



Another Busy Day at Surrey Council

An official visit took place at the Council on the 6th of June, with both the District Grand Prefect and his Deputy attending the meeting, with an impressive entourage of District officers.



First on the agenda was the Installation of Norman Jones as the Master. This was conducted by a double act consisting of Steve Jones and Mike Neville and was delivered in an entertaining and informative manner.



The District Grand Prefect praised the Council on its continued growth and happy atmosphere both in the Temple and at the Festive Board.

The second and main event was the introduction of two new candidates into the Order. Two well-known Masons, Ivan Larkin and Ryszard Pelc took the degree of St Lawrence, with the ceremony again conducted by the Jones / Neville team.



If you wish to join us, contact the Secretary, W.Bro. Mike Neville on 07415 634613 or mrmikeneville@aol.com.

The Order has MUCH to offer the Mason who is interested in degrees beyond the Craft.

Meeting new friends in Farnham

Some time back, I'd made it known that I had plans to join the Royal & Select Masters followed by the Allied Masonic Degrees...but then something happened on a global scale, to curtail my Masonic ambition.

Since the restart of Freemasonry, the District Grand Prefect had made several enquiries of my intentions to which I made reference to R&SM first... thus, when I was Admitted into Weyside Council of the Royal & Select Masters in early April I finally succumbed to John's charms and filled in my form. With several suitable units to choose from, I selected Farnham Council, a venue I'd visited only a handful of times, with a view of broadening my Masonic circle of friends. My emailed form duly arrived in the inbox of the Secretary - who was on a cruise. But strings appropriately pulled, I was given the go-ahead to join.



Thus, on Monday 16th May, I arrived at Farnham Masonic Centre, and made myself comfortable in the bar. I was soon joined by John Ward, my fellow candidate for the evening, listening to the bangs and creaks from above, as the Council was opened. The Council being duly opened, the first item of business was to mark the passing to Higher Service of W.Bro. Peter Ribbi, Director of Ceremonies of the Council and a well-respected man and Mason. W.Bro. George Deacon was then Proclaimed as Worshipful Master for a further year, with VW.Bro. Brian Howlett as Senior Warden and erstwhile Tyler Bro. Brian Dougherty as Junior Warden.



Bro. John and I were then called to the door, and Introduced, Received and Admitted as Brothers of St. Lawrence the Martyr by W.Bro. Brian Selway, with W.Bro. Jack Love as Deacon, in excellent manner. The clear and calm presentation of the Lecture was especially noted and appreciated.

Having been presented with our goody bags (of the ritual book, tie, and a Surrey Mark calendar) we were placed into our seats - then promptly ejected from the temple, joined by Bro. Clifford Foster who had been Admitted at the previous meeting.

In our absence, a Council of Knights of Constantinople was opened, and the three Candidates readmitted, to be Admitted as Knights of Constantinople by W.Bro. Brian Selway under the watchful eye of Bro. Jerry Neave as Conductor.

With another ritual book in hand, we were returned to our seats, and the Council of Constantinople duly closed, and the Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr was resumed. But before John and I could get too comfortable, we were called forward to be Invested as Stewards of the Council. The meeting was then closed and we all adjourned downstairs for an excellent Festive Board.

My intention, with joining Farnham was to broaden my Masonic circle of friends - and so I met Cliff for the first time, and John for the second. Everyone else in the Council is already well known to me... I was already among friends.

Article by Andrew Banks, photos by Andrew Banks assisted by Ian Smith.

Great to meet old friends in Essex



On a beautiful sunny day on Saturday the District Grand Prefect for Surrey R.W.Bro. John French, accompanied by his deputy, W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, and W.Bro. Simon Polkinghorne, the District Grand Junior Warden, drove down to the coast at Southend to attend the Essex Annual District Meeting.



We were warmly welcomed by the District Grand Prefect for Essex R.W.Bro. Jeffrey Conway who presided over a most enjoyable meeting in Essex. The District Grand Prefect gave an unscripted address to everybody present which was most entertaining.

It was nice for R.W. Bro John French to catch up with the

District Grand Prefects from other Districts and the Provincial Grand Masters of the Mark for both Essex and Dorset.

