



THE SCARLET ARROW

OSM AND SCARLET CORD NEWSLETTER FOR THE
PROVINCE OF KENT



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Brethren,

It is a great honour to be writing my first front piece to you as your Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler. I am still a little shell shocked that I hold this position but rest assured, I will give my all to support each individual Conclave and help the Province grow.

I won't say much about the Installation Meeting as I know it is covered elsewhere in this issue of the 'Scarlet Arrow', other than to say a huge THANK YOU to all of you who made the journey to London to support me on my special day and the Province in a 'one of a kind' meeting. Hopefully those that attended enjoyed the day and will remember it for years to come.

At the meeting I launched the 'Kent Kares' scheme, (yes spelt with a Kent 'K'), which aims to help 40 organisations between now and our 40th Anniversary in a couple of years. So far we have donated to the Kent Mark Benevolent Fund, the London Freemasons Air Ambulance Appeal, The Mark Benevolent Fund, The RSM 150th Fund, the OSM Benevolent Fund and the Royal British Legion. I am looking for suggestions of other organisations to support so please let me know if you know of a worthy cause.

Our links with the Scarlet Cord are stronger than ever as demonstrated by my appointment of Wy.Bro. Philip Clare as my Deputy. Phil as you all know is Head of the Scarlet Cord in Kent in which I act as his Deputy and this shows our commitment to both Orders. Scarlet Cord is very much a piece of OSM Masonry as I encourage all members to join, especially as in most cases the units meet together on the same day much like Mark and RAM.

We have achieved much as a Province in the last year building on the foundations laid by R.Wy.Bro. Kevin Johnson and those that came before him. We have a number of initiatives planned for 2025 that will be both challenging and exciting and I hope that you will all participate where you can as they will benefit all Conclaves.

Finally Brethren, it just remains to thank you all for your continuing support and enthusiasm for OSM Masonry and to send you and your families best wishes for 2025.

I was deeply honoured and humbled to be ask by the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler to be his new deputy.

I have worked well with Scott over the past few years in Scarlet Cord, where he is my Deputy.

We are both of a similar mindset and want to see both orders on a firm footing and look to expand both within Kent.

It is one of my favourite orders and I have been fortunate enough to have been Supreme Ruler seven times over the past 20 odd years.

The order is based on the unflinching friendship of 2 people, which really sums Scott & I up.

We have a plan for the future to make us one of the healthiest Provinces within the Country, which is a task I'm looking forward to assisting with.



12th October — Kent OSM Provincial Meeting



Those of you who were in attendance will not need me to express how special an event this was, and how well attended. With 220 in the Temple and 208 staying to Dine, we had filled the venue to the gunwales with the Brethren of Kent OSM, Rulers of the Order from both the four corners of the United Kingdom and from abroad, plus Rulers from other Orders.

But it was our Grand Supreme Ruler, M.Wy.Bro Andrew Sweeney, who said it best —

“Fabulous to see so many here, lets hope it’s not bigger than Grand Conclave in November”



Preparations were underway early with a host of friends leaning in to ensure that the preparations were completed such that the day was smooth as silk, and I can speak for the Secretariat in saying that we truly appreciated the constant stream of folks offering assistance, it was a marvellous example of the friendliness of our Order

12th October — Kent OSM Provincial Meeting



Kent OSM Arch of Steel gave a magnificent account of themselves, including the newer members. Wy.Bro Steve Hyland, Commander of the Arch of Steel, would love to hear from those looking to take their first steps in Provincial activities



As the preparations gave way to the main event, a marvellous hush filled the Temple as the Grand Team kicked off proceedings and then called those two Worthy Brothers to join them in the Temple



And in time-honoured fashion they were elevated to those lofty positions from which to serve our Province and we have no doubt they will succeed in helping us to even greater health and vitality!



12th October — Kent OSM Provincial Meeting



Immediately following the Provincial Meeting receptions were held and in both rooms bubbles were flowing and seemed to be a well-appreciated segue into the luncheon



I think it can be safely said that Kentish hospitality and friendliness were in abundant supply, and whole-heartedly reciprocated by all present.

