

## A party atmosphere at the Surrey Mark Cha Di Da

The 2022 Surrey Mark Cha Di Da was held on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> of October at the Reigate Manor Hotel. Present were members of many Orders in Surrey, along with their family and friends.



Once again Wendy and Alan Brockwell arranged an excellent dinner, with live entertainment from by Craig Jefferson as Elvis and dancing to Jahson Nembhard (*formerly of the Drifters*)



After dinner the party moved into full swing with balloons and party poppers being let off.

All too soon it was time to stop dancing and make our way to the bar to continue our conversations.



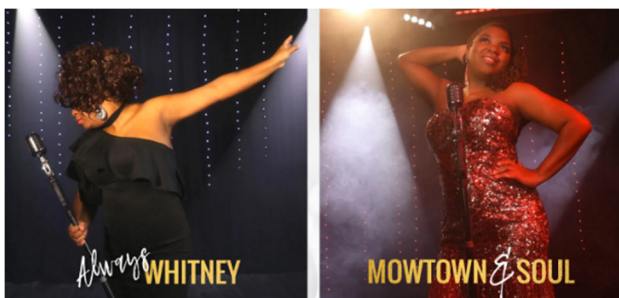
We are now looking forward to the OSM Christmas Party at the same venue on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December.....



..... where we will be entertained by Always Whitney + Mowtown & Soul, two fantastic shows in one night from Tashara Forrest

For details see:

<http://www.orderofthesecretmonitor.co.uk/news-210.html>





# The Annual Convocation of Grand Conclave



Despite the revised rail timetables due to the cancelled rail strikes the day before, and a separate rail strike on the London Underground network, a good number of Brethren managed to find ways of getting to Freemasons' Hall on Thursday to make the most of the Annual Convocation of the Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor.



The Grand Supreme Ruler, M.Wy.Bro. Andrew Christopher Sweeney, was joined on the dais by R.Wy.Bro. G. Llewellyn Gill, A.G.S.R., and M.Wy.Bro. Paul Raymond Clement, acting as Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler, as the travel disruption had prevented R.Wy.Bro. James Robert Hodge, Dep.G.S.R., from attending.



Following the general business on the Agenda, M.Wy.Bro. Clement was afforded the honour and pleasure of proposing the re-election of the Grand Supreme Ruler, which was seconded by the President of the Executive Committee, R.W.Bro. Charles Aspinell, and received with acclamation by the Brethren.



It was then time to Install a new Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler and the Grand Director of Ceremonies presented R.Wy.Bro. Keith Berwick Ferguson to the Grand Supreme Ruler, who paid tribute to Keith's well known Masonic background, particularly as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and Provincial Grand Summus for South Wales and Monmouthshire, O.S.M. and Scarlet Cord respectively, before proceeding to Obligate, Invest and Install him.

R.Wy.Bro. G. Llewellyn Gill was then re-appointed as Assistant Grand Supreme Ruler. This was followed by the investiture of Active Grand Officers, and those receiving first appointment to, and promotion in, Grand Rank.



**Congratulations to those Surrey Brethren who received their first appointment today.** V.Wy.Bro. Louis M Keats was reappointed as Grand Chaplain; and Wy.Bro. Steve Harvey and Wy.Bro. Barrie Selway received first appointments to Past Grand Standard Bearer.

The Grand Supreme Ruler then addressed the Brethren, thanking them for the effort they had made to overcome transport difficulties to support the meeting.

He spoke of the special nature of our Order, and how important this was to highlight this when talking to those who aren't yet members. The fraternal friendship that exists between Brethren of our Order is quite different to that which exists elsewhere in Freemasonry and has long been the thread which binds us so tightly to the Order.

There was then a brief resumé of the activities of the past 12 months before the G.S.R. welcomed the Heads of other Masonic Orders, visitors from overseas, and Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers Installed in the past year.

M.Wy.Bro. Sweeney then reminded Brethren of the importance of the Match Funding scheme of the O.S.M. Fund of Benevolence, which reviews applications to match funding by Provinces/Districts and Conclaves up to £1,000 per Province/District per year, and encouraged Brethren to make use of the scheme, as well as to carry on supporting it with donations. ***You can read more about how the fund distributes money on the back page.***

He then spoke of the retirement of R.Wy.Bro. James Robert Hodge as Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler and his service to the Order, first as Assistant Grand Supreme Ruler from 2015-2019, and since 2019 as Deputy.



The Grand Supreme Ruler then began to speak of the importance of the link between the O.S.M. and the Scarlet Cord and turned his attention to the Grand Summus of that Order, Ian Stanley Currans, and took him completely by surprise by asking the G.D.C. to present Ian to him so he could appoint him to the honour and dignity of Grand Chancellor of the O.S.M.

Once invested, there was an opportunity for R.Wy.Bro. Currans to respond, which he did, only to say that those who knew him seldom found him lost for words but, on this occasion, he was speechless.



This was a fitting and happy end to what had been a very enjoyable meeting and, following the closing of Grand Conclave and the singing of the National Anthem, the Brethren retired from the Grand Temple, many going next door to enjoy the after proceedings and that warm and familiar friendship so special to this Order.

# Farewell to our Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler



After the service we all gathered in the Middleton Sports Club in Bogner Regis for refreshments and to meet Jen and the family.

The funeral of our Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. Laurence (*Laurie*) James Young, was held at St Mary's Church, Felpham, on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

There were many Brethren and Companions from the Masonic Orders in Surrey which showed the affection and high esteem we all held for Laurie. It was a beautiful service with moving tributes from family and friends.



## The OSM Fund of Benevolence

The OSM Fund of Benevolence was founded at the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and in December 1899 it was formally opened with a credit balance of seventeen guineas. The Fund annually distributes thousands of pounds to Secret Monitor Petitioners and local charities through its Match Funding Program.

At the Annual Convocation of Grand Conclave, the President of the Executive Committee announced the match-funding grants that have been awarded by the Trustees of the OSM Fund of Benevolence for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2022.

This totalled £14,600 and included the sum of £600 awarded to the Sutton Women's Centre in Surrey.



You can be a Steward of the OSM Benevolent Fund for as little as £25. The Patronage Collection goes right up to Grand Patron Gold for the sum of £750.