



THE SCARLET ARROW

OSM AND SCARLET CORD NEWSLETTER FOR THE
PROVINCE OF KENT



ISSUE No 5 – 2024 SUMMER RETROSPECTIVE PART 1

Dear Brother Secret Monitors and Companions of the Scarlet Cord

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Scarlet Arrow.

As you may have seen from Scott's update at the start of Summer, with health issues for the families of Scott, Ian Sullivan and I, the Scarlet Arrow fell somewhat by the wayside as we all concentrated on supporting our families during what have been remarkably trying times, but we are each of us thankful that these have mostly been overcome and that we are all now able to bring our attention back to our favourite Orders.

Whilst we have been absent, the Province has been going from strength to strength, and some might say it was in rude health as we move into the summer recess.

Both The Scarlet Cord and The Order of the Secret Monitor saw multiple new members into their ranks and new Presidents and Supreme Rulers take the baton to guide their respective units to both bring on younger brethren and to look to the future with a refreshed perspective for us all to take to our other companion orders to spread the word of our wonderful orders.

As we head into the second half of 2024 we certainly have a full calendar with numerous ceremonies in each of our conclaves, a number of them doubles and triples, but the main event will surely be Scott's Installation as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler which is scheduled for 12th October 2024 in one of Freemasonry's most beautiful rooms, Temple 10 at Freemason's Hall, but more on this in a later edition.

Over the next few pages we will begin a retrospective of our activity since the last edition which we will continue in bi-weekly editions until we get up to date, plus details on what's coming up and how you can get involved.

May the God of our Fathers and The Friend of all Friends keep us all safe,

Paul King



Conclave Meetings			
Date	Conclave	Inst	Location
23/08/24	Medway Towns Conclave		Chatham
31/08/24	Temple Builders Conclave		Sidcup
11/09/24	Paddock Wood Conclave	Yes	Chatham
17/10/24	The Skilled Archer Conclave	Yes	Margate
23/10/24	Maeides Stana Conclave		Sittingbourne
26/10/24	Eric Norman Le Fre Conclave		Welling

Consistory Meetings			
Date	Consistory	Inst	Location
23/08/24	Kent Consistory	Yes	Chatham
23/10/24	Man of Kent Consistory		Sittingbourne
26/10/24	The Kentish Man Consistory		Welling

Passing the Baton

We received the reluctant resignation of our Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Kevin Johnson, in April, and I am sure that we can all agree that he will be greatly missed, having led us from 2021 to renewed vigour in Kent.

Scott Dunn then took over the reins as Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler in Charge until he is Installed as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler at our Provincial meeting on Saturday 12th October at Freemason's Hall.

I think we all know that Scott will do his utmost to fill those big shoes that Kevin has left, well knowing that we are all here behind him in continuing to shepherd our order to new heights.

For those that did not see this, here's the note Kevin sent:

My Dear fellow Secret Monitors.

It was back in October 2022 that Fiona had her first fall...which she kept from me, along with a couple of subsequent falls. When I eventually discovered the truth it was abundantly clear that she needed more hands on care than I could provide whilst in full time employment and so I decided to retire early to provide the level of care that she needed. Retiring early would leave us financially "uncomfortable" so we elected to sell up and move somewhere that was not only cheaper but more suited to Fiona's physical needs.

This much most of you already know and I can sense many regular Netflix users looking for the "skip intro" button but bear with me.

Much has happened since then, our move to Lincolnshire has been a great success and all things considered it was absolutely the right thing to do but with all good things there's a price.

I spoke to the Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler as soon as the decision to move was made and we both agreed that, with caring for Fiona and the distances involved, I would probably need to stand down as your Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and sadly my brethren that time has now come.

I would like to thank the M Wy Supreme Grand Ruler and all at Mark Mason's Hall for all their huge support, assistance and understanding.

On the 1st of April MMH will announce that as of midnight on the 30th April I will cease to be the PGSR of Kent. Being the Ruler of Kent has been by far the most humbling, scary, proudest and joyful experience of my Masonic journey thus far. It's been my privilege and honour to rule and serve the brethren of Kent, I've travelled far and wide representing the province and have made countless and lasting friendships along the way and naturally I step down with a heavy heart.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for all the support and friendship that you've afforded me over the years. I'd like to thank Dan and Bob Unthank for helping bring the province through the dark days of lockdown, the DC team and the secretariat for all that they've done for the province over the years, my predecessors Peter Wise and Noel Grout for all their advice and wisdom and of course my deputy Scott Dunn who's been holding the fort admirably since my move north. Scott now becomes Dept PGSR in charge until Mark Mason's Hall announce and install my successor and I wish him and my eventual successor every happiness and success.

My last official duty as your PGSR will be at Eric Norman Le Fre Conclave on the 27th April where I intend to make a full team visit following which I shall install Dan Unthank as my successor in the chair of Kentish Man Scarlet Cord Consistory. Naturally I'd be delighted to see as many of you there as possible, don't miss this last opportunity to tell me exactly what you think of me.

