



Address by our Provincial Grand Master to the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Court

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you all. I would particularly thank the Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro Charles Aspinell, a Member of this Province, for his attendance today, together with many Honoured Guests & Visitors, some of whom have travelled long distances to be with us. Of the 80 brethren present here today, it is wonderful to note that 60 are members of the Province, which is almost a third of our entire membership!

In my introductions earlier you will have noted that among the brethren of this Province, which encompasses the Craft Provinces of Hampshire & Isle of Wight, South Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex, and the Channel Islands, we have 22 Heads of Other Masonic Orders, Deputies & their Executive.

Congratulations to V.W.Bro. Mark Donovan whom I have had the pleasure of re-appointing as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and to the newly appointed Provincial Officers and those receiving promotion and first appointments in Past Provincial Rank. I also extend thanks to the outgoing Provincial Officers who have joined me on my Official Visits and given such tremendous support over the past year.

Deputy, Mark Donovan, and I have made Official and other visits to all Courts in the Province, and we have seen 11 new members instructed and welcomed into this wonderful Order. We have also made visits to other Provinces and enjoyed fellowship with brethren throughout the Order.

A schedule of Official Visits for the coming year has been agreed and distributed to the new Provincial Officers and Court Secretaries, and, as in previous years, I invite the newly invested Provincial Officers to join V.W.Bro. Mark and myself on these visits if they so wish - but I would again stress, here is no pressure on anyone to feel they must attend.

I am pleased to report that whilst membership has inevitably suffered from some resignations and deaths, the new members have ensured that numbers have remained steady, and it has been a pleasure to welcome 4 of the new members who are present today. The membership in the Province is currently 190.

I can also report that the brethren of The Court of Aelle No 25, after 15 years meeting at Herstmonceux in East Sussex, voted to relocate to the Eastbourne Masonic Centre from January this year, and they are hopeful that this move will provide greater opportunities for recruiting suitably qualified brethren into the Order.

Relationship with Other Masonic Orders, many of which I am a subscribing member, is excellent, and I have enjoyed several meetings with Heads of Other Orders in Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Surrey and Sussex, and have attended a number of their Annual Meetings within the boundaries of the Province.

Several Sussex brethren were honoured with Grand Rank at the Annual Meeting of Grand Court in October, and I congratulate the following who are here today:

Active Grand Rank

R W Bro Charles ASPINELL - Re-appointed Assistant Grand Master

VW Bro Glen CONELEY - Grand Marshal

RW Bro Paul HOLLEBONE- Deputy Grand Sword Bearer – who also received a “Field Promotion” to Past Eminent Grand Prior

W Bro Matthew BURT - Grand Organist

Past Grand Ranks

Promotion

W Bro Gordon LEAMAN - Past Junior Grand Deacon

First Appointments

W Bro Leslie GROUT – Past Grand Banner Bearer

W Bro Colin WILSON – Past Grand Banner Bearer

W Bro John SHADE – Past Grand Guard

A new quarterly Newsletter – The Sussex Crown – has been introduced, and Issue No. 1 covering news and photographs of Court visits, and instruction and installation ceremonies over the past year, was distributed in January. Our Provincial website is once again active and being regularly updated. I extend my special thanks to W. & Em. Bro. Chris Eley, our new Provincial Prior, who is the compiler of the Sussex Crown, for his diligence in taking photographs, and liaising with Web-master W. Bro. Bob Tuthill to keep the website up to date. Issue No. 2 of the Sussex Crown will be released later this month.



Meetings such as this require a great deal of organising and hard work, and I extend particular thanks to my Deputy V.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, W.Bro. Richie Bratton, outgoing Provincial Secretary, W.Bro. John Hickman, outgoing Provincial Treasurer after 15 years in Office, and other members of my Executive. Also, my thanks to W Bro Matthew Burt, Grand (and now Provincial) Organist for his wonderful musical contribution which has added such joy to our meeting.

Thank you for your attendance and company today. I invite you all to join me in the downstairs Bar at the Pre-Lunch Champagne Reception and afterwards for Lunch.

Enjoy the Festive Board - and have a safe journey home!

Next year's Annual Provincial Meeting will be at Chichester on Saturday, 6th April 2024.

RW Bro Lionel Broadbent Mee, *GCAG*

Provincial Grand Master

1st April 2023



Congratulations

Congratulations to those Brethren who were appointed, promoted, or received a first appointment in Provincial Grand Court at the Annual Meeting held at Winchester on Saturday the 1st of April.

