



Diamond Jubilee of Allied Masonry in Surrey



On the 10th of July 1964, when House of the Rising Sun by the Animals was Number 1 and Alec Douglas-Home was Prime Minister, Allied Masonry arrived in Surrey with the consecration of Surrey Council No. 64 at Croydon.

Then, there were no District Grand Prefects, and all Councils were controlled from London. Over time the Council was part of the Southern Counties District, and then our own

Surrey District was formed. The Council continues to be a thriving unit, with lots of fun.

On Tuesday the 10th of July Surrey AMD Council 64 celebrated their Diamond Jubilee by Introducing, Receiving & Admitting to the Degree of St Lawrence four candidates - in the presence of our District Grand Prefect. In addition, we saw the Installation of W.Bro. George Rodger (*the longest serving member*) as Master.



The afternoon started with refreshments in the bar with an opportunity to catch up with friends and meet the four Candidates before moving upstairs for the meeting.



Present at the meeting was the Provincial Grand Summus of the Grand Senatus of Surrey in the Order of the Scarlet Cord, Arnold Long, seen here congratulating his successor, Nigel Thomson, who will be installed as the Provincial Grand Summus by the Grand Summus next Thursday.



The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Barry Thomas, welcomed everyone to the Diamond Jubilee meeting, displayed the warrant & opened the Council in the Degree of St Lawrence the Martyr with the assistance of the Wardens, Zimmo as Senior Warden and Steve as Junior Warden. The Secretary then read the Dispensation permitting the change to the meeting date.

W.Bro. Bill Barr, Deputy District Grand Director of Ceremonies, entered the lodge and announced the presence of R.W.Bro. John French. A procession was formed, and the District Grand Prefect entered the Council, with a retinue of District Officers. The Master offered the gavel and R.W.Bro. John took the Chair. He was saluted with seven and introduced his officers, which included W.Bro. George Rodger and the Master. The District Grand Prefect noted the presence of his predecessor, R.W.Bro. Ray Hussey, the Past Deputy District Grand Prefect, V.W.Bro. Bryant and W.Bro. Chris Eley, who produces the Gridiron newsletter.

The Master invited W.Bro. Mike Neville, to take the Chair to install W.Bro. George Rodger. This was done in Mike's very special way. W.Bro. George was then congratulated by the District Grand Prefect who wished him a successful and enjoyable year.



A ballot was held for four candidates. The ballot proved unanimously in favour and the candidates were introduced, received & admitted to the Degree in an excellent manner by the Worshipful Master. An illustrated version of the lecture was given by W.Bro. Neville.





The District Grand Prefect was invited to present Brothers Tatum, Holden, Larkin and Oddy with their certificates, which was done in a warm and friendly manner.



It was also proposed by W.Bro. Mike Neville and seconded by the Master that the Council donate £100 to sponsor W.Bro. Simon McCarthy's bike ride in aid of Cancer Research UK. The vote proved unanimously in favour and W.Bro. McCarthy thanked the Council for its sponsorship.



The Lodge was closed and after photographs the Brethren of Surrey Council and their many guests retired for refreshments before sitting down to an enjoyable meal together at the Croydon Masonic Hall.

The Master thanked all involved in the ceremony and the District Grand Prefect welcomed them into the Order and presented the candidates with booklets on the Order and an AMD napkin.

W.Bro. Mike Neville gave a short talk on the formation of the Council and its founding members, including its Primus Master, W.Bro. Eric Norman Le Fre. *Mike's talk is shown after this article.*



A cheque for £200 for "Man Van" cancer charity was presented to the District Grand Prefect, who thanked the Council.





The History of Surrey Council No. 64, Allied Masonic Degrees

The Council was consecrated on 10th July 1964, when Beatlemania was at its height and the Swinging Sixties were just starting to begin. Prior to the formation of the Council, there were some seventy-one Allied units, including eight with Time Immemorial status.

We often hear the phrase, "Masonry universal", but these units were not evenly spread across the country, or the globe. Of the TI units and Councils consecrated since 1880, over a third, 26 Councils, met in the north of England (*many in Lancashire and Yorkshire, as the St Lawrence ritual reminds us*) with another third, 23, abroad and located all across the former British Empire, in Africa, Australia, Canada, India (9 councils), Malta, Sri Lanka and New Zealand. These units included Southern Cross Council No. 13, now in Surrey but which was originally formed in New South Wales, becoming dormant in 1905, until it was reopened in Surrey in 1984.



Of the remaining third, these units were spread across the southern half of England and Wales. In Devon, there are a group of Councils which were originally established to control the Knights of Constantinople degree. These subsequently joined the Order, but still have a unique Christian version of that ritual. The others were widely scattered across the Principality, the Midlands, East Anglia and the south coast.

