



## Two Candidates for the Grand Tilers of Solomon at Kyngstun Council



On Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, Kyngstun Council No 102 conducted the Grand Tilers of Solomon Ceremony for two candidates.

The Council was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Stuart Hogarth, who welcomed everyone, and especially thanked V.W.Bro. Mik Barnes, **P.G.Reg.**, for standing in as Junior Warden, and W.Bro. Chris Eley, P.Dist.G.S.W., for standing in as Senior Warden, both at the last minute.



The Captain of the Host was W.Bro. Stuart Hogarth, and the Attendants were W.Bro. Derek Williamson and Bro. Wally Maynard

The Worshipful Master adjourned the Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr and opened a Council of Grand Tilers of Solomon.



District Grand Council of Surrey web site:

<https://www.surreycompanionorders.com/welcome-allied-masonic-degrees>





V.W.Bro. Eric Trodd was King Solomon, W.Bro. Chris Eley was King Hiram, and V.W.Bro. Mik Barnes was Hiram Abif.

Brothers Nael Clarke and Dale Brunt entered, were challenged by King Solomon, and admitted.

After taking their Obligation, Brothers Nael and Dale were Admitted into the Degree of Masons Elect of Twenty Seven and Created Grand Tilers of Solomon.

The Lecture was given in an excellent manner by V.W.Bro. Eric Trodd.

After being congratulated they took their seats in the Lodge of Grand Tilers of Solomon. The Lodge was closed, and a Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr was resumed.

Bro. Bob Soper was declared Master and W.Bro. Len Hayward was declared Treasurer for the ensuing year.



The Lodge was closed, and we retired for refreshments before sitting down to a most enjoyable meal together.

# The Installation Meeting of Farnham Council

In May the Brethren of Farnham Council No 235 held their Installation meeting at the Farnham Masonic Hall, Farnham. Present was our District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French and several District Officers of the year.



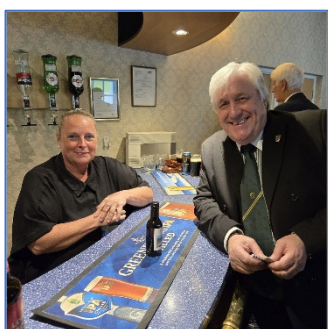
A Degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Brian Doherty who welcomed everyone to the meeting.



After a report on the door the District Grand Prefect entered, was welcomed by the Worshipful Master, took the gavel and assumed the Chair. He said how good it was to be in Farnham again, introduced the Provincial Officers, took the minutes and relinquished the Chair as the Council had work to do.

The main item on the agenda was to install Bro. John Ward as Worshipful Master. The Master Elect was presented to the installing Master and answered in the affirmative the questions put to him. Brethren below the rank of Installed Master in this degree retired and a Board of Installed Masters was opened. Bro. John was then duly obligated, invested, entrusted, installed and saluted.

Our District Grand Prefect congratulated W.Bro. John and wished him an enjoyable year in the Chair of Farnham Council, reminding him of his duty to get at least one new member into the Council. W.Bro. John then appointed and invested his Officers.



After the regular business of the Council was concluded the Brethren of Farnham Council and their guests went into the bar for refreshments before sitting down to a very convivial lunch at the Farnham Masonic Hall.

*Thanks to Michael Fenech*





# Essex Allied Masonic Degrees Annual District Meeting 2025 at Southend-on-Sea

## Buckets and spades at the ready



On Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 the District Grand Prefect. R.W.Bro. John French, accompanied by a throng of District Grand Officers, namely W.Bro. Bob Tuthill; W.Bro. Trevor Sadler; W.Bro. Ray Seeley; and W.Bro. Norman Jones, set off on an overseas visit (well across the Thames estuary) to the Essex Allied Annual District meeting.



The Brethren were called to order at 11.00. The Right Worshipful District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Jeffrey Conway, entered the Temple accompanied by a retinue of the District Grand Officers and distinguished Brethren.

