



## Provincial Priory of Somerset

# THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.1 December 2023

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

The purpose of this quarterly newsletter is to communicate to the Knights of the Province of Somerset information associated with our Order, to keep them abreast of meetings and initiatives that are taking place and narratives of interest. I hope you enjoy this first issue which with your help is expected to become more inclusive in time.

### RECENT EVENTS

#### *PRECEPTORY MEETINGS*

Since the successful Provincial Priory Meeting held in September practically all Preceptories in Somerset have [at the time of writing] met and the following Knights Installed:

- Bro.Kt. A.R.Barrie in Exmoor Preceptory.
- Bro.Kt. N.Dovell in King Arthur of Avalon.
- E.Kt. Jon Mansell as Eminent Preceptor in Estune for a second time.
- Bro.Kt. A.S.Griffiths as a Knight of Malta in Selwood.
- E.Kt. Jim Weedon as Eminent Preceptor in Worlebury.
- E.Kt. Roger Hutchings as Eminent Preceptor in Templecombe.
- E.Kt. Chris Fox as Eminent Preceptor in OLOW.
- E.Kt. Richard Sweet as Eminent Preceptor in Bladud.
- Bro.Kt. M.G.Hargreaves in Antiquity.

There have also been 8 Joining Members two of whom joined King Ina Preceptory from another Province.

#### *BIG BREAKFAST MEET*

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November a goodly number of Knights from Estune Command, Exmoor, Templecombe and Worlebury Preceptories, some accompanied by their wives/partners, met for Breakfast at the Bay Cafe, on the sea front at Weston super Mare. The get together took place with the aim to foster further the relationships between Preceptories in the western part of the Province and was also honoured by the presence of the Provincial Prior R.E.Kt. Paul Davis and his good lady Carole.

A most enjoyable time was had by all, unfortunately some of the Brother Knights had left before we remembered to get the camera out, and others were paying their bills.

It is planned to hold similar functions in the New Year where Knights in the North, East and South of the Province will be invited to attend similar gatherings at a venue much closer to them.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS 2024

#### *January*

17<sup>th</sup> - Keynsham Priory

#### *February*

5<sup>th</sup> - Selwood Installation

7<sup>th</sup> - Worlebury

8<sup>th</sup> - King Ina

22<sup>nd</sup> - Bladud

23<sup>rd</sup> - Antiquity

26<sup>th</sup> - Exmoor

#### *March*

1<sup>st</sup> - Cumba Installation

5<sup>th</sup> - Keynsham Installation

6<sup>th</sup> - King Arthur Installation

14<sup>th</sup> - Templecombe

28<sup>th</sup> - Estune Command





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### *GREAT PRIORY OF MALTA*

The Great Priory of Malta held on 21<sup>st</sup> November at Great Queen Street in London was attended by some 30 Knights from Somerset.

The day commenced with leaving the West country by train from various locations in Somerset. On arrival in London some Brother Knights made their way to a local Weatherspoon's to enjoy a breakfast before making their way to Great Queen Street; whilst others made their way directly there.

It was an excellent meeting, particularly the Malta Degree Ceremony conducted superbly by the Great Prior of Malta, and to be present to support and acclaim the Knights of Somerset who were receiving their Great Priory of Malta honours.

On completion the majority of Somerset Knights made their way to Brasserie Blanc in Chancery Lane where 22 dined. Whilst four, including the Provincial Prior, had a commitment to dine at the Connaught rooms, and others returned home.

We wish to thank Phillippe Giorgetti once again for organising the event at the restaurant.



### **A SMALL PIECE OF HISTORY**

#### *ANTIQUITY ENCAMPMENT NO 1.*

The Oxford dictionary defines "Antiquity" as "Ancientness, old times, especially time before the middle ages." And whilst Members would not claim that the Encampment has subsisted over quite a long period, it has a proud history which can be traced back for over 200 years.

As has been stated previously, a warrant was granted by Thomas Dunkerley in 1791 but, without doubt, Templar activity existed in Bath before that date.

It must be admitted, however, that during the early years there were occasions when the Encampment found it impossible to hold meetings on a regular basis and became dormant. The statutes of 1809, for example, contains a "List of Encampments discontinued from not being able to assemble", and the list includes "The Antiquity of Time Immemorial, Bath". The Encampment was, in fact, revived in 1811 but lapsed again in 1814 and no further meetings were held until 1819. Meetings were then continued until 30<sup>th</sup> April 1822 when the Encampment once again became dormant and remained so for a period of 33 years. It was finally revived on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1855, since when it has maintained an unbroken sequence of meetings.



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### OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that our Provincial Organist E.Kt. Colin Henderson passed away recently. Colin was well known throughout the Province in Craft, Chapter, Knights Templar and other Orders for his willingness to play the organ at meetings.

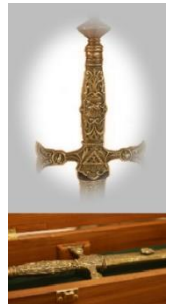
A goodly number of Brother Knights and other Brethren attended his Cremation on 25<sup>th</sup> November. He lived respected and died regretted.



### NOTICES

#### *SOMERSET SWORD OF CHIVALRY*

As the Somerset Sword of Chivalry continues its journey around the Province it is currently in safekeeping at the Keynsham Preceptory of St. Keyna No.455 who are charged to deliver it to Antiquity Encampment No.1 on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024.



#### *PROVINCIAL FIRING SWORDS*

The supply of Firing Swords designed and made in celebration of the Provinces 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary have now been exhausted. Due the initial outlay required no further orders will be placed.

#### *PROVINCIAL TIES*

The Provincial Warden of Regalia, Bro.Kt. Mike Bowyer, has announced that the new batch of Provincial Ties are now in stock. Please contact him direct for an individual purchase or Preceptory stock buy .

#### *PROVINCIAL WEBSITE* – [www.somersetkt.org.uk](http://www.somersetkt.org.uk)

Brother Knights don't forget to use our new K.T. web site it is your Web site. Please keep your Preceptory page updated. If you wish to include anything on the site, please forward the item to E.Kt Derek Tadman the Provincial Vice Chancellor.

#### *CHRISTMAS DAY OBSERVANCE*

**The Knights of England and Wales and Provinces Overseas are reminded to join in good wishes to their fellow Knights throughout the world on Monday, 25 December 2023, at 5 p.m. G.M.T.**

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year.

Yours in the bonds of the Order

E.Kt. Ray Beckingham.

Provincial Development Officer.