

## All Saints Church Kingston-Upon-Thames

### Seven Saxon Kings Embroidery Project Dedication & unveiling of three more Embroideries



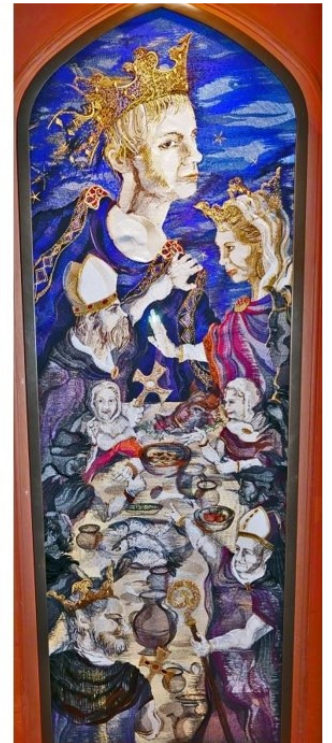
On Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at All Saints Church Kingston, RW Bro Charles Aspinell, Assistant Grand Master, accompanied by RW Bro Lionel Mee Provincial Grand Master for Sussex and his Deputy, VW Bro Mark Donovan, together with a contingent of Sussex brethren and their wives, attended the Epiphany Carol Service followed by the Dedication and unveiling of three more Embroidered Tapestries in the Church's Seven Saxon Kings Embroidery Project.

The Congregation of more than 300, was headed by the Deputy Mayor of Kingston, Councillor Richard Thorpe, with the Rev Joe Moffat, Vicar of All Saints Church officiating.





After the Carol Service everyone moved to the East wing of the church where the three new Embroideries depicting Edmund, Eadred and Eadwig were Dedicated by the Rev Joe Moffat and unveiled by the Deputy Mayor.



Following our having donated and presented the first of these embroideries depicting King Athelstan in September 2021, this brings to four the number of embroideries now in situ. Fund-raising is continuing to enable the remaining three - depicting Edward the Elder, Edward the Martyr and Ethelred - to be completed, and which the Church hopes for completion of the Project within the next year or two.

*Article: Lionel Mee, Chair, King Athelstan Memorial Foundation.  
Photos: Charles Aspinell & Satish Dhir*

# The Coronation Stone at Kingston.

From the Leeds Intelligencer - Saturday 28 September 1850

*On Thursday week, the inauguration of the coronation stone of the Anglo-Saxon Kings, the ancestors of our illustrious Queen, took place in the presence of the Mayor and corporation of Kingston, attended by the burgesses and a numerous assembly of visitors.*

*The Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of the Freemasons of the county of Surrey, assisted by the brethren of the Province and other masons, took a prominent part in the ceremony. This stone, until lately, stood on the north side of the old church.*

*According to Speed, the historian, nine of our Saxon Monarchs were crowned in Kingston, the stone being used as the Royal seat during the ceremony. It has been removed, during the present mayoralty, to the centre of an open space near the savings-bank, directly opposite High-street, at the turning into the Portsmouth-road. There it is placed on a heptagonal pedestal of granite, which stands on a circular base of the same material.*

*It being uncertain whether two of the kings mentioned by Speed were crowned at Kingston, the corporation have selected the following seven, whose names, with the dates of their respective coronations, are inscribed on the faces of the pedestal, vis.:— Athelstane, a.d. 924; Edward, a.d. 940; Edred, a.d. 946; Edgar, a.d. 959; Edward II, a.d. 975; Ethelred II, a.d. 975; and Edmund II, a.d. 1016.*

*The monument is encompassed with iron railings, having a pillar finished with pinnacles at each of the seven angles. At the conclusion of the ceremony the mayor, Freemasons, and visitors partook of an elegant dejeuner, and other festivities followed for the entertainment of all classes of inhabitants.*



The Coronation Stone is an ancient sarsen stone block which is believed to have been the site of the coronation of seven Anglo-Saxon kings. It is currently located next to the Guildhall in Kingston upon Thames, a town in the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames in Greater London.

In Old English, *tun*, *ton* or *don* meant farmstead or settlement, so the name Kingston appears to mean farmstead of the kings. A local legend that these Saxon coronations gave Kingston its name is contradicted by the records of the 838 council.

Æthelstan was consecrated King at Kingston in 925, Eadred in 946 and Æthelred the Unready in 979. There is also some evidence that Edward the Elder, Edmund I, Eadwig and Edward the Martyr were consecrated in the town. The stone is protected by low railings

According to John Stow, writing in the late sixteenth century, Æthelstan was crowned on a stage in the marketplace, but it was later believed that the kings were crowned in the ancient church of St Mary, which collapsed in 1730. A large stone block was recovered soon afterwards from the ruins of the chapel, and it has since been regarded as the Coronation Stone of the Kings of the English.

