

Provincial Prior's Address – Tintagel 12th October 2013

It's that time again! I'm delighted to see so many of you here to support us again this year and after the alarms & excursions of the last few weeks I'm especially pleased to be here myself to share today with you!

I'm going to be brief – no history lessons this year as I'm aware that there are a number of Kts. who wish to attend the Cornwall Provincial 2013 Festival Celebrations at the Atlantic Hotel, Newquay this evening, which is of course the reason we have brought forward the times of the lunch & the meeting today.

I must take a moment to thank all those Kts. both near & far who have sent me messages during my 'indisposition'. I have been overwhelmed by the number and sincerity of your messages, and they are greatly appreciated. It seems quite inadequate but, nevertheless a very sincere "thank you" to you all.

We have to congratulate those Kts. whom I have appointed or promoted today. Bro. Kts. this is recognition for your efforts and commitment to your Preceptory and, in many cases to the Province as you have travelled and visited other Preceptories in our geographically widespread Province. I hope you will maintain that commitment and encourage other officers of your Preceptories to join you on your visits.

Congratulations also to those Kts. who were honoured by the Grand Master at Great Priory in May. In addition to our regular allocation, our new Vice Chancellor, E.Kt. Jan Olszewski was appointed as Great Sword Bearer (active rank); E.Kt. Graham Hindle our Prov. Prelate, as P.Gt. A-de-C; E.Kt. Tony St.J.Turner as P.Gt.W.of R; E.Kt. Claude Squire as P.Gt. Chamb. and E. Kt. David Dobson was promoted to P.Gt.Std.Br.(B). I hope that a good number of Kts. of this Province will attend Great Priory of Malta next month to see them invested in equivalent rank in the Malta Degree.

During the year I have made two Official Visits in the Province: Launceston Castle Preceptory No. 480 in June and Mandyllion Preceptory No. 628, Ivybridge, in August, and the Sub Prior made an Official Visit to Trinity in Unity No 19 in Barnstaple in April.

I also managed to arrange a Provincial Working at Restormel Preceptory No. 90 at Hayle. Unfortunately I was in hospital at the time of that meeting so our Prov. Sub Prior stepped in and conducted the ceremony for me. By all accounts it was a very successful meeting and I thank all those Officers of the Province who supported me and the Sub Prior at the Official Visits and the Provincial Working. If there is an opportunity for a Provincial Working again this year we will certainly consider it.

I have made 9 visits to other Provinces, one to see the Installation of the new Prov. Prior for Hants. & Isle of Wight.

This coming year I hope to extend my visits a bit further afield to reciprocate some of those of our distinguished guests today.

On the social side, we enjoyed two Provincial Sunday Lunches – the Autumn Lunch at Launceston in November and the Spring Lunch at Kingsteignton in April. Both were most enjoyable occasions and I hope that our Autumn & Spring Lunches this year will be equally well supported – our ladies deserve it! Autumn Lunch this year will be on Sunday 3rd November at Lanhydrock Hotel & Golf Club in a lovely parkland setting and easily accessible from the A30 at Bodmin. Bring your ladies, families & friends – it's a nice way to introduce a Companion to our Knightly family!

Thanks are of course due in no small measure to those who have made the arrangements for this meeting. Our Vice Chancellor, who is an extremely busy Mason in several other Orders, for all his hard work in organising today, the members of the Bodyguard with their Commander & Deputy Commander who have been busy since early this morning setting up the Hall and the Sepulchre and our "Host" Preceptory, St John of Jerusalem No. 611 under whose Banner the meeting is held today.

Our unofficial Preceptory of Improvement, under the guidance of E. Kt. Ed Purkis our Prov. Marshal, has met several times over the last few months and those who have attended have found it most instructive & useful, particularly

those aspiring to higher office in the Preceptory. I urge you to support this initiative which can only benefit both the Kts. who participate and our Preceptories.

E.Kt. Alan Cockman our new Registrar, has continued to maintain a steady flow of up to date information and current reports on our website. Thank you Alan for this most important contribution to our Province.

And of course a big thank you to our Sub Prior's wife, Mrs Sue Jones who organised the Ladies' outing to Cothele today.

Almost there now! Just an annual reminder of the Grand Master's Council recommendation that at 5pm on Christmas Day we remember our Bro. Kts. around the world with this short prayer: "Preserve O Lord our Brother Knights, by land and sea and air. And as we keep them in our thoughts, so keep them in thy care."

Bro. Kts., thank you all for your attendance and support today. I look forward to seeing you all in your Preceptories during the coming year and, of course, back here, same time, same place on 11th October 2014.

Finally, I'll leave you with this eye-watering thought – as you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never be facing the wrong way!

Thank you for listening – have a safe journey home.

Rt.E. Kt. Peter Davies

12th October 2013