As for myself, I won't be a complete stranger, I shall retain my membership of Invicta Pride of Kent and shall be attending to commission Colin Smith as a ruler in the Order later this summer and I shall be coming to Kent a few times a year just to make a nuisance of myself but as your PGSR I must say farewell.

It's been a pleasure and an honour.

God bless you all.

Kevin.

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SEND YOUR COPY TO WY BRO IAN SULLIVAN

Useful Contacts

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An appeal from our Provincial Grand Summus



Dear Companions

Cancer is something that effects many families, my late Mother had breast cancer, but beat it, the secretary of my Old School Lodge sadly died recently from it & I'm sure that you have all been touched in some way with it

To help the research, myself & the Assistant Provincial Grand Summus for Surrey, Simon McCarthy are planning on a sponsored charity ride from MMH, via FMH to Broadstairs in Kent. A distance of 98.6 miles towards the end of August.

Neither of us are athletes, I'm basically the same percentage of fat as a pork scratching at 21 stone & Simon is 18 stones. I've had both my knees replace & I know we are going to suffer, but suffering is something we are looking forward to doing to be able to raise money for a worthy cause. We would be grateful if you could consider supporting another mad adventure of mine

The link is: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/philip-clare-1717533384341>

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14 th December 2023 — A triple header! Part 1—The Meetings

Kent Consistory

In the first of three back-to-back meetings, no less than six candidates took their Third Grade with Wy Bro Scott Dunn acting as President



Invicta Pride of Kent OSM

A full installation of Bro. Colin Smith as Supreme Ruler by Wy Bro Phil Clare



Maeides Stana OSM

An emergency meeting to admit two candidates, conducted by Wy. Bro Ian Sullivan



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14 th December 2023 — A triple header! Part 2—The Festive Board

They say a picture speaks a thousand words, and these few give a hint at the many laughs we had that night, with an exceptional Festive Board courtesy of Bab's Curry Bonanza all washed down with just the right amount of drinks.

Questions were asked after the event about the fact that Phil and Steve Hyland looked remarkably at home in their elves hats, both of which we suspect were their own...



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30th December 2023 — Temple Builders Conclave

Wy Bro Scott Dunn attended what must surely have been the last OSM meeting of 2023 in the UK - if not the world....



Temple Builders Conclave met with a 86% attendance plus a good number of guests and Wy Bro Scott was pleased to present the Supreme Ruler with his Installed Supreme Ruler's Certificate, showing him examples back to 1924 from his collection

27th January 2024 — Eric Norman Le Fre Conclave

The sun shone on Welling as the well known Kent Brother Stephen Hugkulstone was installed as Supreme Ruler of Eric Norman Le Fre OSM Conclave.



As Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Wy Bro Scott Dunn was on hand to congratulate Wy Bro Stephen on behalf of R Wy Bro Kevin Johnson the PGSR

Wy Bro Scott was also pleased to present a Princes Certificate to Bro. Chris Tull having completed his first two degrees.



9th February — Skilled Archer Conclave

Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Wy Bro Scott Dunn made a 'Ninja' visit to the Skilled Archer Conclave in Margate.



Wy Bro Pierre Ambrody, the Supreme Ruler, delivered a lecture on the history of the Order, following which the Dep.P.G.S.R presented him with his Supreme Rulers Certificate with hearty congratulations.



Wy Bro Dunn then proceeded to present Bro. Keith Wildey with his Princes Certificate whilst describing the history of Certificates in the Order since the early 1900's.

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9th February — Man of Kent Conclave



The growth of Scarlet Cord in Kent continued as two new members joined the Order in Man of Kent Consistory at Margate.

Immediately after admitting the candidates, Dist.Comp. Roy Skelton installed his successor, Dist.Comp. Peter Preidel, under the watchful eye of the Provincial Grand Summus, Phil Clare and the Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, Jim Trevillion who attended his last outing as such before he retires later this month.

The Province of Kent now has the highest member count in its history and shows no sign of slowing down.

10th February — Ox, Berks and Bucks Provincial Meeting

A great day at the Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Conclave in Bletchley.

Being the first Provincial Meeting of the OSM calendar it is always well supported and their hospitality always matches the demand.

The meeting was well organised and superbly executed, well done to all.



Our very own Kent P.G.S.R., R Wy Bro Kevin Johnson, even got in on the action tinkering the ivories.



24th February — Grand Master's Keystone Provincial Award



Kent became the first Province in the Order to achieve the Grand Masters Keystone Provincial Award.

Scott wears this to all functions around the country, making clear that Kentish generosity is leading the way for those in need of our support

As such, the Collarette is available to view around the neck of our Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler so feel free to grab him when you see him, he'll just think you're coming in for a cuddle!



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Provincial Grand Senatus of Kent Annual Meeting

The meeting was at capacity with folks squeezed in everywhere we could find space, a joyful day full of the spirit of the Order



It was a truly fantastic affair, with travellers coming from far and wide and from the spectrum of Orders to celebrate with the Top Team



Both old...