Furthermore, at that time, there were no Districts, and the Order was completely controlled from Mark Masons' Hall, where seven Councils met. Outside of "headquarters", the nearest units were thirty or forty miles away from London in Berkshire, Kent and Sussex, being located at Wokingham, Gillingham and Brighton.

Surrey Council, therefore, was the first Council to be established away from Mark Masons' Hall, in what we now know as Greater London. At the time of the consecration of the Council on 10th July 1964, the Grand Master of the Order was M.W.Bro. Captain Albert George Rumbelow MBE (later OBE), who had served in the Suffolk Regiment and Machine Gun Corps in the Great War. Later in life, he was a driving force in the Army Rifle Association and, unsurprisingly, it would appear, he was a very good shot! Unfortunately, the minutes from this time have been lost and it is unclear who was present at our first meeting.



The driving force for the establishment of AMD64 appears to have been the Primus Master, Eric Norman Le Fre. He was a very keen and well-respected Mason, who held Grand Rank and senior office in several Orders. During his Masonic career, he would hold many prestigious positions, including Master of North Surrey Masters, MEZ of London First Principals and Supreme Ruler for the Order of the Secret Monitor in Kent, where a Conclave is named after him.



Eric came from a family involved in entertainment, initially in music halls and then in films. He was born in Clapham in 1903, as Eric De Voy, but the family used Le Fre as a stage name. Eric appeared in several "B" movies in the 1930s, including "Letting in the Sunshine". Together with his father, Albert, he was an Honorary Member of Chelsea No. 3098, otherwise known as the "Entertainers' Lodge". He was also MEZ of their Chapter. Albert Le Fre was one of three actors who wrote the ritual for the Masonic Order of Pilgrim Preceptors and, to show the esteem in which he held the Allied, membership of our Order was originally one of the qualifications to join the Pilgrims. Eric assisted to grow that Order and another founder of AMD64, Howard Stokes, would later be the first Grand Master. W.Bro. Louis Keats, who was a well-respected

member of our Council, served as the Pilgrims' Grand Chaplain.



By the time of the consecration, Eric appears to have given up on the entertainment business and his employment is noted as a sales engineer. The other twelve founders, as shown on the warrant, were as follows: Evan David Jenkins, Gordon Frederick Little, Francis Joseph Disney, Cecil Douglas Dando, Albert Sydney Kenneth Colman, Maurice Abraham Yardley, Edward Charles Scott Smith, John Neville Banks, Howard Alan Stokes, Alfred George Lansley, William Caleb Boughton and Raymond Kenneth Bennett. These were Masons in London and the Home Counties, with one being possibly a member of a Welsh lodge.



The Order was de-centralised in 1977, with the creation of Districts, each one headed by a District Grand Prefect. Initially, these covered large areas of the country, with AMD64 being part of Southern Counties, which then included all Councils in Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex. Eric Le Fre was still around to see this change but died in 1979. Surrey became its own entity in 2007, when the present District was constituted, with R.W.Bro. Ray Hussey at its head. He was, of course, followed by the current District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French in 2017.

As can be seen, Surrey Council was the first to assist in the growth in Councils in Greater London and the Home Counties. It should be noted that, whilst in the 1960s, only six new Councils, including AMD64 were consecrated, in the 2010s, there were fifty created.

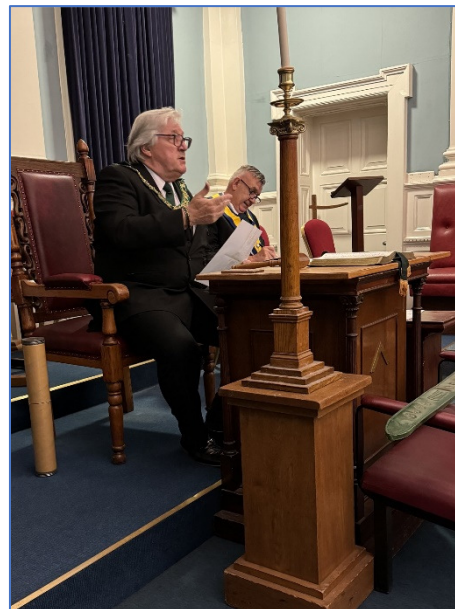
We are proud to have contributed to the expansion of our wonderful Order and look forward to our 75th in 2039 and the centenary in 2064...who present at the Diamond Jubilee will be at those meetings???



