



Provincial Priory of Somerset



THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.2 March 2024

FOREWARD by R.E.Kt. Paul Jeffery Davis, the Provincial Prior for Somerset



As this is the first quarterly newsletter of the year, a belated Happy New Year to you all!" and I hope you had pleasant Christmas festivities with your families.

I also hope you had the opportunity to read and enjoy the initial edition of "The Knightly News" - from the feedback received it was informative and worthwhile to continue with. So herewith for your delectation is Issue No.2.

As you can see from the listing below the year has really set off at a sharp pace with three new Preceptory members and seven new Knights of Malta. Furthermore, we have another seven candidates waiting in the wings to join our Order.

The fact that we have a goodly number doesn't mean we should be complacent. We should remember that we are reliant on both the Craft and Chapter for our membership. They too are actively seeking new members, and we need to ensure we fully support their endeavours. However, each Preceptory should aim for at least one new Candidate per year, more if possible.

Always keep in mind that 'suitable' Candidates should be mature and experienced Masons, and that as a progressive and select Order we strive for quality over quantity.

The Provincial Registrar and Development Officer are keenly pursuing ways in which Preceptories can encourage and retain membership and will keep your Registrars regularly updated.

In the remaining pages there are a number of interesting articles for you to consider; and should you have a worthwhile contribution for the next issue (especially photos) please send it to the Development Officer in the first instance.

YitBotO *Paul*

CONGRATULATIONS



Many congratulations to Bro.Kt. Robert (Rob) J Collins of Estune Command Preceptory who received a BEM in this year's New Years Honours list.

Awarded for services to Young People and to Sport (Wraxall, Somerset); Founder, Pass It On Young Sports Voluntary Youth Organisation.

UPCOMING MEETINGS 2024

March

- 1st - Cumba Installation
- 5th - Keynsham Installation
- 6th - King Arthur Installation
- 14th - Templecombe
- 28th - Estune Command
(Provincial Team Visit)

April

- 3rd - Preceptory of Improvement
- 11th - King Ina
- 22nd - Exmoor - Installation
- 25th - Bladud
- 26th - Antiquity - Installation

May

- 1st - Worlebury
- 3rd - Cumba
- 15th - **GREAT PRIORY - Temple**
- 21st - Templecombe
- 22nd - A & B Priory
- 23rd - Estune



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RECENT EVENTS

PRECEPTORY/PRIORY MEETINGS

Since the last issue of this publication congratulations and welcome to the following who have been Installed as Knights of the Temple:

Bro.Kt. A Wilsher Day in Worlebury Preceptory.

Bro.Kt. S G Sheasby in King Ina Preceptory.

Also, as Eminent Preceptor:

E.Kt. David P S Hobbs of the Selwood Preceptory of St.John



Monday 5th February 2024 saw the Installation of E.Kt. David P. S. Hobbs P.Gt.Her. as Eminent Preceptor of the Selwood Preceptory of St.John No.244 and Priory of Malta. This was the third time as Eminent Preceptor of the Preceptory, the First being in 1990.



Bro.Kt. Sam Sheasby was installed as a Knight of the Temple at the February meeting of King Ina Preceptory No.211. The ceremony was conducted by the Eminent Preceptor E.Kt. Mike Caswell and the Accolade conferred by E.Kt. Chris Moore, the Provincial 1st Constable, who on this occasion was representing the Provincial Prior for Somerset.

Plus, the following who became Knights of Malta:

- At Crewkerne:* Bro.Kt. N L Power
Bro.Kt. N M Braginton.
Bro.Kt. R K Woodland.
Bro.Kt. J A Jones.
- At Keynsham:* Bro.Kt. A D Richards.
Bro.Kt. J H Morgan.
Bro.Kt. M E Bidwell.
- At W-s-M:* Bro.Kt. T D Merrett.
Bro.Kt. R C S Todd.
Bro.Kt. M H Parnell.
Bro.Kt. N D Henderson.

And lastly a new Joining Member of Antiquity Encampment,

Bro.Kt. K V Nagan. Seen here with
the Eminent Commander of Antiquity Encampment No.1, E.Kt. Richard Thurston





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HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Installed as a Knight of the Order in February 1994 E.Kt. Charles Christopher Muggleton was awarded Honorary Membership of the King Ina Preceptory No.211 on 08/02/2024 precisely 30 years on to the day.



In addition to having been Eminent Preceptor of two Preceptories E.Kt. Chris was the Provincial Warden of Regalia for 10 years and with much esteem due for his dedication attained the Great Priory Rank of P.Gt.Std.B.(B).

His achievement in raising the tremendous sums of money that he did for the Province and the Jerusalem Eye Hospital is testament to the commitment and enthusiasm he had for the Office he was awarded.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

It was with great pleasure that at December 2023 meeting of the Worlebury Preceptory, E.Kt. Phil Summers was conferred with Honorary membership.



Phil became a Knight of the Temple on 3rd May 1995 and Eminent Preceptor in 2003 and 2004. He was then appointed to PrStdB(B) in 2005, and to PPrChanc. in 2012; whilst attaining Great Priory Rank of P.Gt.Chamb. in 2011.

