

The Bow Bearer

The Quarterly Newsletter for the Order of the Secret Monitor in Province of Worcestershire



Fourth Quarter of 2024

Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of The Bow Bearer, covering the fourth quarter of 2024. Yes, this means we are in the *-ber* months and hurtling towards Christmas.

The last edition went out shortly after our installation and before the usual summer break. Outwardly not a lot has happened since then although conclaves have just started returning. However, behind the scenes there has been work going on to promote our wonderful order and the usual administration work. Also, our new PGSR has been learning that his role actually involves a fair bit of travel as he supports other provincial conclave meetings. From a personal perspective I had a long weekend break from administration in beautiful Cumbria... where I trained in Karate for four days!

I've had some positive feedback on the last newsletter although some of you are yet to look at the new website. The website is intended both to be public facing to promote our order but also a resource for our members. Please do have a look at it and ask me if you want anything adding to it. And for the newsletter please send me your news and photographs. My contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

It may be premature, but this is the point that I wish you a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year. All being well the next newsletter will be sent out in early January 2025.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition.

Pete

Brother Peter Jones, Provincial Communications Officer

Corrections

No matter how many times a newsletter is checked there will always be errors that creep in. In the last newsletter I provided the date of the Ted Meredith Conclave as being the 31st of September. This was incorrect and it is actually the 31st of *October*. My apologies for that.

Grand Appointments and Promotions

On Monday the 9th of September, our provincial recorder proudly sent the following to us all by e-mail:

“I am very pleased to pass on details of those within our province who are to be honoured by appointment or promotion at the forthcoming meeting of Grand Conclave on 14th November. Some of these will have been recommended by R.Wy.Bro. Dr. Joseph F. Khalil Marzouk before his retirement, whilst others will have been recommended by their ‘home’ province, or directly appointed by the Grand S.R.

Acting Grand Ranks

Wy.Bro. John Keith Starley A.G.D.C. promoted to Deputy Grand Chaplain, with the style of V.Wy.Bro. Wy.Bro. John is a member of Ted Meredith Conclave No 427, and active in both N&E Yorkshire and Warwickshire Provinces.

Wy.Bro. Paul Sumedho Howard P.G.St.B. appointed an Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. A member of The Lewis Conclave, Wy.Bro. Paul is the Prov.G.Recorder of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, as well as the Prov.G.Treasurer of East Midlands.

Wy.Bro. Andrew Timothy Morris, P.G.Swd.B., Dep.G.Org., is to be promoted to Grand Organist. A Past Supreme Ruler of Bromsgrove Conclave No 224, Wy.Bro. Tim is our own Prov.G.Org.

Wy.Bro. Dennis Andrew Potter will be appointed a Grand Steward. Wy.Bro. Dennis is the hard-working Prov.G.Rec. of Warwickshire and member of Ted Meredith Conclave No 427.

Promotions

R.Wy.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer P.G.G. will be promoted to Past Grand Counsellor. A member of Ted Meredith Conclave No 427 and Founder of Sir Edward Elgar Conclave No 527, R.Wy.Bro. Frank is also the Deputy Grand Summus of the Scarlet Cord as well as holding very senior Offices and Ranks in other orders.

V.Wy.Bro. Lawrence Eric Bourne P.G.Reg. will be promoted to the rank of Past Grand Guide, assuming the style of R.Wy.Bro. V.Wy.Bro. Eric is well known to us in Worcestershire and is a member of the Worcestershire Conclave No 186.

V.Wy.Bro. Henri Anthony Lyons P.G.Reg. will also be promoted to the rank of Past Grand Guide, assuming the style of R.Wy.Bro. V.Wy.Bro. Henri is a former Provincial Grand D.C. for Cheshire & North Wales, and a member of The Lewis Conclave No 487 in our province.

V.Wy.Bro. Dr. Paul Mycock P.G.Reg. will also be promoted to the rank of Past Grand Guide, assuming the style of R.Wy.Bro. V.Wy.Bro. Paul is a member of

Worcestershire Conclave No 186, and head of The Operatives - a very busy man.

V.Wy.Bro. Gareth Hughes P.G.V. is to be promoted to the rank of P.G.Reg.

V.Wy.Bro. Michael Andrew Stephen P.G.V. is also to be promoted to the rank of P.G.Reg. A former Prov.G.Rec. of the province of North Scotland, V.Wy.Bro. Michael is a member of The Lewis Conclave No 487.

