



<http://www.grandprioryofthescots.org/>

October 2013

## The Supreme Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

Newsletter  
Vol. 1 Issue 4

Please review SMOTJ website, and look for updates

### News from the Bailiwick

By H.E. Dame Patricia Tennyson, Bell, GCTJ, GMTJ,  
Executive Officer – Grand Bailiwick - Oregon

There is not too much to report on at the present time as our next Privy Council meeting does not take place until October 26<sup>th</sup>.

derful job. The site can be found at [grandprioryofthescots.org](http://grandprioryofthescots.org). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Allen or me.

The investiture at Balgonie Castle was enjoyed by everyone. At least I did not have any complaints which I like. Twenty-six members from the United States, including the three postulants, attended both the investiture and dinner and we had seven guests from Scotland. Remember we do this every four years in August, so please start making plans



for 2017. There are quite a number of pictures taken at the investiture which appear in this edition.

Just a reminder that I am still waiting to receive payment for the Pilgrims' cross and/or Balgonie's lapel pin from a few members. Most have paid and I want to thank you for your quick response.

Chevalier Allen Cummings is updating the website on a constant basis and is doing a won-

The Pories are keeping busy with their charities and this too is mentioned in their reports in the edition. The Priory of Robert the Bruce will hold its investiture on November 10 in Santa Ana, California. There are six postulants being invested on that date. I will be there both for the Postulants' reception the evening before and the investiture. The Priory of St. Columbia will hold its investiture next March in Springfield, Missouri, but more on that later. Five postulants will be invested at that time.

Just a sad personal item – our Irish Wolfhound, Strongbow, died on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. He was our first IW and very dear to us. We were very lucky to have had him for over nine years, many of you knew him and we miss him dreadfully.

Patricia

In memory of  
**Strongbow**



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfsasAllCo8>

#### In this issue:

Executive Officer

Webmaster +

Commandery of  
St. Cuthberth

Privy Council, etc.

Priory of Robert the  
Bruce

Priory of St. Columba+

Templar Ghost

MN to Scotland

Bon Accord

Editor's Corner

**Grand Priory of the Scots Website Update  
by Chev. Allen Cummings, KCTJ - Webmaster - Texas**

Our SMJOTJ website has recently been given a new look and appeal. The intent was to facilitate a request by the Grand Bailiff to display Priory news along with photographs as well as a schedule of events and an archived newsletter page. Additionally, the new website allows for better viewing on tablets and cell phone displays.

As with all websites, we must stay knowledgeable that folks visiting our website are on the outside looking in. Displaying of our activities and charitable events is a positive way to project who we are and what we do. I am

honored to assist the Grand Bailiff and Priors with this endeavor. I would ask that anyone wanting to post an article (with or without photos) initially contact your Prior or the Grand Bailiff, as appropriate, for their approval and then have them notify me to make the post.

If you have not visited the website recently, please take a few minutes to do so. The link and email addresses are: [allencummings@verizon.net](mailto:allencummings@verizon.net) and <http://www.grandprioryofthescots.org/>

Source: SMOTJ Vol 1 Issue 3



Chev. Allen Cummings  
[allencummings@verizon.net](mailto:allencummings@verizon.net)

<http://www.grandprioryofthescots.org/>

**Feeding the Needy in Oregon**

**By Chev. John Hunter, the Commander of the Commandery of St. Cuthbert**

Almost \$900 was raised at a Silent Auction Event for the Commandery of St. Cuthbert in Anderson, California this past June. The charity monies were distributed to the northern part of this geographically widespread for 2013.

A check was presented to St. Vincent de Paul in Medford, Oregon.

Dame Donna Paulson, DTJ and Chev. Tom Paulson, KCTJ presented a check from the recent St. Cuthbert silent auction to Bernice McClellan, Director of the WD Food Bank, after their return from the Investiture in Scotland at Balgonie Castle. The Winston Dillard Food Bank is located in Dillard, Oregon.



Chev. John E. Hunter, KCTJ and Dame Donna Hunter, DTJ present a check raised at a charity event by members of the Commandery of St. Cuthbert to a member of the South Douglas Food Bank Board in Winston, Oregon. The presentation was preceded by the following Intercession from the book **Celtic Prayers from Iona** by Phillip Newell:

"O Christ of the poor and the yearning  
Kindle in my heart within  
A flame of love for my neighbour,  
For my foe, for my friend,  
for my kindred all.  
From the humblest thing that lives  
Kindle in my heart within  
A flame of love.