Phil, now 96 years of age, was until recently the Preceptory's Treasurer a position he held for many years, a much-valued member of the Preceptory.

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW YEAR 2024

Keynsham Priory of St Keyna No. 455



On Monday 15th January, 57 Knights including the Provincial Prior and Provincial Sub-Prior attended the Keynsham Masonic Hall, when three Knights (two from King Arthur of Avalon Preceptory and one from Worlebury Preceptory) were installed as Knights of Malta.

The meeting was conducted superbly by the Eminent Prior, E.Kt. Garry Mackenzie, supported by the officers of the Keynsham Priory, with the Knights of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard acting as the Banner Guards. The Provincial Prior conferred the Accolades and demonstrated the sign whilst the address was given by E.Kt. John Creech E.Kt. Adrian Jones and E.Kt Bill Whitehead.

It was splendid to see so many Knights gathered together on a cold night in January with the majority wearing the full regalia of a Knight of Malta which added to the superb atmosphere of the occasion.

On completion of the Ceremony the Knights attended a wonderful After Meeting. This being the month of celebrating Robert Burns, the first course was Haggis accompanied by Neeps and Tatties and a wee dram; and the main course was the famous, Keynsham Hot Buffet! which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

A DAILY ADVANCEMENT.....

in Masonic KT Knowledge

Where is/was Candia?

From 1212 until its fall to the Ottoman Empire in 1669, the Realm or Kingdom of Candia was the official name of **Crete** during the island's period as a colony of the Republic of Venice.

Its then capital, Candia or Chandax, is now the modern-day Heraklion.



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A SMALL PIECE OF HISTORY

BLADUD 1852 TO

According to ancient legend, the origin of the City of Bath goes back to about 860 B.C. when Prince Bladud, son of Hub Hubris, King of Britain, caught leprosy whilst on a visit to Greece; was banished from the royal court, and obtained employment as a swineherd. His pigs suffered from a skin disease but were cured after wallowing in pools of warm mud. The Prince followed them in and he, too, was eventually cured. He returned to court and, after becoming King, founded, a settlement on the site of the healing pool.

Such is the generally accepted form of the legend, although readers of Dickens will be aware of a somewhat more fanciful alternative to be found in Pickwick Papers.

In any event, the Prince gave his name to the Encampment consecrated on the 19th November 1852. The ceremony of consecration was conducted by the Provincial Grand Commander for Staffordshire, Sir Knight G. Vernon. It is noted , however, that Col. Charles Kerneys Kerneys Tynte was at this time the Provincial Grand Commander of the Provincial Grand Conclave of Somersetshire.

The Preceptory which, during its long and distinguished history has numbered amongst its members three Brother Knights who have served the Province either as Provincial Grand Commander or as Provincial Prior, celebrated its centenary meeting on 26th March 1953, when a "short account of extracts from the minutes of the last 100 years" was presented. Subsequently, the Preceptory received its centenary warrant from the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, The Right Honourable Lord Harris at the meeting of Provincial Priory on 1st July 1953, when the present Province of Somerset was inaugurated.

The Preceptory banner, which depicts the Prince, was dedicated by the R.E. David Palmer the Provincial Prior for Somerset at the meeting held on 25th February 1988.

Taken from "Provincial Priory of Somerset 1846 – 1996"- By E.Kt. R.M. Morrison. P.Gt.A.-de-C.

NOTICES

DINING AFTER GREAT PRIORY 15TH MAY 2024

In recent years It has become the norm after Great Priory for those Somerset Knights not wishing to dine in the Connaught Rooms to meet and dine at:

BRASSERIE BLANC
in Chancery Lane, London

The Menu is considered very good v.f.m. in the Capital. Dining is set for 3:30 p.m. so to cater for early or late train departures.

For details contact E.Kt. Phillipe Giorgetti
@ phil.giorgetti@btinternet.com

KING EDWARD VII PRECEPTORY OF IMPROVEMENT

If you are an aspiring Marshal and wish to become a certified practicing Preceptor, or any Knight wishing to improve their KT Ritual, then it may be for you!

Meetings are held monthly at MMH and Life Membership for a Knight is only £2.

Therefore, all Knights of the Order are cordially invited to attend. Regalia is not required & swords and belts are provided at MMH.

More details can be found on the KEVII Website:
www.kingepoi.org or in the Liber.



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PROVINCIAL TEAM VISITS

The first of this year's Provincial Team Visits will be to Estune Command Preceptory No.354 on Thursday, 28th March this year and where the Provincial Prior will confer the Accolade using the Somerset Sword of Chivalry. ALL active Provincial Officers are expected to attend.

The second Provincial Team Visit will follow on the Tuesday, 4th June and on this occasion at the Keynsham Preceptory of St. Keyna No.455. Once again, ALL active Provincial Officers will be expected to attend.

POTENTIAL CANDIDATES



Do you know a Companion who is interested in our
ORDER?

Then speak with your Registrar who has an
Introduction Card with details that you can pass on.

