

Closing meeting of the season.



*Tony Stringer, PGSR; Barrie Billinge, Supreme Ruler;
Mike Steggles, Installing Officer; Paul Burton, Deputy PGSR*

Another warm and sunny day, and another trip to the North Wales coastline.

Dewi Sant Conclave, No 457 meets at Elwy Hall, Rhyl, and is one of the two daytime Conclaves in the Province.

On Monday 26th June, Dewi Sant held their Installation meeting and it was also the last OSM meeting in the Province for this season.

It has become a tradition within Dewi Sant Conclave that the Installation meeting incorporates a Ladies to dine and non-members, usually with a five course lunch.

However before the members and guests could dine, there was no small matter of an Installation ceremony.

At the appointed time the Supreme Ruler, WyBro Michael Steggles, open the meeting and once opened, the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, WyBro Anthony Lloyd, entered and announced the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, RWyBro Tony Stringer and his Deputy, WyBro Paul Burton, were without and demanded admission.

WyBro Steggles greeted them both and offered the gavel to the PGSR, who duly returned it.

There then followed an election for a Treasurer for the ensuing year, the previously elected Treasurer being unable to take up the post.

The lucky winner was WyBro Colin Lemin.

Salutations followed and on this occasion included Right Worthy Brothers David Littlewood, the Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Paul Crudge, Grand Guide, and Walter Yule, Past Grand Guide.

It was now time for the main item of business of the summons, the Installation of a new Supreme Ruler.

The acting DC, WyBro Derek Gaskell presented the Supreme Ruler elect, Bro Barrie Billinge to the Supreme Ruler for Installation and Commissioning.

With the first part of the ceremony completed it was time for those below the rank of an installed Supreme Ruler to retire.

WyBro Michael Steggles then proceeded with the inner workings and the Installation.



Barrie and Mike

After the inner workings the Princes of the Order were readmitted and next part of ceremony was carried out.

In this portion of the ceremony RWyBro Paul Crudge gave the address to the Princes.

WyBro Barry Billinge was then asked to leave his seat in order that RWyBro Tony Stringer could carry out the next part of the ceremony.

This must have been a poignant moment for both Tony and Barrie having been friends for several decades.

With the second degree part of the Installation over, the brothers of the first degree were re-admitted and WyBro Michael Steggles proclaimed WyBro Barrie Billinge as Supreme Ruler of Dewi Sant Conclave No 457.

After all the offices had been appointed and Invested, WyBro Derek Gaskell gave the Address to the Supreme Ruler and WyBro Paul Burton presented the Weapons.

It had been a very enjoyable Installation and RWyBro Tony Stringer rightly congratulated WyBro Michael Steggles on the high standard of the ceremony.

Special thanks must also go to WyBro Charles Truman who with less than 10 minutes notice acted as Chaplain throughout the meeting and Festive Board.

After the meeting was closed it was time to join the Ladies for a fine lunch with wine and port.

What a way great way to end the day and also the OSM season.

Now the summer off to relax and get ready for the first meeting of the new season which will be Christleton Conclave on 30th August.



*Tony and Barrie, whom one wag reckoned they've known each other since Time Immemorial!
(Not true - some people can remember life 50-plus years ago.)*