



## Another Busy Morning for Southern Cross Council

In April the Brethren of Southern Cross Council No XIII had another busy morning with several Candidates for the Degree of the Red Cross of Babylon.



Present at the meeting was the District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French, the Deputy District Grand Prefect, W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, and the Past District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Ray Hussey; as well as the District Grand Prefect of the District of the Southern Counties, R.W.Bro. Mike Wheelan, who had brought along a coachload of Candidates for the Degree of the Red Cross of Babylon as well as many Brethren of the Southern Counties to support them.



A Lodge of St Lawrence was then adjourned, and a Council of Red Cross of Babylon was opened. Several Brethren were Constituted and Created as Knights of the Red Cross of Babylon. The representative candidate was Bro. Kevin Brennan from Riverside Council, a very good friend of our District Grand Prefect.

The Degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Chris Eley. After taking the minutes we balloted for W.Bro. Nigel Harding, Bro. Ray Seeley, and W.Bro. Simon McCarthy as joining members of the Council. This proved in their favour, and they were welcomed into the Council by the Worshipful Master.



The Reverend Prelate of the Royal Arch Council was V.W.Bro. Brian Howlett and the Thrice Illustrious Sovereign the Persian Court was V.W.Bro. Michael Barnes. The Lecture was given by W.Bro. Richard Baker.

The Worshipful Master then invited our District Grand Prefect to present a Grand Council Certificate to Brother Colin Beerling, the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of the Provincial Grand Conclave of Surrey in the Order of the Secret Monitor.

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

To round off a most enjoyable morning the Brethren of Southern Cross Council and their guests sat down to a splendid lunch at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.

# A Candidate for Kyngstun Council

On Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 Kyngstun Council No 102 received their first candidate for the Degree of St Lawrence the Martyr since 2016. As the Council was low in numbers and needed support our District Grand Prefect persuaded four of us to join the Council at the last meeting in September 2021. Not wishing to ask anyone to do something he would not do himself R.W.Bro. John also joined the Council at the same time. It was therefore gratifying to be able to receive our first Candidate from Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Brother Scott Burns, introduced by W.Bro. Chris Eley, the Senior Warden.



It was also good to hear that we had another joining member, Brother Ray Johnson, from West Kent Council No. 66.



The Council was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Roger Short. After the regular business of the Council had been completed, the Ballot was taken for Bro. Scott Burns. This proved in his favour and the Worshipful Master invited W.Bro. Barrie Selway to conduct the Ceremony of the Degree of St Lawrence.



This was done in an excellent manner by W.Bro. Barrie and the Officers of the Council. After the Worshipful Master had resumed the Chair, he thanked W.Bro. Barrie for conducting the ceremony so well.

Our District Grand Prefect, wearing an Almoner's hat, has spoken at length with V.W.Bro Bryan Page who reported that he is in good health, albeit not as mobile as he would like to be, and wished to pass on his best wishes to everyone, and congratulations to Brother Scott for joining our wonderful Order. He hopes that he will be able to see us again soon.

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

# A lovely day for a trip to the Cloisters

An early start for both the District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French, and his Deputy, W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, took them to Letchworth Garden City for the District of Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire District Meeting on Saturday the 2nd of April 2022.



The Cloisters was built by Quaker Miss Annie Jane Lawrence (16 April 1863 – 3 August 1953), the daughter of Alfred Lawrence (1826–1875), who, with his brother Frederick, owned 'Lawrence Brothers, Smiths and Founders', and his wife Mary Elizabeth (née Ridge, 1838–1903). Her grandfather William Lawrence (1789–1855) came from humble origins but went on to be elected Master of the Worshipful Company of Carpenters in 1848 and an Alderman of the City of London, while her uncle, Sir James Lawrence, was Lord Mayor of London in 1868.



As a young woman she undertook social work in the slums of London, which urged her on to action. Lawrence decided to build a centre dedicated as a school of thought from which adults could go out and effect social change. She chose Letchworth because it was the world's First Garden City; here she leased three acres of land on which she built The Cloisters and Cloisters Lodge, intending that the former should be a School of Philosophy while she lived in the latter.

