



## An Orders beyond the Craft evening in Surrey

A very interesting and informative workshop entitled 'Orders beyond the Craft' was held at the Sutton Masonic Hall on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.



Many of the Orders beyond the Craft had their stands in the main dining room, where the representatives of each Order were available to answer questions. It was good to see Alan and Wendy manning the Allied Masonic Degrees stand.



We then went up to the main Temple where Chris Hatton introduced the evening, which was arranged to give everyone a brief insight into the ceremonies and regalia of many well-known Orders, as well as some lesser-known Orders in Freemasonry.

Behind the scenes Simon Polkinghorne was busy getting all the regalia ready for the next team to go into out the Temple.



Here we see Ken wearing the jewels, Dave wearing a Provincial collar, Steve wearing a Grand Rank collar and Chris wearing one of the aprons that used to be worn.

In conclusion Chris thanked Simon for all his hard work putting the evening together, the team of 'models' Dave Harrison, Ken Macintosh, Steve Rush, and Chris Eley; and especially Shelley and her staff for the wonderful support and encouragement they had provided.

# The Installation of a new District Grand Prefect for Southern Counties

On Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of October a delegation from Surrey and Brethren from other Districts travelled to Botley for the Installation of W.Bro. Anthony James Green as the District Grand Prefect for Southern Counties in the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees by the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Thomas Firth Jackson.



We were made very welcome by the Southern Counties Brethren as we joined them for refreshments before the meeting.



By 10.45 the Brethren of the District and all visiting brethren were seated in the lovely Temple at Botley. R.W.Bro. Richard Dunleavy, Past District Grand Prefect, opened District Grand Council.



The Installing Officer, accompanied by the Assisting Officers of Grand Council, entered, assumed the Chair and appointed his Officers. The Installing Officer was saluted with eleven under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Installing Officer directed the Grand Secretary to call the Roll of Councils in the District. The Installing Officer then addressed the Brethren assembled and announced that he has appointed W.Bro. Anthony James Green as the District Grand Prefect for the District of Southern Counties. The Grand Director of Ceremonies announced that the District Grand Prefect Designate was in attendance and requested to be admitted so that he may be installed.



The Installing Officer directed the Grand Director of Ceremonies to form an escort and introduce the District Grand Prefect Designate.

The District Grand Prefect Designate and his escort entered in procession and the Installing Officer addressed the District Grand Prefect Designate.

The Installing Officer directed the Grand Secretary to read the Patent of Appointment following which the District Grand Prefect Designate knelt for the benefit of prayer.

The District Grand Prefect Designate was obligated, invested and installed by the M.W. Grand Master.

He was then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.



The Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies enquired of the District Grand Prefect whom he wished to appoint as Deputy District Grand Prefect.

The District Grand Prefect announced that he is appointing V.W.Bro. Laurence Thomas Brookes as Deputy District Grand Prefect of the District of Southern Counties.

V.W.Bro. Laurence entered in procession, was

obligated, invested and installed by the R.W. District Grand Prefect. He was then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The District By-laws were submitted to the District Grand Prefect for confirmation. The Grand Director of Ceremonies enquired of the District Grand Prefect if he wished to confirm the appointment of the District Grand Officers made at the last meeting of District Grand Council.

The District Grand Prefect addressed the Installing Officer thanking him and his team for making this such a special day, not only for him but also the Brethren of the District of Southern Counties. The Installing Officer accompanied by his Assisting Grand Officers retired from the District Grand Council. The District Grand Prefect said that due to time constraints he was unable to welcome his honoured guests individually but thanked them all for their support for the District and he hoped to see many of them at their Annual The District Grand Prefect Meetings.



After the regular business of Provincial Grand Conclave had been completed District Grand Council was closed and the District Grand Prefect, the Deputy District Grand Prefect, and District Officers retired from the Temple, greeting their honoured guests on their way out.



We then retired for refreshments before sitting down to a most convivial meal at the Botley Masonic Hall.



## Thames Valley District Meeting



The Annual Meeting of the Thames Valley District AMD was held on Saturday, 19 October at the Bletchley Masonic Centre. Our Deputy District Prefect, W.Bro Bob Tuthill, flew the flag for Surrey and the journey began with a torrential downpour that would have had Noah worried!

Once the tea and biscuits were available though, it was the time for 'meet and greet' among the brethren, which set the scene for the day.

Having been called to order by the District Director of Ceremonies, the Right Worshipful Brethren and other distinguished guests, including past members of the District Executive, entered the lodge in procession.

The District Grand Prefect, Right Worshipful Brother Robert W Chevin, entered the temple in procession accompanied by the District Grand Officers of the year. District Grand Council was opened in due form and the District Grand Prefect saluted under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies.

Following a knock on the door, the Grand Deputy Director of Ceremonies was admitted and informed the District Grand Prefect that the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Ian Bailey, was outside the door of the Council and demanded admission.

The Grand Deputy Director of Ceremonies escorted R W Bro Ian Bailey into the Council where he was offered the gavel, which was returned with similar haste!

The Deputy Grand Master was saluted under the direction of the Grand Deputy Director of Ceremonies.

The District Grand Prefect welcomed the District Grand Prefects and other distinguished guests, including the Heads of other Masonic Orders.

On the completion of elections and proposals the brethren stood in silent tribute to departed merit since the last annual meeting. The District Grand Prefect confirmed the re-appointment of Simon Gillas, **P.G.Stwd.**, as the Deputy District Grand Prefect.

Unfortunately, Brother Simon was absent from the meeting due to ill-health. Then followed the appointments and investitures of District Grand Officers for the ensuing year, followed by the presenting of two of the newest candidates to have joined the Order.

The District Grand Prefect addressed District Grand Council expressing his desire for the brethren to continue in their efforts of finding suitable candidates. The Deputy Grand Master retired from District Grand Council, following which, the meeting was called to order and closed in due form. The District Grand Prefect, together with the Right Worshipful Brethren and other Honoured Guests and District Officers retired in recession to the sounds of the RAF March Past, played by Bro Gil Singleton, the acting Organist.

The festive board that followed was a most enjoyable and delightful occasion with plenty of laughter and chatter (and short speeches). By now 'Noah's deluge' had ceased and the sun was shining as everybody went their respective ways taking with them happy memories of the day.

***Thanks to Bob Tuthill***



# An enjoyable display at Surrey Hills

The meeting of Surrey Hills Council on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November certainly got off the ground with a bang. The Council who had been struggling of late admitted no less than four new members to the Council.



W.Bro. Alan Hall presided over the ceremony of St Lawrence the Martyr which saw Bro Anthony Wright, Bro Stephen Hall, Bro Jeffrey Penfold, and Bro Dale Brunt admitted in a fine manner into the council. The highlight was a faultless rendition of the Lecture on St Lawrence by Bro Barrie Selway.



The Deputy District Grand Prefect, W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, welcomed them all into the Council and presented them with the usual brochures, pen and napkin, and was delighted that they also agreed to attend the District meeting in December to be able to meet our District Grand Prefect.

A very successful meeting as the Council also welcomed a re-joining member, Wally Maynard. The future certainly looks brighter as the Secretary also read out an application for another member who will be admitted at the Installation meeting next April when Bro. James Smith goes into the chair.

Certainly, this was a firework night to remember when we were able to welcome five new Guys!

*Thanks to Bob Tuthill*

