



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

Provincial Bulletin 25

14th August 2021

Dear Bro Secretary,

I hope that you are well and looking forward to the next masonic season now that restrictions have been lifted. In celebration of this I have changed the name of this bulletin although we will continue with the same numbering process. I would be grateful if you will circulate this bulletin to all your lodge members, including honorary and your VO.

1. Welcome to our new Provincial Grand Master

As you are no doubt aware RW Bro Jonathan C Whitaker was installed as our Provincial Grand Master at Freemasons Hall on 28th July. The day was extremely enjoyable and well supported by around 300 brethren who made the journey to London.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating RW Bro Jonathan and wish him good health and success during his tenure of office.

2. A message from the Provincial Grand Master

Dear Brethren,

It has been two weeks since the Installation Meeting in London and the Provincial AGM at the Novotel, Southampton and I can safely say that the gradual return to our Masonic meetings has been, 'so far, so good'. I have attended a number of lodge meetings since then and have been delighted with the enthusiasm and fellowship at them all. I have met many Brethren attending their first meeting for nearly 18 months, who quite rightly, have been cautious and concerned about attending meetings again. That said, most of these have thoroughly enjoyed returning and I am sure it gives us all confidence as we move forward.

By now, most of you should have received the Masonic Charitable Foundation booklet with details of our 20207 Festival. The Area APGMs and their teams with your Provincial Festival Committee are starting to hold various local meetings/workshops with Charity Stewards/WMs.

I represent the Regional Group of PGMs (South West & Islands) on the Grand Lodge Membership Working Party which meets once a month, currently via Zoom. We look at all aspects of Membership - from the attraction of new members to the engagement of existing ones. It is fair to say that the effect of the pandemic has not yet seen a dramatic turn on membership, but we all have much to do to ensure that we make our meetings enjoyable, that our Brethren wish to attend them or for those that cannot, ensure we communicate with them regularly. The relaunch of the Members Pathway, new Grand Lodge website and the National Digital Marketing Campaign next month need to focus our attention on welcoming potential members and engaging /re-engaging existing ones.

I was delighted to attend the Provincial Mark Investiture at Botley last week and present R W Bro George Deacon, PGM, Mark Province, with a cheque for £5,000 towards his Mark Benevolent Fund Festival 2026. We wish our Mark Brethren well in their fundraising and I know they in turn will assist us when they are able. We are all in this together Brethren and we will continue to support all Orders as they support the Craft.

I am sure your masonic diary is filling up, mine is! The Official Visits to lodges have been finalised and should be sent out very shortly, meanwhile other specials meetings I will attend over the next four weeks:-

*20th August - Meon Valley Lodge, 50th Anniversary
23rd August - Sussex Provincial AGM
25th August - Craft Provincial Cabinet/Executive Meeting
28th August - Royal & Select Masters District AGM
1st September - Royal Arch Provincial Convocation
2nd September - Our Craft Grand Officers Mess
3rd September - Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge Lecture
4th September - Provincial Knights Templar Meeting
5th September - Craft Provincial Active Officers Reception
6th September - Welcome Meeting & Dinner for new Provincial Stewards
7th September - Mark Grand Lodge, London
8th September - Craft Quarterly Communication, London.*

We will be supporting the Rulers at this QC meeting and dining with them. At Decembers QC we will dine in our own venue (as we did at the Grange Hotel) details will follow. It is my intention that we will dine at QC with the Rulers in March & September, then dine in our own venue in June & December.

*9th September - Essex Provincial Installation of new PGM & AGM
10th September - Provincial Chapter Stewards Installation Meeting*

Busy times ahead Brethren, but very happy ones I have no doubt. My primary wish, as I said both at my Installation and at our Provincial AGM, is for us to enjoy what we do and in doing fulfil the aims of our membership.

Enjoy Brethren.

Fraternal wishes

Jon

Frank Milner
Provincial Grand Secretary