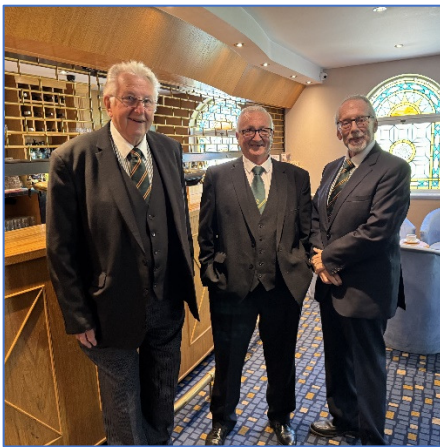




## Six Candidates for the Red Cross of Babylon



In April the Brethren of Southern Cross Council No XIII had another busy morning with six Candidates for the Degree of the Red Cross of Babylon. Present at the meeting was the District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French, the Deputy District Grand Prefect, W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, and the Past District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Ray Hussey.



The Degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr was opened by the Worshipful Master, V.W.Bro. Mik Barnes, P.G.Reg., who welcomed our District Grand Prefect, Deputy District Grand Prefect, and our Past District Grand Prefect to the meeting, wishing them an enjoyable morning.



After taking the minutes and investing those Officers not able to be present at the installation meeting the Lodge welcomed two joining members, Bro. Victor Pomeroy, from Dorset, and W.Bro. Mark Donovan.

The next item on the agenda was to ballot for Bro. David Thompson, and Bro. Peter Hyde, the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Middlesex.

The ballot proved successful and Brothers David and Peter were introduced, received and admitted brothers of St Lawrence the Martyr in an excellent ceremony by W.Bro. Richard Wileman and the Officers of the Council.



The Lodge of St Lawrence was then adjourned, and a Council of Red Cross of Babylon was opened by the Reverend Prelate, W.Bro. Bob Hancock, P.G.St.B.

Six Brethren were Constituted and Created as Knights of the Red Cross of Babylon. The representative candidate was Bro. Peter Hyde.



After Bro. Peter tried to cross the bridge, he was made a slave and taken before the Thrice Illustrious Sovereign, V.W.Bro. Mik Barnes, P.G.Reg., P.Dist.G.S.W., by the Master of Infantry, W.Bro. Alan White



The Lecture was given in an excellent manner by our District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French. It was a most impressive ceremony conducted by the members of Southern Cross Council, and one that the eight candidates will long remember.



After the ceremony was completed, the Candidates were congratulated by our District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French. The Council of the Red Cross of Babylon was closed; the Worshipful Master took his chair and resumed the Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr.





The photo above shows four RW Brethren in the Mark.

W.Bro. Alan White was declared Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, and W.Bro. Ray Seeley as Treasurer.

After the regular business of the Council had been completed the Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr was closed and we all retired to the bar for refreshments.

To round off a most enjoyable morning the Brethren of Southern Cross Council and their guests sat down to lunch at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.

## The Degree of the Red Cross of Babylon



This degree is of considerable antiquity, being closely associated with the Holy Royal Arch and the rebuilding of the second Temple of Jerusalem, with the candidate bearing the name of Zerubbabel.

The legend beginning in the days of Cyrus, King of Persia, continues through to the time of Darius and incorporates an outstanding feature of passing a bridge over a river which has particular significance. The degree culminates with an intricate debate taken from the First Book of Esdras which established the profound maxim 'great is truth'.

In Scotland this degree is found as the Babylonish Pass while in America it is annexed to the Templar grades. In both Ireland and America, it also constitutes the Order of Knight Masons. The theme of this degree is also found in the 15<sup>th</sup> Degree of the Scottish Rite and with one of the degrees of the Historical Dutch Degrees.





### AMD Hog Roast

Hosted by  
Riverside Council No 212



**South West Surrey Masonic Centre**  
Hitherbury Close, Guildford,  
GU2 3DR  
01483 568768

**Sunday 12th July 2026 (Midday for 1pm)**  
**Drink on Arrival**

**HOG ROAST- £25.00**  
Various Salads - Choice of Sweets - Raffle

Tickets from: Kevin Brennan,  
Dist. G.S.D.

