



## A Christmas Message from our District Grand Prefect



Brethren,

As we approach the joyous season of Christmas, we are reminded of the profound virtues that unite us as masons: brotherly love, relief, and truth. This time of year brings with it an opportunity to reflect on the light we share, not only within our lodges but also in our communities and the lives of those around us.

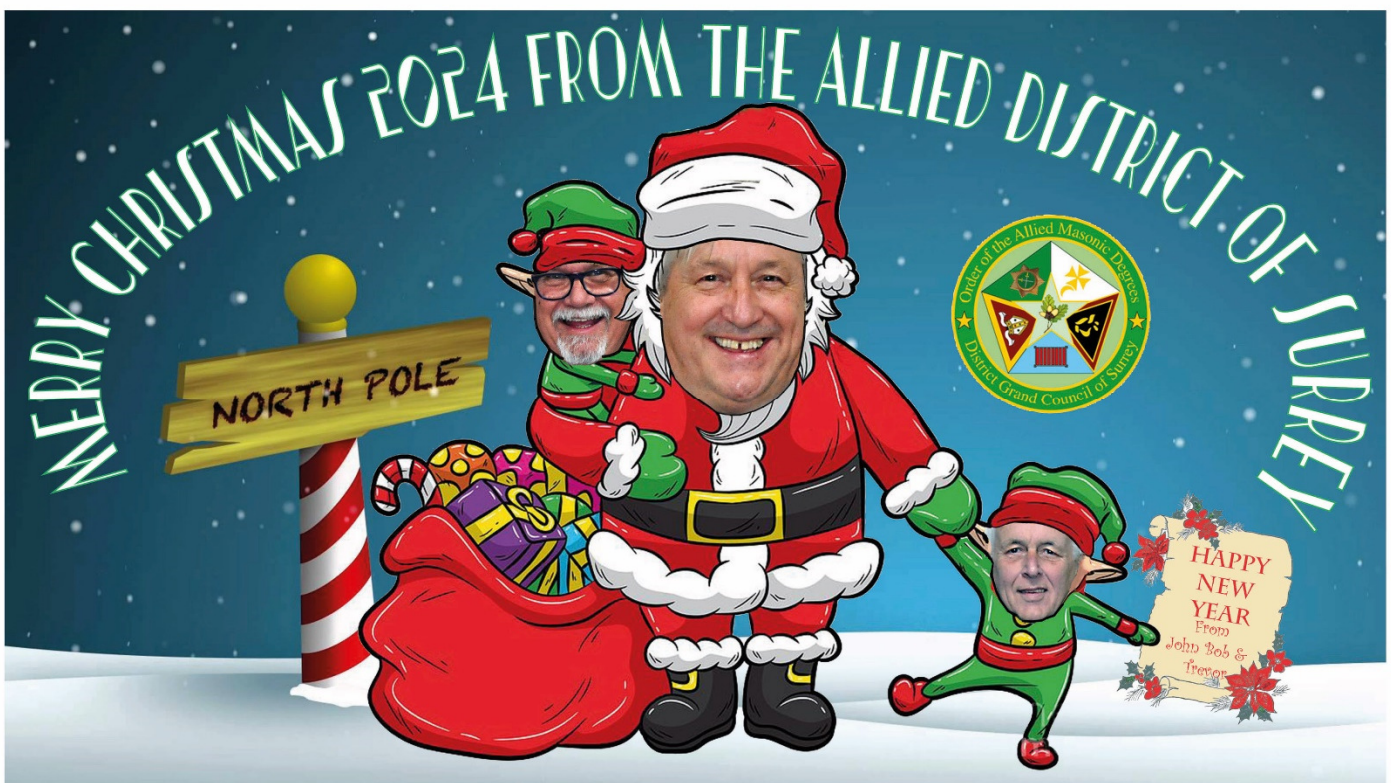
Christmas is a season of giving, a celebration of hope, and an opportunity to renew our bonds of friendship and brotherhood. Let us embrace the spirit of charity, extend kindness to those in need, and deepen our commitment to living the principles that define us as masons.

