



the Surrey knight



Issue 1 – SEPTEMBER 2023

Welcome from our Provincial Prior

Dear Brother Knights,

I am pleased to welcome you to the first edition of the Surrey Knight. A quarterly magazine to not only report on what is happening in the Provincial Priory of Surrey, but also for you to send in articles and photos of what you are doing in your Preceptories.

I am extremely grateful to Very Eminent Knight Chris Eley who has taken on the role of editor. Many of you will already have seen the great work he does in compiling and distributing similar newsletters for the other Orders in Surrey.

This first issue looks back at what has been happening in the Province, and elsewhere, during 2022. Future issues will look at more events in 2022 and 2023. It is then hoped to issue this newsletter every three months, reporting on key events in our calendar.

I trust you will find this quarterly magazine not only a platform to keep you up to date with what is happening in the Province, but also another important tool in attracting new members to our Order.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Full Team Visits arranged for 2023/24.



Whyte Stone Preceptory No. 447 on the 16th of October 2023

St Saviours Preceptory No. 338 on the 1st of December 2023

Sacryham Preceptory No. 425 on the 25th of January 2024

Gascoigne Preceptory No. 360 on the 5th of February 2024

Provincial Officers are invited to attend these Official Visits with me and to support the Brother Knights of the Preceptory.

Yours in the Bonds of our Order.

Patrick P Crossan
Provincial Prior of Surrey



The Installation meeting of Temple Court Preceptory

In February 2022 Temple Court Preceptory No. 162 held their first Installation meeting since February 2020, at Guildford Masonic Centre.

Joining them, on an Official Visit, was V.E.Kt. Peter Brown, the Sub Prior of Surrey, who was accompanied by two members of the Provincial Priors Bodyguard. Also in attendance was the Provincial Vice Chancellor for Surrey, E.Kt. Dr Miguel A J Godfrey



E.Kt. Grant Marshall. opened the meeting of Temple Court Preceptory and welcomed everyone, with a special welcome to the Provincial Sub Prior of Surrey, E.Kt. Peter Brown, and the Provincial Sub Prior of Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford, E.Kt. Stephen Churchill, P.Gt.Herald, who was attending as a personal guest of the Preceptor elect. The Provincial Prior of Surrey was saluted under the direction of the Marshal, E.Kt. Andrew Lunn.

E.Kt. Grant Marshall then installed the Preceptor Elect, E.Kt James Sarson, into the Chair of the Preceptory, following which E.Kt. James appointed and invested his Officers.



The Preceptory was closed, and a Priory meeting was opened. E.Kt. Grant Marshall installed the Prior Elect, E.Kt James Sarson., into the Chair of the Priory. The Temple Court Priory was then closed. E.Kt James Sarson with his proposer into Knights Templar and personal guest – E.Kt Stephen Churchill



Afterwards the Knights of Temple Court Preceptory and their guests dined together in fraternal union at the Guildford Masonic Centre.

Article by James Sarson and photos by Andrew Lunn

Knights of Malta Ceremony at Praesidium Legati Priory

Also in February 2022 the Brother Knights of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard Preceptory, Praesidium Legati, held a ceremony to install two Knights into the Order of Knights of Malta.



The ceremony was conducted in an excellent manner by the Eminent Prior, E.Kt. Paul Kerswell, and the Officers of the Priory.

One of the Candidates was Michael Fenech of Whyte Stone Preceptory. There to see Michael Installed was his friend from Whyte Stone Preceptory, E.Kt. Barrie Selway, seen here with E.Kt. Jack Love.



Also present at the meeting was E.Kt. David Olliver, (*Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Craft Province of Surrey*) the Priory Admiral; and E.Kt. Chris Eley, Past Great Admiral; who both congratulated Knight Michael on becoming a Knight of Malta.

Afterwards Knight Michael said:

Was this the most impressive entry into a new degree or not? It certainly was one of the most interesting, innovative, immersive, colourful, intricate, substantive and meaningful that I have ever taken part in.

