



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

PARADE OF TERCENTENARY BANNER IN SOUTHAMPTON



Prior to the opening of Provincial Grand Lodge at the Guildhall Southampton, members of the public and assembled Masons were treated to the unique spectacle of a procession in full regalia to accompany the Tercentenary celebration banner into Provincial Grand Lodge. The procession included the Pro Grand Master, MW Bro. Peter G. Lowndes, the Provincial Grand Masters for the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight and the Province of Wiltshire and selected brethren from both Provinces.



During the Annual General Meeting, the banner was on display behind the RW Provincial Grand Master's chair and later, in front of over 500 diners at the Novotel, Southampton, it was formally transferred to the custody of the Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire.



The Tercentenary banner was commissioned by the Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire to commemorate the 300th year since the creation of the first Grand Lodge of England in 1717. It will have travelled to the eight Provinces in the south west Masonic area, visiting Devonshire, Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney, Somerset, Wiltshire, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Dorset and Cornwall before the end of the Tercentenary year.



The banner arrived in the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight in a private plane flown by Guernsey Masons, in the custody of the Provincial Grand Master for Guernsey and Alderney, RW Bro. David P.L Hodgetts, where it was met by Mike Wilks and a deputation of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Masons. After an informal presentation on the airport runway, the delegations repaired to the Masonic Hall in Knole Road, Bournemouth for a more formal hand-over and well-deserved refreshment.

The Provincial Grand Master, Mike Wilks said, "This is a very special year for Freemasons across the world who celebrate the Tercentenary of our Grand Lodge. A number of celebratory Events have already taken place increasing the profile of Freemasonry and Its place in the community. This banner travelling across the south of England has assisted by generating publicity for the Tercentenary celebrations and was on display at the Reception for our Thanksgiving Service at Winchester Cathedral in March which was attended by the Lord Lieutenants of Hampshire and of the Isle of Wight, the High Sheriffs likewise of both Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, 14 Mayors, and many charities which we have supported over the years".

