

Hospitaller



The journal of the British Association of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta



In this issue:

The power of youth
Solidarity for earthquake in Italy
Saluting volunteers!



www.orderofmalta.org.uk

Summer 2017

In brief...

KEY DATES

2017

14-16 July: Holywell pilgrimage

contact Secretariat basmom@btconnect.com

22-27 July: OMV pilgrimage to Lourdes

22-29 July: Order of Malta International Summer Camp for Disabled Young, Salzburg, Austria

July/August: Summer camp, Chabrouh, Lebanon

15-17 September: Walsingham pilgrimage

contact Secretariat basmom@btconnect.com

6 October: British Association Annual Dinner

contact the Basmom Secretariat

25 November: Foreign Aid Service (FAS) dinner

contact the Basmom Secretariat

6 December: Companions Christmas Carol concert

contact secretary.companions@gmail.com

2018

11-18 August: Great Britain Order of Malta International Summer Camp for Disabled Young

For more information: www.maltacamp2018.co.uk/



Entrance to our new home

SCOTLAND:

Day of Recollection at Scone Palace

Forty members of BASMOM, Companions and guests gathered for the annual Scottish Day of Recollection, held by kind invitation at Scone Palace, home of the Earl and Countess of Mansfield.



Photo: Angus Hay

Fundraiser for an exciting new project

Supporting ex-offenders to rebuild their lives



Special guest Cardinal Nichols and the Nehemiah team; Speaker Grand Chancellor; Host Rocco Forte



The Nehemiah Project, a residential programme to support ex-offenders, helping them rebuild their lives and reintegrate into society, joins the list of new activities for the Order in Britain. A June fundraising dinner kindly donated by Rocco Forte welcomed special guests Cardinal Nichols and the Order's Grand

Chancellor, Albrecht Boeselager. Hosts were British Association President, Richard Fitzalan Howard and Lisa Simpson for the Global Fund for Forgotten People and the project is generously supported by Graham Hutton, Envoy for the Global Fund. For more information: www.forgottenpeople.org

Caroline de la Force

We always wish to thank Caroline, our wonderful Secretariat, for all her work and support for members, volunteers and friends alike. Now it is our turn to support her in her hour of need. We pray for her and her family. As she is there for us, we are there for her.



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Dames line up for the St John's Day Mass, Brompton Oratory, London

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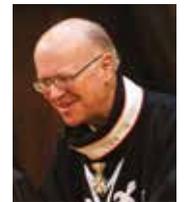
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 News from around the world.



From the President

Dear Members and Friends

We welcome the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre, elected on 29 April, who will serve for twelve months in the role as head of our beloved Sovereign Order. He will work with the Order's senior members and the Pope's Special Delegate, Archbishop Giovanni Becciu, to oversee reform of the professed and our Constitution in accordance with his mandate from the Holy Father to meet the needs of the twenty first century. These proposals will need the support of 66 percent of an Extraordinary Chapter General; this will be followed by a Council Complete of State to elect the next Grand Master. I would like to thank in advance those who have offered to serve on the various Working Groups as part of the reform process. The humanitarian activities of the Order continue unabated.



As many of you will be aware our former Grand Master, HE Fra' Matthew Festing, has now returned to live in his home county of Northumberland. Although he will continue to be attached to the Grand Magistracy in Rome, we will look forward to welcoming him at various of our future events. We wish him well in his retirement. We should thank him for his many efforts to serve the Order throughout his adult life in both the hospitaller and spiritual spheres.

Our year here in Britain continues to be exciting and busy. We have launched a Breakfast Club in central London – it starts at six in the morning and so we are doubly grateful for our members and volunteers who are on site at that hour. From week to week, the project grows, helping London's homeless with a sustaining breakfast, a shower – and companionship. As our Hospitaller will outline in this publication, we have a growing list of activities and accomplishments to be proud of.

As the year unfolds we see yet more activities, a new Order (OSJCT) Home opening in Wiltshire, regular visits to the elderly increasing, our work with former addicts growing.

