

Grand Court



The Masonic Order of Athelstan Annual Assembly 2023 was held on Saturday the 28th of October at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester.



At that meeting the following Brethren of Sussex received appointment, re-appointment, or promotion in Grand Rank.

Charles Aspinell re-appointed Assistant Grand Master, and Matthew Burt re-appointed Grand Organist. Chris Eley, Reg Beldam, and Andrew Sales, first appointment to Past Grand Banner Bearer; Andy Fox and Bob Hancock first appointment to Past Grand Burgh; and Allen Jones and Richard Hardaker first appointment to Past Grand Captain of the Guard.

Our congratulations to all these brethren.





The previous day several Sussex brethren received promotion or appointment at the Alfred the Great Meeting.



Mark Donovan, John Hickman & Chris Cradock were all Advanced to Knight Commander (KCAG)



..... and Satish Dhir, Varinder Dhir and Leslie Grout all received KAG.



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).

The Court of the South Saxons

The Installation meeting of The Court of the South Saxons was held at the Ferring Village Hall on Monday the 6th of November 2023.

W.Bro. Frank Ffitch, Master of the Court, opened the Court welcomed R.W.Bro. Lionel Mee, Provincial Grand Master on his Annual Official Visit to the Court. R.W.Bro. Lionel was accompanied by his Deputy, V.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, and other Provincial Officers of the year. There were also several visitors in attendance who were also greeted and welcomed by the Worshipful Master.



A Grand Court Certificate was presented to Bro. Michael Craker by the Provincial Grand Master, and Bros. Cranford and Fletcher who had been instructed into the Order at the previous meeting but whose Certificates had not yet been received, were also included in the presentation.

RW Bro Lionel congratulated the new Master and his Officers on their appointments and wished them a happy year ahead. He also thanked his Provincial Team for their attendance and support by accompanying him on the visit.

The Master-elect, Bro. Colin Thurman was duly installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year in an interesting and dignified manner by the outgoing Master, W.Bro. Frank, following which W.Bro. Colin appointed and invested his team of officers for the coming year.



The next meeting of the Court will be on Monday the 5th of February 2024, when it is hoped that another new member will be admitted into the Order. 25 members and visitors later enjoyed a convivial festive board when the formal Toasts of the Order were observed. The brethren departed in peace and harmony at 8.30pm.

The Court of Prince Edmund

On Friday the 10th of November 2023 The Court of Prince Edmund met at the Masonic Hall in Chichester. The Court was honoured by a visit from our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, and several Provincial Officers of the year.

The Court was opened by the Worshipful Master and his Officers.



The Deputy Provincial Grand Master entered in procession, was welcomed by the Worshipful Master, and offered the gavel. He introduced the Provincial team, thanking them for their support, took the minutes, and vacated the chair.

He said how good it was to see three Heads of Sussex Orders at the meeting, Paul Rose, Intendent General of the Red Cross of Constantine; Andries van der Burgh, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor and Provincial Grand Summus of the Order of the Scarlet Cord; and Gordon Leaman, Grand Superintendent of the Knights Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom.

The Worshipful Master announced that the Court would demonstrate the Ceremony to Instruct a Brother into the Order. W.Bro, John Hickman volunteered to act as Candidate. W&Em.Bro. Chris Eley gave the Emblems of Mortality and acted as Senior Warden for the Circle of Nine. The demonstration went very well, and everyone thought it a most useful exercise for when they next have a Candidate.

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The Deputy Provincial Grand Master was then invited to present a Grand Court Certificate to Bro. Charles Doe.

The Court was closed and, after photos were taken, we retired for refreshments at the bar....



.... before sitting down to a most enjoyable meal at the Chichester Masonic Hall.





Around the Other Orders

In September, at the Installation meeting of Southern Cross Council No XIII in the Allied Masonic Degrees, Bro. Colin Beerling, the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler in the Order of the Secret Monitor in the Provincial Grand Conclave of Surrey was installed as Worshipful Master.

