



## Report of the Provincial Grand Recorder

### 2021 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey



**Greetings Companions, and what a year we have had.....**

In March 2020 we had the first suspension of Masonic activity since 4<sup>th</sup> September 1939. Unlike today, that order was lifted a month later, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, and in addition, Grand Lodge empowered lodges to meet as early in the day as possible, if necessary to cancel any regular meetings, to alter dates up to seven days before or after the regular date without needing to obtain a dispensation and instructed that after-proceedings should be kept as brief as possible.

As Provincial Recorder I must say that the Team at Mark Masons' Hall have been excellent, both in their communication channels and their assistance to all the Orders during these challenging and changing times.

As you are aware, the restriction of activities meant that our Annual Meeting in July 2020 had to be held as a Virtual Business Meeting. At that meeting our Grand Summus, M.Dist. Comp. Ian S Currans attended with many Grand Senatus Officers, along with many Provincial Grand Summi from all over the world. The 170 attendance is, I believe, still a record for a Virtual Business Meeting. My grateful thanks to my old friend Tim Ford, Provincial Grand Secretary of the Mark Province of Surrey, for running the Zoom meeting so well behind the scenes.

At that meeting in July last year our Provincial Grand Summus was succeeded to office by Patent without Installation, which is why the Grand Summus and his team will be joining us on the 18<sup>th</sup> August to invest R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long with his Chain of Office. Our Provincial Grand Summus will also be looking forward to investing his Officers, something he has not been able to do since taking office.

In 2020 a couple of Consistories were able to hold meetings under the Rule of Six. In July, Hill of Zion Consistory held their installation meeting where Dist.Comp. John Norton-Doyle installed Em.Comp. Tamba John as President in an excellent manner, ably assisted by M.Dist.Comp. Ian Currans and R.Dist.Comp. Trevor Currans. In September we held a Warlingham Consistory meeting where R.Dist.Comp. Michael Barnes, our Past Provincial Grand Summus, was Proclaimed President for a further year.

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 Consistory in Surrey was held by Warlingham Consistory in March this year. 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.

In June this year we held a Warlingham Consistory meeting where R.Dist.Comp. Michael Barnes, our Past Provincial Grand Summus, installed me as President. It was a very special meeting for me as I have known Mik for many years; and last year he installed me as Supreme Ruler in Warlingham Conclave.

The members of the Provincial Executive have attended many Provincial Virtual Business Meeting all over the world – from India to the Caribbean. Not only have these been successful and enjoyable meetings, they have also provided an opportunity to visit other Provinces and Districts that we may not have the opportunity to visit.

To keep in touch with our Companions during this time we have made improvements to the Provincial web site as well as the introduction of our monthly newsletter, The Surrey Cord. This is your newsletter so please let me know of anything you or your Consistory are doing that is newsworthy and we can share it with others.

We are all looking forward to getting back to some form of normality as the country opens up. I have shown a list of scheduled meeting dates in Issue 4 of the Surrey Cord in case anyone feels like visiting. The one to look out for is the October meeting of Guildford Consistory where we plan to hold an Emergency Meeting of Provincial Grand Senatus where the Preparation Ceremony will be conducted for those Companions nearing the Chair of President.

I know a number of Consistories have Candidates in the wings so we had better dust off our ritual books to give them the best ceremony we can. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible when our Consistories resume their activities. But may I remind everyone that there is no pressure on any individual member to return to physical meetings before they feel ready.

***Dist.Comp. Chris Eley, Provincial Grand Recorder.***