May I take this opportunity to acknowledge our debt to Caroline de la Force, for all she does at the heart of our Order in Britain, with such commitment, and this year in particular under the most difficult of times. Our prayers are with her and her family in the loss of her beloved Piers.

Our mission goes from strength to strength – a combination of pilgrimage, commitment, and care for those who need our help.

Thank you! May devotion to our Order and its works continue to inspire us, as it has our forefathers for almost a thousand years.

*Richard Fitzalan Howard
 President, British Association of the Order of Malta*



Cover photo: Marco Merlini – Order of Malta

Submission of images: Please send high resolution images: ideally 300 dpi at reproduction size.



The town of Amatrice, Lazio, before and after the earthquake

Solidarity & recognition

The Lieutenant of the Grand Master visits Italy's earthquake-torn region

In late June, Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre paid a visit of encouragement to the earthquake zones of central Italy, to express his solidarity with the victims and gratitude to the Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps: "I came to hear the stories of those who have been through so much and to thank our volunteers for being close to them in their hour of need."

Ongoing support

Some 700 volunteers from the Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps were on site in the aftermath of the earthquake which struck Lazio, Umbria, Abruzzo and the Marche on 24 August last year. Thousands of people were assisted by doctors, nurses, psychologists, first responders and technicians for administrative formalities. Over the winter,

tons of food and medicines were distributed and 20,000 meals were cooked in the Relief Corps' field kitchen. The constant presence of the Order of Malta's teams have also provided psycho-social support to the communities in the months following the quake.

The Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps (CISOM) was founded in 1970: its aim, then and now, has been to provide support in times of natural catastrophe. From 1991, the organisation was recognised by the Italian Ministry for Civil Protection, and extended its aid for victims of natural disaster. Today, it has 3500 fully trained volunteers on call at all times.



Nyokabi Kahura

‘Only with peace’

Over five million people face starvation in South Sudan. Douglas Saurma, Malteser International Europe, visits the stricken area

An estimated 5.5 million people are facing severe food insecurity and malnutrition due to civil conflict and a collapsing economy in South Sudan. Following a fact finding tour last month to assess the current situation and needs, president of Malteser International Europe Douglas Saurma-Jeltsch announced increased funding for the stricken populations of the region, where Malteser International, the Order of Malta’s worldwide relief agency, has been working for 20 years.

Fighting against malnutrition

A severe drought has hit the region of Wau, northwest of the capital, Juba, resulting in widespread famine affecting the local population. Civil conflict and instability has forced tens of thousands of people to seek safety in camps and settlements. In the fight against malnutrition, Malteser International is providing free meals to around 3,000 schoolchildren in one of these camps, with a further 2,000 receiving meals at a Malteser

International project in Juba. The organisation is constructing pumps to supply drinkable water. To help hygiene in the refugee camps, staff also distribute soap.

“There is profound misery in Wau. The situation is even worse than in Juba. Very many children live on the street. A huge number of people are in great need. It would be easy to allow yourself to become discouraged. But there are people we can reach and help, and we are doing our best for them in every way we can,” says von Saurma-Jeltsch.

Food hygiene is an important health issue

“The food we distribute consists of rice and beans,” he continues. “I tried it – it tastes very good. Local Malteser International staff cook it, fresh every day, in the local school kitchen. The children line up in long rows. First they have to wash their hands. Hygiene before eating is a very important health issue, especially in South Sudan. That is why we are investing not only in the food, but also in

hygienic measures to prevent further outbreaks of cholera and other diseases. Hand washing and eating always go very close together.”

Only with peace can something new arise

“What it is clear – not just to me – is that peace must prevail in this country. The civil war must cease, because it is only on the basis of peace that something new can arise. Whatever action is taken here, as long as there is no peace, everything else is very temporary. To this extent, it is the desire and hope of the people in South Sudan that a solution can also be found through the international community.”

