

# 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:**  
Crisis at the Border  
Human trafficking  
Fighting isolation



[www.orderofmalta.org.uk](http://www.orderofmalta.org.uk)

Summer 2019

# In brief...

## KEY DATES 2019

### MEETINGS

**29 Aug: Grand Priory of England Chapter**  
5.30pm (followed by Mass at 6.30pm)  
Our Lady of the Assumption & St Gregory, Warwick St.

**14 Oct: General Assembly**  
5.00pm (followed by Mass, 7.00pm)  
St James's Spanish Place Rectory

**19 Nov: Council and Chapter**  
5.30pm (followed by Mass, 6.30pm)  
Our Lady of the Assumption & St Gregory, Warwick St.

**17 July, 18 Sept, 20 Nov:**  
**British Association Council Meetings**  
Craigmyle House at 5.00pm unless otherwise notified

### EVENTS

**27-28 July: Pilgrimage and Recollection (Durham)**

**3-10 Aug: International Holiday Camp (Germany)**

**22-25 Aug: Annual Retreat (Professed)**  
(Farnborough Abbey)

**13-15 Sept: Walsingham Pilgrimage**

**28 Sept: Day of Recollection** (Wardour Castle)

**4 Oct: British Association Annual Dinner** (Boodles)

**26 Oct: Day of Recollection** (Warwick Street)

**7 Nov: Scottish annual requiem**  
(St Margaret's Chapel, Edinburgh) 7pm

**11 Nov: Annual requiem** (Warwick Street) 6.30pm

**23 Nov: Day of Recollection** (Yarlington)

**29 Nov: Day of Recollection** (Harvington Hall)

**11 Dec: Companions Carol Service**  
(St James's Spanish Place) 7pm

**17 Dec: Advent Evening of Recollection**  
(Warwick Street) 6:30pm

### The driving Force

Caroline de la Force:  
our stalwart Secretariat.  
Whenever and whatever is  
needed, she is on the case!  
The Order salutes you,  
Caroline.



**Editor Philippa Leslie**  
© BASMOM 2019  
Craigmyle House  
13 Deodar Road  
London SW15 2NP  
Tel: 020 7286 1414  
Fax: 020 7286 3243  
**e:** basmom@btconnect.com  
**w:** www.orderofmalta.org.uk

### Cardinal Sardi



The Order mourns Cardinal Paolo Sardi who has died in Rome. His Eminence was the Order's Cardinal Patronus 2009-2014. A man of deep wisdom and kindness, he served with great distinction.

### Shrine of Our Lady

Every Tuesday evening at 6.15pm members and friends recite the Rosary together at the Shrine of Our Lady of Warwick Street. Prayers are especially for the homeless of London and the conversion of England. You are most welcome to join in.

Built between 1789 and 1790 to the designs of Joseph Bonomi the Elder, the Grade II listed building is the only surviving eighteenth century Roman Catholic chapel in London. The parish is now part of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.

The Companions' Breakfast Club, which is held in the crypt in Warwick Street has recently celebrated its 2nd anniversary.



**Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Gregory,  
10 Warwick Street, Soho,  
London W1B 5LZ.**

### Colin's triumph

Every other month, members of the Order and of the Companions organise a 'tea and company' afternoon for the elderly in central London. The happy event is accompanied by a splendid musical contribution: our talented pianist and the whole group singing with gusto.

The most recent occasion was delighted with the added pleasure of being serenaded by Chelsea Pensioner Colin Thackery, 89.

Not only did he wow his audience – some of whom got up to dance – but he has just won 'Britain's got talent'. He plans to give his prize money to the Chelsea Hospital. Congratulations from all your many fans, Colin!



Colin Thackery

### White Knights Ball

The OMV's (Order of Malta Young Volunteers) largest annual fundraiser is the White Knights Ball, held every January at Grosvenor House Hotel, central London. The black tie event attracts a thousand guests who enjoy the festivities, whilst donating to support the OMV's work for disabled adults and children. This year, over £88,000 was raised.

For more information:  
[www.omv.org.uk](http://www.omv.org.uk);  
[www.whiteknightsball.org.uk](http://www.whiteknightsball.org.uk)

# Hospitaller

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

## Contents

### IN THIS ISSUE



**4 Human trafficking**  
Ambassador Michel Veuthey launches an awareness campaign

**5 Crisis at the border**  
An appeal from the Venezuelan Association

**6 Flight2Hope**  
Jonathan Elwes on an inspirational project



**7 Emergency teams on the front line**  
Malteser International around the world



**8 Ten years of service**  
Fra' Duncan Gallie and Simon Grenfell reflect...

**10 Pilgrimage**  
From Lourdes to Walsingham

**12 Reworking lives**  
The Nehemiah Project gives addicts a second chance



**13 Companions update**  
Paul Letman reports from around the country

**13 Fighting isolation**  
Volunteer Amy MacKenzie at the London soup kitchen

**15 Support at home and abroad**  
Hospitaller James Pavey reviews

**14 ...and lang may yoor lums reek"**  
Companions in Scotland

**15 Matching the need**  
The work of the Global Fund for Forgotten People

**16 Stop Press**  
News from around the Order's world

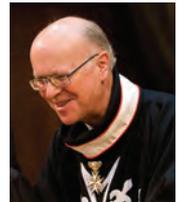


**Cover photo:** Refugees from Venezuela.  
©Florian Knopp/Malteser International

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

## From the President

Dear Members and Friends



A busy half year has kept us on our toes! It is very encouraging to see so much action around the country on behalf of the Order and the Companions, and our friends and volunteers, for those less fortunate in society.

