



Four Grand High Priests at Farnham Council

At the May meeting of Farnham Council, four Candidates were Admitted and Anointed, Consecrated and set apart to the Holy Order of Grand High Priest.



The ceremony was conducted by V.W.Bro. Eric Trodd, and the lecture given by W.Bro. Barrie Selway.



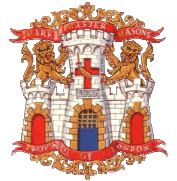
Afterwards, the District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French, presented the outgoing Master, W.Bro. George Deacon, with a bottle of Bombay Sapphire Gin to commemorate his successful year as Master, which saw three members being Received into the Order.

To end a most enjoyable meeting we retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to nice meal together at the Farnham Masonic Hall.

Article and photos by Andrew Banks



A Mark day out in London



It was good to see that everyone had brought along their AMD napkins to show our Support for the Allied Masonic Degrees.

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of London took place on Thursday the 13th of July at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street.

Several Surrey Allied Brethren attended the meeting including our District Grand Prefect – who was spotted drinking coffee in Wetherspoons before the meeting.



In the meantime, Alan and I were looking to see where we were dining amongst the several hundred diners.



There were honoured guests from many Provinces, and other Masonic Orders in London, including our District Grand Prefect attending the London Mark Annual Meeting for the first time as the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Surrey.



All-in-all it was an excellent day, and a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.



From around the other Companion Orders



In July the E L J Smith Conclave in the Order of the Secret Monitor installed Wy.Bro. David Blackburn, the District Grand Master in the Order of Royal and Select Masters, as their Supreme Ruler.



Here we have David being congratulated by four Heads of other Orders in Surrey. Arnold Long, Provincial Grand Summus

in the Order of the Scarlet Cord; Colin Beerling, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler in the Order of the Secret Monitor; John French, Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Master Masons, and District Grand Prefect of the Allied Masonic Degrees; and Simon McCarthy, Intendent-General in the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine.



Also in July the Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord Province of Surrey held their Annual Meeting.

Present were many Heads of Surrey Orders including our District Grand Prefect, Dist.Comp. John French.



The meeting was attended by the Assistant Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Howard S Markham, seen here with our Past District Grand Prefect, V.Dist.Comp. Ray Hussey.



Godalming Council Opens Its Doors

On Friday 21st July, Godalming Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees opened its doors to interested and prospective Brethren to hear a lecture on the Allied Masonic Degrees by V.W.Bro. Mik Barnes. Present was our District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French.



But first to business... Following the untimely passing of the Worshipful Master Hugh Johnstone, the Immediate Past Master, W.Bro. Ray Seeley, occupied the chair and the Lodge was opened in due form. The Immediate Past Master gave a heartfelt eulogy in respect of W.Bro. Hugh.

The elections for the subsequent year were in favour of W.Bro. Graham Rawlinson (*who is collecting Chairs across multiple orders*) as Master-elect, and W.Bro. Michael Town as Treasurer-elect.



The District Grand Prefect then presented Bro. Trevor James Sadler with his Grand Council Certificate – which then became a useful prop, later in the evening. At this point, the District Grand Prefect let slip that Bro. Trevor has accepted his invitation to take on the role of District Grand Secretary.



The Council was then closed and after the customary photographs the Brethren briefly retired to the bar to greet the guests for the lecture.



After the short interlude, the brethren and guests reconvened in the Temple. After an introduction to the Order by the District Grand Prefect, the floor was handed to V.W.Bro. Mik Barnes for the main event.



The venerable Mik presented his paper on the distinctive Five Degrees of the AMD, *Variety is the Spice of Life* to great acclaim.



Those present, of all distinctions, found the talk informative; indeed, the event achieved its primary purposes, as several of the guests indicated that they would be joining... so Godalming Council (*and perhaps others*) will directly benefit from the evening.



VARIETY IS THE GREAT ATTRACTION OF THE ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES

An introduction to the Allied Masonic Degrees

The assembled brethren then retired to the bar for further refreshments and dinner, while the other Dep.D.G.P. (*Deputy District Grand Photographer*) maintained a record of proceedings...

Article and photos by Andrew Banks, Dep.D.G.P.

Anyone who keeps learning stays young...

I have a something of a passion for old vehicles. When I saw the above quote from a very famous automotive genius, I was resolved. What caused all this?

I was invited to Godalming one recent Friday evening to attend an “Allied Degrees” presentation. I was so pleased to see a good number of Mark men in attendance many with green ties. There were five of us who were guests.



The members of the Allied degrees had a short meeting and then we were invited in and given an erudite and interesting presentation by V.W. Bro. Mick Barnes about the five degrees which go to make up the Order.

It was somewhat unusual in that they did not seem to be connected but were the result of actions taken some three hundred years ago and their first main man was none other than George Portal who was the Mark Grand Master in whom I have a serious interest.

Those degrees are based on the stories of

- **St Lawrence the Martyr** - fortitude and humility.
- **Knights of Constantinople** – humility and universal equality.
- **Grand Tilers of Solomon** – the great danger of carelessness and hasty judgement.
- **The Red Cross of Babylon** – the importance of fidelity, integrity and truth.
- **Grand High Priest** - service and dedication

These worthwhile attributes, we were told, are put across to candidates in warm and interesting ceremonies which not only take place in one’s own Council but can be addressed in in other centres at a time chosen by the likes of me and you.

Would I give this degree a try? I think so in that I want to learn and was assured that I would not have to learn too much ritual unless I chose to do so. We meet two or three times a year and would be in the company of several fine men whom I respect and in whose company I would feel comfortable.

The opportunity to meet a new group of men is an added advantage, especially with there being many Mark men at the different centres. What’s not to like?

Anyone who keeps learning stays young.

By Michael Fenech following the presentation on the Allied Masonic Degrees by V.W.Bro. Mik Barnes at Godalming Council on the 21st of July 2023

