

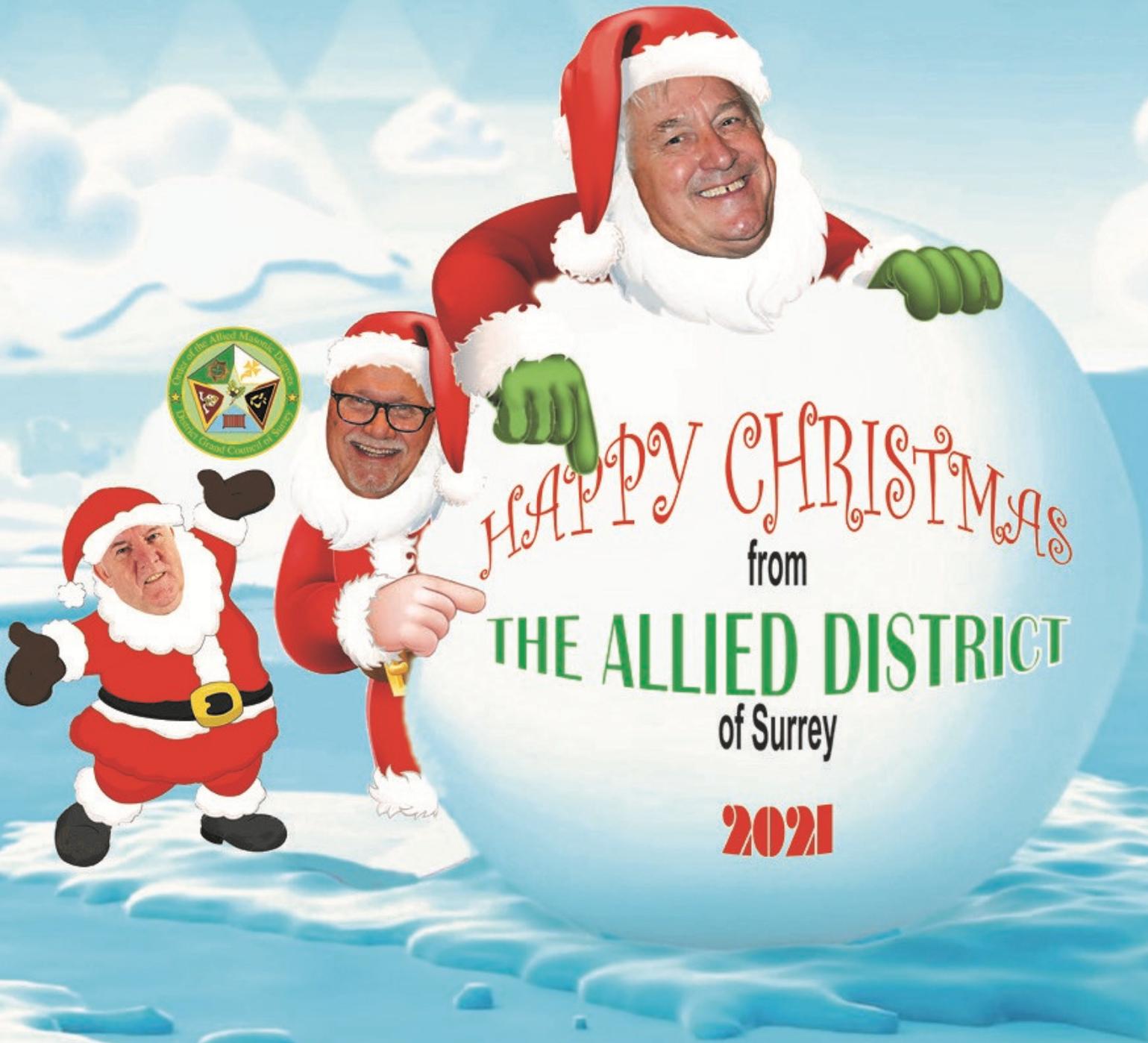


the Surrey gridiron



Issue 10 – DECEMBER 2021

John, Bob, Alan and all the Officers send
their Best wishes
for a Happy Christmas
and a peaceful, Covid free New Year





The Annual Meeting of District Grand Council



After a gap of two years the 2021 Annual Meeting took place on Saturday 4th December at Croydon Masonic Hall. Brethren of the District of Surrey and their guests started arriving from 9 am where tea, coffee and bacon butties were being served.

