



## Donations to Yorda Adventures



In November our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Mark Donovan and our Worshipful and Eminent Prior, W.Bro. Chris Eley, drove to Chessington to visit Yorda Adventures and to present donations from the Masonic Order of Athelstan and the Red Cross of Constantine in support of the great work they do in supporting children with disabilities.

Yorda Adventures are a charity based in Chessington, Surrey, that provides play and care for severely disabled children. They have been established since 2006 and now have a permanent home, the Yorda Playhouse, where they have been based since 2016.

They run a variety of play, care, and family projects that support young people and their families. All their activities are tailored for the children they care for. Yorda Adventures work to enable them to get the best out of their day, have lots of fun, and support them through any challenges they may face.

We were met by Laura Smyth, MBE, the CEO and founder of Yorda Adventures who showed us round the facilities. Laura and her team are so passionate about the work they do to support the complex needs of SEND children aged 0 – 19 helping them find their way in an unfamiliar world using the power of play to build resilience and life skills. Our Provincial Grand Master said that he remembers the building when it was his local youth club many years ago – yes, he was young once....



In their Playhouse and Forest they run a variety of childcare and family adventures using play to learn and create special moments. They also run out of school activities, and an After School Club designed to help make time at school more rewarding and meaningful. On receiving the donations Laura said, *“We are going to use the donations to expand on the pilots of the outreach activities we did with our families in the summer using the initial £250 from the Masonic Order of Athelstan, Province of Sussex. We have booked a pantomime for Christmas, we’re going to the Chessington Garden Centre to visit their Grotto, and we are going to have our own Christmas party here.”*

To know more about Yorda Adventures visit: <https://yordaadventures.org/about-us/>





# The Court of the South Saxons



On Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November the Court of the South Saxons were pleased to receive our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Mark P Donovan, *G.C.A.G.*, to their Installation meeting. This meeting was held at the Charmandean Centre in Worthing instead of their usual meeting place, the Village Hall in Ferring.



The Court was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Ken Cooper, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

After a report on the door the Provincial Marshal, W.Bro. Mickey Wiles, *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.



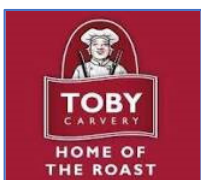
The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master attended by several Officers of the year entered, was welcomed by the Worshipful Master, accepted the gavel, and took the Chair. He said how good it was to see so many filling this large Temple at the Charmandean Centre. He introduced the team, spoke about the new Court to be Consecrated in Guernsey, took the minutes, and vacated the Chair as the Court had work to do.

The main item on the agenda was to install Bro. Simon Aston as Master of the Court. This was done in a most sincere manner by the Installing Master, assisted by the Officers of the Court. The Officers for the ensuing year were then appointed and invested

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



Our Provincial Grand Master was then invited to present Grand Court Certificates to five Brethren. This he did in a very informative way.



After the Court was closed and the customary photos taken the members of the Court and their guests dined together at the local Toby Carvery.

*Photos by Chris Eley and Satish Dhir*



# A busy afternoon at the Court of Harrow Way



Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November was a busy afternoon for the brethren of The Court of Harrow Way No 88. Not only did they welcome our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, *GCAG*, but they had a Candidate for Instruction, followed by the Installation of a new Master.

The meeting was opened by the Worshipful Master, R.W.Bro. Simon Polkinghorne, *GCAG*, *PJGW*, *PPJGW*, who welcomed everyone to the Court, especially our Provincial Grand Master.

A tribute was given by R.W.Bro. Mark Donovan in memory of W Bro Leonard George Hayward who Ascended to the Grand Court Above on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2025.

The first item on the agenda was to ballot for a joining member, Bro. John V C French, the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Surrey, and District Grand Prefect of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees, District of Surrey. This proved in his favour and Bro. John was warmly welcomed into the Court.

The next item on the agenda was to ballot for a candidate for Instruction, Bro. Dr Arthur Tollinchi. This proved in his favour and Bro. Arthur was instructed into the Order. Afterwards he was congratulated and welcomed into the Court by the Worshipful Master, and into the Province of Sussex by our Provincial Grand Master.

The next item on the agenda was to install W.Bro. Derek Williamson as Worshipful Master. After the Officers for the ensuing year had been appointed and invested, W.Bro. Derek was congratulated by our Provincial Grand Master who wished him a successful and enjoyable year.



Our Provincial Grand Master was then invited to present a Grand Court Certificate to Bro. Jeffrey Hancock which he did in a very informative way.

The Court was then closed and after some photos were taken, the brethren of the Court of Harrow way retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to a most enjoyable meal at the Guildford Masonic Centre.

