



## The Red Cross of Babylon at Surrey 64

“So, our Order continues to grow. Plans are in hand for two new Councils, one in Thessaloniki in Northern Greece, and another on the Island of Malta.” Excerpt from The Grand Master’s Address in October 2023.

I could not resist the offer of joining an additional degree bearing in mind it has five elements, all self-contained but linked to each other in the order of The Allied Masonic Degrees. Calling time on my Masonic involvement is now a necessity. I have joined several orders and feel that I have enough on my plate to keep me more than involved for the forthcoming years. I will not be joining any more elements of Freemasonry despite the attractive qualities proffered me by my enthusiastic friends. Possibly!



Oh no, not the A3/M25! However, we got through it alright. Before we knew it, we were in Croydon with half an hour to spare before two of us, John Ward, and myself, were taken through the ritual of The Red Cross of Babylon.

In fact, being a comprehensive ceremony, it requires quite an amount of ritual from quite a few members. Who better to lead than Eric Trodd and Mike Neville? It must be said too that they were supported by a host of team members who led us through the ceremony. It was very impressive! The Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr was opened by W.Bro. Mike Neville as the Worshipful Master was unable to attend. We were immediately put at our ease because it had the ring of a Craft Lodge opening.



The Ceremony started with Eric Trodd in the chair. One of the parts of the ceremony talked about being in Craft, then Mark and then Chapter. I found that a little odd bearing in mind the current emphasis on Chapter. There were eight candidates for the Ceremony. Bro. Mark Tatum was chosen as the Representative Candidate, and we were brought into the Council of the Red Cross of Babylon after it was opened.

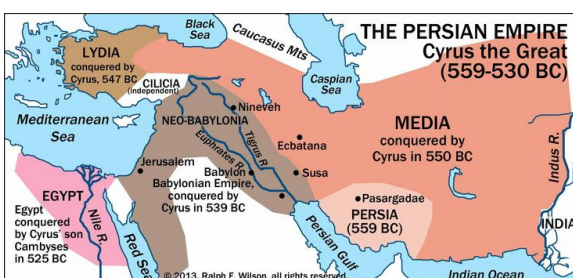


There were bibles, swords, and other implements to enhance the experience. It was a lengthy ceremony involving history from 500 BC and took place in more than one setting.

The props were unusual, the history fascinating and the

explanation at the end of the ceremony made more attractive using a slide show and commentary enthusiastically delivered by Mike Neville.

It was quite real based on the geography of the Holy Land and obviously very topical. The countries of the near east were all there, some with different names but the geographical mass was of today.





We then gathered for a group photo with W.Bro. Mike Neville who, after the Council of Rew Cross of Babylon was closed and the Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr resumed, had pleasure in presenting a Grand Council Certificate to Bro. David Clark.



The Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr was closed and after the customary group photograph, we retired for refreshments.



I must at this point comment on the Festive Board. I look upon my food as fuel and am quite difficult to please. Certainly, no soup. Would I have to do without a starter? Certainly not.

My server was very swift in offering me an alternative, melon. The guy next to me didn't want the chicken. He was provided with scampi and a good salad. I wanted tea, not coffee...no problem. Thanks to all our servers who were polite and accommodating.



My perception of the whole event was very positive in that I enjoyed the story telling, delivered in a serious manner but with humour. It maintained my interest and I have since read the drama in its entirety with the help of search engines and my AMD book.

I still have a final part of the degree to take part in which will probably be in Farnham and hopefully in the not-too-distant future. I look forward to meeting up with old friends and making new ones. One of the fine traditions of Freemasonry .... and doing a bit of learning which is essential for someone of my age.

Thank you to the two leaders and all members of Surrey Council No. 64 who made our evening enjoyable, very interesting and worth the skirmish with the A3/M25 interchange!

Oh – and one other thing I learnt – don't mess with Bro. Bob Oddy.....



*Article by Michael Fenech*

# Nearly a Surrey Takeover!



On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, R.W.Bro. Brian Ward the District Grand Prefect for Kent was delighted to receive and welcome Allied Masons to the 2024 Kent District Meeting held at the Franklin Rooms in Gillingham.

R.W.Bro. Brian Ward was supported by a retinue of District Grand Prefects from around the country supported in turn by members of their own Districts.



Surrey gave tremendous support being represented by their District Grand Prefect R.W.Bro. John French; the Deputy District Grand Prefect, W.Bro. Bob Tuthill; both the District Grand Wardens, W.Bro. Barrie Selway and W.Bro. Graham Beer; the District Grand Secretary, Bro. Trevor Sadler; the District Grand Treasurer W.Bro. Ray Seeley; R.W.Bro Noel Grout; and four other members from Surrey, prompting the jovial remark from R.W.Bro Brian Ward “all you need from Surrey is their District Director of Ceremonies and they could run the meeting.

A special welcome was given to R.W.Bro. Clive Manuel, the Past Deputy Grand Master of the Allied Masonic Degrees, and R.W.Bro. Peter Brockbank, the Past District

Grand Prefect for Kent, who had now completed his year of purdah. Despite a serious incident on the A2 earlier that morning causing severe delays to journeys, everyone was in good spirits and old friends were able to catch-up with news from their respective Districts and Councils.



Following the work in the Temple the Brethren were treated to a feast of Kentish Fayre and a few glasses of Kentish Ale.

# The 2024 Hog Roast

An invitation from the District Grand Prefect to attend the Annual District Hog Roast on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2024 (*Midday for 1pm*). Please support this extravaganza and in doing so meet members of this and other Districts and enjoy a convivial luncheon in each other's company. It is open to all members of our District, partners, family, and friends, including children and non-masons.

This high-class event, which includes complimentary drinks on arrival, courtesy of R.W.Bro. John French, District Grand Prefect, and an extensive range of food laid out buffet style in the restaurant. It is our usual custom to hold a raffle (please bring a prize if you can).



Delight in the pleasant surroundings of the Guildford Masonic Centre, Weybourne House, Hitherbury Close, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 4DR.

Please download and complete the booking form below returning it to me ASAP to my home address 26 The Street, Tongham, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 1DH (*including a cheque!*).

Alternatively, should you prefer, please pay by transfer, and confirm your booking and payment details via email. Thank you in anticipation for your support and I look forward to greeting you. [AMD-Hog-Roast-Flyer-2024.docx \(live.com\)](#)

Tickets cost just £25.00 per person.

**Kevin Brennan**

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## Next Council Meeting Dates

The next Council meetings are:

On **Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April** at Sutton, Pride of Surrey Council will be conducting the **Grand Tilers of Solomon Ceremony** (provisional).

For details contact Simon Polkinghorne [simonpolkinghorne@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:simonpolkinghorne@yahoo.co.uk)

On **Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April** at Nutfield, Surrey Hills Council will be holding a **White Table for non-members**.

For details contact Steve Harvey [st.g.harvey@gmail.com](mailto:st.g.harvey@gmail.com)

On **Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of April** at Surbiton in the morning, Southern Cross Council will be conducting the **Red Cross of Babylon Ceremony**.

For details contact Ian Clark [nelsclark@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nelsclark@yahoo.co.uk)