



Two more Candidates for Kyngstun Council

Tuesday the 14th of May was a busy day for Kyngstun Council No 102. Not only did they have two candidates for the Degree of St Lawrence the Martyr, but they followed that with the Degree of Knights of Constantinople for their Candidates.



The meeting was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Barrie Selway, who welcomed everyone to the meeting. V.W.Bro. Mik Barnes, who kindly acted as Junior Warden for the afternoon, gave Eulogy to W.Bro. Laurie Young, an Honorary member of the Council. The Brethren stood in memory of this well loved and respected Mason.



A ballot was taken for two Brethren to be admitted to the Degree of St Lawrence the Martyr, Brother Jim Agnew of Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons and Brother Nael Clarke, of Pride of Surrey Lodge of Mark Master Masons. This proved in their favour and the Worshipful Master invited W.Bro. Chris Eley, P.Dist.G.S.W., to admit his Candidates.

Brothers Jim and Nael were admitted to the Degree of St Lawrence the Martyr in an excellent manner by W.Bro. Chris, ably assisted by the Officers of the Council, including two of our new members, Brothers Tim Ford and Wayne Lucas who acted as Deacons.

The Lecture was given by W.Bro. Barrie Selway in an excellent manner.

Afterwards W.Bro. Chris congratulated his Candidates and, on behalf of our District Grand Prefect, welcomed them into the Order and presented them with the usual pack of goodies.

W.Bro. Barrie then resumed the Chair.



The Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr was adjourned and the Worshipful Master invited W.Bro. Nigel Harding to act as Chief of the Builders, and W.Bro. Chris Eley to act as Conductor.

The Council of Knights of Constantinople was opened by the Illustrious Potentate and Brothers Jim and Nael were admitted Knights of Constantinople in a very enjoyable ceremony by the Illustrious Potentate and Conductor.

The Lecture in this Degree was also given by W.Bro. Barrie Selway in an excellent manner.

The Council of Knights of Constantinople was closed, and the Degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr was resumed.



Bro. Stuart Hogarth was declared as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year.



After the regular business of the Council had been concluded, the Lodge of St Lawrence was closed and after the customary photographs we retired to the bar for refreshments.

To round off a very enjoyable afternoon the Brethren of Kyngstun Council sat down to a most convivial meal together at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.



A White Table at Surrey Hills Council

On the 17th of April, our District Grand Secretary, Trevor Sadler, kindly agreed to act as chauffeur to me and W.Bro. Denis Leigh. We were picked up in Milford just before 4 pm, to cross to the other side of the County to visit Surrey Hills Council No. 208 in Nutfield. Our early start was well justified because it took us over 20 minutes to get through the A3/M25 roadworks, all the while watching the ETA on the Satnav go up and down by the odd minute.

We arrived in good time and almost immediately that veritable jack-in-a-box, Chris Eley, popped up to take some photos before rushing off to a Chapter meeting. It's likely that those photos are somewhere around this article!



Our District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French, had brought with him that stalwart supporter of this order, W.Bro. Graham Beer, as well as Bro. Stuart Hogarth, both from Berkshire. The purpose of our visit was to support the White Table (some say Green) event to encourage Mark Masons to join the Allied masonic Degrees.

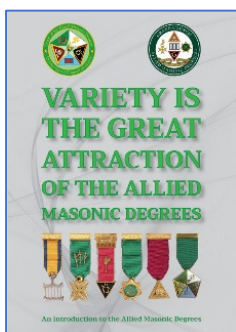
The Council was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Alan Hall, only a minute or two late after the photographic interlude, for a business meeting at which the Worshipful Master and Treasurer were elected for another year.

The highlight was the presentation of a Grand Council Certificate to Bro. James Sutton by our District Grand Prefect in a most interesting and informative way. He noted that James has taken four of his five degrees in his own Council, which is becoming something of a rarity.

In the Risings the Secretary reported that he had an application form for a candidate to be Introduced into the Council, which was most welcome news.