## The Grand Bailiwick of the Scots - Privy Council

Chev. J. Connall Bell, GCTJ, GMTJ

Grand Bailiff - Grand Bailiwick

2984 Siskiyou Blvd.

Medford, OR 97504

Home: 541-690-1817 / Cell: 626-664-3912

Scot-Templar@sbcglobal.net

Chev. Charles William Graham, Jr, GOTJ, GMTJ

Deputy Grand Bailiff - Grand Bailiwick

2792 Redwing Circle

Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Home: 714-610-8368

thegrahams4@ca.rr.com

Dame Patricia Tennyson Bell, GCTJ, GMTJ

Executive Officer - Grand Bailiwick

2984 Siskiyou Blvd.

Medford, OR 97504

Home: 541-690-1817 / 626-664-3830

dublincolleen42@gmail.com

Chev. Del Wiese, KCTJ, BMTJ

Treasurer - Grand Bailiwick

3033-B South Manly Avenue

Springfield, MO 65807

Cell: 417-848-7857

burnsans@att.net

Dame Nellie G. Lowry, DTJ

Supply Officer - Grand Bailiwick

9654 Kessler Avenue

Chatsworth, CA 91311

Home: 818-886-4968

LowryLines@aol.com

Dame Michele D. Graham, DCTJ

2792 Redwing Circle

Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Home: 714-610-8368

thegrahams4@ca.rr.com

Chev. C. Robert Ferguson, GOTJ, BMTJ

Knight Avocat - Grand Bailiwick

4237 La Junta

Claremont, CA 91711

Home: 909-596-2829

crflawyer@earthlink.net



## The Grand Bailiwick of the Scots - Priors

Chev. W. James Nethery, GCTJ, SMTJ

Prior - Priory of Robert the Bruce

4325 E. Terra Vista Lane

Anaheim, CA 92057

Home: 714-637-4330

jimnethery@sbcglobal.net

Chev. Mark C. O'Dell, GCTJ, BMTJ

Prior - Priory of St. Columba

Hardecke House, 3235 N. Pickwick

Springfield, MO 65803

Cell: 417-425-6873

Perfectelu14@yahoo.com

Chev. Allen Cummings, KCTJ

Webmaster

7409 Jessica Way

Rowlett, TX 75089

Home 972- 412-3660

allencummings@verizon.net

Chev. Robert Ernest Ryder, KTJ - Editor

Secretary of the Priory of St. Columba

2858 Grasshill Rd #222

Brookline Station, MO 65619

Home: 417-987-3837 / Cell: 417- 496-8610

skyeryder@mchsi.com



## CHANGES AT THE PRIORY OF ROBERT THE BRUCE

by H.E. Chev W. James Nethery, GCTJ, SMTJ Prior of Robert the Bruce - S. California

There have been some changes in the organizational structure in the Priory of Robert the Bruce within the past month. Due to lack of active members it was decided that the Commandery of An Crun needed to be retired and it's members assigned to other Commanderys. The bulk of the members have been reassigned to the Commandery of Good Sir James but three members have been reassigned to the Preceptory of the Isles due to the location of their residences.

Templar.

The founding Commander of the Commandery of Saint Cuthbert Chevalier John Hunter has requested that he be relieved and Chevalier Mark Peterson has been appointed the new Commander of Saint Cuthbert. Our thanks and gratitude goes out to Chevalier Hunter for his work in founding Saint Cuthbert.

On 9 November a Postulants Reception will be held at the home of the Prior. On Sunday afternoon, 10 November the Priory of Robert the Bruce will Invest six new members into our Order at the Anaheim First Presbyterian Church and Dame Patricia Tennyson Bell will represent the Grand Bailiwick of the Scots. Following the Investiture there will be an Officer's Mess at the Anaheim White House Restaurant (nonpartisan) with a charity auction. The auction funds will go to support feeding homeless children through a charity run by the owner of the Anaheim White House Restaurant, they feed 300 children, 365 evenings a year at the Anaheim Boys and Girls Club.



The melding of An Crun and Good Sir James will result in a considerably larger geographic Commandery but Dame Cheryl Armstrong Cook has committed to continuing the charitable activities ongoing in An Crun and she will hold two Commandery meetings in the old An Crun Commandery area to encourage those members of our Order to remain in touch and involved with the daily life of the Scottish Knights

<http://www.clans2014.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/132663658-Homecoming-Events.pdf>

Here is some useful information about what is happening in Scotland in 2014.  
From: Jim Nethery



Please meet the newly SMOTJ Invested at Balgonie.  
L to R: Dame Karen Paulson, Chev Ajrn Paulson and Dame Laurissa Gronwall.



