



The Victor

The Supreme Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

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What's Inside

- Page 2 – Grand Bailiff Message
- Page 3 – The National Trust of Scotland
- Page 4 – St. Cuthbert Convent
- Page 5 – St. Cuthbert Convent Continued
- Page 6 – Saunter At Streamside Cleanup
- Page 7 – Saunter photographs
- Page 8 – How To Wear A Fly Plaid
- Page 8 – Post-nominals
- Page 9 – Raspberry Cranachan Recipe
- Page 10 – Topsy Laird Recipe
- Page 11 – Grand Bailiwick Contacts



Do not pray for an easy life. Pray for the strength to endure a difficult one.

Balgonie Hospitalized



On May 9th, Stuart Morris, Balgonie the Younger, informed the Grand Bailiff that his father, Balgonie, was in the hospital and that he'd been there for quite some time. Balgonie has contracted sepsis which caused a growth in one of the valves of his heart, while another valve was leaking. The latter may require surgery at a later time, but for now, the doctors are concentrating on the sepsis.

Balgonie returned home at the beginning of June and will be confined to the ground floor. The Lundie Hall has been transformed into a sitting room for Balgonie and Stuart is working on the Lairds Hall to improve it as an alternate sitting room.

Please keep our Grand Prior in your prayers.

On another note, Stuart also stated that he has closed the castle except to a couple of groups that hold events there.



H.E. Dame Patricia Tennyson Bell, GCTJ. GMTJ
Grand Bailiff – Grand Bailiwick

Report



I have been in correspondence with Stuart of Balgonie and Eddergoll, who has informed me that our Grand Prior has been in poor health. He was in hospital for at least 2 months, but is home now. He may have to go back into hospital for an operation and I will keep you informed of what transpires. Please remember him and his family in your prayers. His birthday is August 4th.

Things have been somewhat quite over the last few months. I spent March 8 and 9 in Fairfield, CA, working with Chevalier Rick Novosad, our Treasurer. We visited the Bank on two occasions and separately I went over the books with Rick.

In March, I went to Southern California – quick trip- and met with Peggy Ferguson and Nellie Lowry. Peggy is planning to move back to Georgia but did not have a date. As of today, she has moved, but failed to give me her new number and she does not have a computer. If anyone knows her new number and/or address please let me know. I had a great dinner with Nellie and received most of the supply materials. As I flew, I could not take all the supplies back, but will do so this coming November.

I went to the investiture/convent of St. Columba at the end of April in Minneapolis. Four very exceptional postulants became new members. We hope they will become very involved over the next year. Chevalier Robert Buie resigned as Prior after three years. Bob has done a great job but felt it was time to hand over the reins. He will continue to work within the Order. Chevalier R. Neil Johnson took command of the Priory and I know he will be very effective. He is working out his plans which include visits to many areas.

At the end of April, the Commandery of St. Cuthbert's within the Priory of Robert the Bruce held their commandery meeting in Jacksonville, Oregon, just five miles from where I live. Three members of the Privy Council attended as well as myself and the new commander, Chevalier Mark Nelson did a splendid job as this was his first commandery meeting as commander.

At the last Privy Council meeting, it was decided that the stationary used by the Bailiwick and Priors will also be used by commanders and preceptors. All correspondence from the Grand Priory of the Scots will be written on the established stationary for all their correspondence.

Just a reminder, Joe Blaylock has the Scottish Knights Templar tartan and ties and Dan Harrison has the lapel pins. Please contact them if you need to purchase anything.

Allen Cummings is doing a fantastic job running the website and newsletter. He is always in need of articles, pictures and other items for inclusion into his endeavors.

The National Trust of Scotland

Motto: For the love of Scotland

By Chevalier G. Allen Cummings, KCTJ

One of the obligations of a Scottish Knights Templar is to protect the National Culture of Scotland. Because there are many ways in which a Knight or Dame may do so, I wanted to write an article about my membership and involvement with The National Trust for Scotland (NTS).

Of particular note, when the NTS was performing repairs of Robert Burns Cottage a few years back, they placed a plaque in remembrance of my father (by request) for my donation, as they did for many others.

The National Trust for Scotland for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty, commonly known as the National Trust for Scotland (Scottish Gaelic: Urras Nàiseanta na h-Alba) is a Scottish conservation organization. It is the largest membership organization in Scotland and describes itself as "the conservation charity that protects and promotes Scotland's natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations to enjoy". ¹

The Trust owns and manages around 130 properties and 180,000 acres of land, including castles, ancient small dwellings, historic sites, gardens, and remote rural areas. It is similar in function to the National Trust, which covers England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and to other national trusts worldwide. ²

Annual membership of the Trust allows free entry to properties and "Discovery Tickets" are available for shorter term visitors. Membership also provides free entry to National Trust properties in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, and vice versa. The Trust has independent sister organizations in the United States (The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA), and Canada (The Canadian National Trust for Scotland Foundation). The organizations' membership magazine, "Scotland in Trust", is published three times a year.