Malteser International is providing nourishing meals to schoolchildren

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

British Association’s **Foreign Aid Service** has so far raised over £40,000 to support these desperate populations. Your continuing support will save many lives. Your donation will aid Malteser International’s work to combat famine and malnutrition in South Sudan and Kenya:

www.justgiving.com/4sudan



The message of Lourdes

"Each pilgrim brings a special wish in their hearts,
a prayer." Pope Francis, January 2016

caption

Philippa Leslie



Anne de Bono (above), retiring chief medical doctor for the pilgrimage: "Working with the guests in Lourdes is a tremendous privilege. It is a wonderful way to practise medicine, working with people who want to be in Lourdes – and that's everyone!"

Anne de Bono, Cambridge medical school trained and a dedicated NHS GP throughout her professional career, steps down as Basmom's principal Lourdes doctor this year, a role she has covered every year since 2000.

Reflecting on her time at the helm, she notes that everyone who does these jobs contributes their own perspective to the whole. She is delighted to see the pilgrimage in such good heart and finds it now very well integrated: "For example, we see our priests delivering the scrambled eggs in the dining room – it's wonderful!" And she adds that the Lourdes Pilgrimage Committee is excellent – "The best and happiest committee I've ever served on."

Louise Noble, former President of the OMV, now a dame of Malta says this new experience – the May pilgrimage – makes her feel "now like a grown up." She explains her team's duties and that she is in charge of transport logistics and head of ward cleaning and training. Hospital corners a specialty! Everything that was checked in at the airport has to be rechecked and put into the right rooms in the Accueil. The baggage truck has to be checked too: "We haven't lost anything yet!" Last year's miracle: two items checked in had vanished – but then, small miracle, they miraculously reappeared. Relief all round.



Eleanor Maxwell Benson (above), pilgrimage organiser extraordinaire: How did I get involved? she asks. "In 2003, the Basmom hospitaller called me and said could I organise a party for 2000 people! " She hesitated for a nano second – before heading out to shop for this very large group, including searching for bulk supplies of cornflakes (not easy in the Pyrenees!), as well as



all the usual provisions, medical kits, and so on. The reward? "It radiates joy. It's humbling too." And the greatest challenge? "Getting the volunteers into line!"

William Salvin, returnee, first came on the pilgrimage with his father in 1989, to do a 'stage'. He thoroughly enjoyed the experience, but was then very occupied with his working life, although remaining involved in the charitable works of the church. Now he is back. Why? "Because of the very persuasive influence of Nigel Stourton! I'm on Team 3 and I see a career path – I've progressed from washing table mats to hand sanitising. It's all go..."

"Prayer illuminates one's eyes to know how to see others as God sees them, to love them as he loves them."
– Pope Francis, May 2017

Tally-ho!

British Shop calculates highest takings ever

The Lourdes Ladies – Tot Charlton, Maggie Hood, Victoria Huntingdon-Whiteley and Mary Padfield (pictured) – were almost in orbit after seeing the final tally of their takings at this year's Lourdes British Shop hit over £30,000. The spectacular result reflected months of work and coordination to offer this year's most desired items! There was the usual run on teddy bears sporting Order of Malta woolly tops, but also special items for collectors, a redesigned edition of their sought-after belts and a new costume jewellery collection featuring Swarovski crystals. New, highly desirable treasures are in the pipeline for next year.





From Lebanon to Lourdes, the volunteers are a powerhouse of support



Volunteers... we salute you!

Hospitaller Mark Brenninkmeyer on the work that's indispensable

Our indefatigable Hospitaller acknowledges that all the excellent projects the Order now works at in Britain depend on the volunteers who support them: the dames and knights, the Companions of the Order, the families and friends – who, all together, create a powerhouse of support for those in need.

Mark Brenninkmeyer explains how the past inspires the present: 'The history of the Order of Malta, a proud and long one, is founded on its tradition of service to the poor. A history does not need volunteers to continue – a tradition does.'

