



# the SE Counties thistle

Issue 13 - APRIL 2026



## Provincial Grand Lodge of the South Eastern Counties of England



The Provincial Grand Chapter and Lodge meetings of the South-Eastern Counties of England were held at the Surbiton Masonic Hall on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2026. We gathered in the bar for coffee and biscuits, and a catch up with old friends before the meeting.



Provincial Grand Chapter was opened at 1 p.m. by the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Jack Love, attended by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Bro. Leslie Grout and Substitute Provincial Grand Masters Bro. Ian Fraser, Paul Hollebhone and Bro. Barrie Selway. There were 34 members and 2 guests present.

The distinguished guest, Bro. Chris Jeffery, Provincial Grand Secretary for Somerset, was welcomed by the Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Master welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that he hoped they would enjoy the Ceremony of Advancement and Promotion for the candidate.

A Ballot for Advancement and Promotion into the Order was held for Bro. Wayne Anthony Lucas and Bro. Roger Tutton, which proved in favour of the candidates.

Bro. Wayne Lucas was admitted into the Chapter and after an explanation of the history of the degree by the Provincial Grand Master he was Advanced to the Degree of Heredom and given the Characteristic of 'Hawkeye.'



The Provincial Grand Master was assisted by the Past Provincial Grand Master Bro. Charles Stoddart, Deputy Provincial Grand Master Bro. Leslie Grout, and Substitute Provincial Grand Masters Bro. Ian Fraser, Paul Hollebhone and Bro. Barrie Selway.



Other brethren assisted with the Questions and Answers: Section X, Bros Glen Coneley and Brian Hunter; Section X1, Bros. Colin Brookman and Alastair Mackenzie; Section X11, Bros. Ian Fraser and Andrew Banks; Section X111, Bros. Glen Coneley and Rodney Ramage.



Provincial Grand Chapter was closed, and we retired for a short break. Provincial Grand Lodge was opened, and Bro. Lucas was duly admitted and Promoted to the Degree of the Rosy Cross of the Royal Order of Scotland.

Bro. Charles Stoddart obligated the candidate, and the Provincial Grand Master conferred the accolade.

The Minutes of the Provincial Grand Chapter and Lodge Meetings held at Chichester on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025 having been circulated to all members were approved and signed by the Provincial Grand Master.

Bro. Nigel Harding gave a most interesting and informative explanation of the Royal Order of Scotland Diploma, and he presented diplomas to Bro. Chuck Chi Lap Li and Iain Macmillan, which were duly signed at the Secretary's table.

The Secretary said there were several opportunities for members to deliver the Questions and Answers for Sections X – XIII at the next meeting to be held at Horsham on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026.



The Secretary asked the members to propose more candidates to join the order as he only has one completed form from a candidate awaiting Advancement and Promotion.

Bro. Jack Love informed the brethren that our Junior Warden, Bro. Andy Francis, will be installed into the chair of Albany Craft Lodge for the first time on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May in Surbiton. It would be good if some members of SE Counties could attend to support Brother Andy on this special occasion.



The Provincial Grand Master closed Provincial Grand Lodge and after the customary photographs we retired for refreshments.





After refreshments the Provincial Grand Master and Deputy Provincial Grand Master were piped into the dining room by the Pipers, Bro. Chris Harris and Bro. Ralph Potter.



The Haggis was then paraded round the dining room led by the Pipers.

The Address to the Haggis was given by Bro. Andrew Francis in his very special way.

The brethren of the Province of the South Eastern Counties of England and their guests sat down to a most convivial festive board together before wending their way home.







**The next meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held at the Normandy Centre, Horsham, on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2026.**

**The following meeting will be held at the Masonic Hall, Glenmore House, Surbiton, on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2026.**

