

Mr Le Fevre detailed the modern day legacy of the medieval order, including the formation in 1982 of the Templar Pilgrimage Trust launched by the Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, and the Templar Heritage Trust, tasked with increasing the history and understanding of the Knights Templar.

The Knights Templar or the medieval Order of "The Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon" (Pauperes commilitones Christi templique Salomonic) was founded in 1119 by nine Frankish Crusaders led by Hugues de Payens, whose aim was to protect pilgrims visiting Christian shrines in

Jerusalem. This holy brotherhood lived under austere vows of poverty and chastity, according to the rule of St Bernard of Clairvaux. They can be well described as a band of fighting monks. The order comprised four ranks: servants, chaplains, sergeants, and knights, the latter wearing white surcoats with the red cross of St. George. In 1147 Pope Eugenius III ordered them to bear the familiar eight pointed cross, which is said to be older in history than the St George's cross. By the 13th century there were as many as 20,000 knights. King Baldwin II of Jerusalem gave the Order its headquarters on Temple Mount, hence the popular name, "Knights Templar".

Editor

MEMBERSHIP NEWS **Sheila Cope**

It is pleasing to know that these reports are read by someone. In my last report I mentioned that we have no system of cross-referencing old Newsletters and, more in hope than expectation, asked whether any member would be willing to take on such a mammoth task. To my great surprise and pleasure, Paul Skelton came forward and offered to do the job. Having completed it in two or three weeks, he said:

"After joining the society a couple of years ago, I was most pleased to learn that the Society still had a complete set of old newsletters going back to the very first. Even better when Sheila Cope offered to pass them on to an interested party for the possible creation of a reference or master index of contents. What an opportunity for me to see what I have missed, I thought, and so offered my services to take on this no mean task. However, not wanting to do this with pen and paper, I took to computerisation to do the task for me, and have just converted them all into

searchable digital files that fit onto one DVD."

So there it is! The Committee is most grateful to Paul and has yet to decide how to make the best use of this valuable resource but it will undoubtedly contribute towards our marketing strategy and advertise what The Dover Society and the town itself has to offer.

Thanks, as always, to all those members who have paid their subscriptions on time. I am currently sending out reminders to the rest and hope that once our membership list has been transferred to a database then that particular task will take hours rather than days.

There are 473 of us at present including 15 welcome new members:- Toby Oakes, Barry O'Brien, Nicholas Lockhart, Graham & Vanessa Fitcher, David & Judith Smith, Jeff Howe, Melvyn Durrant, Graham Leadbeater, Brian & Christine Walton, Joanna Walton and Gary & Anita Jordan