

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of England
and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas



MINUTES

of the Annual Assembly of Grand Council
held on Tuesday, 19 April 2022, at Freemasons' Hall,
60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ

PRESENT

GRAND MASTER

M.III.Comp. Kessick John Jones

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

R.III.Comp. His Hon. Ian Douglas Gavin Alexander, QC

GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

R.III.Comp. Richard Ludwick Gan, JP

PAST DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

R.III.Comp. M. E. Herbert

R.III.Comp. R. V. Wallis, JP

PAST GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTORS OF THE WORK

R.III.Comp. M. G. Spencer, O.S.C.M.

R.III.Comp. Lt Col. J. C. Chambers

CUSTODIANS OF THE NINTH ARCH

R.III.Comp. J. D. Phillips, IX

R.III.Kt. N. K. Milburn, IX

R.III.Comp. W. F. Clemens, IX

R.III.Comp. G. Smith, IX

R.III.Comp. B. A. Vickers, IX

DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS

R.III.Comp. V. J. Driver District Grand Master for London
R.III.Comp. J. Harvey District Grand Master for Northumberland
R.III.Comp. R. S. C. Mitchell District Grand Master for Lancashire
R.III.Comp. C. G. Lewis District Grand Master for Middlesex
R.III.Comp. D. J. Blackburn District Grand Master for Surrey
R.III.Comp. N. T. Woodward District Grand Master for North and East Yorkshire
R.III.Comp. P. T. Coles District Grand Master for East Anglia
R.III.Comp. G. L. Gill, *SLMM* District Grand Master for South and East Caribbean
R.III.Comp. Dr A. Beckerton District Grand Master for Derbyshire
R.III.Comp. G. H. Jones, *CStJ* District Grand Master for South Wales
R.III.Comp. D. G. Sanderson District Grand Master for Cumberland and Westmorland
R.III.Comp. K. L. Downes, *JP* District Grand Master for Wyvern
R.III.Comp. T. M. Sharpe District Grand Master for Kent

R.III.Comp. B. F. Marchant.....	District Grand Master for Sussex
R.III.Comp. M. J. Wilson	District Grand Master for East Midlands
R.III.Comp. F. J. Shaw	District Grand Master for Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight
R.III.Comp. M. Graham.....	District Grand Master for Durham
R.III.Comp. T. Hancock.....	District Grand Master for Oxon, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire
R.III.Comp. R. J. Potts	District Grand Master for Essex
R.III.Comp. Gp Capt. P. J. Brindle	District Grand Master for Hertfordshire
R.III.Comp. F. McPherson.....	District Grand Master for West Yorkshire
R.III.Comp. B. Hughes	District Grand Master for Cheshire and the Marches
R.III.Comp. D. F. Wellings.....	District Grand Master for Warwickshire
R.III.Comp. D. B. Surry	District Grand Master for Somerset and Wiltshire

PAST DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS

R.III.Comp. D. S. Pratt, P.Dist.G.M., Yorkshire (2003–2014)
R.III.Comp. J. R. Collison, P.Dist.G.M., North Midlands (2004–2009)
R.III.Comp. A. Long, P.Dist.G.M., Surrey (2006–2014)
R.III.Comp. L. E. Bourne, <i>JP</i> , P.Dist.G.M., Wyvern (2006–2016)
R.III.Comp. S. B. Crutchley, P.Dist.G.M., Cheshire and The Marches (2009–2021)
R.III.Comp. G. J. Deacon, P.Dist.G.M., Dorset Hampshire and Isle of Wight (2011–2017)
R.III.Comp. C. D. Hellyer, P.Dist.G.M., Hertfordshire (2011–2019)
R.III.Comp. J. C. Jacobson, P.Dist.G.M., Essex (2012–2019)
R.III.Comp. D. B. Nelson, P.Dist.G.M., Somerset and Wiltshire (2013–2021)