Southern Cross Council is the Executive Council in Surrey, and there were many Heads of Orders and Executive members of the Companion Orders in Surrey present to see Colin installed by W.Bro. Denis Leigh, who is the Intendant General for Middlesex in the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine. Among those present were many Brethren of the Masonic Order of Athelstan, Province of Sussex, including our Provincial Grand Master.



A busy afternoon for The Court of Harrow Way

Wednesday the 22nd of November was a busy afternoon for the brethren of The Court of Harrow Way No 88. Not only did they have an Official Visit from our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Lionel Mee, *GCAG*, our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, *KCAG*, and many Provincial Officers of the year, but they had two joining members, a Candidate for Instruction, followed by the Installation of a new Master.



The meeting was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Martin Dunham, who welcomed everyone to the Court. The Provincial Grand Master entered in procession, was welcomed by the Worshipful Master, and accepted the gavel. He said how good it was to be back at The Court of Harrow Way, introduced the many Provincial Officers who had accompanied him thanking them for their support, congratulated those who received Grand Rank at the Annual Meeting on the 28th of October, took the minutes, and vacated the Chair as the Court had work to do.



The first item on the agenda was to ballot for two joining members, W.Bro. Graham Hancock and Bro. Alastair Richardson. This proved in their favour and the new members were welcomed into the Court by the Worshipful Master.



Next was to ballot for a candidate, Bro. Jeffrey Hancock, the son of our Provincial Grand Senior Warden, W.Bro. Bob Hancock, *PGBurgh*. This proved in his favour and the Worshipful Master invited W.Bro. Leslie Grout to conduct the Ceremony of Instruction, which he performed in his usual excellent way.

Bro. Jeff was congratulated and welcomed into the Court by the Worshipful Master, and into the Province of Sussex by our Provincial Grand Master. His dad also congratulated him and welcomed him into the Order.

The next item on the agenda was to install W.Bro. Jack Love as Worshipful Master. This was done in a fine manner by W.Bro. Martin Smith. W.Bro. Jack was afterwards congratulated by our Provincial Grand Master who wished him a successful and enjoyable year.



Just before the Officers for the year were appointed and invested, the Provincial Grand Master asked if the Provincial Prior, W&Em.Bro. Chris Eley, **PGBB**, could consecrate W.Bro. Colin Wilson, **PGBB**, our Provincial Grand Secretary, as he was invested as Prior of The Court of Wiht-land No 123, but had yet to be Consecrated. This was done in a most sincere manner by W&Em.Bro. Chris, assisted by the Priors of the Vigil.



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 Guildford Masonic Centre.

The new Master of The Court of Harrow Way is the Grand Superintendent of Surrey District 15 of The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom. The Knight Priests of Surrey afterwards got together for a group photo with Jack.



Archbishop Æthelhelm Court



Thursday the 21st of December was a special day for the Brethren of the Archbishop Æthelhelm Court. Not only was it the last Court meeting before Christmas, but our Provincial Grand Master was installing Bro. Alan Hall as the Worshipful Master.



The Court was opened by the Worshipful Master, R.W.Bro. Lionel Mee, **GCAG.**, Provincial Grand Master, who welcomed everyone to the meeting wishing them an enjoyable afternoon.

After the regular business of the Court had been completed, the Worshipful Master installed Bro. Alan Hall into the Chair of the Archbishop Aethelhelm Court in a fine manner.

W.Bro. Alan then appointed and invested his team of officers for the coming year. The Traditional Wapentake was given by R.W.Bro. Lionel Mee and the Address to the Master by V.W.Bro. Mark Donovan.

W.Bro. Alan was afterwards congratulated by our Provincial Grand Master, who wished him a successful and enjoyable year.

The Brethren were then treated to a most interesting and enlightening talk by our Provincial Grand Master on the history of the Province and the Archbishop Æthelhelm Court, which was consecrated 16 years ago.

He also spoke about Archbishop Æthelhelm., or Athelm, who was an English churchman, and the first Bishop of Wells, and later Archbishop of Canterbury. While archbishop, Athelm crowned King Æthelstan, and perhaps wrote the coronation service for the event.

