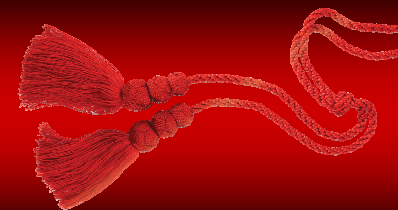




# the Surrey cord



Issue 1 – MARCH 2021

## A Message from our Provincial Grand Summus

Companions I hope that you have all been keeping safe and well and have been complying with the Government guidelines and instructions. Boring isn't it!! I have decided to give the Scarlet Cord some much needed publicity and attention so welcome to the first edition of "The Surrey Cord".

In addition, Warlingham Consistory will be holding their Consistory meeting as a Virtual Business Meeting on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and every member of the Province is invited to join them.

Sadly, I bring bad news as on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Right Distinguished Companion Brian Wareham lost his valiant fight against cancer in the Royal Surrey Hospital, Guildford. I had first met Brian more than 20 years ago. He was a stickler for perfection and was his own greatest critic but above all he had a wicked sense of humour and would also help if asked.

Apart from a distinguished career in many other Orders in Freemasonry he will always be remembered in our Order as a Past Deputy Grand Summus but that was not all. In addition Brian was highly instrumental in resurrecting the Order and headed a small team which eventually led to the inauguration of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in 2010. He was greatly respected and will be sadly missed

Now for some good news as the Most Distinguished Grand Summus has agreed to appoint and promote a number of our Companions to Grand Rank at Grand Senatus on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021, assuming it will take place. All are well deserved and I offer them my heartiest congratulations and thank them for their considerable contribution over the last ten years to our wonderful Order.

### First Appointment to Grand Rank

Alan Brockwell	Grand Steward
Colin Beerling	Past Grand Herald
Nigel Thomson	Past Grand Sword Bearer
Paul Fitzgerald	Past Grand Standard Bearer

### Promotions in Grand Rank

Trevor Currans	Past Grand Chancellor
Eric Trodd	Past Grand Registrar
Jack Love	Past Grand Lecturer
Ian Parsons	Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

In addition I must not forget that Right Distinguished Companion Trevor Currans will continue to remain in his active role of President of the Executive Committee, as will Very Distinguished Companion Ian Smith continue as Grand Lecturer for a second year; and of course we all know our Most Distinguished Grand Summus is also a very active member of our Province

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Warlingham Consistory's VBM on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March. Best wishes to you all and Companions please continue to keep safe



## An Invite to Warlingham Consistory

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March the first Virtual Business Meeting of a Consistory in Surrey will take place at Warlingham Consistory No 134.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. via the Zoom Video Conferencing Tool.

Our Provincial Grand Summus would like as many Surrey Companions as possible to join the meeting as a chance to get together again after so long apart.

To book a place please email the Provincial Recorder at

[recorder@surreyscarletcord.org.uk](mailto:recorder@surreyscarletcord.org.uk) who will send you a copy of the Paper of Business and the link to the meeting.

The Consistory meeting will be followed by a meeting of the Warlingham Conclave No 291 at 7.30 p.m.



## Our Deputy Provincial Grand Summus

In July at the first Provincial Virtual Business Meeting of a Provincial Grand Senatus our Provincial Grand Summus appointed Dist.Comp. Nigel Thomson as the Deputy Provincial Grand Summus in the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey.

Since then due to the various lockdowns and suspensions of Masonic activity Distinguished Companion Nigel has had little chance to visit Consistories in the Province.

Distinguished Companion Nigel Thomson married his wife Jill in 1996, they have two daughters and live in East Grinstead in Sussex, although the majority of his Freemasonry is in Surrey

Nigel is a very experienced Freemason having been initiated into a London Lodge in 1978. He is in numerous other Orders and in many holds high rank and several jobs as Treasurer or Secretary. He is 31<sup>st</sup> Degree in the Rose Croix

In the Scarlet Cord he was admitted into Hill of Zion Consistory in 2010 and became their President in 2016. He was Founding Treasurer of Warlingham Consistory when it was consecrated in October 2019 and remains in that office.

R.Dist.Comp. Arnold said that he was heavily involved with Nigel on the lead up to that Consecration and what surprised him was that he never complained or panicked if things never quite went to plan. He also said that he would try not to test his temperament too much over the ensuing year !!