The list that continues to grow

'It is this contribution of our volunteers that makes our many works possible today.' He lists the

current works: the Monday soup kitchen in London's Lincoln's Inn Fields, the Thursday edition in the crypt of St James's Spanish Place, the Wednesday Breakfast and Shower Project (which starts at 6 in the morning!), the monthly Tea and Company event for the lonely elderly. And that's just London. Then there are soup kitchens in Oxford and Colchester, other projects starting in Cambridge and St Andrews Universities, there's Dial-A-Journey in central Scotland, there are the 69 residential homes plus assisted living accommodation of the Orders of St John Homes Care Trust (OSJCT). There's the annual Lourdes pilgrimage with our malades. There is the combined Walsingham pilgrimage with our youth group, the Order of Malta Volunteers (OMV), who

themselves will host and organise the Order's International Summer Camp for disabled youth next year – for which plans are well advanced. The latest addition is a collaboration with Nehemiah House, a residential programme in south London for men with a history of addiction, to help them change their lives. There are our fundraisers to support these works – the Edinburgh Ball and the highly successful the Foreign Aid Service annual dinner.

'All of these activities rely on our volunteers – to organise them, run them, participate in them, support them. We really couldn't do it without you, and especially those who volunteer time and again. Thank all of you for keeping the tradition of our Order alive and well in 2017.'

The Order of Malta Volunteers – always known as the OMV – has two aims: first to provide care for the poor and the sick, and second, and unique to the OMV, to give young people the chance to care for the sick and organise and manage our activities and fundraising.

The power of youth

It is worth emphasising just how young the OMV is! The average age of a member of the committee is early-to-mid 20s but that's old, compared to the average age of volunteers in Lourdes, around half of whom are 17/18.

Only half of those 17/18 year olds come back for their second year and only half of those come back to their third year. This core of volunteers then goes on to attend activities outside of Lourdes.

What we do

Our **Lourdes Pilgrimage**, by far the largest OMV activity, with around 200 volunteers and 50 guests, takes place in July. It 'trains' volunteers for all the other OMV activities.

The **Easter Pilgrimage**, started in 2009, goes to a different European city each year. In the past, it has been biennial but we now try to conduct it every year. It is attended by around 15 volunteers and 10 guests.

The **Lebanon summer camp** is the newest OMV activity. We look after the disabled from a home in Beirut, in camps which have been refurbished by the Order. We send out about 30 volunteers over a two week period – and it's pleasing to find members of the Order and the Companions attending.

The Order's **International Holiday Camp** happens every summer. We take a team of 12 volunteers and 8 helpers. This activity has grown in popularity over the last few years thanks to the energies of Louisa Grew and this is particularly important ahead of the holiday camp we will host in the UK in 2018. It's great for building relations with Order Associations from other countries.

The power of youth

Outgoing OMV president Eddie Pease looks back on three very busy years, and explains the organisation's aims and ever increasing activities

Walsingham – it's particularly good to see more OMVers attending this pilgrimage – roughly half the membership in the recent past.

The **Christmas Reunion** is a relaxed weekend away at Worth Abbey, around 15 guests and 25 helpers. It is followed by the **Easter Retreat**, which has not been as popular in recent years, perhaps because of a decrease in popularity of the retreat as a whole. But there were encouraging signs this year.

Fundraising

The White Knights Ball is the biggest, longest running ball of its size in London. It takes place every year in early January and we have just celebrated its 40th anniversary. We welcome around 1000 attendees, including many from abroad, provide a four-course dinner and a 20 piece swing band. Everyone in the Order is more than welcome! In the past, the Ball has raised over 90% of funds for the year but we are trying to change this (see below).

Strategy: initiatives for fundraising and recruitment

Over the last three and a half years since I was elected President, together with the committee we have worked especially on:

Diversifying fundraising outside the White Knights Ball. The returns from the Ball can be quite volatile and we thought it would be better to have a higher proportion of our net income from a less volatile source. We have redesigned our website so it is very easy to give online, and encouraged direct debits to the OMV charity. This has been very successful, with around £10k raised outside the ball, around 15% of net income.



Setting up an Alumni group.

