



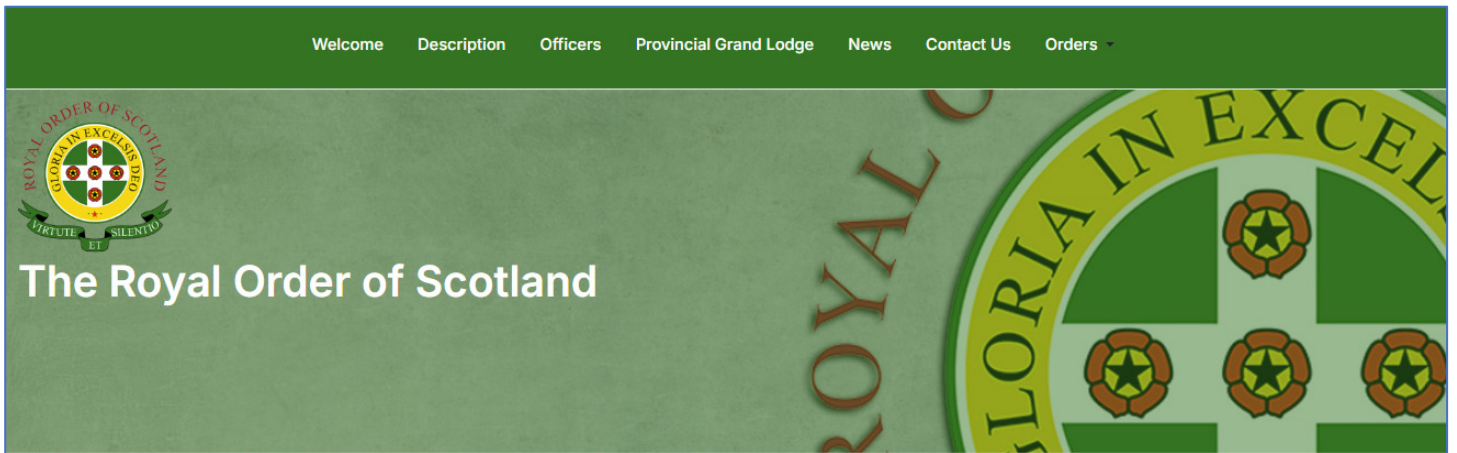
the SE Counties thistle

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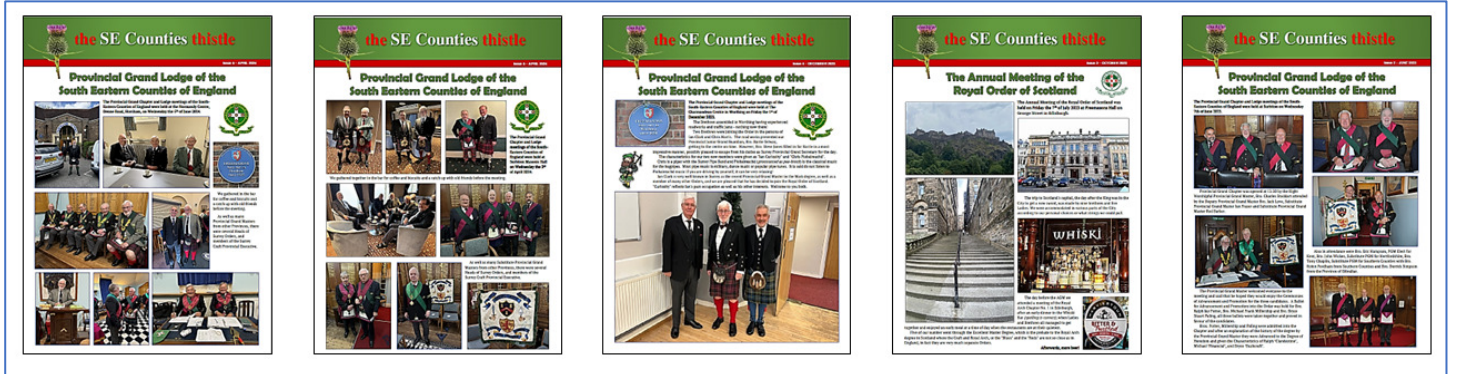
The new Surrey Companion Orders Web Site

We are pleased to announce that on the 1st of September a new web site for all the Companion Orders in Surrey was launched. This has been the result of a considerable amount of hard work and burning of the midnight oil by Tim Ford, supported by others with a specific responsibility for each Order.

It is modelled on the MMH website with some enhancements and personalisation. The main web page is www.surreycompanionorders.com from which all Surrey Companion Orders, including the Royal Order of Scotland web pages, can be accessed. You can access the Royal Order of Scotland website directly by using www.RoyalOrder-SEC.com



Please look at the new website which has a lot of information about our Order in general, and the South Eastern Counties in particular. There are also issues of the S E Counties Thistle, our Provincial newsletter, and other information.



If you have any items of interest, news, or upcoming events, please submit full details to Chris Eley cw.eley@talktalk.net who is our website content manager.



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 Centre on Friday the 27th of September 2024.



