



A Message from our District Grand Secretary

Dear Allied Brethren. Welcome to another bumper edition of the Surrey Gridiron, full of updates and informative information.

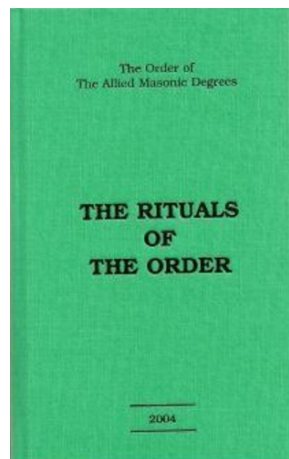
However, don't forget that this is your publication and you, as an individual or Council, are actively encouraged to contribute. Let Chris Eley or myself have any articles or tidbits of information that you think might be newsworthy. They don't all have to be about your Allied Freemasonry!



The big date is looming, when we should be set free and able to meet again in all our various Masonic Orders, and also enjoy all our other usual social activities. I have certainly missed my meetings and trips up to London.

So this is the time to refresh your memories of how our meetings should be conducted and learning your parts in any upcoming ceremonies. Get those books out Brethren, dust off that Regalia and polish those jewels. We are nearly there!

We have Grand Ranks and District Grand Ranks to be announced in the coming months, with all first Council meetings being Installations, plus possibly a Degree.



The Grand Council Annual meeting at Great Queen Street in October and the Surrey District Annual meeting in December at Croydon. So there is plenty to do and enjoy before the Christmas Party season begins.

I know that our District Grand Prefect is very keen to support our Councils in all area of recruitment and retention into our lovely and unique Order.

We have several Councils already planning to add to their numbers. Well done to, Surrey Hills with two in the pipeline, Southern Cross (two joiners), Farnham three new members, and Surrey 64 two new boys.

Let me know if your Council is also expecting new or joining members or has a recruitment (*cunning*) plan about to swing into action.

Parare libertate frui

Alan



Surrey Hills Council VBM

A Virtual Business Meeting of the Surrey Hills Council No 235 was held via the Zoom Video Conferencing tool on Wednesday 26th May 2021. There were 12 members and guests of the Council present at the meeting, including our Deputy District Grand Prefect, W.Bro. Bob Tuthill; a member of the Council, and our District Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Alan Brockwell.



W Bro Bob Tuthill, Deputy District Grand Prefect, and a Council member, was welcomed to the meeting, together with the other guests.

Alastair Richardson was proposed and elected as Worshipful Master for 2021/22 by the Brethren. James Jones was also re- elected as Treasurer and the Committee members were re-elected.

The Almoner, John Bryant then gave a report on the situation of the Brethren. A Notice of Motion was given that Michael Banbury be made an Honorary Council member and also one relating to proposed Charitable giving.

The Secretary, Alan Hall, announced that there were two potential new Candidates in the pipeline, with the intention to bring one into the Council at the November meeting. The Presiding Officer, W.Bro. Keith Waller, thanked the Brethren for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

Cricketers Urgently Required!

Make John French HAPPY!

Do you, your Sons, or your Grandsons play cricket?

Are you interested in joining the Surrey Mark Provincial Team?

Contact: **Chris Hatton NOW!**

Message him on facebook or e-mail: neatwork@btinternet.com



Runnymede Council VBM

On Wednesday the 12th May Runnymede Council No 191 held what everyone hopes will be their last VBM.



There were 18 members and guests, including our District Grand Prefect, RW.Bro. John French, our Deputy District Grand Prefect, W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, and a number of Provincial Officers of the year. Also present was R.III.Comp. David Blackburn, District Grand Master of the District Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters in Surrey as the Allied Council meeting had been preceded by a meeting of Chertsey Abbey RSM Council with the same members attending both meetings.

The meeting was opened by the Presiding Officer, W.Bro. Gareth Lewis, Worshipful Master, who welcome all the members and visitors. Our District Grand Prefect said he is hopeful that we have now turned the corner, and how pleased he was to be with everyone. He is looking forward to meeting with everyone face to face again. He also said it was good to see so many Active Provincial Officers attending and thanked them for their support.

The Council approved two charitable donations. The first was a donation of £200 to the White Lodge charity for disabled children and the second was a donation of £200 towards the Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival. RW.Bro. John French, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Surrey, thanked the Brethren of Runnymede Council for their kind donations.



Well Done Mike

W.Bro. Mike Neville, Secretary of Surrey Council No 64, has given 30 lectures on Zoom raising funds for a variety of charities for lodges across the UK, and another in Texas.

With **Freemasons without Borders**, his lectures have reached Masons in North and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia.