People always look back to their time with the OMV very fondly and it made sense to harness all that good will and connect volunteers across the generations. We have set up a Facebook group which now has as members c.13% of all volunteers ever. Considering that half of volunteers only attend Lourdes once, this is a substantial proportion of OMV membership. It has served to increase awareness of volunteering opportunities within the Order and provides a mechanism for future committees/trustees to contact former volunteers.

Boosting recruitment and offering two very different volunteering experiences:

we have introduced a new badge to incentivise volunteers to apply for activities outside Lourdes, which has been a historic problem. This appears to have worked, helped of course by very inspirational activity organisers! We also would be very open to making companions more aware of our activities, if they want to attend, and vice versa, as we offer two very different volunteering experiences.

Eddie Pease and friends... 'it has been a team effort, that is for sure!'

For more information: www.omv.org.uk

Extending the fleet

Three new minibuses for the Order's Dial-a-Journey, Scotland



Full steam ahead in central Scotland, as the transport fleet grows to meet local demand and three new minibuses are dedicated and blessed. The happy ceremony, celebrated by Archbishop Leo Cushley, and attended by family members representing Kathleen Welsh MBE, Fra' Fredrik Crichton-Stuart and Peter Drummond-Murray of Mastrick, took place in mid June.

Thirty years on...

Or – 31 now, and a much relied-on service. Launched in 1986, Dial-a-Journey is a door to door transport service for people who have a mobility problem and cannot use conventional public transport. Starting with 2 vehicles, they now have 27 serving the central Scotland areas of Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire. The service is a partnership of the three local authorities with the Order of Malta.

For more information:
www.dial-a-journey.org

Barbara and Walter Drummond-Murray attended the touching dedication

The youngest fundraiser



Our youngest fundraiser Alina fundraises each year at her birthday party for the Order's Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem. Her invitations are also themselves invitations to help support our hospital in Palestine.

It is the primary maternity referral hospital in the region, delivers over 3000 infants each year, trains local medical staff, and provides important employment for the area. The team currently numbers 140: 11 consultant doctors, 10 resident doctors, 68 midwives and nurses, 11 paramedical staff and 40 administration and support staff. Together, this dedicated family creates the state of the art maternity care that is the Holy Family Hospital. For more information: www.holyfamilyhospital.org



Happy times

Each month there is a very well attended tea party for the elderly at St. Wilfrid's Hall, Brompton Oratory, London. Our indefatigable volunteers help with setting up, singing with the

guests, washing up, chatting and serving the Chelsea Pensioners (from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, all returned serving members of the armed forces), as well as elderly locals.

Food and friendship

Team leader Kate McKenzie reveals some impressive vital statistics about London's Companions Cafe soup kitchen, which greets 90 guests each week



Every Thursday evening, the team welcomes 80-90 guests. They work from 6pm – 9.30pm, preparing food and collecting food donations from nearby food enterprises and individual donors. The range provides a healthy diet for the homeless, who come for the nutrition, but also for the company.

Every week the team prepares: 16 litres of soup with 600 mls double cream added. Drinks: 120 tea bags, 500g instant coffee, 1.5 litres of squash, 16 pints of milk.

What it takes

Hot food: four to five trays of hot food are donated from a nearby hotel. The team supplement the hot food from the hotel with: 20

sausage rolls and donated toasted sandwiches (approx 15).

Sandwiches donated: 180 – 200.
Salads donated: 25 – 30.

To supplement donated sandwiches: two large loaves of sliced bread, 1Kg cheddar, 1.6Kg sliced ham. Bread (loaves, baguettes) donated from nearby bread shop – varies greatly – sometimes two large black bin bags worth – other times one “Bag for life” size bag.

Puddings the team make: 1Kg yoghurt, 300g granola, one jar of runny honey, two punnets of strawberries. Puddings donated – 15 small pots. Patisseries and cakes donated: 80-90. Fruit: 40 apples, 45 bananas, 5 bags of tangerines, two punnets of grapes.