The Council was closed, and visiting Mark brethren were welcomed in - both of them! Some 60 local Mark Masons had been invited to the event but only 4 had accepted. One couldn't make it but had completed the joining form which the Secretary had read out at the meeting. In the absence of W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, Deputy Grand Prefect, who was unwell, the Paper was presented by R.W.Bro. John French.



The Paper, entitled "*The Distinctive Five Degrees of the AMD - or Variety is the Spice of Life*" had been written by V.W.Bro. Mik Barnes, P.G.Reg., and explained the history of the Order and the distinctive differences of the five Degrees. The regalia of the order and the costs of membership were explained, as well as the ability of candidates to take the degrees after St Lawrence in any Council. There was a Question-and-Answer session, which hopefully gave sufficient information to encourage the brethren to sign up.

Afterwards fourteen of us sat down to an excellent dinner of chicken chasseur and a sweet. Personally, having not dined at Nutfield since before the pandemic, I was pleasantly impressed. The light had not quite gone when we set out for an easy westward run home.



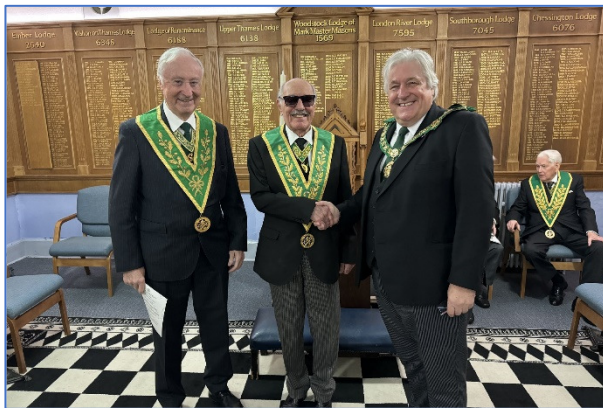
Thanks to W.Bro. Ray Seeley, District Grand Treasurer.

Another Busy Morning for Southern Cross Council



The Degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Colin Beerling, who welcomed our District Grand Prefect and our Past District Grand Prefect to the meeting wishing them an enjoyable morning.

In April the Brethren of Southern Cross Council No XIII had another busy morning with seven Candidates for the Degree of the Red Cross of Babylon. Present at the meeting was the District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French, and the Past District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Ray Hussey.....



A Eulogy was given to R.W.Bro. Mike Whelan, District Grand Master of the Southern Counties, by his Deputy, V.W.Bro. Laurie Brooks. A second Eulogy was given to W.Bro. Louis Keats by W.Bro. Ian Clark.



V.W.Bro. Eric Trodd was congratulated by R.W.Bros. John and Ray on his recent 90th birthday celebrations.

After taking the minutes and investing those Officers not able to be present at the installation meeting we balloted for W.Bro. Ian Parsons, P.Dist.G.S.D., as a joining member and R.W.Bro. Richard Dunleavy as an Honorary Member.

A Lodge of St Lawrence was then adjourned, and a Council of Red Cross of Babylon was opened by the Reverend Prelate, W.Bro. Bob Hancock, **P.G.Std.B.**



Seven Brethren were Constituted and Created as Knights of the Red Cross of Babylon. The representative candidate was Bro. John Massey.

After Bro. John tried to cross the bridge, he was made a slave and taken before the Thrice Illustrious Sovereign, W.Bro. Colin Beerling, by the Master of Inventory, W.Bro. George Deacon, **P.G.St.B.** (*Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight*).

The Lecture was given in an excellent manner by our District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French

It was a most impressive ceremony conducted by the members of Southern Cross Council, and one that the seven candidates will long remember.

After the ceremony was completed, the Candidates were congratulated by our District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French.



The candidates then lined up for a group photo with our District Grand Prefect.



The Council of the Red Cross of Babylon was closed, the Worshipful Master took his chair and resumed the Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr.

Bro. Richard Wileman was declared Worshipful Master for the ensuing years, and W.Bro. Ray Seeley as Treasurer.

After the regular business of the Council had been completed the Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr was closed and we all retired to the bar for refreshments.

