



Provincial Priory of Somerset

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Issue No.8 September 2025



Welcome to the 8th 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 Back Bother Knights!

I do hope that you had a restful summer break and are now ready for a busy year ahead.

We ended the season with a fantastic Black-Tie evening in June when our Ladies and Partners were invited to join us. It proved a great success and you can look forward to more events like this in the future.

Many thanks to E.Kt. Ray Beckingham (Development Officer) and E.Kt. Alan McMurray (Sub Prior) for their time and energy that ensured everything ran so smoothly.

Both have been hard at work, during the break, planning initiatives that will link with Craft Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters – in particular White Table meetings and presentations - Watch this space for more information.

Our Provincial Priory Meeting is fast approaching and I am looking forward to investing my new team and visiting your Preceptories once again, especially to instal new candidates.

Indeed, I am pleased to share that despite a slight dip in membership we have 14 candidates waiting in the wings. Whilst we remain stable this new blood gives us a great opportunity to grow and strengthen our Order.

I would, however, encourage you to make more use of the Candidates Introductory Card to introduce suitable candidates. This will give us an even firmer foundation upon which to build.

So, let's work together to bring in fresh perspectives and energy to our Preceptories.

Let's make this year a successful and fulfilling one for our Knightly News Magazine and the Somerset Masonic Knights Templars; of which we are so proud. As always, thank you for your dedication and support.

Here's to the bright future to come!

YitBotO *Paul*

UPCOMING MEETINGS 2025

September

8th PROVINCIAL PRIORY

10th Cumba (new meeting day)

16th Blaudud – Installation
(new meeting day & by Dispensation)

22nd Exmoor

24th King Arthur

25th Estune - Installation

October

1st Worlebury - Installation

6th Selwood

22nd Keynsham
(Team Visit + Banner Dedication)

23rd King Ina

P of I

27th OLoW - Installation

28th Templecombe - Installation

November

10th GREAT PRIORY - Malta

28th Antiquity

MEETINGS THROUGHOUT 2025 & 2026 ENTAILING PROVINCIAL PARTICIPATION

The Schedule of Visits for 2025 – 2026 is available on the Provincial website however the following Preceptory meetings in Somerset will receive formal Provincial attendance:

- † **The Keynsham Priory of St. Keyna No.455 on Wednesday, 22nd October**, the first **Provincial Team Visit** of the year for a Banner Dedication.
- † **Provincial Fraternal Visit to Gloucestershire & Hereford** – date to be arranged early 2026
- † **Exmoor Preceptory No.638 on Monday, 23rd February 2026** June, the second **Provincial Team Visit**.



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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. Hamblen in the Keynsham Preceptory of St Keyna

Bro.Kt. Acreman in the King Arthur of Avalon Preceptory

Also, as Eminent Prior:

E.Kt. R.J. Winter at King Ina

Plus, the following who became Knights of Malta:

At Our Lady of Walsingham:



Bro.Kt. Dallimore

Bro.Kt. Hutchings

Bro.Kt. Wilsher-Day

INTRODUCTORY CARD

If you know of any Master Mason and Companion who is interested in our Knights Templar Order why not give them an Introductory Card, available from your Preceptory Registrar or copied from below.



Contact details:

This card was given to you by:



Scan the QR code for Preceptories

<https://somersekt.org.uk>

or visit the Provincial Priory of Somerset website:

please email: atthebayray@gmail.com

For further information about Knights Templar,

To be considered as a Candidate one must be a Master Mason, a Royal Arch Mason and a Christian. One might ask why this qualification is necessary. The answer to this is found in our past, and in the traditions of our Masonic Order.

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BECOMING A KNIGHT TEMPLAR

The Order has an historical connection between Craft and Holy Royal Arch; Indeed, parts of our ceremonies point out and explain the link and progression between the Craft, the Holy Royal Arch and the Knights Templar Order.



This introductory card provides you with further information.

More about the Order:

- ❖ The Province of Somerset was formed in 1846 and has 12 Preceptories, with some 262 members, called Brother Knights, who operate under the direction of the Provincial Prior
- ❖ We are proud of our history and our traditions but are clear that the Masonic Order of Knights Templar has no proven links with the *Medieval Order*. However, our regalia is based on the clothing worn by them and our ceremonies recall the history and activities of the Order.
- ❖ A newly Installed Knight will go through an extremely interesting ceremony, taking him through a pilgrimage and then Knighthood as a Templar. The later history of the Knights is then re-enacted in the Malta degree.
- ❖ We consider that becoming a member of the Order is not only a privilege but also a commitment to Freemasonry in the broadest sense.
- ❖ We take pride in a friendly and open approach to meetings. It is often commented amongst members that this is their preferred Order.
- ❖ The Order offers an ideal opportunity to further your Masonic knowledge and adds another dimension to your Masonic life.
- ❖ Members are encouraged to visit other Preceptories and don't require to be invited.
- ❖ The Order supports the work of the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.
- ❖ To view a utube video about the *Medieval Order* of Knights Templar scan the QR code:





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BLACK-TIE DINNER SATURDAY 28TH JUNE 2025

On Saturday 28th June 2025, the Somerset Provincial Priory held their first Black Tie dinner held at Saltford Golf Club and headed by our Provincial Prior Paul Davis and Sub prior Alan McMurray. A total of 79 Brother Knights, their wives, partners and friends attended.

