



the Surrey knight



Issue 5 – JANUARY 2024

The Provincial Priory of Surrey Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Surrey was held on Saturday the 8th of July 2023 at the Croydon Masonic Centre in Oakfield Road, Croydon.



E.Kt. Jon Laws and the team made everyone feel welcome on arrival.



The Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Tim Ford, and his team were busy rehearsing in the Temple....



....while the rest of us were enjoying coffee and bacon butties downstairs.





The Brother Knights of the Province of Kent were there in force to support the Province of Surrey.



It was so good to see E.Kt. Keith Waller with us. Keith was our Cross Bearer for many years until ill health meant he had to hand over the role to someone else. I have known Keith for many years, since my initiation into Masonry, and he has been a good friend to me, and a very supportive Mason all that time.



Familiar faces in the Delegation of Knights of Malta....



Prior to the meeting (*excuse the pun*) our Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Pat Crossan, made sure he individually welcomed all our guests and Brother Knights of the Province.



By 10.45 we were all gathered in the Temple. The Brother Knights were called to Order by the Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Tim Ford, P.Gt.A.D.C.....





Then followed the Delegation of Knights of Malta. RE Knights and other Distinguished Guests, then entered the Temple in procession.

.... to receive the Provincial Prelate, E.Kt. Len Moreton, preceded by the Provincial Cross Bearer and Provincial Almoner.



We were all delighted that our Past Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Michael Banbury, KCT, was able to be with us. I had the pleasure and privilege, as his Provincial Marshal for several years, to escort him into the Temple to rapturous applause.



The Provincial Prior then entered the Temple preceded by the Provincial Sword Bearer and followed by the Provincial Banner Bearer.

Provincial Priory was opened in due form and the Provincial Prior was saluted with seven under direction of the Provincial Marshal.

The Provincial Prior welcomed the Honoured Guests from other Provinces, as well as the Heads of Surrey Orders and their Executive.



Here we have from the Mark Province of Surrey the Provincial Grand Master, John French, the Past Provincial Grand Master, Ray Hussey, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Tim Ford, and the Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Chris Eley.



After the regular business of Provincial Priory had been concluded, the Provincial Prior re-appointed V.E.Kt. Peter Brown as Provincial Sub Prior, thanking him for all his support over the years.

He then appointed and invested his Provincial Officers. The Provincial Prior then received the Commander, Deputy Commander, and Registrar of his Bodyguard.

He thanked the members of the Bodyguard for supporting him on his Official Visits. Here we see the members of the Bodyguard with the Provincial Sword Bearer and the Provincial Banner Bearer.

E.Kt. Steve Jones, Provincial Warden of Regalia presented the Provincial Prior with a cheque for £1,419 as a donation towards the Provincial Benevolent Fund from the sales of new and pre-loved regalia over the past year.



The Provincial Prior addressed Provincial Priory. In his Address he greeted all those attending with warmth and a hearty welcome and said how pleased he was to see so many Brother Knights, and guests from other Provinces and Orders attending.

He spoke about the need to look after others, both within and without our Order, as one of the Precepts of our Order.

He congratulated all those Knights he had appointed or promoted this day wishing them a happy year to enjoy their honour.

R.E. Knight Pat ended by thanking all those who worked so hard and contributed to the success of the meeting.



Provincial Priory was closed in due form and the R.E. Provincial Prior retired in procession....



.... greeting his Honoured Guests as they retired from the Temple.



We then retired to the bar where we were joined by Arnold Long, the Provincial Grand Summus of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey in the Order of the Scarlet Cord.



A few drinks in the bar gave us the opportunity to catch up with some old friends.....



During the meeting the Provincial Prior made donations to several charities including the St John at Jerusalem Eye Hospital and the Royal Marsden Hospital. Here we have E.Kt. Michael Petryszyn receiving his cheque from our Provincial Prior.





We then retired to the dining room to enjoy a lovely meal together with our guests.



A big thank you to Gary Billington of the Croydon and District Masonic Halls for kindly putting up a rolling slide show of all our activities over the past year to keep our guests entertained while in the bars.





