

A Message from our Provincial Grand Summus

Companions, welcome to the third edition of the Surrey Cord.

Following on from my comments in the previous edition, as far as Mark Masons Hall is concerned we have now received a letter from the Grand Recorder setting out their anticipated resumption strategy that units will be permitted to hold meetings of up to six people subject to Government restrictions that may be in force.



However, the Heads of the Progressive Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall meeting in Surrey have decided to lift the suspension of those Orders from Monday, 21st June 2021.

We are very hopeful that by then, sufficient number of our Members will feel confident in being able to return to meetings without too many restrictions. Virtual Business Meetings (VBM'S) can continue up to and after that date and we encourage you all to continue to keep in touch and support those in need. We will issue further guidance in due course and remain available to assist all Consistory Recorders. If the Government's Road Map pans out in the next few weeks as expected then I think the future looks to be much brighter so let's keep our fingers crossed.

What I am really hoping for is to be able to give the go ahead on 17th May or thereabouts for our Provincial Grand Senatus to take place on **Thursday 15th July 2021**. We can expect a visit from the Most Distinguished Grand Summus who will be joining us to invest me with my Chain of Office, but more importantly I will have the great pleasure to invest all of my Provincial Grand Officers personally for the first time. So it is one meeting not to miss.

Also, Warlingham Consistory are pushing on with organising an Emergency Meeting on **Tuesday 29th June 2021** to install Eminent Companion Chris Eley, our hardworking Provincial Recorder, as their President and all are welcome.

On Friday 23rd April I was privileged to meet up with Distinguished Companion Nigel Thomson, Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, and Eminent Companion Chris Eley, Provincial Grand Recorder, at Chris' home together with Chris Butler, Vice Chair SERV Surrey and London Blood Bikes, and his associate Hugh Terry and present them with our cheque for £500. It was a wonderful afternoon helped by great weather, great company, and to cap it all a cup of coffee from Chris Eley!! I think I can safely say this was the first time I have ever sat on a motor bike, and probably the last, but they are wonderful machines doing a great job and saving many lives in the process. Full details will be on the website very soon.

Grand Senatus was due to take place on Thursday 6th May but obviously this will not now be possible. I know our Most Distinguished Grand Summus was very keen not to miss out for a second year and has rescheduled this to take place on **Thursday 2nd September** at Mark Masons Hall with two Fourth Grade ceremonies taking place the day before.

As you are all aware, as a mark of respect following the sad death of the Duke of Edinburgh on Friday 9th April 2021 we have been requested to wear a plain black tie when attending Virtual Business Meetings and, as you would expect, everyone appears to have complied with this request.

However I have now received a note from the Mark Benevolent Fund that in recognition of a lifetime of service and dedication to the Crown and the nation by His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund have approved a Major Capital Grant of £1.25 million to support Hospices in England and Wales and further details how this will work will follow shortly. It is a wonderful gesture in memory of a great man who devoted his life to memorable service to our Queen and our country for the last 73 years.

Rt.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long, Provincial Grand Summus

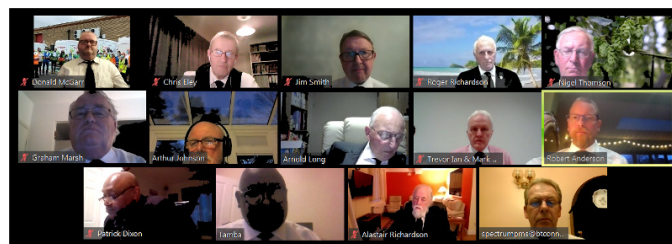
Hill of Zion Consistory Virtual Business Meeting

The first Virtual Business Meeting of Hill of Zion Consistory No 52 T.I. took place on Friday 16th April.

The Consistory was opened by the Presiding Officer, Dist.Comp. Tamba John, President. The Recorder, Dist.Comp. Robert Anderson read the Letter of Permission to hold the meeting and the Dispensation.



The Presiding Officer welcomed all the guests and visitors, especially R.Dist. Comp. Arnold Long our Provincial Grand Summus, and Dist Comp Colin M Beerling the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of the Provincial Grand Conclave of Surrey.



After the minutes had been approved and the accounts received the Companions voted to elect Eminent Companion Mark Currans as President for the ensuing year.