District Grand Council was honoured with the presence of the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Clive Manuel, and his Escorting Officer, W.Bro. Matthew Hampson, Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Following processions of the RW. Brethren and distinguished guests from other Provinces, the District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John V C French, attended by the District Officers of the year, entered in procession into District Grand Council.

The District Grand Prefect opened the meeting of District Grand Council at 11.00am and welcomed all the guests and visitors.

The Deputy Grand Master and his Escorting Officer entered and was warmly greeted by the District Grand Prefect who thanked him for attending to support our Annual Meeting.



W.Bro. Ian Clark, the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Surrey was presented with a cheque for £2022 towards the Surrey Mark MBF 2022 Festival. W.Bro. Ian thanked the District Grand Master and the members of District Grand Council for their generous donation.



The District Grand Prefect announced that he had much pleasure in re-appointing W.Bro. Robert Gregory (Bob) Tuthill as his Deputy District Grand Prefect.

The District Grand Prefect appointed and invested the District Grand Officers of the year, and those promoted and appointed in Past District Grand Rank. He then addressed District Grand Council. *(a copy of the address is on the web site).*

District Grand Council was then closed in due form and the District Grand Prefect retired in procession accompanied by his Deputy, District Grand Officers and Honoured Guests.

After refreshments the Brethren of the District Grand Council of Surrey and their guests sat down to a splendid lunch at the Croydon Masonic Halls.



Address to District Grand Council on Saturday 4th December 2021

Brethren all, it is now my honour to address you for the 5th time (*including 1 Virtual address last year*) at this our 15th Annual Meeting since the District of Surrey was formed here at Croydon out of the old District of Southern Counties. Whilst there is no requirement to wear a face mask in the temple should anyone wish to so please do.



Brethren, who would have thought how important a Zoom meeting would have become in our lives, enabling us to stay in contact with each other, hold Virtual Business Meetings and so much more? Being a bit of a dinosaur myself it took a while to fully appreciate the benefits of Zoom, albeit I now have to get used to wearing long trousers again instead of my shorts! I have to say though that I have been even more pleased to see that we have also been keeping in close contact with each other by way of support using the old fashioned telephone and as I am a great believer in the old saying that "It's good to talk", long may that continue. So thank you again one and all for staying in touch and supporting each other during these difficult times.

Because of the Covid restrictions we decided that it would only be fair to re-appoint our active District Grand Officers for this year thus giving them the opportunity, not only to enjoy their year in office but also to keep myself and our Deputy District Grand Prefect company at our Official Visits to each of our Councils. I do however appreciate that you are all very busy in your private and Masonic lives so there is no pressure, but I will be delighted to see you if you can make some if not all the official visits. Please also remember that if anyone else wishes to keep me company on my visits to other Annual District meetings you will be made more than welcome. Again Brethren there is no pressure to attend, albeit your company would be greatly appreciated by one and all.

I would also like to congratulate the Brethren who received Appointment or Promotion in Grand Rank at the Annual Meeting of Grand Council at Great Queen Street. It was a lovely meeting which was well supported, and my congratulations go out to W.Bro. Jack Love (*Promotion to*) Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies; as well as (*First appointments to*) W.Bro. Stephen Harvey and W.Bro. Graham Beer to Past Grand Standard Bearer; - I do congratulate them all for these well-deserved appointments.



Photographer, a new unofficial office which he dreamt up!) will be sending some excellent pictures of today's meeting so that the web site remains up to date and vibrant.



It is so nice to see so many people here today and thank you all for your support, especially our Deputy Grand Master and his team. I know how incredibly busy you are Sir so thank you for honouring us with your presence.

An important part of all Freemasonry is visiting which continues to be the case. On a personal note, I recollect that when I was first attending the other District meetings as the new DGP on the block with my rather worn out dummy, I always remember, very fondly, how supportive the other District Grand Prefects were to me when I was visiting other District meetings so I thank you all again.

Whether travelling from near or far it is very much appreciated by us all that you have given up your precious time to support our District meeting – thank you again! We look forward to your company at our Festive Board and hope that you have enjoyed the proceedings so far.



Having missed a couple of Hog Roast social events because of the restrictions, we held a rescheduled one last September which was not only sold out but also another great success and the sun shone again – I'm not sure how our Past DGP does it, but he continues to guarantee that it will be a sunny day for the Hog Roast whenever, thank you again R.W.Bro. Ray!

Thank you again to those that attended, and brethren please put our normal July date in your diaries for next year which is the 10th July 2022. W.Bro. John Coleman has handed the reins to Bro. Kevin Brennan in organising this event and I thank John for his hard work in ensuring that our Hog Roast is not only well supported but also an extremely enjoyable family day out. Good luck Kevin.