We gathered in the bar for coffee and biscuits and a catch up with old friends before the meeting.



Provincial Grand Chapter was opened by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Charles Stoddart attended by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Jack Love.

Also in attendance were Bro. George Mars the Substitute Provincial Grand Master from Hants & IOW, Bro. John Stovell from Hants & IOW, and Bro Clive Moore from Kent.

The Provincial Grand Master informed the brethren that Bro. Keith 'MAC' Maclean had died overnight after a long illness, the brethren stood to order in remembrance of Bro. MAC.



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 candidates.

A Ballot for Advancement and Promotion into the Order was held for Bro. Gordon Leaman and Bro. Andrew Banks, which proved in favour of both candidates.

Bros. Leaman and Banks were admitted into the Chapter and after an explanation of the history of the degree by the Provincial Grand Master they were Advanced to the Degree of Heredom and given the Characteristics of Gordon 'Flesher' and Andrew 'Globetrotter'.

The Provincial Grand Master was assisted by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Bro. Jack Love. Bro. Chris Eley acted as Marischal, Bro. Brian Pulley acted as Deputy Marischal, Bro. Andrew Francis acted as

Constable of the Tower, Bro. Malcolm Brown acted as Sword Bearer and Bro. David Morrow acted as Banner Bearer. The Provincial Grand Master expressed his thanks to those who had stood in for the ceremony, some ay very little notice. Other brethren assisted with the Questions and Answers: Section X Bro's Andrew Francis and Brian Hunter; Section X1 Bro's. David Morrow and Andrew Francis; Section X11 Bro's. Charles Stoddart and Richard Fripp, Section X111 Bro's. Davis Warren and Brian Pulley.

The Provincial Grand Chapter was closed and after a short break Provincial Grand Lodge was opened. Brothers Leaman and Banks were duly admitted and Promoted to the Degree of the Rosy Cross of the Royal Order of Scotland.



The Provincial Grand Master re-appointed and invested Bro. Jack Love as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, he reappointed Bros. Ian Fraser and Leslie Grout as Substitute Provincial Grand Masters, and he appointed and invested Bro. Paul Hollebhone as Substitute Provincial Grand Master.



The Treasurer proposed that donations of £250 and £500 be made to Psychiatry Research and the Surrey Craft Festival respectively, both were approved by the brethren present.

The Provincial Grand Master gave a short explanation of the Diploma to Bros .Chris Harris, Dean Sharpe, and Thomas Weston, which were duly signed at the Secretary's table.

The Provincial Grand Master closed Provincial Grand Lodge, and the customary group photos were taken.



We then retired to the bar for refreshments



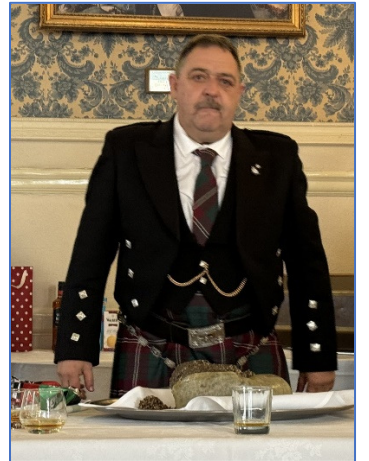
After refreshments the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Substitute Provincial Grand Master, were piped into the dining room by the Piper, Bro. Chris Harris.

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

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 and their guests sat down to a most convivial festive board of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties followed by Traditional roast beef.

After the meal the Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Jack Love, proposed the Toast to the Provincial Grand Master. The RW Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Charles Stoddart, responded accordingly.





Around the Orders



On Sunday the 22nd of September the Craft held their Annual Service of Thanksgiving at Guildford Cathedral. This year the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Nick Burger, invited the Heads of Orders in Surrey to wear their regalia at the Service.



Our Provincial Grand Master was in attendance representing the Royal Order of Scotland, and our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, as the Grand Superintendent of District 15, Surrey, represented the Knights Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom.

The next meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held at Chichester on Friday the 6th of December 2024.



Chichester Masonic Centre, of which the Pallant Suite is part, dates back to 1970 although the building is very much older and parts date back over 300 years.

Originally the building was a school but then became neglected as a furniture store until acquired by Chichester Masons. They wanted a permanent home for their lodge meetings which had been held in varying locations around the city since the lodge's first meetings in 1750.

By selling the adjoining stables money was raised to convert the building to their specific needs; this naturally included a large meeting room or temple as it is called together with bars and dining facilities. These accommodate the many dinners associated with Masonry and Ladies Nights.

Although four lodges and many more other masonic orders meet at the centre, this only uses a fraction of its capacity, so it has been available for other organisations since its inception.

The Chichester Jazz Club has made the Centre its home since 1999 with popular meetings that regularly exceed 100 members and visitors.

Similarly, the Local RSPB society, the Chichester Natural History Society and the Ramblers Association hold regular meetings in the main hall.

The centre is regularly used for private, public and business events of many types as it is one of the few large halls in the centre of the city. The ground floor facilities are focused on hospitality whilst the upper floors have a distinct masonic feel which makes for an unusual and interesting venue.