I could bore you with even more descriptive words but I confess to having more than a passing interest in this supportive degree. My father, who fought in the R.A.F. during the Second World War as an aircraftsman working on Lancasters, was Maltese. I was fluent in the language as a child but am very limited now. The island is my favourite place to visit as are my twenty-three cousins and their offspring and we are always guaranteed a very warm welcome. I travelled by car some three years ago on a fantastic holiday. Yes, I did use other means of transport from Italy to Sicily and then on to Malta.

I cannot go into the details of my entry into the degrees, suffice it to say that they were very "fact" interesting and colourful. It gave even more veracity to my limited knowledge of the Templars, the Hospitallers and their connection with Malta. A visit to St John's Co-Cathedral contains so much history of their stay. This amazing and controversial group of men are so fascinating, as are the Knights Templar and the Malta Degrees. Equally fascinating are the different ways in which one takes part in the ceremonies and my involvement in both degrees was one of the best experiences I have come across in my relatively short but fruitful involvement in Freemasonry.



A Special Full Team Visit to Nutfield Preceptory

In March 2022, Nutfield Preceptory No 598 were pleased to receive the Provincial Prior of Surrey, R.E.Kt. Patrick P Crossan, along with the Provincial Sub Prior, E.Kt. Peter Brown, many Provincial Officers of the year, and members of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard.

One of the items on the agenda was the Re-dedication of the Preceptory Banner, so while most of the Brother Knights were in the bar enjoying coffee and bacon butties.....



..... the Provincial Marshal, E. Kt. Tim Ford, was rehearsing the Banner Escort.



After the Preceptory was opened, the Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Tim Ford, entered and advised the Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Chris George, that the Provincial Prior of Surrey, R.E. Knight Patrick P Crossan, along with several Provincial Officers of the year, was in the anteroom and demanded admission to the Preceptory.



The Provincial Prior of Surrey entered and was greeted by the Eminent Preceptor. The Provincial Prior was saluted with 7 after which he greeted everyone and took the muster roll and the minutes of the last meeting.





The next item was to ballot for and install as a Knight of the Order, Companion Jason Davies. The Ceremony of Installation was conducted in a very sincere manner by the Eminent Preceptor and Officers of the Preceptory, assisted by E.Kt. Tim Ford who gave the Charge after Installation, in his usual excellent way.



Knight Jason was welcomed into the Preceptory by the Eminent Preceptor, and into the Order by the Right Eminent Provincial Prior.

The Preceptory then took a ballot to make E.Kt. Peter Brown, Provincial Sub Prior, an honorary member. This was carried unanimously and E.Kt. Peter thanked the Knights of Nutfield Preceptory for the honour conferred.



The next item was to re-dedicate the Preceptory Banner. The R.E. Provincial Prior Invited certain officers to assist him in the Dedication Ceremony and a procession was formed to escort the Banner into the Preceptory. After a prayer by the Provincial Prelate the Banner was unveiled and paraded round the Preceptory.

The Banner was then Dedicated and the R.E. Provincial Prior Invited the Eminent Preceptor to receive the Banner. After the Patriarchal Blessing the Banner was placed in its designated place and saluted with three.

After the collection of Alms, the R.E. Provincial Prior and Officers of the Year retired in procession and the Eminent Preceptor closed the Preceptory.



Annual Chapter of Great Priory



May 2022 marked the return of the Knights Templar Annual Chapter of Great Priory to Freemasons' Hall after the long break due to Covid, since May 2019; although we had been fortunate enough to enjoy the Great Priory of Malta meeting in November of 2021

There were several Surrey Knights attending to support those being honoured today.

V.Em.Kt. Ray S H Hussey was appointed as Great Registrar.....



... and V.Em.Kt. Chris Eley was promoted to Past Great Registrar.