The statistics of our work make good reading: In London the Breakfast Club welcomes 38-40 guests each Wednesday, serving a hot full English breakfast; there is a bi-monthly tea party for elderly lonely - 30 guests and a slap-up tea cooked by our members and volunteers; the soup kitchens 'Companions Cafes' - on Mondays have 50-75 people in the food queue and on Thursdays, 85-110 guests sit down to soup, pasta, salads, cakes and fruit. And that's just London. Add to that our projects in Oxford, Cambridge, Colchester, St Andrews, Scotland, all thriving, and our 70 care Homes, which continue to receive high praise for the quality of their care. The young - OMV - carry on the proud tradition, with splendid works (Lourdes, Walsingham, the Easter retreat) to help those in need, supported by their very successful fundraising.

All of this and more you will read about in the pages of this edition of the Hospitaller. As our work at home goes from strength to strength, we are proud to be a part of the international Order, present in 120 countries, and working in many hundreds of projects to help those in great need, inspired everywhere by our mission: *tuitio fidei, obsequium pauperum*.

In thanking you all, I wish to mark especially the wonderful work and dedication of our retiring Vice President, Patricia Talbot. She has been a mainstay for the Dames, offering wisdom and advice when needed, providing encouragement, and since first going to Lourdes in 1958, approaching all her work for the Order with devotion and commitment. We are fortunate that she will continue to lend these talents to the Advisory Panel.

A special salute to our retiring Grand Prior, Fra' Ian Scott, who has worked hard to ensure that members of the Order understand the role of the Grand Priory, and that of the First Class. He has brought the work of the Order to the attention of the senior clergy of this country. We wish him a very happy retirement.

Lastly, Nicolas Reuttner, who has stepped down as head of the Foreign Aid Service. His work over many years has ensured that wise sponsorship has been able to help many Order projects abroad, due to his energetic annual fundraising and dedication. Our best wishes for him and his family in their exciting move to Germany.

Once again, it is your commitment and your work which make the Order the force for good that it is.

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



# Human trafficking

**Targeting prevention, protection and prosecution**

**An awareness campaign backed by action**

Recognising the growing scourge of human trafficking, in 2017 the Order appointed an ambassador, Prof. Michel Veuthey, who is based in Geneva, with the task of monitoring and combating trafficking in human beings.

## Developing a strategy to abolish slavery

Since then, the Ambassador has been developing a network of partners, from the Order's own Associations, the Church and other faith-based institutions. Dialogues with potential partners include the Holy See, the UN system, the European Union, governments, international organisations and NGOs and academic circles. The aim is to create awareness and develop a strategy together to abolish contemporary slavery, targeting prevention, protection and prosecution.

2018 was a crucial year for human rights, with the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the adoption of the Global Compact for Migrants (GCM) and the Global Compact for Refugees (GCC). Both Covenants refer to trafficking in persons.

Following an appeal from the Order's Grand Chancellor to create a strategic action plan, Ambassador Veuthey has worked to effect a number of key initiatives over the last two years, building

up knowledge around trafficking, establishing operational contacts, and participating in events on trafficking in human beings in Geneva, New York, Rome, Lucerne, Paris, Sainte-Garde (France), and San Remo (Italy).

## Awareness campaign launches in Switzerland

The Swiss Association is the first to launch an awareness campaign, which is managed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). From this summer, it is supporting an awareness-raising bus against trafficking in human beings. Starting in Fribourg, it will travel to all the main cities of Switzerland, bearing the anti-trafficking slogan: "Die Schweiz gegen Menschenhandel", "La Suisse contre la traite des êtres humains", "La Svizzera contro la tratta di esseri umani". It is scheduled to be in Geneva on 18 October for European Day Against Trafficking in Human Beings.

**For more information:**  
[www.christusliberat.org](http://www.christusliberat.org)  
[www.missionorderofmalta.org](http://www.missionorderofmalta.org)



Reports from Venezuela continue to alarm, with both IOM and the UNHCR publishing disturbing statistics last month: 'Refugees and migrants from Venezuela top four million' \*.

The report, published 6 June: 'From 646,134 at the end of 2015, the number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela had skyrocketed to 3,929,560 by mid-2019, according to data from national immigration authorities and other sources. In just seven months since November 2018, the number of refugees and migrants increased by one million.' Alongside this mass exodus are those who remain, who for whatever reasons cannot leave the country. Their plight is deplorable.

#### **With your help we can prevail**

The Order's Association in Venezuela is providing what support it can. The Chancellor appeals: 'For Venezuela, this moment is a disaster – a political, economic, social, health disaster. There is a collapse of every institution relating to health, there are no medicines, no food. Even the health professionals have left the country. There's no water, no

# Crisis at the border

## **An appeal from M. Raphael Abreu, Chancellor, Venezuelan Association**

electricity. Many diseases have returned: diphtheria, TB, HIV, malaria (100,000 in 2010 to a million today), infant mortality has risen 50% since 2010. The Order has helped us, especially for two hospitals. But there's no available surgery or pathology. There are dangerous bacterial infections. We are dying. With your help, we can prevail.' The Order's Prelate, Mons. Laffitte: 'This is a shocking report. We are deeply united with you.'

Hungary is taking hundreds of Venezuelan refugees with Hungarian ancestry, with the help of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta. Several thousands of Hungarians are thought to have emigrated to Venezuela after the Second World War.