One of the VIPs was overheard to say "A fine example of the heart and soul of our order"



We were soon called to dine, and what a feast it was, and I think the faces in the following pictures tell a better tale than I ever could



12th October — Kent OSM Provincial Meeting



The Gallery Suite is a fantastic room and Freemason's Hall Caterers had dressed it to match the splendour of the occasion



And whilst our newly minted PGSR and his Deputy kept a watchful eye on proceedings...



The Kent Arch of Steel was never far from the centre of the fun

But we are a charitable organisation at heart, so the event couldn't pass without supporting our Companion Orders with a token of the esteem in which we hold them and a nod to the laudable and shared aims



17th to 22nd October—Team GB in France

Not the Team GB of Olympic fame but Team GB of the Grand Senatus of the Ancient Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord headed by the Grand Summus, Ian Currans and including Dist Comp Scott acting in various roles according to which role would get him in the most photographs, travelled to Clermont-Ferrand to consecrate five new Consistories.



The first consecration, the Armand Jean du Plessis Consistory No.160. Armand is better known to most of us as Cardinal Richelieu,



(played by Charlton Heston and Tim Currie in the films). Now, if our Episcopus is Richelieu and our Grand Summus, his Deputy and Assistant are the Three Musketeers - then who could be the dashing young D'Artagnan? None other than the Deputy Captain of the Tzaddikim - Seirios Kokkalis.....



17th to 22nd October—Team GB in France

One down and four to go The second consecration being the 'De Montaigne - La Boetie Consistory' No.162. Étienne de La Boétie and Michel de Montaigne met in 1557 at a party attended by members of the Parliament of Bordeaux. They are two of the most eminent thinkers of the 16th century and formed a great friendship, much like that of David and Jonathan in the OSM. It is an apt choice of name



reflecting perfectly the friends we have made in France in the past, during our time this weekend, (including those a little further away in Bénin), and will do so in the future.



Consecration trois (yes Scott even learned some of the lingo) was that of the 'Rupella Consistory' No.259. Rupella La Rochelle, (meaning little rock), is a coastal city in southwestern France. It has been a center for fishing and trade since the 12th century, a maritime tradition that's reflected in its Vieux Port (old harbour) and huge, modern Les Minimes marina. However, there was nothing fishy about the way the Grand Summus and his assisting officers consecrated this newest consistory in the Inspectorate of France which grows further on its solid 'rock' foundations.



Our fourth consecration takes the Scarlet Cord into a new continent as the 'La Voie Sacree Consistory' No. 156 will meet in Benin. Benin, a French-speaking West African nation, was the former Dahomey Kingdom from circa 1600–1900. In Abomey, Dahomey's former capital, the Historical Museum occupies two royal palaces with bas-reliefs recounting the kingdom's past



and a throne mounted on human skulls. La Voie Sacree translates to 'The Sacred Way' and refers to the passage their Kings, (Oba), took when entering their palaces. Only the chosen few could walk the sacred way and it was a great honour to follow their leader. Not much different to how we follow the Grand Summus on our journeys!!!



17th to 22nd October—Team GB in France

Team GB moved on to the 5th and final consecration, the 'La Fleche Sacree Consistory' No. 157. The unit expands the Order's footprint

in Africa as this will meet in Cotonou, Benin. The official capital is Porto-Novo, but Cotonou is Benin's largest city, its chief port, and its de facto administrative capital. 'La Fleche Sacree' translates to Sacred Arrow which is the same name as the OSM Conclave which will feed the Consistory. We all hope that the arrow will fly straight and true and inspire success to both OSM and Scarlet Cord Units.



5 consecrations in 2 days is hard going, however it is not all work and no play. The guys in France were excellent hosts throughout, we



were treated to some excellent festive boards and a phenomenal meal on our last night. And to top it all, on the Sunday we were taken to a local medieval village in beautiful sunshine. A fantastic end to



our trip in the company of great friends who we will see again next year. Nous nous reverrons (yes, he is really showing off now or perhaps it was Google). And to finish some mandatory food porn from the various festive boards. If in your head you could imagine a deep dusky voice saying "...this is not just food this is Clermont-Ferrand Festive board food..."