The meeting was tinged with sadness as only days previously, we had received the news of the passing of our Immediate Past Grand Master, Most Eminent and Supreme Knight Timothy John Lewis, G.C.T. Brother Knights of the K.T., along with Brethren of the Allied Masonic Degrees (the two Orders of which Tim, as he was affectionately known, had been the Grand Master), had received instructions to wear black ties at their meetings as a mark of respect, with further instructions for members of Preceptories and Councils of which he was a member.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T., opened the meeting with a touching tribute, recalling the effort his predecessor had made to attend Great Priory in 2017 in order to Install Paul as his successor.



After the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master had been re-elected, he then re-appointed Very High and Right Eminent Knight Andrew Christopher Rainbow, G.C.T., as Great Seneschal.





There followed the appointment and investiture of the active Great Priory Officers of the year, and investiture of those receiving first appointments and promotions in Great Rank. These included E.Kts. Angus Cameron, Angus Rhodes, and Jim Smith.

And went on to appoint Right Eminent Knights Anthony John Helliard, Provincial Prior for Essex, and Malcolm Frederick Bilton, Provincial Prior for Lincolnshire, to the honour and dignity of Knight Commander of the Temple.



The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master then invited E.Kt. Jamie Ingham Clark, the newly invested Deputy Great Sword Bearer and trustee of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, to join him on the dais to receive a cheque for £80,677. This was the magnificent total raised for the Eye Hospital by the "20 for 2020" appeal and it was very pleasing to see so many swift lapel pins on display at the meeting, worn as tokens of appreciation by those who had contributed.

This is a milestone year for the Eye Hospital as it is the 140th anniversary of its founding, and the centenary of its reopening after World War One. The Knights Templar raised approximately one quarter of the funding needed for the reopening!





In his address, the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master was pleased to congratulate the two Provincial Priors who had been appointed this Masonic year, R.E.Kt. Colin Birkbeck, Provincial Prior for East Anglia, and R.E.Kt. Peter Burrows, Provincial Prior for Gloucestershire and Herefordshire.

He then welcomed visitors from sister Great Priors; Scotland, Greece, Germany, Finland, France, Netherlands, and the Great Priory of CBCS of Belgium; as well a Brother Knights from our own Provinces of Southeast Asia, and Far East; and a host of Heads of Order from other UK Masonic Orders.

We were then reminded of the Knights Templar Church Service being held at Wells Cathedral in the K.T. Province of Somerset, on Saturday, 24 September this year.

In closing, the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master expressed his pleasure at the reports of the good number of Candidates waiting to be installed as Knights of our Order and he commented that this is a golden opportunity to grow the Order by attracting quality Knights through quality ceremonies.

The meeting ended with the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master wishing the Brother Knights, their families and loved ones, to keep safe and well.

Present at the meeting was our Provincial Prior, seen here with R.E.Kt. John Roberts, Provincial Prior of Middlesex, and R.E.Kt. David Jordan, Provincial Prior of Kent.



Afterwards our Provincial Prior joined the Surrey Knights for a group photo before retiring for refreshments.



Whyte Stone Preceptory – a Newly Installed Knight's Visit



I attended my third KT meeting in May 2022. My first was me being installed into the Order and my second was being installed as a Knight of Malta. A little anxious, I entered the Masonic Temple at Farnham and was immediately put at ease when I met some of the members. I knew them from another degree, Mark my words!!!!

A couple I had not met before soon put me at my ease and then the Eminent Preceptor walked in, all the way from the New Forest and I recognised him too. I was beginning to relax mainly because I had other things on my mind. I was about to present a PowerPoint presentation to a dozen or so guys, several of whom I did not know. I am still learning titles too.

We put on our appropriate garbs and got down to the meeting in hand. Yes, I just about remembered the salute with my sword and this time managed to return it to its scabbard with little or no fuss.



The meeting was opened by our very capable Eminent Knight, Kevin Hutchins, and our agenda was appropriately dealt with and then it was me. Not the presentation, that was to follow. I received my Malta Certificate explained to me by E.Kt. John French.

