



CHIVALRY

Trouthe and Honour

THE JOURNAL OF THE IMPERIAL SOCIETY OF KNIGHTS BACHELOR

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KNIGHT PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to be writing this introduction to the 2020 edition of *Chivalry*, the first during my tenure as Knight Principal.

I took over from Professor Sir Colin Berry as Knight Principal following the Annual Service in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral on Thursday 18th July 2019, and it is a great honour for me to take on this important role. I hope to make a useful contribution in my time, and I know that serving as Knight Principal is something that I will enjoy.

My thanks goes to Sir Colin for not only proposing my election to the Council some years ago but, more importantly, for all his immense achievements during his time as Knight Principal, and for his support and guidance to me as I take up the reins. Sir Colin has of course done much behind the scenes during his tenure, however the most visible of his achievements has been the commissioning and completion of the picture of St Martin which now hangs over the altar in the Knights' Chapel. Sir Colin steered this project from inception, the selection of the artist, through to the formal unveiling and blessing of the picture at our Annual Service in 2018; and it is a truly magnificent work of art. It is also entirely through Sir Colin's efforts that we now have our own Chorister, Lucien Sorgendal, a member of the St Paul's Cathedral Choir, who in 2019 sang a solo at our Annual Service. Thankfully we are not saying goodbye to Sir Colin as he has taken up the appointment of Knight President.

I would also like to pay tribute to Lord Lingfield, who is standing down as Knight President. His contributions to the Society over the years have been considerable, and we are fortunate that he has agreed to serve on as Vice-Knight President.

We have much to look forward to in the Society. This year we will have our normal round of events and speakers, including our Annual Service on Thursday 16th July, and we are also planning a special dinner on Monday 30th November to commemorate the 80th anniversary of The Battle of Britain. Full details of our events appear in the enclosed flyer.

Looking ahead to 2022, we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen's accession to the throne by holding a banquet to mark this very special event. We are in the early stages of planning this and will give you plenty of notice of the proposed date and further details as they become available.

The Society of Knights Bachelor has been in existence now for over a century, and we are marking this important milestone with a new and comprehensive history, written by our Provost, The Reverend Canon Peter Galloway. Peter is of course extremely well qualified to write this history, since he is a renowned expert on Orders of Chivalry and an author of distinction on these subjects. Peter has written about this ISKB book elsewhere in this edition, and we hope to circulate details of its publication and how to purchase it later in the year.

Finally, I think it is appropriate for me to say that, like many similar institutions, our Society faces challenges which we do need to address. So much has changed since 1908, when we were formed, and even more so in recent years. We therefore need to be confident that the Society, in its constitution and purpose, remains relevant today while also continuing to uphold the dignity of knighthood. We need to give some careful thought to this, since it is important that we get the right balance, by respecting our traditions and original purpose while also resonating with wider changes in society. I have formed a small working group in the Council to make some proposals to address these challenges, and hope to report to you in more detail later in the year. In the meantime, I would be delighted to hear any views that you, the members of the Society, may have about our future and how we might adapt to the challenges.



Sir Gary Hickinbottom and his predecessor, Sir Colin Berry, at the Annual Reception. Apothecaries' Hall. 18th July 2019

SIR GARY HICKINBOTTOM

MY TIME AS KNIGHT PRINCIPAL

By Professor Sir Colin Berry

I joined the Society as a Life Member shortly after being knighted in the Queen's Birthday list in 1993, for "services to Medicine and Science". Changes in the public perception of the value of medical interventions and chemicals and exposures had resulted in a number of regulatory committees needing expertise in many basic pathological processes in the assessment of possible human hazards.

My wide experience in experimental pathology, congenital abnormalities, the tumours of childhood and later in diseases and tumours of blood vessels, was thought to be useful in regulation. Thus, as well as pathology, I developed a parallel career in regulatory science. At different times I had been Chairman of the relevant UK regulatory committees on Dental and Surgical Materials and on Pesticides and initially Chaired the Medical Research Council (MRC) investigation into the Gulf War Syndrome, until it became clear that this was not a toxicological problem. For six years I was very busy with the MRC as Chairman of its Systems Board and a member of the Council itself.

In a broader context I had been President of the European Society of Pathology; I was the first UK President and think that was because the Council was astonished to find an Englishman who spoke French and German. In the same year that I was knighted I had been made a member of the German Academy of Science (the "Leopoldina") and later was proud to become an Honorary Member of the German Pathological Society.

Yvonne and I had attended the Imperial Society's Annual Services from 1993 onwards and when The Queen came to the service in 1997 at St. Bartholomew the Great, I acted as an usher; Sir Rustam Feroze had asked me to help. It was a very vigorous affair; I was astonished to discover that many of our members were happy to sit in seats they regarded as better than their own and those of us ushering had some (not very) diplomatic interventions to make. Following this event the Chairman, Lord Lane Kt, invited me to lunch at The House of Lords, and asked me to join the Council.*

At that time the Society held few events, the Annual Service being its main focus. Sir Robert (Bob) Balchin (now Lord Lingfield), then Registrar, took a number of initiatives to revive the Society and to better establish our structure and regalia – the Society owes him a great deal in this regard.

Having been Treasurer of the Royal College of Pathologists and of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, I followed Sir Paul Judge into this office when Sir Bob Balchin became Knight Principal after the genial and effective Sir Richard Gaskell. We moved office from the (by now very expensive) Lincoln's Inn to Carpenters' Hall in 2005 where we had a less than ideal setup and finally to smaller premises at Apothecaries' Hall in 2013.