And new...



We were blessed with a guest organist



So joyful an affair was it that we were even treated to a very "off-brand" smile from Scott although one wag suggested it was just trapped wind...



And multiple Ian Sullivans that could have been separated at birth had Scott not helpfully named them on the dining plan...

"Original"

"Imposter"



Mouth-watering surf and turf, with more than one person saying it was the best Provincial meal they had ever had!

But the trifle stole the show, and many had more helpings than they would admit



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1st March — Deforestation of the Provincial Grand Recorder

In aid of London's Air Ambulance our Provincial Grand Recorder, Wy Bro Paul King, sacrificed his long worn beard along with a number of other Freemasons who in total raised £15,000 with Paul contributing £3,000 of that total.

Before...



I reckon that if you zoom in you will see that this is £1 for every follicle shorn, but I must say I fell asleep a good few times whilst counting

After...



3rd March — Hants, Isle Of Wight And Channel Islands Scarlet Cord Provincial Meeting



Dist Comp Scott Dunn and R Dist Comp Phil Clare travelled down to Botley to represent Kent with Phil able to proudly display the Grand Master's Keystone Appeal collarette, the first outing I believe, and showing once again that the generosity of Kent Masons leads the way

8th March — Medway Towns Conclave



Medway Towns Conclave in Kent met last night with the installation of Wy Bro Ralph Craig as Supreme Ruler and a joining member, Bro. Martyn Summers who is the Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Kent Mark Master Masons.

The Conclave became Kent's first 'Special Interest Conclave' last year when it became a fine dining unit and it has never looked back attracting a number of new members. It even has a candidate for the next meeting.



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9th March — support Kent RCC at their provincial meeting



Wy Bro Scott ensured that we were represented at the Divisional Meeting of the Red Cross of Constantine at the start of March

We do however wonder whether the photographer who captured Scott with the last three generations of Divisional Sepulchre Guard was either “vertically challenged” and this was as high as his arms went, or more likely, the other two were freakishly tall and no ladders were available...



14th March — Paddock Wood Conclave



Paddock Wood Conclave in Kent has a unique dining situation.

The basis of our order, being the importance of friends and family, came to the forefront during the pandemic. On their return to meetings, Wy. Bro. John Knight, (Secretary), wanted to ensure that they provided opportunities for members and families to get together and share companionship.

Therefore, every festive board is a white table where friends, family and potential candidates can enjoy the Brotherly Love associated with our wonderful Order.

During his visit, Wy. Bro. Scott Dunn, congratulated Wy. Bro. John and the Brethren of the Conclave on this wonderful initiative whilst enjoying a fabulous dinner with their families.

16th March — In support of Kent Athelstan at their provincial meeting

When three, such as we...

With the Provincial Meeting Season in full swing, the team were once again flying the flag for Kent OSM and Kent Scarlet Cord



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19th March — Suffolk OSM Provincial Meeting

An excellent day in Bury St. Edmonds at the Suffolk OSM Provincial Meeting.

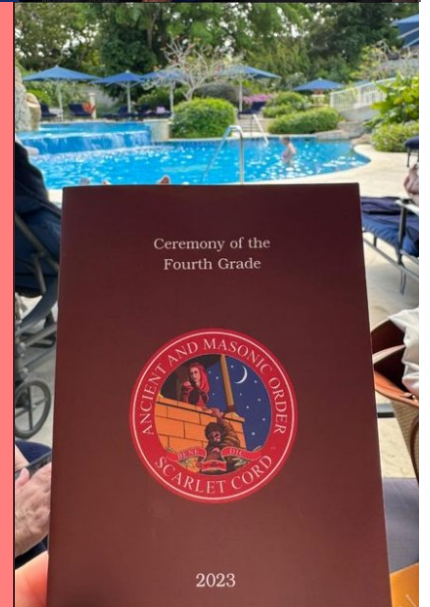
The meeting was well managed, with good humour, great camaraderie and plenty of visitors from around the country.

It was Kent PGSR, R. Wy. Bro. Kevin Johnson's first opportunity to wear Kent's Grand Master's Keystone Provincial Award and he was the envy of the other PGSRs in attendance.



25th March — Representing Kent Scarlet Cord in Barbados

If you have ever wondered just how hard it is for our leaders, I present to you the case of Wy Bro Scott Dunn, who chose to endure many hours of arduous flights to travel thousands of miles such that he could support the Boss, there are not many amongst us that would undergo such privations and sacrifice so much for our Order...



31st March — Temple Builders Conclave

At the meeting of Temple Builders Conclave, Wy.Bro. Scott Dunn gave a talk on the history of the Scarlet Cord and outlined the Provincial plan of each SC Consistory being 'tied' to 3 OSM Conclaves on rotation.

Essentially this means that EVERY Secret Monitor Brother in Kent will have access to a Scarlet Cord Consistory for at least one meeting a year.



The concept, which is already in motion, was well received by the Conclave which, until now, has had no Scarlet Cord representation.

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