



# the SE Counties thistle

Issue 8 - DECEMBER 2024

## 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 Masonic Hall, Chichester, on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 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 Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Jack Love who explained to the brethren present that the Provincial Grand Master was taken unwell at a dinner last Friday and spent some time in the Royal Surrey hospital undergoing a range of tests over the weekend. He is back at home now and is making steady progress.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master then gave a short Eulogy in memory of Bro. Keith Brian Maclean who died in September. He said that Keith was a stalwart of the Province, and he had presented a splendid new sword to the Province in December 2018. He then asked for the brethren to stand in tribute to departed merit, after which the Piper played 'Donald Maclean of Oban' in memory of Keith.

Also in attendance were Bro. George Mars a Substitute PGM from Hants & IOW, Bro. John Stovell from Hants & IOW, Bro. Tom Batten a Substitute PGM from Southern Counties, Bro. Mark Hoare, the SW from Southern Counties, and Bro. Tony Chaplin, the Secretary from Southern Counties.

The Deputy 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. Kevin Richard Gamble and Bro. Chi Lap Li (Chuck) which proved in favour of both candidates.

Bro's Gamble and Li were admitted into the Chapter and after an explanation of the history of the degree by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master they were Advanced to the Degree of Heredom and given the Characteristics of Kevin 'Retailer' and Chuck 'Aquaphile'.



The Deputy Provincial Grand Master was assisted by the Substitute Provincial Grand Master Bro. Leslie Grout and the Past Provincial Grand Master Bro. Nigel Harding. Bro. Rod Barker acted as Deputy Marischal and The Deputy PGM expressed his thanks to those who had stood in for the ceremony today, some at very short notice.



The Past Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Nigel Harding, invested and obligated Bro. Leslie Grout as Substitute Provincial Grand Master.



He also invested and obligated Bro. Colin Brookman as Sword Bearer, Bro. Glen Coneley as Grand Introducer and Examiner, Bro. Andrew Pinner as Steward and Bro. Ralph Potter as Deputy Piper.

The Provincial Grand Treasurer, Bro. John Hickman, presented the Provincial Accounts which were adopted together with a vote of thanks to the Treasurer and the Auditors.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master closed Provincial Grand Lodge, and the customary group photos were taken. We then retired to the bar for refreshments

Other brethren assisted with the Questions and Answers as follows: Section X Bro's Andrew Pinner and Brian Hunter; Section X1 Bro's. Glen Coneley and Colin Brookman; Section X11 Bro's. Jack Love and Rod Barker, Section X111 Bro's. David Warren and Rodney Ramage.

The Provincial Grand Chapter was closed and after a short break Provincial Grand Lodge was opened. Bro's Gamble and Li were duly admitted and Promoted to the Degree of the Rosy Cross of the Royal Order of Scotland.



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



The Haggis was paraded round the dining room led by the Pipers, and the Address to the Haggis was given by Bro. Andrew Francis in his own very special way.



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

*Photos by Andrew Banks and Chris Eley*



# An Orders beyond the Craft evening in Surrey



A very interesting and informative workshop entitled 'Orders beyond the Craft' was held at the Sutton Masonic Hall on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.

Many of the Orders beyond the Craft had their stands in the main dining room, where the representatives of each Order were available to answer questions.

We then went up to the main Temple where Chris Hatton introduced the evening, which was arranged to give everyone a brief insight into the ceremonies and regalia of many well-known Orders, as well as some lesser-known Orders in Freemasonry.



Behind the scenes Simon Polkinghorne was busy getting all the regalia ready for the next team to go into out the Temple. Here we see Steve wearing the Royal Order of Scotland regalia.

In conclusion Chris Hatton thanked Simon for all his hard work putting the evening together, the team of 'models' Dave Harrison, Ken Macintosh, Steve Rush, and Chris Eley; and especially Shelley and her staff for the wonderful support and encouragement they had provided.

It was good to see the support from members of the Executive from several Companion Orders in Surrey.

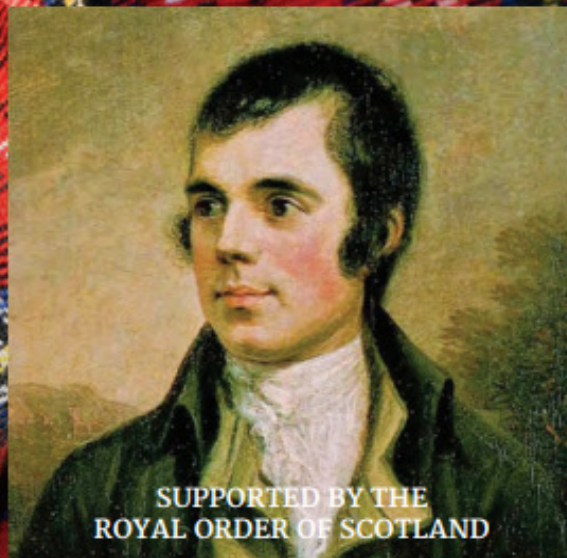
## The next meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held at Surbiton on Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2025.

Established as a Masonic Centre in 1920, Surbiton Masonic Hall as we know it today consists of 3 main Temples, two of which are named after the Masons who first discovered the house. The George Cowen Temple, the Thomas Turner Temple and the John Nix Temple.



# Surrey Mark Masons' Burns Night Charity Dinner

At Guildford Masonic Centre, Weybourne House, Hitherbury Close,  
Guildford, Surrey, GU2 4DR on Saturday 18th January 2024.



SUPPORTED BY THE  
ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND

## MENU

Haggis, Tatties and Neeps, with Whisky  
Roast Beef, with the trimmings  
Cranachan (Cream, oatmeal, whisky, raspberries)

*Pipers, Procession and Addressing the Haggis, plus Burns Toasts*

Dining: 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm.

Dress Code: Highland, Dinner Jacket or Lounge Suit.  
Ladies Posh Frocks - anything in the Scottish theme appreciated.

**Cost: £39 per person.**

**Open to the Ladies, Friends and Family, Non Masons.**

BACs payments to: Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey Benevolent Fund.  
Sort Code: 30-93-74 Acc No. 02602788. Use "BURNS" followed by Surname as reference.

Cheques payable to: Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey Benevolent Fund,  
send to: John Coleman  
29 Glaziers Lane,  
Guildford, Surrey GU3 2DE.

Further details from: [john.t.coleman@btinternet.com](mailto:john.t.coleman@btinternet.com) Tel: 07879408187

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