Active Rank

Deputy Provincial Grand Master	V W Bro Mark P Donovan, KAG, PGSwdB.
Eminent Prior	W & Em Bro Christopher W Eley
Senior Warden	W Bro Robert W Hancock
Junior Warden	W Bro Reg G Beldam, KAG
Secretary	W Bro Colin E Wilson, KAG, PGBannerB.
Registrar	W Bro Andrew Fox
Treasurer	W Bro Gary E Raggett
Marshal	W Bro Duncan S Maguire
Almoner	W Bro George Rodger
Sword Bearer	W Bro Colin J Stanley
Deputy Marshal	W Bro Michael J Wiles
Senior Deacon	W Bro David G Stock
Junior Deacon	W Bro Mark C Elphick
Organist	W Bro Matthew R Burt, KAG, Grand Organist, PProvGSwdB.
Banner Bearer	W Bro Roger J Short
Captain of Guards	W Bro Rick Prior
Burgh	W Bro Roger W Huntley
Guard	W Bro David C Grimmer

Promotion in Past Rank

Past Senior Warden	W Bro Richard JBratton, KAG, PGBannerB, PProvGSec.
Past Junior Warden	W Bro Chris Cradock, KAG, PSGD, PProvGG.
Past Sword Bearer	W Bro Michael L Fuller, PProvGCofG.
Past Sword Bearer	W Bro Simon McCarthy, PProvJGD.

First Appointment to Past Rank

Past Banner Bearer	W Bro Glyn Harvey
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The Installation Meeting of The Court of Sion Abbey



Wednesday the 22nd of February 2023 was the Fifth Anniversary and Installation Meeting of the Court of Sion Abbey No 126 at their Twickenham venue, with 18 brethren attending and including a special visit by Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Lionel Mee and his Deputy V.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, accompanied by several of the Provincial Officers of the year.

They were made extremely welcome, and everyone settled down to an excellent and most enjoyable meeting. Master-Elect Bro Gary Raggett was installed into the Chair of King Athelstan in an impressive ceremony and

with great dignity by outgoing Master, W.Bro. Satish Dhir, and congratulated by our Provincial Grand Master.

W.Bro. Gary then appointed and invested the brethren he had chosen as Officers for his year as Master.



A Grand Court Certificate was presented to Bro. Terry Green in an interesting and informative manner by R.W.Bro. Lionel, who congratulated and welcomed Bro. Terry into the Order wishing him many happy years of membership.

The Provincial Grand Master reminded the brethren of the forthcoming Annual Provincial Meeting at Winchester on 1st April, and congratulated W.Bros. George Rodger, Roger Short and Gary Raggett, who will be invested as Active Provincial Officers at the Annual Meeting.



Thirteen brethren later enjoyed an excellent curry meal at the Festive Board, which was followed by the formal Toasts and the Commemoration to King Athelstan the Glorious.

Grand Court Certificates at Sword of Constantine Court

At the regular meeting of Sword of Constantine Court, No 120 three newly instructed Brethren were presented with their Grand Court Certificates.

The Court was opened by the Immediate Past Master, W.Bro. Glyn Harvey, who welcomed everyone. After the regular business of the Court had been completed W.Bro. Chris Eley gave the Traditional History of the Order, which was very well received.



W.Bro. Chris presented Grand Court Certificates to Bros. Norman Jones, Mark Rann, and Alastair Richardson.



The Court was then closed and the members of the Sword of Constantine Court and their guests sat down to a most enjoyable ham, egg and chip supper at the Croydon Masonic Hall.

The Installation Meeting of the Rood at Sudtone Sari Court



The 2023 Installation Meeting of The Rood at Sudtone Sari Court No 106 was held at Sutton Masonic Hall on Wednesday the 8th of March with Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Len Hillier presiding. W.Bro. Len welcomed the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Lionel Mee, *GCAG*, on his Annual Official Visit. RW Bro Lionel was accompanied by his Deputy, V.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, and several of the Provincial Officers of the year, whom he introduced before handing the Gavel back to its rightful owner.

The main item on the agenda was to install Master-elect, Bro. Kenneth Chandler as Master for the ensuing year. This ceremony was carried out in an excellent manner by the

outgoing Master, assisted by W.Bro. Satish Dhir. W.Bro. Ken was duly proclaimed, and he appointed and invested the Officers he had chosen to assist him for his year in Office. RW Bro Lionel congratulated the new Worshipful Master and his Officers on their appointments and wished them an enjoyable and happy year.

He thanked members of his Provincial Team for their attendance and support on the Official Visits during the year and congratulated his Provincial Junior Deacon, W.Bro. Paul Hollebhone on his recent 'field appointment' promotion to Past Eminent Grand Prior by the Grand Master - thus becoming a Right Worshipful Brother.



The Provincial Grand Master encouraged brethren to join him by attending the forthcoming Annual Provincial Meeting at Winchester Masonic Centre on Saturday the 1st of April, and he also thanked the several visitors from other Courts in the Province, the Province of Kent and the Coronation Stone Court No 50 for their attendance. 27 brethren later enjoyed an excellent meal at the festive board, after which the formal Toasts of the Order were observed, with the brethren departing in peace and harmony.





The 2023 Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Court



The Annual Assembly of the Provincial Grand Court of Sussex took place on Saturday 1st of April at the Winchester Masonic Centre.

Provincial Grand Court was honoured by the presence of the Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Charles Jonathan Aspinell.