This morning as the nation came together to remember those who have given and those that serve, I was honoured to lay wreaths on behalf the OSM and Scarlet Cord Provinces of Kent at the Meopham Memorial.

I was also pleased to confirm that £200.00 has been donated to the RBL as part of the OSM 'Kent Kares' scheme launched last month.



The November combined meetings of Medway Towns OSM and Kent Consistory Scarlet Cord were busy affairs. First up was Medway Towns where 2 Brethren were taken through their Princes Degree in excellent fashion under the watchful eye of the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. Scott



Dunn and the Grand Visitor, V.Wy.Bro. Chris Base.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the Mark in Kent, Bro. Martyn Summers was elected to be Supreme Ruler for next year, a joiner was voted on and another 3 candidates are on the horizon.

It was then over to the Scarlet Cord where our recently made Princes were admitted to the Order by Em.Comp. Pip Nevell in a flawless ceremony from all officers involved. As with the OSM, the unit has a busy time ahead at the next meeting with 2 joining members and



at least 1 candidate. These units are the Provinces Fine Dining units and clearly the great food and price tag of a mere £40 is having the desired effect as the members dined on: Smoked halibut, celeriac remoulade, tomato dressing, Champagne Sorbet, Roast fillet of 28 day aged Scotch beef, breaded beef brisket, Anna potato, buttered hispi cabbage, Merlot reduction, Vanilla poached pear, honey & oat crumble, Calvados cream and English & Continental Cheeses



Out and about with the Provincial Grand Summus

R Dist. Comp. Phil Clare, our beloved Provincial Grand Summus, has been out and about on behalf of the Province of Kent.



To Cirencester on 23rd November 2024 and Provincial Grand Senatus of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Wiltshire with Right Distinguished Companion Stephen White



On the 14th December 2024, the last meeting of the year, at the Provincial Grand Senatus of Somerset and Dorset supporting R Dist. Comp. Ian Sullivan (not the other Ian Sullivan in our own Province) at his Provincial Meeting.

A good turnout of Provincial Grand Summii and a very enjoyable meeting and Festive Board.



It has been a long been a source of amusement and confusion in Scarlet Cord meetings around the country, between the Provincial Grand Summus for Somerset and Dorset R Dist. Comp. Ian 'Robert' Sullivan and the Assistant Provincial Recorder for Kent, Em. Comp. Ian 'George' Sullivan as one is often expected and the 'other' turns up.

Both were together recently at the Provincial Grand Senatus for Kent with their descriptions shown on the dining plan as 'The Original' and 'The Imposter', we wonder which was which.

From the look of Dist Comp. Bob Turhill in the background of the photo, perhaps the thought of the two Sullivans in one place was amusement enough.



And heaven forbid we have a page in the Arrow without Dist. Comp. Scott Dunn a few photographs from the London Provincial Grand Senatus in the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in early January. And if you look closely you might even see our Deputy Provincial Grand Summus smiling!

Conclave Meetings			Consistory Meetings 2025			
Date	Conclave	Inst?	Date	Consistory	Inst?	Location
25/01/25	Eric Norman Le Fre Conclave	Yes	13/02/25	Man of Kent Consistory	Yes	Margate
13/02/25	The Skilled Archer Conclave		17/02/25	The Kentish Man Consistory		Welling
17/02/25	Knole Conclave		26/04/25	The Kentish Man Consistory	Yes	Welling
12/03/25	Paddock Wood Conclave		11/06/25	Man of Kent Consistory		Ashford
14/03/25	Medway Towns Conclave	Yes	22/08/25	Kent Consistory	Yes	Chatham
29/03/25	Temple Builders Conclave		22/10/25	Man of Kent Consistory		Sittingbourne

GOT A STORY? WANT TO PROMOTE A MEETING?

SEND YOUR COPY TO WY BRO PAUL KING

Useful Contacts

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Prov G Rec	Wy Bro Paul King	recorder@kentosm.org.uk

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