

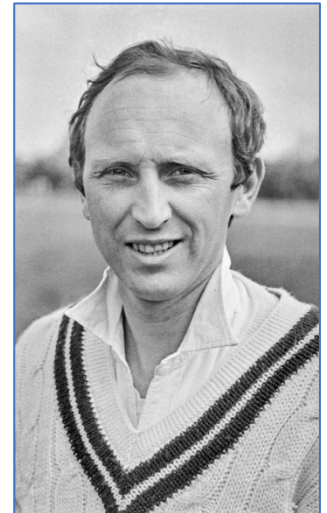


## R.III.Comp. Arnold Long, IX

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Right Illustrious Companion Arnold Long, our Past District Grand Master, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2026. Arnold, a retired Company Director, was born on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1940 in Cheam.

Arnold, affectionally known as "Ob", was well known as a former cricketer. A wicket-keeper and left-handed batsman, Arnold claimed 1046 victims from his 452 games over a 20-year career. He played for Surrey CCC as wicketkeeper in the first team from 1962 until 1975. Over that period, they won the Benson and Hedges Cup in 1974, the County Championship in 1971, and in 1964 at Hove versus Sussex Arnold caught eleven batsmen in the two innings. This was then a world record but has been equalled twice since then.

Arnold was then invited to join Sussex in 1976 for the twilight of his cricketing career, and what 5 years it was. Tony Greig was Captain, but in 1978 he was sacked by Sussex because of his involvement in the Packer affair and Arnold was asked to take over. They had a disappointing start to the season but eventually in September won the Gillette Cup, beating Somerset by 5 wickets.



Arnold joined Coulsdon Lodge of Perseverance in 1970 at the insistence of his godfather and uncle who were both Freemasons. Just prior to going in the chair in 1986 Arnold joined the Royal Arch, quickly followed by Mark, Royal Ark Mariner, Rose Croix and Knights Templar and, in the 1990's, many other Orders. Over the years Arnold said that he had been very lucky with the various ranks and jobs he has received in Freemasonry, but in particular some were very special and most enjoyable.

Grand Rank in both Craft and Royal Arch; Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Mark between 2004 and 2009; Grand Visitor in the OSM in 2014, Deputy Grand Marshal in the Red Cross of Constantine for two years; Provincial Grand Summus for the Province of Surrey in the Scarlet Cord from 2020 to 2024; and our District Grand Master between 2005 and 2013

R.III.Comp Arnold was Chosen as a Select Master in in May 1992 and was Thrice Illustrious Master in 1998. He was a member of seven Councils and a Founder of three of these. He joined Grafton Council of Anointed Kings in 2012 and was honoured with the rank of Custodian of the IX Arch in 2023.

Just after Arnold was installed as the Provincial Grand Summus in the

Order of the Scarlet Cord by the Grand Summus joined another Pride of Surrey Council Companion. Wally Maynard, and me in completing the Scarlet Cord Alzheimer's Challenge organised by R.Dist.Comp. Phil Clare, the Provincial Grand Summus for Kent.

Looking back, this was especially poignant as Arnold went on to develop Alzheimer's a few years later. He was very open and stoic about it and it did not stop him going to meetings, which he was able to do with the assistance of many of his Masonic friends.

Sadly, Arnold's health deteriorated rapidly necessitating a stay in hospital mid-December, coming out just before Christmas, It was a blessing that he was able to spend Christmas with his family, but sadly he took a turn for the worse on Boxing Day when he was readmitted into hospital. Arnold passed away peacefully on New Year's Day with his family by his side.

I was privileged to have known Arnold for many years. We first met in the Royal Arch Provincial Office over 25 years ago and developed a lasting friendship. It was his fault I joined our Order.

Right Illustrious Companion Arnold Long was a pleasure to know during his lifetime, a man who enjoyed life, his family, and his Freemasonry.

*Ill.Comp. Chris Eley, P.G.Swd.B., Assistant District Grand Recorder*



# The 75th Anniversary of Chelsea Council

On Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 Chelsea Council celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by choosing two candidates to join our Order in the presence of R.Ill.Comp. William A Caughie, District Grand Master, and several Provincial Officers of the year.

We met up beforehand for refreshments before going into the temple.



Chelsea Council was opened by the Thrice Illustrious Master, R.Ill.Comp. Mik Barnes, who welcomed all the guests and visitors. After a report on the door, the District Grand Director of Ceremonies, Ill,Comp. Stephen Hall, entered and advised the Thrice Illustrious Master that the District Grand Master was outside and demanded admission to the Council.



The District Grand Master entered in procession attended by the Provincial Officers of the year, was welcomed by the Thrice Illustrious Master and offered the gravel.

He said how delighted he was to be at Chelsea Council's 75th anniversary and spoke about what was happening in the world 75 years ago when the Council was Consecrated. He then took the minutes and vacated the chair as the Council had some work to do.



The District Grand Master was invited to present Silver Trowel Certificates to Illustrious Companions Mark Donovan and Andrew Sales.

A ballot was then taken for David William Lesley Read and Kemble Van Nagan, which proved in their favour.

Brothers David and Campbell were Chosen as Select Master in an excellent manner by the Thrice Illustrious Master and his officers. They were congratulated by the District Grand Master.

We then received a brief resume of the history marking the 75th anniversary of Chelsea Council number 72. The Thrice Illustrious Master said that copies of this history would be available to everyone after the meeting and thanked Illustrious Companion Chris Eley for his assistance with the layout and printing.





The council was then closed and the Thrice Illustrious Master accompanied by the District Grand Master retired from the Council.



After the customary photographs we retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to a most enjoyable meal at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.



District Grand Council of Surrey web site:

