

## The Annual Meeting of the Province of Wessex



On Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> April our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Lionel Mee, and his Deputy, V.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, travelled to Stroud in Gloucestershire where they were welcomed by R.W.Bro. Keith Waters, Provincial Grand Master for Wessex, and his Deputy, V.W.Bro. Andrew Barrett, to their Annual Provincial Meeting as guests of the Province. A total of 60 members, visitors, and guests were in attendance.



Guests from other Provinces included R.W.Bro. Roderick Bradley and R.W.Bro. Alan Cook, Provincial Grand Masters for Essex and Kent respectively, and R.W.Bro. Roger Freeman, Past Provincial Grand Master for Dunmonia.

It was a most convivial and enjoyable meeting followed by lunch after which the traditional Toasts of the Order were observed.



An excellent day enjoyed by all who attended.

*Article by Lionel Mee*

# Another Candidate for the Rood at Sudtone Sari Court



On Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of May The Rood at Sudtone Sari Court received another Candidate for Instruction. Present was our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, *KAG*, a member of the Court.



A ballot was taken for Bro. Stephen Sawyer, which proved in his favour. The Worshipful Master invited W.Bro. Varinder Dhir to assist him in the Ceremony of Instruction, along with W.Bro. Satish Dhir, who explained the signs, and W & Em. Bro. Chris Eley who acted as Senior Warden and gave the Emblems of Mortality.

The Deacons were two newly instructed Brethren, Bro. Dave Harrison, and Bro. Simon Triptree. Bro. Stephen was warmly welcomed into the Order by our Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The next item on the agenda was to present a Grand Court Certificate to Bro. Dave Harrison. This was done in a very informative manner by V.W.Bro. Mark.

The meeting was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Ken Chandler, who welcomed everyone to the Court. Our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, *KAG*, was saluted with five under the direction of the Past Provincial Marshal, W & Em Bro. Chris Eley, Provincial Prior. VW..Bro. Mark responded accordingly.



The Court was then closed and after some photos were taken, we retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to a most enjoyable meal at the Sutton Masonic Hall.

# The Annual Meeting of the Province of Northumbria



On the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> of May our Deputy Provincial Grand Master made the six-hundred-mile round trip to attend the Annual Provincial Meeting of Northumbria held at the Masonic Hall at Castle Eden



After an overnight stay at Hartlepool Marina it was a short drive to the Masonic Centre to meet up with numerous friends from around the country, and a most enjoyable meeting followed by a most convivial festive board

V.W Bro Mark is pictured here with R.W.Bro. Bill Carlyon and his Deputy V.W.Bro. Derek Dunn"

*Article by Mark Donovan*

## Upcoming Overseas Consecrations and Events

The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Paul W Johnston, *GCAG*, accompanied by senior members of the Order of Athelstan will be undertaking several "overseas" visits as listed below. If any member of the Order is interested in accompanying the Most Worshipful Grand Master please contact W.Bro. Mark Fuller, *KAG*, Deputy Grand Secretary by email [depgsec3@moa.org.uk](mailto:depgsec3@moa.org.uk)

**ALICANTE, QUESADA, SPAIN, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

**Court Consecrations** - Court of Castillo de Montesa No.168 and Corte de Catalina de Aragon No. 171

**MANILA, PHILIPPINES, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September –**

**Court Consecrations** - Filipinas Court No. 172, Star of the Orient Court No. 173, Cavite Court No. 174 , Mindanao Court No. 175 King Solomon Court No. 176, Perlas ng Silangan Court No. 177, Eastern Visayas Court No. 178

**ANDORRA, Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**Consecration** of the Court of Court of Guifre I No. 179

**KOLKATA, INDIA, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

**Annual Assembly of the Grand Court of Athelstan in India.** This will be part of a whole series of other Order meetings being held at the same venue.

**KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**Consecration** of the Court of Sri Wijaya Mahadewi No.180

**WASHINGTON, USA, 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

For further information of the events please visit [Masonic Week | Allied Masonic Degrees \(amdusa.org\)](http://Masonic Week | Allied Masonic Degrees (amdusa.org))



# An Official Visit to the Court of Ælle



Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023 was a special occasion in the Province, as this was the first Official Visit by our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Lionel Mee, to the Court of Ælle at their new meeting venue of Eastbourne Masonic Centre.

The meeting was opened by the Acting Master, W.Bro. Alan Hobden, who warmly welcomed the Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy V.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, Provincial Officers of the year and other visitors. Newly appointed Provincial Marshal W.Bro. Duncan Maguire was the Escorting Officer.



The Provincial Grand Master took the Chair for a short while and thanked the Acting Master and members of the Court for their warm welcome. He introduced the members of the Provincial Team, and visitors from other Courts in the Province and thanked them all for their continued support.

A Eulogy to Bro. Christopher Collin aged 77 who had passed to the Grand Court above on 10<sup>th</sup> April was given by W.Bro. Jeremy Griffin, and the brethren stood to order in memory of departed Merit.

Bro. Anthony Tan Rusby, Master-elect, was Installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year by W.Bro .Alan Hobden in an excellent and memorable manner. The new Master, W.Bro. Tan, appointed the Officers for his Year in the Chair, and invested those who were present.....

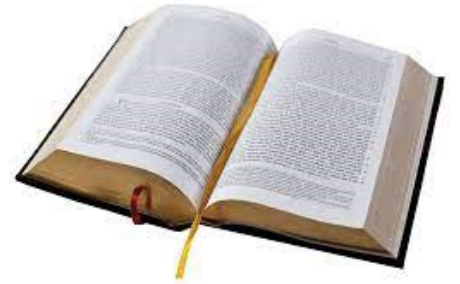




.... these included a new Court Prior.

The ceremony of Consecration and Dedication of W.Bro. Alan Hobden as the new Prior was carried out by the Provincial Eminent Grand Prior, W & Em Bro. Christopher Eley with great dignity.

W & Em Bro. Alan was invested and saluted in accordance with ancient custom.



A Grand Court Certificate was presented to Bro. Steven Davis in a most interesting and informative manner by the Provincial Grand Master, who congratulated Bro. Steve on receiving his Certificate and wished him many happy years in the Order.





R.W.Bro. Lionel also congratulated the new Worshipful Master and his Officers and wished them a happy and successful year in office.



A total of 24 members and visitors attended the meeting and 18 later dined at an enjoyable and convivial Festive Board when the Toasts of the Order were duly observed.

**Article by Lionel Mee**

## Ælle of Sussex



Ælle is recorded in early sources as the first king of the South Saxons, reigning in what is now called Sussex from 477 to perhaps as late as 514.

Ælle and three of his sons are said to have landed at a place called Cymensora near Selsey Bill in 477. He immediately made war on the Britons, and in 491 he and his son Cissa massacred a British garrison at the former Roman fort of Anderida, now known as Pevensey in East Sussex.



Ælle was the first king recorded by the 8th century chronicler Bede to have held "*imperium*", or overlordship, over other Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

# Candidates for Archbishop Æthelhelm Court



On Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of July the Brethren of Archbishop Æthelhelm Court No 34 welcomed five Joining Members and two Candidates for Instruction.

The Court was opened by the Acting Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Leslie Grout, who welcomed everyone, especially the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, **P.G.Swd.B.** The Deputy Provincial Grand Master was saluted with five under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies.

A ballot was taken for five joining members. This proved in their favour and the new members were welcomed into the Court by the Worshipful Master.



The next item on the agenda was to ballot for two Candidates for Instruction, Bro. Kemble Van Nagan and Bro. Patrick Harry Little. This proved in their favour and Brothers Kemble and Patrick were instructed into the Order in an excellent manner by W.Bro. Leslie Grout, ably assisted by the Officers of the Court.

W&Em. Bro. Chris Eley, Provincial Prior, acted as the Eminent Prior.