Mr Stuart Morris of Balgonie, the Younger,  
and Mrs Kelly Morris of Balgonie, the Younger

### The Priory of St. Columba

Prior H.E. Chev. Mark C. O'DELL, GCTJ, BMTJ - SW Missouri

The Priory of St. Columba has had a busy year this year with our Investiture in Springfield, Missouri, in March, followed by our Convent in the Kansas City area in June, then the early August Investiture at Balgonie Castle in Scotland, where myself and many of our members were in attendance.

I would like to personally welcome our newly invested members to our Priory. Dame Gail Adams DTJ, Chev. Derrick Bruce, KTJ, and Dame Deborah Bruce, DTJ. In Scotland, we welcomed Dame Laurissa Gronwall, DTJ into the Order and Priory. Welcome and remember, this is a working order of knighthood and your journey has just begun. We expect great commitment from you all.

Our Investiture charity this year was the Habitat for Humanity in the Southeast sponsored by the Preceptory of Nairn. Our conventual charity this year was the Invermark Piping and Drumming School sponsored by the Preceptory of St. Chatten. Both of these were extremely successful charities and again I am awed by the generosity of this priory and look forward to continued success with our chosen charities. Remember, if you cannot make the event in person please try to send a check in for what you are able to support our yearly charities.

Chev. Del Weise was elevated to Knight Commander in March in Springfield for his continued and effective service as Treasurer to the Grand Bailiwick. Chev. Allen Cummings was elevated to Knight Commander in August in Scotland for his continued services as our Grand Bailiwick Webmaster. Finally, Chev. Geoffrey Chaboude, KCTJ was awarded the Gold Medal of Merit for long and distinguished service to the Order. Congratulations to you all and we look forward to your continued service within the Order.

We also have three of our members currently serving overseas. Please keep Chev. T.J. Smith, KTJ, Chev. J.R. Bigelow, KTJ, and Dame Laurissa Gronwall, DTJ in your prayers.

**Please mark your calendars and save the following dates. Official invitations will arrive six to eight weeks prior to the function.**

2014 Investiture-March 8<sup>th</sup> in Springfield, Missouri

2014 Convent-Date TBD in St. Charles, Missouri

2017 Investiture-Date TBD Balgonie Castle, Scotland

Finally a reminder: *"You only get out of this order what you put into it."*

Yours aye,

H.E. Chev. Mark C. O'Dell, GCTJ, BMTJ  
Prior, Priory of St. Columba  
Ph-417.425.6873  
Email- perfectelu14@yahoo.com



### Commandery of Bon Accord

Left photo is of the 3rd quarter picnic at the Weise home. Middle and right photo is of the 4th quarter meeting at the O'Dell home.





## A Templar Ghost Story: The Legend of Maryculter

by Chev. Todd J Wilkinson KCTJ - Educator/Historian

Around 1187, King William the Lion of Scotland granted part of the south bank of the River Dee in the lands of Culter to the Knights Templar. Further lands were given by a local nobleman, Walter Bisset of Aboyne, and the Templars soon organized a preceptory at Culter by 1225. A chapel dedicated to Virgin Mary soon caused a dispute with a nearby Kelso Abbey at Peterculter; the monks claimed that the Templars were in the wrong for building the chapel on their side of the river, which now threatened their income through tithes. The Templars justified their action as there was no bridge over the River Dee, and monks appealed to the Pope, who sided with the Templars; the area became known as "Maryculter" in reference to the chapel's patron. In 1309, during the trial of Templars in the Abbey of Holyrood in Edinburgh, a William de Middleton of "the temple house of Culther" is listed among the defendants. At its zenith, Maryculter was second only to the Templar preceptory at Balantrodoch.



Eventually the 8, 5000 acres at Maryculter were turned over to the Knights Hospitallers, who abandoned the land in 1584. The lands passed to the Menzies family before being purchased by General the Hon. William Gordon of Fyvie in 1811. The Gordons

controlled the area until the 1930s, when it purchased by the City of Aberdeen Boy Scouts Association. Today, only ruins of the chapel remain on the grounds of the Maryculter House Hotel (a new chapel was built in 1787) and the Boy Scouts maintain a camp site, appropriately named "Templars Park".