GRAND OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

R.III.Comp. J. H. Newman, <i>OBE</i>	Grand Chancellor
R.III.Comp. D. S. Rose	Grand Councillor
V.III.Comp. Dr V. Thomas, <i>JP</i>	Grand Chaplain
R.III.Comp. J. N. G. Howitt, P.G.Coun.	Grand Treasurer
R.III.Comp. G. D. Seeman.....	President of the Executive Committee
R.III.Comp. R. A. Williams, P.G.Chan.	Grand Recorder
R.III.Comp. P. A. Norman, P.G.Chan.	Grand Director of Ceremonies
V.III.Comp. C. G. Maiden.....	Grand Lecturer
III.Comp. G. R. Goddard, P.G.Lect.....	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
III.Comp. A. C. Jennings.....	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
III.Comp. M. R. Burt, P.A.G.D.C.	as Grand Captain of the Guard
III.Comp. The Revd T. J. N. L'Estrange	Assistant Grand Chaplain
III.Comp. D. M. Heath, P.G.Capt.Gd.	Assistant Grand Recorder
III.Comp. A. J. Baverstock.....	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
III.Comp. C. Renshaw	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
Comp. T. J. Wheeler.....	as Grand Sword Bearer
III.Comp. D. Guy.....	Grand Standard Bearer
III.Comp. Dr R. A. Scott.....	Grand Organist
III.Comp. L. G. Clement, P.A.G.D.C.	Deputy Grand Organist
III.Comp. E. J. Sarti	Grand Steward
III.Comp. S. D. Bassett.....	Grand Manciple
III.Comp. A. J. Laird.....	Grand Manciple
III.Comp. G. Long.....	Grand Manciple
III.Comp. J. B. Muskett.....	Grand Manciple

PAST GRAND CHANCELLORS

R.III.Comp. H. K. Emmerson	R.III.Comp. P. W. Tarrant
R.III.Comp. Dr J. L. W. Wright, <i>RD</i>	R.III.Comp. G. F. Redman
R.III.Comp. H. Gould, <i>OBE</i>	R.III.Comp. T. F. Auber
R.III.Comp. T. F. Jackson	R.III.Comp. R. A. H. Morrow
R.III.Comp. A. C. Sweeney	R.III.Comp. M. F. Barnes
R.III.Comp. P. R. Clement	R.III.Comp. N. A. B. Grout
R.III.Comp. G. L. Flight	R.III.Comp. B. W. Price, <i>OBE</i>
R.III.Comp. J. R. Paternoster	R.III.Comp. M. E. Slater, <i>OSTJ</i>

PAST GRAND COUNCILLORS

R.III.Comp. D. Baum	R.III.Comp. F. C. Spencer
R.III.Comp. N. A. Willows	R.III.Comp. J. H. Prizeman
R.III.Comp. A. G. Simey	R.III.Comp. L. M. Keats
R.III.Comp. D. G. Viggers	R.III.Comp. H. B. A. Wise
R.III.Comp. I. S. Currans	R.III.Comp. R. J. Clare
R.III.Comp. Justice (Ret.) M. P. H. Rubin	R.III.Comp. G. E. Bonham

COMPANIONS FROM OVERSEAS

South and East Caribbean: Ill.Comp. S. B. Cobham, P.G.Cond.C.

Indalo Council No. 284 (Unattached – Spain): Ill.Comp. R. L. Munday, P.A.G.D.C

DEPUTATIONS FROM OTHER GRAND COUNCILS

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of South East Asia

Ill.Comp. I. P. Ellston

and many other Grand Officers, Past Masters and Companions.

Report of Proceedings

1. OPENING

Grand Council was opened in Ample Form by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master then addressed the Companions as follows:

‘Companions, before we commence proceedings today, I think it is important to reflect for a moment on the last two years. Some of our members of a more mature age group will have experienced the fear and deprivation suffered during those dark days of wartime conflict. But for many of us, the experiences and uncertainty of the past two years, brought about by the various forms of the pandemic, probably have been the worst we have ever undergone. Many of us will have been touched in some way, by personal suffering, the loss of loved ones, isolation and hardship, both physical and financial.

‘I extend my heartfelt sympathy to all who have so suffered. I look to you all to remember those Companions we have lost during the In Memoriam, which will follow shortly. However, above all this gloom and despondency has risen a surge of courage, fortitude, resilience and resourcefulness, both individual and collective. Caring, kindness and courtesy have helped us and others overcome adversity, and we have learned a crucial lesson to quickly adapt and change in order to combat and cope with challenging circumstances.

‘We cannot re-write the chapters of history already past, but we can learn from them – as I have said: learn to evolve and adapt. The new normal may even be a better normal, it will certainly be a different one! The multitude of examples of all these qualities that I have witnessed and learnt about within our Order have made me very proud to be your Grand Master. As to the future – no problem: we have learnt much and have nothing to fear. We are now stronger and wiser. As Nelson Mandela once said: “I learned that courage was not the absence of fear – but the triumph over it.” So, apart from the next agenda item, I look forward to the rest of the meeting, especially the Investiture and to speaking to you again at the conclusion of events and then later at lunch.’