The lunches began in 2002 and have proved a success. We initially sought speakers from our own membership but widened this later when they proved difficult to get; after all, many were and are still working. But we have had Cabinet Secretaries, The Queen's (then deputy, now principal) Private Secretary, a Nobel Prize winner, a major figure from the field of philosophy, the Chairman of a major political enquiry, a Field Marshal, captains of industry, and a great cartoonist who told us a great deal about creativity. Sir Geoff Hurst told the best football joke I ever heard. A conscious decision to ask ladies to speak meant that the late PD James (Baroness James of Holland Park) was able to advise the Ladies on how to kill their husbands, and Pim Baxter (Deputy Director, National Portrait Gallery and Lay Canon, St Paul's Cathedral) spoke to



Sir Colin Berry, in his stall and under his banner, in the Knights' Chapel prior to the 2019 Annual Service. 18th July 2019

us as well as helping to increase our contact with St Paul's Cathedral.

In that context, our move to St Paul's in 2008 after the reconstruction of part of St Faith's Chapel to make our own was a major change. Again, Sir Bob Balchin played a major role in the design and realisation of the Chapel and the inauguration by Her Majesty in 2008 was a great event. The changes made were possible because of the generosity of many of our members, notably Sir Donald Gosling who has aided the Society in many ways. The Australian Knights, a diminishing but not diminished group, had generously donated money for a picture to hang behind the altar. The realisation of that picture is a tale for another time.

We have held dinners to celebrate The Queen's 90th birthday, where Sir Roy Strong spoke and where he suggested to me that the Society might visit The Laskett Gardens (we did). We commemorated the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt (Field Marshal Lord Guthrie and Professor Anne Curry speaking). In 2014, we heard from Princess Marie-Therese, (Great-Granddaughter of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand) at Brooks's club, thanks to the late Sir Gavyn Arthur. In 2018 we held a dinner at The House of Lords, with Sir Paul Nurse, Director of the Crick Institute and Nobel Prize winner as our speaker; a most lively evening of debate and discussion!

Our most recent initiative, a Carol Service, suggested by our Provost, The Reverend Canon Professor Peter Galloway, was held in 2019 for the second time at the Savoy Chapel, with increased numbers attending.



Sir Colin Berry and Baroness James (the author, PD James), explaining to the Ladies 'How to murder your husband'. 29th January 2014



Sir Colin Berry and Sir Paul Nurse. The House of Lords. 19th November 2018

It has been a great pleasure and a privilege to serve the Society in a number of offices. As the Honours List changes, with 50% of those awarded going to women, the Knights Bachelor may come to occupy a niche defined in a way few might have expected. It remains a body of men who have done something which their Country values; we may all be proud of that and may find many friendships among others who have committed themselves to excellence.

I am grateful to the Council members who have served us all in the last 20 years; many have taken a great deal of trouble to help the Society. We have many "regulars" at lunches and dinners and a firm core of membership. The Society must change to stay the same, as Lampedusa would have it, but continuity is assured by those who give us their help. The Clerks I have served with, Richard Jenkins and Simon Doughty, have played an important role in keeping us going forward.

Sir Colin Berry - Council appointments:

- Knight President 2019-
- Knight Principal: 2012-2019
- Treasurer: 2006-2012
- Member of Council: 1997-

*For some 60 years prior to a Rules change in 1999, the Knight Principal was the Garter King of Arms and the Council was presided over by a Chairman. Since that change, Council has elected its own Knight Principal to preside and the role of Chairman no longer exists

**ST. FAITH'S CHAPEL
THE CRYPT OF ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL**

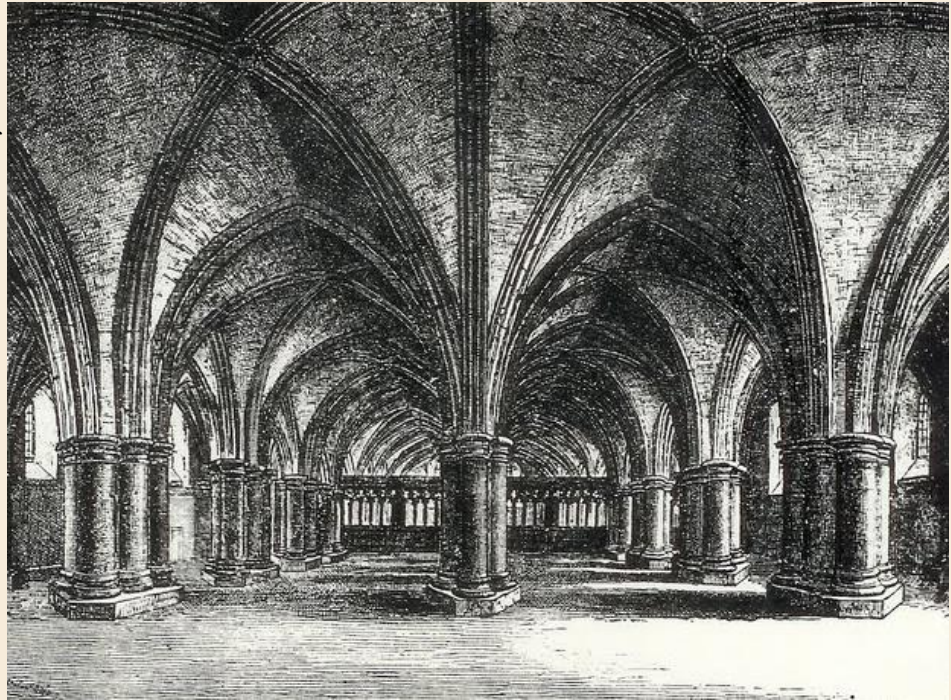
By The Rt Hon Sir Tony Baldry

Every year The Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor hold a Service at St. Paul's Cathedral at which Knights may take, or remake, their Vows of Chivalric Duty. The service takes place in the Crypt of St. Paul's. However, the Vow-taking is made in a side chapel dedicated to the Knights Bachelor and named after St. Faith.

