK,' explains Elizabeth McKean, now the Clinic's director. The clinic provides specialist assessment and advice to parents of babies and young children with DS.

The medical team is made up of a consultant paediatrician, speech and language therapist and occupational

therapist, who give their time and expertise for nothing. The clinics take place on Saturday mornings twice a month in the Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth (the consulting rooms are lent by the Hospital) and run for three hours.

Caroline Armstrong-Jones says their skill and knowledge is of great value to the parents of children with Down Syndrome: 'When India, my daughter, was born nearly 14 years ago, she attended the Clinic once a year and it was a great source of support and information for us. To

my knowledge it is still the only clinic of its kind in the UK.'

How to help

The Clinic is funded by a nominal contribution per clinic visit from the parents but other than that it relies on donations and fundraising to cover its running costs. The British Association of the Order has just contributed £20,000. Caroline Armstrong-Jones plans to hold an event this year to raise funds to build up reserves for the Clinic at the Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth and to open a further clinic along the same lines but in another area of the UK, to benefit both children with Down Syndrome and their parents.

For more information:

www.downschildreclinic.org

St John's Ambulance first Aid competition in Kenya

BASMOM Vice President on official duties

THE ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE FIRST AID COMPETITION is a national event in Kenya. Every first aid division across the country sends teams to Nairobi to compete in the national finals. The Competition is taken very seriously, with some large and impressive trophies up for grabs.

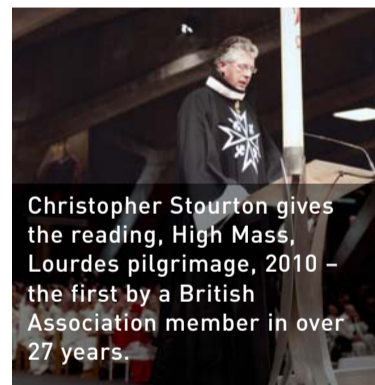
Lady Talbot, a regular visitor to Kenya over the past 25 years, was chief guest at the Competition in Nairobi last October, a happy duty carried out whilst visiting her niece, Alice Murphy, who works for the Order of Malta Embassy in Kenya. The large car park in the centre of Nairobi in which the event was held was littered with 6 'bodies'. These were willing volunteers, heavily made-up with very nasty looking

injuries. When the bell was rung the teams all ran into the car park and carried out the assessment and treatment of the casualties. Tension ran high as they were closely assessed on their first aid skills. The afternoon was great fun and the commitment of the first aid volunteers was most impressive. The climax of the events was the award ceremony, followed by a short speech from Lady Talbot. She spoke of the strong links in Britain between the Venerable Order of St John and the Order of Malta, most notably in the Orders of St John Care Trust homes, now numbering 73, and her hope that this link between the two Orders would grow ever stronger in Kenya.

Alice Murphy



Lady Talbot, Alice Murphy, and competitors, Nairobi

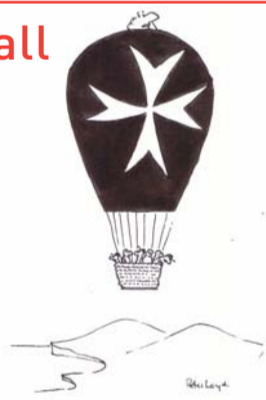


Christopher Stourton gives the reading, High Mass, Lourdes pilgrimage, 2010 – the first by a British Association member in over 27 years.

Knights of Malta Ball

Saturday 5 March 2011
Sheraton Hotel, Edinburgh
Unmissable!

Apply online:
www.knightsball.co.uk
e: sianbiddulph@blueyonder.co.uk
or: The Secretary
Ravelston Terrace
Edinburgh EH 5F



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA IN CONJUNCTION WITH ST JOHN'S HOSPICE

Concert

followed by supper and wine to be held on

Tuesday, 24 May 2011

Imperial College, 170 Queens Gate, London SW7

To raise funds for essential items of equipment for the refurbished St John's Hospice, Grove End Road, London NW8. Invitations and further details will be sent in the Spring

Organisers: Anne, Lady Jaffray, Paul Sutherland.
Hospice Fundraising Office: Tel: 020 7806 4012

ST JOHN'S HOSPICE Charity No. 235822 • BASMOM Charity No. 227994

Dates For The Diary, 2011

January

8 OMV White Knights Ball, London
25 1st Zephyr Debate
27 BASMOM Council Meeting

February

1 Formation Day
5 Birmingham Day of the Sick
22 2nd Zephyr Debate
28 Dames Retreat (till 3 March)

March

5 Knights Ball, Edinburgh
22 3rd Zephyr Debate
31 Lenten Evening of Recollection

April

7 Knights Retreat (till 10 April)
21-23 Sacred Triduum
28 BASMOM Council Meeting
29 International Order Pilgrimage, Lourdes (till 6 May)

May

6 International Pilgrimage ends

June

19 Corpus Christi Procession & Picnic
24 St John's Day
25 Venerable Order of St John Service, St Paul's

July

3 Scalan Pilgrimage, Scotland
8 Feast Blessed Adrian Fortescue
22-30 OMV Pilgrimage, Lourdes

August

5-7 Pilgrimage, Holywell
14 Assumption of Our Lady Mass & Picnic

September

8 Victoria Mass
14-16 Pilgrimage, Walsingham
22 BASMOM Council Meeting

October

8 Rosary Crusade or Reparation
13 Feast of Blessed Gerard

November

3 Annual Dinner
10 Requiem Mass, Scotland
20 South Western Day of Recollection
24 Formation Day
27 Northern Day of Recollection, Scotland

December

1 Advent Evening of Recollection
West Midlands Day of Recollection

Sweet Caroline

Who is unfailingly kind, helpful, efficient and cheerful. She reaches out to help us all and we are deeply grateful to Caroline de la Force, our splendid BASMOM Secretariat.

The Order of Malta: a portrait

ed.V.Horsler. Edition: Third Millennium Information Ltd., London, 220pp with many photographs. Pub. May 2011. For more information: www.orderofmalta.com