2. IN MEMORIAM

The Most Illustrious Grand Master referred with great regret to the death of a number of Companions, in particular: R.III.Comp. Neil Robert Hartburn, Dist.G.M. for North Midlands; R.III.Comp. David Sparks, P.Dist.G.M. (Middlesex); R.III.Comp. Anthony Clive Moles, P.G.Chan.; R.III.Comp. Harold Vincent Beck, P.G.Chan.; R.III.Comp. Derek Hobbs, P.G.Coun.; R.III.Comp. Lawrence Tinkler, P.G.Coun.; R.III.Comp. Roy Harold Webber, P.G.Coun. In addition, there are 53 Grand Officers detailed in the Report of the Executive Committee.

The Companions stood to order while the Grand Chaplain offered prayer.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last face to face meeting of Grand Council held on 16 April 2019 were circulated with the Paper of Business for the 2020 meeting which was subsequently abandoned. In the absence of any objection or request for amendment, those Minutes were taken as read, approved, and adopted. Consequently, there are no Minutes to approve on this occasion.

4. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On the proposition of the President of the Executive Committee, seconded by the Grand Recorder, the Report of the Executive Committee for the period ending 31 December 2021, which had been printed and circulated as **Appendix A** in the Summons, was taken as read. The Report was then approved, adopted and entered on the Minutes.

5. REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

The Grand Treasurer addressed Grand Council as follows:

'Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions, I have pleasure in presenting the financial statement of accounts for the year ending 31 August 2021 which are contained in the Summons for this meeting as **Appendix B**. These accounts show details of our income from investments, and also show that we did not make any donations from our funds during the year. I'm pleased to announce the value of our investments increased to £20,459 which is due to an increase in the stock market valuation as at our year end. These statements of accounts have been audited by Crowe UK LLP, registered auditors.'

6. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTIONS AND REGULATIONS OF THE ORDER

On the proposition of the Grand Chancellor and seconded by the Grand Recorder, the proposed amendments to the Constitutions and Regulations, as set out in **Appendix C** of the Summons for this meeting, and in the **Addendum** to the Summons issued on 12 April, were carried.

7. ELECTION AND PROCLAMATION OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER

On the proposition of the Deputy Grand Master, seconded by the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, and carried nem con by the Companions present, M.III.Comp. Kessick John Jones was re-elected Most Illustrious Grand Master.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master was then proclaimed by the acting Grand Director of Ceremonies as follows:

Be it known that KESSICK JOHN JONES, Bachelor of Arts of the Open University; Past Senior Grand Deacon in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Assistant Grand Sojourner in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Past Grand Senior Warden in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas, and a member of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council, Honoris Causa, in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; Knight Commander of the United Orders of the Great Priory of the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas; Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret 32nd Degree in the Ancient and Accepted Rite under the Supreme Council 33rd Degree for England and Wales and its Districts and Chapters Overseas; Past Grand Senior General in the Grand Imperial Conclave for England and Wales and its Divisions and Conclaves Overseas of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St John the Evangelist; Past Grand Senior Warden in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; Past Grand Counsellor in the Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor, or Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, in the British Isles and its Districts and Conclaves Overseas; Past Grand Vice Chancellor in the Grand Senatus of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas; Holder of the VII degree, Honoris Causa, in the Worshipful Society of Freemasons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers; Knight Commander of the Priestly Orders of the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom; Knight Commander of the Holy City, and President of the Grand Master's

Council, of the Grand Priory of the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City of the Rectified Scottish Rite of England and Wales; Provincial Grand Marischal of the Provincial Grand Lodge of London and the Metropolitan Counties in the Royal Order of Scotland; Grand Master, etc., etc., etc., etc., has this day been elected Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; whom may the Supreme Master of the Universe long preserve.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master was saluted under the direction of the acting Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Most Illustrious Grand Master returned thanks.

8. APPOINTMENT AND PROCLAMATION OF THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

The Most Illustrious Grand Master announced the re-appointment of R.III.Comp. His Honour Ian Douglas Gavin Alexander, QC, as Deputy Grand Master for the ensuing year.

The Deputy Grand Master was then proclaimed by the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies as follows:

Be it known that IAN DOUGLAS GAVIN ALEXANDER, One of her Majesty's retired Judges of the Crown Court of England and Wales; One of her Majesty's Counsel Learned in the Law; Bachelor of Law, Honours, of University College London; Bencher of the Honorable Society of Lincoln's Inn; Past Junior Grand Warden in the United Fraternity of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Grand Registrar in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Past Provincial Grand Master for Oxfordshire in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas, and in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; A member of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council, Honoris Causa, in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; Knight Grand Cross of the United Orders and Great Chancellor of the Great Priory of the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas; Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret 32nd Degree, in the Ancient and Accepted Rite under the Supreme Council 33rd Degree for England and Wales and its Districts and Chapters Overseas; Knight Commander of Constantine and Grand Registrar of the Grand Imperial Conclave for England and Wales and its Divisions and Conclaves Overseas of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St John the Evangelist; Past Grand Senior Warden in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; Past Grand Guide and Grand Registrar of the Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor, or Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, in the British Isles and its Districts and Conclaves Overseas; Past Grand Sword Bearer in the Grand Senatus of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas; Past Grand Fourth Pillar in the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom; Knight Commander of the Holy City of the Grand Priory of the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City of the Rectified Scottish Rite of England and Wales; Provincial Grand Senior Warden in the Provincial Grand Lodge of London and the Metropolitan Counties in the Royal Order of Scotland; Deputy Grand Master, etc., etc., etc., has this day been appointed Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; whom may the Supreme Master of the Universe long preserve.