#### **Aiming to prevent a humanitarian crisis**

With over a million refugees now in Colombia, Malteser International, the Order of Malta's worldwide relief service, is providing emergency support along the Colombian-Venezuelan border in northern La Guajira. The aim is to prevent a further humanitarian crisis in the area, which is already impoverished. The end is not in sight.

Our confreres in Venezuela and Colombia badly need our help.

*\*UN News, 7 June 2019/ Migrants and Refugees*

#### **FIND OUT MORE**

**For more information visit [www.malteser-international.org](http://www.malteser-international.org); [www.orderofmalta.org/disaster/refugee-relief-in-colombia](http://www.orderofmalta.org/disaster/refugee-relief-in-colombia)**



# A message of hope above the Holy Land

**Jonathan Elwes on Mark Coreth's inspirational Flight2Hope project**

The vision of the 'Flight2Hope' was to fly with people of different faiths in harmony with nature, moving freely over religious and political borders, alongside swifts which migrate in huge numbers along the Jordan Valley.

Sculptor Mark Coreth invited eight pilots to fly the 5,000 mile round trip from England. The 'Flight2Hope' itself started from a desert strip near Eilat; the first three aircraft carried nine people, three from each of the Abrahamic faiths. Our flight culminated with a magical circuit around Jerusalem.

It was an extraordinary achievement to secure permission for this flight at a time of high tension in the region. The flight carved a message of hope and mutual respect in the air above the Holy Land.

Mark Coreth: The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital

commissioned me to create a sculpture for the hospital garden in Muristan, in the Old City of Jerusalem, where the Order of Malta maternity hospital and the Order of St John's eye hospital together serve people of all nations and religions.

The work was to tell the history of Jerusalem, to fly over and above the historic issues of Jerusalem itself and spread a message of hope. Jerusalem is as important to the Jewish faith as it is to Christianity and Islam – the Abrahamic Faiths. So the work would demonstrate hope and unity amongst people, 'opening the eyes' in the same way as the Order of St John offer sight in their hospital.

The ancient olive tree is a perfect symbol of the walls of Jerusalem. So I decided to mould an Olive Tree in Tantour, a garden belonging to the Order of Malta.



The sculpture was funded by a Canadian Jew, for a Christian Order that works predominantly for the Palestinians. The tree was moulded and cast by members of each of the Abrahamic Faiths.

## **The swift becomes a prayer flag of hope**

The canopy of my sculpture is made of bronze swifts. The swift migrates to Jerusalem and nests in buildings of all the Faiths. The swift was to be my prayer flag of hope and mutual respect between the Faiths. I have been placing bronze swifts all around the world as prayer flags of mutual respect.

## **The ultimate goal: circling Jerusalem**

Flight2Hope took place on 2nd April 2019. With determination and a helping hand from on high we flew up the Jordan Valley, landed at Masada, the lowest point on Earth, through the Holy Land, crossing into Jordan and on towards Amman before achieving the ultimate goal of circling Jerusalem.



Venezuela : Florian Knopp/ Malteser International



Venezuela: Florian Knopp/ Malteser International



Myanmar: Jana Aßenbrennerová/Malteser International

# Emergency teams tackle front line problems

The Order's international emergency service, Malteser International, is there when conflicts and disasters, natural or manmade, occur. Currently in 30 countries, they run more than 100 projects to help those in great need. For more information: [www.malteser-international.org](http://www.malteser-international.org)



Uganda: Nyokabi Kahura/Malteser International



Venezuela: Florian Knopp/ Malteser International



Iraq: Malteser International



Venezuela: Florian Knopp/ Malteser International

# Ten years of service

Fra' Duncan Gallie and Simon Grenfell look back on their decade of service on the Order's Sovereign and Government Councils...



Left: L'Aquila earthquake; above: Our Lady of Guadalupe cathedral



## Fra' Duncan Gallie reflects on... a wonderful vocation

I look back on these last 10 years with great appreciation for the opportunity to be a member of the governing body of our Order and to learn about and be a part of its inner workings. It was also a privilege to see wonderful examples of our hospitaller vocation that I would not otherwise have experienced: it is one thing to read about our work in the excellent Activity Report which is produced every other year, but it is another to

actually participate and experience it at first hand.

The events which stand out all include experiencing how our vocation as hospitallers is lived in various countries and circumstances.

### **L'Aquila earthquake, central Italy**

On 6 April 2009 I was woken in Rome at 03.37 by earth tremors and the sounds of alarms and objects crashing about in the streets. At breakfast, the Grand Master found a report on his plate: the Order's Italian Emergency Service [CISOM] had already set up a field hospital in the Cathedral square in L'Aquila and at 06.00 had performed their first operations.

Some weeks later, in L'Aquila, we visited two camps for 900 people whose homes had been destroyed. All were in tents, with the Order providing medical care and food. One tent was a chapel, with a medieval statue of Our Lady above the makeshift altar, rescued from a destroyed church. A young girl

presented the Grand Master with a poem she had written to thank the Order for the love, care and attention. Last year I visited L'Aquila again. Much restoration has been completed. But there is still a great deal to do.

### **Visit to the works of the Mexican Association**

The Grand Master and Sovereign Council were hosted by the Mexican Association in October 2013.

The main religious event was the Saturday Pilgrimage Mass in the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe with about 10,000 pilgrims. Afterwards an estimated 4,000 were given lunch. The Grand Master met the Dame of the Order responsible for it, and gave her the Pro-Merito Melitense decoration in recognition of her work. It was subsequently revealed that not only was she the chief cook, but she had also paid for the whole lunch.