A Special Candidate for Suth Seaxe Lodge of Scottish Masters



At the meeting were four Provincial Priors from the Provinces of Surrey, Kent, Middlesex, and Sussex.

At the June 2023 meeting of the Suth Seaxe Lodge of Scottish Masters of St Andrew No. 9 in the Grand Priory of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City our Provincial Vice Chancellor, E.Kt. Dr Miguel Godfrey took his Fourth Degree Ceremony, along with E.Kt. Jeremy Griffin from the Province of Sussex.



Many other Surrey Knights were there to see Miguel join the Order.

The Ceremony was conducted by the Worshipful Deputy Master, Revd Knight Ian Smith, K.B.H.C, the Senior and Junior Wardens were Revd Knights Pat Crossan and Gordon Leaman, the Master of Ceremonies was Tim Wheeler, the Great Marshal, and the Assistant Master of Ceremonies was Revd Knight Chris Eley.

The Regional Grand Prefect was invited to present a Grand Priory Certificate to Brother Leslie Grout.

At the end of the Ceremony Miguel and Jeremy were congratulated by R.Revd Knight David Jordan, the Regional Grand Perfect, and Revd.Kt. Ian Smith the Worshipful Deputy Master.



Our Provincial Prior, Revd.Kt. Pat Crossan, was declared Worshipful Deputy Master for the ensuing year.

It was a very special and enjoyable day for us all.

A visit to the Provincial Priory of Middlesex



In July, several Surrey Knights attended the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Middlesex held at the Harrow District Masonic Centre in Kenton.



We received a warm knightly welcome from the Provincial Prior, RE Kt John Roberts and the Knights of the Province of Middlesex. Before the meeting we met up for coffee and biscuits which gave us a chance to catch up with old friends.



By 11.45 we were all gathered in the Temple. The Brother Knights were called to Order by the Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Tom D'Souza, **Dep.Gt.Mar.**, to receive the RE Knights and other Distinguished Guests, who entered the Temple in procession. The Provincial Prior then entered the Temple preceded by the Provincial Sword Bearer and followed by the Provincial Banner Bearer.

Provincial Priory was opened in due form and the Provincial Prior was saluted with seven under direction of the Provincial Marshal.





During the meeting the Preceptory Banners were paraded into Provincial Priory by the Preceptory Banner Bearers. After the regular business of Provincial Priory had been concluded, the Provincial Prior re-appointed V.E.Kt. Silverio Ostrowski as Provincial Sub Prior, thanking him for all his support over the years.



He then appointed and invested his Provincial Officers. On appointing E.Kt. M Corcoran as Provincial Prelate the Provincial Prior paid tribute to the many years of faithful service as Provincial Prelate by Anthony Miller.





The Provincial Prior then received the Commander, Deputy Commander, and Registrar of his Bodyguard. He thanked the members of the Bodyguard for supporting him on his Official Visits.

The Provincial Prior addressed Provincial Priory. In his Address he greeted all those attending with warmth and a hearty welcome and said how pleased he was to see so many Brother Knights and guests from other Provinces and Orders attending.



The Provincial Priory of Middlesex has recently celebrated their first fifty years as a Knights Templar Province, and he thanked E.Kt. John Bennett for all his had work in producing an excellent written history covering this period.

He congratulated all those who he had appointed or promoted today wishing them well with their preferment and success for the year to come and beyond.

He thanked the Provincial Vice Chancellor and Provincial Marshal and their teams for their hard work in preparing and running the meeting. Provincial Priory was closed in due form and the RE Provincial Prior retired in procession, greeting his Honoured Guests as they retired from the Temple.



After a few drinks in the bar the Brother Knights of the Province of Middlesex and their guests enjoyed a most convivial meal together.



The Knights of the Province of Surrey had a most enjoyable day. It was nice to meet up with some friends from the Craft Province of Surrey who are Middlesex Knights.



Congratulations to the Provincial Priory of Hampshire and Isle of Wight

In September 2023, the Provincial Priory of Hampshire and Isle of Wight celebrated their Dodransbicentennial (175 years) Anniversary at their Annual Meeting held at the Brook House Masonic Centre, Botley, Hampshire.