The Deputy Grand Master was saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Deputy Grand Master returned thanks.

9. APPOINTMENT, OBLIGATION, INVESTITURE, INSTALLATION AND PROCLAMATION OF THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

The Most Illustrious Grand Master announced the appointment of R.III.Comp. Paul Anthony Norman, P.G.Chan., G.D.C., as Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. Right Illustrious Companion Norman being in attendance, the Most Illustrious Grand Master directed the acting Grand Director of Ceremonies to form an escort and present him for obligation and investiture. The escort was formed and retired, and then introduced the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work designate into Grand Council.

The Most Illustrious Grand Master addressed R.III.Comp. Norman on the nature of his duties and enquired as to whether he was now ready, able and willing to accept the appointment of Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and to undertake the duties and responsibilities of that office. R.III.Comp. Norman answered in the affirmative and knelt for the benefit of prayer given by the Grand Chaplain. The Grand Principal Conductor of the Work designate was then obligated, invested and installed by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

R.III.Comp. Norman was proclaimed by the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies as follows:

Be it known that PAUL ANTHONY NORMAN, Past Grand Steward in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Grand Standard Bearer in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Past Provincial Grand Master for East Anglia in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas, and in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; A Holder of Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; Past Great Registrar in the Great Priory of the United, Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas; Past Grand High Almoner in the Grand Imperial Conclave for England and Wales and its Divisions and Conclaves Overseas of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St John the Evangelist; Past District Grand Prefect for East Anglia in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; Grand Counsellor of the Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor, or Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, in the British Isles and its Districts and Conclaves Overseas; Past Grand Vice Chancellor in the Grand Senatus of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas; Past Grand Seventh Pillar in the Grand College of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom; Past Grand Chancellor, etc., etc., etc., has this day been appointed Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; whom may the Supreme Master of the Universe long preserve;

The Grand Principal Conductor of the Work was saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Grand Principal Conductor of the Work returned thanks.

10. ELECTION OF THE GRAND TREASURER

On the proposition of the Grand Chancellor, seconded by the Grand Recorder and carried nem con by the Companions present, R.III.Comp. J. N. G. Howitt, P.G.Coun., was elected Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.

11. APPOINTMENT OF GRAND OFFICERS 2022/2023

The Grand Recorder read the names of those Companions whom the Most Illustrious Grand Master had appointed to Grand Rank. The Most Illustrious Grand Master invested those present.

ACTIVE OFFICERS

Grand Chancellor.....	James Henry Newman, <i>OBE</i>
Grand Councillor.....	David Stewart Rose
Grand Chaplain.....	Dr Vivian Thomas, <i>JP</i>
Grand Treasurer (elected).....	John Norman George Howitt, P.G.Coun.
President of the Executive Committee	Keith Young
Grand Recorder.....	Ryan Andrew Williams, P.G.Chan.
Grand Director of Ceremonies.....	Graham David Seeman, P.Pres.E.C.
Grand Lecturer.....	Christopher Gavin Maiden
Grand Historiographer.....	Richard Ludwik Gan, <i>JP</i> , P.G.P.C.W.
Deputy Grand Chaplain	The Revd Timothy John Nicholas L'Estrange
Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies	Andrew Charles Jennings Paul William Hutchinson
Grand Captain of the Guard	Matthew Redgwell Burt
Grand Conductor of the Council	Neil Bradley Hawes
Assistant Grand Chaplain	Anthony Russell Davis, P.G.Cond.C.
Assistant Grand Recorder	Daniel Mark Heath, P.G.Capt.Gd.

Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Alan John Baverstock Richard Gordon Brown
Grand Sword Bearer.....	Philip Gough
Grand Standard Bearer	Jeffrey James Chambers
Grand Organist.....	Dr Robert Andrew Scott
Deputy Grand Organist.....	Lewis George Clement, P.A.G.D.C.
Grand Steward.....	Graeme Hutchinson
Grand Manciples.....	Kenneth David Bennett Arthur Joseph Clark Mark Robert Constant Leslie Alan Darby Alun Huw Hopkin David Kellet Simon Paul Lancaster David John Lee Christopher Moore Dennis Andrew Potter
Grand Sentinel.....	<i>vacant</i>

PROMOTIONS

Past Grand Chancellor Justice (Retd) Mohideen Pierre Haja Rubin	Nigel Alan Willows
Past Grand Councillor Richard Anthony Dunleavy Douglas Taylor Hopton	Anthony William Llewellyn
Past Grand Lecturer Andrew Philip Beaumont Jeffery Albert Edward Bennett William Jack Hagger Ronald David Jakes Anthony Morris Frank Arthur Langlands Norman	Malcolm Edward Orr Michael Damian Saxon Leonard Henry Stewart Derek Arthur Upton John Harlow Wickes Colin Robert Woodcock, <i>MBE</i>
Past Grand Captain of the Guard Stephen Brian Cobham Jack Ernest Flint John Anthony Goodrum Stephen John Hall Peter Hawken, <i>MBE</i> Kenneth Laidlaw Andrew Elliott Leveridge Barrie Roy Mansell Richard Byron Owen	David Robinson Sellers Capt. (R) John Raitlon Simons Neville Andrew Storey Derek Thomas Colin Paul Tunbridge Tim Weller David Christopher White John Ernest Terence Williams Frank Stanley Wilmot
Past Grand Conductor of the Council Christopher Roy Beck Dr Owen William Davison Roger Francis Hall-Jones John Francis Raymond Handley Anthony John Helliar David James Hickenbottom Douglas Allan Higginson Colin Walter Hughes Kevin Christopher Johnson David Lambton Thomas Jonathan Lish Reginald Garnet Marshall	Joseph Patrick Anthony McCollum David Abraham Mostyn John Clive Penpraze Anthony James Prett David Leonard Rowbotham Barry Frederick Sayers Carlton Alexander Stephen Hugh Malcolm Stoddart Anthony Taylor Graham Henry Woodcock
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies Gerald Lane	

PAST RANKS (FIRST APPOINTMENTS)

Past Grand Conductor of the Council

Jonathan Charles Whitaker, *JP*

Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Mark Henry Edward Ball

Ivor Michael Henry Bennett

Stuart Cairns

Ian Frederick Cotton

Harry Andrew Crook

Mark Ian Denton

William Arthur Divall

Charles William Doe

Vincent Fattorusso

David Alistair Fok

Christopher John Gabbott

Paul Anthony Gosling

Stephen William Hardie

Thomas Iwan Blackwell Jenkins, *JP*

John Stuart Kay

Alan John Krzysica

Derek Mersh

Robert Charles Neal

Brian Ernest Parkes

David Leslie Robson

Mark Stuart Whitaker

Philip Wills

Past Grand Sword Bearer

David Frederick Ashbolt

Steven Graeme Barratt

Neil Martin Evans

Dennis Andrew Freshwater

Simon Barningham Harker

Brian Michael Hatton

Angus John Herdman

Martin Frank Hemsley Levick

Herman Ray Lioe-A-Tjam

Novar Patrick McDonald

William George Andrew Mills

Allan Monkhouse

Ernest Peter Raymond Morris

Graham Leonard Spence

Christopher Edward Summers

George Frederick Wainwright

Lez Ward

Mervyn Frank Wilson

Past Grand Standard Bearer

Ronald William Corlett

Gilbert Emiel August Denys

Edwin David Fisher

Stephen George Hughes

Eric Longstaff

Brian Robert Lowe

Richard Alan Lucas

Mark Paul Nicholls

Michael John Plant

Alexander Ross

Ivan William Scott

David William Thornthwaite

Howard Leslie Glyn Vaughan

Linton Antonio Walters, *JP*

Derek Ivor Watson

Past Grand Steward

David Baruch

John Daniel Dixon

Tadeusz Wladislaw Krawczyk

David Lloyd Pugh

12. APPOINTMENT OF TWO COMPANIONS TO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
The Most Illustrious Grand Master announced that in accordance with Regulation 118(i) of the Constitutions and Regulations, he had appointed the following Companions to serve on the Executive Committee:

R.III.Comp. N. T. Woodward, Dist.G.M. for North and East Yorkshire

R.III.Comp. T. M. Sharpe, Dist.G.M. for Kent

13. ELECTION OF TWO COMPANIONS TO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
On the proposition of the Deputy Grand Master, seconded by the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and carried nem con by the Companions present, the following Companions were elected to the Executive Committee in accordance with Regulation 118(i) of the Constitutions and Regulations:

R.III.Comp. J. Harvey, Dist.G.M. for Northumberland

R.III.Comp. G. H. Jones, *CStJ*, Dist.G.M. for South Wales

There having been no other nominations, the Most Illustrious Grand Master declared the two Companions to have been duly elected.