It was used for a time in the late 18th century to the early 19th century as a mounting block, but in 1850 it was placed in the market place on a

plinth in front of the old Town Hall on the site now occupied by the 'Market House' today, which had the names of the seven kings believed to have been crowned on it inscribed around the side.

In 2017, Kingston Council was considering an option of re-siting the coronation stone from the Guildhall's frontage back to its original location within the churchyard of Kingston's old parish church, All Saints' Church.

# The Court of Sion Abbey



On Wednesday the 28th of October 2023 The Court of Sion Abbey No. 126 held a short business meeting that saw the election of Bro. Felix Matthew-Brown as Worshipful Master for 2024/25, and Bro. Jasdev Rehncy as Treasurer.

The Acting Marshal, W.Bro. Roger Short, called the Brethren to order to receive the acting Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Satish Dhir, who opened the Court in due form at 6pm. The business of the court was concluded, including congratulations to Satish & Varinder Dhir on their elevation to the Ancient Masonic Order of Alfred the Great.

The court was closed at 6:30pm in due form and solemn prayer.



Unfortunately, there were a number of brethren unable to attend due to the Middlesex Mark Annual Meeting held that day.

*Article by Roger Short and photo by Satish Dhir*

## The 2024 Annual Assembly

The 2024 Annual Assembly of the Provincial Grand Court of Sussex will be held on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Visit to the Annual Assembly of the Province of South Rheged at Southport, Lancashire



It was an early start at 5.30 am for our Provincial Grand Master RW Bro Lionel Mee and Deputy VW Bro Mark Donovan on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of January when they travelled to Southport Masonic Hall in Lancashire for the Annual Provincial Meeting of South Rheged, with RW Bro Norman Alexander, Provincial Grand Master, presiding.

Almost 80 members, guests and visitors which included a total of six Provincial Grand Masters within the Order were all made extremely welcome by RW Bro Norman and the brethren of his Province.

A most enjoyable meeting was followed by a convivial lunch attended by 75 brethren, after which the formal toasts of the Order were honoured.

The Province was formed in 2018 and encapsulates a vibrant core of happy and friendly members from across the Counties of Lancashire and Cheshire.

*Article by Lionel Mee*



# The Ancient Masonic Order of Alfred the Great



The Inaugural Meeting of the Regional Council of the Southern Shires in the Ancient Masonic Order of Alfred the Great was held on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 at the Winchester Masonic Centre, Alresford Road, Winchester, with the Grand Chancellor of the Southern Shires Sir Kt Charles Jonathan Aspinell, *GCh*, *GCAG*, presiding



The Grand Chancellor entered in procession and after the singing of the Opening Hymn the Grand Chancellor opened the Inaugural meeting of the Southern Shires Council. The Grand Chancellor was saluted under the direction of Sir Knight Marshal of Ceremonial. The meeting then remembered departed Knights:

A Procession was formed

to escort the Sovereign Grand Master, Sir Kt Dr Christopher W G Ansell, into the Temple. The Sovereign Grand Master was saluted under the direction of Sir Knight Marshal of Ceremonies.

The next item was to admit 14 Knights to the Grade of Knight of the Ancient Masonic Order of Alfred the Great (KAG), including from the Province of Sussex, Chris Eley, Alan Hobden, Duncan Maguire, Ricky Prior, Martin Smith, and Eric Trodd.

A Knight Collector of the Geld for the Southern Shires, Sir Knight Anthony S.R. Pinnell *KAG*, being the only nomination, the Grand Chancellor declared him elected.

The Grand Chancellor then appointed and invested the Officers of the Southern Shires:

The meeting received the Knight Collector of the Geld's financial report and Accounts Examiners for the Southern Shires Accounts for the ensuing Year were elected.

The Grand Chancellor then addressed the Assembly. He said how good it was to see so many at this the Inaugural Meeting of the Regional Council of the Southern Shires and thanked everyone for their support. He said it was the intention to hold this meeting once a year

The Grand Chancellor closed the meeting of the Southern Shires and the Sovereign Grand Master accompanied by the Grand Chancellor retired in procession.



Present at the meeting was Sir Knight Rufus with his driver, Mark.....



.....as well as many Brethren from the Province of Sussex.



After refreshment in the bar, we retired to the dining room for a lovely meal of sausage and mash.

*The Ancient Masonic Order of Alfred the Great is an invitational Sovereign Masonic Order which is closely associated with the Masonic Order of Athelstan.*

*Invitation to membership recognises meritorious service by members of the Masonic Order of Athelstan and candidates are drawn exclusively from that Order.*



# The Installation Meeting of The Court of Sion Abbey



Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 was the Sixth Anniversary and Installation Meeting of the Court of Sion Abbey No. 126 at the Twickenham Masonic Centre, with a special visit by Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Lionel Mee who was accompanied by eight of the Provincial Officers of the year.