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



A Visit to Essex



It was to be an early start from South-West Surrey for our visit to the Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Essex, necessitated by Highways England choosing this weekend to close the M25 from the A3 to Leatherhead. Well, it would have been an early start had our District Grand Senior Warden. W.Bro. Barrie Selway, put the right time in his diary. Nevertheless, he and our driver, the District Secretary. Trevor Sadler, arrived in time to depart from Milford at 8.10, and before long we were crossing the closed M25 and following Trevor's satnav through leafy Oxshott (*home of many Chelsea footballers**).

As we waited to turn right at Chessington, the minutes of our ETA crept inexorably upwards, but eventually we were on our way on the M25 and on to Godstone to pick up our Deputy DGP, Bob Tuthill, to complete our Surrey contingent. We reached our venue in sunny Southend, the roads just starting to get busy with day trippers, at 10.15 – just right for the 11 am kick off.



The Saxon Hall is a large building ideally adapted for Masonic use, with a vast car park. We were warmly welcomed and generously Essex provided bacon butties and coffee within the ticket price. Bob was quietly taken aside by the District Grand Prefect for Essex, R.W.Bro. Jeffrey Conway, who needed a portrait photo taken – Bob's talent as a photographer is known far and wide.

We were able to take our seats in good time for the processions, after which the District Grand Prefect opened the meeting in his inimitable style. He read the opening and then said that if you're going to read the words at least hold the paper up so everyone can hear you!

We saluted the District Grand Prefect with 7 and similarly the other R.W. brethren. There was a report and the Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies was admitted and announced that the Deputy Grand Master was outside and demanded admission. A procession was formed, and R.W.Bro. Ian Bailey was received, greeted by

the District Grand Prefect, and briefly took the gavel, thanking the District Grand Prefect for the courtesy. The brethren were called to order and the Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies invited us to salute the Deputy with 7. There was much loud muttering of 9, and the Director of Ceremonies almost extricated himself by saying that his letter from MMH said 7 (*he hadn't read the Book of Constitutions, Reg 6!*). We gave 9.



The District Grand Prefect welcomed guests and clearly demonstrated his personal knowledge of most of them, seemingly reluctant to follow the script carefully prepared by the District Secretary. The meeting proceeded in much the usual way of these events, with one notable item being the appointment of W.Bro. Richard Bowyer as Deputy District Grand Prefect.



However, under 'any other business', the Deputy Grand Master rose and requested that the retiring Deputy District Grand Prefect, W.Bro. Tony Edwards be brought to him. He had been asked by the M.W. Grand Master to personally thank Tony for his service over six and a half years as Deputy District Grand Prefect. Then like a rabbit from a hat he produced a field promotion to Past Grand Registrar, and congratulated now V.W.Bro. Tony, to general applause.

Long after the rest of us had retired to the bar, Bob was detained taking the customary photos, some of which may appear with these words. There was plenty of time to catch up with a few old friends.

We enjoyed a very good lunch with interesting company, and the speeches were kept short, so that we were back on the road before 3, for an uneventful trip back avoiding the M25 roadworks.

Thanks to Trevor for the first-class chauffeur service.

** Mention of Chelsea footballers was slipped in to cheer our District Grand Prefect, John French, who sadly couldn't make the meeting, and to complete the day they actually won.*

W. Bro. Ray Seeley, DistGTreas

The 2024 Hog Roast

An invitation from the District Grand Prefect to attend the Annual District Hog Roast on Sunday the 14th 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.

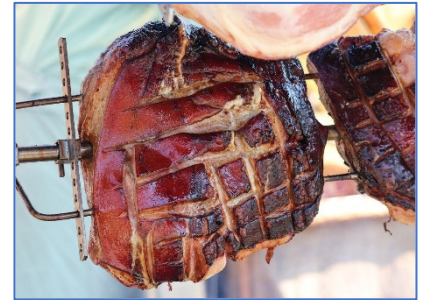
This high-class event, which includes complimentary drinks on arrival, courtesy of R.W.Bro. John French, District Grand Prefect, and an extensive range of food laid out buffet style in the restaurant. It is our usual custom to hold a raffle (*please bring a prize if you can*).