For the maintenance of its nature properties, the Trust depends on the contributions of volunteers, with local circles of Conservation Volunteers working on projects during weekends. The charity also organizes working holidays called "Thistle Camps" on various properties, with activities undertaken including footpath maintenance and woodland work such as rhododendron control.

Notes

Wikipedia:

¹. "About the Trust". National Trust for Scotland. Archived from the original on 28 February 2013. Retrieved 17 March 2013.

². "Reciprocal entry sites". National Trust for Scotland. Retrieved 17 March 2013.



Saint Cuthbert Annual Formal Commandery Convent

By: Chev. Mark W. Nelson, KTJ

On June 1, 2019 St. Cuthbert held its Commandery Convent in Jacksonville, Oregon at St. Andrew's Anglican Church. There was twenty people in attendance and it was my first Convent as Commander.

The Commandery would like to thank H.E. Dame Patricia Tennyson Bell, GCTJ, GMTJ, our Grand Bailiff for taking time to attend our Convent and securing St. Andrew's Anglican Church for the event. Dame Patricia, also imparted the news and upcoming events for the Grand Bailiwick and Priory of Robert the Bruce. I felt very honored that all but two members of the Privy Council and the American Legatee H.E. Chev. Connall Bell, GCTJ, GMTJ, were in attendance.

During our Convent we discussed the various charities that we have worked with and possible new charities we might be working with in the future. Since we as Knights Templar no longer do battle in Crusades, charitable work is our core focus. According to Chev. Rick Novosad, KTJ, Treasurer of the Grand Bailiwick, mentioned that there was a carryover of about \$825.00 from last year that will be applied to this years' contributions.

There was great news that Chev. Joseph Blaylock, KTJ our Executive Officer was elevated to the rank of Knight Commander. H.E. Dame Patricia Tennyson Bell, GCTJ, GMTJ and Chaplain Chev. Gary Herbold, GOTJ administered the oath of rank. It was well deserved for his work and dedication. Chev. Joseph was very surprised and did not expect this honor.

After all of our business was concluded we closed our Convent, and we all met at the Jacksonville Inn for our Officers Mess. The meal was fantastic and the wine that Chev. Rick Novosad, KTJ supplied made it that much better. With the silent auction and personal donations we collected an amount of \$1035.79. Adding the carryover of \$825 from last year will give us a total of \$1860.79, those funds will be split between Northern California and Oregon.

Chev. Gary Herbold, GOTJ - Chaplain
Chev. J.R. Bigelow, KCTJ - Sword Bearer
Dame Cora Peterson, DTJ - Marshall
Chev. Richard Marsh, KTJ - Sentinal
Dame Donna Hunter, DCTJ - Charity Coordinator

Slainte Mhath and God Bless,
Chev. Mark W. Nelson, KTJ
Commander of St. Cuthbert

Saint Cuthbert Annual Formal Commandery Convent Photographs



Do you know the origin of that word 'saunter?' It's a beautiful word. Away back in the Middle Ages people used to go on pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and when people in the villages through which they passed asked where they were going, they would reply, 'A la sainte terre,' 'To the Holy Land.' And so they became known as sainte-terre-ers or saunterers. Now these mountains are our Holy Land, and we ought to saunter through them reverently, not 'hike' through them.

John Muir, as quoted by Albert W. Palmer, The Mountain Trail and its Message (1911)

Templars Saunter At Streamside Cleanup

by Chev. Todd Wilkinson, KCTJ, BMTJ

Following the advice of the famous Scottish naturalist John Muir, members of the Commandery of the Bon Accord sauntered through Valley Water Mill Park, home of the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, on Saturday, June 1, 2019, picking up trash for our second quarter service project. Eight Knights and Dames roamed the park's hiking trails, the lake as well as a small portion of the nearby Little Dry Sac River, picking up litter and other debris. In addition to a number of golf balls from a near-by golf course, we found everything from single-use water and pop bottles, food wrappers, cigarette butts and even "ghost" fishing line tangled up in the brush along the river.

The Watershed Committee of The Ozarks (WCO) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) whose mission is to sustain and improve the water resources of Springfield and Greene County through education and effective management of the region's watersheds. The WCO's headquarters at Springfield's Valley Water Mill Park is a microcosm of the Ozarks with streams, springs, a lake, caves, sinkholes, and diverse types of terrestrial habitats. Visitors can hike, fish and learn about the distinct Karst topography of the Ozarks and its relation to clean, healthy water.

Stream cleanups are relatively easy to organize; in Missouri, we are fortunate to have Missouri Stream Teams, a "citizen-scientist" volunteer group with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Stream Team provides mesh trash bags and other supplies free of charge to volunteers for cleanups in Missouri. The over 4,000 active stream teams across the state do everything from cleanups to water quality monitoring & sampling, and work with government agencies and non-profit organizations such as WCO and James River Basin Partnership, my employer and the WCO's "sister" organization in Southwest Missouri. Several of us discussed the possibility of Bon Accord forming its own official Stream Team.

