



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

**District of Oxfordshire, Berkshire & Buckinghamshire**

R III Comp Timothy Hancock, District Grand Master

1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear Companions of Oxon, Berks and Bucks,

Despite the date of this letter sadly it is not an April Fool. We do indeed live in strange times with our Council and other meetings suspended. I do hope that you and your loved ones are fit and well and coping with the requirements of the current situation. We are a very strong fraternity so please do take the time to contact your companions. Doubtless there are some who will be suffering from hardship, isolation, poor health, or other difficulties. A friendly voice or kind deed will go a long way.

As you will realise our District Meeting, planned for 16<sup>th</sup> July, falls within the period of suspension and will not be taking place. The incoming District Officers for the year 2020 will assume their office from that date.

As of 16<sup>th</sup> July, V III Comp Peter Hughes will be retiring as District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and I should like to place on record my grateful thanks for his enormous contribution to the District. His distinguished record includes having served as Deputy District GDC for three years, District Chaplain for four years, and latterly as District PCW for three years under two District Grand Masters and providing welcome continuity during that period. His advice and wise counsel have been of enormous value to me personally and I know that he will continue to support the District and our Councils. Thank you, Peter.

I am delighted that III Comp Paul Ackland-Snow has agreed to be our new District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. He will be well known to you from his time as our District Recorder, and has also held high office in other Orders within the District. III Comp Paul looks forward to being with you once we are again able to hold our Council meetings.

I thank all the current District Officers for their sterling work in their own Councils and in support of the District. I do hope that they have enjoyed the year. I congratulate all the new District Officers and am sorry that we will not be meeting at Sindlesham in July. I shall hope to invest them with their collarettes at their own Council meetings as and when they can be held.

We are planning to hold a truncated District Meeting in the autumn attached to one of the Councils in the District. More information will follow once arrangements can be made.

The District 100 Club is due to hold a draw soon and it is planned that this will be held over until our Councils meet again. This may involve holding more than one draw per meeting, with all the numbers going back in the hat.

If you feel that that you are saving money on not attending our meetings for the present then Comp Raymond Head will be pleased of your support for the 100 Club. The income is shared between the prize money and supporting the District, which in turn will mean supporting the Festivals of our constituent Craft Provinces; Buckinghamshire in 2021, Oxfordshire in 2022, and Berkshire in 2023.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April was due to be the annual meeting of Grand Council. I heartily congratulate those of our Companions who were due to be honoured by the Grand Master. V Ill Comp Graham Seeman has been reappointed President of the Executive Committee and Ill Comp Alan Baverstock is appointed as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

First appointments go to Ill Comp Simon Jeffery as PAGDC; Ill Comp Philip Kavanagh as PGStB; and Ill Comp Kevin Williams as PGSwdB. Promotions go to Ill Comp Brian Cook and Ill Comp Paul Waldron, both as PGCondC.

They will be entitled to wear their new regalia from 21<sup>st</sup> April. However, I am sorry that they have missed out on their big day at Great Queen Street being invested with their chain or collar by our Grand Master, M Ill Comp Kessick John Jones. When you see them back in their Councils please do make a fuss of them.

Most importantly I wish you and your families good health and the strength and wherewithal to get through this difficult period. I very much look forward to seeing you again when circumstances permit.

Kind fraternal regards

Tim

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