SWIFT PINS

For those who may not have been able to get their hands on one of the "K.T. £20 for 2020 Appeal Swift Pins", there are still some available.

Individuals can purchase single pins, by contacting Linda Read, M.M.H. Charities Finance Manager at L.Read@mmh.org.uk and Finance Assistant, Millie Pilson, M.Pilson@mmh.org.uk

Pins are £20 each and funds raised will go to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

175th FIRING SWORDS

Should for whatever reason, any of the Provinces 175th Anniversary Firing Swords be returned please contact the Provincial Warden of Regalia; I'm sure he will be able to find a good home for them.

REGALIA

Similarly, should any other surplus regalia, in reasonable condition, become available please contact the Provincial Warden of Regalia.

ATTENTION BROTHER REGISTRARS

Following your Preceptory/Priory meeting remember to submit a short summary report to the Provincial Vice-Chancellor for inclusion on the Provincial website.

The report can be as brief as your like but must include an appropriate photograph.

Remember, before submitting a photograph, it is your responsibility to meet the GDPR. Therefore, you need to obtain approval to do so from ALL those Knights whose faces appear in the picture.

A FURTHER DAILY ADVANCEMENT..... WITH EASTER IN MIND

What is a Sepulchre?

According to the Oxford English Dictionary

"A small room or monument, cut in rock or built of stone, in which a dead person is laid or buried."

The word comes (in Middle English) from Latin *sepulcrum* 'burial place'.

The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St. John
of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta in England and Wales and Provinces Overseas



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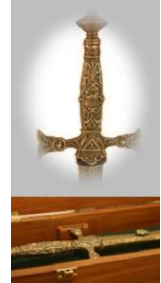


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SOMERSET SWORD OF CHIVALRY

As the Somerset Sword of Chivalry continues its journey around the province, it is currently in safekeeping at the Antiquity Encampment No.1 who are charged to deliver it to Estune Command Preceptory No.354 on 28th March 2024.



PROVINCIAL PRECEPTORY OF IMPROVEMENT

Meets at 7.00 p.m. in the **Masonic Hall, Yatton** on the

4th Thursday in October; 1st Wednesday in April; & 1st Thursday in June.

All Knights are welcome, *(Swords and Belts only are required).*

PROVINCIAL TIES



The Somerset KT Provincial Tie is now entering its seventh year of wear and by now yours may need revitalising.

If so, you will be pleased to know, that there are now plenty of new ones in stock & there is no plan at present to alter the design. For an individual purchase or Preceptory stock buy please contact the Provincial Warden of Regalia or a member of the Executive,

OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that the following Knights of Somerset have received the call of our Great Captain of the Universe:

† Bro.Kt. Dennis Barington Calvert (known as Denny) passed quietly away on Wednesday 13 December 2023. All those having known him will remember him as a Real Gentleman.

† In January it was with great sadness that we announced the passing of R.W.Bro Stanley H.A.F Hopkins, Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Somerset from 1990 to 2002. Although not a member of our Order he was an outstanding and very distinguished Freemason and his contribution to our Province was enormous.



A fitting tribute to him from the current Provincial Grand Master for Somerset, R.W.Bro. Ray Guthrie, was announced in The Midweek Mason of 19th January. The funeral took place at Taunton Crematorium on 2nd February, with a thanksgiving service at Combe St Nicholas Church.

† On Sunday, 11 January 2024 Bro.Kt. Knight Samuel James Boyd a trusty member of the Worlebury Preceptory received the call of our Great Captain.



†††††

PROVINCIAL WEBSITE – www.somersetkt.org.uk

The focal point of contact regarding this publication is the Provincial Development Officer
E.Kt. Ray Beckingham P.Gt.Std.B.(B).



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AN INTERESTING (EXTRA) SNIPPET

Did you know our that our Provincial Prior spent his working life at the sharp end of the Criminal Justice Arena?

A Police Officer in Bristol, a Detective in Bermuda and then a Probation Officer in Avon & Somerset (in his latter years he was seconded to The Ministry of Justice and a Specialist Police Unit in London). An interesting life, where he gained expertise, in risk management, working directly with High Risk and Dangerous Offenders, consequently this led him to spend a few years 'behind bars' in Prisons.

As part of The Senior Management Team in HMP Shepton Mallet (Cat D/Lifer Prison) he expanded links with the local Community and was pivotal in ensuring one particular project was taken forward.

In December last year, Chris and I paid a visit to Shepton Mallet Prison, whilst looking around a Funeral Bier, which I thought had been used in the prison, it wasn't until I started to read the information sheet, when I saw the name Paul Davis, and a councillor Carole Robinson on the sheet, so I put two and two together and realised this was Paul was our own Provincial Prior, and Carole his wife.

It is clear that the project to repair the bier was too good to miss for the prisoners in the workshop. The bier was brought to the prison in a number of boxes, having been dismantled and basically left to rot for years. The prisoners did a good job, although if you knew their crimes, it was somewhat ironic. The write up on the Bier and photo of it is below.

Although no longer a Prison the historical buildings are open to the public and well worth a visit.

E.Kt. Ray Beckingham P.Gt.Std.B.(B).