Prior to the Great Fire of London in 1666, a beautiful 13th century church, dedicated to St. Faith, was to be found at the north-east corner of the Cathedral. St. Faith's was really part of the structure of the old St. Paul's Cathedral because the church was situated under the Cathedral Choir. Surviving pictures show Gothic vaulting supported by three rows of pillars.

St. Faith's was the only church in London having the dedication to St. Faith Virgin and Martyr, who died under the Emperor Adrian. The tradition is that St. Faith was roasted on a bronze or brazen bedstead and then beheaded. St. Faith's emblem is thus a bedstead and a sword.

Shortly before the Great Fire, St. Faith's was described as "This being a parish church dedicated to the honour of St. Faith the Virgin was heretofore called Ecclesia S. Fides in Cryptis or, in the Crouds, according to the vulgar expression". More on the Crouds shortly. The intertwining of the fabric of St. Faith's Church with the structure of the old St. Paul's Cathedral led to observations such as "This church (St. Faith's) needs no repair at all. For faiths defended by St. Paul".



The Church of St. Faith, The Crypt of Old St. Paul's
Wenceslaus Hollar

In the old St. Paul's to the east of St. Faith's Church was Jesus Chapel. This chapel derived from a medieval Guild of "Jesus in the Crowds", corrupted in common usage to "The Croudes" and the Guild was authorised to collect alms.

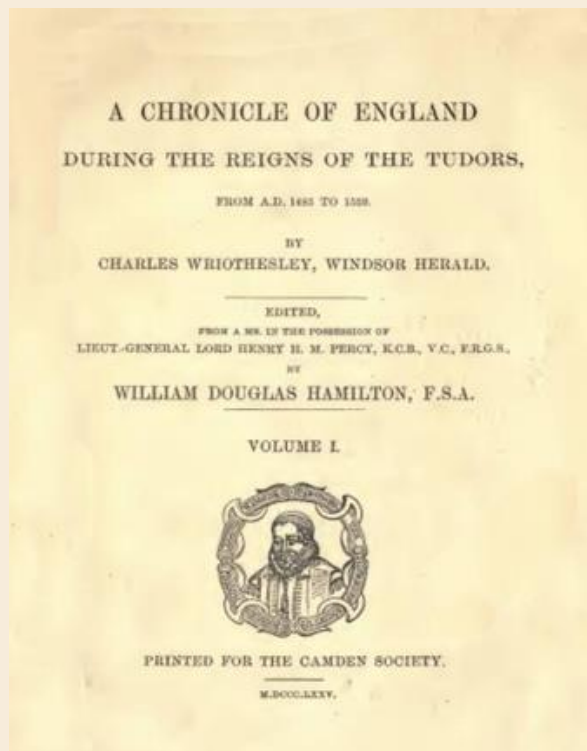
Like many such Guilds, it and its work were suppressed in the reign of King Edward VI, and the congregation of St. Faith's effectively also took over the use of Jesus Chapel. During its history St. Faith's experienced many of the effects of Henry VIII's settlement, the Reformation, the Counter-Reformation, Civil War, and Restoration.

So, for example, the Wriothsley's Chronicle notes that in the first month of the reign of Queen Mary: "Thursday 24th August 1553 and St. Bartholomew's Day the old service in the Latten tongue with the Masse was begun and sunge. Powles (St. Paul's) in the Shrouds (Croudes) now S. Faithes Parish".

At the beginning of the Civil War, the living of St. Faith's was sequestrated and the Rector was ejected. After the Restoration the then Rector in possession was ejected for non-conformity. It was not easy for the Clergy to get it right!

Holinshed (one of Shakespeare's chroniclers) records the epitaph of a "Bodie entombed and laid asleepe in a faire large vawte in St. Faithes-under-Powles" which read prophetically "As I was, so you be: as I am, you shall be".

So the spot where Knights Bachelor take or retake their Vows has been the site of St. Faith's Church since the 1200s.



Given how it had been how St. Faith's Church had been entwined into the old St. Paul's Cathedral, it is perhaps not surprising that the Chapel at the north east corner of the present cathedral was dedicated to St. Faith.

"Old Powles", as the previous cathedral was affectionately known, had been in a poor state of repair for at least a century before its destruction by fire. Each reigning monarch of the period expressed good intentions and there were periodic efforts and fitful energy to effect repairs, but little was done.

So some time before the Great Fire, one of the concerns which occupied the mind of Charles II on his restoration to the Throne, seems to have been the repairing of the old St. Paul's Cathedral which had been further damaged and dilapidated during the Civil War. A Commission was issued for upholding and repairing the structure of the old St. Paul's of which Sir Christopher Wren was appointed a member. Then came the Great Fire.

The ruins of the old cathedral were horrendous. Pepys, in his diary observes: "I stopped at St. Paul's and there did go into St. Faith's



Samuel Pepys
John Hayls

Church and also in the body of the west part of the church, and do see a hideous sight of the walls of the church ready to fall that I was in fear as long as I was in it; and here I saw the great vaults underneath the body of the church . . ." and later he observes: "Up betimes and walked to the Temple and stopped viewing the Exchange and St. Paul's and St. Faith's where strange how the very sight of the stones falling from the top of the steeple do make me seasick".

By now Christopher Wren had been appointed Deputy Surveyor General and Principal Architect for rebuilding the whole of the City of London. Wren reported in a report in which he showed that it was impossible to save St. Faith's: "The very substruction and repair of St. Faith's will cost so much that I shall but frighten this age with a computation of what is to be done in the dark before anything will appear for the use desired".

King Charles thus ordered that the walls of St. Faith's should be dismantled, the ground should be cleared and work should proceed precisely as recommended by Wren.

The old Cathedral had been described as "one of the most glorious piles of stones under heaven", and "a dome of devotion". Wren's new St. Paul's is now the centre of the City of London.

