

Dewi Sant Conclave No 457 - June meeting.

Dewi Sant Conclave held their Installation meeting at Elwy Hall in Rhyl on 24 June.

The incumbent Supreme Ruler, Worthy Brother Barrie Billinge, had been elected to stay in office for a further year and so the Installation would be a proclamation.

This gave the Conclave an opportunity to carry out a Princes Degree for their new member Bro Gareth Jones, or Gary Dogs, as he is known.

Shield of David Conclave No 345 also had a new member who needed to take his Princes Degree, and so Brother Kevin Rick was invited along to the meeting.

Unfortunately a large number of members of Dewi Sant Conclave were missing due to other commitments, and this meant that plenty of volunteers were needed on the day.

Fortunately, there are a lot of experienced brethren ready and willing to assist the Supreme Ruler, who form the Province's Support Squad, when it came to performing the Second Degree ceremony.

Worthy Brother Barrie Billinge opened the meeting and greeted Right Worthy Brother Tony Stringer, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Cheshire and North Wales, and his Deputy, Worthy Brother Paul Barton.

Also in attendance were two Past Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers, Right Worthy Brothers Sam Keery and David Littlewood.

Following the regular salutations. the next business was to formally ballot for and welcome a joining member, Worthy Brother Norman Corke, who has just moved into the North Wales area from West Lancashire, where he is a Past Provincial Officer.

With the Second Degree offices in place; the two candidates entered and Worthy Brother Barrie Billinge worked a very enjoyable Second Degree ceremony, ably assisted by Worthy Brothers Colin Lemin as Abishai, Graham Bradshaw being the Conclave Chaplain and Right Worthy Brother Tony Stringer who delivered the lecture to the two candidates.

With the two new Princes welcomed and seated in the Conclave, it was time for the Installation ceremony.

Worthy Brother Derek Gaskell acted as the Installing Officer and Proclaimed Worthy Brother Barrie Billinge as the Supreme Ruler of Dewi Sant Conclave number 457 for the ensuing year.

Worthy Brother Gaskell gave the address to the Princes and to the Supreme Ruler.

The presentation of the weapons was given by Worthy Brother Paul Burton and Right Worthy Brother Sam Keery delivered the closing prayer. When Sam was Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler it was the custom that the Commissioning Officer delivered the closing prayer.

The meeting was a very happy and well worked occasion.

With the Conclave closed it was time for a very fine lunch, which was also Ladies to dine.

Congratulations to Brothers Gary Jones and Kevin Rick on becoming Princes of the Order, and we wish WBro Norman Corke a long and happy time as a member of Dewi Sant.

We also wish WyBro Barrie Billinge and Dewi Sant Conclave a successful year ahead.

Words: Derek Gaskell