

A letter from our Provincial Grand Master

To all Brethren in the Province of Sussex

Very Dear Brethren

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who attended the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Court at Chichester Masonic Hall yesterday. It was a memorable turnout of 87 distinguished guests, visitors, and members - 83 of whom later enjoyed an excellent and convivial lunch.

RW Bro Charles Jonathan Aspinell, *GCAG*, Assistant Grand Master honoured us with his presence, and he was warmly welcomed and saluted in accordance with ancient tradition.

At the conclusion of my Annual Address, I announced that after 8 most enjoyable years, I will be stepping down, and that this was my last Annual Meeting as Provincial Grand Master. I also announced that the Most Worshipful Grand Master has been pleased to appoint VW Bro Mark Peter Donovan *KCAG, PGSwdB* to succeed me as Provincial Grand Master and I'm sure you will give him the same wonderful support you have given me. A formal notice will be issued by Grand Court in due course.

I have very much appreciated the friendship and fantastic support you have given me throughout my eight years in Office and wish VW Bro Mark every success in his new role.

With kind regards and best wishes to you all as members of our wonderful Masonic Order.

RW Bro Lionel Broadbent Mee, *GCAG*
Provincial Grand Master
7th April 2024



The 2025 Annual Assembly

The 2025 Annual Assembly of the Provincial Grand Court of Sussex will be held on Saturday the 5th of April 2025 at the Redhill and Reigate Masonic Centre in Nutfield, Surrey.

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





The 2024 Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Court



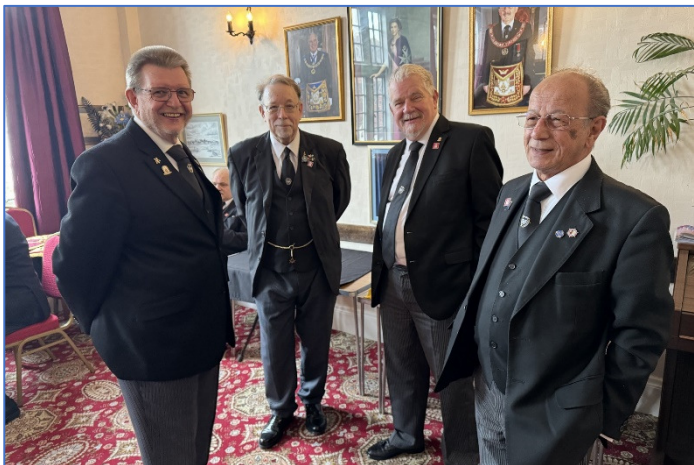
The Annual Assembly of the Provincial Grand Court of Sussex took place on Saturday 6th April 2024 at the Chichester Masonic Hall, with RW Bro Lionel Broadbent Mee, *GCAG*, Provincial Grand Master presiding.



Brethren started to arrive from 9 am and made their way to the bar where coffee, tea, and bacon rolls were being served.



It was good to catch up with Brethren from around the Province. and further afield.



Attending were many members of the Province plus guests from Grand Court and other Provinces, together with Distinguished Brethren from many parts of our own Province.



We were honoured to receive RW Bro Charles Jonathan Aspinell, *GCAG*, Assistant Grand Master, who was warmly welcomed and greeted according to ancient custom.



At 10.50 am the procession of Provincial Grand Masters, other Right Worshipful Brethren, and Very Worshipful Brethren entered Provincial Grand Court.

At 10.55 am the Provincial Grand Master accompanied by the Provincial Officers of the Year entered in Procession.

At 11.00 am Provincial Grand Court was opened by the RW Provincial Grand Master who was saluted with seven under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Provincial Marshal then called to order the Brethren below the rank of Right Worshipful Brethren who were saluted with seven. RW Bro William Henry Carlyon, Provincial Grand Master for Northumbria responded.

Provincial Grand Court then received the Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Charles Jonathan Aspinell, accompanied by the Past Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Christopher Ansell, and were warmly welcomed by the Provincial Grand Master.

The Assistant Grand Master was saluted with nine under the direction of the Grand Marshal. RW Bro Charles said how good it was to be visiting the Province of Sussex, especially in this lovely Temple.

An In Memoriam was held to honour six departed Brethren, and a prayer was said by the Provincial Prior, W & Em Bro Chris Eley.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master welcomed and introduced the visitors and other distinguished brethren, Heads of Orders, their Deputies, and members of the Executive within the Province which comprises Hampshire & Isle of Wight, South Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex, and The Channel Islands.

After the regular business of Provincial Grand Court had been concluded the Provincial Grand Master thanked VW Bro Mark Donovan, *KCAG, PGSwdB*, for his dedication and support over the year and was pleased to re-appoint him as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

VW Bro Mark was saluted with five under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and responded appropriately.