The St. Paul's Cathedral church combines all the elements of beauty



Sir Christopher Wren
Sir Godfrey Kneller

and grandeur. Raised high in the centre of London. However, we should not forget when taking or retaking our Vows that the place where we take them has a history that goes back to the earliest days of Christendom.

Sir Tony Baldry was for a number of years Chair of the Church Buildings Council and now chairs the Association of Festival Churches.



St. Faith's Chapel in the Crypt of Sir Christopher Wren's St. Paul's Cathedral. The ISKB Annual Service 2019. The Knights' Chapel, where the Vow-taking ceremony takes place, is to the right of the altar

THE IMPERIAL SOCIETY OF KNIGHTS BACHELOR A HISTORY

By Peter Galloway

On 6th March 1908, Sir Irving Courtenay, a barrister, wrote to Sir William Bull, MP for Hammersmith: *'I have . . . observed that there is an idea of forming an association for the protection of Knights Bachelors' privileges & rights which seems an excellent notion & I shall be glad to join it and subscribe whatever may be the agreed subscription.'* For a lawyer, this was an unusually rash statement to make, to commit to joining an organisation as yet unformed and to pay a subscription yet to be determined, but his letter said a great deal about widespread feelings of irritation and annoyance among knights bachelor at the time.

The idea of the Society began with a dispute between some 200 knights bachelor and the Walker Trustees, as holders of the office of Heritable Usher of the White Rod. The following appeared in an article in the *Falkirk Herald* on 15th February 1908: *'The claim of the Walker Trustees to exact fees in the name of the Usher of the White Rod of Scotland has anew called attention to that ancient hereditary office under the Scottish Crown . . . If it goes into Court the case should be an antiquarian cause célèbre.'* After a gap of four years, the trustees had renewed the ancient right of an office that they held corporately, to receive fees from newly-created knights bachelor. The reaction was predictable. Here was an obscure charity claiming the sum of £3 6s 8d from each knight bachelor, and inevitably feelings of resentment were aroused. It did become a cause célèbre and was taken all the way to the House of Lords, who adjudicated against the claims of the trustees in 1911. The formation of the Imperial Society was a direct consequence of the claims of the Walker Trust, and was the idea of Sir William Bull who conceived the idea of an organisation of knights to maintain and defend the interests of its members. *'A society of knights bachelor is to be started, and it may play an important part in combating the claims of the Walker Trustees for the fees which they*



**Sir William Bull, MP, founder of
The Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor**



**Her Majesty Margareta of Romania, Custodian of the Crown,
with Peter Galloway, in the Royal Palace in Bucharest**

maintain are due to them as the successors to the Heritable Usher for Scotland. Sir William Bull is head of the new movement, and he is quite willing to himself provide the material for a test case if the Walker Trustees care to sue.' (*Aberdeen Journal*, 2nd March 1908)

This book traces the complex origins of knighthood in the medieval period, and the fusion of mists, legends, ideals that came to embody it in later generations. It then relates the acrimonious and sometimes amusing dispute between the knights bachelor and the Walker Trustees in 1908-11, and the consequential formation and organisation of the Society in 1908 at the instigation of Sir William Bull, MP. Until his death in 1931, Bull was a key figure in the life of the Society. His energy and enthusiasm created it, and kept it in being through the financially difficult years of the First World War. He led a campaign in the 1920s for knights bachelor to be given insignia. He was a conscientious MP and attentive to the needs of his constituents, for whom he did whatever was in his power to do, and for that he was liked and respected by the people of Hammersmith. In the same way, the knights bachelor of the Imperial Society were his constituents, and he staunchly defended their rights, doing whatever he could for them.

The book traces the history of the Society from its foundation, including the institution of its chapels, firstly at St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield in 1965, and then at St Paul's Cathedral in 2005, and its on-going role as the locus and voice of the oldest form of knighthood in the British honours system.

Written by Peter Galloway, the Society's Provost, this is the first in-depth history of a Society which continues to flourish more than a century after its foundation. Based on the Society's records in the London Metropolitan Archives, and records in the Royal Archives and the National Archives, it will be published later in 2020.

WHAT DO STUDENTS CALL YOU, SIR?

By Sir Pritpal Singh

Having been asked to write about what Knighthood meant to the students at Drayton Manor High School when they heard that this honour had been granted to their Head, I had to cast my mind back to 2005.

In trying to capture what it felt like for students some 14 years ago I almost immediately decided, unilaterally I must admit, to extend the brief for this article to include staff, parents the local community and some instances from overseas. This may entice you to read further; on the other hand, it may not.

The warmth and generosity of those connected to the school was humbling and I had to insist that the Knighthood was very much for the school too.


One of the questions that came up fairly quickly was how should students, now, address the Head. Having the privilege of being addressed as Sir, in any case, by students, was just one matter. Another was whether or not students should be allowed to use the correct form of address to a Knight.

Staff and Governors felt that the correct form, title followed by first name, would be uncomfortable for students and not add to the ethos of the school. So we decided that students should use an incorrect form of address, Sir Singh, if they needed to specify which Sir, among all the male staff, they were referring to.

This was explained to students in assemblies by senior staff and later that day I was sitting at the staff table having lunch when a young student was going past. We encourage our students to acknowledge others by saying good morning, or some other pleasantry, at all times. Putting this practice to good use the young student caught my eye, smiled, and rather shyly I must admit, said 'Congratulations sir Sir'. To my mind, an ingenious and ingenious adaptation.

Written communication was rather easier, in one direction. Coming from me, that was simply a matter of adding the new title in front of the first name and surname, which I habitually used to sign letters.

The other direction for communication was not so simple as parents, for one, wanted to know what form of address to use. Should it be the correct version or the one used by students? We decided that we would leave that to the discretion of each adult.

A photograph of Sir Pritpal Singh, a man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit and a purple tie, sitting at a desk in an office. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. There are framed pictures on a shelf behind him.

