



Donations to Yorda Adventures

In November our Deputy Intendant General, Mark Donovan and our Divisional Herald, Chris Eley, drove to Chessington to visit Yorda Adventures and to present donations from the Red Cross of Constantine and the Masonic Order of Athelstan in support of the great work they do in supporting children with disabilities.

Yorda Adventures are a charity based in Chessington, Surrey, that provides play and care for severely disabled children. They have been established since 2006 and now have a permanent home, the Yorda Playhouse, where they have been based since 2016.

They run a variety of play, care, and family projects that support young people and their families. All their activities are tailored for the children they care for. Yorda Adventures work to enable them to get the best out of their day, have lots of fun, and support them through any challenges they may face.



We were met by Laura Smyth, MBE, the CEO and founder of Yorda Adventures who showed us round the facilities. Laura and her team are so passionate about the work they do to support the complex needs of SEND children aged 0 – 19 helping them find their way in an unfamiliar world using the power of play to build resilience and life skills. Our Deputy Intendant General said that he remembers the building when it was his local youth club many years ago – yes, he was young once....



In their Playhouse and Forest they run a variety of childcare and family adventures using play to learn and create special moments. They also run out of school activities, and an After School Club designed to help make time at school more rewarding and meaningful.

On receiving the donations Laura said, *"We are going to use the donations to expand on the pilots of the outreach activities we did with our families in the summer using the initial £250 from the Masonic Order of Athelstan, Province of Sussex. With this donation of £2,500 from the Red Cross of Constantine Grand Sovereign's Care For Children Fund we have booked a pantomime for Christmas, we're going to the Chessington Garden Centre to visit their Grotto, and we are going to have our own Christmas party here"*.

To know more about Yorda Adventures visit: <https://yordaadventures.org/about-us/>



A busy afternoon for Notfelle Conclave

On Monday the 8th of December, Notfelle Conclave No 449 had two ceremonies to perform, an installation of a new Knight and the enthronement of a Most Puissant Sovereign.



The Conclave was opened by the Most Puissant Sovereign, M.P.Kt. Steve Rowlands, who was saluted with three times 1&3. and responded suitably. The Conclave was honoured by the presence of our Intendant General, R.III.Kt. Simon Mccarthy.

Under the direction of the Marshal. II. Kt. Jules Greenwall, R.III.Kt. Simon McCarthy, Intendant-General, was then saluted with seven times 1&3. The Intendant-General responded with greetings.



After the regular business of the Conclave had been conducted a ballot was taken for Comps. Allan Thompson and Jeffery Flint. to be installed in the Order.

The ballot proved in their favour and Comp. Allan Thompson was admitted and presented to the Four Pillars. Comp. Jeff not able to be present will be admitted at a later date.



The Most Puissant Sovereign invited our Intendant-General to conduct the ceremony. Comp. Allan was then obligated and Constituted a Knight Companion of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine.

The Eminent Viceroy, E.Kt. Alan Boniface, invested him with the purple sash and jewel of the Order.

To end the ceremony the Legend and Foundation of the Order was delivered in an excellent manner by R.III.Kt. Bob Hancock, our Past Intendant-General.



The Most Puissant Sovereign welcomed W.Kt. Allan Thompson into the Order and presented him with the By-Laws of the Conclave, the Division, the Yearbook & Statutes and Ritual No 1. R.Ill.Kt. Simon McCarthy, Intendant-General, also welcomed the new Knight and wished him a successful career in the Order.

The next item on the agenda was to Enthroned E.Kt. Alan Boniface as Most Puissant Sovereign.

A College of Priests-Mason was opened and W.Kt. David Thompson was Consecrated as Viceroy by E.Kt. Alan Boniface.



The College of Priests-Mason was closed, and a Senate of Princes-Mason opened.

E.Kt. Alan Boniface was Enthroned as Most Puissant Sovereign by M.P.Kt. Steve

Rowlands. The Knights were then re-admitted, and the Officers of the Conclave were appointed and invested.

The Recorder said that Graham Rawlinson's wife, Alison, had kindly made two embroidered alms bags which she donated to the Conclave. These were received with grateful thanks.

The Conclave was closed and after photographs we retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to a most convivial meal at the Sutton Masonic Hall.



Provincial Thanksgiving Service at Guildford Cathedral

The Companion Orders were well represented at the Annual Order of Divine Service held on Sunday the 21st of September 2025. Present were our Intendant-General, R.III.Kt. Simon McCarthy, and our Deputy Intendant-General, P.Kt. Mark Donovan, in his role as Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Sussex in the Masonic Order of Athelstan.

The service was led by the Dean, The Very Reverend Bob Cooper, and the Officiating Officers were W.Bro. Chris Eley, Provincial Grand Chaplain, and W.Bro. Ivan Dias-Cooke, Deputy Provincial Grand Chaplain.



After the processions into the Cathedral, The Very Reverend Bob Cooper, welcomed the Brethren, their families and friends. We sang some well-known hymns led by the Provincial Choir and listened to readings from the Provincial Craft and Royal Arch Executive. W.Bro. Chris Eley offered the Bidding Prayer, and the Intercessional Prayers were led by W.Bro. Chris Eley and W.Bro. Ivan Dias-Cooke.



At the end of the Service R.W.Bro. Nick Burger, Provincial Grand Master / ME Grand Superintendent, gave the Closing Address where he thanked the Dean and everyone who helped to make the day such a success. Very Rev. Bob Cooper offered the final Prayer and Blessings, before the Clergy, the RW Provincial Grand Master, and honoured guests retired to the Recessional Organ Voluntary played by the Organist, Bro. James Furness-Roe. We were then invited across to the Seasons Café for refreshments and a chance to catch up with old friends.

We have always had a special relationship with Guildford Cathedral. The middle window bearing the Masonic Province of Surrey crest was donated by Surrey Freemasons at the construction of the Cathedral.

Around the Division

Photo from the September meeting of The Surrey Conclave No 348. Congratulations to David on being invested as Viceroy, and well done to all the members of the Guard. It was good to see Rob with us again too.



Division of Surrey web site:

<https://www.surreycompanionorders.com/welcome-red-cross>



Have you received a Divisional Appointment? Grand Rank? Or have been Enthroned as Sovereign?

Do you have any surplus RCC sashes or jewels?

If so, your Divisional Warden of Regalia would be pleased to take them off your hands, so that they can be reallocated.

All proceeds will go to the Intendant General's designated charity.

