



Season's Greetings from our Provincial Grand Master

Dear Brethren

As the year draws to a close and we celebrate Christmas with our families and friends I have been looking back over the past year and the good times we have had together in the Province of Sussex in 2024.

It is good to see that the numbers in our Order are increasing. Most Courts have had Instruction Ceremonies, and I am aware of more candidates in the pipeline.

2024 was a very special year for me, the highlight being my installation as your Provincial Grand Master at Mark Masons Hall in July, followed by the installation of my Deputy, Bernard, at Winchester in August. Since then, I have visited several Courts and plan to visit the remaining Courts during 2025. One of the early highlights of 2025 will be the Dedication of a new Provincial Bible at the Court of Ælle No.25 at Eastbourne on Saturday the 11th of January.

And there is of course our Annual Meeting which will be held on Saturday the 5th of April at Winchester, where I hope to see many of you there.

I send you and those you love very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Mark

Mark Donovan
Provincial Grand Master
Provincial Grand Court of Sussex



HAPPY NEW YEAR

2025



Grand Court



The Masonic Order of Athelstan Annual Assembly 2024 was held on Saturday the 26th of October at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester.

At that meeting several Brethren of Sussex received appointment, re-appointment, or promotion in Grand Rank.

Charles Aspinell re-appointed Deputy Grand Master, Lionel Mee re-appointed Assistant Grand Master, Ian Smith appointed Junior Grand Warden, Paul Hollebhone appointed Deputy Eminent Grand Prior, Duncan Maguire appointed Deputy Grand Marshal, and Matthew Burt re-appointed Grand Organist.



Chris Cradock was promoted to Past Grand Sword Bearer, and first appointments were John Billet to Past Grand Banner Bearer, and Simon McCarthy and George Roger to Past Grand Captain of the Guard. Our congratulations to all these brethren.





Photos by Satish Dhir

The Rood at Sudtone Sari Court



A meeting of the Rood at Sudtone Sari Court No 106 was held at Sutton on Wednesday the 2nd of October. Present, as a member of the Court, was our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, KCAG.

The Court was opened by the acting Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Varinder Dhir, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Bro. Jeff Sykes was elected as Master for the ensuing year, and W.Bro. Graham Hancock was elected as Treasurer.

After the Court was closed the Brethren of Sudtone Sari Court enjoyed a most convivial meal together at the Sutton Masonic Hall.



Photo by Satish Dhir

The 2025 Annual Assembly

The 2025 Annual Assembly of the Provincial Grand Court of Sussex will be held on Saturday the 5th of April 2025 at the Masonic Centre in Winchester.

The meeting will commence at 11.00 a.m. and will be followed by lunch at 1.00 p.m.





The Court of the South Saxons



Our new Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Bernard F Marchant, KAG, PGBurgh, made his first Official Visit to a Court since his Installation in August at Winchester.



The Brethren of the Court of the South Saxons were pleased to receive W.Bro. Bernard and a team of Provincial Officers at their meeting in the Village Hall, Ferring, on Monday the 4th of November 2024



The Court was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Colin Thurman, who welcomed everyone to the meeting. After a report on the door the Provincial Marshal, W.Bro. Duncan Maguire, KAG, **DepGDC**, entered and advised the Worshipful Master that the Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master was in the ante room and demanded admission to the Court.

The Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master attended by several Officers of the year entered, was welcomed by the Worshipful Master, accepted the gavel, and took the Chair. He said how good it was to see so many at his first Official Visit. He introduced the team, took the minutes and vacated the Chair as the Court had work to do.

The main item on the agenda was to install Bro. Ken Cooper as Master of the Court. This was done in a most sincere manner by the Installing Master, assisted by the Officers of the Court.

Afterwards the newly Installed Master was congratulated by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master who wished him an enjoyable year as Master of the Court of the South Saxons.

After the Court was closed the members of the Court and their guests dined in the hall on fish and chips, or steak pie.

The Sword of Constantine Court

On Tuesday the 8th of October our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, *KCAG*, made another visit to the Sword of Constantine Court No. 120 to see Bro. Nael Clark instructed, and Bro. Richard Morgan Installed as Master.



The Court was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Philipp Reutner, who welcome all the visitors. After a report on the door the Provincial Marshal, W.Bro. Duncan Maguire, *KAG*, entered and advised the Worshipful Master that the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master was in the ante room and demanded admission to the Court.



The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, accompanied by the Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master, attended by several Officers of the year entered, was welcomed by the Worshipful Master, accepted the gavel, and took the Chair. He said how good it was to be back at the Sword of Constantine Court especially with such a full agenda. He introduced the team, took the minutes and

vacated the Chair as the Court had work to do.



A ballot was taken for two new members, Bro. Nael Clark of Athene Lodge and Chapter, and Bro. Jim Agnew of Nonesuch Park Lodge and Chapter. This proved in their favour.

Bro Jim Agnew not able to attend, the Worshipful Master invited W.Bro. Leslie Grout to conduct the Ceremony of Instruction. Bro Nael was welcomed as a new member into the Order, and he was duly Instructed by W.Bro. Leslie, assisted by the Officers of the Court.

W & Em. Bro. Chris Eley, *KAG*, Eminent Prior, explained the Emblems of Mortality.



Bro. Nael later said how much he had enjoyed the ceremony and thanked the brethren for the warm welcome he had received. He was congratulated by the Worshipful Master and the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master.



The next item was to install Bro. Richard Morgan as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. This was conducted by the Installing Master with assistance from W.Bro. Leslie Grout.

W.Bro. Richard Morgan was congratulated by our Provincial Grand Master who wished him a successful and enjoyable year as Master of the Sword of Constantine Court



After the regular business of the Court had been concluded the Court was closed and after refreshments, the members of the Sword of Constantine Court and their guests sat down to a most enjoyable curry supper at the Croydon Masonic Hall. Compliments to the chefs, Denis and Jason.



Archbishop Æthelhelm Court



Thursday the 21st of December was a special day for the Brethren of the Archbishop Æthelhelm Court. Not only was it the last Court meeting before Christmas, but the Court was being honoured by a visit from our Deputy Provincial Grand Master accompanied by several Provincial Officers of the year. Also present, as a member of the Court, was R.W.Bro. Lionel Mee, *GCAG*, Assistant Grand Master



The Court was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Alan Hall, who welcomed everyone to the meeting wishing them an enjoyable afternoon.

After a report on the door the Provincial Marshal, W.Bro. Duncan Maguire, KAG, **DepGDC**, entered and advised the Worshipful Master that the Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master was in the ante room and demanded admission to the Court.

The Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master attended by several Officers of the year entered, was welcomed by the Worshipful Master, accepted the gavel, and took the Chair. He said how good it was to be at Nutfield on his Official Visit. He introduced the team, took the minutes and vacated the Chair as the Court had work to do.



The main item on the agenda was to install Bro. Stephen Surridge as Master of the Court. This was done in a most sincere manner by the Installing Master, W.Bro. Alan Hall, assisted by W.Bro. Leslie Grout.



Afterwards the newly Installed Master was congratulated by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master who wished him an enjoyable year as Master of the Archbishop Æthelhelm Court.

W.Bro. Stephen then appointed and invested his team of officers for the coming year. The Traditional Wapentake was given by W.Bro. Bernard Marchant and the Address to the Master by W.Bro. Andy Fox.

W.Bro. Stephen was afterwards congratulated by our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who wished him a successful and enjoyable year.





The Court was then closed and, after photographs and refreshments in the bar, the Brethren of the Archbishop Aethelhelm Court and their guests sat down to a most convivial meal at the Nutfield Masonic Centre.