



First joint meeting of Runnymede Council 191 and Chertsey Abbey Council No 254

My Official visit to Runnymede Council No 191 on Friday 1st October was, as always, a very enjoyable afternoon and evening.

This unit is unique in Surrey as the only unit that shares its meeting dates with a Royal and Select Masters Council, Chertsey Abbey Council No 254. They even have a unique tie with a combination of relevant colours.

The District Grand Master for the Surrey Royal and Select Masters, R.III.Comp. David Blackburn, allowed me to wear the wrong tie for his visit, albeit it was the correct tie for the Allied!



For the Allied Official Visit I was, very kindly, accompanied by 8 active officers which was appreciated by one and all.

Both units proclaimed their Masters, who were remaining in office for a further year.

Again, a unique combination in that R.III.Comp. Chris Lewis, was Master of Chertsey Abbey and his son Gareth was Master of Runnymede Council.



R.III.Comp. Chris gave us an interesting and informative lecture on the history of the Cryptic Degrees.

Afterwards a very enjoyable and unique Festive Board with both toast lists used and responses from myself and the District Grand Master, with no Fire given to avoid problems for anyone not in both Orders.

What a delightful way to re-start the Runnymede /Chertsey Abbey combo after such a long wait. Runnymede Council No 191 (*Allied Masonic Degrees*) and Chertsey Abbey Council No 254 (*Royal and Select Masters*) are looking for new candidates and joining members to swell their membership. If anyone has some free dates in their diaries and would like to join, please contact the Council secretary for both units - Eric Trodd (eric.trodd@talktalk.net or 07778 812333) who would be delighted to hear from you, and appreciative of any support.



Meeting dates for both Councils at the Surbiton Masonic Centre are on the 1st Wednesday in February, 2nd Wednesday in May, and the 1st Friday in October.

Visits to Surrey Orders

In September, Emmaus Preceptory No. 446 held their first Installation meeting since April 2019 at Surbiton Masonic Hall. Joining them was V.E.Kt. Stephen J Warwick, the Great Sub-Prior of Malta.



Also in September, our other DGP (*District Grand Photographer*) was Proclaimed as Worshipful Commander of the Surrey Enthroned Commanders Lodge No 1219 for a second year.

There to congratulate him was our District Grand Prefect and District Grand Secretary.

Later that afternoon John French was installed into the Chair of the Surrey Installed Masters Lodge No. 1219 by VW.Bro. Brian Berry in an excellent manner.



Here we have our District Grand Prefect, District Grand Secretary, and District Grand Director of Ceremonies, who all wished John a most successful and enjoyable year in the Chair of this premier Mark Lodge.



As is now an established custom in Mark Lodges, the Brethren in the Allied Masonic Degrees wore their AMD napkins at the Festive Board.

Southern Cross XIII Installation Meeting

In September, the Brethren of Southern Cross Council No XIII had a very busy morning with the Installation of a new Master followed by a Degree of Knights of Constantinople. Present at the meeting was our District Grand Prefect, RW.Bro. John French and seven other Heads of Surrey Orders.



A Degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Richard Baker, Dist.G.S.W. After taking the minutes the Council voted on a proposition to welcome as a re-joining member, V.W.Bro. Eric Trodd, P.G.Reg., and as joining members, W.Bro. Nigel Thomson, Dist.G.Stwd, (Sussex), and Bro. Alan White. This was carried unanimously. The Worshipful Master welcomed them into the Council and our District Grand Prefect welcomed them into the District.

The Treasurer, W.Bro. David Willmott, P.Dist.G.S.D., proposed that the sum of £1,000 be taken from the Benevolent Fund and donated to the Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival. This was approved and the Worshipful Master had much pleasure in presenting a cheque to R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Surrey. R.W.Bro. Ian thanked the Brethren of Southern Cross Council for their generous donation.

After the accounts were presented and confirmed, Bro. Chris Eley was elected as Master for the ensuing year. Bro. Chris was Obligated and Installed into the Chair of Southern Cross Council by W.Bro. Richard Baker in a very sincere manner.

Chris appointed Bro. Denis Leigh as his Senior Warden and Bro. Colin Beerling as his Junior Warden.



The Council of Knights of Constantinople was closed, and a Lodge of St Lawrence was resumed. After the regular business of the Council was concluded and the customary photographs taken the Brethren of Southern Cross Council and their guests sat down to a very convivial lunch at the Guildford Masonic Hall.



A Lodge of St Lawrence was then adjourned, and a Council of Knights of Constantinople was opened.

Bro. John Massey was Constituted and Created as Knight of Constantinople by W.Bro. Chris Eley, assisted in an excellent manner by W.Bro. Bob Hancock who gave the Lecture.