If you're looking for a fun service project that will not only benefit the environment, your local community, as well as enjoying a good "saunter" with your fellow Templars, consider organizing a littler cleanup for your Commandery/Preceptory. Check to see if there is a local watershed/conservation organization nearby that you might be able to partner with, select a local stream or park, and then pick a date. We combined our cleanup with a meeting and lunch, for added fellowship! Much like those "saunterers" John Muir spoke of, it's a great way to make your own pilgrimage of sorts. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you might have on how your unit can organize a cleanup.



Streamside Cleanup Photos
Commandery of the Bon Accord



How To Wear A Fly Plaid



Originally the fly plaid formed part of the Great Kilt or Feileadh Mor, using 9 yards of cloth to drape around the body, belted at the waist, with the leftover fabric draped over the shoulder and gathered at the front. Today the Fly Plaid is a separate accessory and our guide explains how to fasten it correctly.

The Kilt has been around since the 16th Century, then more commonly referred to as a Feileadh Mor or the Great Kilt. In those days a Kilt was a long piece of fabric, roughly 9 yards long, that was wrapped around the body and belted at the waist, the fabric left over was then draped over the shoulder and gathered in the belt at the front. However, over time the amount of fabric used in a kilt lessened and so the fabric that was once draped over the shoulder evolved into its own product, now known as the Fly Plaid.

Traditionally a Fly Plaid is worn with a Kilt and either a Prince Charlie Jacket or an Argyll Jacket. The Fly Plaid should be made in a tartan that matches the kilt and is worn draped over the left shoulder pulled through the epaulet of the jacket and pinned in place with a brooch. Our Clan Crest Badges are always a good option. The corner of the Fly Plaid should be pinned in place at breast level and the rest of the cloth should hang down the back of the wearer finishing slightly below the kilt. If the Fly Plaid has been pinned in the correct place it should sit comfortably in place all day, giving the wearer no bother.

While a Fly Plaid is not an essential part of Highland Dress, if you are wearing one it should really only be for formal occasions. Sometimes Fly Plaids can be considered too formal and so it is good practice to contact the organizers of the event you are attending to clarify whether a Fly Plaid would be acceptable dress. Due to this, one should be careful when wearing Fly Plaids as in certain situations they could be deemed inappropriate, for example it would not be acceptable to wear one to a wedding that is not your own as you could be at risk of upstaging the groom - a big no-no. A Fly Plaid can be worn with Tartan Trews but this is not typical formal wear, however it is quite commonly worn as part of a Pipe Band Uniform.

Reference: <https://www.scotlandshop.com>



Titles & Post Nominals

Within the Order, knights will be addressed as Chevaliers and ladies as Dames. Other titles are obsolete as all Chevaliers and Dames are equal to each other.

Post nominal letters of the Order will stand-alone. If members wish to use the post nominal letters of other organizations, so be it, but the Knights Templar letters will be dropped. Military rank may be used.

Raspberry Cranachan Recipe

This traditional Scottish dessert is quick and easy to put together, and the nutritious combination of whipping cream, cream cheese, oats and fresh fruit makes a superb sweet course for a special occasion meal. The whisky not only adds a taste of Scotland, but gives a fantastic kick to the flavor.

Source: allrecipes.co.uk

Recipe by: Norma MacMillan

Ingredients

Serves: 4

5 tbsp porridge oats
5 fl oz whipping cream
5 1/2 oz cream cheese
2 tbsp clear honey
2 tbsp whisky
14 oz raspberries



Method

Preparation 35 minutes

1. Preheat the grill to high. Line the rack in the grill pan with foil and spread the oatmeal over the foil. Toast under the grill for about 3 minutes, stirring once or twice, until the oatmeal is golden. Set aside to cool for about 15 minutes.
2. Put the whipping cream and cream cheese in a bowl and whip together until thick. Stir in the honey and whisky, then fold in 4 tbsp of the toasted oatmeal.
3. Reserve a few raspberries for the decoration. Layer the remaining raspberries with the cream mixture in 4 glass serving dishes, starting with raspberries and ending with a layer of the cream mixture.
4. Decorate each dessert with a sprinkling of the remaining 1 tbsp toasted oatmeal and the reserved raspberries. Serve immediately (or keep in the fridge for up to 1 hour before serving).



Tipsy Laird Recipe

This Tipsy Laird trifle with Scotch whisky and raspberries is a Burns Night must for a sweet ending to your Burns Supper. Any dessert with whisky has to be good!

Source: allrecipes.co.uk

Recipe by: Recipe by: annef

Ingredients

Serves: 4

12 trifle sponges (sponge cake)

3.5 tablespoons of whisky

2.25 cups of custard

3.5 ounces of fresh raspberries

3.25 ounces of whipping cream

1 jar glazed cherries



Method

Preparation: 10 minutes

1. Place the trifle sponges in the bottom of 4 individual glasses and sprinkle evenly with the whisky. (Alternatively, place everything in one trifle dish.)
2. Add a layer of custard, then arrange the raspberries on top.
3. Beat the whipping cream until stiff peaks form, and add a layer of the whipped cream. Arrange the glazed cherries on top.
4. Chill in the fridge until ready to serve.



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