



Sovereign Order Of
ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM
Knights Hospitaller c.1048

Sovereign Council Meeting 2028
Tentative Dates: August 14-20, 2028
Hosted by Glasgow Scotland Commandery

You are very warmly invited to join us for the 2028 SCM in Scotland for some cordial Scottish hospitality. The last time the SCM was held in Scotland was in 2006 which was according to members' feedback from that period, Donald and May Storrie et al. It was deemed "highly successful."

For the Sovereign Council Meeting in 2028, so far there are two main possibilities i.e. holding it in either Stirling or Glasgow. As yet the venue has not been decided, but wherever is chosen, the event will include a full programme of activities including visits to:

- The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- Roslynn Chapel
- Torphicken ([*tor-FIKH-en*](#)) Priory and Tower
- Golf at Gleneagle
- Visit to Glenturret Whiskey Distillery with its Michelin starred restaurant and the Lalique Exhibition Centre on site.

Yours in St. John,

H.E. Bailiff Prior Ruth Chappell Fleming, GCSJ

Motion

To accept the recommendation to hold the Sovereign Council Meeting in 2028 in Scotland.

Roslynn Chapel



ROSLYNN CHAPEL was founded in 1446 by Sir William Clair. This fascinating and unique architectural treasure has a long and colourful historical connection to the chivalric tradition and orders, craft freemasonry, the Knight Templars and might or might not be the repository of the Holy Grail. As mentioned in Dan Brown's novel the Davinci Code. It is well known that on their way back from the Crusades in the Holy Land, that when the Templar cohort was passing through France, it was travelling with a carefully and closely guarded treasure of reputedly significant import. Most likely none of us on a visit to Rosslenn is likely to be awarded a glimpse of the Grail, because unless our name happens to be Galahad, none of us is likely to be seen as being worthy of a Grail vision. Not yet anyway.

Torphichen Preceptory



In the centuries before even the idea of a national health service had arisen in Scotland, healthcare interventions for the sick or injured would have been thin on the ground, almost nonexistent. At best, a sick or injured person may have been able to source a folk herbalist or some sort of bonesetter but little more. However, in 1132 C.E. King David the first of Scotland invited the Knights of Saint John, the Knight Hospitallers to Scotland. The Knights of Saint John who were both military and medical religious men had been founded in 1048 C.E. in Rome and by the year 1113, they had established a renowned hospital in Jerusalem which was treating both Crusaders and Muslims equally. Their experience at that hospital put the Knights at the well-informed cutting edge of the medicine of their day.

In Scotland by 1153, King David had granted the Hospitaller Knights extensive lands in the Torphichen area, as well as a charter to found a preceptory there. The Knights on their fiefdom went on to construct a wooden church dedicated to Saint Ninian the patron saint of Scotland, with Saint Michael's of Linlithgow being its Mother church. Concurrently with putting down their roots in Scotland, the Knights were able to offer parishioners and local people, the knowledge of illness, injuries and their

treatment which they had acquired in the Holy Land during the crusading era. The Knights became so well known for this that by 1197 when Sir William Wallace the Scottish guerrilla leader and patriot while leading a small army of Scots against a larger English force at the battle of Stirling Bridge suffered several wounds and was taken directly to the knights of Saint John to have those wounds tended, thus underlining the fact that the coming of the knights of Saint John to Scotland was ushering in an era where healers and healing were coming to be available in Scotland. The Battle of Stirling Bridge can be seen as being as significant for Scottish healthcare as it was for the wars of Scottish Independence. The original wooden church at Torphicken has long since gone the way of many other wooden buildings of antiquity, however, King David the First of Scotland replaced this with a stone built tower and preceptory in the twelfth century as the headquarters of the Knight Hospitallers in Scotland. This strongly built fortress-like structure is still standing and on our visit there, our members will get a good idea of what it would have been like to live and operate from a Hospitaller fortress from the Crusading era. At one point, this healing fortress sheltered Scotland's two greatest warrior patriots, William Wallace and King Robert the First, the Bruce. On the field of battle, Wallace was an expert exponent of the huge two-handed sword. Robert not only had a significant claim to the Scottish throne but came from solid chivalric stock, his great grandfather having been, the famous Templar Knight William Marshall, the Earl of Pembroke an advisor to four different English Kings. Nicknamed "Strongbow" he was seen as being "a warrior of outstanding prowess" and the victor of 500 single combat jousts. Sir William's wife was Isabel de Clare of the Scottish crusading family who built Roslynn Chapel. In the light of these facts, our visits to Roslynn and Torphicken should be steeped in chivalric and crusading history and how they intertwined and coalesced in and around Scotland's Robert the First.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



Against the truly spectacular backdrop of the ramparts of Edinburgh Castle's ancient defenses that are framed by the dramatic skyline of Scotland's capital city, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, is a truly global celebration of music, dance and precision military performances which annually see some two hundred thousand people packed into the esplanade while in the region of 100 million people view the massed pipes and drums on television, with the whole production and performance being enhanced by a truly spectacular light show. No matter how many times you may have attended this event previously, it never fails to delight, inspire and entertain. And taking part in the event within a group of like-minded friends and co-workers can only add to the amazingly unique dynamism that is the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

The Kings Golf Course at Gleneagles Hotel



Gleneagles is one of the greatest names in the world of golf. With three of the top courses in Scotland and as recent hosts of the Ryder and Solheim Cups, it is easy to see why. The Kings Course created by James Braid opened in 1919 is a masterpiece of golf course design which has tested the aristocracy of golf both professional and amateur

The Kings Course created by James Braid opened in 1919 is a masterpiece of golf course design which has tested the aristocracy of golf both professional and amateur for generations.

Glenturret Distillery



The Glenturret Distillery is Scotland's oldest working distillery making for a unique whiskey experience. Glenturret whiskey is just as crafted today as it was more than 200 years ago. Intrinsic to this process with the last remaining hand operated mash tun in Scotland and drawing on the Crief area's pure mountain waters.

A significant part of this package is the Lalique Bar, a dedicated Lalique Boutique and the Glenturret Lalique Restaurant with its 2 Michelin stars. Making this a true gastronomic delight.