



A Double Ceremony for Andy Fox

In October Chertsey Abbey Council of Royal & Select Masters and Runnymede Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees met on the same afternoon at Surbiton.



A ballot was taken for Brother Andy Fox as a Candidate for Admission. This proved in his favour and Brother Andy was admitted to the Degree of St Lawrence the Martyr by W.Bro. Derek Williamson and the Officers of the Council.



The afternoon started off with a meeting of the Chertsey Abbey Council of Royal & Select Masters No. 254. After the Council was opened by the Acting Thrice Illustrious Master, R.III.Comp Mik Barnes, he invited V.III.Comp. Michael Flint, to take the Chair to admit as a Select Master Brother Andy Fox.

After changing into our Allied Masonic Degrees regalia, we re-entered the Temple for the meeting of Runnymede AMD Council No. 191. A Degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr was opened by W.Bro. Chris Lewis, who welcomed the Provincial Officers present.



W.Bro. Chris Eley presented Bro. Andy with an AMD napkin, pen and tri-fold leaflet on behalf of our District Grand Prefect telling him he now has to get a candidate into Runnymede Council.

The next item on the agenda was to Instal Brother Emmannel O Ogunseye-Babejide as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was conducted by W.Bro. Chris Lewis.

After the Council was closed the Companions of Chertsey Abbey Council and the Brethren of Runnymede Council and their guests sat down to a most enjoyable festive board at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.



A gate-crasher in Guildford..where's the Tiler?

Back in April at Farnham Council, together with John Ward, I was Introduced, Received and Admitted as Brother of St. Lawrence the Martyr and then further Admitted as a Knight of Constantinople. The plan was that John and I plus one or two others would receive the next Degree, that of the Grand Tilers of Solomon at the November meeting of the Council.



Without giving too much away, this Degree can be summarized as being very similar in character to the degree of Select Master in the Order of Royal and Select Masters and relates the story of the accidental intrusion of a craftsman into the secret vault of the Temple, where the three Grand Masters determine his fate.

Having been made aware that Riverside Council No.212 in Guildford was carrying out this degree, I decided to put the accidental intrusion to the figurative test and gate-crash the meeting!



Rest assured, although the Candidates initially gained unauthorised access to the secret vault, everything ended well and after deliberation, we were Admitted as Grand Tilers of Solomon.

As already mentioned, several members of the Council were absent but that did not detract from the quality of the ritual, especially the guest performance by W.Bro. Barrie Selway of the Lecture.

After customary refreshments, Guildford Masonic Centre's caterers provided a festive board of their usual standards.

For a number of reasons, several members of the Council were absent, including the Worshipful Master, Paul Kerswell, but amongst those present was the District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French, who was welcomed in due form by the Immediate Past Master and acting Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Graham Rawlinson.

Bro. William Barr was elected as Master for the forthcoming year, while W.Bro. Graham Beer was elected as Treasurer, allowing the long-suffering incumbent, V.W.Bro. Lionel Mee a well-deserved retirement.

The other candidate, Gary Raggett, and I were then asked to leave the Council. A Lodge of Grand Tilers of Solomon was then opened.



Riverside Council No.212 meets at the South West Surrey Masonic Centre in Guildford on the 3rd Thursday in February (Installation), and the 1st Tuesday in September.

Thanks to Andrew Banks for the article and photographs.