



## King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement

(Held under the licence and authority of the M. E. & S. Grand Master)

### **Review of the Year to June 2025.**

The year started with three main objectives: (i) to continue to build awareness of the KEVII PoI, (ii) to increase the number of Certified Preceptors of Improvement, and (iii) to publish a Handbook for Marshals that included a comprehensive guide to the Templar ritual as practised by the KEVII PoI.

### ***Increasing the awareness of the KEVII PoI***

Following the three workshops in the preceding year (Derbyshire, London and Monmouth & South Wales), three further Provincial workshops have taken place; Lincolnshire in September 2024 (at Grantham), Durham in April 2025 (at Darlington) and Somerset in June 2025 (at Frome). All three were very well attended with lively question and answer sessions and enjoyable festive boards.

**LINCOLNSHIRE** (EKt Adrian Moseley as Eminent Preceptor, VEKt Dennis Fountain as Marshal, VEKt Antony Legge as Chaplain and VEKt Harry Randell as Narrator)



The Lincolnshire Workshop had over 45 Knights present, with every one of the Province's 10 Preceptories represented, along with the then Provincial Prior for Lincoln, REKt Malcom Bilton and his Sub Prior, VEKt Mike Carter. There were also Knights from several neighbouring Provinces, including some visiting Provincial Marshals.

#### Executive Committee:

R.E.Kt Tim Wheeler (Chairman), V E. Kt. Antony Legge (Registrar), E. Kt, Peter Doust (Treasurer), V. E. Kt. Dennis Fountain, E. Kt Adrian Moseley and V. E Kt Harry Randell (Hon.).



**DURHAM** (EKt Peter Doust as Eminent Preceptor, VEKt Dennis Fountain as Marshal, EKt Adrian Moseley as Chaplain and VEKt Antony Legge as Narrator)



Similarly, the Durham Workshop, which followed a meeting of the Wycliffe Preceptory in Darlington, was attended by the RE Provincial Prior, REKt Richard Scott, with 54 Knights attending, representing all of Durham's 14 Preceptories. Those present took great interest in the demonstration and the number of questions asked had to be cut short so that dinner wasn't missed, with an enthusiastic article submitted by the Province in the weekly newsletter from Mark Masons' Hall ([Newsletter 11 April 2025 .pdf - Google Drive](#)).

**SOMERSET** (EKt Peter Doust as Eminent Preceptor, VEKt Dennis Fountain as Marshal, VEKt Harry Randell as Chaplain and VEKt Antony Legge as Narrator)



Not one, but two Provincial Priors were present for the Workshop in Somerset, with REKt Paul Davis (Somerset) being joined by REKt Richard Micklefield (Dorset & Wiltshire), with visitors from Bristol as well. All of Somerset's 12 Preceptories were represented with 59 Knights in attendance. On this occasion, the Workshop occurred as part of a meeting of the Selwood Preceptory of St John No 244, with the Preceptory opening, receiving the Provincial delegation before then handing over to the team from the KEVII PoI to demonstrate the ritual for installing a new Knight.





(See here for the article in Freemasonry@86 on 13 June [Newsletter 13 June 2025 \(1\).pdf - Google Drive](#)). A kind letter of thanks from REKt Paul Davis noting that from the feedback that he had received it was clear that all had benefitted from the Workshop, and that the guidance given had stimulated ideas to sharpen Preceptory practice.

### ***Increasing the number of Certified Preceptors of Improvement***

At the start of the year, only seven Provinces had Certified Preceptors of Improvement (CPIs) to assist with their Provincial PoIs - Gloucester & Herefordshire (Peter Doust and John Randall), Somerset (Adrian Jones and Bill Whitehead), London (Dennis Fountain), Middlesex (Tom D'Souza), Kent (Ed Lines and Ron Pritchard), Lincolnshire (Ade Moseley), Monmouth and South Wales (Harry Randell). Four Knights were tested – Antony Legge (London), Brian Connor (Lincolnshire), Roger Brockington (Dorset & Wiltshire) and Martin Sando (Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire). Only one, Martin Sando, passed, with Roger Brockington and Brian Connor due to re-take the test in the early 2026.

As well as increasing the number of CPIs to assist with Provincial PoIs, there is also a need to continue building the demonstration team.

### ***Marshals' Handbook***

A Marshals Handbook was drafted and presented to the Grand Master's Council for their approval. It was decided that it would be better for this to be published informally by the KEVII PoI instead of formally by Mark Masons' Hall. However, the work on the Handbook then led to the possibility of minor changes being suggested to the ritual. The KEVII PoI Committee approved a set of changes for consideration by a Ritual Committee formed under the instruction of the Grand Master. This is due to meet on 8 July 2025. Unfortunately, with these changes potentially in the offing, work on the Marshals' Handbook and Sword Drill Handbook has paused to avoid issuing booklets that could be quickly out of date.

### ***Other Activities***

There was a small increase in numbers with the PoI now having 137 registered members, despite three resignations. There are also a couple of incorrect emails/contact details that need to be resolved.

The Membership database has been updated and all members are now in Outlook. A new membership application form has been created that can be emailed to potential members and completed online. This will be uploaded to the web site when that is ready. A new email address for the KEVII PoI Registrar ([registrar@keviipoi.org](mailto:registrar@keviipoi.org)) has been created to allow smother transfer of communications to future Registrars.

The web site is the one major disappointment in the year with little progress being made, mainly due to attention being focused on the Marshals' Handbook, and attention will be to be paid to this over the summer break.



In total, over the year, nine meetings were carried with an aggregate attendance of over 120 Knights. Of these nine meetings, four were taken up with tests plus rehearsals, which meant little time for general instruction.

The plan for 2025/26 is for another 9 meetings but only two tests plus rehearsals to give time for three regular instruction meetings, plus the rehearsal of the installation of an Eminent Preceptor and Eminent Prior and for the rehearsal of a Malta ceremony.

### ***Annual Dinner***



The Annual Dinner was held as usual on the third Friday in February at the Civil Service Club. This was one of the largest attendances in recent years with 46 Knights from 17 different Provinces attending, including seven Provincial Priors. The Knights were honoured to have the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master as the principal guest, accompanied by the Very High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal and the Great Vice Chancellor and Deputy Great Vice Chancellor. The Knights all had an enjoyable evening, with a number of letters of gratitude being received that noted the convivial atmosphere.

### ***Financial Report***

The impact of the costs of the Workshops was the major factor in the year, with c£1,620 being expensed on travel and subsistence for the team, at an average of £135 per team member per meeting. The aim is to reduce this in the future by expanding the Workshop team through an increase in the number of Certified Preceptors of Improvement, however this may take a few years if only a couple of Knights pass the tests each year. Other major costs were email address and the new domain name, for which the new web site is due for completion this summer, with an aggregate upfront fee of £450 for the next three years. The PoI also subsidised the Annual Dinner to the tune of £780, but with the Dinner increasing in size, this may not be possible in the future. Overall, after collecting certain Provincial Dues from the previous year, the bank balance reduced by £100.31 to £2,632.49 as at 30 June 2025, although this is before the payment of c£300 of expenses.

2026 will see a further increase in costs, with four Workshops being planned for 2026, compared to three in 2025, and potentially the costs of a Marshals' Meeting.