



The Installation Meeting of Pride of Surrey Council

The Installation meeting of Pride of Surrey Council was held on Friday the 5th of June at Sutton. The Council welcomed our District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John V C French, and several District Grand Officers of the year. The afternoon started with refreshments in the bar and a chance to catch up with old friends.



The Council was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Steve Dingvean, who welcomed everyone and wished them an enjoyable afternoon.

After a report on the door the District Grand Prefect and his team entered, was offered the gavel, and took the Chair. He said how pleased he was to be at Pride of Surrey Council and how much he was looking forward to the afternoon. He introduced the District Grand Officers who had accompanied him, spoke about various events in the District, took the minutes, and vacated the Chair as the Council had work to do.



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

W.Bro. Len was congratulated by our District Grand Prefect who wished him an enjoyable year in the Chair, and charged him to bring in at least one candidate during his year

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

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



Farnham Council

A meeting of Farnham Council in the Allied Masonic Degree was held at Farnham on the 18th of May 2026.

As a result of the Surrey Craft Provincial meeting move, we found ourselves with a “paucity” of numbers! We carried on but in the morning!

With only five or six members able to attend, one of the mainstays of the meeting, our Festive Board, had to be cancelled. Did we have a good meeting, yes, we did, because, in true masonic spirit, we were so well supported by our Deputy District Grand Prefect, the ever smiling and ebullient Bob Tuthill, accompanied by Bill Barr, Mick Melllo, and Denis Leigh. Just enough to make it a viable meeting. It was suggested that perhaps our Deputy District Grand Prefect may give a talk, but we seemed to have enough agenda items to keep us interested and working.

Business was carried in the time-honoured tradition with the warrant being displayed, our Deputy District Grand Prefect welcomed and saluted, and minutes offered for member acceptance. With W.Bros. Mick Merllo as DC and Denis Leigh as Inner Guard, I understand the Installation of Bro Cliff Foster was sympathetically installed in the chair of King Solomon by our knowledgeable Immediate Past Master, W.Bro. John Ward. Then I was let back in as a brother! One day!

There was discussion about the date of future May meetings. I had received confirmation from the Craft Provincial Secretary that the Provincial Craft would be meeting that day so that clashed with our meeting for the foreseeable future. Various ideas were put forward including holding the meeting on a Saturday, and having a white table with a view to inviting wives, partners and non AMD masons to this festive board.

The secretary undertook to contact members to seek their views. Much discussion and much food for thought so off we trotted, in the beautiful weather, down to the Castle Hotel and pub. Five of us sat down and remarked on the admirable setting and the good food.

The pic below indicated the spirit of the gathering and the bonhomie engendered.



Thanks to Michael Fenech

District Grand Council of Surrey web site:

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



A brief history of the Allied Masonic Degrees

The roots of the Allied Masonic Degrees can be traced back to the late 18th century in England, where various Masonic degrees were being practiced outside mainstream Craft Lodges. The earliest written reference to the Allied Masonic Degrees we can find appears in Lodge records from the 1750s.



In the late 1870's it was agreed by the then Grand Secretaries of the Craft, Mark, and Ancient and Accepted Rite to establish a 'Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees, in England and Wales and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown'. This was established in 1879 and headquartered at Mark Masons' Hall.

The first Grand Master was the Rev. George Portal, who has a very old Council named after him in Newcastle. Another significant figure in the Allied development was George Oliver, a prominent Masonic author and also a clergyman. Oliver played a crucial role in organizing and standardizing the Allied Masonic Degrees. The vast majority of the 'additional' Degrees worked in England in the early part of the nineteenth century originally came under the patronage of Warrants granted by the 'Antients', who held that Craft Warrants entitled Lodges to work any Masonic Degree in which they had knowledge - and members available who could work it.

After the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813, various groups of Degrees were gradually organised into separate Orders each with their own governing body, such as the Mark in 1856. Nowadays these are known as "Companion Orders", but at one time they were called "Side Degrees" and it was common practice for a group of Brethren to take a Brother to one side after a Craft meeting and confer the Degree on him in a short ceremony, complete with passwords, pass grips, and so on.

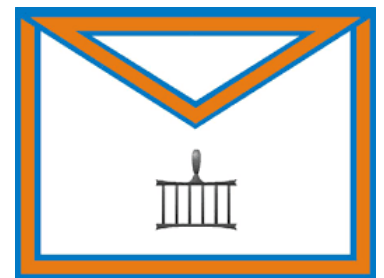
Initially the degrees of Grand High Priest, St Lawrence the Martyr, The Red Cross of Babylon and Knights of Constantinople placed themselves under the control of this body and by 1897 the Degrees of Grand Tilers of Solomon, one degree of the Secret Monitor and the Order of Holy Wisdom (Knight Templar Priest grades) had also been included, making a total of seven.