The Worshipful Master warmly welcomed Bros. Kemble and Patrick into the Archbishop Æthelhelm Court, and the V.W. Deputy Provincial Grand Master welcomed them into the Order, and the Province of Sussex.





The meeting was closed and after photographs we retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to a most convivial meal at the Nutfield Masonic Centre.



## The Ancient Masonic Order of Alfred the Great

The Ancient Masonic Order of Alfred the Great is a Sovereign Order which recognises meritorious service by Past Masters of the Order of Athelstan.

The ritual of the Order commemorates the role of Alfred the Great in paving the way for the succession of Athelstan. Members hold one of three progressive grades: Knight (KAG), Knight Commander (KCAG), or Knight Grand Cross (GCAG).



# A further advancement in Masonic knowledge at the Sword of Constantine Court



**The Sword of Constantine Court No 120 met on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of July at Croydon.**

The Court was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. George Rodger, who welcomed everyone to the meeting. After the minutes had been confirmed Bro. Philipp Reutner was declared Worshipful Master for the ensuing year and W.Bro. Chris Cradock was declared Treasurer.

After the regular business of the Lodge was concluded the Court was closed and the Temple was prepared for a talk. Brother Michael Brewster was invited into the Temple to hear the talk entitled 'The Rosetta Stone', and to learn about our Order.



The talk was written by W.Bro. Gordon Smith, who joined us at the meeting.



*The Rosetta Stone is a stele composed of granodiorite inscribed with three versions of a decree issued in Memphis, Egypt, in 196 BC during the Ptolemaic dynasty on behalf of King Ptolemy V Epiphanes.*

*The top and middle texts are in Ancient Egyptian using hieroglyphic and Demotic scripts respectively, while the bottom is in Ancient*

*Greek. The decree has only minor differences between the three versions, making the Rosetta Stone key to deciphering the Egyptian scripts.*

*The stone was carved during the Hellenistic period and is believed to have originally been displayed within a temple, possibly at Saïs. It was probably moved in late antiquity or during the Mamluk period and was eventually used as building material in the construction of Fort Julien near the town of Rashid (Rosetta) in the Nile Delta. It was found there in July 1799 by French officer Pierre-François Bouchard during the Napoleonic campaign in Egypt.*

*It was the first Ancient Egyptian bilingual text recovered in modern times, and it aroused widespread public interest with its potential to decipher this previously untranslated hieroglyphic script. Lithographic copies and plaster casts soon began circulating among European museums and scholars. When the British defeated the French, they took the stone to London under the Capitulation of Alexandria in 1801. Since 1802, it has been on public display at the British Museum almost continuously and is its most visited object.*

The talk was presented by W&Em.Bro. Chris Eley, with commentary from Bro. Gordon.

The Brethren of the Sword of Constantine Court found the talk very informative, and thanked W.Bro. Gordon for allowing us to present it.





Afterwards the Brethren of the Sword of Constantine Court sat down to a curry meal with our two guests who said they had a most enjoyable time at our Athelstan meeting.



## Schedule of Official Visits in 2023



|                                     |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| King Alfred the Great No. 79 (Inst) | Friday, 18th August 2023      | Deputy Provincial Grand Master |
| Wiht-land No. 123 (Inst)            | Friday, 8th September 2023    | Provincial Grand Master        |
| Rood At Sudtone Sari No. 106        | Wednesday, 4th October 2023   | Provincial Grand Master        |
| Sword of Constantine No. 120 (Inst) | Tuesday, 10th October 2023    | Deputy Provincial Grand Master |
| South Saxons No. 60 (Inst)          | Monday, 6th November 2023     | Provincial Grand Master        |
| Prince Edmund No. 24                | Friday, 10th November 2023    | Deputy Provincial Grand Master |
| Harrow Way No 88 (Inst)             | Wednesday, 22nd November 2023 | Provincial Grand Master        |
| Archbishop Aethelhelm No. 34        | No official visit             |                                |
| Sion Abbey No. 126 (Inst)           | Wednesday, 28th February 202  | Deputy Provincial Grand Master |