After R.W.Bro. Lionel had introduced the Provincial Team, he announced the recent sad death of W.Bro. Colin Stanley, this year's Active Provincial Grand Sword Bearer on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February after his long fight with cancer. The brethren stood to order to pay their respects to W.Bro. Colin who had been a Founder of the Court of the South Saxons No. 60 in November 2009, meeting at Ferring Village Hall in West Sussex.

The Court elected as joining members V.W.Bro. Michael Ellis, **PGSwdB**, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and his brother W.Bro. Graham Ellis, PProvJGD, who were welcomed into the Court by Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Gary Raggett.

The Master-Elect, Bro. Felix Matthew-Brown, was installed into the Chair of King Athelstan in an excellent manner and with great dignity by outgoing Master, W.Bro. Gary Raggett, and he then appointed and invested the Officers he had chosen for his year as Worshipful Master.

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Lionel, gave the lecture of the presentation of a Grand Court Certificate to Bro. Jasdev Singh Rehncy in an interesting and informative manner, and he wished Bro. Jasdev a long and enjoyable career in the Order.



W.Bro. Gordon Smith, who will be promoted to Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon at the forthcoming Annual Assembly of the Province in April, was then invested with his new rank by the Provincial Grand Master, as he will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting due to a long-standing hospital appointment.

The Junior Warden, Bro. Martin Beard, presented a most interesting and well researched lecture on "Solomon, the Man" which the brethren received with acclaim.

The next meeting of the Court will be on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 when it is hoped that a new candidate will be available for Instruction.

23 brethren later dined at a convivial festive board.

*Article by Lionel Mee*





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

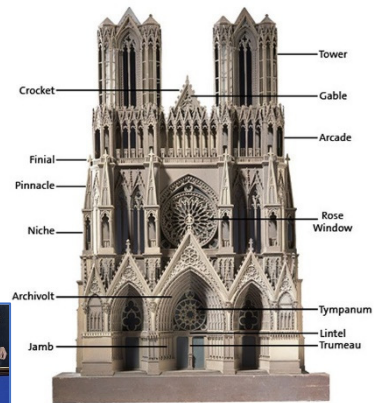
At the regular meeting of Sword of Constantine Court No 120 in March 2024 the members of the Court and their guests received another enlightening talk from W.Bro. Gordon Smith.

The Court was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Philipp Reutner, who welcomed everyone. A tribute was given by W.Bro. Andrew Sales in memory of W.Bro. Glyn Harvey, PProvGBannerB, who sadly passed away on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2023. The Brethren stood to order in memory of departed merit.



After the regular business of the Court had been completed W.Bro. Gordon Smith gave a talk entitled '**If it looks right, it is right**', which was very well received. The talk looked at architecture and the role of the Medieval Mason by looking at Churches, Abbeys and Cathedrals and how they were designed and built at the time of King Athelstan.

The talk looked at geometry and proportion using the basic design of a Centre Point, a Triangle, a Circle, and a Square – does this sound familiar?



Most buildings of that time were based on either a triangle or a square. Later, the ratio of 1 to 1.618 was found to be the most pleasing to the eye, and most Cathedrals were built to this plan.

The Court was then closed, and a potential Candidate for Instruction, Bro. Kenny Kin Fat Ng, was invited into the Court to hear about the Order and how a Court is set out.

After refreshments, the members of the Sword of Constantine Court and their

guests sat down to a most enjoyable curry supper at the Croydon Masonic Hall.

THE MASONIC ORDER OF ATHELSTAN



**PROVINCIAL GRAND COURT OF SUSSEX**

**W Bro Colin E Wilson, KAG, PGBannerB  
Provincial Grand Secretary**

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JANUARY 2024

**ANNUAL MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND COURT OF SUSSEX**

**SATURDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 – AT 11.00 AM**

The Annual Assembly of Provincial Grand Court of Sussex will be held at  
**Chichester Masonic Hall, 7 South Pallant, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1SY**  
an Attendance & Lunch Booking Form is enclosed.

- Attendance & Lunch Booking Form

**MENU**

Melon Salad with Raspberry Sorbet  
Salmon Fillet in White Wine Sauce with Roasted New Potatoes & Vegetables  
Eton Mess  
Tea & Coffee  
Red & White Wines

**Dining Fee - £28.00 per person (Includes wine)**

The Timetable for the day of the meeting is: -

- 09.15 am - Rehearsals for the Active Provincial Officers & Investiture Carousel
- 09.30 am - Tea / Coffee & Biscuits / Bacon Rolls will be available.
- 10.45 am - Brethren to be seated in the Temple.
- 11.00 am - ANNUAL MEETING

**Followed By: -**

- 12.30 pm – Drinks Reception for all Members, Guests & Visitors
- 1.00 pm – Lunch

**Order of Proceedings will be available on day of the Meeting**

With kindest fraternal regards

*Colin E Wilson*

**Provincial Grand Secretary**