



Grand Council 2026



On Tuesday the 21st of April 2026 the Grand Temple at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, saw in excess of 550 Companions of the Royal and Select Masters join the Annual Meeting of Grand Council 2026.

As is the usual custom the Companions of Surrey met up at 'Spoons for refreshments, and an opportunity to meet with friends from other Districts before the meeting.



We then walked back up Great Queen Street to Freemasons Hall where we bumped into Andy Fox who was going 'south of the river'





The meeting was presided over by Grand Master, M.Ill.Comp. Kessick John Jones, IX, in his usual warm and welcoming manner.

After the initial business of Grand Council had been completed the Deputy Grand Master, R.Ill.Comp. Paul Norman, IX, gave a heartfelt proposition of the re-election of the Grand Master which was seconded by R.Ill.Comp. Norman Milburn, G.P.C.W. This was received with due acclamation.



The Grand Master gave a brief response to his re-election. He then reappointed as Deputy Grand Master, R.Ill.Comp. Paul Norman, IX, and as Grand Principal Conductor of the Works, R.Ill.Comp. Norman Milburn, IX.

This being achieved, the Grand Master was delighted to confer Appointment to, or Promotion in, Grand Rank, on 159 Companions, and invest those present.



Congratulations to the Surrey brethren who received appointment or promotion in Grand Council today: R.Ill.Comp. Ray Hussey, P.G.Coun.; V.Ill.Comp. Leslie Grout, G.Lect.; V.Ill.Comp. Peter Kipps, P.G.Lect.; Ill.Comp. Chris Craddock, P.G.Cond.C.; Ill.Comp. John Norton-Doyle, P.G.Cond.C.; Ill.Comp. Steve Jones, P.G.Swd.B.; Ill.Comp. Les Smith, P.G.Swd.B.; and Ill.Comp. Mark Donovan, G.Man.



The Grand Master then gave his address and was then extremely pleased to welcome representatives from around the world, along with the heads of other Masonic Orders who were attending to give their usual support to the meeting.

He spoke about the support from Freemasons Hall behind the scenes in the running of the meeting and had much pleasure in presenting John Vasquez with a gift in appreciation.



Grand Council was closed and the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work retired in procession, greeting their honoured guests on the way out.



We then retired for refreshments before enjoying a convivial meal together in the Grand Connaught Rooms.



Thank you to all those who made such an effort to be present despite the transport difficulties on the London underground and make it a very special occasion for their Companions and friends receiving Grand Rank.

Our congratulations to all the recipients. We hope you had a very enjoyable day.

District Grand Council of Surrey web site:
[Companion Orders of Surrey - Royal & Select Masters](#)

