



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 Normandy Centre, Denne Road, Horsham, on Wednesday the 3rd of June 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 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.

The Provincial Grand Master gave a Eulogy for our Past Provincial Grand Master, Bro. John Knox, who died in Portugal in November 2025. A copy of the Eulogy is in this newsletter.

The distinguished guest, Bro. James Hilditch, PGM for The Cotswolds was welcomed by the PGM who then welcomed the other guests to the meeting.



The Provincial Grand Master then 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. Robert James Gray which proved in favour of the candidate. Bro. Gray 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 'Cultivator'.



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 as follows: Section X Bro's Andrew Francis and Brian Hunter ; Section X1 Bro's. Colin Brookman and Alastair Mackenzie; Section X11 Bro's. Ian Fraser and Richard Fripp; Section X111 Bro's. Charles Stoddart and Rodney Ramage; The following brethren stood in for officers who were absent: Marischal Bro. Charles Stoddart; Constable of the Tower Bro Rod Barker; Banner Bearer Bro. Nigel Thomson; and Sword Bearer Bro. Ian Smith

Provincial Grand Chapter was closed and Provincial Grand Lodge was opened. Bro. Gray 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.

After the regular business of Provincial Grand Lodge had been completed the Provincial Grand Master closed Provincial Grand Lodge and we retired for refreshments

After refreshments in the bar, with an opportunity to catch up with everyone the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Substitute Provincial Grand Masters were



pipers into the dining room by two Pipers, Bro. Chris Harris and Bro Ralph Potter. The Haggis was then paraded round the dining room led by the two Pipers and 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.

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

At the festive Board the Raffle and auction of a chocolate cake and a bottle of Whisky raised £190.





The web site of Provincial Grand Lodge:

<https://www.surreycompanionorders.com/welcome-royal-order-scotland-home>

