

Somerset Provincial Priory 2023

The First Is Always The Best



Twelve months ago, the newly installed Provincial Prior for Somerset acknowledged how honoured and proud he was to have been able to inherit such a fine legacy from his predecessor, and at that time called for consolidation and commitment from all Somerset Knights to take the Province forward and build on the strong foundations set.

Now on his first anniversary R.E.Kt. Paul Jeffery Davis the Provincial Prior for Somerset has been pleased to announce that the legacy has paid dividends and the support he had received since his investiture had been amazing. The Provincial team deserved the highest praise possible for all their hard work around the Province. In particular the Provincial Vice-Chancellor for his exceptional organisation and administration without which his guiding hand the Province could easily have floundered.

He was not the only one receiving praise, that went to His Provincial Sub Prior for his great support and company visiting many of the Preceptories within the Province and other Provincial Priory Meetings, and whom he was pleased to re-invest for a further year. To the Treasurer, for his efficiency and diligent management of our finances. The Provincial Registrar for being instrumental together with the Knights of Cumba Preceptory in raising for charity at one social event the sizable amount of £6,400.00. The Provincial Marshal & Deputy Marshal, for their assistance over the year They are the glue that holds the Province together.

Also, an aspiring asset not to be overlooked either. Our newest Warden of Regalia who has served us well during his short apprenticeship raising a magnificent sum even down to the last 11p.

And what can be said about the Provincial Priors Bodyguard, their Esprit de Corps is apparent and undiminishable



There are many other Provincial Officers who made important contributions to the benefit and welfare of our wonderful Province during this, the Provincial Priors first year, but could not be thanked individually, however, their contribution had been valuable for which he was grateful.



However, one of the most valuable assets of the Province, V.E.Kt. John Widdicombe P.Gt.Reg. has now retired from active service. He will be sorely missed having been a tower of strength throughout his tenure, first as Provincial Vice-Chancellor from 2006 to 2017 and as Chancellor from then until now. Having magnificently served two Provincial Priors he cannot be thanked enough for all that he has done. We wish him and his good Lady well for the future.

The Knights receiving Provincial Honours and those not staying in Office, were encouraged to take pride in their mantle badge, knowing that the Preceptories across the Province look forward to their continued individual support and attendance.

With the changing demographics, particularly health, age and alteration in circumstances having an impact on our Order the Knights were encouraged to work as hard as they could supporting the Craft and Royal Arch. It goes without saying that they are the foundations on which we will build, and our survival is totally dependent on suitable and eligible candidates from Royal Arch.

Although our numbers remain steady and over the past twelve months 17 new Knights were installed, we should not be complacent, especially as it is apparent some Preceptories could benefit from extra support. With that in mind a new post of Development Officer has been created who will work across the Province with the Registrar to develop initiatives that will Attract, Enhance and Retain membership.

The Provincial website is currently being updated to make it more user-friendly, grateful thanks were expressed to those whose have given assistance to the Vice Chancellor in this endeavour; and the final result is eagerly anticipated in the forthcoming days.

In conclusion the Provincial Prior indicated he had no doubt, that there are exciting challenges ahead and encouraged each and every one of the Knights to bear in mind that this is an Order with High Standards To Always Be Maintained, but most of all to always be Enjoyed.

Finally, to the many Knights who have worked so hard to make the day a success there was nothing but admiration and appreciation. The Province is in good spirit for us to continue in this vein into the year to come and beyond.

But first to an exquisite Luncheon in an impressive and elaborate setting with magnificent views across the Somerset Countryside and the Bristol Channel. Culminating with the

customary Toasts before congratulating the Provincial Prior on his Birthday with a rendition of Happy Birthday.