The Web Site I hope you will all agree is a great source of information and I encourage you, not only to log on so as to catch up with all of the news but also to send in articles and pictures which the Deputy District Grand Prefect W.Bro. Bob Tuthill will be pleased to add on to your web site! Our DGP, (*that's the other one brethren - as in the District Grand*

Thank you, Chris, for supporting so many meetings and taking every opportunity to ensure that the web site is updated with pictures and articles. Brethren we must also thank W.Bro. Chris for his tireless efforts in creating the **Surrey Gridiron** which I know is not only well received but also very much appreciated by us all. Thank you, Chris, on behalf of all the members. During lock down this has been so important and appreciated, and I don't blame you for the typo in the first sentence of today's edition - I think we all have 2022 on the brain! If anybody has any new ideas how we can improve the web site or make it more user friendly we would be happy to hear from you.

Brethren, District Meetings do not just happen. A lot of people have worked extremely hard to put everything together today for our enjoyment and I offer my sincere thanks to all of them, particularly the District Grand Secretary W.Bro. Alan Brockwell; the District Grand Director of Ceremonies today W.Bro. Chris Craddock, standing in for W.Bro. Anton Smith who is very poorly at the moment, and of course all of their teams for their hard work.

My driving passion for our District has always been **ENJOYMENT**, after which everything by way of **RETENTION** and **RECRUITMENT** which are always important to every Order in Freemasonry will fall into place. In addition to enjoyment Brethren, I add the word **SUPPORT** so please continue to support each other and remember that to receive or make a phone call is rewarding - always well received - and very much appreciated.

Also remember Brethren that we are very fortunate to have the full support of the Provincial Grand Master in the Mark to promote our wonderful Order at Mark meetings so please take full advantage of his help and assistance by spreading the word and wearing your Allied napkins at each Mark festive board, which does brethren create a conversation about the Allied degree (*especially when Chris Eley is present with his camera*) thereby enabling you to produce one of our Allied flyers which rather conveniently has an application form on the reverse! The good news brethren is that since our return to meetings we have welcomed in 6 new members into 4 councils, and 7 joining members albeit we have unfortunately lost 1 member (*for reasons beyond our control*). I congratulate and thank those Councils that have recruited new members – please keep up the good work! To those who have not managed to recruit last year please let me know how we can help you in any way to reverse this trend.



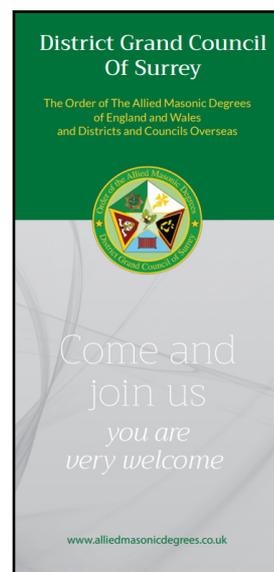
As well as the napkins, the trifold, and the pens which I encourage you to continue using to introduce and encourage new members to join our wonderful Order, W.Bro. Mik Barnes has put together a booklet which we have had printed called "Variety is the Great Attraction of the Allied Masonic Degrees". It is very informative and will give potential candidates a much better idea of this beautiful Order. These will be distributed to your secretaries and put on display in our Masonic Centres – thanks again W.Bro. Mik.

The Charity collection at this Meeting today will be going into the District Benevolent Fund, and because of your generosity, we will be able to support some very worthy causes.

The District Meeting next year will again be held here on the first Saturday in December which will be the 3rd of December 2022, so please make a note in your diary.

I finish by wishing you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Thank you for the attention you have given to my address – and May the Great Disposer of all have you in his holy keeping now and forever.

R.W.Bro. John V C French
District Grand Prefect



Surrey Allied Masonic Degrees DGP Official Visits 2022

Whilst the District Grand Prefect, accompanied by the Deputy District Grand Prefect, will be attending several Council meetings on an unofficial basis, listed below are the Official Visits for 2022:

Council	Date	Venue
Godalming	10th January	Godalming
Riverside	17th February	Guildford
Pride of Surrey	3rd June	Sutton
Surrey 64	6th June	Croydon
Kyngstun	7th September	Surbiton
Runnymede	7th October	Surbiton
Farnham	2nd November	Farnham
Surrey Hills	8th November	Redhill (Nutfield)