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, e: kevinbrennan33@gmail.com; t: 01252 658471; m: 07789 005336



Next Council Meeting Dates

The next Council meetings are:

Monday 20th of May at Farnham Farnham Council Installation
Contact Ian Smith on ian.smith24@tiscali.co.uk

Wednesday 10th of July at Croydon Surrey Council Installation and a visit from our District Grand Prefect.
60th Anniversary of the Council and the AMD in Surrey
Contact Mike Neville on mrmikeneville@aol.com

Friday 7th of June at Sutton Pride of Surrey Council Installation and a visit from our District Grand Prefect
Contact Simon Polkinghorne on simonpolkinghorne@yahoo.co.uk

Friday 19th of July at Godalming Godalming Council *To be advised*
Contact Graham Hancock on graham.hancock36@gmail.com

The Cloisters Call

**DISTRICT GRAND COUNCIL
HERTFORDSHIRE & BEDFORDSHIRE
6th APRIL 2024
CLOISTERS MASONIC CENTRE**



On a beautiful Sunny day on Saturday 6th April, the District Grand Prefect for Surrey, R.W.Bro John French, accompanied by his deputy W.Bro. Bob Tuthill and W.Bro. Ray Seeley, the District Grand Treasurer, drove up to Letchworth Garden City to attend the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Annual District Meeting.

We were warmly welcomed by the District Grand Prefect for Herts and Beds, R.W.Bro. Geoffrey Cheshire, who presided over a most enjoyable meeting.

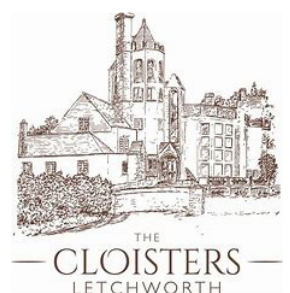
The highlight of the visit is the outstanding and unusual Masonic building called The Cloisters. This was built in 1905 as an open-air school dedicated to Psychology and where students were taught skills from the Arts and Crafts movement.

After a period of neglect during World War II The Cloisters became the North Hertfordshire Masonic Centre in 1951.



The Cloisters was built by Quaker Miss Annie Jane Lawrence (16 April 1863 - 3 August 1953). 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.





It was nice for R.W. Bro John French to catch up with the District Grand Prefects from other Districts, and the Deputy Grand Master RW Bro Ian Bailey.



Overall, a most enjoyable day



Thanks to Bob Tuthill



Around the Orders



At the April meeting of Warlingham Consistory in the Order of the Scarlet Cord our Deputy District Grand Prefect, Dist.Comp. Bob Tuthill, had the pleasure of installing Em.Comp. David Blackburn, Past District Grand Master of the Order of the Royal and Select Master, as President of the Consistory.



Other members included Dist.Comp. John French, our District Grand Master, and R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long, Provincial Grand Summus, on his last Official Visit before he retires in July.

Then followed a meeting of the Warlingham Conclave in the Order of the Secret Monitor.

Wy.Bro. David Blackburn presented a very interesting paper on the Origins of the Order of the Secret Monitor. The Conclave was supported by many Heads of Orders in Surrey and Sussex.

Here we have our District Grand Prefect, Wy.Bro. John French, who is also the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Surrey; Wy.Bro. Simon McCarthy, the Intendant General of the Red Cross of Constantine, Division of Surrey; Wy.Bro. David Blackburn, Past District Grand Master of the Order of Royal and Select Master, District of Surrey; V.Wy.Bro. Lionel Mee, Provincial Grand Master of the Masonic Order of Athelstan, Province of Sussex (*soon to be the Assistant Grand Master in that Order*); V.Wy.Bro. Arnold Long, Provincial Grand Summus in the Order of the Scarlet Cord, Province of Surrey; and Wy.Bro. Ian Clark, Past Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Surrey.