However, in 1923, a Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests for England was erected at Newcastle and the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees accordingly disclaimed control of this group of degrees. Eight years later, in 1931, the Grand Council agreed to stop working their single degree of the Secret Monitor, and so today private Councils of the Order are empowered to work the five degrees of St Lawrence the Martyr, The Grand Tilers of Solomon (or Masons Elect of 27), Knight (or Knights) of Constantinople, The Red Cross of Babylon, & The Holy Order of Grand High Priest.

As the AMD gained recognition, it expanded beyond England and the degrees attracted Masons seeking further esoteric knowledge and a deeper understanding of Masonic principles. The organization's structure included various degrees, each with its own unique symbolism and teachings, contributing to the rich tapestry of Masonic allegory. Its influence extended to the United States, where it found a receptive audience. Allied Councils were formed, and the organization continued to grow.

In 1933, the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America was established, providing a centralized authority for its various councils across the country.

Throughout the 20th century, the Allied maintained its commitment to preserving and promoting Masonic traditions. The organization attracted Masons interested in exploring additional degrees that complemented and also expanded upon the teachings of Craft Masonry.



The history of the Allied Masonic Degrees reflects the evolution of Craft Freemasonry over the past three centuries, from its beginnings as a collection of "unrelated" additional degrees, into which the Allied Masonic Degrees grew into a well-established organization with a global presence, attracting Masons eager to delve deeper into the mysteries and teachings of the Craft, particularly the principles of brotherhood, charity, and moral and intellectual development

Every Candidate who wishes to become a Member of the Allied must firstly be a Craft Master Mason, a Mark Master Mason, and a Companion of The Holy Royal Arch. (I say those in that order, as it is the logical progression for any Mason, in almost every Constitution, except England and Wales. That is because the UGLE controls Craft & Royal Arch).

In 1972 the Grand Council became known as the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees, and today there are around 200 Councils ranged under its banner.

Private Councils are only empowered to work the four degrees, plus the Holy Order of Grand High Priest, which are:-



ST LAWRENCE THE MARTYR. This is the Degree in which Candidates are admitted, and in which all the administrative work of the Council is conducted. It is based on an old operative ceremony which commemorates the Martyrdom of St Lawrence on a gridiron, around AD257, where legend has it that he taunted the Roman Emperor, Valerian, that he was roasted on one side; it was time to “turn me over” although it is more likely that he was beheaded, as that was the usual method of execution at that time. It teaches us the lesson of courage, fortitude and hospitality. He became the patron saint of cooks, chefs, and comedians, among others.

KNIGHT OF CONSTANTINOPLE. This is a fairly short but entertaining Degree set in the courtyard of the palace of the Emperor Constantine, during the 4th century AD. The conductor of the Candidate tells him that he is among the common people (inferiors) but the twist is that the Emperor Constantine had empowered the “so called” commoners to bestow the rank of Knight of Constantinople onto Candidates. The ceremony has drama and humour and teaches us the principal lesson of humility.

GRAND TYLERS OF SOLOMON. (or Masons Elect of 27) This shares similarities with another Masonic Degree, originally known as “Select Masters of 27” (now called Select Master in Cryptic Masonry) and tells the story of how a well-known craftsman unwittingly intrudes into a secret vault, under King Solomon’s Temple. This was a great embarrassment to King Solomon because he was warned that the vault was not securely guarded by King Hiram. He orders the execution of the stranger, but Hiram Abi intervenes by suggesting King Solomon should not act in haste but first confirm that the stranger’s story is true after which he is pardoned and admitted to their number. In this ceremony we learn about the dangers of carelessness and hastiness.

RED CROSS OF BABYLON. A very old Degree, with similar versions being worked with different names by other Orders around the world. It is set at the time of the building of the Temple at Jerusalem and includes references to Darius the Persian King, Darius, (who succeeded Cyrus) and Zerubbabel (represented by the Candidate). The degree is in three parts; the first part being set in the Grand Sanhedrim where they send Zerubbabel to Persia to resolve the stagnation of the building of the temple.

The second part involves Zerubbabel crossing the bridge between Babylon and Persia. This is profoundly mystical as in all major religions there is a tradition that the soul must cross the river of death, usually over a bridge. Anyone who has gone through the ceremony of the 30th degree in the Ancient and Accepted Rite will understand.

