



Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.7 June 2025



Welcome to the 7th Quarterly Issue of the Somerset Masonic Knight Templar Newsletter

All previous issues of the Newsletter can be found on the Provincial Website.

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



Welcome to the Summer edition of the Knightly News. I am sure you will all agree this publication continues to go from strength to strength. But we are reliant on input from you to make it even more meaningful. So if you have any useful snippets for us to proudly display, I am sure the Editorial Team – V.C. E.Kt. Derek Tadman and Development Officer E.Kt. Ray Beckingham would love to hear from you.

Remember, this platform is particularly useful to inform and advise new and potential members on what is occurring across the Province.

Your commitment, dedication and enjoyment of this Order was again evident at Great Priory on 21st May; when 25 Knights from Somerset travelled to London to support E.Kts. Adrian Jones and Martyn Russell receive their Great Honours from the Grand Master. A wonderful day, with everyone leaving with a smile on their face and pride in their hearts.

Our membership remains steady, but a few Preceptories could still benefit from further support. So, keep raising the profile of the Order in your Chapters. The good news is we have 11 candidates in the wings waiting to join and savour the camaraderie we hold so dear.

However, we cannot be complacent, therefore, I ask you to continue to strive for: -

- Quality candidates
- Quality ritual
- Quality Preceptories - that are testaments to the pride we hold for our Order.

Meanwhile, keep smiling, enjoy being a Knight Templar and enjoy the sun!

Paul

AN EXTRA-SPECIAL EVENING FOR KNIGHTS & LADIES

A Three Course Banquet
+ Musical Accompaniment

Tickets £35 pp

Booking form below Page 5



A Black-Tie event is to be held at the
Saltford Golf Club

All Knights and their Ladies
Family & Friends are welcome

SATURDAY, 28 JUNE 2025



UPCOMING MEETINGS 2025

June

2nd - Selwood

(Provincial Team Visit)

3rd - Keynsham Installation

5th - Preceptory of Improvement

12th - King Ina - Malta

18th - King Arthur

26th - OloW

28th - Black Tie Dinner + Ladies

July

3rd - No Meetings

August

TBA - Provincial Council Meeting

TBA - Provincial Priory 'run-thro'

Main participants only

September

8th - Provincial Priory

10th - Cumba (new day/date)

16th - Bladud Inst. (new day/date)



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MEETINGS THROUGHOUT 2025 ENTAILING PROVINCIAL PARTICIPATION

The Schedule of Visits for 2024 – 2025 is available on the Provincial website however the following Preceptory meetings in Somerset will receive formal Provincial attendance:

- † **The Selwood Preceptory of St. John No.244 on Monday, 2nd June, the second Provincial Team Visit**, where it is planned for the KEVII P of I to be in attendance to provide us with their wisdom on the KT Ritual.
- † **The Keynsham Priory of St. Keyna No.455 on Wednesday, 22nd October, for a Banner Dedication.**

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.C. Shorey in Templecombe Preceptory
- Bro.Kt. M.R. Hutchings in Estune Command Preceptory
- Bro.Kt. S.A. Tedd in Worlebury Preceptory of St Dunstan

Whilst the following the following joined/re-joined

- E.Kt. B.L.T. McCormack in Keynsham Preceptory
- E.Kt. A.T. Jones in Templecombe Preceptory
- E.Kt. R.H. Moore in Templecombe Preceptory



Also, as Eminent Preceptor:

- E.Kt. R.J. Gover at the Keynsham Preceptory of St. Keyna
- E.Kt. M. Wright at King Arthur of Avalon Preceptory
- E.Kt. C.P. Kelly at the Cumba Preceptory
- E.Kt. R.J. Winter the King Ina Preceptory
- E.Kt. C.T. Callow at the Antiquity Encampment
- E.Kt. V.F. Easthope at the Exmoor Preceptory



Plus, the following who became Knights of Malta:



