

2024 PROVINCE OF CHESHIRE & NORTH WALES OSM ANNUAL MEETING



Provincial Team 2024/2025

The Province of Cheshire and North Wales Order of the Secret Monitor held their Annual Meeting at Freemasons' Hall, Christleton, Cheshire, on Wednesday, 19th June, 2024.

It has become a tradition that the sun shines over Cheshire on that day and 2024 was no exception. Of course, many of the visiting Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers claimed responsibility for the good weather!

This year the Province also celebrates its 50 anniversary since its Constitution in 1974, formerly the Province of Lancashire & Cheshire.

Members started arriving before 09.00 for the obligatory rehearsals.

With parade practice over, there was just time for photographs to be taken to record the day, then everyone dashed off for a cup of tea and a bacon bap before the meeting got underway.

With everyone in their seats the Provincial Director of Ceremonies announced the entrance of visiting Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers, and these were followed by the two Past Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers for the Province; Right Worthy Brothers Sam Keery and David Littlewood.

The Arch of Steel was then called to order to receive Right Worthy Brother Tony Stringer, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, with his Deputy Worthy Brother Paul Burton and the Provincial team for the year.

With everyone having safely passed under the swords of the Arch, Right Worthy Brother Tony welcomed all the attendees and the meeting was opened in due form and on time at 11.00.

After the roll call of the Provincial Conclaves and Officers had been taken, the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Worthy Brother Paul Burton, delivered the In Memoriam to departed merit; accompanied with solemn prayer and silence.



Visiting PGSRs (L-R) Right Worthy Brothers John Watts, North East Province; Christian Givvons, East Lancashire; Tony Stringer, PGSR C&NW; Paul Burton, Deputy PGSR; Uri Patel, East Midlands; Philip Eleanor, North & East Yorkshire.

Right Worthy Brother Stringer introduced the visiting Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers and other visiting dignitaries, with his usual panache.

The Provincial Grand Guide, Worthy Brother John Owens, then delivered his Annual Provincial Grand Guide's report on activities within the Province; which presented a picture of a healthy and happy Province.

It was now time to move on to the main item of the meeting to the appointments of the new Provincial team for 2024/25.

Right Worthy Brother Tony Stringer first reappointed WyBro Paul Burton to remain as his Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, before appointing the rest of his team of Officers.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then inspecting his Arch of Steel, accompanied by the Commander, Worthy Brother Philip Rose.



PGSRs Arch of Steel

Then the moment everyone had been waiting for; Right Worthy Brother Tony Stringer's address to the meeting.

As always, this was done with style and humour, and was appreciated by all those at the meeting.

Right Worthy Brother Tony did, however, apologise that a Fiftieth Anniversary booklet regarding the history of the Province, that he had hoped to hand out to all attendees, had encountered technical problems and wasn't available.

The history of the Province had been researched and compiled by Worthy Brother John Thompson.

When all the other business of the day had been concluded, Provincial Grand Conclave was closed according to ancient custom.

Then the real highlight of the day the singing of the National Anthems, with a special and rousing rendition of the Welsh Anthem by the native-speaking members of the Province.

Congratulations must go to the Commander of the Arch of Steel, Worthy Brother Philip Rose, and his Deputy, Brother David Ginger, for the fine display put on by his team.

At the Festive Board, the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler made especial reference to the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies team, Worthy Brothers Anthony Lloyd, David Topp and David Ainsworth for their exemplary performance, and to the Provincial Grand Recorder, Worthy Brother Alan Harrison, for organising another successful day.



*Province of Cheshire & North Wales OSM & Scarlet Cord Leadership:
Chris Welton, ProvGSummus; Tony Stringer, PGSR;
John Thomson, DepProvGS; Dennis Schiff, AProvGS*

*Words: Derek Gaskell, Provincial Grand Counsellor
Pictures: Philip Rose, Commander, Arch of Steel*