May this festive season bring you and your loved ones peace, happiness, and abundant blessings. As we look forward to the new year, let us do so with renewed dedication to our craft and a shared purpose to continue spreading light and goodwill in all that we do.

Merry Christmas, brethren, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to you and your loved ones. May the Great Disposer of all have you in his Holy keeping now and forever.

*R. W. Bro. John Vaughan Christopher French*

**District Grand Prefect  
Surrey**



# 2024 Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Surrey in the Allied Masonic Degrees

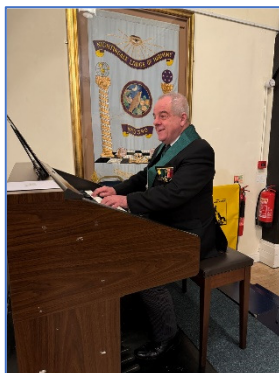


The 2024 Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Surrey took place on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December at Croydon Masonic Hall.



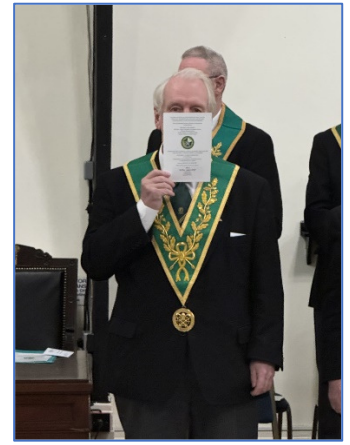
Brethren of the District of Surrey and their guests started arriving from 9 am where they received a warm welcome from the reception team before making their way into the lounge where tea, coffee and bacon butties were being served.





There were many guests from other Districts, as well as Heads of other Orders in Surrey. District Grand Council was honoured with the presence of the Past Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Clive Manuel.

The Past District Grand Master, the Past Deputy Grand Master, the R.W. Brethren and the District Grand Prefect entered in procession into District Grand Council to music from our District Grand Organist, Bro. Bob Soper.



The District Grand Prefect opened District Grand Council and welcomed all the guests and visitors, especially the Past Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Clive Manuel, and our Past District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Ray Hussey.



The District Grand Prefect then had much pleasure in receiving several Brethren who had been introduced, received, and admitted into our Order in the last 12 months.



The District Grand Prefect announced that he had much pleasure in re-appointing W.Bro. Robert Gregory (Bob) Tuthill as his Deputy District Grand Prefect. The District Grand Prefect appointed and invested the District Grand Officers of the year, and those promoted in Past District Grand Rank.

He then addressed District Grand Council. In his address he said that it was good to see so many Brethren present and thanked everyone for their support, especially our Past Deputy Grand Master who is always most welcome in Surrey, and whose company we enjoy immensely. He said that visiting is an important part of all Freemasonry and thanked our guests for the generous hospitality which he and his team receive around the country when they visit other Districts.

The District Grand Prefect congratulated all the Officers whom he had been pleased to appoint or promote in District Grand Rank, hoping they will all enjoy their year in Office, and if possible be able to support the Official Visits this coming year.

He also congratulated the Brethren who received Appointment or Promotion in Grand Rank at the Annual Meeting of Grand Council at Great Queen Street. He thanked the District Recorder and the District Grand Director of Ceremonies and their teams for ensuring today's meeting was a success and finished by wishing everyone and their loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *(a copy of the Address by the R. W. District Grand Master is after this article)*

District Grand Council was then closed in due form and the District Grand Prefect retired in procession from District Grand Council accompanied by District Grand Officers and Honoured Guests, greeting everyone on their way out from the Temple.



After a few group photos with the members of the other Districts we retired for refreshments.



The Brethren of the District Grand Council of Surrey and their guests sat down to a splendid lunch at the Croydon Masonic Halls.





