



Advance Allied Fair



A great night was had by all at Surrey Council No. 64 at Croydon. In line with the “we don’t have meetings, we have events” policy, the Council had an Australia themed meeting as one of the candidates, Peter Parker, is a former Royal Australian Engineer.

The evening began with the Order of the Grand High Priest with Mike Neville wearing the hat and conducting eight candidates through the ceremony, with Eric Trodd delivering the lecture. Mike also gave a PowerPoint explanation of the setting of the ancient Biblical battle of Four Kings v Five which features in the ritual.



Next came a double St Lawrence with two Peters - Parker and Killick - being introduced into the Allied Degrees by the Master, George Rodger, with Mike giving the lecture.





The hats continued with several brethren wearing a Crocodile.

The Deputy District Grand Prefect, Bob Tuthill, presented a Grand Council certificate in an informative manner to Wayne Tibbs - the new Surrey Second Grand Principal in the Royal Arch. Dundee style headdress.



The Festive Board was festooned with Australian flags and bunting, blow up kangaroos and a crocodile. The Brethren then sang Waltzing Matilda and the Wild Colonial Boy to set the atmosphere as they enjoyed Australian lamb and Pavlova (a favourite Aussie dessert picked by the candidate).

The monarch was toasted as the King of Australia, followed by two verses of Advance Australia Fair! The night continued after the final toast. Another fun filled event is promised on 1st June. Contact Mike Neville via mrmikeneville@aol.com for more information.

Thanks to Mike Neville and Bob Tuthill





The District Grand Council of Kent



The 2026 Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Kent took place on Saturday the 21st of February 2026 at the Franklin Rooms, Gillingham, Kent.



Brethren of the District of Kent 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 and coffee were being served.



Representing Surrey were the Deputy District Grand Prefect, W. Bro Bob Tuthill, W. Bro Dennis Leigh, W. Bro Bill Barr, W. Bro Ray Seeley, W. Bro Trevor Sadler, W. Bro Peter Jack, W. Bro Paul Fitzgerald, and Alan (Zimmo) Zimon.

There were many guests from other Districts, as well as the Past Deputy Grand Master R. W. Bro. Clive Robert Manuel; R. W. Bro. Noel Grout; and R. W. Bro David Jordan. Of course, the effervescent Past District Grand Prefect of Kent Peter Brockbank was also present.

The Right Worshipful District Grand Prefect, R. W. Bro. Brian Alan Ward, entered the Temple in procession attended by the Deputy District Grand Prefect and Officers of District Grand Council, and accompanied by distinguished guests.

District Grand Council was opened, and the District Grand Prefect was saluted. He then had much pleasure in welcoming all the guests and visitors from other Districts, as well as Heads of other Orders in Kent.

After the In Memoriam, the District Grand Secretary called the Roll of Councils of the District of Kent, and the District Grand Prefect received those Brethren admitted into the Order since the last meeting.

The Past Deputy Grand Master R. W. Bro. Clive Robert Manuel gave a very nice eulogy on W. Bro. Terry Bowler who had been his Deputy District Grand Prefect for 9 years when he was the District Grand Prefect of Kent.





After the regular business of District Grand Council had been concluded, the District Grand Prefect had much pleasure in reappointing Worshipful Brother Geoffrey Edward Whale, **P.G.S.D.**, as Deputy District Grand Prefect thanking him for all he has done to support him and the District over the past year. The Provincial Officers of the year were appointed and invested.



The District Grand Prefect then addressed District Grand Council. In his address he said he thanked the District Grand Secretary and the District Grand Director of Ceremonies and their teams for ensuring the day was such a success. He also thanked all the outgoing District Officers for their support during their year in office. He congratulated the newly appointed District Officers of the year and said he looked forward to their company in the months ahead.



He congratulated the four Brethren who were honoured with Grand Rank last year. He was delighted that they have been able to welcome twelve new members to the Order since the last District meeting.

He reminded everyone that their Craft, Chapter and Mark lodges also need to attract new members and urged everyone to promote the Craft where they can and to encourage Craft Masons from their own Lodges to join both Chapter and the Mark.

The success of their very own Kent Gridiron Magazine continued to grow. An idea that he said they stole shamelessly from the District of Surrey. He thanked everyone involved in its publication.



The Kent AMD website continued to get massive reviews with over 125,000 views last year.

He closed by saying that he is very proud of what they have achieved together over the last 12 months and is confident that with their continued support and enthusiasm for the Order they will continue to go from strength to strength.



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.

Bob Tuthill then undertook the photographic duties for Kent and after a few group photos with the recently appointed Officers, and members of the other Districts, we retired for refreshments.

The Brethren of the District Grand Council of Kent and their guests sat down to a most enjoyable lunch at the Franklin Rooms in Gillingham.

Thanks to Bob Tuthill



Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas

District Grand Council of Kent

A Visit to Riverside Council

I could not refuse my good friend when he invited me to the Riverside Council in the Allied Masonic Degree at Guildford. This order of five different elements is a fascinating collection of more than one part. It took me back to my November visit to Malta last year. The base part is the Degree of St Lawrence the Martyr, and we visited the church of St Lawrence the Martyr in Birgu, opposite Valletta.



We had a sad start to a lovely meeting with members and visitors remembering, with poignancy, the passing of its secretary a few weeks ago.

Our District Grand Prefect gave a very moving eulogy interspersed with appropriate lightness and very deep grief. Thank you, sir.

Bro. Miguel very ably moved into the chair of Secretary and the minutes were duly approved.

The main event was the progression of Bro. Andrew Lynch through the ceremony of The Grand Tilers of Solomon. For that we had to thank the very able W. Bro. Eric Todd who gave a very good lead in taking on the role of King Solomon. The whole ceremony was fascinating as it is something that each council does not do on a regular basis. We have five parts in this order. They can be done in any order and one can attend any council as well as one's own to be entitled to wear the appropriate group of medals. These are miniatures contained on a bar or a five-part single medal.



This is such a different order. I was quite taken with the effort required to put on the ceremony and the ability of the main figure, W. Bro. Eric Todd, who is not just a very pleasant person but also quite advanced in years. A remarkable man.



The Lodge of Grand Tilers of Solomon was closed and the Lodge of St Lawrence was resumed. The next item on the agenda was to install W. Bro. Stuart Hogarth as Worshipful Master. A very apt ceremony was carried out by W. Bro. Kevin Brennan and W. Bro. Stuart had a very enjoyable installation.



The Lodge was closed and we retired to the Festive Board. This was an excellent two course meal with the usual tea or coffee. We had raffle and I won nothing!!! Some kind person took pity on me and presented with a fine bottle of Cotes du Rhone.



The evening concluded and we wished each other farewell in the usual manner amongst friends.

This is a very engaging group of people, and I was so pleased to be invited as a guest. I look forward to the next meeting on the 1st of September. Maybe I shall see you there. I know you will be made very welcome.

Thanks to Michael Fenech