After a welcome drink, the Brother Knights made for the Patio to enjoy the early evening sun and a chat with friends old and new.

The Master of Ceremonies E.Kt. Ray Beckingham then commenced the evening with a warm welcome and introduced our Provincial Prior to give his welcome.

After the meal the R.E. Provincial Prior gave a short speech regarding Knights Templar and the St John Eye hospital of Jerusalem. A collection was made for the hospital. A free draw took place for a Bottle of Malt Whiskey for the men and a Bottle of Glastonbury Gin for the Ladies. The lady that won the gin asked if we could auction it to raise more money.

The total raised from the collection and the gin auction raised a total of £515.

The Provincial Prior thanked E.Kt. Ray Beckingham and E.Kt Alan McMurray for the work they put in to make the evening such a success. He also thanked Mr Meredith Foster an accomplished keyboard player who provided the entertainment during the evening.

A bouquet of Flowers were presented to Mrs Carole Davis, the Provincial Priors wife and to Mrs Holly Roche the Sub Priors daughter. The evening ended at 1045pm, but some were willing to stay until 1130.



The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St. John
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SELWOOD PRECEPTORY OF ST JOHN NO.244 HOST THE KEVII POI DEMONSTRATION TEAM



At the request of the R.E.Kt. Paul Jeffery Davis the Provincial Prior for Somerset, the Selwood Preceptory of St John No.244 welcomed the KEVII Preceptory of Improvement (PoI) Workshop to their regular Preceptory meeting on Monday 2nd June, held in the Masonic Hall, Frome, Somerset.

The Masonic Hall in Frome is a venue with a splendid Temple and spacious dining area. It can cater for nigh on 100 people for all types of Masonic meetings and social activities.



Following an early start to the evening the Preceptory was opened in due form by the Eminent Preceptor (EP) E.Kt. Derek J. Tadman P.Gt.Her. and the Provincial Vice Chancellor of Somerset, in order to conduct essential business.

But earlier than expected, the meeting was enhanced by the arrival of R.E.Kt. Paul Jeffery Davis the Provincial Prior for Somerset together with an entourage of Somerset Knights on an Official Team Visit, accompanied by the Provincial Sub-Prior Alan J. McMurray P.Gt.A.-de-C. and other Great Officers including the Provincial Prior for Dorset & Wiltshire R.E.Kt. Richard F. Mickelfield, a personal guest of R.E.Kt. Paul Davis.

All were warmly welcomed, and during the exchange the Provincial Prior declined to accept the baton acknowledging that the Preceptory was in good hands.



With the business out of the way the Eminent Preceptor consented to temporarily relinquish the chair to the Preceptory to the Knights of the KEVII PoI team; which comprised of V.E.Kt. Harry Randell P.Gt.Reg. who acted as Chaplain, V.E.Kt. Dennis Fountain P.Gt.Reg. as Marshal, V.E.Kt. Antony F. Legge P.Gt.Reg. as the Orator and E.Kt. Peter Doust P.Gt.A.-de-C. as Eminent Preceptor.

An exemplary ceremony of the Installation of a Knight Templar was then enacted with the acting EP word-perfectly conducting the ceremony, accompanied by skilful narration by the Orator, proficiency of the floorwork by the Marshal and adept support from the Chaplain. To complete the line up for the demonstration Kt. Clive Lambert and E.Kt. Tony Guthrie remained as the 1st and 2nd Constables respectively, E.Kt. Colin Ayton and Kt. Tim O'Neill were the Heralds, Kts. Harding and Park the Standard Bearers and E.Kt. Richard Thurston the Captain of Guards. And of course, not forgetting the volunteer candidate Kt. Derek Porter from the Worlebury Preceptory of St Dunstan in Weston-super-Mare.

There was also fulsome praise for the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard, for the excellence of their sword skill during the processions and more particular in guarding the Sepulchre using the full quota of Knights needed.

On completion of the demonstration a question-and-answer session followed before the Preceptory's EP resumed his Chair and acclamation given to the KEVII PoI Team for attending Somerset and for the splendid performance they had delivered.

In conclusion, the Templars Hymn was sung during which Alms were received and with no other business to attend to the Provincial Prior and his entourage departed before the Preceptory was formally closed by the Officers of the Preceptory.