From 8.30 am the Brethren of the Province and their guests started arriving. They all received a warm welcome from the Provincial Burghs.



As well as coffee and bacon butties.



While the team were busy ensuring the Temple was ready for the meeting.





It was good to see so many Brethren from other Provinces who came along to support the Province of Sussex. There were also many from other Orders attending to support R.W.Bro. Lionel B Mee, our Provincial Grand Master.



By 10.45 am everyone was seated in the Temple. Just after 10.50 am the Brethren were called to order to receive the distinguished guests, including Right Worshipful Brethren.



The Assembly was called to order by W.Bro. Chris Eley, the Provincial Grand Marshal, to receive the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Lionel B Mee.





Provincial Grand Court received the Assistant Grand Master, escorted by the Grand Marshal, W.Bro. Glen Connelly. The Assistant Grand Master was welcomed to the Province of Sussex by the Provincial Grand Master and saluted with eleven under the direction of the Grand Marshal. After a fanfare by the Grand Organist, W.Bro. Matthew Burt, KAG.

At 11.00 am Provincial Grand Court was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Master, who was saluted with seven under the direction of the Provincial Grand Marshal.



After the regular business of Provincial Grand Court had been concluded the Provincial Grand Master said he was very pleased to re-appoint V.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, KAG, as Deputy Provincial Grand Master thanking him for his support over the past few years. The Very Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master was saluted with seven under the direction of the Provincial Grand Marshal.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Marshal inquired of the Provincial Grand Master if it was his wish to appoint a Provincial Prior. The Provincial Grand Master said it was his wish to appoint W.Bro. Chris Eley as Provincial Prior and called upon W & Em Bro Eric Trodd to form the Priors of the Vigil.

W.Bro. Chris Eley was Consecrated and Dedicated as Provincial Prior in a very sincere manner by his old friend Eric and was then congratulated and invested by the Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Master thanked Eric for his support as Provincial Grand Prior over the past four years.



The Provincial Grand Master asked the Provincial Grand Secretary to read the names of those Brethren he has appointed to Active and Past Provincial Rank. A total of 23 Brethren received re-appointment, appointment, promotion, or first appointment in Provincial Grand Rank. A full list is on page 2 of this newsletter.

In his Address the Provincial Grand Master congratulated the Provincial Grand Officers, appointed or re-appointed, and hoped that they enjoy their office, and he encouraged them to come along on any of the visits with the Provincial Team.



He thanked the guests and members for turning out in such numbers to support him and the Province of Sussex, especially the Assistant Grand Master, who said a Few words of thanks before retiring from Provincial Grand Court, escorted by the Grand Marshal.

A charitable donation of £250 was approved to Prostrate Cancer, and £100 to the King Athelstan Memorial Foundation. The Assembly was then called to order and closed in due form.

The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Wardens, the Provincial Grand Prior, Right Worshipful Brethren, other Honoured Guests and Provincial Officers then left the Temple in procession.

Then followed refreshments in the bar where we had time to catch up with old friends.



We were then called into lunch.

There was a most convivial atmosphere in the dining room.



After lunch we all made our way home – wishing the Province of Sussex all the best for the future.



Official Visits 2023-2024



Summary of Official Visits 1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024

Visits by R.W.Bro. Lionel Broadbent Mee, GCAG, Provincial Grand Master.

Aelle No. 25 (Inst)	Saturday, 24th June 2023
Wiht-land No. 123 (Inst)	Friday, 8th September 2023
Rood At Sudtone Sari No. 106	Wednesday, 4th October 2023
South Saxons No. 60 (Inst)	Monday, 6th November 2023
Harrow Way No 88 (Inst)	Wednesday, 22nd November 2023
Archbishop Aethelhelm No. 34	No Official visit this year

Visits by V.W.Bro. Mark Peter Donovan, KAG, PGSwdB, Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

King Alfred the Great No. 79 (Inst)	Friday, 18th August 2023
Sword of Constantine No. 120 (Inst)	Tuesday, 10th October 2023
Prince Edmund No. 24	Friday, 10th November 2023
Sion Abbey No. 126 (Inst)	Wednesday, 28th February 2024

The Athelstan Team at a Red Cross of Constantine Meeting.



Several Brethren from the Provincial Grand Court of Sussex, including our Provincial Grand Master and our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, attended the meeting of the Edward Smith Enthroned Sovereigns Conclave at Croydon on Thursday the 23rd of March 2023.

Our Provincial Eminent Prior, W & Em Bro Chris Eley was taking his Appendant Orders.

The Sanctuary of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre was opened by the Intendent-

General Bob Hancock and Chris was Received and Inducted as as a Novice and had the Honour of Knighthood of the Holy Sepulchre conferred.

A Commandery of Knights of St John the Evangelist was duly formed by the Deputy Intendent-General, Andrew Sales, and Chris was introduced, and the Honour of Knighthood of St John the Evangelist was conferred