14. TO ELECT PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED AND REGISTERED AUDITORS

On the proposition of the Grand Chancellor, seconded by the Grand Recorder, and carried nem con by the Companions present, that Messrs Crowe Clark Whitehill U.K. LLP, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, were re-appointed as Auditors to Grand Council.

15. ADDRESS BY THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER

The Most Illustrious Grand Master addressed the Companions as follows:

I begin my address today by welcoming you all, not only our honoured recipients, but all your fellow Companions who have come to support you, me and the Order and I sincerely thank those who have accepted the invitation to lunch together afterwards. I say without hesitation, or fear of contradiction, that isn't it wonderful to be back together again within these hallowed halls!

First and foremost, may I thank you for my re-election. Let there be no doubt Grand Masters are elected and I am very conscious of the great responsibility you have placed upon me, and I look forward to the year ahead with eager anticipation.

Today it has been a joyous privilege to invest those Companions receiving their first appointment and I bid them welcome to the ranks of Grand Officers. May you have many happy years to enjoy your hard-earned reward for past services, but remember, Companions, that it is your duty to continue to set an example to others and by doing so encourage them to follow in your footsteps. I also thank those whom I have promoted today for fulfilling their original commitment, thereby ensuring a higher office in our Ranks. To you all, I charge you to continue the work of ensuring the future health, strength and development of our Order.

I now turn to thank the outgoing Active Grand Officers. Most will be aware that those appointed in 2020 were re-appointed for a further year due to pandemic inactivity. Some of them did get to see some action in that second year, as you will hear later, but sadly not a lot.

I make special reference here to Richard Gan who has stepped down after four years sterling service as Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. Richard, you have been a source of great strength to our Order for many years and, on behalf of all the Companions present, I thank you for your friendship, support, patience, wise counsel, stewardship, and good humour. I am truly grateful that you have chosen to accept the 'tailor-made' appointment to be our primus Grand Historiographer, so that we may continue to benefit from your research and historical expertise. This will be especially crucial in the lead up to our sesquicentenary celebrations next year. For that, and for what you have achieved in all your many years service to this Order, you have our utmost gratitude.

R.III.Comp. Paul Norman, you have been an indefatigable servant as our Grand Director of Ceremonies for over ten years and have been kindness personified to me on many occasions, both at home and abroad. Thank you for your industry, direction and example, which have benefited Councils throughout the Constitution and set the highest standards for the Office. I could not let you remain in that Office any longer, otherwise you would have truly outlasted your three predecessors! I am grateful that you have agreed to remain in active office and that the Order may continue to benefit from your experience in your new role as Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. But you must promise to be gentle with your successor – at least at the beginning!

I also wish to thank the other presently permanent members of the team, especially the Deputy Grand Master, whose sage counsel and support are always readily available, and who works quietly behind the scenes looking after our unattached Councils and chairing our Celebration Committee, amongst many other things. His devotion to his duties and dedication to our Order are exceptional and enduring. I may have more to say about him during the more relaxed atmosphere we enjoy at lunch!

I have mentioned the G.P.C.W. and G.D.C., and go on to include the Grand Chancellor, Grand Councillor, President of the Executive, the Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies and the Grand Recorder and Assistant Grand Recorder.

I now give you an account of our activities since I addressed you by Zoom on 20 April 2021. From April until August 2021 all District Annual Meetings were by Zoom and I think that I managed to get to most if not all of them. There were also several informal catch-up Zooms which kept us together and in constant contact. The facility of Zoom has wrapped itself around us like a warm blanket of support and comfort and many thousands were held during those difficult times.

At the end of August, in the company of what appeared to be most of the District Grand Masters, I attended the annual meeting of the District of Dorset, Hampshire and IOW at Botley. On 8 October I consecrated Trinity Council No. 343 for Wyvern, with the District Grand Master becoming the Primus Master and installed with great aplomb by none other than the Grand Supreme Ruler of the OSM, Andrew Sweeney! Also, during October, I visited the Districts of Hertfordshire and Northumberland and attended Dunganvan Council in London to witness the Allied Grand Master for India installed as T.I.M.