Being a warm evening in June and with 59 Knights in the Temple there was as expected a rush to the bar for refreshment before the Festive Board could start with 52 sitting down for fayre fitting for this time of year. Whilst dining the taking of wine was observed and afterwards the appropriate Toasts we given.

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Finally, and before their departure the Provincial Prior for Somerset presented the Knights from KEVII with a token of his appreciation. Something called Somerset Cyder(?) This being a bottle of bespoke 'fine' **Cyder** (not be confused with the industrial Cider) from a local Somerset 'Crafting Cider' distillery - presented as an acknowledgement of the 'fine' KEVII presentation.





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PROVINCIAL OFFICER'S DINNER 2025

The Provincial Officers Dinner was again this year held at the Long Sutton Golf Club. Twenty-seven Knights of all Eminences attended to celebrate the success of the past year and for those designated for Officer in the next year to gather information on what was expected of them from the experience of their predecessors.



Exquisite food, fine wine and good company all at a splendid venue set in the peaceful heart of Somerset. What more could be asked other than to bring together the Provincial Officers for the end of year celebration; and to start the new season off with such a hospitable event.

What's more, the icing was added to the cake by an unexpected announcement regarding the Recent Provincial Golf Challenge 2025, read aloud by the Provincial 2nd Constable.

"This year's Provincial Golf Challenge took place at Mendip Spring Golf Club, it was a fairly cloudy day, and the heat was not as intense as it had been the previous week, so it made for a comfortable golfing atmosphere. There were 4 teams representing Craft, Chapter, Mark and Knights Templar and each team consisted of 6 players.

The Knights Templar Team were defending Champions and current holders of the Provincial Challenge Cup donated by the competitions founder Eminent Knight Robin Bex. The first time the Cup was played for was in 2009 and the Mark Team were the 1st winners.

The Knights Templar Team won the Cup in 2023 and retained it in 2024; this year we were under extreme pressure from the other Degrees who were determined they were going to win and take it away from us.



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Well, the Knights Templar Team put up a great fight and with some excellent and acceptable individual scores we held off the nearest challengers with a combined points total of 176, the Chapter Team lead by Ray Guthrie scoring 170 points, followed by the Craft Team lead by Roger Brigland in 3rd with a score of 167 points and 4th was the Mark Team lead by Tony Guthrie with a score of 156 points.

It has been an honour to Lead the Knights Templar Team and together with other Knights who have played for the Team in previous years we have defended the Cup 3 times.



Roger Brigland Captain of the Craft Team presenting the Provincial Challenge Cup to E.Kt. Jon Mansell Captain of the Knights Templar Team who have now won the Cup 3 times



I would like to thank my fellow Team members Martyn Russell, Graham Jeffery, Dean Bradwell, Geoff Seaman & Malcolm Behling for their fantastic efforts and support and I know we are all keen to try and retain it again next year.

Right Eminent Provincial Prior it gives me tremendous pleasure on behalf of the Province of Somerset Knights Templar Golf Team to present to you this most prestigious Trophy and pledge that we will do our very best to retain it again in 2026."

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 Burrige, 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 Worlebury Preceptory of St Dunston No.121 are charged to take the Sword to the Provincial Priory Meeting at the Webbington Hotel on Monday, 8th September where the Provincial Prior will command them to deliver the Sword to the next custodians.



SOMERSET PROVINCIAL PRECEPTORY OF IMPROVEMENT

NOTE: The October meeting of the PofI has been re-instated

Held under the direction of a KEVII qualified Preceptor V.E.Kt. Adrian Jones **P.Gt.Reg.**; Meets at 7.00 p.m. in the **Masonic Hall, Yatton** on the **4th Thursday in October**, the **1st Wednesday in April** & the **1st Thursday in June**.

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



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NOTICES

PROVINCIAL TIES



The Festive season will soon be with us. Remember, 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,

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 Pilon, M.Pilon@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

† I am pleased to advise that since our last issue of the Knightly News there has been no report of a Somerset Knight passing away. So included here this quarter are a few thoughts for us all from our Provincial Almoner.

“As brother Knights we are encouraged to embrace an ethos of charitable disposition and welfare support towards others. This is admirably demonstrated by the Preceptory Almoners who; quietly in the background; exercise these qualities to ensure that those in need receive as much support and regular contact as we are able with utmost discretion and confidentiality.

But it remains incumbent upon every Knight to exercise equal measure of vigilance towards ensuring our comrades in arms and their families are not forgotten. A simple telephone call can stimulate those suffering ill health and loneliness. Please keep your Almoners informed of any issue.”

YitBotO

E.Kt. Martyn Russell **P.Gt.W.of R.**

Provincial Almoner



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).