We visited a number of hospitaller projects: support for mothers with few resources; a care home for the elderly, and an energetic display of traditional Mexican dancing; in a run-down area, a school for 130 children whose parents are serving gaol sentences. A former pupil told with emotion of the wonderful start here,

in what would otherwise have been a bleak and uncertain life; the 'Help me Grow' project in a village 60 miles away combats malnutrition in poor children. 2,000 youngsters in three communities have benefited; during lunch another display of traditional dancing, with some of us persuaded to take part!

**The St Petersburg projects**

On official visit to St Petersburg in September 2015, the Grand Master inaugurated a Hermitage Museum exhibition of objects connected with the period when Czar Paul 1<sup>st</sup> gave protection to the Order after the fall of Malta. We also visited a range of

hospitaller activities. The Order has diplomatic relations with the Russian Federation, and the Ambassador, together with great support from the Volunteer Corps of the Order of Malta in St Petersburg, has initiated projects in various parts of Russia. In St Petersburg we inspected a mobile health and social centre providing medical care, food and clothing for the poor, while a soup kitchen serves weekly meals for over 400 and offers transport for disabled elderly and homeless.

**Hospitaller work in Rome**

Members of the Grand Priory of Rome, plus many volunteers, help

the huge number of migrants and homeless, at Rome's two main stations, with soup kitchens for up to 1000 migrants weekly. Whenever I could, I participated on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We were usually joined by a Vatican contingent bringing large quantities of clothing, food and soup to add to that provided by the Order, and led by Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the Pope's Almoner, responsible for distributing aid to the needy on his behalf.

Fra' Duncan Gallie  
Grand Cross Knight of Justice  
in Solemn Vows

To my surprise, in early 2009 I was asked to stand for election to the Order's Government Council, the Order's senior advisory body to the Sovereign Council. I said 'yes, of course' and let the Holy Spirit take over.

Duly elected at the Chapter general of 2009, I was thrown in the deep end. Fausto Solaro was Vice President and immediately started revamping the mission of the Government Council – making it responsible both for special projects and visitations to Associations – effectively a bridge between the centre and the activities in the field. This move was, like most things, met with some doubts but was soon embraced, and the fruit of the work is now seen across the Order.

In 2014 I was fortunate to be re-elected, this time the Vice Presidency being taken over by Juan O'Nagten, who carried the mission forward with drive, organisation and joy.

Any article is too short to talk about all the wonderful things I have seen while on the Council. But some really stand out. Watching our Asia Pacific organisation grow (the area I was responsible for) and form the deep inter-regional relationships that are now solidly established has been great. The Lourdes Day Masses in Singapore (with over 12,000 attendees), the annual Asia Pacific Conferences and the Asia Pacific Youth Camp are all examples of the region's progress. On top of that, the new Association in Hong Kong and

# An honour to serve

## Simon Grenfell reviews his ten years on the Order's Government Council

hopefully soon South Korea attest to the global growth of the Order's charism.

**Face to face with the Order's amazing work**

In addition, some of the special projects have been fun (and some less so!). Being Magistral Delegate in Ireland was a tough mission but brought me face to face with the amazing work done by the Irish Ambulance Corps, as well as their other major hospitaller works. I was fortunate to work on the House for the Professed project with Fra' Duncan Gallie (under the instruction of Grand Master Fra' Matthew and the Sovereign Council). In that project we went around Rome talking to dicasteries to try and find a novice house in the city. We met Archbishops Sarah and Calcagno in their previous roles – little did we know they were soon to be elevated to the sacred purple!

My fondest memory of the Government Council, however, was the deep friendship of the members, rooted in prayer. I think the Government Council was always known as the happy council, but particularly when led by Fra' Jean-

Louis Mainguy we were always placing what we did in prayer (including praying the Office together). After Vespers we would almost always finish with the obligatory Chivas led from the front by Juan!

It has been an honour to serve the Order for these 10 years. The most important lesson I have learned is that while service to the Order at any level often comes with a cross, it always comes with a grace as well.



*'Any article will be too short to talk about all the wonderful things that I have seen while on the Council'*



# The spirit and tradition of pilgrimage

For the Order of Malta, the spirit of pilgrimage dates from its foundation in 1048. The hospital in Jerusalem was set up for this purpose. For centuries the Order has run hostels and first aid posts all over Europe to offer shelter and food to pilgrims. Allied to this is the mission to care for the poor and the sick - Order pilgrimages always include accompanying the sick, a sharing of love and care for those who need help. It is a mission which distinguishes every pilgrimage. It is a life-giving experience. Every year, members of the Order make pilgrimages to venerated shrines around the world, together with their sick and handicapped guests. The Order in Britain follows this tradition with devotion. In 2019:

**Lourdes: 3-7 May**

The British Association has been participating for over 60 years, coming to the grotto and spring where

the young Bernadette saw the vision of the Virgin, a site where over the years, many miraculous cures have since occurred. This year the Association brought, among its 255-strong contingent, 55 malades, 8 clergy, 14 medical personnel, and 40 young volunteers from the Order of Malta Volunteers (OMV).

**St Margaret's pilgrimage, Dunfermline: 2 June**

The annual pilgrimage, recently revived by His Grace Archbishop Leo Cushley, British Association Chaplain 'ad honorem', has become a very successful annual event, with large numbers of people travelling from all over Scotland to attend. Members of the Order and the Companions took part in the Procession and attended the Mass. St Margaret is a patron saint of Scotland and the Pilgrimage was a major event in Scotland before the Reformation.