District Grand Council was opened, the District Grand Director of Ceremonies called the Brethren to Order, and the District Grand Prefect was saluted. The District Grand Prefect R.W. Bro. Jeffrey Conway thanked the Brethren for their warm Allied salutations and welcomed the visitors and the Heads of the various Orders of Essex.

The gang arrived bright and early to partake of the bacon rolls which the District of Essex treated everyone to. There followed many warm handshakes and backslapping as old friends were reunited and exchanged tales and anecdotes from their part of the Allied World.



R.W.Bro. John French when called upon introduced his escorting team who were each warmly thanked and greeted by the District Grand Prefect for Essex.

Following the appointment and investiture of the Officers for the District of Essex the District Grand Prefect gave his annual address in a really wonderful poetic style which was really appreciated by the Brethren present, as it once again highlighted the humour and sincerity of R.W.Bro. Conway

The District Grand Council being closed and with the usual candid and posed photos following the formal part of the day the Brethren retired to the bar for some well-deserved relaxation. The Festive Board was an extremely happy and indeed noisy affair indicating that everyone was having a good time.

Time had flown by, and it was time for the Surrey team to head home. The usual custom checks were made to see if there was any illicit Lychee wine or other contraband that might be smuggled across the Thames.

Everything being in order the team set off home with a great feeling of pride having represented the District of Surrey and supporting the District Grand Prefect.

*Thanks to Bob Tuthill*



# Congratulations

Congratulations to Surrey Allied Brethren who received appointment or Promotion in Grand Rank in Craft in April.



Stephen Dingvean of Pride of Surrey Council received a Promotion to **PAGDC**, and Chris Eley of Southern Cross and Kyngstun Councils received a First Appointment to **PAGStB**.

Also present were other Allied Brethren, including Alan on Tyler duties at Great Queen Street.



Mike was seen wearing an Allied Masonic Degrees tie on one of his TV interviews.



# Masonic Tour of Ancient Constantinople

The modern city of Istanbul, known for centuries as Constantinople, was founded by the first Christian Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great, in 11 May 330 AD. The great man is celebrated in two Masonic Orders – the Red Cross of Constantine and in the Allied Masonic Degrees, whose ceremonies include the Knights of Constantinople. A further link was also found to another Order in Masonry – more on that later.

Constantine decided to transfer the seat of his empire away from Rome to a new city, to the east, which was initially called “Nova Roma”, or “New Rome” as a new Sovereign in the Red Cross of Constantine is reminded. This city soon became known as Constantinople. Many believe that “Istanbul” is an Islamic name, but it is from the Greek phrase “eis tin Polin” meaning “to the City” – rather like we refer to the very centre of London as “the City”.

**Photo 1 – Image of Ancient Constantinople**



Little remains of the Constantine’s residence (the “Palatium Magnum” or “Great Palace”), where the Knights of Constantinople is set, but it stood near the location of the great mosque (and former cathedral) the Hagai Sophia, which translates as “Holy Wisdom”. Just opposite this magnificent structure is the Milion (a milestone). Just as “all roads lead to Rome”, Constantine placed this stone in his new city to give directions to all other parts of the empire.

**Photo 2 – Milion Stone**



He, and his son Constantius, also moved various monuments and statues to Constantinople and some of these are visible today in the area around the Hagai Sophia. These include the Serpent Pillar and the Obelisk of Theodosius, moved here from Egypt.

**Photo 3 – Serpent Pillar**



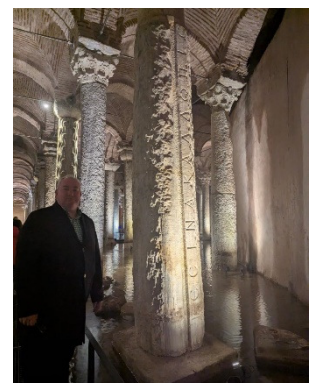
**Photo 4 – Column of Constantine**



It is, however, the oldest Constantinian monument in Istanbul and stood in the forum of the new city. Originally, a bronze statue of the Emperor adorned the column, with him holding an orb, which was said to have contained pieces of the True Cross (which, of course, was allegedly discovered by his mother, St Helena). The statue was blown down during a storm in 1106 and seems to have vanished, along with its holy relics. It was replaced by a cross, which was later removed by the Ottomans.

