

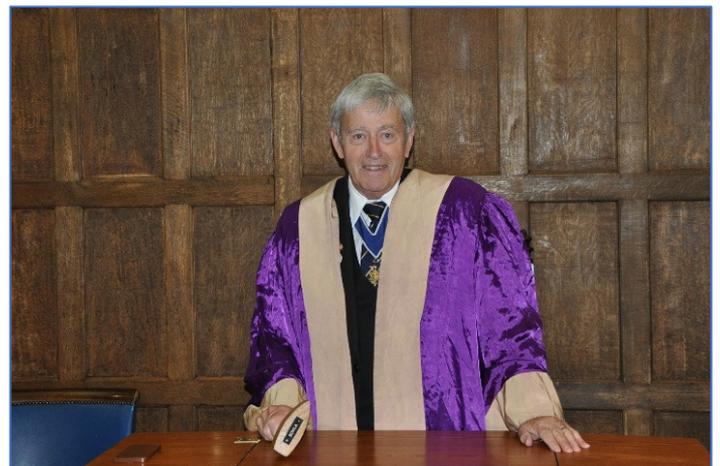
The Installation Meeting of Pride of Surrey Conclave

The Installation meeting of Pride of Surrey Conclave No 118 was held on the 27th of June 2023 at Sutton Masonic Hall. The Conclave was honoured by a visit from the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Ian Bloodworth, and several Provincial Officers of the year.



Unfortunately, the Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Jeff Sykes, was unwell so Wy.Bro. Chris Eley, who had gone along to install Bro. Dave Harrison as Supreme Ruler, offered to act as Supreme Ruler and opened the Conclave.

The Deputy Supreme Ruler entered under an Arch of Steel was welcomed by Wy.Bro. Chris and offered the gavel. He said how good it was to be with everyone at Pride of Surrey, introduced the Provincial Officers present, and took the minutes.



It was fitting that the first time the new Provincial Sword had been used at an Official Visit was to Pride of Surrey Conclave.

This was because the Sword was presented to the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler by Wy.Bro. Jeff Sykes on behalf of Pride of Surrey Conclave at the meeting of Surbiton Conclave earlier in the month.





Wy.Bro. Dave was afterwards congratulated by the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler who wished him a successful and enjoyable year.

The Conclave was closed and after the customary photographs were taken we retired to the Miller Bar for refreshments before sitting down to a most enjoyable meal at the Sutton Masonic Hall.

The main item on the agenda was to install Bro. Dave Harrison as Supreme Ruler. This was done in a very personal way by Wy.Bro. Chris Eley.



The Role of the Visiting Deacon



The Order of the Secret Monitor, which developed from a still more ancient Degree, is the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan and is in its way older than Freemasonry itself. Its principles and its watchwords being founded upon those grand examples set by two worthy Hebrew Princes around 1000 BC as recorded in the Jewish history of the Bible.

History tells us that the "Order of David & Jonathan" was taken to the New World in or about 1658 by Dutch settlers. The inauguration meeting of Grand Conclave, under the banner of Alfred Meadows Conclave No. 1 was held at the Hotel Victoria, London, SW on 15 July 1887.

This is a Society framed upon the principles of self-sacrifice; of mutual trust, watchful Brotherly care; of warning in time of danger; solace in time of sorrow; and skilful and effective friendly advice in every circumstance of life:

A Society that meets a great and crying need in human affairs and is calculated to benefit those who act up to its tenets.

Within an OSM Conclave the four Visiting Deacons have a unique role in Freemasonry with the responsibility of communicating with the members between each meeting.

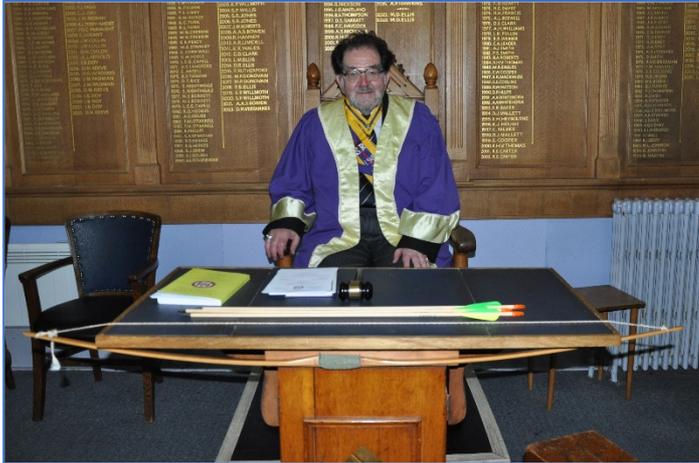
This is to put into practice the teachings and precepts of that are communicated in the three degrees; these are to make friendship and fidelity with the fundamental aim to show consideration, concern, and care for other brethren.

At each Conclave meeting, the Visiting Deacons report on their contact with the absent brethren. This Order is truly a friendly one, relying on the response from all its members to the dedicated contact by the Deacons.

A Ceremony of Mourning at the E L J Smith Conclave

In July the E L J Smith Conclave No 613 carried out a demonstration of a Conclave of Mourning. Present at the meeting were our Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling, and our Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Ian Bloodworth.

The Conclave was opened by the Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Leslie Grout, **P.G.Std.B.**, P.Prov.G.G., who welcomed the members and guests.



Pursuant to notice of motion, a ballot for honorary membership was taken for R.Wy.Bro. Mik Barnes, **P.Prov.G.S.R.**, This was proposed by Wy.Bro. Graham Rawlinson, seconded by Wy.Bro. N Thomson, and carried with acclaim by all the members.



The muster roll was called, and the reports of the Visiting Deacons were received.



The next item on the agenda was to install Wy.Bro. David Blackburn, **P.G.Std.B.**, P.Prov.G.V., as Supreme Ruler. This was done in an excellent manner by Wy.Bro. Leslie Grout; who also gave the Address to the Princes in the 2nd Degree, the Address to the Supreme Ruler, and the Lecture on the Weapons of a Secret Monitor.



Wy.Bro. David Blackburn gave the Address to the Visiting Deacons and the Address to the Officers in the two degrees. Wy.Bro. David Blackburn then appointed and invested his officers.

There being no call for a ballot, the Supreme Ruler declared Wy Bro Simon McCarthy duly elected as Supreme Ruler for the ensuing year, and Wy Bro Leonard Hayward duly elected as Treasurer.

The Conclave was closed, and everyone gathered for a group photograph.



Here we have the District Grand Master of the Royal and Select Masters 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.



The Temple was arranged for the demonstration of the Conclave of Mourning. A Conclave of Mourning was introduced to mark the death of the first Grand Supreme Ruler, Dr Issacher Zacharie, and symbolises David's mourning for the loss of his friend Jonathan.

This very moving ceremony was excellently performed by Wy. Bro. David Blackburn and the Officers of the E L J Smith Conclave.

The Brethren of the E L J Smith Conclave and their guests then sat down to a most enjoyable meal together.