*Processing in Lourdes; Philip Somers paints his impressions; Vice President Patricia Talbot with Emily Hunter*

**Durham: 26-28 July**

In honour of the Northern Saints, the visit is to Durham Cathedral, which shelters the shrines of St Cuthbert and St Bede. The pilgrimage also honours Blessed Thomas Plumtree, chief chaplain of the 'Rising of the North' who celebrated Mass in the Cathedral on 4th December 1569 and was martyred in the market place on 4th January 1570.

**Walsingham: 13-15 September**

This is the main event where the various bodies of the Order in the UK come together as one: the British Association, the Grand Priory, the Companions and the OMV. The Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham was established in 1061 when lady of the manor Richeldis de Faverches prayed to the Virgin, who asked her to build a replica of the house where the Annunciation had taken place, so that pilgrims could participate there in the joy of the Annunciation. Walsingham became one of the greatest Shrines in Medieval Christendom and is one of the oldest international Marian Shrines.

Having now completed three years in this role, I know something about what is involved, I know some of the pinch-points and I know what brings me the greatest pleasure. At its heart, it is a secretarial job which requires good computer skills, an ability to fold seemingly endless bits of paper into envelopes and to deal with lots of emails and phone calls efficiently and quickly.

One of the most important and challenging tasks is finding new Hospital Pilgrims to come with us each year. It is a competitive market place and we are up against diocesan and parish pilgrimages where all the helpers and guests are likely to be more familiar with each other; in our case a first time with the Knights can be a step into the unknown. I rely heavily on word-of-mouth recommendations which are reassuring both for us and the new pilgrim. I encourage all members of the Order and the Companions to be alert to potential new pilgrims and pass me their details if they show interest.

**The importance of the shepherding process**

The task becomes more frenetic as we get closer to our departure date. I have to pay particular thanks to the Head Nurses, first Denise Fingleton and this year, Kim O'Connor, who



play a vital part in the pre-pilgrimage selection and shepherding processes.

Our first time pilgrims usually require comforting, reassurance, reminding and guidance as we approach our departure date – even ringing me on the day with regular updates on their journey to Stansted.

Just as you think you have filled the roster for the pilgrimage, which is usually 55-60 Hospital Pilgrims depending on which ward we have been allocated, there will be last minute changes: people pull out due to illness, or unexpected demands at home can mean plans change, and even the lack of a passport can throw a spanner in the works! The last fortnight can be a juggling game bringing people off the reserve list to help us make our numbers!

# A juggling game...

**Duncan McKechnie outlines the fun – and the challenges – of being secretary to the Hospital Pilgrims**

**The joy of the conduit!**

Yet, throughout it all, it is the sheer pleasure of dealing with our Hospital Pilgrims and their families and carers, both before and after the Pilgrimage, which makes all the effort worthwhile. The appreciation for the work we do is palpable and although I am sometimes thanked for things I have played only a small part in, such as “organising the pilgrimage”, I know that the praise and thanks are not just for me but for the whole team involved in putting the Annual Pilgrimage together. I just love being the conduit!

**FIND OUT MORE**

• e: [secretarytohospitalpilgrims@gmail.com](mailto:secretarytohospitalpilgrims@gmail.com)

## A traditional Order auberge for pilgrims

**Padraig Phelan describes the new hostel in Knock, Ireland’s Marian shrine**

Every year over one and half million pilgrims visit the Knock Shrine in County Mayo. A site of prayer and worship, they come seeking peace, consolation, healing.

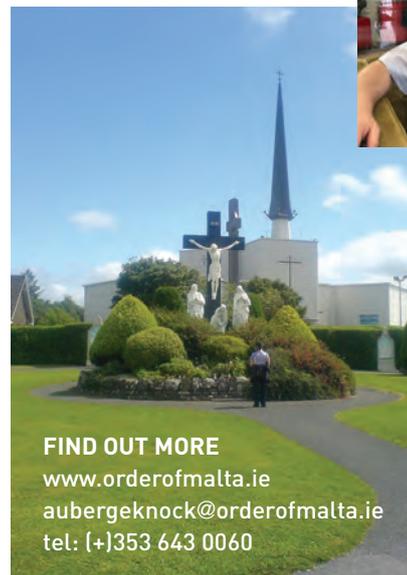
The story of this major Marian shrine dates back to 21 August 1879, when a group from the local village saw a light coming from the parish church. Making their way there, they witnessed an apparition of Our Lady, St Joseph, St John the Evangelist, a lamb and cross, on the outside gable wall. Standing in the dark, in pouring rain, they watched the vision for two hours, as the wall and the images remained completely dry. Following the apparition,

miraculous cures were reported.

John Paul visited the shrine in 1979, and almost 20 years later, in August 2018 Pope Francis came there to pray with thousands of pilgrims.

**An invitation**

Busiest times for the shrine are between April and October and demand for accommodation is high. In its tradition of care for pilgrims throughout the centuries, the Order of Malta has established an Auberge in Knock, ‘St John Paul II House’ – and a warm Irish welcome. The Auberge has 23 bedrooms, a dining room and meeting rooms and is open to the public.