Sir Pritpal Singh

So, to this day, letters arrive from organisations, companies, other schools, individuals and so on addressed in different ways, some, at least, dependent on what the computer allows for salutation. Letters arriving with 'Other Sir Singh', for instance, are not uncommon and a number of variations are encountered.

The locksmith

Friday was when the local newspaper appeared in the local shops in those days. Soon after the Honours List was published I went, as usual, to the nearby bus stop at the end of the school day to see if our students were behaving in exemplary fashion.

I walked into the adjacent grocery shop, a popular place for students at the end of a school day, as one can imagine. The shopkeeper told me the students were queuing very sensibly and were all being polite.

Out of the corner of my eye I saw an adult I didn't know staring, and swaying slightly, a few feet away in the shop. Inwardly getting ready for action, I took the precaution of saying to the member of school staff nearby that we should keep an eye on this man.

As suspected, a few seconds later this man approached me and I turned, and looking him in the eye, I bid him 'Good afternoon'. His reply rather surprised me.

'It's you!'

 he exclaimed. This gained the attention of the many in the shop, such was the volume and exuberance with which he delivered this sentence.

Drayton Manor High School

Having asked him what he meant, he replied 'You're all over the front page, mate!' A pleasant outcome, as I had been anticipating something rather untoward.

As we were both by the front counter, on which were laid out the daily newspapers, I started to look at the front pages but he interjected 'They've sold out of the Gazette wait here'.

He then ran out of the shop and along the street and I watched from the pavement as he went into the locksmith shop a few yards away. He returned almost immediately brandishing the local paper so that all could see the front page and began to go up and down the busy pavement smiling and shouting while pointing at me 'It's him. It's him. It's him!'

The entire front page of the Gazette carried a close-up photograph of my head and shoulders.

Soweto

Visiting schools in South Africa was an experience that one doesn't forget in a hurry. As part of the tour I was taken to Soweto by a guide who, though he lived and worked in Pretoria, gave up most of his weekends running a youth and sports club in Soweto.

We arrived at 9.00am, and having shown some of Soweto, he took me into a small building which constituted the youth and sports club where he wanted me to meet some elders, as he called them, who had been teenagers in the Sixties.

The building was sparsely furnished, but otherwise empty, and my guide led the way into a little courtyard which was adjacent and situated between some shacks. There, half a dozen 'elders' were sitting in an informal semi-circle drinking from large bottles of beer.

We arrived in the courtyard and the elders greeted the guide with familiarity and then turned to look at me. I sensed that I would have to win them over before they were likely to share their experiences with me.

The guide introduced me and finished by saying 'He's met The Queen'. One of the elders, with an expressionless face, said 'I'm married to The Queen'. I returned his gaze and replied 'Well, Her Majesty speaks very highly of you'.

This remark did the trick and all of the elders broke into the warmest laughter and then welcomed me to their gathering giving me a bottle of their beer. They then went on to recount in detail some of the events they had witnessed, and had taken part in, during Apartheid and what changes had come about in Soweto as well as what life is like for those who live there.

A prank phone call

A year or so after my investiture, a member of the school office staff came to see. She said that Buckingham Palace had been on the phone and extended an invitation from Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh to join them for lunch at the Palace next month.

I replied 'That's a prank phone call. Would you phone the Master of the Household at the Palace to say that someone is making prank calls purporting to be from the Palace?'

Just a few minutes later the member of the office staff returned having made this phone call and said 'It was the Palace! They confirm the invitation'. This is when I nearly had a heart attack.

A few weeks later I went along to the Palace for the lunch and was met by one of the Equerries who kindly made me feel at home. After a few minutes he took me across the hall to show me the seating plan. As I approached the plan I could see it showed a rectangular table with about a dozen names displayed. Her Majesty was going to be seated in the centre on one side of the table and The Duke of Edinburgh directly opposite. Having reached the plan, I looked, in vain, for my name at both far ends of the table.

The Equerry who was with me smiled gently and said 'And you are here'.

Looking at where he was pointing, I nearly had a second heart attackhis finger was hovering over a seat right next to Her Majesty.



Evans Building, Drayton Manor High School

The Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor, Annual Service of Dedication
Thursday 18th July 2019
Sermon by the Bishop of London, The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE

Ecclesiasticus 44.1-15 and Ephesians 6.10-18

It is a joy to be able to celebrate the contribution of Professor Sir Mansel Aylward, Sir Philip Drury Moor and Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery who are being recognised for their distinguished service to the community within their fields of life sciences, law and healthcare. As we welcome them, they will make their profession of allegiance and faith and affirm their knightly vows in the Knights Bachelor Chapel here at St Pauls.

The chapels here are filled with memorials to those who have made a significant contribution and reading their memorials it makes me reflect what will I be remembered for?

We have James Croft remembered for being part of the party who discovered the source of the Nile; William Edmund, Canon Chancellor of this cathedral, remembered for his long and faithful service; Gordon Hamilton Fairly, the first professor of medical oncology and killed by a terrorist bomb in 1975; Sir Henry Wellcome, founder of the Wellcome Trust; John Constable, simply remembered as painter; and just in our side the chapel there is a memorial to Florence Nightingale remembered for her mercy.

I wonder what we will be remembered for? I often think my tomb stone will say 'she chaired a good meeting'.

Our Old Testament reading starts 'Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers in their generations. The Lord apportioned to them great glory, his majesty from the beginning. There were those who ruled in their kingdoms, and were men renowned for their power'

What we don't read is how the passage goes on to tell us that there are some who have no memorial, who have perished as though they had not lived; they have become as though they had not been born, and so have their children after them.

I sometimes wonder that it is this fear

that leads so many clergy to build church halls. And yet the passage goes on to tell us that these were men of mercy, whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten; their prosperity will remain with their descendants, and their inheritance to their children's children.