Originally built as an open-air school dedicated to Psychology, with accommodation for 20 students, students were encouraged to study *'how thought affects action and what causes and produces thought'*. Through healthy outdoor living it was intended that the students would develop healthy minds. The building was also designed to hold lectures, conferences,

drama and musical performances as well as organ recitals. Students were also taught skills from the Arts and Crafts movement.

Designed by architect William Harrison Cowlshaw, building commenced on the 3-acre site in 1905, and the building opened on 17 January 1907, having cost the then huge sum of £20,000. Miss Lawrence built a house for herself, 'Cloisters Lodge', alongside.

The Cloisters was commandeered by the Army during the Second World War and suffered damage. By 1948 Miss Lawrence found it increasingly difficult to maintain the building and to repair the damage caused by the Army. She initially offered it to the local Council, who turned it down. Eventually, she offered it to the local Freemasons who accepted it, turning it into the North Hertfordshire Masonic Centre. About sixty Masonic lodges and 'progressive orders' meet at The Cloisters, and the centre is run and maintained by an elected Board of Trustees, The Lawrence Cloisters Trust. A Craft Lodge, the 'Cloisters Lodge No 7100' was formed there in 1951 to commemorate Miss Lawrence's donation of the building to Hertfordshire Freemasons.

Miss Lawrence eventually moved out of Cloisters Lodge into a house on Willian Way in Letchworth, but her increasing frailty led to her moving to St Catherine's Nursing Home where she died aged 90 on 3 August 1953. Bar and kitchen staff and others in the building late at night have experienced hearing the voice of a woman calling out in greeting leading to the theory that it is haunted by its founder, Miss Annie Lawrence.

**Article and photos by Bob Tuthill**



# Remember to take your AMD Napkins to your Mark meetings



At the Hiram Mark and RAM meeting earlier this month it was so nice to see a few AMD napkins proudly on display. Our District Grand Prefect said that he is hopeful that W.Bro. John Cogger (*a member of London AMD*) will be joining one of our Surrey Councils – John said that he will be a great addition to Surrey.....watch this space!

W.Bro. Jack Love is looking forward to the next Farnham Council meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July and welcoming in 2 new candidates, well done Farnham...keep up the good work!

Our District Grand Prefect has ordered more napkins which Councils can buy at a subsidised price of £5 for those members who have lost their napkins. They will continue to be given to candidates free of charge. The napkins have proved to be a useful selling tool to promote our Order.

## 2022 Annual Hog Roast

South West Surrey Masonic Centre Guildford

Welcome Drink Choice of Salads & Dessert

**HOG ROAST**

Tickets Only **£25.00** pp  
**10th July 2022**  
 (Midday for 1pm)

Wear a bright shirt competitions  
 Charity Raffle  
 Bring the whole family

Tickets from Kevin Brennan  
 26 The Street, Tadham, Farnham,  
 Surrey, GU10 1DQ

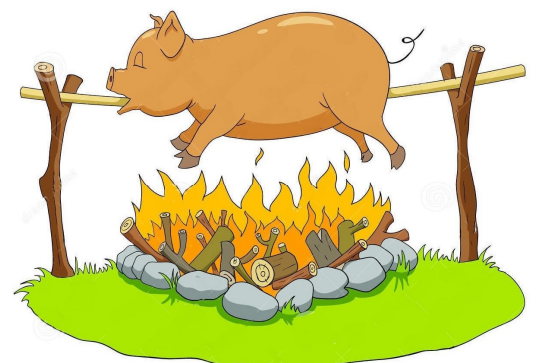
A RAFFLE PRIZE  
 WOULD BE APPRECIATED

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The AMD annual Hog Roast will be held at Guildford on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of July

At £25 per head, inclusive of a drink on arrival, it is good value for money. Not only that, but Ray Hussey has once again guaranteed that the weather will be good.

For bookings, please contact Kevin Brennan on 07789 0005336 or email [kevinbrennan33@gmail.com](mailto:kevinbrennan33@gmail.com)



**Turn Me Over**