

## Order of the Secret Monitor - Brotherhood of David & Jonathan Provincial Meeting 2024

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July the Somerset Provincial Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor (OSM) was pleased to receive a number of distinguished visitors to the Provincial meeting. Many had travelled many miles to sample the now legendary hospitality of the OSM province of Somerset and the Masonic Hall Nailsea, with of course the pre-festive board aperitif of Somerset Cider and mature cheddar.



The proceedings of the day were led by The Right Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler Julian Frost supported by his deputy Worthy Brother Derrick Griffin both of whom were pleased to greet seven Right Worthy Brethren and brethren from the surrounding Provinces and as far afield as Essex.

To begin the meeting some time was taken to remember those members who had been called to higher service since our last meeting. Those members remembered were;

Very Worthy Brother. Colin Albert Scull of Secundum Artem Conclave, and Brother Samuel James Boyd of St. Hugh Conclave.

The next business of the morning was to honour, several members of the province to provincial rank these were;

### **First Appointments & Re-Appointments.**

Chancellor	Wy. Bro. George Paskins
Counsellor	V.Wy. Bro. John Allen
Guide	Wy. Bro. David Attwater
Chaplain	Wy. Bro. The Rev. Steven Hawkins
Treasurer	Wy. Bro. Peter Wright
Registrar	Wy. Bro. Mark Bajona
Recorder	Wy. Bro. John McHardy
D.C.	V. Wy. Bro. Chris Court
Almoner	Wy. Bro. Bruce Pool
1st Visitor	Wy. Bro. Alva Excell
2nd Visitor	Wy. Bro. Ian Evans
3rd Visitor	Wy. Bro. Simon Murra
4th Visitor	Wy. Bro. Graham Jeffery
Asst. DC	Wy. Bro. Steve Poland
Sword Bearer	Wy. Bro. Andy Moore



Standard Bearer	Bro. Richard Winter
Bow Bearer	Wy. Bro. James Brown
Asst. Recorder	Wy. Bro. Mike Page
Organist	Bro. Barry Renwick
Guarder	Wy. Bro. John Housden
Steward	Bro. John Nicholas
Steward	Wy. Bro. Richard Marsh
Steward	Wy. Bro. Martin Straus
Steward	Bro. Andrew Wood
Sentinel	Bro. Chris Jeffery

### **Past Rank Promotions**

Counsellor	V. Wy. Bro. Chris Court
Counsellor	Wy. Bro. John Tossell
Guide	Wy. Bro. Peter Wright
Guide	Wy. Bro. Nigel Handbury
Guide	Wy. Bro. Peter Roworth

### **Arch Of Steel**

Commander:	Bro. Ian Prestwood
Deputy Commander:	Bro. Clifford House
	Wy. Bro. Anthony Griffith
Bros.	David Lockyer
	Guy Annan
	Drew Huskisson
	Sam Bro

Next was for The Supreme Ruler of Nailsea Conclave ably supported by twelve members of Nailsea Conclave to present the travelling arrow back to the province. The travelling arrow was set up to promote visitation between the Conclaves of the Province, and travels from conclave to conclave during the year until the last Conclave presents it back to the province at the end of the year ready for the new year and for the arrow to start its journey again.



With the business of the meeting complete it was time for the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler to address;

Well Brethren, here we are again!

Firstly may I again extend a very special welcome to our esteemed guests and also my thanks to the Brethren of Somerset for their attendance today.

I'd like to say that the last twelve months has been good in the Province of Somerset. Well, actually I think I can! I seriously believe that the Masonic year to date has been successful for us. Membership is holding steady, whilst one or two of our Conclaves have been struggling they are seeing new members being Inducted who are keen to involve themselves and overall there appears to be renewed enthusiasm, plus we have a new Conclave about to be consecrated in the Province, more about that later.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Officers for their services over the last twelve months and to likewise congratulate today's newly appointed Officers on being invested. I am very pleased to say that I am continually blessed with an excellent array of Brethren, who, when asked to do a job, I can feel assured that it will be carried out. I look forward to working with you all over the ensuing twelve months.