Now that we have set the stage, so to speak, allow me to tell a ghost story associated with Maryculter.

Legend tells of a Saracen woman who travelled from the Holy Land to Scotland to reunite with a Templar, Godfrey Wedderburn, who she nursed back to health after Wedderburn had engaged in single combat with her father. The women had fallen in love with the Templar, but

given his vows to the order, he could not reciprocate her feelings. When the preceptor found out about the Saracen, he ordered her thrown out of the preceptory, and Wedderburn struck the preceptor in anger. In retaliation, the preceptor condemned Wedderburn to death; the young Templar committed suicide and his grief-stricken paramour followed suit, but not before daring the preceptor not to put on a ring that he had given her. The preceptor did just that, and was supposedly struck by a lightning bolt. The spot where the preceptor was killed is still known today as "The Thunder Hole". Other versions of the story tell of a terrible scream coming from the nearby hills and glens when Wedderburn died.

The ghost of the Saracen girl has been seen near the site of the knights' tomb, reportedly singing a mournful song; other eyewitnesses report a phantom knight, believed to be Wedderburn, riding along nearby Kingussie Hill. Others tell of a blue light that is seen hovering near the spot where Wedderburn and the girl killed themselves. One version of the legend was documented in J.A. Henderson's *Annals of Lower Deeside*, published in 1892.

In her book, *The Knights Templar in Britain*, Evelyn Lord believes that the legend of Maryculter may have inspired Sir Walter Scott in writing his book *The Talisman*, which is essentially the same story as the Saracen woman and her knight. Lord also speculates that the legend may have been created by the locals to rationalize unexplained natural events, such as will o' the wisps, which may explain the blue flame. While this theory may be correct, on a chilly October evening like tonight, I prefer the legend of the Saracen maid and her knight.

### Sources

Ferguson, Robert. *The Knights Templar and Scotland*. The Mill, Briscombe Port Stroud Gloucestershire: The History Press, 2010.

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[http://www.skt.org.uk/Templars\\_Properties.html](http://www.skt.org.uk/Templars_Properties.html)

[http://www.road-sense.org/communities/maryculter/maryculter\\_history.html](http://www.road-sense.org/communities/maryculter/maryculter_history.html)

<http://thegckt.blogspot.com/2012/03/templar-ghost-legends.html>

Why should we wait until January 25<sup>th</sup> to recall and appreciate Robert Burns? One of our Scottish laureate's longest poems was "Halloween". We already know that Burns' love for stories of ghosts, witches and other nocturnal spirits inspired the writing of "Tam O' Shanter." Legends, myths and time honored traditions underlie the Halloween "spirit" that can be found in many works of Burns and other writers of his day.

### 2013 Investiture at Balgonie Castle



Chev. Christopher and Dame Eliana Cummins



L to R: Grand Bailiff, Chev. J. Connall Bell; Grand Prior, Raymond Morris; and Prior Chev. Mark O'Dell



Grand Prior and Chev. Allen Cummings



Balgonie Castle



Chev Ajrn Paulson KTJ



Balgonie Chapel



L to R: Dames Adele O'Dell, Anita Philbrick, and Cathie Ryder



L To R forefront: Chev. Mark O'Dell, Laurissa Gronwall and Chev. Connall Bell



## Minnesota to Scotland

by Chev. Roderick Neil Johnson, KCTJ Preceptor of the Preceptory of Ballantrodach

There were six of us that traveled from Minnesota to Scotland for the Investiture at Balgonie Castle in August; John Peterson, his wife Mary, Nicole and TJ Smith, John Burroughs and Neil Johnson. None of the others had traveled to Scotland before so we had a lot to see and do.

The first four traveled to Edinburgh on Wednesday July 31 and spent two days in Edinburgh looking at various sights. John and I traveled on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> and arrived early on Saturday. We got our car but no luggage which delayed our plans for Saturday. When we finally got our luggage, we traveled to our lodging which was located just west of St. Andrews. We had tickets to the Tattoo for that night, so we traveled into Edinburgh once we were settled in the cottage we had rented. The Tattoo was not one of the best efforts but was still worthwhile and we had a good time, but a long day.