26 The Street, Tongham, Farnham,  
Surrey. GU10 1DH  
[kevinbrennan3@gmail.com](mailto:kevinbrennan3@gmail.com)  
Tel: 01252 658474 or  
M: 07789 00336

















A RAFFLE PRIZE WOULD BE APPRECIATED

District Grand Council of Surrey  
web site:



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



# A busy afternoon for Kyngstun Council



On Tuesday the 12<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. Bob Soper, who welcomed everyone, and especially thanked V.W.Bro. Mik Barnes, **P.G.Reg.**, for standing in as Senior Warden at the last minute.



A Ballot took place for William Emms Brodie, which proved successful and the candidate was duly admitted as a Brother of St Lawrence the Martyr by the Worshipful Master, assisted by W.Bro. Barrie Selway who explained the signs and gave the lecture by. The Worshipful Master presented the candidate with a tie, napkin and pen from R.W.Bro. John French, as well as a copy of the District and Council Bylaws.



The Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr was then adjourned, and a Lodge of Grand Tilers of Soloman was opened by V.W.Bro. Eric Trodd, King Solomon; assisted by V.W.Bro Mik Barnes, Hiram King of Tyre; and WM Robert Soper, Hiram Abiff. Brothers Peter Parker and Bill Brodie were then Admitted into the Degree of Masons Elect of Twenty-Seven and Created Grand Tilers of Solomon.

The Lodge of Grand Tilers of Soloman was then closed, and a Council of St Lawrence the Martyr was resumed.

The Worshipful Master thanked V.W.Bros. Eric Trodd and Mik Barnes for their work in the Degree of Grand Tylers of Solomon, and everyone who had assisted in the St Lawrence the Martyr Degree.

There being only one nomination for each office, Bro. Wayne Lucas and W.Bro. Barrie Selway were declared elected as Worshipful Master and Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Lodge was closed, and the brethren of Kyngstun Council and their guests retired for refreshments before sitting down to a most enjoyable meal together.



*Thanks to Stuart Hogarth*

# The Installation Meeting of Surrey Hills Council

The Installation meeting of Surrey Hills Council No 205 was held on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of April at the Nutfield Masonic Centre. Present were our District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French, and our Deputy District Grand Prefect, W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, the Chaplain of the Council.



The Council was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Jim Smith, who welcomed everyone.

The Council then received our District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French, and several District Officers of the year.



R.W.Bro. John was welcomed by the Worshipful Master and took the Chair. He said how pleased he was to be visiting Surrey Hills Council again, especially for Bro. Wally's installation.

He introduced the District Officers thanking them for their support, took the minutes, and vacated the chair as the Council had some work to do.





The main item on the agenda was to Install Bro. Wally Maynard as Worshipful Master. This was done in a sincere manner by the Worshipful Master, assisted by W.Bro. Chris Eley who explained the signs.

The Worshipful Master then appointed and invested his Officers for the year.



Our District Grand Prefect was invited to present a Grand Council Certificate to Bro. Jeff Penfold. Which he did in an informative manner.

The Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr was closed, and the brethren of Surrey Hills Council and their guests retired for refreshments before sitting down to a most enjoyable meal together.





# The District Grand Council of Essex



The Annual District meeting and Investiture of the District of Essex in The Grand Council of the order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas was held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at their new venue Howard Hall Braintree Masonic Centre, Bocking End, Braintree, Essex



Also at the meeting was the Grand Junior Warden R.W.Bro. Tony Edwards, who has been present in that capacity at many District meetings this year.



Afterwards a very nice luncheon of Prawn and Crab parcel, Coronation Chicken Salad, followed by Strawberry and Chocolate Ice Cream with crispy wafers was heartily enjoyed by the Brethren, with wines and speeches to finalise a very enjoyable day.

*Thanks to Bob Tuthill*