Away from Freemasonry, in his spare time, he is a Campanologist (*a bell ringer*) and is a member of the Band (*i.e. the name of a group of bell ringers*) in Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral. He is also a member of the Bell Ringers Craft Lodge in the Province of Oxfordshire.

We all hope that it won't be too long before Nigel can get out and about in our Province and meet with everyone.



## A Look Back on 2020

In February 2020 Surrey Consistory No 4 T.I. was honoured to receive the Provincial Grand Summus, R. Dist. Comp. Louis Keats, and a number of Provincial Officers of the year. This was to be the last visit to a Surrey Consistory by R. Dist. Comp. Louis whilst our Provincial Grand Summus.



The Consistory was opened by the President, Dist. Comp. Colin Beerling. The Acting Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Em. Comp. Chris Eley, Provincial Grand Recorder, was admitted and advised the President that the Provincial Grand Summus was in the ante room and demanded admission to the Consistory. The Provincial Grand Summus entered through an Arch of Steel and was welcomed by the President.

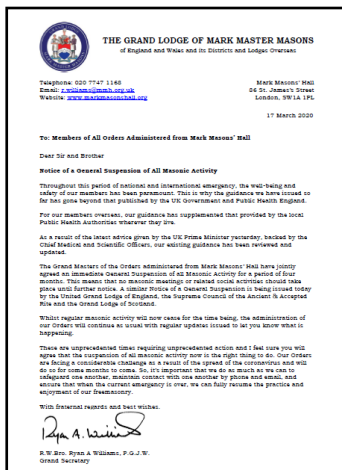
After the minutes were taken, Bro. Alan Boniface, of Surbiton Conclave No 299, was Obligated, Entrusted and Invested as a Companion of the Order, First Grade, in an excellent manner by Em. Comp. Simon McCarthy, Primus of Ostiarii, ably assisted by R. Dist. Comp. Michael Barnes, Past Provincial Grand Summus, who communicated the signs and words before investing the Candidate.

Comp. Alan was congratulated and welcomed into the Order by the Provincial Grand Summus and welcomed into the Consistory by the President.

The President invited the Provincial Grand Summus to present Grand Senatus Certificates to Em. Comps. Chris Eley and Steve Rowlands.



On the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 a letter was issued by the Grand Secretary of the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall to all Masonic Units as follows: *"The Grand Masters of the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall have jointly agreed an immediate General Suspension of all Masonic Activity for a period of four months. This means that no Masonic meetings or related social activities should take place until further notice"*.



A similar Notice of a General Suspension was issued by the United Grand Lodge of England, the Supreme Council of the Ancient & Accepted Rite and the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Due to the suspension of Masonic activity the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020 as a Virtual Business Meeting using the Zoom video conferencing tool. Attending the meeting was the Grand Summus, M. Dist. Comp. Ian Stanley Currans, and over 170 Companions from all across the world.



At that meeting the Grand Summus formally confirmed R. Dist. Comp. Arnold Long as the Provincial Grand Summus for the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey. following which the Provincial Grand Summus formally confirmed Dist. Comp. Nigel Thomson as the Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, and Dist. Comp. Chris Hatton as the Assistant Provincial Grand Summus.

The suspension of Masonic activity was lifted on the 17<sup>th</sup> July and the first meeting of a Scarlet Cord Consistory under the new Rule of Six took place at Hill of Zion Consistory No 52 T.I. on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Present was our Grand Summus, M. Dist. Comp. Ian S Currans, a member of the Consistory, and five other Companions.

The Consistory was opened by the President, Dist. Comp. John McGriger Norton-Doyle, who welcomed the Officers and thanked them for attending the meeting.



Em. Comp. Tamba John was installed as President by Dist. Comp. John McGriger Norton-Doyle in a very sincere manner. Dist. Comp. Tamba was congratulated by the Grand Summus who wished him an enjoyable and successful year.

The final meeting of 2020 was Warlingham Consistory No 134 which took place at Nutfield in September, 11 months after the Consistory was Consecrated. Present was the President, R. Dist. Comp. Michael Barnes, Past Provincial Grand Summus, and five other members.



The Consistory was opened by the President who welcomed the Officers and thanked them for attending the meeting. R. Dist. Comp. Michael Barnes was then proclaimed as President for the ensuing year by the Director of Ceremonies, Dist. Comp. Ian Clark. The Officers of the Consistory were appointed and those present were invested.

Units unable to hold meetings during the lockdown are encouraged by Mark Masons Hall to make use of the Virtual Business Meeting Scheme instead.