



A Message from our Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies

Despite the Annual Provincial Meeting, which was held on 23rd July 2021, Conclaves in the Province didn't really start opening their doors again until the start of September 2021.

As Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in two Provinces, I would like to share with you that at Provincial level both Provinces work very differently and it would be wrong of me to compare them.

In Surrey the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler or Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler (PGSR/DPGSR) Official visits are normally made when Conclaves are holding Installation Meetings. However, this year the PGSR/DPGSR in order to visit as many Conclaves as possible since Lockdown ended have made Official Visits where Induction or Princes Ceremonies have taken place.

Official Visits from the PGSR/DPGSR require a Provincial Escort which should include Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, or the Provincial Deputy or Assistant GDC, Provincial Grand Sword Bearer and Standard Bearer (*If the DPGSR is attending then the Bow Bearer should also attend*) and, very importantly, members of the Arch of Steel.

Any Active Provincial Officer not included in the above list if they are attending would also be included in the Processions.



The Provincial Visiting Officer is not included as he should be in the Conclave during the opening and closing.

It is the responsibility of the Prov GDC/DGDC or AGDC to organise the Escorting Processions in and out of the Conclave, as well as taking an active role in the installation ceremony, plus the taking of wine and the toast list at the Festive Board.

In a normal Masonic year, the PGSR may make a visit to a Conclave when other than an Installation ceremony is being held and, more often than not, will not request an Official Escort. However, he may request that only the Prov GDC escort him, so I must be aware of all Conclave meeting dates.

The Annual Provincial Meeting requires a lot more work and organising than just the processions. It is far more involved and I start working on this about 8 weeks before the meeting takes place, and hopefully it all comes together on the day so all those attending will see a good ceremony and have a very enjoyable day.

As a DC in my own Conclave, I know how difficult the Office is, but it can give you such pleasure and enjoyment when a ceremony goes well. This cannot be achieved without the help and backup of the Secretary and the Officers of the Conclave.

Therefore it is so important that Officers inform the Secretary as soon as they know they are unable to attend the next meeting (*eight weeks' notice is better than a week or less*), in order that a replacement can be found to carry out their duties for them. Give the brother a chance to learn the ritual rather than reading from the ritual book.

I am going to finish on a positive note, and that is to say that during this Masonic year we will see more and more Officers carrying out their duties, and attending their Conclaves. It is hoped the Ritual book being used during the ceremony will be a thing of the past.

A Visit to Kent

On Saturday 9th October 2021 our Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler R.Wy.Bro Colin Beerling, accompanied by Wy.Bro. Paul Fitzgerald, R.Wy.Bro. Michael Barnes, Wy.Bro. Alan Brockwell and Wy.Bro. Len Hillier attended the Provincial Grand Conclave of Kent held at Gillingham Masonic Centre.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of Kent opened the meeting and then welcomed the Grand Supreme Ruler Andrew Sweeney to the meeting who was in attendance to confirm the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler in office.

After the meeting was closed the Surrey members had their photo taken with the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of Kent R.Wy.Bro. Kevin Johnson.

Then an enjoyable Festive board followed.

Article by Len Hillier





The Pride of Surrey Conclave



In October the Pride of Surrey Conclave Number 118 took on a bumper ceremony yesterday at Sutton Masonic Hall.

They first inducted Bro Richard Wileman (*Deputy PGM in the Surrey Craft and Inspector General in the Surrey Rose Croix*) as a new Secret Monitor in fine style, with a major contribution by V.Wy.Bro. Derek Lovie and also Wy.Bro. Steve Jones, occupying the Chair as Supreme Ruler. Wy.Bro. Andrew Mackay presented the Weapons.

The Conclave then Installed Bro Jeff Sykes as their new Supreme Ruler, with R.Wy.Bro Mik Barnes undertaking this Ceremony in an excellent manner. Supported by V.Wy.Bro. Derek Lovie with two of the Addresses.



This was all combined with an Official Visit from R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling and members of his team, including his Arch of Steel. Not only did he conduct the Commissioning of the newly invested Supreme Ruler, but he also delivered two of the Lectures (*one Address in each ceremony*) to the usual high standard.

The twenty Brethren in attendance completed a very successful meeting, with everyone having participated. Eighteen Brethren and Princes then retired for good food and convivial company to a most enjoyable Festive Board.

Article by Alan Brockwell



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SURREY ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR

Dinner & Dance Party CHRISTMAS Night

Black Tie & Posh Frock Dancing to Midnight

Saturday 27th November 2021

Reigate Manor Hotel • 6pm for 7pm dining

Live Michael Bublé Tribute Party Music by Jason Allen

Wy.Bro. Alan Brockwell only has a few tickets left for our Christmas Dinner and Dance Party so don't miss the opportunity to join in the fun.

For more details and a copy of the booking form visit [The 2021 Christmas Dinner and Dance \(orderofthesecretmonitor.co.uk\)](http://www.orderofthesecretmonitor.co.uk)