*Photos by Satish Dhir*

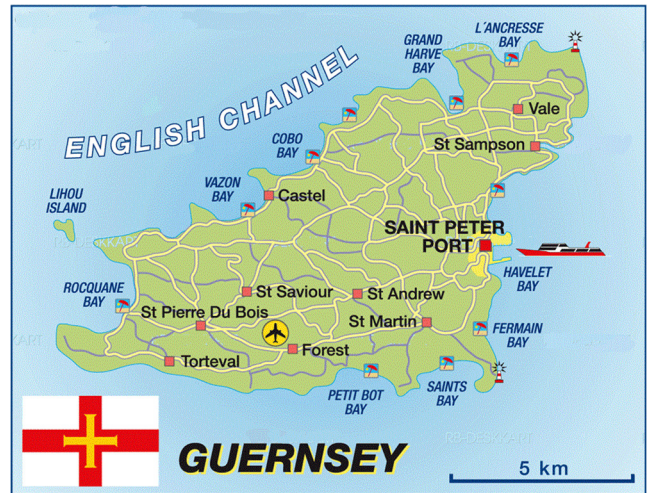


# A visit to Guernsey

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of November R.W.Bro. Mark Donovan, our Provincial Grand Master; W.Bro. Bernard Marchant, our Deputy Provincial Grand Master and W.Bro. Mickey Wiles, our Provincial Grand Marshal, went over to Guernsey for a few days in preparation for the Consecration of a new Court in the Province of Sussex on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2026.

While there they attended a meeting of the Guernsey Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1614, where they met some of the Founders of the Court.

Pictured (l to r) are our Provincial Grand Master, Mark; W.Bro. Russell Johnson (Master), W.Bro. Don Clark (founder but not a proposed office holder); Bro. David Clark (Treasurer); W.Bro. Phil Falla, Provincial Grand Master of the Craft (Prior), R.W.Bro. Andrew Henton, Provincial Grand Master of the Mark; our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bernard; W.Bro. Robin Gonard (JW), and our Provincial Grand Marshal, Mickey.



Missing from the photo were Sean Petralia (SW) and Stephen Hill (SD). Our Provincial Grand Master said that the Temple was fantastic and that they were most impressed by roads without potholes 😊

## The 2026 Annual Assembly

The 2026 Annual Assembly of the Provincial Grand Court of Sussex will be held on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 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 Consecration of a new Court in Guernsey

**We are going to consecrate a new Court in the Province of Sussex. The Court of Lenuri will be on the Island of Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands, and will be the 11<sup>th</sup> Court in the Province of Sussex.**

**The consecration date is the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2026** and will take place in Guernsey with the Province of Sussex taking a team out to perform the consecration ceremony. All Brethren are invited to attend and enjoy the weekend. Ladies will be catered for and invited to attend the Saturday evening banquet.

As our Provincial literature has always stated "the Channel Islands are part of the Province of Sussex", that part of our desire is now beginning to take shape.

## The Lenur Islands

**Evidence for Roman settlement of the islands is sparse, although the islands were visited by Roman officials and traders. The Roman name for the Channel Islands was Lenuri (Lenur Islands) The traditional Latin names used for the islands were Caesarea for Jersey, Sarnia for Guernsey, and Riduna for Alderney.**

In the sixth century, Christian missionaries visited the islands. Samson of Dol, Helier, Marculf and Magloire are among saints associated with the islands. In the sixth century, they were already included in the diocese of Coutances where they remained until the Reformation.

There were probably some Celtic Britons who settled on the Islands in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries AD (the indigenous Celts of Great Britain, and the ancestors of the modern Welsh, Cornish, and Bretons) who had emigrated from Great Britain in the face of invading Anglo-Saxons. But there were not enough of them to leave any trace, and the islands continued to be ruled by the king of the Franks and its church remained part of the diocese of Coutances.

From the beginning of the ninth century, Norse raiders appeared on the coasts. Norse settlement eventually succeeded initial attacks, and it is from this period that many place names of Norse origin appear, including the modern names of the islands.

In 933, the islands were granted to William I Longsword by Raoul, the King of Western Francia, and annexed to the Duchy of Normandy. In 1066, William II of Normandy invaded and conquered England, becoming William I of England, also known as William the Conqueror. In the period 1204–1214, King John lost the Angevin lands in northern France, including mainland Normandy, to King Philip II of France, but managed to retain control of the Channel Islands. In 1259, his successor, Henry III of England, by the Treaty of Paris, officially surrendered his claim and title to the Duchy of Normandy, while retaining the Channel Islands, as peer of France and feudal vassal of the King of France.

Around 1290, Otto de Grandson split the Channel Islands into two separate bailiwicks which were never absorbed into the Kingdom of England nor its successor kingdoms of Great Britain or the United Kingdom. During the Hundred Years' War, the Channel Islands were part of the French territory recognizing the claims of the English kings to the French throne.

## The Masonic Centre

**The Guernsey Masonic Centre is situated on the Rue de la Vallee, St. Martin, Guernsey. GY4 6HW.**

The Province of Guernsey and Alderney in the Channel Islands is one of the smallest Provinces of the United Grand Lodge of England, supporting just eleven Lodges. However, the Channel Islands are not within the United Kingdom, having been a possession of the Duke of Normandy long before 1066.

Today they remain British Crown Dependencies in a unique relationship under the British Monarchy. The Channel Islands lie just a few miles off the French coast in the English Channel.

There are essentially five populated Islands. The Province of Guernsey and Alderney also includes the smaller Islands of Sark and Herm, whilst the Island of Jersey is a separate Province.

Freemasonry came to Guernsey, the second largest Island in the Channel Islands, in 1753 during the reign of King George II. In 2003 the Province celebrated 250 years of Freemasonry on the islands.