Sunday was dedicated to a trip to see Melrose Abbey, Temple Wood and Rosslyn Chapel, all important Templar sights. We spent a good amount of time in Melrose and saw the grave of the Bruce's heart. We found the door to the Commandery of Ballantrodach in Temple and while we arrived too late to see the Chapel on Sunday, we were able to spend a good amount of time walking those parts of the Sinclair Castle which are public. Monday morning saw us off to St. Andrews for a day of sightseeing and then dressing for the Investiture and Nicole's and TJ's marriage vows renewals at the Castle. The Investiture was in the Chapel as were the vows renewal and it was very impressive. TJ and Nicole are both Army and have spent more anniversaries away from each other than together. For those of you who do not



know, TJ is also being activated for another tour in Afghanistan. So this renewal was important to them and I was happy that we could be a part of it as well.

Those of you who have been there know how worthwhile the trip is and just how wonderful both Laird and Lady Morris are. Stuart and his new wife are also wonderful people and we felt like we were long lost relations rather than strangers. I was delayed coming up for dinner to the great hall and therefore, sat with Lady Margaret and Katie as well as the piper and a Sinclair. The two men also worked on the castle renovations so I had a wonderful time discussing this with all of them.

Tuesday we set out for Stirling in two cars. We were to meet at the Bannockburn battlefield after John and I stopped off to make reservations for dinner that night. We got to the sight finally as it was under construction. We could not find the others

and after touring the battlefield, John and I left to go to the castle. As we left the others got to the battlefield. We later caught up and touched base at the castle. We finally joined together at the Wallace Monument and everyone was able to make it up at least part of the Monument and was able to see the sword of Wallace as well as most of Scotland. Dinner was at the Tourmaukin Inn, in Perthshire and was a farewell to TJ as he had to return to being gearing up for his deployment on Wednesday. Our first taste of Sticky Toffee Pudding!

Wednesday, we all traveled to Edinburgh and spent the day in town shopping and sightseeing. Thursday, we went to Perth. We had to meet Laurissa at the Perth train station as she was staying with us one night before she returned to England and flew home. Perth is also important to Templar History as it was originally known as St. John's Town and has several ties to Templar lore. We toured Scone Castle and visited the hill that the Stone of Destiny originally sat while there and then had a wonderful dinner in Perth before we returned to our cottage. Friday we got up and delivered Laurissa to the airport to catch a shuttle to Waverley and then went to Rosslyn Chapel to see the inside. We then returned and packed/cleaned the cottage so that we could get an early start to our travels.

The next week was one of B&Bs and several quick tours. Remember, I said that the others traveling had never been to Scotland so we tried to pack a lot in. In addition, they are all Donalds, so we had to make certain stops! First stop was Inverness with several quick side trips to take pictures of the Grampian Mountains, a quick Whisky Distillery tour at Dalwhinnie, a snack at Dunkeld, dinner in Inverness at a local pub that Laurissa suggested and a good ceilidh. Sunday saw us traveling to the Culloiden Battlefield and spending a good amount of time there. We found the Donald monument and now know that the entire battlefield extended at least 900 yards across the road and that the Prince (far right) and the Donalds (far left) were not even close to where they originally thought they were. We then moved down the Loch to Drumnadrochit, the only town that is really on Loch Ness. The next day we started with a tour of Urquhart Castle and then drove to Glencoe. We spent a lot of time there and saw both the monument and the center before traveling on to our B&B in Oban. Oban was not a lot of fun because there was a sailing regatta in town that meant we needed, but did not have, diner reservations. Shopping was good and I know of at least one person that enjoyed the Distillery. Continued page 9...





### Minnesota to Scotland - continued from page 8

We then traveled to Kilmarrin. This is the valley that the original Dal Riada came to when they moved from Ireland into Scotland. This site is close to both Donalds and MacMillans as we are both Irish and therefore, Dal Riada in our ancestry. It has seen continual habitation since the Megalithic Era and there are several sights in the valley where there are standing stones, carved stones, cairns



and a standing stone sight that is strangely called Temple Wood. It would have served as a sight that fleeing Templars would have been able to find from asking locals and then

meet others to continue their flight to a safe haven (Loch Awe). Just meet at Temple Wood. It is also the sight of

Dunadd Hill Fort. This was the place where the first kings of the Scots were crowned and there is both a basin and a footprint worn into the granite where they placed their foot when being crowned. Supposedly, the Dun would cry out if the true king of Scotland places their foot in the footprint, but we didn't even get a moan, so I guess we are not the rightful kings. I was also able to celebrate my 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday in Kilmarrin with good friends, a very good dinner and some good Scotch.