W.Bro. Mike Neville
10 July 2024

The Installation Meeting of Pride of Surrey Council

The Installation meeting of Pride of Surrey Council No 128 was held at the Sutton Masonic Hall on Friday the 7th of June in the presence of our District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French, and several Provincial Officers of the year. As is customary at Sutton we all gathered in the Miller Bar before the meeting.



The Council was opened by the acting Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Simon Polkinghorne, who welcomed everyone. After a report at the door the acting District Grand Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Chris Eley, was admitted and advised the Worshipful Master that the District Grand Prefect was without and demanded admission to the Council.

The District Grand Prefect was warmly greeted by the Worshipful Master, accepted the gavel and took the chair. He said how good it was to be in the Pride of Surrey Council, especially to see Bro. Stephen Dingvean installed as Master.

He spoke about District matters, introduced the District team, took the minutes, and vacated the Chair as the Council had work to do.

Bro. Steve was installed into the Chair of the Council by the Worshipful Master in a very sincere manner and congratulated by our District Grand Prefect and Deputy District Grand Prefect.



A ballot was taken for Bro Stephen Sawyer who will be Introduced, Received and Admitted a Brother of St Lawrence the Martyr at the next meeting.





The Council was closed and after refreshments in the bar we retired to the dining room for a most enjoyable meal together.



In the reply to his toast the District Grand Prefect said how much he had enjoyed the afternoon and wished W.Bro. Steve and the Council a successful and enjoyable year.

Allied Masonic Degrees -part four - The Grand Tilers of Solomon.



Tyler holds the meaning of doorkeeper of an [inn](#) or owner of a [tavern](#). The office of the outer guard.

I have chosen a varied and interesting order in that it has five different aspects. Each one a story full of meaning. I have completed St Lawrence the Martyr, Knights of Constantinople and the Red Cross of Babylon. Today I am off to my own Farnham Centre to partake in more masonic ritual. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learned more through attending this order. Yet one of the most important parts of meeting up is the camaraderie. I did find that almost all the participants were “masonically” known to me and yet there were three new faces, friends I had yet to meet.

A group of some seventeen had gathered in our well-appointed centre for my progression in this order. We started in a degree that I had already taken, watched part of the Installation of a good friend, gained an office and then it was my turn.



I was about to become a member of The Grand Tilers of Solomon. After a while I entered, supported by a good friend and then guided through this element by a senior AMD member of some age. It was an honour to be led through the ceremony by such a well-respected member and I thoroughly enjoyed the complete ceremony. His ability to deliver a fairly lengthy set of words with only minimal assistance was very impressive. I had met him in another situation but now see a different person.



Quite humbling really as I am not a ritualist. The scenario was over, and we reverted to the former degree and its usual items of Almoner’s report etc. What an interesting format as indeed they all have been. I am in great anticipation about my final part in this masonic journey.

I certainly needed a drink after this event. Our festive board at the Farnham Masonic Centre is always of a good standard and the evening’s fare was excellent. The toasts were delivered and the fire was different. May I recommend this order to your perusal. It is varied, most interesting and full of pleasant surprises. And I still have one more degree in this group to take part in!!!!





Thanks to Michael Fenech

The Duke of Connaught at Brighton



In 1886, HRH Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, the Grand Master (*shown above on the right*), installed one of his younger brothers, HRH Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught (*on the left*), as Provincial Grand Master of Sussex.

This was appropriate as one of Connaught's subsidiary titles was Earl of Sussex. It was common for such events to be portrayed in the illustrated press of the time and one of the magazines that did so was the satirical *Jack and Gill*. Such magazines often had a stock figure who would appear from time to time (*such as Mr Punch in Punch*). In the case of *Jack and Gill* it was the infamous 'Aunt Evins' (in the centre).

Here she is shown holding aloft what appears to be a poker, the caption implying that it will be used on Connaught to detrimental effect during the course of his installation.

Other possible instruments of torture are carried by those in the background, one of which is a gridiron. One can only speculate, but it is certainly possible that the artist, the today little-known G. Rénaud (*who also drew for another similar magazine, Judy*) was familiar with the degree of St Lawrence the Martyr.

John Hawkins, May 2024

Next Council Meeting Dates

The next Council meetings are:

Friday 19th of July at Godalming Godalming Council - Knights of Constantinople

Contact Graham Hancock on graham.hancock36@gmail.com

Tuesday 3rd of September at Guildford Riverside Council

Wednesday 4th of September at Surbiton Kyngstun Council

Wednesday 18th of September at Guildford Southern Cross Council - Installation of Bro. Richard Wileman



VARIETY IS THE GREAT ATTRACTION OF THE ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES



An introduction to the Allied Masonic Degrees