W & Em Bro Chris Eley was thanked by the Provincial Grand Master and re-invested as the Provincial Prior.

W Bro Alan Hobden, *KAG*, was appointed and invested as Provincial Senior Grand Warden and W Bro Martin Smith, *KAG*, as Provincial Junior Grand Warden. A total of 24 appointments and promotions in Provincial Grand Rank were made.

During the meeting the RW Provincial Grand Master welcomed Brethren who had been Instructed into the Order since our last Annual Meeting and presented each with a silver penny, a copy of the one held in the Athelstan Museum in Malmesbury.



**athelstan
museum**
MALMESBURY
Capturing the history of Malmesbury

The Athelstan museum was delighted to have been able to purchase and display a rare silver penny of King Athelstan (*or Æthelstan*). This gave them a direct link to Athelstan, who has a strong association with Malmesbury, and after whom the museum is named. After the entire country fell under Athelstan's control, he celebrated his position on charters and coins. Very few coins feature both Athelstan's portrait and the extended title (*Æthelstan rex to Brit, 'King of All Britons'*) as this coin does.



The RW Provincial Grand Master then addressed Provincial Grand Court. A copy of his Address is at the end of this article. He closed his Address by informing the Brethren that he is stepping down as Provincial Grand Master, and this was his last Annual Provincial Meeting. However, he was delighted to confirm that the Grand Master has accepted his recommendation for his deputy, Mark Donovan, to succeed him as Provincial Grand Master. At the end of his Address the RW Provincial Grand Master received a well-deserved standing ovation.

Provincial Grand Court was closed, and the RW Provincial Grand Master, the VW Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the W&Em Provincial Prior, and the Provincial Grand Wardens retired in procession, greeting their honoured guests and Brethren of the Province as they left the Temple.

The meeting was followed a pre-lunch drinks reception.....



..... after which the Brethren of the Province of Sussex and their guests enjoyed an excellent and convivial Festive Board.



We now look forward to getting together again at the Official Visits planned for the year, as well as our next Annual Meeting to be held at Nutfield on Saturday the 5th of April 2025.



Provincial Grand Master's Address to Provincial Grand Court



It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you all. I would particularly thank the Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Charles Aspinell, a Member of this Province, for his attendance today, together with many Distinguished Guests & Visitors, some of whom have travelled long distances to be with us.

Of the 87 brethren present here today, it is wonderful to note that 61 are members of the Province and represents a third of our membership! Of those present today, we have 25 Heads, Deputies & members of their Executive from Other Masonic Orders within the boundary of our Province which covers Hampshire & Isle of Wight, South Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex, and the Channel Islands.

Congratulations to VW Bro Mark Donovan whom I have had the pleasure of re-appointing as my Deputy and to the new Provincial Officers of the year, and those receiving promotion and first appointment in Past Provincial Rank. VW Bro Mark has been an untiring supporter, and I'm glad to say my chauffeur, over the past year and I extend my particular thanks to him. I also thank the outgoing Provincial Officers for their support on Official Visits around the Province.

Official and other visits have been made to all Courts in the Province, and we have seen 10 new members instructed and welcomed into this wonderful Order of Freemasonry. 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 distributed to the new Provincial Officers and, as in previous years, I invite them to join Deputy, Mark, and myself on these visits if they are so wish - but there is no pressure for them to 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 2 of the new members who are present today. Membership in the Province is 185.

After 16 years meeting at Herstmonceux in East Sussex, the Court of Aelle No 25, has re-located to the Eastbourne Masonic Centre and they are hopeful that this move will provide greater opportunities for recruiting suitably qualified brethren into the Order.

Relationship with Other Masonic Orders is excellent, and I have enjoyed several meetings with Heads of Other Orders in Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Surrey, and Sussex, and have attended several of their Annual Meetings where I have been welcomed as the Provincial Grand Master of the Masonic Order of Athelstan.

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

Active Grand Rank

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

First Appointments to Past Grand Rank

W Bro Reg Beldam – Past Grand Banner Bearer

W & Em Bro Chris Eley – Past Grand Banner Bearer

W Bro Andrew Sales – Past Grand Banner Bearer

W Bro Andrew Fox – Past Grand Burgh

W & Em Bro Bob Hancock – Past Grand Burgh

W Bro Richard Hardaker - Past Grand Captain of the Guards

Our quarterly Newsletter, The Sussex Crown, covering news and photographs of Court Visits and other news has been regularly issued over the past year and Issue No. 7 will be distributed after this meeting. My special thanks to W & Em Bro Chris Eley, our Provincial Prior, who is the compiler and editor of the Sussex Crown, and for his diligence in providing write-ups and taking photographs.