The Toast to the District Grand Prefect was given by W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, the Deputy District Grand Prefect. He presented him with another one of his Caricatures, this time Superman.

Our District Grand Prefect proposed the toast to the visitors thanking them again for their support for the District. R.W.Bro. Clive Manuel responded by saying it was always good to visit Surrey and wished John and his team all the best for the future. He then presented R.W.Bro. John with a sign warning visitors to Plough Farm that a grumpy old Chelsea fan lives there.....

After a most enjoyable day we all went on our way, looking forward to when we meet again.

*Photos by Chris Eley and Michael Fenech*

# Address by the R.W. District Grand Prefect to the 2024 Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Surrey

Brethren all, it is a great honour for me to address you as your DGP and it's so nice to see so many people here today and thank you all for your support especially our Past Deputy Grand Master who is always most welcome in Surrey and whose company we enjoy immensely, thank you Sir for honouring us with your presence.

An important part of all Freemasonry is visiting which continues to be the case especially during these difficult times; so thank you again to our many guests, whether travelling from near or far it is very much appreciated by us all that you have given up your precious time to support our District meeting. We look forward to your company at our Festive Board and hope that you will enjoy your time with us. I must also take this opportunity to add my sincere thanks for the generous hospitality which we receive around the country when visiting other Districts.

Brethren, as well as generosity we are also well known and admired for our Brotherly Love and can I ask that we all continue to make a huge effort to stay in close contact with one another regularly. I believe that we are all Almoners and as there could be difficult times ahead for some of our members let's be as supportive as we can. Staying in contact with each other is the very first thing we should do. If someone has not attended a meeting just call them so as to ensure they are fit and well and remind them how much we are looking forward to seeing them at our next meeting. I can tell you from my own experience that an unexpected phone call received can bring the recipient so much joy! Our members are precious to us so let's ensure we all look after each other.

I congratulate all the Officers whom I have been pleased to appoint or promote with District Grand Rank today and I hope you will all enjoy your year in Office, and if possible be able to support most of the Official Visits this coming year. I can ensure you that it is not only appreciated by myself and our Deputy District Grand Prefect but also all of the councils who also gratefully enjoy our company. If any of our members would also like to keep me company, I can assure you that you will also be made most welcome.

I would also like to congratulate the Brethren who received Appointment or Promotion in Grand Rank at the Annual Meeting of Grand Council at Great Queen Street. It was a lovely meeting, and my congratulations go out to W.Bro. Alan Brockwell, promotion to Past Grand Junior Deacon; as well as first appointments to W.Bro. Simon Polkinghorne and W.Bro. Mark Guzam to Past Grand Standard Bearers. I do congratulate them all for these well-deserved appointments.

This year's Hog Roast was another great success, sold out to capacity, raising lots of money from the raffle, thank you Ray Beadle, and yes brethren another beautifully hot summer's day where good fun was had by all! Thank you again to those that attended and brethren, please put next year's date in your diaries which is the Sunday of 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Bro Kevin Brennan is organising this event again and I thank Kevin for his hard work in ensuring that our Hog Roast is not only well supported but also an extremely enjoyable family day out.

Our Past District Grand Senior Warden (who is sometimes known as the DGP – that is District Grand Photographer) will be attending all the Official Visits and other meetings with his ever-ready camera so that he can spread the happiness and joy we share at our meetings, through our web site, and of course The Surrey Gridiron. Chris I'm sure you do not need to be reminded but I thank you again for the hard work and commitment that you give to our wonderful order, which is very much appreciated by us all. As well as the napkins, the trifold flyer, and the pens which I hope you will continue to use to promote our order and encourage new members to join – V.W.Bro Mik Barnes has put together a booklet which we have had printed called "Variety is the Great Attraction of the Allied Masonic Degrees". It is very informative and will give potential candidates a better knowledge of The Allied Masonic Degrees. These will be distributed again to your secretaries and put on display in our Masonic Centres – thank you again V.W.Bro Mik.

