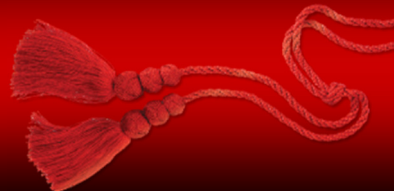




the Surrey cord



Issue 64 – May 2026



A busy week for the Scarlet Cord at Mark Mason's Hall



It was a busy week in the Scarlet Cord with the Most Distinguished Grand Summus and his team engaged in Wednesday's conferrals of the 4th and 5th Grades, followed on Thursday by the Annual Convocation of Grand Senatus, all held at Mark Masons' Hall. First up was the 5th Grade Conferral with many Candidates in attendance to receive the Grade in recognition of their continuing devoted service to the Order. These included Distinguished Companion Len Hillier from Surrey.





A buffet lunch was served before the Conferral team returned to the Grand Temple to receive further Candidates ready to be admitted to the 4th Grade, another award of merit for service to the Order.



Among the 64 Candidates for the 4th Grade were Distinguished Companions Barrie Selway, Jim Smith, Alastair Richardson, Bob Tuthill and Derek Williamson.



Dist.Comp. Robert Anderson of Hill of Zion Consistory was one of the Priests for this, one of the most impressive ceremonies in Freemasonry.





After the ceremony the Consistory was closed by the Grand Summus who retired from the Temple, greeting everyone on their way out. The two ceremonies successfully completed, the Grand Summus and his Officers quickly had to turn their attentions to Thursday's meeting of Grand Senatus.







The Grand Temple was filled to capacity with representatives from across the Constitution worldwide.

Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey web site: <https://www.surreycompanionorders.com/welcome-scarlet-cord>



Following the initial items of business, the Deputy Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Francis Charles Spencer, proposed the re-election of Ian Stanley Currans as Grand Summus.

The proposition was confirmed with acclamation from the Companions present and the Grand Summus was duly proclaimed by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, Phillip Purves.

The Grand Summus then announced he would be re-appointing R.Dist.Comp. Francis Charles Spencer as Deputy Grand Summus, who was then proclaimed by the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

After thanking R.Dist.Comp. Howard Markham for his support for many years as Assistant Grand Summus, the Grand Summus announced that he is appointing R.Dist.Comp. Trevor Currans as Assistant Grand Summus.





R.Dist, Comp. Trevor was then obligated, invested, installed and proclaimed as Assistant Grand Summus.

It was then time to appoint and invest the other active Grand Officers of the year, followed by those receiving promotion in, or appointment to, Grand Rank.

These included Dist.Comp. Simon McCarthy appointed to the Active Rank of Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies; Dist.Comp. John Norton-Doyle promoted to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies; Dist.Comp. David Willmott a first appointment to Past Grand Sword Bearer; and Dist.Comp. Alastair McKenzie a first appointment to Past Grand Standard Bearer.

Following further items of business, the Grand Summus took the opportunity to address Grand Senatus.



He welcomed everyone to Grand Senatus, which this year saw the highest ever attendance. Membership growth over the past year has been the highest ever and he reminded everyone of the importance of our Companions also continuing their activity in the Order of the Secret Monitor as our recruiting ground.

He congratulated all those he had appointed or promoted today, as well as those who received their 5th and 4th Grades yesterday. He went on to greet all our overseas visitors, as well as Heads of the Companion Orders. Finally, there were thanks to the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his ceremonial team, and the Grand Recorder and the team at Mark Masons' Hall for all their hard work and support.

The Grand Summus then had a surprise and called up Dist. Comp. Roy Woodhouse, the oldest person in the room at 100 years old and awarded a field promotion to Past Grand Sword Bearer.



There being no further business, Grand Senatus was closed and the Grand Summus greeted everyone on leaving the Temple



We then retired for refreshment. After three very successful meetings, the Grand Summus and his team were finally able to relax and reflect on a job well done.



Congratulations

Congratulations to the Surrey Companions who received Promotion or Appointment in Grand Rank at the meeting of Grand Senatus held at on Thursday the 7th of May at Mark Masons Hall.



Dist.Comp. Simon McCarthy was appointed to the Active Rank of Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Dist.Comp. John Norton-Doyle received a Promotion to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Dist.Comp. David Willmott received a First Appointment to Past Grand Sword Bearer.

Dist.Comp. Alastair McKenzie received a First Appointment to Past Grand Standard Bearer.

The 4th and 5th Grades of the Order were conferred on selected Companions at MMH on Thursday the 6th of May within the regular meeting of the Brian Wareham Scarlet Cord Consistory.

Distinguished Companion Len Hillier took the Fifth Grade of the Order

Distinguished Companions Barrie Selway, Jim Smith, Alastair Richardson, Bob Tuthill, and Derek Williamson took the Fourth Grade of the Order on that day.



The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey Save the date



The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey will be held on Thursday the 16th of July 2026 at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.

The meeting will commence at 11.15 a.m. and will be followed by lunch at 1.30 p.m.