



# Commandery of Great Britain Newsletter



April 2009

## Inaugural Chapter Meeting

The Commandery's inaugural Chapter Meeting took place on 20<sup>th</sup> February at the East India Club, London. The meeting was attended by His Excellency the Grand Secretary, Chevalier Aaron Kiely. Statutes for the Commandery were agreed and signed by members of the Council. Accounts were presented by the Treasurer and approved by all those attending. Discussion took place about our support for a charity based in Great Britain. In presenting our proposed charitable aims, the Hospitaller announced that the Chancellor and Treasurer were to visit a few worthy causes to determine which would receive assistance from the Commandery.

## Charity Dinner

Following the Chapter Meeting, a Charity Dinner was held in the Canadian Room of the East India Club. The evening proved to be an occasion that was most convivial, where everyone enjoyed a good menu in a relaxed atmosphere. There was also an opportunity to welcome potential members of the Order, as well as guests wanting to support the event. The Charity Dinner realised a sum of £300 for the Commandery's chosen charity.





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## **Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice**

The Chancellor and Treasurer visited Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice based in Sheffield. The Hospice serves an area covering South Yorkshire, North Derbyshire, North Nottinghamshire and West Lincolnshire. The Hospice requires £2.5 million each year to run and only receives 5% of that from the Government. Although not overtly Christian, the Hospice has a room for quiet reflection and prayer that is non-denominational. The visit was both moving and inspirational. At the Council meeting of the Commandery there was discussion about supporting the annual siblings' day out. This is for the siblings of children who have terminal illnesses and is intended to give some respite and helps those children to feel valued. The total cost of this day out is £500. The Council meeting agreed in principle that we should fund the day out and that the Hospice should be our chosen charity. It is keeping with the Order's traditional links with hospices and is support for a Hospice that serves a large area. More information can be found by visiting [www.bluebellwood.org](http://www.bluebellwood.org)

## **Commandery Blog**

Our Commandery Secretary, Matthew Jackson, has set up a blog. The blog is now underway, with a good number of hits. It is important to remember that this is a 'community' tool so that provides an opportunity for all members of the Order to contribute and keep in touch. You can access the blog by visiting [www.oslrgb.blogspot.com](http://www.oslrgb.blogspot.com)

## **Dates for your diary**

You are reminded that the Chapter General will take place from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May in Portugal. Places are still available. Please contact the Grand Secretary for information or see the Order's website, [www.oslj.org](http://www.oslj.org). The Chapter General is not just a meeting of leaders of the Order but an opportunity for members of all grades, with their spouses and friends, to meet in a historic venue like-minded people from many countries and cultures who have all been inspired by the green cross tradition.

The Commandery of Great Britain's next Investiture will be on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October in London. This will be preceded by a Vigil Service on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> October.