If anyone wishes to book Mike, details can be found on his web site <http://mike-neville-walks-and-talks.co.uk/charity-lectures>

Farnham Council VBM

A Virtual Business Meeting of the Farnham Council No 235 was held via the Zoom Video Conferencing tool on Monday 17th May 2021.



There were 12 members and guests of the Council present at the meeting, including our District Grand Prefect, RW.Bro. John French; our Deputy District Grand Prefect, W.Bro. Bob Tuthill; our District Grand Treasurer, Bro. Ray Seeley; and our District Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Alan Brockwell.

The Presiding Officer, W.Bro. Barrie Selway, Worshipful Master, declared the meeting open in the degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr and welcomed all present, especially their distinguished visitor, RW.Bro. John French. W.Bro. George Deacon was elected as Worshipful Master and W.Bro. Nigel Harding was elected as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Worshipful Master mentioned that the donation the Council had made for the purchase of Electronic devices for schools had been very well received. Farnham Masonic Hall units in total contributed approx. £7,500 for the supply of 24 devices.

Council Meetings in 2021

16 July	Godalming No 185	Godalming
	<i>Installation + Grand High Priest</i>	
19 July	Surrey No 64	Croydon
	<i>Installation + St Lawrence the Martyr</i>	
1 September	Kyngstun No 102	Surbiton
	<i>Installation</i>	
7 September	Riverside No 212	Guildford
	<i>Installation</i>	
15 September	Southern Cross XIII	Guildford
	<i>Installation + Kt of Constantinople or Grand Tilers</i>	
1 October	Runnymede No 191	Surbiton
	<i>Installation</i>	
3 November	Farnham No 235	Farnham
	<i>Installation + St Lawrence the Martyr</i>	
9 November	Surrey Hills No 208	Redhill
	<i>Installation</i>	
20 December	Surrey No 64	Croydon
	<i>Grand High Priest</i>	



the Allied Masonic Degrees in the USA

Royal Ark Mariner

Evidence of the Grade of Royal Ark Mariner appears in Masonic records at a very early date. In his Constitutions of 1733, Dr. James Anderson mentioned that we should all conduct ourselves as sons of Noah (or Noachidæ). There are many who assume that this is a reference to an Ark ceremony, but this study is neutral. It is possible, though hardly probable; the question depends upon what might be termed the date of the speculative Grades.

Further, in some quarters it is a more or less accepted theory that the Ark and Anchor with which we are so familiar in the Craft are but indications of an ancient Ark ceremony of yesteryears. It is assumed that an ancient Grade relating to the Deluge was discontinued and the symbols thereof incorporated into the lectures of the Craft.

The Grade of Royal Ark Mariner is worked under two authorities, other than in the USA: (1) In Scotland the Grade is worked in a Lodge attached to a Royal Arch Chapter under control of Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter, and (2) in England it is worked in a Lodge, attached to a Mark Lodge, and under the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, of that country.

The Ritual of the Grade used by the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America is the same as that worked today in Scotland.

The legend is of the Deluge and it is both beautiful and instructive. There is one other variation, peculiar to the defunct Grand Sovereign College, and thus to the "Time Immemorial" Councils. It is referred to loosely as the Degree of Royal Ark Mariner, or more accurately, by its members, as the Degree of Ark and Dove.

It is a corruption of the English variant of the Grade, with numerous modifications and additions, including an oath of temperance toward alcohol. It could be conferred upon any Master Mason, thereby displaying a further deviation from the English variant. By the terms of Union between the Grand Council and Grand Sovereign College, the latter's councils retained the right to confer this variation.



The Jewel of the Grade is a silver Rainbow. Suspended from the inner upper edge of the rainbow is a silver Dove, bearing an olive-branch. The Jewel is suspended from a ribbon containing the colours of the Rainbow.

The Apron of the Grade is white, bordered with a rainbow coloured edge, and having three rosettes of rainbow coloured ribbon, two at the lower corners of the apron, and one cantered on the flap. Some councils still use the apron prescribed in early rituals, which is of a ram's fleece, wool side worn out.

The Sash of the Grade is approximately four inches in width, light green; or rainbow coloured, and worn from the right shoulder and resting on the left hip.



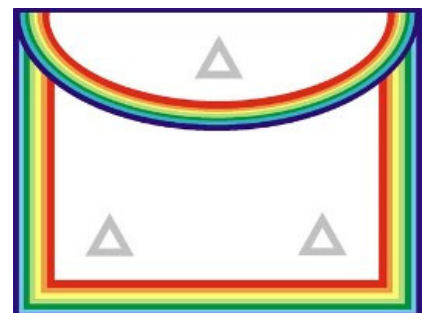
Installed Commander Noah

In the American Councils, the Degree is rarely exemplified. However, it has become more important with the mutual recognition of European and Canadian Royal Ark Mariner Lodges. In some American Councils, the Royal Ark Mariner Lodge operates as a separate body, with its own set of officers and members. The Degree emphasizes the lessons of hospitality and generosity.