The third part is where Zerubbabel insists on an audience with King Darius, who recognises him from their youth. Zerubbabel is greatly honoured in the Persian Court and obtains a decree from Darius that the building work can continue. From this we are taught the importance of Fidelity, Integrity and Truth.

THE HOLY ORDER OF GRAND HIGH PRIEST. The only one of the original first four degrees to come under the jurisdiction of the newly formed Grand Council designated as an Order. A beautiful ceremony full of symbolism, closely associated with the early Holy Royal Arch, and several other Masonic Degrees. The main characters are Melchizedek, King of Salem, and Abram. It is in two parts; in the first part of the ceremony the Candidate is obligated and learns about the battle of the Kings; the four against five. He then represents Abram returning on his journey after the battle of the Kings. In the second part, Melchizedek shares bread and wine with Abram and afterwards anoints him, consecrates him, and then he is set apart for high duties and responsibilities in the Holy Office of Grand High Priest. It is profoundly spiritual. It encourages us to dedicate ourselves to the service of the Most High God, and our fellow men.

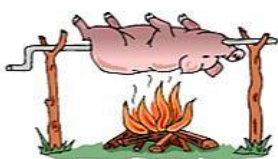


Surrey AMD Hog Roast
Sunday 12th July 2026 at the Guildford Masonic Centre



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
kevinbrennan93@gmail.com
T:01252 658471 or
M: 07789 003336



A RAFFLE PRIZE WOULD BE APPRECIATED

Surrey Mark Charity Ball

Saturday the 24th of October 2026 at the Wotton House Hotel, Dorking

The Provincial Grand Lodge of
Mark Master Masons of Surrey
requests the pleasure of your company at the

**Surrey Mark
Charity Ball**

Saturday 24th October 2026

ARRIVAL 6:30pm DINNER 7:00pm CARRIAGES Midnight

Wotton House Hotel & Country Estate
Guildford Road, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6HS

Drinks reception • Three-course dinner • Entertainment • Dancing

PRICE
£89
per person

DRESS CODE
Black Tie
Lounge suit alternative welcome

PRESENTED BY
**Surrey Mark
Benevolent Fund**

Family, friends & guests all warmly welcome

An evening of fine dining, entertainment and dancing at Wotton House

Surrey Mark Golf Day 2026

Thursday the 23rd of July at Banstead Downs Golf Club



**Provincial Grand Lodge of
Mark Master Masons of Surrey**

Charity Golf Day at Banstead Downs Golf Club
Burdon Lane, Cheam Surrey SM2 7DD
On Thursday 23rd July 2026

Tea/Coffee & bacon rolls from 11:00hrs, 1st tee from 12:00hrs
18 holes of Individual Stableford
One course meal after play with prizes
Non Masons will be made most welcome as guests

Cost for the day is £78.00 (meal only £23.00)

To book please e mail Steve Berkshire
(steve.berkshire@surreymarkmasons.com) confirming your name,
handicap, lodge number and details of any guests.

To confirm your booking, payment by BACS must be made to:

Provincial Mark GL of SURREY Benevolent Fund,
Sort code 30-93-74, Account 02602788

Please use your surname as the reference i.e 'A Smith GOLF'

The Charity Day is in aid of the Surrey Mark Benevolent Fund

Nigel's Nijmegen Walk 2026

July 2026 – in aid of the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance

**THE
NIJMEGEN
WALK**

**4 DAYS. 120 KM.
ONE PURPOSE.**

Walking for



**TOUGH WALK.
TRULY LIFE-SAVING.**

I'm taking on the Nijmegen Walk
to raise vital funds for KSS Air Ambulance
– because every step can
help save a life.

NO ONE
WALKS ALONE
WHEN LIVES
ARE AT STAKE

120 KM.
4 DAYS.
COUNTLESS
LIVES.

TOGETHER, WE CAN
BE THERE WHEN
IT MATTERS MOST.

PLEASE DONATE

Every donation – big or small –
helps save lives.

JustGiving

Scan to visit Nigel Feltham's
JustGiving Page

Thank you for your support!

WHY I WALK

They're there when
every second counts.

- 24/7**
Critical care
by air, day
and night
- 8 MINUTES**
Average time
from take-off
to patient
- 3 COUNTIES**
Covering Kent,
Surrey & Sussex
- PATIENT CARE**
Advanced critical
care at the
scene and en route
- FUNDED BY YOU**
We rely on
donations to
keep saving lives

EVERY STEP. EVERY DONATION. EVERY LIFE.
Thank you for helping us keep KSS Air Ambulance flying.



<https://www.justgiving.com/page/nigel-feltham-6#sharePage>