



The Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord

Deputy Provincial Grand Summus Visit Report

Province of The Chilterns

On Monday 15th June 2026, I had the pleasure of witnessing the Annual General Meeting proceedings in the Provincial Grand Senatus of the Chilterns, held at Ashwell House, 167 Verulam Road, St Albans,

Setting off from North Wales at 05:15 hours, it was a four-hour journey down with a short thirty-minute stop.

The provincial Grand Summus, Right Distinguished Companion Dr Silverio L. Ostrowski, and many other companions offered a very warm welcome on arrival and several conversations were struck.

Those not processing in, took their seats in the consistory then, the director of Ceremonies introduced several deputations which were met with accord.

The first procession was that of the Past Assistant Grand Summus, Howard Saul Markham, Provincial Grand Summi, then the Grand Summus and office bearers of the province.

The provincial Grand Senatus was opened in due course, followed by salutations to the Most Distinguished Grand Summus, Assistant Grand Summus and the Provincial Grand Summus.

Sadly, as the Provincial meeting only takes place once a year, this becomes a moment of silence to remember those Companions who passed to higher duties.

A very warm welcome was extended to all visitors including Provincial Grand Sumi, Deputies, Assistants, and others representing their respective provinces from around the country.

On my reply, I passed on the apologies and best Regards to all from our own Provincial Grand Summus, Right Distinguished Companion John Christopher Welton.

The remaining business was undertaken which included the re appointment of Distinguished Companion Daryl Hayler as the Deputy Provincial Grand Summus and Very Distinguished Companion Peter William Gilkes as the assistant Provincial Grand Summus.

Both investitures were ably conducted by the Provincial Grand Summus.

The remaining office bearers were installed, and the Provincial Grand Summus delivered his address to the province.

There was a total of fifty-eight companions in the consistory which was a good turnout indeed.

On the day other provinces were represented by 10 Provincial Grand Sumi, several deputies and officers representing other provinces

The Five consistories in the province were very well represented for which the Provincial Grand Summus showed his gratitude.

The consistories in attendance:

Oxford and Cambridge Consistory No.14 T.I.
Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire Consistory No. 45 T.I
Bandbury Cross Consistory No. 87
Euclid Consistory No. 115
Thames Valley Consistory No. 129

The Provincial Senatus was closed in due form with senior parties leaving first.

Visiting dignitaries were given a free beverage which took place in the bar area which gave everyone time to mingle and catch up with old friends and make conversation with new friends.

The festive board was then held in the splendid dining room and in nice settings if I do not mind saying so myself.

This consisted of a three-course meal delivered by staff in a very timely and professional manner. There was a total of 58 companions sat down to dine.

The Director of Ceremonies directed the 'taking of wine' by the Provincial Grand Summus several parties in good spirits followed by the official toast list.

On closing, all parties intimated their farewells and went on their ravel's back home.

I embarked on my 4-and-a-half-hour journey back home.

Regards

John Thomson

Deputy Grand Summus

Province of Cheshire and North Wales