



# the Surrey gridiron



Issue 3 – MAY 2021

## A Message from our District Grand Prefect

Brethren, at last something to look forward to as we now have physical meetings planned for when the suspension of AMD Masonry in Surrey ends on Monday 21st June 2021.



The Surrey Gridiron has proven to be a great success with many members complimenting us on its content and distribution so a big thank you to Chris Eley and those posting articles for all of your efforts. Brethren please check on the web site for any new information and can I remind all of the council secretaries to pass on their council updates relating to meetings and ceremonies which will be carried out.

I am delighted to help brethren with a reduction in the annual dues payable to the District. We can manage for one year by halving the dues payable on 1st September 2021 from £5 to £2.50 per member.

To help replenish the District coffers, we will be holding our annual Hog Roast event on the 12<sup>th</sup> September at Guildford Masonic Hall, so that the District will still be in a position to make donations to worthy causes when needed.

Details are on the web site.

<http://www.alliedmasonicdegrees.co.uk/news.html>

Either I and or my Deputy District Grand Prefect will be looking forward to attending as many of the first meetings as our diary permits. It will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up with everyone and enjoy our Allied Masonry together - and face to face!

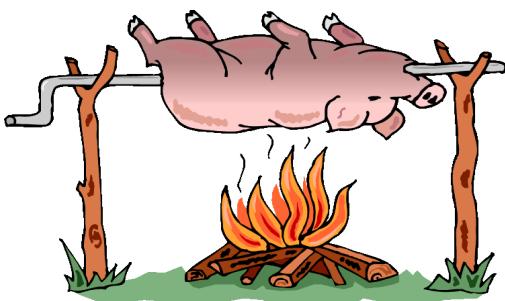
That said we must all remember that there is no pressure on any individual member to return to physical meetings before they are ready. Virtual Business Meetings will continue and I believe that we will come out of this period stronger.

Please keep in contact with all of your members and remember that a phone call is always gratefully appreciated. My best wishes to you all and your families.

Stay safe and keep well. John

## District Hog Roast

We are delighted to announce that the Annual Hog Roast will be held at the South West Surrey Masonic Centre, Guildford, on Sunday 12th September 2021.



The District Grand Prefect. RW.Bro. John French, will be pleased to welcome you and your families and friends.

## Southern Cross Virtual Business Meeting

A Virtual Business Meeting of the Southern Cross Council No XIII was held via the Zoom Video Conferencing tool on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021. There were 27 members of the Council present at the meeting, including our District Grand Prefect, RW.Bro. John French and the Deputy Grand Master, RW.Bro. Clive Manuel.



The Presiding Officer, W.Bro. Richard Baker, Worshipful Master, declared the meeting open and welcomed all present. The Presiding Officer welcomed our District Grand Prefect, RW.Bro. John French and the Deputy Grand Master, RW.Bro. Clive Manuel, to the first Virtual Business Meeting of Southern Cross Council.

Bro. Denis Leigh was elected as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, and W.Bro. David Willmott was elected Treasurer.

After the regular business of the Council had been completed the Presiding Officer gave Notice of Motion for the Council to donate £1,000 towards the Surrey Mark 2022 Festival. W.Bro. Ian Clark, Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Surrey thanked the Brethren of the Council for the Notice of Motion for the donation, which will be approved in September.



RW.Bro. John French said how lovely it was to see everyone and thanked them for taking the time to attend.

Before declaring the Meeting closed W.Bro. Richard made a virtual presentation of a lovely Worshipful Master's collar and jewel to the Council saying he was looking forward to wearing it for a few minutes at our next meeting before handing it over to Bro. Denis Leigh.

The Presiding Officer then thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

## Good News

The District Grand Prefect, after severe arm twisting, has persuaded the District Grand Treasurer that we must help brethren with a reduction in the dues payable to the District.

We have agreed that the District can 'just about manage' by halving the dues payable on 1st September this year from £5 to £2.50 per member, and encourage Council Treasurers to pass the saving on to members wherever possible.

## Introducing our Deputy District Grand Prefect

**Robert (Bob) Tuthill was born on the 13th June 1947 in Redhill Surrey. Unfortunately he didn't know his father as he died from war injuries the same year and therefore was solely brought up by his mother, with the help of his grandparents.**



Bob attended a private primary school in Beckenham and subsequently got an 11 plus exam place at Bromley Technical High School in Keston. His interest in Art and music began at that school. Bob's art teacher Mr Frampton was the father of Pete Frampton the guitarist (*a year below*) and his classmate was Dave Jones (*later David Bowie*). After art classes the art room was turned into a music rehearsal studio with the band rehearsing cover numbers which were popular at the end of year concerts.