Then I did my presentation. I had the option of reading from my script but felt that George Raymond Portal, Founder of the Mark Benevolent Fund, was better spoken about using the knowledge that I had gained researching his family tree and life story. He was some man!

The knights received my twenty-five-minute presentation enthusiastically and I was asked quite a few questions on George Portal. Phew! That was that. I have another project in mind concerning a man from Suffolk who settled in Malta but that is another story and still on the drawing board in my head.

I had such a great evening enhanced not only by the members of this welcoming Preceptory but also by the impressive dealings in the meeting in a setting reminiscent of days gone by.

My only regret was that I now have to wait until much later in the year to attend my next Whyte Stone Preceptory meeting.

Article and photos by Michael Fenech





A KT Family BBQ



In June 2022 the Brother Knights of St Michael at Bisley Preceptory hosted a splendid BBQ for family and friends of the Surrey KT Province at the British and Commonwealth Rifle Club, Bisley



A very brief meeting of the St Michael at Bisley Preceptory was held before the BBQ to deal with items of business. This was chaired by the Eminent Preceptor, Em.Kt. Dr Miguel Godfrey.

After the Preceptory was closed, family and friends were invited into the Temple to hear a most interesting talk by Miguel about the history of the Order and the Provincial Priory of Surrey.

He then introduced our Provincial Prior, R.Em.Kt. Pat Crossan, who talked about the support the Knights Templars give to the Eye Hospital at Jerusalem.

We then went outside where, in usual fashion, Em.Kt. Jim Smith was cooking the BBQ.





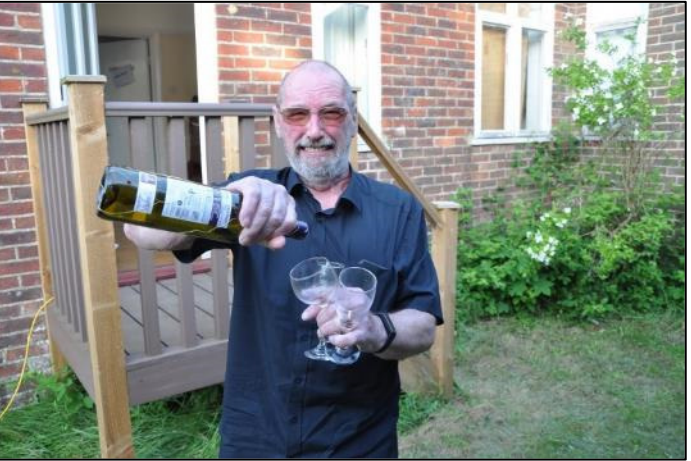
Em.Kt. Garry Lewis had organised the music for the BBQ – from the boot of his car.



We had a great time eating and socialising with Brother Knights and friends.



At the end of the evening our Provincial Prior gave a big thank-you to the Brother Knights of St Michael at Bisley Preceptory for hosting an excellent afternoon and evening.





Another Candidate for Suth Seaxe Lodge of Scottish Masters



At the June 2022 meeting of the Suth Seaxe Lodge of Scottish Masters of St Andrew No. 9 in the Grand Priory of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City our Brother Knight Wally Maynard took his Fourth Degree Ceremony.



The Ceremony was conducted by the Worshipful Deputy Master, Revd Knight Ray Tyne, the Senior and Junior Wardens were Revd Knights Ian Smith and Pat Crossan, the Master of Ceremonies was Tim Wheeler, the Great Marshal, and the Assistant Master of Ceremonies was Revd Knight Chris Eley. Many other Surrey Knights were there to see Wally join the Order. It was a very special and enjoyable day for us all.



At our last meeting our Provincial Prelate, Len Moreton, took his 4th Degree. He was presented with his Certificate by Revd Knight Noel Grout.



At the end of the Ceremony Wally was congratulated by Revd Knights Arnold Long and Chris Eley