Ad hoc donations on the night from Companions/Volunteers this year: 80 cornettos, 100 small chocolate coins, mini Easter eggs, boxes of biscuits, green jelly for all guests on St Patrick's day!

Meet the Companions...

The Companions of the Order of Malta are active in seven regions around the country, focussing on support for the homeless and visits to the lonely elderly.



Outgoing President Paul Letman has built the organisation up into the highly effective and successful operation that it is today, ably supported by indefatigable secretary Annie Eyre – and hundreds of Companions around the country.

To find out more about COM visit www.orderofmalta.org.uk/companions/



NEW Orders of St John Care home in Cotswolds

The tranquil environment enhances quality of life – a specialist home environment. The new home joins the 69 Homes already run by the Orders of St John Care Trust. It offers round the clock care and support for 64 residents living with dementia.

Chairman Don Wood, in welcoming HRH The Princess Royal to inaugurate the Lakes Care Centre on 20 July, explained that the specialist home environment has been designed specifically to enhance the quality of life for those with dementia, and that it incorporates a number of features to promote reminiscence as therapy. The OSJCT has 4500 staff caring for 4000 residents in its homes in four counties: Lincolnshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.



SUMMER 2017

ACTIONS AROUND THE ORDER WORLD



SYRIA

Syria is in its fifth year of civil war. Malteser International, the Order's worldwide relief agency, has been working to provide aid to the people since 2012. Janine Lietmeyer, Malteser International's Middle East Manager: "The border between Syria and Turkey is closed in both directions. The people there have to assume that they will need to remain on the Syrian side of the border. So that at least a basic level of medical care is available, we have deployed two mobile clinics to the camps that have sprung up along the border since February. These mobile solutions are especially important in a warzone with permanently moving fronts."

SINGAPORE

'Seize every moment!' – Theme for the Singapore Association's first camp for young disabled (aged 18 to 30), held in June. Sixty guests – from Australia, Hong Kong, Philippines and Thailand, and from Singapore itself – were each accompanied by an Order volunteer, there to help, give support and participate in the fun. The camp joins the tradition of the Order's camps for young disabled, now 32 years old.



FRANCE



Ordre de Malte France celebrates its 90th year of service this year. But without fanfare: as there is still has a long way to go to make the world more aware of social exclusion and inequalities. Current projects span care for the homeless, the elderly, the disabled. A special treat, now in its seventh year, for handicapped guests is a spin at the Linas-Montlhéry motor racing circuit – in vintage cars. 75 drivers, together with 100 volunteers – medical aiders, carers, marshals on the track – create a day of speed, daring and sheer fun for 100 excited guests.

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

Cooperation Agreements with other States set out general frameworks for promoting humanitarian and healthcare. The most recent:

- **Indian Ocean Commission**

Signed in July: A Cooperation Agreement in the field of health and medical assistance signed in the Magistral Palace between the Sovereign Order and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). The Sovereign Order of Malta has been an Observer Member at the Indian Ocean Commission since March 2017. Established in 1982, the Commission is composed of five African Indian Ocean nations: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion (an overseas region of France) and the Seychelles.

- **Costa Rica**

Signed in July: A Cooperation Agreement signed between the Republic of Costa Rica and the Sovereign Order of Malta, has set out a general framework and strategy for promoting the humanitarian and healthcare actions of the Order in Costa Rica. Both parties agree to support and implement measures for facilitating, developing and diversifying their social, humanitarian and health cooperation, with particular emphasis on the areas of healthcare, food security, voluntary services and disaster risk reduction.

ITALY



Newly curated Visitors Centre for the Order opens in Grand Magistry, Rome

Since 19 June, the new Visitors Centre has been welcoming all comers. The Centre has been curated to show a pictorial history of the Order, and to display information and images for the activities the Order carries out in over a hundred countries around the world.

Collectors' corner

New: you can now buy the Order's stamps and coins in the Centre, as well as many Order publications in a number of languages. Location: entry on Via Bocca di Leone 73, Rome 00187.