Bob later attended Sidcup Art School where he obtained a Diploma in Art and Design and later under Ravensbourne College of Art a BA (hons) degree in Graphic Design, but unable to get a job in Graphic Design his first job was as a technical illustrator with the Admiralty based at Chessington.

Technical Drawing was all the rage in the 60's and his job was to produce 3 dimensional drawings from blueprints to show how the items fitted together and his particular section was working on parts for Nuclear Submarines, in those days based at Portsmouth.

That is where Bob's love of diving began as he joined the Southsea branch of BSAC and undertook many wreck dives recording the sites with various drawings as underwater photography was in its infancy.

By this time his job interest wasn't creative enough for Bob's design ambitions. He therefore joined the publication group Link House Publications in Croydon where he worked on various magazines including Do-it-Yourself, Hi-Fi News, Custom Car and Yachting magazines undertaking design and layout; and also getting a bigger insight into using photography in publications.

Here Bob met his wife to be Debbie and they got married in 1969. It was a good time in publishing with the chance to not only be creative but to have assignments for the various magazines they worked for.

However, wanting to start a family and needing more money, Bob was asked to join Laskys Radio (*one of Hi-Fi News's advertisers*) as their Art Director. Laskys were an up and coming Hi-Fi and Audio Company bringing the latest Decks and Amplifiers into the UK from Japan and this gave him a chance not only to draw and photograph the latest equipment for their numerous brochures, but also work on designing their high street shops throughout the UK. They eventually sold out to another Hi-Fi chain which was really the start of the Currys group as it is today.

Bob left Laskys to join the Advertising Agency McCann Erickson for a short time before starting up his own company, a Graphic Design and Photographic Studio.



Bob was extremely lucky that because he had met a lot of people early on in his career he had some very good contacts some of which were in the USA and he was asked to work for Walt Disney as a cartoonist working on the characters for Robin Hood, which brought in a lot of packaging design for toy companies and allowed development of new cartoon characters for other household brands.

Bob was fortunate to travel the world producing holiday brochures for Kuoni and Clarksons. One of these trips was instrumental in the founding of the largest child model agency in the UK, "Childsplay Models". This happened by accident and a lucky event that happened in Jamaica.



Kids in the West Indies stand around asking for money before you take their photo, but once you pay them they all disappear, consequently there was a particular shot on a beach Bob couldn't get. He asked his secretary to phone the only two agencies in London for West Indian Kids for a shoot. Nobody in those days had any ethnic children on their books, he therefore phoned various schools got the kids they needed and shot the scene on the beach at Climping Sands.



Bob and his secretary formed their own agency with these kids. The first job was the United Colours of Benetton Advertising Campaign, and that was the start of 40 years association with the Childsplay Model Agency.

Photography was forming a major part of Bob's life now as he was appearing on TV shows talking about modelling and photography and was being asked to photograph a lot of well known people on personal assignments, Margaret Thatcher, Nelson Mandela, Princess Anne, and a fair few TV celebrities.

This was a pleasure and he feels extremely privileged to meet them all. Bob worked extensively with Sam Wanamaker in the early days at the Globe Theatre.

Bob's hobbies have been fairly exciting as well. He has been a diving instructor for BSAC and whilst at Southsea BSAC met Alexander McKee and dived with him when the Mary Rose was originally found in the 60's. Later Bob became the president of the Orpington branch of the BSAC.



Bob raced Mini Coopers at Brands Hatch and Crystal Palace in the 60's in the time of Roy Salvador and Sir Gawaine Baillie who were racing Jaguars and American Ford Galaxys in the same race as the Minis.

Bob took his private pilots licence in 1973 and owned an Auster taildragger with a diving buddy, which was later sold to a gliding club as a tow plane. He became a Yacht Master in the late 70's and is still currently a Royal Yachting Association Instructor. Bob has been married to Debbie for 52 years and they have 3 children, 5 grand children; and one great grandson due later this summer.

Masonry has been a major part of Bob's life for forty years and apart from the Craft and Chapter, he is in the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner, Knights Templar, Red Cross of Constantine, Royal and Select Masters, Order of the Secret Monitor, Scarlet Cord, Athelstan, Pilgrims and of course his favourite, the Allied Masonic Degrees.



