

## A Successful Companion Orders Pilot Meeting at Runcorn

A Companion Orders meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January saw over 60 people arrive to "meet the leaders" in spite of bad weather warnings for N.Wales, Cheshire and neighbouring Shropshire & Staffs.

In the Lodge room a total of 13 Provincial Heads or their Representatives were gathered, each to give a short introduction to his Order. A total of 14 different Orders, each with something unique to offer in the search for Masonic knowledge. It was relaxed and informal, and each presenter was received with applause from an appreciative audience.



*L to R. Fraser Fowlie, representing Knights Templar. Paul Crudge, representing Rose Croix. Chris Welton, Grand Preceptor, St Thomas of Acon; and Provincial Grand Summus, Scarlet Cord. Tony Stringer, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Order of the Secret Monitor. Steven Markham Chief Adept, Societas Rosicruciana In Anglia. Bryan Hughes District Grand Master, Royal and Select Masters. David Williams Deputy Grand Superintendent, Holy Royal Arch Chapter. Brian Williams, District Grand Prefect, Allied Masonic Degrees. John Sarti, Deputy Grand Master Mason, The Operatives. Barry Sant, representing Knights Templar Priests. John Miller, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Royal Ark Mariners. Gary Horstman, Provincial Grand Master, Mark. Geoff Gill, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Order of Athelstan.*

Downstairs, the Bar was open for business, and complimentary Tea, Coffee & Biscuits were in the kitchen. Around the Hall each Order had its own table, packed with leaflets, laptops, etc. and manned by its Leader and members, eager to give information (and application forms!) to likely candidates. The atmosphere was that of a busy marketplace, with plenty of the fun and banter one would expect from masonic friends old and new, while earnest sales-pitches continued by each table.







W.Bro. Gary Horstman, PGM of the Cheshire Mark Masons is responsible for the idea and the organisation of the event, assisted by Wy Bro. Tony Stringer PGSR of the OSM in Cheshire & N.Wales who also provided the venue.

The feedback from the participants has been excellent. There were 49 expressions of interest across all Orders with at least 12 confirmed candidates to date.

Such success promises that this could be the first of many such events across the Province of Cheshire and, perhaps, further afield in the future.



*The Brethren & Companions who stayed to the end of the evening pose for a final 'team photo'*