- At Cumba:* Bro.Kt. Brian Palmer
- At Keynsham:* Bro.Kt. Mark Wilcox
Bro.Kt. Gosta Vou
- At Templecombe* Bro.Kt. David Wetherill
Bro.Kt. Dennis Somerton+
Bro.Kt. Alex Shorey





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1ST PROVINCIAL TEAM VISIT TO TEMPLECOMBE NO.686

The Templecombe Preceptory meeting held on 13th March saw the Eminent Preceptor E.Kt. Martyn Russell warmly welcome R.E.Kt. Paul Davis the Provincial Prior for Somerset, the Provincial Sub-Prior and thirteen accompanying Provincial Officers on a formal Provincial Team Visit. A meeting at which were 30 + Knights were in attendance.

After the appropriate salutations had been given, a delegation of Knights from the King Ina Preceptory No.211 arrived bearing the Somerset Sword of Chivalry for presentation on its journey around the Province. The delegation was warmly welcomed and E.Kt. Mike Caswell PrSwdB, presented the Sword to the Eminent Preceptor of Templecombe Preceptory for safe keeping and charged him to deliver it to the Worlebury Preceptory of St Dunstan No.121 at their next regular meeting in May.

There then followed the Installation of a new Knight, Kt. Alex Shorey. The Eminent Preceptor conducted the ceremony in an excellent manner assisted throughout by his Officers with the accolade being conferred by R.E.Kt Paul Davis, the Provincial Prior of Somerset using the Somerset Sword of Chivalry.

In addition, the Preceptory also welcomed two Joining members V.E.Kt. A.T. Jones P.Gt.Reg and E.Kt. R.H. Moore P.Gt.Chamb.



SOMERSET SWORD OF CHIVALRY ARRIVES AT WORLEBURY

May 1st saw the arrival of the Somerset Sword of Chivalry at Worlebury Preceptory of St Dunstan No.121.

A delegation of 11 Knights from Templecombe Preceptory No.686 was led by their EP E.Kt. Martyn Russell who presented the Sword to E.Kt. Terry Porter the Eminent Preceptor of Worlebury in a commendable manner and charged him to deliver the Sword to the Provincial Prior for Somerset at the next Provincial Priory Meeting on Monday, 8th September. The Provincial Prior would then direct him to where the Sword should travel too next.

This particular meeting of Worlebury Preceptory was a busy meeting with ballots and elections taking place. In addition, a new Knight was installed Kt. Steve Tedd. The Eminent Preceptor conducted the ceremony in an





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exemplary manner assisted by his Officers. The accolade being conferred by the Provincial Vice-Chancellor who was representing the Provincial Prior that evening. In addition, he was asked to present both Templar & Malta Patents to recently installed Knights.

It was sad to hear that evening that E.Kt. John Elmont P.Gt.Her (a member of both Worlebury and Templecombe Preceptories) had returned home from hospital a short while beforehand and was unable to be present at this particular meeting. Especially as it was precisely 40 years earlier, on this same meeting in May 1985 that John was installed as a Knight Templar.

He will in due course be presented with a Certificate by the Provincial Prior to commemorate magnificent achievement in a progressive degree.



SOMERSET MASONIC YEARBOOK - A SYNOPSIS OF OUR ORDER AS REPLICATED THEREIN

The full title of this Order is 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 its Provinces Overseas. It is one of the most principled and truly prestigious Christian Orders in Freemasonry, administered by its Great Priory at Mark Masons Hall in London. It comprises of three Degrees.

The Knight Templar degree commemorates the Chivalric Order of Knights Templar founded by nine Crusaders in the year 1118 and firmly recognizes its precepts and humble origins. A candidate for membership as a Masonic Knight Templar is therefore expected to be a mature and experienced Freemason, having been raised to a Master Mason and exalted into Royal Arch Chapter and profess the Trinitarian faith.