Paul Cowan

**FIND OUT MORE**

[www.orderofmalta.ie](http://www.orderofmalta.ie)  
[aubergeknock@orderofmalta.ie](mailto:aubergeknock@orderofmalta.ie)  
 tel: (+)353 643 0060

# Reworking lives: The Nehemiah Project

The Nehemiah Project, with the Order of Malta, launches a new residential home giving addicts a second chance



On 13 June His Grace the Archbishop of Southwark, the Most Reverend Peter Smith, attended the opening of Croydon House, a project run by Nehemiah\*, a Christian-based charity focussed on rehabilitation of addicts most of whom are prisoners or exoffenders. The project is sponsored by the Order of Malta. Also present for the occasion were members of the Order of Malta, together with the project's sponsors and representatives of the fundraising arm of the Order, the Global Fund for Forgotten People.

## Rebuilding lives

The Nehemiah Project is a centre of excellence for rehabilitating men from addiction and crime, through the transformation of their lives, so that they become fulfilled, valuable members of the community. It

has now opened a second London residential home. Under the auspices of the Order of Malta, this is a 'second primary house', from where graduates can then progress into tertiary accommodation as the residents continue to grow in independence.

## Making informed choices

The Project provides support with programmes which provide structure and a supportive environment where men can address the root causes of their addiction, and learn to make informed choices about their lives. The residents' backgrounds often include having been in care, homelessness and prison, and becoming marginalised as the result of addiction.

The Nehemiah Project has been providing support for over 20 years in south London, but is open to men from anywhere in the UK. The most important element in the treatment is the genuine desire to change.

## The Order of Malta and prison ministry

The Order of Malta, recognising the needs of this socially marginalised category, has been developing prison ministry programmes in a number of countries, most particularly in the United States and Canada.

The Order works with prisoners, ex-offenders and their families and promotes awareness of the hardships encountered – mental and physical health, employment prospects, finances. In some American States, Order volunteers reach out to those on death row.

Assistance often starts with a visit to an inmate: 'I was in prison and you visited me.' (Matthew, 25:37). The programme aims to build a community of support, through a holistic approach to rehabilitation and integration back into the community.

*\* Nehemiah means 'comfort' in Hebrew. In the Book of Nehemiah in the Old Testament he was a leader of the Jews who was responsible for the rebuilding of Jerusalem (5<sup>th</sup> century BC), after it was destroyed by the Babylonians. The destruction of Jerusalem's walls left its people exposed to great trouble and shame. The rebuilding revealed God's blessing, served as a sign to Israel's enemies, and showed God was with His people. Nehemiah stands as a testament to faithfulness and perseverance.*

## FIND OUT MORE

- [www.ordermaltaamerican.org/prison-ministry](http://www.ordermaltaamerican.org/prison-ministry)
- [www.orderofmaltafederal.org/prison-ministry](http://www.orderofmaltafederal.org/prison-ministry)



Langford View, Oxfordshire

# Given with joy

The Orders of St John Homes Care Trust helps residents to live well

The Trust currently runs 70 care homes and 16 accommodation schemes providing support and housing to residents and tenants across Lincolnshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, West Sussex and Suffolk. Whilst expert care centres on dementia – helping residents to live well, that same care is given with joy to all 3,500 residents in the care homes. Focus on quality

is key: and each year the Earl of Gainsborough Award for Quality, which recognises excellence in all aspects of care delivery, is presented to outstanding care members in the Homes. The latest award was presented by his daughter, Celestria Hales, who was very impressed with the prize winning Homes (Langford View, Bicester and Marston Court, Oxford) and their work.

On most days of the week, an activity of the Companions of the Order of Malta is underway in some part of the country, reaching out to the lonely or the homeless. The 2019 focus is on fighting isolation and from south to north and west to east, our teams are involved in helping where help is needed. There are soup kitchens, tea parties, home visits, visits to the residents in the Order's OSJCT care homes.

**Action in projects at home**

Key projects include soup kitchens for the homeless in London on Mondays and Thursdays, a breakfast club on Wednesdays, a tea party for the elderly every other month; in Colchester, welcoming lunches on Wednesdays; in Northumbria regular tea parties on Wednesdays; in Oxford, a drop-in



# Reaching out

Paul Letman, President, Companions of the Order, reports on a full year of activities

shower project and a soup run in term time; aid on Monday evenings in Cirencester for a local soup kitchen, and support for four of our OSJCT care homes in Gloucestershire – with a call for more volunteers to visit residents; Christmas parcels distributed to the needy in Cambridge; a Thursday soup kitchen at the Mercy Project in Edinburgh; support for a social club in Coatbridge; in St Andrews, Saturday soup kitchen volunteers at Lochee. So – lots going on, and thanks to the support of our now more than 600 volunteers,

enthusiasm and commitment are both high on the aid schedules. They have clocked up over 11,000 volunteer hours in the last 12 months. Bravo!

**Support for projects abroad**

**Fundraising:** the sell-out attendance at our Christmas Carol Concert in December means we can continue to support poor Christian families in Bethlehem. Additionally, some of the proceeds were donated to the Holy Family Hospital, Bethlehem and to support the Order's projects in Lebanon.

The team at the soup kitchen is like a family. There is an enormous variety of ages from 17 to late 80s. We all care about each others' lives and their week, with the ups and downs that we all have. This also extends to the guests, and they too refer to us as their family. When one guest was evicted from his flat, he didn't know where to turn and said "I felt I should be with my family, so I came here". Another, who had been coming regularly when I first started needed to return having lost his home and job. He was overtly emotional when he walked through the doors, for the first time in two years, and we welcomed him with his Christian name, as if he had been there last week.