Article and photos by Bob Tuthill

A Badge for the Deputy District Grand Prefects

When W. Bro Brian Ward was appointed to the office of Deputy District Grand Prefect for the District of Kent in 2022 his wife Toni thought she would surprise him with a humorous gift to mark to occasion. The gift in question was a Deputy Prefect's Badge of the type used in schools

To say Brian was delighted was an understatement, he absolutely loved it and thought he would set about giving all of the other Deputy District Grand Prefects a badge of their own.

At the Essex Allied District Meeting held at Southend on Saturday 14th May 2022 Brian tracked down the other Deputy District Grand Prefects who were in attendance and offered them a badge of their own. They readily accepted, and with beaming smiles immediately pinned the badge to their lapels and a group photograph was taken to mark the occasion.

The Deputies in attendance were from Southern Counties, East Anglia, Kent, Essex, Surrey, and East Midlands. The task for Brian now is to visit and distribute badges to the other Deputy District Grand Prefects from the remaining twelve districts.



Dad Steps Up



The meeting of the Runnymede Council on Wednesday 11th May was well represented with Seventeen present.

On arrival, members were informed that W.Bro. Gareth Lewis, the Worshipful Master of Runnymede Council, had tested positive for Covid that morning, so would be absent.

W.Bro. Chris. Lewis (Dad) stepped up and assumed the Chair because Martin Dunham the IPM was in office as Junior Warden, as well as later fulfilling his role as the Thrice Illustrious Master of Chertsey Abbey Council.

Beside very ably leading each meeting throughout, Gareth's absence also meant that W.Bro. Chris led the ceremony of Admission to the Degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr of Bro. Graham Ellis, performing the task in an excellent manner.

The Deputy District Grand Prefect W.Bro. Bob Tuthill was present and welcomed Graham into the order, presenting him with a booklet on the history of the degrees, the Allied napkin and pen and a trip-fold leaflet and joining form, to encourage him to find another candidate for Runnymede Council.

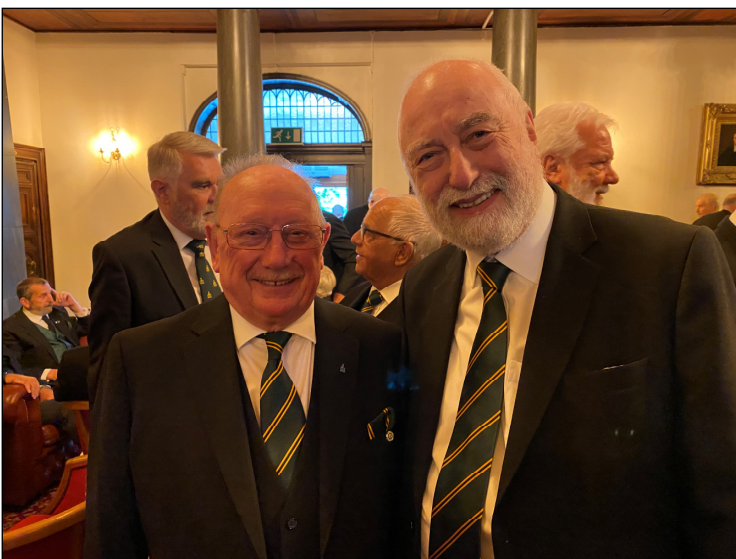
It is encouraging that W.Bro. Mike Ellis, not only introduced his brother, Graham, into the order but has yet another candidate in the pipeline; and W.Bro. Chris Lewis also has a candidate...well done Runnymede.

Honorary membership of the Council was given to Trevor Currans, to recognise the great service he has given to the Council as a founder and as Director of Ceremonies since its consecration; and acknowledging his relocation to Scotland soon.

Article by Eric Trodd



A visit to the District of Yorkshire



On 28 April the AMD District of Yorkshire held its Annual District Grand Council at Castle Grove House Masonic Centre in Leeds. Surrey was represented by W.Bro. Louis Keats, P.G.J.D., P.Dist.G.S.W.



A new District Grand Prefect. R.W.Bro. Brian Butterfield (pictured here with W.Bro. Louis) was Installed in splendid style by the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Thomas Firth Jackson, in a packed temple.

A convivial Festive Board followed with over 100 dining. Before thinking that W.Bro. Louis was being heroic, it is only a 60 miles drive South from Darlington for him nowadays, not 200 plus miles from Surrey.'

Article and photo by Louis Keats