It is in this vain that Mark Masons' Hall is pushing for greater inter action between the Conclave Visiting Deacons and their members. Brethren, we all sell this wonderful Order to potential candidates on the basis of the communication which is perpetuated between each of the Visiting Deacons and their selected Brethren, by regular contact and subsequently the Deacons reporting back to their Conclaves. In cases where there is little activity from a Visiting Deacon it may be something as fundamental as he, quite simply, hasn't been told what to do. In this regard I am keen that with the help and influence of our Provincial Grand Guide feeding down through the Provincial Visitors to the Conclave Scroll Bearer and Visiting Deacons, with good communication and encouragement to see that the system works, and moreover, works well. Please Brethren, remember the duties of your Conclave Scroll Bearer. In most, if not all, of our Conclaves the Secretary is also the Scroll Bearer. In short, it is the duty of the Scroll Bearer to organise and coordinate the Visiting Deacons, this commitment is fully explained in the Book of Constitutions and, Brethren, I would implore you to read it in depth.

Last November we held our Ladies Sunday lunch which, again proved very successful and well attended. I thank Wy. Bro. Mike Page and his good lady Lynne for organising the event. It will happen again this year on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November at the Batch Country Hotel.

I am pleased to report that we have, very recently, revived our Provincial Conclave of Instruction. Previously, this had been started about two years prior to the Covid lockdown and showed great promise in aiding our Brethren to improve their ritual. Since then, we have had our first meeting recently and I very much hope that the Brethren will make use of this opportunity. We will hold two meetings a year, on a fifth Wednesday in the Spring and a fifth Wednesday in the Autumn, this should, hopefully, avoid clashes in our diaries. The meetings will be held at Burnham on Sea, and, oh yes, there will be the mandatory visit to the Curry House afterwards!

At Grand Conclave last November two of our Brethren were received their Grand Collars, with first appointments to Wy. Bro. George Paskins receiving Past Grand Sword Bearer and Graham Jeffery Past Grand Standard Bearer. I extend to them, my congratulations and many thanks for their services over the years.

In my address last year I mentioned that we were working on the formation of two new Conclaves. I'm pleased to say that our dining Conclave has been approved by Mark Masons' Hall and will be named 'The Supper of King David Conclave No.638'. The consecration will take place on the morning of Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October. The finer arrangements details still have to be confirmed, however it will held here at Nailsea, however, Yatton will be our regular meeting place.

Plans are still afoot for a new Conclave at Yeovil, however there have been some considerable delays largely caused by the Masonic Hall and ourselves negotiating over the finances. I do hope and, moreover, I seriously believe that with the sufficient numbers we have from the Province, assisted by support from our Brethren just over the Provincial boundary into Dorset & Wiltshire, we can make a go of it. In addition to this, we already have lined up, three or four Brethren, who don't wish to become Founders, but would like to be candidates after the consecration.

The Order of the Scarlet Cord, our sister Order continues to flourish. In Somerset we are part of the Province of Somerset & Dorset, led by Right Distinguished Companion Ian Sullivan, who is best known to many of us as the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler in Dorset & Wiltshire. Ian had hoped to have been with us today, but he also holds District Office in the Allied Masonic Degrees and therefore has to be there. The last twelve months has been successful for the Order with the consecration last September of the King Arthur Consistory No. 143 meeting at Ilminster, generally on the same dates as Round Table Conclave. Geographically speaking this helps to fill in the gap

between Somerset Consistory at Burnham on Sea and Blandford Consistory in Dorset. The future of this Consistory appears very promising and it does have new candidates in line.

Brethren, encouraging members of the Craft to join us as candidates is of key importance. In my opinion, which is shared by others, the best means of gaining candidates is by direct personal contact. You might like to suggest to a Brother, “have you ever thought about joining the Order of the Secret Monitor!” Don’t take “No!” for an answer! Tell them about the duties and responsibilities of the Visiting Deacons or perhaps tell them that in the Craft they were taught about – “B... the great grandfather of David, a Prince and Ruler in Israel”, but they weren’t told any more; between this Order and the Scarlet Cord, far more of the history is revealed. Or, perhaps try any persuasive method you find suitable yourself. If all else fails just tell them that Julian Frost has got a form!

I thank my team for their hard work for today, especially my Recorder Wy. Bro. John McHardy, our Treasurer Wy. Bro. Peter Wright, the Director of Ceremonies V. Wy. Bro. Chris Court and, of course, my Deputy Wy. Bro. Derrick Griffin.

Again, I thank our guests and all of you for your attendance today and for those that are not staying for lunch, I wish you a safe journey to your next destination and for those staying I look forward to your company at the Festive Board, or After-Meeting as our Bristol Brethren would say!

Julian Frost

PGSR Somerset

13<sup>th</sup> July 2024