**A unique, supportive relationship**

Since helping at the soup kitchen, I have learned so much about the Companions' approach to the homeless and why it is so important. Firstly, the homeless people who come are always referred to as 'guests'. The tables are set up with napkins and tablecloths, and the guests use glasses, china plates and metal cutlery. It may seem obvious that they would have this but our guests comment that it is such a treat to not be eating off paper and drinking out of polystyrene cups. We are encouraged to sit down and chat with our guests throughout the evening. We become familiar with their lives which makes



the supportive relationship that we have built unique. Initially, I found this daunting and was not sure what to talk about, but the team of regular volunteers are helpful and happy to assist volunteers as well as guests.

**How the buddy system works**

When first time volunteers come, there is a buddy system where Kate will pair a first timer with an experienced helper, usually matched how she thinks they will get on, whether age, profession or interests. The atmosphere that the volunteers create in the room is such a welcoming one for all.

**Help includes practical services**

It is important to note that people who are homeless do not just need food. The other services that are offered at the soup kitchen have become a key feature to the evenings. We offer entertainment, such as pianists and a brass ensemble, as well as more practical services like a

# Fighting isolation

The London soup kitchen team, and the guests, are like a family, says volunteer Amy MacKenzie

hairdresser, podiatrist and GP. We also sometimes have themed evenings, a lot of them requested by guests, such as St Patrick's Day. These add variety to the guests' week, with different food, a decorated room and often a gift to take away, for example, a small battery powered candle for All Saints Day, a poppy to wear on Remembrance Day. These small gestures do not always come in the form of an arranged evening. One of our guests requested us to do a round of applause on the first day of spring, as we had all made it through winter – a throwaway comment for so many of us, but which is more real to them, with mortality being a real threat throughout the winter months.

I value the opportunity to volunteer with the Companions in their vital work of 'fighting isolation' in London.

To find out more visit [www.orderofmalta.org.uk/companions](http://www.orderofmalta.org.uk/companions)



# “...and lang may yoor lums reek”\*

The Companions in Scotland are extending their support in a variety of areas. Thomas Fotheringham reports...

Currently three Companions work there, another joining this month, more to follow. The Companions have given the Club a cash grant of £2,000 a year which pays for the food and two annual trips – for example, on 4th January the club took 80 members and their carers to Motherwell to see Aladdin.

The Club is a great facility for members of the community who would otherwise be isolated.

Earlier in the year the Club had a special party: David MacLure and Thomas Stuart Fotheringham, Delegate for the Order and for the Companions, convenor for Scotland, presented the Club with a cheque for £1,000. Liam Hackett, Companion of the Order of Malta responded:

‘Thank you for bringing a lot of joy into these people’s lives. Best wishes to ye all and lang may yoor lums reek.’

## Caithness Family First Aid

The first free First Aid course in 2019 was held in January, with a donation from TeamHOT3D (two local gyms) ensuring room hire for the year. The waiting list for the courses is now 11 months. In May we provided first aid training for foster carers in the Golspie area.

## Befriending

We have seven befriendees, and three levels of befriending:

- Regular – a regular half-hour visit;
- Crisis – a visit requested by a befriendeed, from an hour to a day, until the crisis is over or the befriendeed has other support in place.
- Keep in Touch – the befriendeed is kept in touch via phone, text or a quarterly face to face. Befriendees on K.I.T. treatment can request a crisis visit or regular visits at any time.

At present we have 89 Companions in Scotland, plus about 40 volunteers and a range of activities, including: ‘Friends Together’ club for special needs guests in Coatbridge.

The Companions of Malta ‘Friends Together’ Club in Coatbridge has grown from 30 to 40 people with special needs to 150 in just two years. The Club meets every month for a disco party in the parish club hall.

## Dunfermline Abbey pilgrimage

In the 14th century, a chapel was built in Dunfermline Abbey to honour St Margaret (d.1093, canonised 1251), in the abbey which she had founded and where she is buried. Designated as a shrine, the chapel was visited by pilgrims throughout the medieval period. Many Order members join the annual June pilgrimage to the site and did so again this year.

*Order of Malta pilgrims at Dunfermline*



Liam Hackett

For our Foreign Aid Service (FAS), we are delighted that our global reach will continue under the chairmanship of Françoise Duval, with the annual fundraiser dinner, so that we can respond to appeals for Order intervention through Malteser International and its work to combat natural and manmade crises. The FAS is a vehicle for explaining to the Order family, and beyond, what the Order does worldwide. We have been able to contribute to a wide variety of Order projects across the globe. For example, the Lithuanian Relief Organisation of the Order (as they have no Association or delegation there yet) looks to us as a significant contributor to their works over the years.



## With enthusiasm, energy & devotion

James Pavey, Hospitaller of the British Association of the Order, on our role at home and abroad

Our activities, together with the participation of the OMOV, continue with our pilgrimages to Lourdes, our work at the camp in Chabrouh (Lebanon), and participation in the Order's international summer camps for young disabled. We will also be a part of the Order's international pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November 2020.

In Britain, our pilgrimages to Walsingham and other important shrines with our malades, and our work around the country in so many projects, all continue the help for those in great need – all carried out with enthusiasm, energy and devotion. Thanks where thanks are so deservedly due! Find out more: [www.orderofmalta.org.uk](http://www.orderofmalta.org.uk)

### A record-breaking St. John's Day

This St John's Day, thanks to our generous donors the Fund has awarded more grants to works of the Order than ever before. 42 grants to help vulnerable and marginalised people in 30 countries, from a fledgling safe house for victims of human trafficking in Nigeria and the distribution of basic medicines to refugees in Cyprus, to the provision of food and support to elderly people in Venezuela left behind as others flee the country's economic and political turmoil.

