



A New District Grand Master for Dorset, Hampshire, and Isle of Wight.

The Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Dorset, Hampshire, and Isle of Wight took place on Saturday the 29th of August at the Brook House Masonic Centre in Botley.

District Grand Council was honoured by the presence of the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick John Jones who was here to install the District Grand Master Designate, V.III.Comp. Peter Robert Dack, P.G.Lect.

There was a large contingent from Surrey attending to support the District Grand Master Designate. Our District Grand Master, Deputy District Grand Master, and Principal Conductor of the Work ; along with Ill.Comps. Jack Love, Ian Smith, and Chris Eley; and on the Grand Team, V.III.Comp. Leslie Grout, **G.Lect.**, our District Grand Chaplain; V.III.Comp. Robert Scott, **G.Org.**, **P.G.Lect.**, our District Grand Organist; and Ill.Comp. Mark Donovan, **G.Man.**, although not on the installation team that day.



Ceremonies and the Companions of the Escort were busy rehearsing the ceremonial. It was good to see so many Companions from other Districts who came along to support the District of Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, and of course our Grand Master and his team.



There were also many heads and executive members of other Orders in Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight attending to support the District Grand Master Designate, V.III.Comp. Peter Dack.





By 10.50 am everyone was seated in the Temple. Just after 10.55 am the Brethren were called to order by Ill.Comp, Mark Gannaway, **P.G.Cond,C.**, the District Grand Director of Ceremonies, to receive the Presiding Officer, R.Ill.Comp. George Deacon, who opened District Grand Council in form.



District Grand Council received the Grand Master, M.Ill.Comp. Kessick J Jones, the Installing Officer, escorted by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, R.Ill.Comp. Graham Seeman.





The Grand Master appointed his Officers to assist him in the ceremony and was then saluted with eleven under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Installing Officer addressed the Companions and asked the District Recorder to call the Roll of Councils in the District.

The Installing Officer addressed the brethren on the purpose of the meeting, to install V.III.Comp. Peter Dack as the District Grand Master for Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

The Grand Director of Ceremonies and appointed Companions retired in procession, re-entered the Council and introduced the District Grand Master Designate.

The Installing Officer called upon the Grand Recorder to read the Patent of Appointment and then addressed the District Grand Master Designate on the nature of his duties and the qualifications for the office.

After the Grand Chaplain had offered a prayer the District Grand Master Designate took his Obligation and was invested and installed in the Chair by the Grand Master. R.III.Comp. Peter Dack was then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.





The District Grand Master announced the appointment of Ill.Comp. Simon Lancaster, **P.G.Cond.C.**, as Deputy District Grand Master.

The Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies and appointed Companions retired in procession, re-entered the Council and introduced the Deputy District Grand Master Designate.

The District Grand Master called upon the Grand Secretary to read the Patent of Appointment

and then addressed the Deputy District Grand Master Designate on the nature of his duties and the qualifications for the office. After the Grand Chaplain had offered a prayer the Deputy District Grand Master Designate took his Obligation and was invested and installed in the Chair by the District Grand Master. Ill.Comp. Simon Lancaster was then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The District Grand Master announced the appointment of Ill.Comp. Clive Egerton, **P.G.Capt.G.**, as District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.

The Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies and appointed Companions retired in procession, re-entered the Council and introduced the District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work Designate.



The District Grand Master called upon the Grand Secretary to read the Patent of Appointment and then addressed the District Grand Principal Conductor Designate on the nature of his duties and the qualifications for the office. After the Grand Chaplain had offered a prayer the District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work Designate took his Obligation and was invested and installed in the Chair by the District Grand Master. Ill.Comp. Clive Egerton was then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.



The District Grand Master addressed the Grand Master thanking him and his team for making this such a special day, not only for himself but all the Companions of the District of Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight. The Grand Master said it was a delight to install R.Ill.Comp. Peter and wished him and the Companions of the District of Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight every success for the future. The Grand Master and his Assisting Officers then retired in procession.

Before approving the minutes of the previous meeting those present remembered the Companions who had passed to the Grand Council Above since the last Annual Meeting.

After the regular business of District Grand Council had been concluded, he appointed and invested the District Grand Officers for 2026-2027.

The District Grand Master addressed District Grand Council. He thanked all the guests and members for attending and helping to make this a very special day.



The District Grand Master closed District Grand Council and, accompanied by the Executive, Right Illustrious Companions, and other Distinguished Guests, retired from District Grand Council.



We then enjoyed some refreshments and the opportunity to catch up with some old friends.

After refreshments we were called into lunch at the Brook House Masonic Centre. There was a most convivial atmosphere in the dining room.



The Grand Master and the District Grand Master took wine with all the Companions. In proposing the toast to the Grand Master, the District Grand Master presented M.Ill.Comp. Kessick J Jones with a small gift in appreciation of his support of the District of Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight.



He also presented the Grand Director of Ceremonies, R.Ill.Comp. Graham Seeman with a small gift. He then had much pleasure in presenting V.Ill.Comp. Jonathan Whitaker, Provincial Grand Master of the Craft Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight with a donation of £2,500 towards his 2027 MCF Festival; and R.Ill.Comp. George Deacon with a donation toward his charity, Maggie's Southampton, of £1,000.

It was a long but truly memorable day.



The Ceremony of the Keys

Well, that was a day out not to be forgotten. I joined Freemasonry some twenty-five years ago with the hope of broadening my life experience and the last years have been wonderful. I keep coming across such worthwhile times. My previous visit to the Tower was some fifty years ago with my daughter but this was something different. My visit to London always involved pie and chips at Waterloo but this treat was put aside due to fires on the line at Weybridge which meant a two hour journey from Farnham via Aldershot and Ascot to Waterloo.