Also remember Brethren that we have been very fortunate to have had the full support of our Past Provincial Grand Master in the Mark to promote our Order at Mark meetings and seemingly the new Provincial Grand Master is OK about it as well, so please take full advantage of this by spreading the word and wearing your Allied napkins at each Mark festive board. Brethren what this does is to create awareness and hopefully a conversation about the beauty of the Allied Masonic degrees. The good news brethren is that we have welcomed in 22 new members and joining members this year, albeit we have unfortunately lost 7 members (for reasons beyond our control).

I congratulate and thank those councils that have recruited new members with a special thanks to Surrey Council No 64 who have hardly ever had a meeting without admitting a new candidate – please keep up the good work! To those who have not managed to recruit, please let me know how we can help you in any way to reverse that trend.

Brethren, District Meetings do not just happen, and a lot of people have worked extremely hard to put everything together today for our enjoyment. and I offer my sincere thanks to all of them, particularly the District Grand Secretary, Bro. Trevor Sadler (who was almost flying solo today) and his team, the Deputy District Grand Director of Ceremonies W.Bro. Billy Barr (who had to step in at very short notice) and his team and W.Bro. Chris Cradock, who as always does so much work behind the scenes and W.Bro. Ray Seeley who does so much work for us in addition to his duties as District Grand Treasurer.

The Charity collection at this Meeting today will be going into the District Benevolent Fund, and because of your generosity, we will be able to support some very worthy causes. The District Meeting next year will again be held here on the first Saturday in December which will be the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 so please make a note in your diary.

I finish by wishing you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Thank you for the kind attention you have given to my address – and may the Great Disposer of all have you in his Holy keeping now and forever. Kindest regards,

**John French**

**7<sup>th</sup> December 2024**



# Other uses for your AMD Napkins

W.Bro. Mike Neville's London Chapter recently moved to the Civil Service Club.

When setting up, Mike realised, to his horror, that there was no veil for the pedestal. He had to find a cover for the Sacred Name....

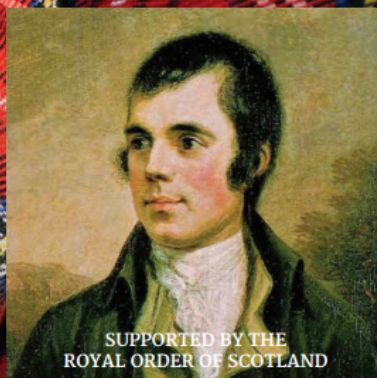
In his pocket was the answer....his Surrey Allied Napkin.

"Approaching with reverential awe..."



## Surrey Mark Masons' Burns Night Charity Dinner

At Guildford Masonic Centre, Weybourne House, Hitherbury Close,  
Guildford, Surrey, GU2 4DR on Saturday 18th January 2024.



### MENU

Haggis, Tatties and Neeps, with Whisky  
Roast Beef, with the trimmings  
Cranachan (Cream, oatmeal, whisky, raspberries)

*Pipers, Procession and Addressing the Haggis, plus Burns Toasts*

Dining: 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm.

Dress Code: Highland, Dinner Jacket or Lounge Suit.

Ladies Posh Frocks - anything in the Scottish theme appreciated.

**Cost: £39 per person.**

**Open to the Ladies, Friends and Family, Non Masons.**

BACs payments to: Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey Benevolent Fund.  
Sort Code: 30-93-74 Acc No. 02602788. Use "BURNS" followed by Surname as reference.

Cheques payable to: Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey Benevolent Fund,  
send to: John Coleman  
29 Glaziers Lane,  
Guildford, Surrey GU3 2DE.

Further details from: [john.t.coleman@btinternet.com](mailto:john.t.coleman@btinternet.com) Tel: 07879408187

[www.surreymarkmasons.com](http://www.surreymarkmasons.com)