Since our last face to face meeting, we have welcomed seven new leaders into our fold. Four were appointed by Patent during the pandemic restrictions, most of whom you will hear that I have now confirmed in Office. Two others I installed, and one other was kindly installed by his predecessor. I will now introduce them and ask that those present, when announced, stand and be recognised:

In October, Jeff Spiller was installed by his predecessor, Paul Knight, as District Grand Master for South Africa; in November, in consequence of the retirement of David Rawlins, I installed Peter Wellings as District Grand Master for Warwickshire; also, that month I installed Keith Surry as District Grand Master for Somerset and Wiltshire, following the retirement of David Nelson; at a meeting of Royal Hiram Council in Mold, I confirmed the appointment of Bryan Hughes as District Grand Master for Cheshire and the Marches, who had succeeded Shaun Crutchley on 1 January 2021; and I did the same in March, at a meeting of Yorkshire Council of Installed Masters in Huddersfield, for Fraser McPherson, who was appointed by Patent as District Grand Master for West Yorkshire way back in August 2020; that only leaves Harding Watler, the Grand Inspector for Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, appointed by Patent on 2 November 2020; and Ken Rondell, Grand Inspector for the Channel Islands, appointed by the same method on 29 November 2020. I have already thanked the retirees for their service and now do so again, and I wish the new kids on the block every success and happiness in their new roles.

You will have noted under Item 2, the very sad passing of Neil Hartburn, District Grand Master for North Midlands. I am pleased to inform you that the Deputy District Grand Master, Steven Bradford, has accepted my appointment for him to succeed as District Grand Master and he will be installed later this year.

During these restorative months the Deputy Grand Master visited Sussex, the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work attended North Midlands, and the Grand Councillor represented me at Middlesex. Towards the end of February, I was privileged to deliver a eulogy in respect of the late R.III.Comp. Neil Hartburn, at his memorial service held at the Chesterfield Masonic Hall. In addition, I am indebted to the outgoing Grand P.C.W. who attended the centenary celebrations of The Harte Council No. 34 in Darlington in early March during my period of Covid enforced self-isolation. So, you can see that we have all done our best to make up for lost time and I thank all our hosts for the generous hospitality and welcome we received on every occasion.

Our Silver Trowel and Excellent Masters program was brought back on track following a marathon meeting on 22 November, when the Degree of Excellent Master was conferred upon no less than 66 candidates in 3 sessions. This was followed by a further 24 Silver Trowel and 13 Excellent Masters in February. I place on record my thanks to the members of Grafton Council of Anointed Kings for their continuing excellent work.

The demonstrational expertise and entertainment usually provided by the members of Keith Hind Council had been seriously frustrated by the pandemic. But they kept their spirits up and maintained constant contact by Zoom and I am grateful to their Recorder, R.III.Comp. Bill Clements, for facilitating much of this.

A warrant for a new Council in Montego Bay has been received and approved and we await a convenient date for its Consecration, which we hope will be in the very near future.

A word of thanks now to my District Grand Masters and Grand Inspectors, not only for your attendance today and for those who formed the Escort so well, but for your unstinting support and energy in the superintendence of your units throughout these past challenging and difficult years. In short, well done for keeping the home fires burning! That these individuals are so successful is not by chance, but because they all subscribe to the essential principles posited a long time ago by Joseph Addison, a 17th century English essayist who maintained that: 'If you wish to succeed in life, make perseverance your bosom friend, experience your wise counsellor, caution your elder brother, and hope your guardian genius.'

I am also heartened by the presence of many Past District Grand Masters and Inspectors here today, still actively supporting the Order and no doubt keeping a watchful eye on their successors.

Some of you may have concerns about how have we been affected as an Order during the pandemic. Given the challenges we have faced over the last two years, it would not have been unreasonable to have expected to see greater losses than were recorded. We can take comfort from the fact that the pro-active approach by MMH in communicating with members during lockdown, the roll out of an efficient and impressive process to deal with resignations, and a flexible approach to rules and policies have all influenced the data to show a far better performance than we might have otherwise expected. Our overall head count is down by only four per cent. Whereas any reduction is disappointing, I have been impressed by the continuing efforts of you all to keep in touch, to encourage one another back to meetings and to look to the future. District Grand Masters have been working on their own plans to recruit and retain members.

Retention is undoubtedly the focus for us all as we work to stimulate those who have not yet decided whether to return to active Masonry; many have done and soon realised what they had been missing. But it is equally important that no Companion feels under any pressure to return – let them make their decision in their own time.

Now let me tell you a little of what we are planning to do for next year's exciting **sesquicentenary celebrations**. Ideally, we will have the normal meeting of Grand Council in April to deal with the business of the day and appointments and promotions. Then later in the year, on **Tuesday, 3 October 2023** – diaries to be noted please – we will celebrate in style with a stand-alone special meeting. At this meeting a new Ark of the Covenant will be dedicated and extra sesquicentenary promotions and appointments awarded, together with other goodies including a **Gala Dinner**. It is appreciated that some, due to distance and cost, may be reluctant to travel to London twice in one year. But I am of the firm opinion that we cannot do justice to this once in a lifetime celebration of 150 years, if we just tack it onto the April Meeting. It will be a memorable occasion and I urge you to support it, so that in the years to come you can proudly say 'I was there!'