Mind you, there were fish and chips near the Tower which I could not resist. Being a very, very modern person, I used my debit card to catch the underground to Tower Hill and then a short walk got me to the West Gate of this amazing building with an equally astonishing history. I was to see the Ceremony of The Keys due to take place at 9.53 precisely. This is an event that has taken place every day for the last eight hundred years we were assured by sergeant in charge of our group. Or was it seven hundred years?



I was met at the entrance by Bill Caughie who had arranged this memorable outing. Barrie and his grandson soon joined us and we were ushered in to the Tower grounds to meet the formidable sergeant Yeoman Warder tour guide. He vociferously explained that certain people were not to be encouraged to loiter or to be of a certain nationality. All with tongue in cheek!

Our group consisted of some twenty to thirty brethren and their wives, partners and friends. Men were to wear jackets and ties and women were asked to be considerate. It was to prove an interesting evening, full of wit, humour and superbly interesting facts.

We were regaled with historical elements in a very pleasing manner and those less interested in the detail of history were kept so involved with the sights around us.

Yes, we were advised of Henry the VIII and his way of sorting out his wives, plus the various inmates of the Tower, The Bloody Tower, the royal twins, the Krays, Lord Haw Haw, etc. We saw the Traitors' Gate and other places of monumental interest. It was so well explained and maintained the interest of all of us. Brilliant.



It was not all listening. We were invited into the Beefeater Bar where they only served one type of gin, Beefeater Gin. We had pints of lager. We had a good time making new friends, happily buying raffle tickets and seeing the many artefacts on view. The price of the refreshments was so reasonable that many treated the bar staff to a complimentary drink.

Then it was time.

We walked past a guardsman or was it an effigy? He was so statuesque. No, it was a real guardsman who would soon take part in the ceremony. Another group soon joined us led in by a lady Yeoman Warder who gave us all strict instructions as to where to stand and what to do. No cameras. The time approached. In the distance, we saw three silhouettes marching from a just locked gate towards us. The statuesque guardsman we had just seen, demanded to know who was approaching. The reply was shouted back and entrance was allowed.



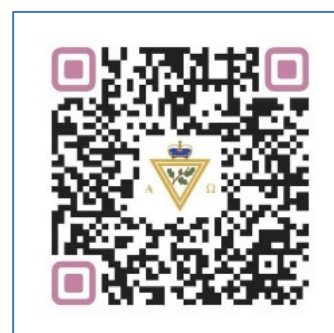
We then followed up the slight incline and were treated to the most evocative rendering of the Last Post I have ever heard. The sound of this moving piece in this amazing setting made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up. I shall never forget that moment. Then it was all over. We said our goodbyes to our newly made friends and made our way back to leafy Farnham.

Thank you to R.III.Comp. Bill and all who had so royally entertained us on that spectacular of night of nights.

Thanks to Michael Fenech

District Grand Council of Surrey web site:

[Companion Orders of Surrey - Royal & Select Masters](#)



Royal and Select Masters
The Red Cross of Constantine

Pre Christmas

DINNER & DANCE PARTY

Price includes 3 course Meal (exc. wine) Also a SUPER RAFFLE

only £59 pp

Reception 6.30 for 7

SATURDAY 14th November 2026
Nutfield Masonic Centre, Nutfield Road, Redhill, RH1 4ED
Dress Code: Posh Frocks, DJ or Lounge Suit Carriages: 12 o'clock

A Special Entertainer **Keith Hayman** of 10cc
(Cliff Richards musical director)
"Hits through the Ages"

MENU

Starter
Prawn and avocado tian and sauce vierge

Main Course
Chicken wrapped in Parma Ham, with crushed new potatoes seasonal vegetables and white wine sauce

Dessert
Wild Berry Pavlova with chantilly cream and berry compote

Tea and Coffee
Vegetarian Option Available

Payment to L.Hillier
Event Treasurer
Account: L. Hillier
Sort Code: 07-08-08
Account No: 07670947

Please give full names of all those attending

Event organisers:
Alan and Anita Boniface
Alan and Wendy Brockwell

Phone Alan Boniface
07711 270360
or email:
bonniepets1@yahoo.co.uk
for further details

Please bring a gift for our Special Raffle

Dates for your diaries



In conjunction with the Red Cross of Constantine Order, Surrey Royal and Select Master are holding a **Black Tie Social Event**.

On **Saturday the 14th of November 2026** at Nutfield Masonic Centre Keith Hayman, a member of 10CC, Musical Director to Cliff Richard, Music Arranger, and Guitar player for over 30 years. A 3-course dinner with music and dancing afterwards is not to be missed.

Full details from: Alan Boniface Asst DistGDC: bonniepets1@yahoo.co.uk

Following last year's success, we are holding a Christmas Carvery in the York Suite at Surbiton.

On **Sunday the 6th of December 2026** at Glenmore House, Surbiton.

Only 70 tickets for this amazing Christmas Lunch will be available so it is important to book early.

Tickets are now available. We look forward to seeing you there, but book early to avoid disappointment. Last year was a sell out!

To book follow the link below.

<https://buytickets.at/districtofsurreyroyalselectmasters/2368814>



Annual Meeting Change

The Annual meeting in 2027 will be held on **Saturday the 10th of April** at Glenmore House Surbiton. The change of date is necessary as our usual 4th Saturday in March falls in the middle of the Easter Holiday.

Make a note in your diaries NOW