# the Allied Masonic Degrees in the USA

## Introduction

The Allied Masonic Degrees in the USA are detached degrees which, many years ago, were conferred under Craft Warrants and formed a part of the loosely governed Freemasonry which afterward eliminated all save the three Craft degrees and the Royal Arch.

All old references to the Royal Arch were invariably to the Excellent Super Excellent Royal Arch Masons, which comprised three grades. The Super Excellent has long since been discontinued save in the veil working of Irish Royal Arch Chapters, while the Excellent Master precedes the Royal Arch in Scottish Chapters and is worked in English Councils of Royal and Select Masters.



The other degrees, likewise, were worked in Craft Lodges in both America and the British Isles. When Freemasonry discontinued the working of outside degrees, these degrees became practically dormant, although they were perpetuated and finally formed their own supreme heads, in many instances. They were finally brought together under a governing head and hence the title of **Allied Masonic Degrees** they have been allied together for mutual benefit and perpetuation.

The working of these degrees in the United States is encouraged, but not required; the blanket obligation of the Council sufficiently binding the newly invited brother. Where it is possible, the Grand Council recommends that some of the degrees be worked each year in order that the members may be fully informed as to the working. Membership in an Allied Council is limited by law to twenty-seven, and then only by invitation.

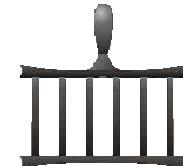
The degrees comprising the system under the Jurisdiction in the U.S.A. are the Royal Ark Mariner, Secret Monitor, Knight of Constantinople, Saint Lawrence the Martyr, Architect, Superintendent, Grand Tilers of Solomon, Master of Tyre, Excellent Master, Installed Sovereign Master, Installed Commander Noah, Red Branch of Eri and Ye Ancient Order of Corks. They are conferred in the United States in Councils chartered by the Grand Council.

## St. Lawrence the Martyr

The ceremony relates neither to the First or Second Temple, nor to Masonic Chivalry. It is interesting in its simplicity and has a little-heard-of legend, which is pleasing to examine and of merit. The very peculiarity of the Grade marks it different and is perhaps the ground upon which the operative origin is claimed.



This Grade is the administrative Degree that English and European Councils work in when transacting and conducting business. It is the only Grade of these councils that also has a chair Degree, that of Installed Worshipful Master. While a member may not receive all the Grades of the Allied Masonic Degrees, he must be in possession of the Grade of St. Lawrence the Martyr in order to be seated in the Council meetings.



In the American Councils, the Degree is not as often exemplified as the other AMD Degrees. With the mutual recognition of the various Grand Councils in the United States and Europe, this Degree becomes much more important as does the Degree of Installed Worshipful Master.

## Knight of Constantinople

This Degree is an authentic 'side degree', where it was customary for one brother to confer it on another and while it is known to have been working in the United States in 1831, its actual origin is unknown. The ritual attempts to connect the legendary Constantine with the Masonic fraternity and teaches a fine lesson in universal equality and humility; it also incorporates a suggestion of operative influence in an extensive lecture that also imbues the lesson of justice.



There is a possibility that the Knight of Constantinople is traceable, in legend, to the same source as, or directly from, the Red Cross of Constantine. This is stated in face of the fact that the two Grades have nothing in common save the characters found in each. Yet, it appears likely that knowledge of these two characters in a Masonic setting would be necessary for the invention of the Knight of Constantinople.

As stated earlier, the Ritual of this Grade teaches a beautiful lesson in humility and should be carefully studied by every Brother of the Allied Masonic Degrees. The Ritual used is identical in the United States and England.

## Grand Tylers of Solomon

This interesting Grade was formerly known under the titles of "Mason Elect of the Twenty-Seven" or "Select Mason of the 27," and is found in many different countries, although records are by no means abundant. There can be little doubt that this Grade and the Grade of "Select Master" owe their origin to a common source.

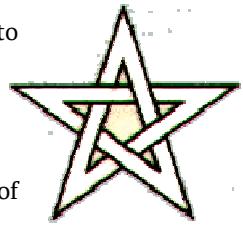


In his *Masonic Orations*, published in 1803, Frederick Dalcho mentions that in addition to the regular degrees and among those mentioned is "Select Master of 27." Elsewhere there is mention of "Select Mason of the 27" indicating that the Grade which we now work as "Grand Tylers of Solomon" is a very close resemblance to the present-day "Select Master."

It is evident that the Grade is an American product and these records are the earliest yet found of its working. The Ritual now used is identical in both the United States and England, and is a product of late 19<sup>th</sup> century American ritualists. The Ritual is of deep interest to those who really understand early Ritual and the environs in which it was created. Many lessons may be found in simple and easily explained ceremonies of this period.