The ceremony of Installation of a Knight Templar involves arriving as a pilgrim and concludes by receiving Knighthood. After having hailed as a Knight of the Order of the Temple and experienced the camaraderie that exists amongst its member Knights, the novice will later undertake a short 'passing degree' as a Knight of St. Paul which will lead him to being Installed as a Knight of Malta. This supplementary degree traces the history of the Knights throughout the Mediterranean over a period of some four-hundred years after they were compelled to leave Palestine.

Whilst the ceremonies recall the history and activities of these ancient Orders with military discipline and conduct, they are a sincere and moving masonic ritual and although the regalia worn by Masonic Knights is impressive and is based on the costume of their medieval counterparts, there is no proven link between these two groups.

Overall, the Masonic Order of Knight Templar encourages a commitment to an enjoyable, rewarding and colourful dimension of Freemasonry in its broadest sense; inspiring its members to approach life in a way which does good for others, enriched by lasting bonds of friendship and esprit de corps.

In this Order all meetings and regular business are conducted in Preceptories of which there are twelve. These are listed in the following pages.

The Provincial website somersekt.org.uk provides further information on this Order in Somerset.



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BLACK-TIE DINNER SATURDAY 28TH JUNE 2025

Saltford Golf Club BS31 3AA

There is still time to make your reservation for the Provinces Black-Tie Dinner, an extra-special evening for Somerset Knights and their Ladies, to thank them for their support throughout the year. An event organised by E.Kt. Alan McMurray, the Provincial Sub-Prior, and E.Kt. Ray Beckingham, the Provincial Development Officer,

BOOKING FORM

Starters:

- A. Spring Vegetable Soup
- B. Goats Cheese and Red Onion Tart
- C. Homemade Pate with warm Toast
- D. Beetroot Falafel with Yogurt Dip



Mains (all served with Seasonal Vegetables):

- E. Roast Topside of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding and Roast Potatoes
- F. Chicken Supreme with Tarragon and White Wine Sauce and New Potatoes
- G. Sea Bass on Julienne Vegetables with Lemon Butter Glaze and New Potatoes
- H. Homemade Vegetable Wellington, New Potatoes and Vegetable Gravy

Sweets:

- I. Vanilla Cheesecake with Cream
- J. Chocolate and Pear Tartlet with Clotted Cream
- K. Homemade Apple Crumble with Custard
- L. Cheese and Biscuits

Coffee or Tea

Send completed booking form with your meal choice together with confirmation of payment of £35.00 per person to E.Kt. Ray Beckingham the Provincial Development Officer email: atthebayray@gmail.com

Preferably please make payments by BACs to the Provincial Priory of Somerset General Account

Sort Code: 20-85-26 A/C 10820490 Ref: Black Tie + your name; OR alternatively by cheque payable to the Provincial Priory of Somerset General Account

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Name (and rank if applicable)	Menu Choice (ie: A – E – I)	Cheque or Bacs payment	Dietary Requirements
Contact Details:			

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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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR RITUAL

PRIMARILY FOR THE KNIGHTS OF

SOMERSET

A DEMONSTRATION & WORKSHOP

OF A TEMPLE CEREMONY

By the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement at the
invitation of the R.E.Kt. Paul Jeffery Davis, the Provincial Prior for
Somerset, followed by a three-course Festive Board

Monday 2nd June 2025 @ 18:00 hrs

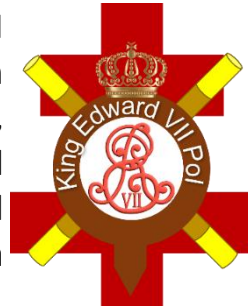
Kindly hosted by The Selwood Preceptory of St. John No. 244 at:

Frome Masonic Hall
North Parade
Frome, Somerset
BA11 1AU

Format, the Preceptory will be opened to
conclude outstanding business and to
welcome the Provincial Prior for Somerset
& his Provincial Officers on a formal Team
Visit.