Thursday was spent getting back to Edinburgh with a quick stop off to visit my Clan Chief at Finlaystone in Langbank. We had a good time touring the grounds and then returned to the Guesthouse in Edinburgh that everyone stayed at before John and I got there. John, Mary and Nicole all left very early, John B and me on a later time and we all got home. However, Mary had her bag destroyed along the way and Nicole got John's luggage home on her flight and John got Nicole's home on his. My luggage made it without an extra fee so the Scotch that I bought did not cost extra. You gotta love travel!

### Commandery of Bon Accord - Investiture 2013 at Balgonie Castle

The last of July 2013 six members, or three couples [O'Dell, Philbrick and Ryder], from the Commandery of Bon Accord went on holiday to Scotland from SW Missouri. To say the least first and foremost, it was a wonderful experience and adventure for all of us.

The first area of discovery in Scotland was Inverness. One of many good decisions from a well-planned itinerary was hiring a tour-guide with a seven passenger van for two days. The guide presented more information, stopped at the major sights, than going it alone, etc.

After five days in Inverness and sharing a cottage, each couple went their own way: Aberdeen, Avemore and Perth.

The first weekend of August we all came together again in Markinch for the 2013 Investiture. Descriptions created by words seem lacking of the honor and what took place within Balgonie Castle. Hopefully the many photos scattered throughout this Victor will make us all to begin thinking about the 2017 Investiture and a possible tour of Scotland.



After the Investiture ceremony

there were three couples who renewed their wedding vows officiated by the Much Honored Raymond Morris of Balgonie. The couples are Chev TJ and Dame Nicole Smith, Chev Dan and Dame Anita Philbrick, and Chev Robert and Dame Cathie Ryder.

All in attendance at Balgonie Castle had the pleasure of a very good and hearty meal in the Great Dining Hall. There were three long tables and benches just like in the old movie of "Robin Hood" – Errol Flynn comes to mind. During the meal several "shadows" moved about at will. Also, the ladies restroom had an unknown force blocking the doorway. It was later told that Balgonie Castle is counted as one of the most haunted castles in Scotland. Ghosts?



Most of Balgonie Castle has no electricity and relies on candle-power. From the Great Dining Hall to Chapel it takes 20 minutes to light all the candles. To maintain all the candles is a job in itself.

It always seems somewhat sad leaving Scotland but it was good arriving home in SW Missouri. And, the three couples who shared the experience are still the best of friends.

## A Wonder to Wondering

### What Playing Cricket Looks Like to Americans

Cricket is very easy to understand. The following English explanation (not mine) should make this clear:

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in.

Each man that's in the side that's in goes out, and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out. When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out. Sometimes you get men still in and not out.

When a man goes out to go in, the men who are out try to get him out, and when he is out he goes in and the next man in goes out and goes in.

There are two men called umpires who stay out all the time and they decide when the men who are in are out.

When both sides have been in and all the men have been out, and both sides have been out twice after all the men have been in, including those who are not out, that is the end of the game.

As one Scottish-looking gentleman who claims to be a US American stated, "The above explanation of the logic of cricket was right to the point.."

Source: An English grasshopper mixed with Drambuie



Clava Cairn near Inverness - Adele O'Dell in red



Within Clava Cairn - Anita Philbrick and Cathie Ryder

<http://www.grandprioryofthescots.org/>



### Editors Column

By Chev. Robert E Ryder, KTJ, - SW Missouri

Before becoming a postulant, I was invited to a 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter brunch-gathering of the Commandery of Bon Accord. At first I was apprehensive. I knew only two people at the gathering. Staying mostly quiet I listened. Across the table was the Commander of Bon Accord [Dame Adele O'Dell]. She was a well of information concerning SMOTJ, along with others seated nearby. Even spouses can join! We concluded SMOTJ is a worthy organization and have been active on most levels of our Order.



Being an active Knight and Dame of SMOTJ we have good close friends, and we have fun being together for Commandery and Priory meetings. As Prior Mark O'Dell of the Priory of St. Columba states: "You only get out of this order what you put into it."

Months before the 2013 Scotland Investiture at Balgonie Castle, we booked a room in a hotel in Markinch, Scotland. The hotel had a restaurant serving all three meals, etc. One morning Cathie and I entered the restaurant for breakfast and we at once recognized a gentleman seated there. It was H.E. Chev J Connall Bell, GCTJ, GMTJ. What a most profound honor to share a couple of meals with the Grand Bailiff – Grand Bailiwick. Thank you Sir!