The Jewel of the Grade is a silver Triangle. Inside the inner edges of the triangle is a silver "N." The Jewel is suspended from a ribbon containing the colours of the Rainbow.

The Apron of the Grade is white, bordered with a rainbow coloured edge, and having three triangles of silver, two at the lower corners of the apron, and one cantered on the flap. Some councils still use the apron prescribed in early rituals, which is of a ram's fleece, wool side worn out.

The Sash of the Grade is approximately four inches in width, light green; or rainbow coloured, and worn from the right shoulder and resting on the left hip.



Order of the Secret Monitor

As early as 1778 there was a society in Holland known as the Order of Jonathan and David, which probably furnished the germ for the origin of the American Grade now known as the Secret Monitor.

The birth of the Masonic Grade of Secret Monitor appears to have occurred in the United States, where it was worked for many years under various titles – "Brotherly Love," "Jonathan and David," and finally "Secret Monitor." Its first appearance seems to have been in 1850, in which there is clear mention of the Grade.

The Grade was one of the many so-called "side degrees" which were worked throughout America during the last half of the nineteenth century. It was usually conferred – by communication – by one Mason upon another, without fee and no record being made of the event.

Sometime near the close of the nineteenth century, Dr. Issachar Zacharie carried the Grade from America over to England. There, a Body was created to administer over the Grade, termed a Supreme Council. The Grade was rearranged into three ceremonies:

- (1) **That of Induction**
- (2) **The Assembly of Princes, and**
- (3) **The Installation of a Supreme Ruler.**

Early records of the working of the Grade are scarce in the USA, due to the fact that it was worked as a "side degree" and no Minutes were kept. However, in Scotland, the Early Grand Rite secured a version of this American Grade and incorporated it into their multifarious System. It there formed the Sixteenth Degree and was worked under the title "Order of Brotherly Love." A copy of the Ritual of that Rite (dated 1890), in the Archives of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America, shows a very weak and insignificant Ritual-ceremony, hardly worthy of consideration.

The Ritual used by the Grand Council in the USA was an original text, which was used in 1896. It is a very instructive ceremony and based, for the most part, upon the love, which we are taught, existed between Jonathan and David. It teaches a beautiful lesson in friendship and fidelity. In 2000, the Grand Council approved the optional use of the English Ritual, which includes the ceremony of Installed Supreme Ruler. In England, the Secret Monitor is a separate body from the Allied Masonic Degrees.

The Jewel of the Grade originally was a hackle surmounted by a crown, in gold. This was worn suspended from a ribbon, black in the centre, bordered on either side with white, the ribbon being surmounted by a gold bow. It is now that used by the English body, which is two interlaced triangles, superimposed upon three arrows, and containing the letters "D" and "J," in gold. The Jewel is worn as a breast Jewel.

The Apron of the Grade is black, edged with white border. In the centre a hackle is embroidered in white while on the flap is an ear, likewise embroidered in white. With the adoption of the English ritual, the apron is no longer worn.

When a Collar of the Grade is worn, it should be of purple silk, approximately four inches in width. However, in the USA the Collar, or the Apron, were never worn, except when a Council fully exemplified the Grade.

The Royal Order of the Masonic Knights of the Scarlet Cord

The Royal Order of the Masonic Knights of the Scarlet Cord is an appendant body originally stemming from the Order of the Secret Monitor, but in America one needs only be a member of the Allied Masonic Degrees. This is an invitational-order which requires Masons to be members of the 2nd grade/degree of the Order of the Secret Monitor known as "Prince." This order is composed of 6-grades:

Grade 1: Ostiarii or Doorkeeper

Grade 2: Lectors or Readers

Grade 3: Fellow or Healer & Exorcist

Grade 4: Councillor

Grade 5: Keeper of the Hidden Secret

6th Grade, one must have received the 5th Grade and have served as an elected Grand officer within the American AMD.

The 1st Grade tells the story of Rahab and hiding the Jewish spies from the King of Jericho.

The 2nd Grade tells the story of Ruth, her marriage to Boaz, and her son Obed, the grandfather of David.

The 3rd Grade surrounds the resolve of the Maccabees to retain their faith in the face of tyranny.

The 4th Grade depicts the carrying of the Ark of the Covenant over the River Jordan and its entrance into Jericho.

The 5th Grade surrounds Nebuchadnezzar attack on Jerusalem and accounts for the disappearance of the Ark of the Covenant.

The 6th Grade is centred on the Maccabees fight for independence around 150 BC.

Every member wears a scarlet cord, but the fashion in which it is worn may change depending on what grade you hold.

Chris Eley
June 2021