Opposite the Hagai Sofia and underground is the Basilica Cistern, which is known as such as it has the appearance of a cathedral with an enormous, vaulted roof, supported by many pillars of the Corinthian. This was used to enhance the local water supply. Many will have seen the Cistern in the James Bond film, “From Russia With Love”, when the friendly Turkish agent attributes the structure to Constantine, albeit the current structure dates from the later Emperor Justian.

**Photo 5 - Basilica Cistern**



Surrounding the city are the magnificent wall built by Anthemius (around 400 AD) and these protected Constantinople for many centuries. Anthemius is celebrated in the Knights of Constantinople degree as the “Chief of the Artisans” or Junior Warden. OR is he?

Confusingly, the Hagai Sophia was designed by the great mathematician and architect, Anthemius of Tralles (a Greek city, now in Turkey) in the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD, during the reign of Justinian. It is unclear which of these men are celebrated in Allied Masonry, as neither lived at the time of Constantine. It is the same with Eusebius – there are two men with



this name linked to the emperor. One from Caesarea, who wrote the account of Constantine’s vision of the cross prior to the Battle of the Milvian Bridge and visited the emperor’s court in Constantinople.

The other hailed from Nicomedia and was a distant relative of Constantine and claimed to have baptised his royal master on his deathbed. He lived in Constantinople, where he had the favour of the emperor and his son.



The vast walls built by Anthemius, which surrounded the city, were finally breached on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 1453, after a seven week siege and bombardment by vast cannons under the command of Sultan Mehmed II. Many parts of the city walls, with towers, survive today in very good condition.

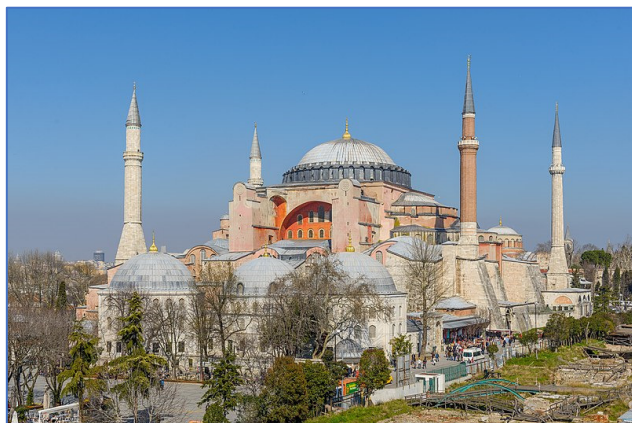
Within a week, the Sultan had the Hagai Sophia converted into a mosque. Minarets were added to the building over time, with four now standing. Christianity was, however, tolerated and the Greek Orthodox church was permitted to continue to hold services in the city.

**Photo 6 – Location of Breach of Walls with plaque showing date as 29<sup>th</sup> May 1483**

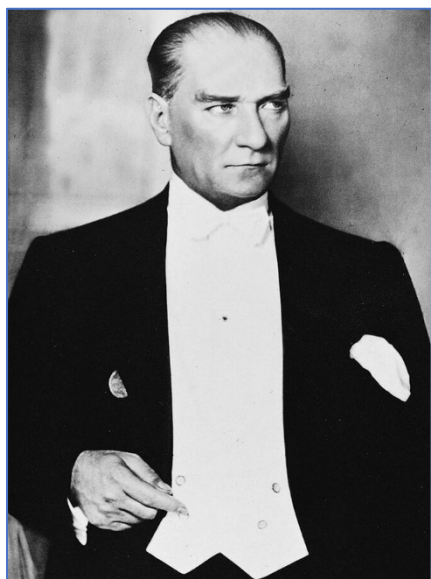
**Photo 7 – Walls today**

**Photo 8 – Hagia Sophia today**

In 1935, the President of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal (known as Ataturk – “father of the Turks”) converted the Hagai Sophia into a museum. Ataturk was a great leader, whose vision was a modern, secular country. He was also a Freemason, having been initiated into the Macedonia Risorta Lodge No. 80 in his home city of Thessalonika in Greece, then part of the Ottoman Empire.



