

E.Kt. Richard DONALD (Don) Shobbrook

Bro. Kts. we have a member of this Preceptory who today has reached a significant milestone in his Templar career. It is 40 years to the day - Wednesday, 10th February 1976, that Don Shobbrook was Installed as a Knight in the Royal Sussex Preceptory No.25.

He was Raised in the Craft in 1961, was Master in 1973 and again in 2004, and holds the rank of PPJGW.

He was Exalted in the Holy Royal Arch in 1970, was MEZ in 1982 and holds the rank of PPGScN.

E.Kt. Don was Eminent Preceptor of Royal Sussex in 1984, and has attended regularly over the 40 years , filling in for officers as required, and was Deputy Marshal from 1995-1998.

When he was Installed as a Knight in 1976 the Provincial Prior was William Alexander Kneel, who was the longest serving Prior of the joint Province of Devonshire & Cornwall - 20 yrs service. (our joint Province dates from 1936).

William Kneel's successor as Provincial Prior was Cyril Barnes, who was the Immediate Past Preceptor of No. 25 at the time, and Cyril Barnes's successor as Prior, Douglas Penny, was 1st Herald in this Preceptory at that time. Douglas Penny was followed as Provincial Prior by Keith Jackson, then John Vaughan and now, yours truly, so E.Kt. Don has served under 6 Provincial Priors.

Bro. Kts., most Provinces now recognise 50 yrs service in the Craft (and the Holy Royal Arch). In this Order, you must be a Master Mason and a member of the Holy Royal Arch, which can take several years, (in Don's case - 15 yrs) so I equate 40 years service in our Order with 50 yrs service in the Craft.

On that basis, I think it entirely appropriate that we should recognise E.Kt. Don's commitment and loyalty with a framed certificate which I hope he will display with pride at home.

E.Kt. Don - on behalf of your Preceptory and the Province of Devonshire and Cornwall, I thank you and congratulate you on your wonderful record of service in your Preceptory and I wish you many more years of enjoyment in this wonderful Christian Order.

Now, we haven't quite finished. E.Kt. Don, you currently hold the rank of Past Provincial 2nd Constable. I'm delighted to be able to make a 'Field Promotion' and promote you to the rank of Provincial 1st Constable. You will be pleased to know that there is no extra fee and you do not need a new badge! Congratulations! It is well deserved.