



A Message from our Provincial Grand Recorder

Dear Brethren

It has been my privilege and pleasure to be your Provincial Grand Recorder for a number of years now.

My main role is basically to maintain the Provincial Records and update the Provincial Database, and of course to arrange the Annual Meeting of the Province.

Due to the Covid restrictions imposed by the Government we were unable to hold the event last year but at the time of writing I am hopeful that the restrictions will be lifted and the meeting can go ahead as planned. Further details can be viewed on the Provincial Website.

Another of my duties is to ensure that the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler is accompanied by a representation of Provincial Grand Officers on his Official Visits to Conclaves in his own Province and other Provinces throughout the Country.

Whilst this can occasionally be a somewhat arduous job I am most grateful for the assistance given to me by the Provincial Secretaries.
Regards, Len.



The Order of the Secret Monitor in the USA

As early as 1778 there was a society in Holland known as the Order of Jonathan and David, which probably furnished the germ for the origin of the American Grade now known as the Secret Monitor.

The birth of the Masonic Grade of Secret Monitor appears to have occurred in the United States, where it was worked for many years under various titles – "Brotherly Love," "Jonathan and David," and finally "Secret Monitor." Its first appearance seems to have been in 1850, in which there is clear mention of the Grade.

The Grade was one of the many so-called "side degrees" which were worked throughout America during the last half of the nineteenth century. It was usually conferred – by communication – by one Mason upon another, without fee and no record being made of the event.

Sometime near the close of the nineteenth century, Dr. Issachar Zacharie carried the Grade from America over to England. There, a Body was created to administer over the Grade, termed a Supreme Council. The Grade was rearranged into three ceremonies:

- (1) **That of Induction**
- (2) **The Assembly of Princes, and**
- (3) **The Installation of a Supreme Ruler.**



Early records of the working of the Grade are scarce in the USA, due to the fact that it was worked as a "side degree" and no Minutes were kept. However, in Scotland, the Early Grand Rite secured a version of this American Grade and incorporated it into their multifarious System.

It there formed the Sixteenth Degree and was worked under the title "Order of Brotherly Love." A copy of the Ritual of that Rite (dated 1890), in the Archives of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America, shows a very weak and insignificant Ritual-ceremony, hardly worthy of consideration.

The Ritual used by the Grand Council in the USA was an original text, which was used in 1896. It is a very instructive ceremony and based, for the most part, upon the love, which we are taught, existed between Jonathan and David. It teaches a beautiful lesson in friendship and fidelity. In 2000, the Grand Council approved the optional use of the English Ritual, which includes the ceremony of Installed Supreme Ruler. In England, the Secret Monitor is a separate body from the Allied Masonic Degrees.



The Jewel of the Grade originally was a hackle surmounted by a crown, in gold. This was worn suspended from a ribbon, black in the centre, bordered on either side with white, the ribbon being surmounted by a gold bow.

It is now that used by the English body, which is two interlaced triangles, superimposed upon three arrows, and containing the letters "D" and "J," in gold. The Jewel is worn as a breast Jewel.

The Apron of the Grade is black, edged with white border. In the centre a hackle is embroidered in white while on the flap is an ear, likewise embroidered in white. With the adoption of the English ritual, the apron is no longer worn.



When a Collar of the Grade is worn, it should be of purple silk, approximately four inches in width. However, in the USA the Collar, or the Apron, were never worn, except when a Council fully exemplified the Grade.

Provincial Annual Meeting Friday July 23rd 2021



Look out for a report and photos in the next issue of the Surrey Arrow



A Special Day for Warlingham Conclave



The first face to face meeting of an OSM Conclave in Surrey after the end of the suspension of Masonic activity took place on Tuesday the 29th June at Nutfield Masonic Centre, Redhill. This was also the first visit to a Conclave by a Grand Visitor in 18 months, so we were very pleased to welcome V.Wy.Bro. Gerald Riley to our meeting.



Also present was our Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling; our Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Paul Fitzgerald; our Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. Michael Barnes; and the Grand Chaplain, V.Wy.Bro. Louis Keats.

Also attending the meeting were six Heads of Surrey Orders. This was the first time they had all met up together in over a year; and the first time that R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling, our Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, and R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long, the Provincial Grand Summus in the Order of the Scarlet Cord, had been together since their investitures.

The Conclave was opened by the Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Chris Eley, who welcomed R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling, and V.Wy. Bros, Louis Keats and Gerald Reilly.

The Muster Role was called and R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling Commissioned the Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Chris Eley. Due to Covid restrictions he was unable to do this at the Installation meeting in September 2020 under the Rule of Six.

The Supreme Ruler then invested his Officers not able to be present at the Installation meeting.



The main item on the agenda was to ballot for a Candidate, Bro. Clifford Beal of Authors Lodge No 3456. This proved in his favour and Bro. Clifford was Inducted into the Order by Wy.Bro. Chris; assisted by V.Wy.Bro. Louis Keats, Grand Chaplain, who acted as our Chaplain; R.Wy.Bro. Michael Barnes who entrusted Bro. Clifford with the secrets of the first degree of the Order; and R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling who gave the Explanation of the Weapons and the Address to the Candidate; all in an excellent manner.



To end a most enjoyable meeting the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler presented Supreme Ruler Certificates to Wy.Bros. Alastair Richardson and Chris Eley.

The Conclave was then closed and after the customary photographs were taken we all retired to the Everest Spice Indian Restaurant in Redhill for a most enjoyable meal together.



What is your Conclave planning to do once we start returning to some form of normality? Let me know on cw.eley@talktalk.net with a few words and, if possible, a photo and I can report on your meeting here....