

First Secret Monitor of 2026 for Vale of Weaver Conclave

Wednesday January 7th saw the first meeting in 2026 of Vale of Weaver No.278.

As well as the P.G.S.R. who was accompanied by W.Bro. Ian Brown as (acting) Dep.Prov.D.C.,there were a goodly number of members and visitors present in spite of inclement weather.

Wy Bro. David Topp P.Ass.G.Gdr, Dep.Pr.G.D.C was proclaimed Supreme Ruler for a second year. The role of Installing Officer was filled by Wy.Bro. Derek Gaskell Pr.G.Counsellor, who gave the Addresses to the Princes and to the S.R.

WyBro. Derek then took the Guide's chair where, in the following Ceremony, he again proved his uncanny acting ability as 'the boy who knew nothing at all'.

Once his new team of Officers were appointed & invested the S.R. moved on to Induct the newest Secret Monitor in the Province (and the first of the year) Bro. Philip Robinson, the S.W. of Dane Lodge, also in Middlewich.

The addresses were given by V.WyBro. Keith Butterworth P.G.V. and WyBro. Barrie Billinge Pr.G.Gdr.



The assembled Brethren, including all four Provincial Visitors! Obviously desperate to get out and about after the Festive break. The Candidate (centre) seems to have enjoyed the experience.

The newly inducted, entrusted and invested candidate was congratulated and welcomed by the S.R. and the P.G.S.R. who presented him with an OSM tie.



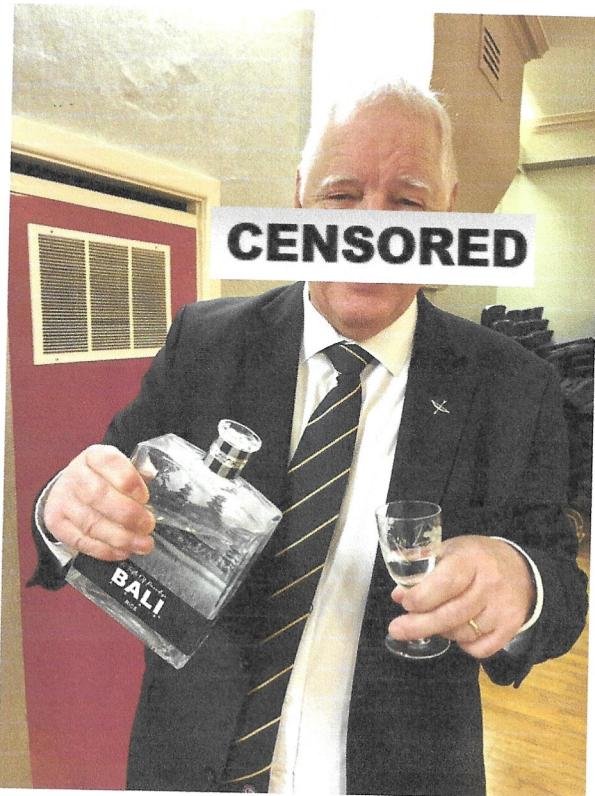
"Funny you should say that..."

The Brethren retired to the dining room to a welcome 'winter warmer' of a meal of homemade soup, steak pie & chips, and sponge pudding & custard.

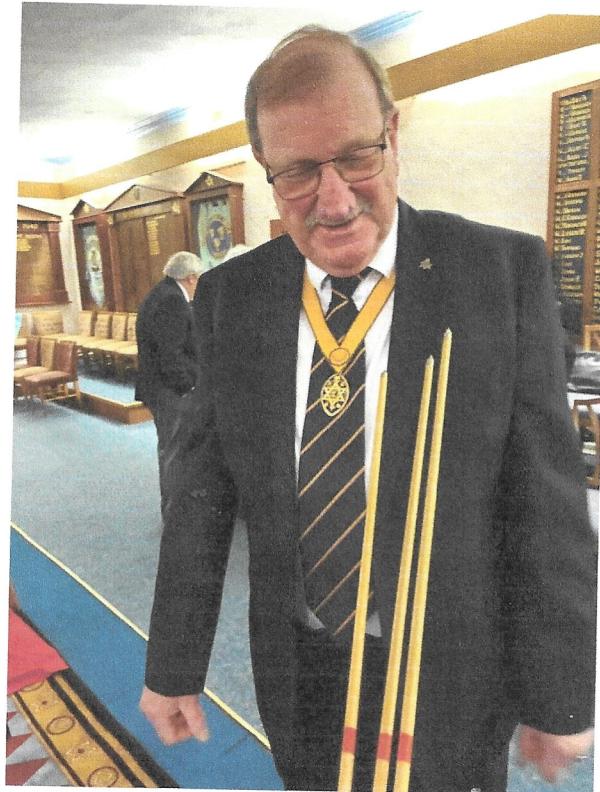
Most OSM dinners are jovial affairs but much of the hilarity on this occasion was the result of one of our Pr.G.Visitors (who shall remain nameless) bringing along a bottle of spirit from his holiday in Bali. Not as a raffle prize, but for the Brethren to sample, he said. You could drink it with Coke, he said, producing glasses from the bar. Drivers were advised not to try it, except perhaps on the car park as de-icer if the weather turned worse. The P.G.S.R. was not driving and decided to drink it neat. His response to his Toast was much shorter than usual, which might have been because of a New Year's Resolution, but we suspect he was unable to read his notes!

Report: Barrie Billinge.

Photos: Barry Wiggins.



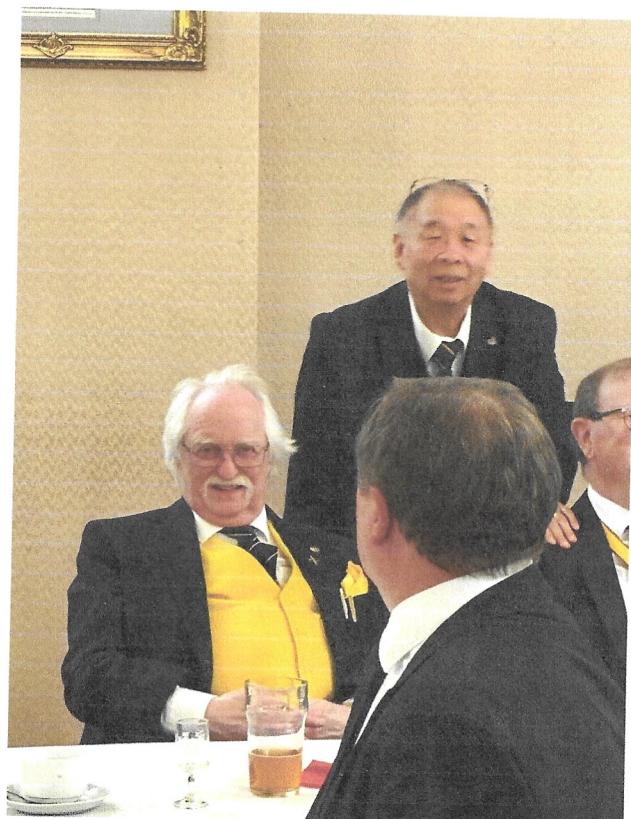
Beware of Provincial Visitors bearing gifts!



The Supreme Ruler contemplates the Points of Peril



Jim models his entry for the Easter Bonnet Parade (if we ever have one)



The P.G.S.R's spirit glass is empty but he seems happy enough!