In addition, there is to be a **prizewinning competition inviting designs for a commemorative lapel pin**. This pin will be available to all those in attendance, as part of a celebration pack. The competition, which starts tomorrow is open to all comers, it is not restricted to Companions of the Order or indeed Freemasons. The winner will thus become part of our history and further details will be emailed to all Companions tomorrow.

I now move on to one of the most agreeable aspects of this meeting, the welcoming of members from overseas, Rulers of our own Progressive Orders and other Companions of distinction. I ask you to suppress your enthusiastic applause until I have completed the list:

From Singapore, R.III.Comp. Justice Rubin, P.G.Chan., a recipient today; from South East Asia, III.Comp. Ian Elston; and III.Comp. Bob Munday, P.A.G.D.C., of Indalo Council No. 284 in Spain;

From our own Districts: R.III.Comp. Graham Smith, IX, the Past Grand Inspector of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands; and R.III.Comp. Llewelyn Gill, District Grand Master for South and East Caribbean, accompanied by III.Comp. Steve Cobham, P.G.Cond.C. – a recipient today.

From our Sister Orders: R.III.Comp. Paul Raymond Clement, P.G.Chan. – Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the Great Priory of Knights Templar; R.III.Comp. Graham Leslie Flight, P.G.Chan. – Grand Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine; R.III.Comp. Thomas Firth Jackson, P.G.Chan. – Grand Master of the Allied Masonic Degrees; R.III.Comp. Andrew Christopher Sweeney, P.G.Chan. – Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor. R.III.Comp. Ian Stanley Currans, P.G.Coun. – Grand Summus of the Scarlet Cord; V.III. Comp. Paul Mycock, P.G.Lect. – First Grand Master Mason of the Operatives; V.III.Comp Christopher Maiden, G.Lect. – Grand High Priest of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom; R.III.Comp. Michael Herbert, P.Dep.G.M. – Grand Master of the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City; and R.III.Comp. Anthony Llewelyn, P.G.Coun. – Supreme Magus of the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia, also a recipient today.

During the late summer of last year, I promoted R.III.Comp. Richard Wallis to P.Dep.G.M. and, rather than make him wait almost nine months, I invested him at a meeting of Euston, my private Council, in November. I welcome him here today in his new kit, together with another P.Dep.G.M., Michael Herbert, who always gets a double mention at this meeting! It is also wonderful to see two other P.G.P.C.W.s present in the persons of John Chambers and Michael Spencer (upon whom has been bestowed the Order of Service to Cryptic Masonry); together with five Custodians of the Ninth Arch. Let us now welcome them all.

Companions, you are well acquainted with the prerequisites for our membership. It is essential that we strive to keep our Craft Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters and Mark Lodges vibrant and viable, and that the ceremonial performed therein is of the highest standard. This will ensure that potential candidates receive an early grounding of the development and expansion of the Solomonic legend, thus giving them the opportunity to further expand their Masonic knowledge and enjoyment by joining us.

As I come towards the end of what has been a longer than usual address, it would be ungracious of me not to draw attention to those who merit our gratitude today. The Grand Recorder and his staff, for whom this meeting is a high peak in a whole range of mountainous activities, and the largely unseen and too often unsung heroes of background men and ladies who have made today possible. It has been an arduous two years, with the challenges of balancing staff levels, combating the spectres of possible diminishing membership, retention and recruitment, staffing levels (anyone remember furlough!) and working from home and from No. 86. They have done so with patience, courtesy and commitment and deserve all our thanks.

I also wish to thank the new G.D.C. (and didn't he do well!) and his team of Deputies, Assistant and Mangles, all who have borne the heat and burden of a baptism of fire today from the very start; and, of course, John Vasquez and the staff here at FMH.

Many of you will know of my fondness for the novels and anecdotes of Mark Twain who I regard as the world's greatest homespun philosopher. He once said: 'The first half of life consists of the capacity to enjoy, but not having the chance. The last half consists of having the chance but not having the capacity!' But for once I must disagree with such a statement, because after two years of Masonic isolation, deprivation, and general frustrating hardship, I firmly believe that we all now have the chance AND the capacity to enjoy our Cryptic Masonry to the full and long may it continue. Companions, you know that our Order is special, so please keep it that way.

Finally, Companions, be of one mind, live in peace, and may the Supreme Master of the Universe delight to dwell amongst you and bless you forever more.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Grand Recorder reported that there was no other business to transact.

17. CLOSING

Grand Council was closed in Ample Form.