



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.III.Comp. Bill Caughie.



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





The Council was opened by the Thrice Illustrious Master, R.III.Comp. Bill Caughie, our District Grand Master.



A ballot was taken for several joining members, including some taking their Silver Trowel later in the afternoon. This proved in their favour and the Companions were welcomed into the Council by R.III.Comp. Bill Caughie. One joining member was V.III.Comp. Robert Scott, Grand Organist. He was especially welcomed into the District by our District Grand Master who immediately gave V.III.Comp. Robert a Field Appointment to District Grand Organist.



The next item on the agenda was to Install Ill.Comp. Simon McCarthy, Deputy District Grand Master, as Thrice Illustrious Master.

The ceremony was conducted in an excellent manner by R.III.Comp. Bill Caughie.



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

After the Officers for the year had been appointed and invested the Council of Select Masters was closed, and the Temple re-arranged for the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master.



Ill.Comp. John Coleman had the good fortune to be the Candidate (Solomon) for the ceremony.

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



Ill.Comp. Chris Hatton was Zadok, the Priest, and Ill.Comp. Leslie Smith was Nathan, the Prophet.

The role of Benaiah was performed by Ill.Comp. Stephen Hall, 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 and the principal Officers of the Council 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.



Ill.Comp. Graham Rawlinson's wife brought along some jars of home-made marmalade that she makes and sells for donations towards the Mark Benevolent Fund. She was joined by Ian Clark, the President of the MBF.



An Executive Visit to Weyside Council

On Monday the 20th of July Weyside Council met under the welcome air-conditioning of the South West Surrey Masonic Centre in Guildford.



The Thrice Illustrious Master, once restored to his seat, conferred the Degree of Super Excellent Master on Brian Unwin, assisted by Ill.Comp. Rawlinson who presented the signs.

The Council agreed to some charitable donations, to be voted on next time. The Council then closed, with refreshing drinks before dinner.

As well as the main business of the evening, the Council was honoured with an Official Visit by the Deputy District Grand Master, Illustrious Companion Simon McCarthy.

The attending District Director of Ceremonies remembered that this was a Cryptic meeting, and the Deputy District Grand Master was saluted with Five.



Thanks to Andrew Banks

Dates for your diaries



In conjunction with the Red Cross of Constantine degree Surrey Royal and Select Master sare holding a Black Tie Social Event.

On **Saturday the 14th of November 2026** at Nutfield Masonic Centre Keith Hayman, a member of 10CC, Musical Director to Cliff Richards, Music Arranger, and Guitar player for over 30 years. A 3-course dinner with music and dancing afterwards is not to be missed.

Full details from: Alan Boniface Asst DistGDC: bonniepets1@yahoo.co.uk

Following last year's success, we are holding a Christmas Carvery in the York Suite at Surbiton.

On Sunday the 6th of December 2026 at Glenmore House, Surbiton.

Only 70 tickets for this amazing Christmas Lunch will be available so it is important to book early.

Full Details in due course from: Stephen Hall, District Recorder:

stephen@sjhconsulting.co.uk 07534 282786



Annual Meeting Change

The Annual meeting in 2027 will be held on **Saturday the 10th of April** at Glenmore House Surbiton. The change of date is necessary as our usual 4th Saturday in March falls in the middle of the Easter Holiday.

Make a note in your diary's NOW

District Grand Council of Surrey web site:

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

