

Not your usual day by the seaside!



Pictured (L-R): Barrie Billinge, Counsellor; Tony Stringer, Prov.G.S.R.; Andy Clark, Inductee; David Hallows, Inductee; Stuart Jones, Inductee; Derek Gaskell, acting S.R.

A somewhat different day at Rhyl Masonic Hall in North Wales recently, for a daylight meeting of Dewi Sant Conclave No. 457.

The day had started bright and early with the Installation of the new and secundus President of St David Consistory No. 139 by the primus President, Paul Crudge, in the presence of Chris Welton, Provincial Grand Summus for the Scarlet Cord of Cheshire & North Wales, and Geoff Gill, Provincial Grand Summus for West Lancashire, who had received especial dispensation to cross two borders.

The new President, Mike Steggles, was then called away to attend to his other Masonic duties as Provincial Director of Ceremonies in the Craft Province of Cheshire.

As Mike is also the Supreme Ruler of Dewi Sant Conclave, his Chair was taken by a guest, the Provincial Grand Counsellor, Worthy Brother Derek Gaskell, who had received a little warning.

The Grand Guide, Right Worthy Brother Paul Crudge, was called back from his role as Director of Ceremonies to act as Secretary, whilst the invested Secretary acted as Treasurer.

Amongst other substitutes, the Provincial Grand Guide, John Owens, acted as Fourth Visiting Deacon. In fact, only Barrie Billinge, Conclave Counsellor and Andrew Thomas, Conclave Guide, occupied their correct Offices!

A ceremony of Induction for three Candidates was then conducted in an excellent manner by the acting Supreme Ruler.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Tony Stringer, presented and explained the Weapons of the Order, whilst Barrie Billinge, the Conclave Counsellor, delivered the welcome Address.

Certainly unique in the O.S.M. Province of Cheshire & North Wales, the Induction was of a Jewish, a Christian, and a Muslim Brother, each swearing their obligation on a separate and distinct VSL.

There then followed a seven-course lunch, enjoyed by all, and, possibly for some, a paddle in the sea.

Of further interest is that two of the Candidates were attracted to the Order via the Provincial website, showing that electronic promotion does work. Barrie Billinge is also the Provincial Webmaster, and updates the site on a regular basis.

Words & Picture by R.W.Bro. Tony Stringer, Prov.G.S.R.