**Photo 9 - Ataturk**



The Hagai Sophia was re-dedicated as a mosque in 2020, resulting in non-Muslims being excluded from the ground floor. A great pity, as here is the seven-metre high

Emperor Door, which are said to have been made from the wood from Noah’s Ark – a link to the Royal Ark Mariner degree.

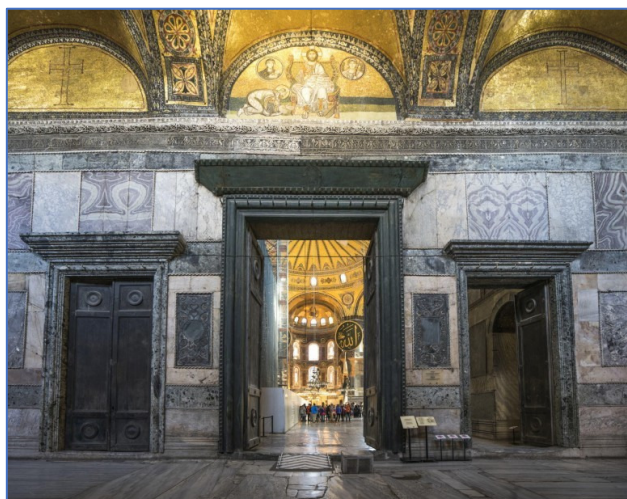
**Photo 10 – Emperor Door**

And, of course, the Grand Lodge of Turkey is located in Istanbul, rather than in the capital, Ankara.

The lodges meeting there use several different languages, including

Turkish, English, Greek and German, emphasising the fact that Constantinople, or Istanbul, is an international city straddling two continents, and is a gateway to both Europe and Asia.

It is a fascinating place to visit – especially if you are a Freemason.



**Thanks to Mike Neville for a most interesting article**

# Council Meeting Dates and Ceremonies

No.	Name			Work
64	Surrey	Monday	02/06/2025	Installation ( <b>DGP visit</b> ), KoC, StLM (if req)
128	Pride of Surrey	Friday	06/06/2025	Installation ( <b>DGP visit</b> )
208	Surrey Hills	Monday	16/06/2025	KoC, GTS
185	Godalming	Friday	18/07/2025	
212	Riverside	Tuesday	02/09/2025	
102	Kyngstun	Wednesday	03/09/2025	Installation ( <b>DGP visit</b> )
13	Southern Cross	Wednesday	17/09/2025	Installation ( <b>DGP visit</b> )



Glenmore House, The Crescent, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4BN

(Lots of Free Parking at rear)

7pm for 7.30pm

Bucks Fizz (on arrival)

3 Course Meal

Ladies Gift

Raffle

Disco & Dancing until Midnight

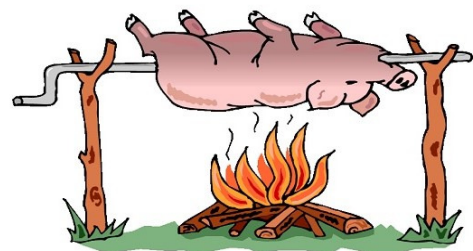
£65 pp

Dress: Men Black tie, Ladies Ball Gown / Cocktail Dress

RWBro John French, PGM will be in attendance



## SURREY AMD HOG ROAST



South-West Surrey Masonic Centre, Hitherbury Close, Guildford, GU2 3DR. Tel: 01483 568768

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2025 (Midday for 1pm) Drink on Arrival

**HOG ROAST- £25.00**

Various Salads - Choice of Sweets – Raffle

Tickets from: Kevin Brennan

26 The Street, Tongham, Farnham, Surrey. GU10 1DH

email: kevinbrennan33@gmail.com T: 01252 658471 or M: 07789 005336

A RAFFLE PRIZE WOULD BE APPRECIATED!

District of Surrey AMD

Sort Code 30-90-44

Account 00741683

*A date for your Diary – Next year's Hog Roast will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2026*