The medieval knight was imbued with the ideals of chivalry which incorporated religious character; they were not simply great warriors but also kind and courteous and generous.

In this congregation a great variety of kinds of public service are represented. You have touched the lives of millions of people in ways which are both diverse and inspiring; transforming the lives of people and communities for the better. And it is not so much what we do but how we do it – that is the clothes in which we stand.

Our New Testament reading calls us to put on the armour which is about truth and righteousness and peace. Elsewhere in the epistle the writer to the Colossians says because of God's love we should clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Now kindness and compassion often seem such an ephemeral thing, but don't we all know when we have been shown compassion and kindness?

Kindness is one of the most underrated virtues in today's world. It isn't bland or soft or feeble or weak. It isn't about namby-pambyism or about the avoidance of conflict. Kindness comes when, even where it isn't deserved, where we dare to offer an opening to humanity and mercy, regardless of cost or reward. It is more than being nice and it can be very demanding.

Paul understands that these virtues are acquired qualities; they can be developed and nurtured through intentional effort. They are not adorned at birth. They are not absorbed through osmosis. They are not contagious. We must consciously decide each day to adorn ourselves with these qualities.

Maybe this year we are going to be in need of kindness more than ever. With a risk of division in our communities widening which will not be repaired by government legislation or policy but may by acts of kindness.

It is the ordinary things we do that will make extra ordinary difference to others.

And we are called to peace. Maybe more than any time in our lifetime we need to be people who allow the peace of Christ to rule our hearts and communities.

It is not clear what future is coming to meet us but we are called to 'Stand therefore and fasten the belt of truth around your waist and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace'

And may the God of peace be with you all, beloved knights, in everything you undertake in His Spirit. *Amen*



**The Bishop of London and
Prelate of The Imperial Society
of Knights Bachelor**

ANNUAL SERVICE
Thursday 18th July 2019



**ANNUAL RECEPTION
Thursday 18th July 2019**



Sir Gary Hickinbottom, Sir Colin Berry, and Lord Lingfield



The Council of The Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor, with Colonel Alan Roberts (Gentleman Usher) and Esquires

**VICE-ADMIRAL SIR DONALD GOSLING, KCVO, Kt
1929-2019**

BY THE RT HON THE Lord Lingfield, Kt, DL

Sir Donald Gosling, a Vice-Knight President of the Imperial Society, died in September, aged 90. He was knighted in 1976, becoming a Council Member in 1987.

He was a most generous benefactor of the Society for decades, and, until the years took their toll, a regular attender at our Dedication Services.

When the opportunity came for the Society to have its own chapel in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral, I approached Sir Donald for his support. I believed that a fund raising initiative amongst Knights Bachelor would enable us to design, build and furnish a new chapel by 2008, the centenary of the foundation of the Society. Would Sir Donald underwrite the costs from his charitable foundation? Over lunch at his wonderful Leander House by the Thames at Hampton Wick he offered to pay for the works so that we could begin at once and the Society would reimburse him. Accordingly I began the designs and wrote to all Knights Bachelor across the globe asking for donations. When the full cost was raised, the chapel was finished and opened by The Queen. Sir Don was so pleased with the result that he made his loan into a gift for the perpetual upkeep of the Knights' Bachelor Chapel, where his coat of arms is carved on the Register Case as a permanent memorial to his kind benefaction.



Her Majesty The Queen with The Duke of Edinburgh presenting Sir Donald Gosling with his Vice-Admiral's pennant. 2005

Sir Donald was the founder just after the War, with his friend Ronald Hobson, of what was to become National Car Parks. They started by charging a shilling and sixpence a day.... and sold the business in 1998 for £580 million. He had joined the Royal Navy as a boy entrant in 1943; he was, to his distress, compulsorily demobbed in 1949. However, he retained a life-long interest in the Navy and his extraordinary generosity to naval charities (amongst them the White Ensign Society, Seafarers UK, the Fleet Air Arm Museum) was recognised by The Queen when he was created a KCVO in 2004 and an Honorary Rear Admiral of the Royal Naval Reserve on his 80th birthday. He was later promoted to the special ceremonial appointment of Vice Admiral of the United Kingdom in 2015.

His superb motor yacht *Leander* (named after the cruiser HMS *Leander* in which he had served as a teenager) was chosen for the signal honour of following the ship in which The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh reviewed the fleet at the 2005 bi-centenary of Trafalgar. This was an entirely memorable champagne filled day in which I was privileged to join as a guest on board.

It is believed that altogether Sir Don gave over £100 million to charitable causes of which the Society was one.

A gregarious and good humoured man he gave many a party and last year celebrated his 90th birthday with a magnificent lunch at Hampton Court Palace, at which we saw a congratulatory filmed message from The Prince of Wales whose genuine admiration and affection for Sir Donald was apparent from his kind words.

**SIR CONRAD SWAN, KCVO
1924-2019**



**Sir Conrad Swan
Garter King of Arms**

Sir Conrad Swan, who served as Knight Principal from 1995 to 2000, was born on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, in 1924, the younger son of Henry Swan, a GP whose family had emigrated to Canada from Lithuania in 1884, and his wife, Edna (née Green), who helped to set up the wartime Beaver Club in London for Canadian servicemen on leave. The family anglicised its name from Swiecicki to Swan at the time of the First World War. Conrad's elder brother, Peter, became a Basilian monk.

He was educated at schools on Vancouver Island and, when his family moved to Colchester in Essex, at St George's College, Weybridge. After studying at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, he was sent to India to join the Madras Regiment. Returning to Canada following Indian independence, he studied at the University of Western Ontario, and later at Peterhouse, Cambridge, where, in 1955, he completed a PhD on the effects of the Reformation on the Oxbridge universities. In 1957 he married Lady

Hilda Northcote, younger daughter of the Earl and Countess of Iddesleigh.

