



NEWS RELEASE

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Cracking the Code of The Lost Knights Templar Castle at Dunham Massey

Thousands of visitors each week visit the National Trust park and home at Dunham Massey near Altrincham, but not many know about the lost Knights Templar castle which lies beneath their feet.

The original castle was built by Hamon de Mascy (or Hammon de Massey) in the early 12 c. Whilst the castle is long gone, the secret order of the Knights Templar remain as dedicated to the original cause as ever.

Their secrets, including their attire which has not changed for 800 years, are revealed by 81 year old Emile Salem. Many of the traditions of the order are as relevant to today as they were when the order was formed in the 11c.

Mr. Salem explains some of the 680 rules and how the order can be useful in 21st c. life. Secret orders throughout the ages such as the Knights Templar and the Druids tend to have received bad press, but the reason cultures go underground in the first place is that they originally threatened the established political or religious doctrine of the time.

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Hamon de Mascy built the castle and also founded Birkenhead Priory in Wirral where two templar knights are buried. This ruin provides further clues as to the architecture of the castle at Dunham and the allegiances of De Massey

But why was it knocked down?* The programme pieces together the puzzle.

The programme presented by adventure archaeologist Mark Olly runs for eight weeks on ITV Granada. The episode on Dunham Massey is on Sunday at 6.05 www.lost-treasures.co.uk

Ends

Note to Editors:-

- 1) Emile Salem, Knight Templar is happy to be interviewed and photographed prior to the programme on Sunday. Please contact **Keith Thompson 0789 266 2634** for his contact details
- 2) To find out more about the Knights Templar see <http://www.knightstemplar-uk.co.uk/About-Us/48/About-Us.html> or the home page at www.knightstemplar.co.uk
- 3) *If you would like the answer to this question, we would also be able to field our presenter Mark Olly. Telephone number provided as above.