Our Provincial Grand Summus, R.Dist. Comp. Arnold Long, said that we are planning to hold our Annual Meeting at Surbiton on Thursday 15th July 2021 when he will be delighted to invest the Provincial Officers in person.

The Grand Summus, M.Dist.Comp. Ian Currans, congratulated Dist.Comp. Colin Beerling on his first appointment to Past Grand Herald; and Dist.Comp. Nigel Thomson on his first appointment to Past Grand Sword Bearer. He looks forward to investing them at the meeting of Grand Senatus on the 2nd September 2021 at Mark Masons Hall.

The Presiding Officer thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

A Donation to Blood Bikes

Most blood bike charities come under the umbrella of the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes (itself a registered charity) which acts as a representative body for blood bike groups throughout the UK. Their aim is to assist in the promotion of public health through voluntary support of hospital services.



Our local charity is **SERV Surrey & London**, made up entirely from volunteers providing a professional, efficient service to our community, at no cost to the NHS. They mainly consist of motorbike riders, car drivers, controllers, fundraisers and the team represents a variety of people from many walks of life.

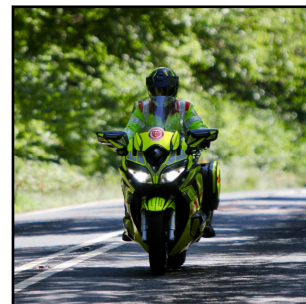
They transport blood products, urgent samples and medical supplies, along with donated breast milk to hospitals and milk banks across Surrey & London. They also carry out a daily delivery of blood to Air Ambulance Kent

Surrey Sussex.

They also support the regular delivery rounds that the NHSBT have in place, however unlike this option, SERV S&L also operate throughout the night. On weekends and Bank Holidays, they provide a 24 hour service to the NHS. They provide this service free of charge, which releases more money for patient care.

At the heart of SERV S&L are the motorbikes. They enable the riders to move effectively through the worst of London traffic, in a safe and progressive manner. Each bike is fitted with a specially designed blood box plate that can securely carry up to two boxes of blood product. Each bike also has panniers that can be used to carry samples, documents or medical equipment that the client hospitals might need in an emergency.

Whilst SERV S&L started out as a motorbike charity, nowadays cars are just as important to what they do. In the face of ever increasing demands on their services, cars are essential to transport orders of three boxes or over. Not only that, but during adverse weather, their two wheeled fleet is grounded as they have a duty of care to ensure that their riders and their precious cargo are safe on the road.



The Mark Benevolent Fund became aware of the role of blood bike charities in January 2016 when an application was received from Northumbria Blood Bikes. Subsequent applications then followed as word spread about the work of the M.B.F.

In May 2017 the Mark Benevolent Fund Charity Walk took place encompassing all Royal Parks in central London along the seven-mile route of The Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Walk. The event was embraced by hundreds of Masons, their friends and families, and raised an astounding £437,934. The Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund wanted to give something back to the Brethren in the Provinces who had given so generously and decided to invite all blood bike charities in England and Wales to apply for funding for a new vehicle. Mark Provinces covering the majority of England and Wales are serviced by these charities and all that applied received a new vehicle.

In August 2018, to coincide with the Blood Bikes Awareness Day, the national handover took place at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham. **Mark Mason**, known within the charity as 'Mason' was donated by the Mark Master Masons as part of a nationwide contribution to NABB members who were successful in their applications to The Mark Benevolent Fund.

SERV Surrey & London is funded entirely by generous donations from the public. The unprecedented circumstances last year have meant that they have been mostly unable to raise money through their regular channels. At the last Annual Meeting the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey approved a donation of £500 to SERV Surrey & London.



In accepting the cheque Chris said that this could not have come at a better time. Fundraising has been affected by the Covid 19 restrictions while the work they have been undertaking during the pandemic has increased.

To find out more about SERV Surrey & London visit their web site <https://servsl.org.uk/>



In April 2021 our Provincial Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long, was delighted to present a cheque for £500 to Chris Butler, Vice Chair of SERV Surrey & London. Also present was Dist.Comp. Nigel Thomson. Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, Em.Comp. Chris Eley, Provincial Grand Recorder, and Hugh Terry of SERV Surrey & London.