The Province was created in 1848 but did not include the Isle of Wight at that time. Vectis Preceptory No. 237 was warranted in March 1925, being of 'free standing' and it was not until 1945 that they were united. To celebrate the 'union' the Annual Provincial meeting was held in Ryde in 1946. This 'moveable feast' was again scheduled for the Island in 1965. The Minute Book sadly records that "the meeting was held under exceptional difficulty due to the dense fog in the Solent". Strangely there has never been an Annual Provincial Meeting called on the island since, despite the great improvement in radar systems in the ensuing years! Annual meetings came to a more settled existence in Bournemouth for many years but more recently have taken place at Botley.

We received a warm knightly welcome from the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard.....

.... and the Provincial Prior for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, R.E.Kt. Charles Jonathan Aspinell, *RD*.

Before the meeting we met up for coffee and biscuits which gave us a chance to catch up with old friends....

.... Including many Right Eminent Knights who had travelled to Botley to support the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight on their- special day.



It was good to see R.Em.Kt. Trevor Gulliver, *KCT*, Past Provincial Prior of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, doing a splendid job as usual on the organ. R.E.Kt. Trevor was appointed Provincial Organist – a good choice....



Also attending were many Heads of Orders in Hampshire and Isle of Wight including Jonathan C. Whitaker, *JP*, *K.C.M.*, Great Prior of Malta, the Provincial Grand Master in the Craft; and Steven Groeger, Intendant-General of the Red Cross of Constantine.

Provincial Priory was honoured by the presence of the Very High and Right Eminent Knight, Malcom Slater, who is recovering well, and was delighted to be able to attend this special meeting of his mother Province.





The Brother Knights were called to order to receive the Right Eminent Knights.



The Provincial Prior then entered the Temple preceded by the Provincial Sword Bearer and followed by the Provincial Banner Bearer.



The Great Prior of Malta, R.E.Kt. Jonathan C. Whitaker, JP, K.C.M., entered in procession.

Provincial Priory was opened in due form and the Provincial Prior was saluted with seven under direction of the Provincial Marshal.



The Very High and Right Eminent Knight, Malcolm Earnest Slater, G.C.T., Officer of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St, John of Jerusalem entered in procession with his escort.



During the meeting the Preceptory Banners were paraded into Provincial Priory by the Preceptory Banner Bearers.



After the regular business of Provincial Priory had been concluded, the Provincial Prior re-appointed E.Kt. Julian Mitchell, P.Gt.Her., as Provincial Sub Prior, thanking him for all his support.

He then appointed and invested his Provincial Officers. On appointing V.E.Kt. Jeff Southwick, P.G.Reg., as Chancellor the Provincial Prior paid tribute to the many years of faithful service, first as Provincial Deputy Marshal and then Provincial Marshal. The Provincial Prior then received the Commander, Deputy Commander, and Registrar of his Bodyguard. He thanked the members of the Bodyguard for supporting him on his Official Visits.



The Provincial Prior addressed Provincial Priory. In his Address he said that we meet today at Botley on the closest date to the very first Provincial Meeting of the Province of Hampshire and they have spent this last year celebrating our 175th Anniversary Year in fine style.

The Provincial Prior wanted to mark the year with a bumper donation to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group and he invited Right Eminent Knight David Coombes to present a donation to the Past Great Senechal, Very High & Right Eminent Knight Malcolm Slater OSTJ, of over £20,000. He also said that he has arranged for this year's collection to support the 2027 Festival of our Craft Province for the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

The Provincial Prior was thanked by

R.E.Kt. Jonathan C. Whitaker, Provincial Grand Master of the Craft Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

Provincial Priory was closed in due form and the RE Provincial Prior retired in procession greeting his Honoured Guests as they retired from the Temple.





The Surrey delegation then returned for a group photo....



After a few drinks in the bar....



.... we were called in to lunch. The Brother Knights of the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight and their guests enjoyed a most convivial meal together.

We all wish the Provincial Priory of Hampshire and Isle of Wight all the best for the future.