The couple settled in Ontario, where Swan was assistant professor of history at Assumption University. When they returned to England, and having saved some money, they purchased Boxford House, a 32-room brick-and-stucco former rectory near Ipswich in Suffolk, where they established an English language school and heraldic garden in its 19 acres of grounds.

In 1961 Sir Anthony Wagner, then Garter King of Arms, was recruiting, and soon selected Swan to join the College of Arms. During his time with the College, he maintained his links with Canada, and travelled widely on heraldic business. He became Garter Principal King of Arms in 1992, taking over from Sir Colin Cole. He retired on medical grounds in 1995. Tragically, his wife Hilda was killed a few months later, by a hit-and-run driver. In retirement Sir Conrad Swan was asked by King Abdullah of Jordan to help to create a centralised honours system for his country. In 2005 Sir Conrad published his memoir, *A King from Canada*. He died on 10th January 2019, aged 94.

PROFESSOR SIR HANS KORNBERG, FRS 1928-2019

Professor Sir Hans Kornberg, a member of the ISKB Council since 2001, died on 16th December 2019, aged 91. Sir Hans (BSc Chemistry 1949, PhD Biochemistry 1953, Honorary DSc 1979) was a noted and respected biochemist, whose researches focused on the molecular basis of metabolic processes that enable micro-organisms to utilize simple compounds for energy and growth.



Professor Sir Hans Kornberg

He was born in Germany in 1928, arriving in England as one of the *Kindertransport* children, shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War. Aged eleven at the time, he went to live with his uncle in Yorkshire; he never saw his parents again, they perished in the Holocaust. After completing school in Wakefield, a family member at the University of Sheffield suggested he apply for a position there.

Initially Hans worked as a lab technician with Professor Sir Hans Krebs (the 1953 Nobel Prize winner), who encouraged him to study chemistry, helping the young Hans to obtain a scholarship at the University, guiding him along the path to his future career. Hans was an active student, serving as Secretary of the Students' Union.

Following his undergraduate degree, Hans undertook a PhD in biochemistry at Sheffield, followed by a postdoctoral study at Yale, Berkeley, and at the Public Health Research Institute of the City of New York, before returning to Oxford University, where he was reunited with Sir Hans Krebs. Together they published the first major publication on biological thermodynamics. Hans was later appointed Chair of Biochemistry at the University of Leicester, later taking the same role at the University of Cambridge, where he became Master of Christ's College.

In 1965, Hans Kornberg was elected as a Fellow of The Royal Society, and in 1978 was knighted for services to science. He was also the recipient of the Colworth Medal of the Biochemical Society, the Otto Warburg Medal of the German Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and the Leeuwenhoek Medal and Lecture. On retiring from Cambridge in 1995 Sir Hans returned to the United States as Professor of Biology at Boston University, where he continued to research and teach until just a few weeks before his death.

ROBERT ESDEN, MBE 1924-2019



Robert Esden presenting Her Majesty The Queen with a copy of his book. Sir David Napley in the background

Robert Esden, after a career in the Army and the City, became Clerk to the Council of The Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor in 1984. When appointed he found the Society at what was probably its lowest ebb. For 15 years he served ISKB with extraordinary dedication and, without his guidance and commitment, the Society could well have faltered. Instead, upon his retirement in 1999, he handed to his successors a thriving and successful organisation with a very sound financial foundation. He was responsible for many remarkable innovations during his period of office and kept in touch with Knights Bachelor throughout the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. A number of memorable royal visits to the Society's events owed their success to his meticulous planning.

Robert wrote this excellent *Story of the Knights Bachelor* in 1990, bringing it up to date in his second edition of 1995. It was revised once again for a special limited edition in 2004. Robert Esden was honoured with the MBE for his service to the Imperial Society in 1998.

DISTINGUISHED KNIGHTS BACHELOR WHO HAVE DIED IN THE PAST YEAR



**Lord Bell of Belgravia
1941-2019**

PR man who devised the 'Labour isn't working' slogan for the 1979 general election



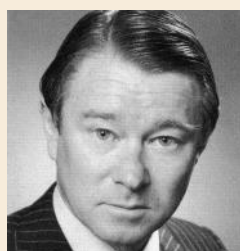
**Sir Derek Birkin, TD
1929-2019**

Former Chairman of Rio Tinto-Zinc



**Sir Peter Cazalet
1929-2019**

Former Deputy Chairman of BP



**Sir Michael Edwardes
1930-2019**

Former Chairman of British Leyland



**Sir Michael Marshall, CBE, DL
1932-2019**

Former President and Chairman Marshall of Cambridge



**Sir David McNee, QPM
1925-2019**

Former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police



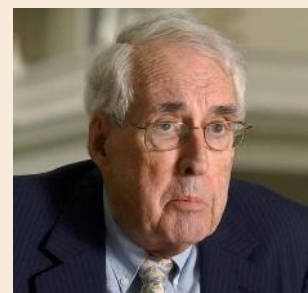
**Sir David Naish, DL
1940-2019**

Former leader of the National Farmers' Union and former ISKB Council Member



**Sir David Plastow
1932-2019**

Former Chairman of Rolls Royce



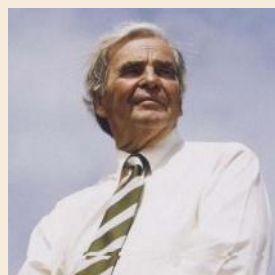
**The Hon Sir John Jeffries
1929-2019**

New Zealand politician, civil servant and high court judge



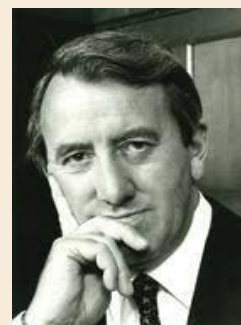
**Sir Roger Scruton
1944-2020**

Philosopher



**Brigadier Sir Nicholas Somerville, CBE
1924-2019**

D-Day veteran and Conservative Party worker



**Sir Kenneth Warren
1926-2019**

Former Conservative Member of Parliament



**Sir Patrick Sheehy
1930-2019**

Former Chairman of British American Tobacco

DINNER FOR SIR COLIN & LADY BERRY

On Thursday 14th November, a group of past and present members of Council and their spouses entertained Sir Colin and Lady Berry at Dinner at Middle Temple Hall to celebrate and thank Sir Colin for his seven years of service as Knight Principal. Sir Colin retired in July and became Knight President.

