



The Silver Trowel Ceremony at Weald of Surrey Council

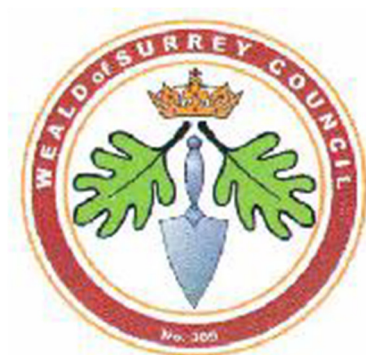


The Order of the Silver Trowel, or Thrice Illustrious Master’s Degree, is worked in Surrey once a year at the meeting of the Weald of Surrey Council No 309 and is bestowed by recommendation of the District Grand Master to the Most Illustrious Grand Master on members of the Order who have passed through the Chair and have shown particular merit and usefulness to their District.

Amongst all the Degrees in Freemasonry, it is one of the most poignant, involving the death of King David and the entrusting of his young son Solomon with the task of building the Temple that he had so long planned for.

Interestingly, this degree serves as a link between the Order of the Secret Monitor, the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord and the degrees of the Craft.

Recipients of the degree wear a sterling silver trowel on their apron and are entitled to wear a similar, but smaller, silver tiepin.



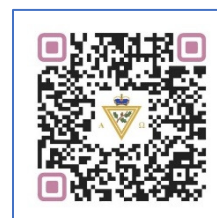
The Installation meeting of the Weald of Surrey Council No 309 took place at Nutfield in July. Present was our District Grand Master, R.Ill.Comp. Bill Caughie, and three other Right Illustrious Companions, including two Past District Grand Masters, R.Ill.Comps. Arnold Long and David Blackburn.

Before the meeting we gathered in the bar for refreshments and a chance to catch up.



District Grand Council of Surrey web site:

[Companion Orders of Surrey - Royal & Select Masters](#)





The Council was opened by the Thrice Illustrious Master, Ill.Comp. Leslie Grout, and our District Grand Master, R.Ill.Comp. Bill Caughie. was saluted with seven under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies, Ill.Comp. Alan Boniface, the District Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

A ballot was taken for several joining members. This proved in their favour and the Companions were welcomed into the Council by Ill.Comp. Leslie Grout and congratulated by R.Ill.Comp. Bill Caughie, our District Grand Master.



The next item on the agenda was to Install R.Ill.Comp. Bill Caughie as Thrice Illustrious Master.

The ceremony was conducted in an excellent manner by Ill.Comp. Leslie Grout.

Ill.Comp. Simon McCarthy was appointed and invested as Deputy Master and Ill.Comp. Les Smith was appointed and invested as Principal Conductor of the Work.



It was good to see our two Past District Grand Masters with us; R.Ill.Comp. Arnold Long and R.Ill.Comp. David Blackburn.

A Council of Select Masters was closed, and the Temple re-arranged for the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master.

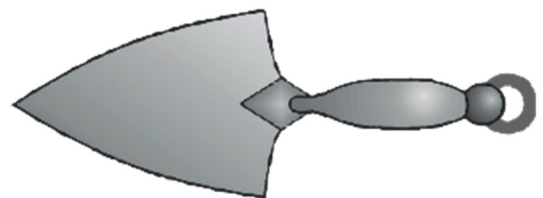
Ill.Comp. Paul Wicking had the good fortune to be the Candidate (Solomon) for this ceremony.

The ceremony for four candidates, was conducted in a faultless manner by Ill.Comp. Leslie Grout as King David.



Ill.Comp. Simon McCarthy was Zadok, the Priest, and Ill.Comp. Dave Harrison was Nathan, the Prophet. The role of Benaiah was performed by Ill.Comp. Leslie Smith, and the Director of Ceremonies was Ill.Comp. Alan Boniface.

The four candidates then received their Silver Trowels from the District Grand Master, and they thanked Ill.Comp. Leslie Grout for such an impressive ceremony.



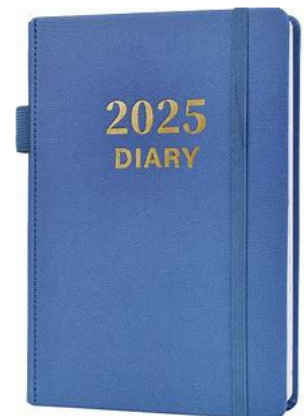


Our District Grand Master got together for a group photograph with the candidates, and we retired for refreshments before going into the dining room for a most enjoyable meal together at the Nutfield Masonic Centre.



Dates for your diary

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Surrey Council No 88 | 2 nd September 2025 | Deputy District Grand Master |
| Courtenay Council No 133 | 12 th September 2025 | Deputy District Grand Master |
| Warlingham Council No 161 | 4 th November 2025 | District PCW |
| Chelsea Council No 72 | 17 th December 2025 | District Grand Master |
| Pride of Surrey No 168 | 6 th March 2026 | District PCW |
| Waverley Council No 205 | 13 th March 2026 | District Grand Master |



A day out at the Seaside

A delegation from Surrey drove round the M25 to Southend-on-Sea to attend the Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Essex. The meeting was held at the Saxon Hall, which is a lovely Masonic Centre in the middle of an industrial estate.