Meetings such as this require a great deal of organising and hard work, and I extend particular thanks to my Deputy, VW Bro Mark Donovan; Provincial Secretary, W Bro Colin Wilson; Provincial Marshal, Duncan Maguire; Past Provincial Secretary, W Bro Richie Bratton, for preparing the Dining Table Plan using his "Perfect Dining" program; and other members of my Executive.

Also, to Provincial Treasurer W Bro John Hickman, who is chairman of the Chichester Masonic Hall, for stepping in to assist with the financial aspects of the Province over the past year, and for his fantastic efforts today in providing tea, coffee and bacon rolls, assisted by Bro Charlie Doe. Many thanks to you both.

Special thanks to W Bro Andrew Murphy, from the Province of Magonsaetan, for being our Guest Organist, and for his wonderful musical contribution to our meeting.

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

Finally Brethren, after 8 most enjoyable years, I am stepping down as Provincial Grand Master, and this is my last Annual Provincial Meeting. However, I am delighted to confirm that the Grand Master has accepted my recommendation for my Deputy, Mark Donovan, to succeed me as Provincial Grand Master, and I'm sure you will give him the same wonderful support you have given to me. Formal notice of this change will be issued by Grand Court in due course.

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

RW Bro Lionel Broadbent Mee, GCAG

Provincial Grand Master

6th April 2024



Congratulations



Congratulations to those Brethren who were appointed, promoted, or received a first appointment in Provincial Grand Court at the Annual Meeting held at Chichester on Saturday the 6th of April 2024.

Active Rank

Deputy Provincial Grand Master	VW Bro Mark P Donovan, <i>KCAG</i> , PGSwdB .
Eminent Prior	W & Em Bro Christopher W Eley, <i>KAG</i> , PGBannerB .
Senior Warden	W Bro Alan C Hobden, <i>KAG</i>
Junior Warden	W Bro Martin H Smith, <i>KAG</i>
Secretary	W Bro Colin E Wilson, <i>KAG</i> , PGBannerB .
Registrar	W Bro Andrew Fox, PGBurgh
Treasurer	W Bro John C W Hickman, <i>KCAG</i> , PDepGSwdB , PPrSGW
Marshal	W Bro Duncan S Maguire, <i>KAG</i> .
Almoner	W Bro George Rodger
Sword Bearer	W Bro Hugh J Everitt
Deputy Marshal	W Bro Michael J Wiles
Senior Deacon	W Bro David J Poulton
Junior Deacon	W Bro Stuart R Sale
Organist	W Bro Matthew R Burt, <i>KAG</i> , GOrg. , PProvGSwdB.
Banner Bearer	W Bro Anthony J Green
Captain of Guards	W Bro Alan J Swaby
Burgh	W Bro Frank Ffitch
Burgh	W Bro Stephen J Walsh
Guard	W Bro J Martin Dunham

Promotion in Past Rank

Past Junior Warden	W Bro John D Billett, PPrJGD
Past Junior Warden	W Bro Stephen R Jones, PPrGBurgh
Past Sword Bearer	W Bro Robert R Bromley, PPrGBannerB
Past Senior Deacon	W Bro Gordon J Smith, PPrGCofG

First Appointment to Past Rank

Past Burgh	W Bro Leonard H Hillier
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The Installation Meeting of The Rood at Sudtone Sari Court



The Installation meeting of The Rood at Sudtone Sari Court was held at the Sutton Masonic Hall on Wednesday the 13th of March.

The Installing Master, W Bro Satish Dhir, opened the Court and welcomed everyone, especially the visitors. Present was our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Mark Donovan, *KCAG, PGSwdB*.

After the regular business of the Court had been completed Bro Jim Cranefield was installed as Worshipful Master in a fine manner by W Bro Satish. The Address was given by W Bro Martin Smith. W Bro Jim was then congratulated by our Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

Prior to the investiture of Officers the Provincial Eminent Grand Prior, W&Em Bro Chris Eley, *PGBB*, Consecrated W Bro David Grimmer as Prior in the Masonic Order of Athelstan in England, Wales and its Provinces Overseas and Dedicated him as Eminent Prior of The Rood at Sudtone Sari Court. He then presented W&Em Bro David with his staff of Office and called upon the Brethren to salute their newly Consecrated and Dedicated Eminent Prior with three.



W&Em Bro Chris was then invited to give a short talk entitled **The Light from Above** with reference to old Craft Ritual and the current Athelstan Ritual. Chris did this by demonstrating the old Charge after Raising, with the assistance of Bro Simon Triptree. This was well received by the Brethren.



The Court was closed, and after a few photographs the Brethren of The Rood at Sudtone Sari Court retired to the Miller Bar for refreshments before sitting down to an enjoyable meal together at the Sutton Masonic Hall.