



## A Message from our Assistant District Grand Recorder

Greetings Companions and welcome to the fourth edition of the Surrey Trowel. I hope you have found this newsletter an interesting distraction during the suspension of Masonic activity.

Remember that this is your newsletter so please feel free to send me any items you think worthy of inclusion.

I am sure, like me, you are looking forward to getting back to some form of normality over the next few months.

I know that after having to hold two Annual Meetings as Virtual Business Meetings our District Grand Master is looking forward to being with us all again.



However, I have been impressed with our ability to accept and adapt to change. An example of this is the use of the Zoom video conferencing tool which has been put to good use by the Orders administered by Mark Masons Hall.

The first Virtual Business Meeting of a Council in Surrey was held by Pride of Surrey Council in January this year when we were joined by our District Grand Master.



Not only were we able to conduct administrative business virtually but, more importantly, it enabled us to keep in touch during the suspension of Masonic activity.

Over the past year the members of the District Executive and Secretariat have visited many District Virtual Business Meetings around the world. This has given us an opportunity to meet Companions from other Districts that we would not have met otherwise. In most cases the meetings were attended by the Grand Master, M.Ill.Comp. Kessick Jones and the Grand Recorder, R.Ill.Comp. Ryan Williams.

We are all looking forward to getting back to some form of normality as the country opens up.

I know a number of Councils have Ceremonies to perform so we had better dust off our ritual books to give the candidates the best ceremony we can.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible when our Councils resume their activities. But may we remind everyone that there is no pressure on any individual member to return to physical meetings before they feel ready.



**Ill.Comp. Chris Eley, Assistant District Grand Recorder.**



## Looking Ahead

### Weald of Surrey Council

The Order of the Silver Trowel, or Thrice Illustrious Master's Degree, will be conducted in the Weald of Surrey Council, No 309 on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at Nutfield.



As a result of the Pandemic the Ceremony was not held last year and so we have an unusually high number of Candidates, twelve, for this year. The maximum we can usually admit is eight as one per Council is the rule.

The last meeting was held in July 2019 where seven candidates took the Degree.



Weald of Surrey Council is our Past Masters' Council and has only one meeting a year at Nutfield. There are 66 members at the moment, if you are a Past Master and not a member yet, please consider joining us.

### Waverley Council

The following day, July 21<sup>st</sup>, Waverley Council No 205 will be holding their installation meeting at Godalming.

Ill.Comp. Bill Barr will be installing Comp. Ray Seeley as Thrice Illustrious Master.

Was it really eight years ago that Ray was received into the Order by the Thrice Illustrious Master, David Blackburn?



A lot has happened since then....





# Six Surrey Heads of Orders



The first face to face meeting of a Scarlet Cord Consistory in Surrey after the lifting of the suspension of Masonic activity took place on Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> June at Nutfield Masonic Centre, Redhill. Although the current Covid-19 restrictions limited them to 27 in the Temple it was a good turnout to see R.Dist.Comp. Mik Barnes install Em.Comp. Chris Eley, our Assistant Provincial Grand Recorder, as President.



Attending the meeting were six Surrey Heads of Orders, including our District Grand Master, R.Ill.Comp. David Blackburn. This was the first time they had met up together in well over a year. Also present was the Grand Summus M.Dist.Comp. Ian S Currans.

The main item on the agenda was to Install Em.Comp. Chris Eley, Provincial Grand Recorder, as President. This was done in a very sincere manner by R.Dist.Comp. Michael Barnes.

The Consistory meeting was followed by a meeting of Warlingham Conclave where the Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Chris Eley, Inducted a Candidate into the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade of the Order with the assistance of R.Wy.Bros. Colin Beerling, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and Michael Barnes, Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler.

## Virtual Visits to the Districts of London and Wyvern



The Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of London was held as a Virtual Business Meeting on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Attending was the Grand Recorder, R.Ill.Comp. Ryan Williams, and Companions from many other Districts.

Just over 120 Companions joined the meeting.

Also attending were our District Grand Master, R.Ill.Comp. David Blackburn; Deputy District Grand Master, Ill.Comp. Peter Kipps; District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Ill.Comp. David Thompson; District Grand Director of Ceremonies, Ill.Comp. Simon McCarthy, and our Assistant District Grand Recorder, Ill.Comp. Chris Eley.



The District Grand Master for the District of London, R.Ill.Comp. Vincent John Driver, declared the meeting open and welcomed all present. After the regular business of the District was completed, the District Grand Council Officers for the ensuing year were appointed.

The District Grand Master then addressed District Grand Council. He congratulated those Companions who received appointments or promotion in Grand Council in April as well as those he had appointed today thanking them for their support.

The Grand Recorder, R.Ill.Comp. Ryan Williams, was invited to address the meeting. He reflected on the challenges we have faced over the past year; and how we have addressed these. Looking forward we should be encouraging our existing membership to return to meetings when they feel ready and over the next few months move from retention to recruitment.

The District Grand Master then thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.



Due to the suspension of Masonic activity the Annual Meeting of the Wyvern District Grand Council was held as a Virtual Business Meeting on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Attending was the Grand Master, M.Ill.Comp. Kessick Jones, and Companions from many other Districts, including the District Grand Master of South Africa.

Also attending were R.Ill.Comp. David Blackburn, our District Grand Master; Ill.Comp. Peter Kipps, our Deputy District Grand Master; and Ill.Comp. Chris Eley, our Assistant District Grand Recorder.



The District Grand Master for the Wyvern District R.Ill.Comp. Kenneth L Downes, JP. declared the meeting open and welcomed all present.

After the appointment of the Officers, the District Grand Master addressed District Grand Council. He said that he had hoped to be able to meet face to face but was looking forward to being able to do this in the future. The Grand Master was invited to address the meeting. He thanked the District Grand Master for the invitation and congratulated the District on a well run meeting. He also congratulated those District Officers appointed today, as well as those he would have invested in person at Grand Council in April. He said it was good to see everyone from other Districts present. He knows the motivational level is high and asked everyone to keep safe and sensible for a little longer.

The District Grand Master then thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

Afterwards the guests all said how much they had enjoyed the meeting and wished the Wyvern District every success in the future.