The Court was then closed and, after photographs, the Brethren of the Archbishop Aethelhelm Court and their guests sat down to a most convivial meal at the Nutfield Masonic Centre.





Grand Court of Andorra



Andorra is a tiny, independent principality situated between France and Spain in the Pyrenees mountains. It's known for its ski resorts and a tax-haven status that encourages duty-free shopping. Capital Andorra la Vella has boutiques and jewellers on Meritxell Avenue and several shopping centres. The old quarter, Barri Antic, houses Romanesque Santa Coloma Church, with a circular bell tower.



On Saturday 19th November our MW Grand Master Paul Johnston, with the Grand Secretary, and the Provincial Grand Master for Magonsaetan Province, alongside other Grand Court Officers consecrated Guifre I Court No 179 at the Grand Loggia of Andorra, Andorra la Vella

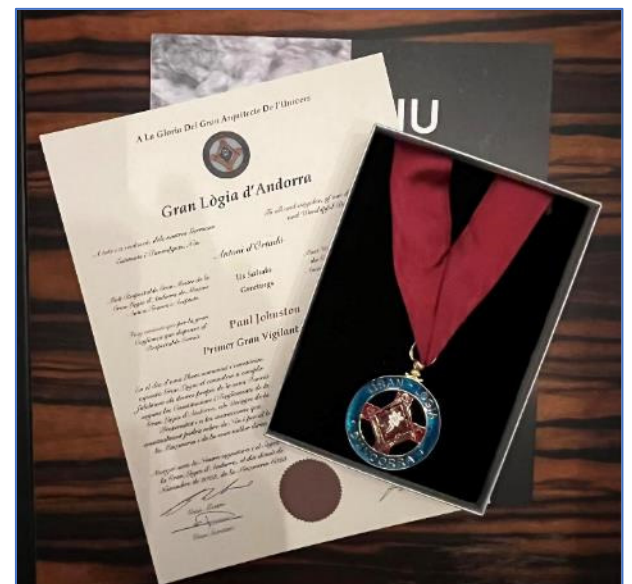


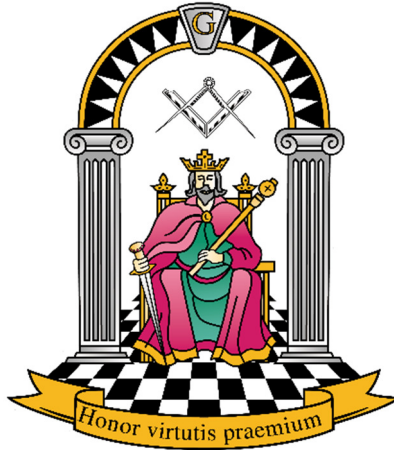
Six Sussex Brethren attended the consecration which was a wonderful occasion for all who attended and those who took part in the ceremonies on the day.



The super six are pictured here with M.W.Bro. Paul W Johnston. GCAG

Following the meeting our MW Grand Master, Paul Johnston, was appointed Hon. Senior Grand Warden in the Grand Lodge of Andorra.





Key Dates in 2024

Provincial Grand Court Saturday 6th of April 2024 Chichester

Schedule of Official Visits in 2023/24

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| South Saxons No. 60 (Inst) | Monday, 6 th November 2023 | Provincial Grand Master |
| Prince Edmund No. 24 | Friday, 10 th November 2023 | Deputy Provincial Grand Master |
| Harrow Way No 88 (Inst) | Wednesday, 22 nd November 2023 | Provincial Grand Master |
| Archbishop Aethelhelm No. 34 (Inst) | No official visit | |
| Sion Abbey No. 126 (Inst) | Wednesday, 28 th February 2024 | Deputy Provincial Grand Master |

The 2024 Annual Assembly

The 2024 Annual Assembly of the Provincial Grand Court of Sussex will be held on Saturday the 6th of April 2024 at the Masonic Hall in Chichester.

The meeting will commence at 11.00 a.m. and will be followed by lunch at 1.00 p.m.