The qualified Preceptors from the KEVII
PofI will conduct a textbook Installation
of a Knight with explanatory narration,
before leading an instructive and
informative workshop on Sword Drill
and other procedural matters, with a
question-and-answer session to follow.



Full Temple regalia is to be worn by all Knights

Should you wish to hold Life Membership of the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement
this can be yours for a single payment of £2



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SOMERSET SWORD OF CHIVALRY

The Somerset Sword of Chivalry was first accepted on behalf of the Province at the consecration meeting of the Templecombe Preceptory No.686 held on Tuesday, 24th January 2012 by R.E.Kt. Barry Desmond Burridge, the Provincial Prior for Somerset at the time.

As originally intended the Somerset Sword of Chivalry continues its journey around the province and is currently in the safekeeping of King Ina Preceptory No.211.

The Knights of King Ina are now charged to take the Sword back to the Templecombe Preceptory No.686 at their next meeting to be held on Thursday, 13th March 2025.



WANTED AWAILED



Production Manager

for the Knightly News, the Province's Quarterly Magazine

Experience & Qualification

An artistic Somerset Knight with Computer Expertise, Linguistic skills & Camera

Remuneration

Gratification of the periodical readership

Start Date 1st Sept 2025

(Enquiries to the Provincial Vice Chancellor)

WARDEN OF REGALIA



Kt. Richard Hibberd is your

Provincial Warden of Regalia

richard.hibberd@mbzonline.net

He should be your first port of call when looking for Regalia, and perhaps regalia for other Orders too.

There is a plethora of second-hand regalia of reasonable quality available, and he is finding his feet around the myriads of outlets if it is your preference for new.

Profits realised will go to the Province in the first instance and then on to the Jerusalem Eye Hospital, the charity that our Order supports.



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NOTICES

PROVINCIAL TIES



Should your KT Provincial Tie be looking a bit tired, what better than to ask your loved ones for a new one as a gift. There are plenty 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,

SOMERSET PROVINCIAL PRECEPTORY OF IMPROVEMENT

Held under the direction of a KEVII qualified Preceptor E.Kt. Adrian Jones **P.Gt.Her.** and Meets at 7.00 p.m. in the **Masonic Hall, Yatton** on the **1st Wednesday in April** & the **1st Thursday in June**.

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

SWIFT PINS

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

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.

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 per annum.

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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LEST WE FORGET

† E.Kt. William Robert John Knight PPr2ndCon a member of King Arthur of Avalon Preceptory No.551. He was Installed as a Knight of our Order in King Ina Preceptory No.211 at the February meeting in 1982 and resigned in 1999. During that period in 1989 he became a Founder member of King Arthur of Avalon Preceptory No.551, attaining Eminent Preceptor in 1991, and Provincial honours of PPrStB(B) in 1991; PPrReg in 1996; and PPr2ndCon in 2000. Finally, he received the command of the Great Captain on 9th March this year.



† Bro.Kt. Simon John Horne a member of King Arthur of Avalon Preceptory No.551 and Our Lady of Walsingham. He was installed as a Knight of our Order on 6/3/2013 and soon became a prominent member of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard and joined the Bodyguard Preceptory in 2015.

In King Arthur he attained the Office of 1st Constable but never reached the position Eminent Preceptor due to the onset of a very serious illness which left him severely debilitated. During that time he was appointed Provincial Guard for two consecutive years 2020-2022 and received Honorary membership of King Arthur Preceptory in 2022. Lastly, receiving the command of the Great Captain on 7th April this year.

† Bro.Kt. John Michael O'Neill a member of Estune Command Preceptory No.354. He was Installed as a Knight of our Order on 22/05/2003 but resigned on 31/03/2008. Some nine years later in 2017 he re-joined the Preceptory and afterwards held the position of 1st Herald for 4 years; and finally received the command of the Great Captain on 13th April this year.



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).