Due to an accident on the Dartford Bridge it took us 3 hours to get from Surrey to Southend. It was worth it however as we received a very warm welcome from the District Grand Master, R.Ill.Comp. Bob Potts and the Companions of Essex.

There were many guests present, including many Right Illustrious Companions from other Districts, and Heads of other Orders in Essex.

At 3.45 the Companions were gathered in the Temple to receive a briefing from the District Grand Director of Ceremonies. The meeting was then called to order to receive the Right Illustrious Companions and the Heads of other Orders in Essex. The Companions were again called to Order to receive the District Grand Master who entered the Temple in procession, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Officers of the Year.

District Grand Council was opened in due form, and the District Grand Master was saluted with seven under direction of the District Grand Director of Ceremonies. The District Grand Master welcomed the honoured guests of the District and other Distinguished Companions.

After the regular business of District Grand Council had been concluded, the District Grand Master was pleased to appoint, obligate, and invest R.Ill.Comp. Tony Edwards, **P.G.Coun.**, as Deputy District Grand Master and Ill.Comp. Richard Bowyer, **P.G.Capt.Gd.**, as Principal Conductor of the Work. The District Grand Master then appointed and invested his Officers.

The District Grand Master addressed District Grand Council. He thanked all the guests for attending to support the District and thanked them for their hospitality when he and his team visited their Districts. He thanked all his Officers for their support over the past year.



District Grand Council was closed in due form and the Right Illustrious District Grand Master retired in procession greeting the Right Illustrious Companions and Honoured Guests on their way out.



We were then invited to a drinks reception where we had another opportunity to catch up with old friends. The Companions of the District of Essex and their guests enjoyed a convivial meal together before braving the M25 and the Dartford Crossing on the way home.



A new District Grand Master for London

The Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of London took place on Thursday the 26th of June at Mark Masons Hall, London. District Grand Council was honoured by the presence of the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick John Jones.



From 9.30 am the Companions of the District and their guests started arriving for coffee while the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team were busy rehearsing. It was good to see so many Companions from other Districts who came along to support the District of London, and of course the Grand Master and his team.

There were also many heads of other Orders in London attending to support the District Grand Master Designate, Ill.Comp. Simon White, P.A.G.D.C.



By 10.45 am everyone was seated in the Temple. Just after 10.50 am the Brethren were called to order to receive the distinguished guests, including Right Worshipful Brethren and past members of the District Executive.

The meeting was called to order by the District Grand Director of Ceremonies, to receive the Presiding Officer, V.III.Comp. Jules Greenwall, who opened District Grand Council in due form.

District Grand Council received the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick J Jones, the Installing Officer, escorted by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, V.III.Comp. Graham Seeman.

The Grand Master appointed his Officers to assist him in the ceremony and was then saluted with eleven under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.



The Installing Officer addressed the Companions and asked the District Recorder to call the Roll of Councils in the District. The Councils were well represented on this special day.



The Installing Officer addressed the brethren on the purpose of the meeting, to install Ill.Comp. Simon White as the District Grand Master for London. The Grand Director of Ceremonies and appointed Brethren retired in procession and re-entered the Council and introduced the District Grand Master Designate.

The Installing Officer called upon the Grand Recorder to read the Patent of Appointment and then addressed the District Grand Master Designate on the nature of his duties and the qualifications for the office.

After the Grand Chaplain had offered a prayer the District Grand Master Designate took his Obligation and was invested and installed in the Chair by the Grand Master. R.Ill.Comp. Simon White was then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The District Grand Master announced the appointment of Ill.Comp. David John Green, P.A.G.D.C., as Deputy District Grand Master and Ill.Comp. John Neville Johnston, P.G.Cond.C., as District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.

The District Grand Master addressed the Grand Master thanking him and his team for making this such a special day, not only for himself but all the Companions of the District of London.

The Grand Master said it was a delight to install R.Ill.Comp. Simon and wished him and the Companions of the District of London every success for the future. The Grand Master and his Assisting Officers then retired in procession.



District Grand Council was then Adjourned, and we retired for some well-earned refreshments before sitting down to a most enjoyable lunch together.





There was a most convivial atmosphere in the dining room. The Grand Master and the District Grand Master took wine with all the Companions. In proposing the toast to the Grand Master, the District Grand Master presented M.III.Comp. Kessick J Jones and his team with a small gift of Suffolk honey in appreciation of his support of the District of London. It was good to see R.III.Comp. Rufus, Grand Councillor of the Kennels, there with his driver, Mark.





After lunch District Grand Council was Resumed and the business of District Grand Council was completed. This included the appointment and investiture of the District Officers. It was a long but truly memorable day.