### Working for those most in need: in the UK and worldwide

The scale of these awards is a landmark for the Fund, established by the Grand Magistry in 2012 to raise funds for the Order's humanitarian works around the world. Each year the Fund raises the money it needs to distribute in two grant cycles, providing robust due diligence and global tax-efficiency as well as practical support and advice to help projects grow and develop.

Hundreds of Order works around the world have benefited over the years, including many in the UK. The Nehemiah Project, a residential therapeutic programme for ex-prisoners and addicts in London, demonstrates how the Fund partners with Associations to develop new work. The Fund identified Nehemiah as a partner

## Matching the need

The Order's fundraising body, the Global Fund for Forgotten People, works worldwide

for prison ministry in the UK, and continues to support the engagement with BASMOM volunteers which has been instrumental to the Nehemiah's expansion. The fourth house was established in June 2019, meaning 18 more men each year can receive the intense holistic support they need to break the cycle of crime and addiction.

The Orders of St. John Care Homes, Dial-a-Journey, the works of the Scottish and Oxford Companions, and last year's International Summer Camp in the UK have all received grants from the Fund.

### Hope for the future in Bangkok

Bangkok is home to a desperate population of Christian refugees. Whole families, forced to flee religious persecution in Pakistan, are trapped in Thailand, where they are unable to work or access education or medical care. With support from the Fund, the Order of Malta is helping 180 families, providing vital healthcare and education, whilst they await refugee status and the chance to be resettled.

### Help us to help the forgotten

The Fund's support for vulnerable people around the world relies entirely on the generosity of our donors. Gifts at all levels are welcomed. Donations may be directed to a particular project, region, issue or entity of the Order. Make a gift to mark a special birthday or anniversary and we can source a unique memento from the Order's work for an unforgettable gift that lasts.

The Order continues to meet the needs of forgotten people around the world with love, care and dedication.



### FIND OUT MORE

For more information on applying for a grant, donating, volunteering for or working with the Global Fund for Forgotten People please contact [emily.vanlier@forgottenpeople.org](mailto:emily.vanlier@forgottenpeople.org). Visit [www.forgottenpeople.org](http://www.forgottenpeople.org) to read more about the inspiring works supported.



# SUMMER 2019

## ACTIONS AROUND THE ORDER WORLD

### GRAND MAGISTRY



Every St John's Day, the Grand Master is received in audience by the Pope, updating him on the Order's work around the world for the preceding 12 months. This year, Fra'Giacomo Dalla Torre emphasised the special support given to refugees and migrants and described the Order's active participation in the United Nations' Migration Compact and the focus on raising awareness of human trafficking. His Holiness encouraged the Order to continue its commitment to society's marginalised.

### LEBANON



For over 20 years, the Chabrouh camps in Lebanon have hosted holiday camps for the severely mentally and physically disabled. The aim of the camps is to promote coexistence and solidarity, bringing together volunteers from all over the world to assist physically and mentally challenged individuals, aged from 6 to over 70, and from all religious denominations. During this year 36 camps are scheduled, each a week long, involving 12 delegations of the Order of Malta with volunteers representing 20 nationalities. [www.orderofmaltailebanon.org](http://www.orderofmaltailebanon.org)

### ITALY



An 'extra' for the Order of Malta First Aid Post in Rome: Canine care helps guests' well-being. The Order's First Aid Post in St Peter's Square recently added a care feature that is close to the hearts of the many homeless guests they assist. Many of the guests own dogs which are an important element in their well-being. The veterinary clinic, based in the south of Rome, is staffed by volunteer vets who provide checks, give vaccinations when necessary and implant id chips.

### LITHUANIA



The Order of Malta Relief Organisation in Lithuania, established in 1991, currently has over 1,500 volunteers in 42 locations nationwide. The Lithuanian 'Maltesers' have established child day care centres, youth centres, and clubs for seniors. They provide care for the elderly and the vulnerable, and run awareness campaigns every Christmas. On St John's Day, President Dalia Grybauskaite said: '[the Order of Malta] promotes very important values of mutual understanding, compassion, solidarity and volunteering in societies, especially among young people'. [www.maltieciai.lt](http://www.maltieciai.lt)

### FRANCE



As well as their range of medico-social projects both in France and 26 countries abroad, Ordre de Malte France recorded 10,000 interventions in 2018 to help migrants and refugees, with an emphasis on integrating them into their new community. In 2017 the service celebrated 90 years of support for those in need, and last year they marked the 10-year anniversary of the Fleuron Saint Michel project – two barges on the Seine in Paris where the homeless and the vulnerable can seek shelter and sustenance. [www.ordredemaltefrance.org](http://www.ordredemaltefrance.org)

### CYPRUS

Hector MacDonald is the Principal of the English School, Kyrenia, in Cyprus. He has been working with the students to encourage the importance of care for those in need. All the students are encouraged to be involved in social projects in the area and they are carrying them out in the name of the Order. The focus is on care for sick and orphaned children, and the elderly. Some students visit the Paediatric Oncology Unit in Lefkosia, to keep the hospitalised children company; others have fundraised for the SOS Childrens' Village for orphans. There are visits to the Old Persons Home in Lapta, keeping the residents company, with card games, chats and teas; and at the Cheshire Home in Girne, an enthusiastic group offer gardening and maintenance.

For refugees in need in Nicosia, teams of Sixth Form students collect dry goods and canned food to donate, with 9-10 deliveries planned for each year. They also plan involvement with the UN Imagine Programme for peace and activities in the region.