The new Knight President, Sir Gary Hickinbottom, paid tribute to Sir Colin, highlighting the work done to commission and install the painting of St Martin and the Beggar now hanging in the Chapel at St Paul's, and presented him with a framed photograph of the Council.

Sir Jeremy Elwes

LUNCHEON WITH CHARLES MOORE

On a dull and damp January 27th over 50 members and guests attended the first luncheon of 2020 at the Cavalry and Guards Club. That dreary morning was forgotten and replaced with the warm glow of a wonderful post-prandial speech by Charles Moore whose final volume of his biography trilogy of Margaret Thatcher had recently been published.

Concentrating mainly on the process of writing and the conversations with his subject and others, we were given a unique insight into the character and personal philosophy of our first woman Prime Minister and of her interaction with her colleagues and opponents, both political and non-political.

Sir Jeremy Elwes

SCOTTISH DIVISION

The Ladies of the Scottish Division met for their Annual lunch in the Library of the New Club in Edinburgh in November 2019. The event raised the record sum of £2,140 for the Society's charity.

The 2020 Annual Dinner of the Scottish Division will take place on Wednesday 29th April in the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The Guest Speaker will be Professor Sir Iain Torrance, one of the Scottish Division's more recent members.

Sir Michael Hirst
Chairman, Scottish Division



The Ladies of the Scottish Division met for lunch in November 2019 in the Library of the New Club in Edinburgh

ISKB EVENTS - 2020

Booking details are on the enclosed booking form and on our website at www.iskb.co.uk

Thursday 23rd April 2020. Supper at Cutlers' Hall. Sadly, this event has now been cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak. There will be refunds for anyone who has booked and paid for this event.

Wednesday 15th July 2020. AGM at 12 Noon, followed by Luncheon at The Cavalry & Guards Club. 12.30 for 1pm. Speaker: Sir Ivan Lawrence QC (former Member of Parliament and criminal barrister).

Thursday 16th July 2020. The Annual Service, in the Knights' Chapel, in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral, at 11am. During the Service, Sir Gary Hickinbottom will be formally installed as the Knight Principal. The Sermon will be given by The Bishop of London, and the Service will be followed by the Annual Reception at Apothecaries' Hall. Note, this year all Knights Bachelor (including non-ISKB members) will be invited.

Wednesday 26th October 2020. Luncheon at The Cavalry & Guards Club. 12.30 for 1pm. Speaker: tbc.

Monday 30th November 2020. Dinner to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of The Battle of Britain, held at The Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London, W1J 7PY.

Thursday 17th December 2020. The Society's Annual Carol Service. 6.00pm, followed by a short reception. Booking details are on the enclosed booking form and also on our website at www.iskb.co.uk.

PROVISIONAL DATES - 2021

(more details to follow later this year)

Monday 25th January 2021

Monday 26th March 2021

Wednesday 14th July 2021 (to include AGM)

Thursday 15th July 2021—Annual Service and Reception

Monday 25th October 2021

NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members:

Sir Ian Blatchford

Director, Science Museum Group
For services to Cultural Education

Sir Geoffrey Boycott, OBE

Former Captain of the English national cricket team and
Captain of Yorkshire County Cricket Club
For services to sport

Sir Ian Boyd, FRSB, FRSE

Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
For services to Science and Economics on Food and the Environment

Sir Nigel Carrington

For services to Higher Education
and the Creative Industries

**Professor Sir Mark Caulfield, MB, MD, FRCP, FESC,
FPharmacol, FBHS, FMedSci**

Chief Scientist, Genomics England and Professor of Clinical Pharmacology,
Queen Mary University of London.
For services to the 100,000 Genomes Project

Professor Sir Leslie Ebdon, CBE, DL

Lately Director, Fair Access to Higher Education
For services to Higher Education and Social Mobility

Sir Douglas Flint, CBE

For services to the Finance Industry

Sir Nicholas Forwood, QC

Barrister and Judge, General Court of the EU, 1999-2015

The Hon Sir Martin Griffiths

High Court Judge

Sir John Lewis, OBE

For services to the Arts and Philanthropy

Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery

Chair, Health Research Authority and Professor of Healthcare Law, University College London
For services to Bioethics and Healthcare Law

Sir Menelas Pangalos

Executive Vice-President, and President, Biopharmaceuticals, AstraZeneca.
For services to Science

Sir David Pountney, CBE

Director. For services to Opera

Sir Udi Sheleg

Treasurer of the Conservative & Unionist Party
For Political and Public Service

Sir Simon Stevens

Chief Executive Officer, NHS England and NHS Improvement.
For service to the NHS in England

The Hon Sir William Trower

High Court Judge

Sir Boyd Tunnock, CBE

For services to
Business and Charity

Sir Roy Stone, CBE

Principal Private Secretary, Government Chief Whip's Office.
For Parliamentary and Public Service

Sir Patrick Vallance

Government Chief Scientific Adviser
For services to Open Clinical Science

Sir James Wates, CBE

Chairman, Wates Group. For services to Business and Charity

THE IMPERIAL SOCIETY OF KNIGHTS BACHELOR

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