## Excellent Master

The Grade of Excellent Master, or Excellent Mason as it was known in its earlier working, is of such age as to confuse us in estimating just how old it is. It is almost safe to state that it is as old as is Royal Arch Masonry, because it has always formed a part thereof. Even in the United States it is mentioned as early as 1769, when in St. Andrew's Chapter, Boston, a Brother was "made by receiving the four steps, that of an Excellent, Super Excellent, Royal Arch and Knight Templar." Until the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the Excellent was never worded alone; it was always with the Super Excellent and Royal Arch. Later, when this most beautiful method of work was abandoned almost everywhere, the title was changed to "Excellent Master, the ritual reworked and in Scotland precedes the Royal Arch.



It is not worked elsewhere today, save in the Allied Councils of the United States and in the Order of the Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales. Ireland has preserved some of both the Excellent Master and Super Excellent Master in her veil-working in the Royal Arch, but the formal ceremonies are a thing of the past.

The Ritual used in the United States is the Scottish work, unchanged. It is a beautiful ceremony, and almost necessary to the Royal Arch. Having passed the three veils in Babylon, there is necessity at Jerusalem only to enter the fourth, or White, Veil. It is a simple and beautiful method of working.

## Masters of Tyre

The Grade of Master of Tyre is a modern one, originating in North Carolina, USA, and is no doubt the product of the fertile minds of the Masonic brethren in the western area of that state; they being the originators of the Allied Masonic Degrees themselves. It does not appear in any of the early rituals of that body, and was later incorporated into the working along with the Grades of Superintendent, Architect, and Grand Architect.



It was worked initially under the title "Masons of Tyre," with the idea being to function as a separate body of Freemasonry, the initial qualifications of membership requiring only good standing in the Craft. The organization was to operate under the direction of a Supreme Quarry, whose function was only to coordinate and charter new Quarries of the body. Problems arose with the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, which viewed the body as an alternate Masonic organization that encroached on the sovereignty of the Grand Lodges jurisdiction. To avoid any further dissension, the organization placed itself under the government of the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States. The main lesson taught is duty.

## Architect

The Grade of Architect is the first of a trilogy of Grades expanding upon the Solomonic lessons of architecture. The structure of the degree is Continental in character, resembling certain Rites of the French and German grades, but incorporating the use of trestle boards as used in English and Scottish Masonry. Not surprisingly, it is first found attached to the Early Grand Rite of Scotland under the same name, as the VII° of the Blue Series.



The actual degree itself is rather short, with the work resembling that performed in Craft Masonry. The lecture or explanation, however, takes the form of catechism between the principal officers. The ritual is also punctuated with excessive circumambulations and floor work, which if followed verbatim as prescribed by ritual would make the Grade most unworkable. The use of extensive paraphernalia and properties also mark this Grade with the affinities exhibited by many of the early Rites, which required large auditorium settings with elaborate backdrops.

## Grand Architect

The Grade of Grand Architect is a continuation sequence of the Architect Grade. It is found first in the Early Grand Rite of Scotland under the same name, as the VIII° of the Blue Series. It is a continuation of the Solomonic legends of architecture, which seek to impose the ideal of an increasingly select and secretive body of craftsmen performing work upon the Solomonic Temple.



It is now only practised in the American and French Grand Councils of the Allied Masonic Degrees. The Grade was attached as an Active Grade to the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States in 1934.

## Superintendent

The Grade of Superintendent is somewhat of an enigma. It is clearly related to the Grades of Architect and Grand Architect, indeed, it is the climax of the latter, but was not one of the Grades of the Early Grand Rite of Scotland. Research into that body has failed to establish any connection, the IX° of that Rite's Blue Series was worked as "Master of the Blue," and pertained to one of the tests of wisdom between King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Neither is it found under the Rite's Red, Black, Green, or White Series; where it would be most inappropriate in any case. Thus we are left with the frustrating mystery of a Grade which appears to be a *ne plus ultra* in the Solomonic architecture. Whatever the case may be, it is a fitting tribute to the other Grades, and rightly deserves a place in the Allied Masonic Degrees.



Being of similar character and style as the Grades of Architect and Grand Architect, it also shares the flaws of those two Grades. The ritual would take several hours to confer if all signs and perambulations were observed. The properties required are also more extensive and elaborate. For those Brethren who have the fortune of witnessing the work, however, it will be appreciated that the preparations are well worth the results.

**Chris Eley**  
**May 2021**