Wy.Bro. Stanley William Scott (Bill) Southgate P.G.Stwd. will be promoted to P.A.G.D.C. Our Provincial Grand Chaplain, Wy.Bro. Bill is a member of the Worcestershire Conclave No 186.

Wy.Bro. Gregory Gordon Boughton P.G.Gdr., will be promoted to P.G.Swd.B. A member of Charles Hinitt Conclave No 283, Wy.Bro. Greg is our current Prov.G.G.

Wy.Bro. Robert Edward Grainger P.G.B.B. will also be promoted to P.G.Swd.B. and is also a member of Charles Hinitt Conclave No 283. Wy.Bro. Bob has held active provincial office since 2011, standing down in July from his role as Prov.G.Chancellor.”

Congratulations to all and I look forward to witnessing your ceremony in November at Great Queen Street.

Grand Conclave

On the subject of the above, grand conclave will take place at Freemasons' Hall on Thursday the 14th of November. Bookings are being taken now. Please follow this link:

<https://markmasonshall.org/events-osm/secret-monitor/grand-conclave/osm-nov24>

We expect to take quite a contingent down from Worcestershire.

Prize

In the last newsletter I stated that the brother who suggested the title of the newsletter would receive a prize. In the interests of integrity I can confirm that a prize has been presented to the winning brother in a recent conclave.

Provincial Rulers on Tour

On Saturday the 31st of August our Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler ventured north of the wall to Musselburgh, East Scotland to attend their provincial grand conclave. Whilst there R.Wy.Bro Bob took time to meet the Roman Musselburgh Archer on the banks of the River Esk.



On Saturday the 28th of September a contingent from Worcestershire including R.Wy.Bro Bob and W.Bro Howard attended the annual conclave of Shropshire and Staffordshire.



Presentation at Bromsgrove Conclave

Bromsgrove Conclave no 224 conducted an excellent Princes' Degree ceremony on the 18th of September for Bro. Geoff Bowden but the star of the night wasn't Bro. Geoff, or Wy.Bro. Ian Calvert in the chair, or anyone else in the conclave. The real star was Albert, an assistance dog trained to help his owner, Jemima. After years of chronic health conditions Jemima lost the opportunity to go to university but now, with Albert at her side, she has a job she loves at a prestigious Birmingham law firm. Albert was selected, trained and matched with Jemima by "Dogs for Good," a charity based in the Midlands. Assistance dogs like Albert can carry out a huge range of support activities (he helps Jemima remove her coat, and can even put laundry in the washing machine, and remove it when finished.)

R.Wy.Bro. Bob was delighted to meet Albert, Jemima and Jemima's mum, Philippa, who also volunteers at Dogs for Good. With money collected by some of our conclaves, match-funded by the OSM Benevolent Fund, R.Wy.Bro. Bob was able to present Philippa with a cheque for £1,000 to help them train even more dogs.



For more information about this charity please visit <https://www.dogsforgood.org/>

All Change at Sir Edward Elgar Conclave no 527 (Without Too Much Pomp and Circumstance)

It's often said that good days usually start with a good breakfast. This was definitely the case for members of Sir Edward Elgar Conclave no 527 on 25th September. Having changed their meeting times to the mornings and finding out that the dining room at Rainbow Hill had been let to a mother and baby group, it was resolved that we would meet at 9.45am at The Office Canteen, only a 3-minute drive from the masonic hall.

A regular full English, at only £6.50, set us all up for the Installation meeting to follow. The larger £8.50 meal was tried by one Brother who declared it to be too much!

There then followed a busy meeting, with four joining members elected, Wy.Bro. Peter Ibbotson installed, and new by-laws adopted.

From now on the Conclave will meet on the fourth Wednesdays of September, January and April – why not put the dates in your diaries, and come along to enjoy a good breakfast, reasonably priced, followed by a happy, friendly OSM meeting, and finishing by 12.30pm, allowing plenty of time to do other things during the afternoon and evenings?



Worcestershire and Warwickshire Sunday Lunch

Sunday the 17th of November at King's Heath. Further details to be published closer to the event.

Facebook Page

As discussed in the last newsletter we have a private Facebook group. This is useful for sharing things amongst us but doesn't help to publicise what we are doing. So now there is also a Facebook Page which is public facing. This is what you would "like" on Facebook. Please do have a look at both the group and page and indeed post on both.

In regards social media more generally I welcome your ideas. Do we want or need to active on other web sites? What would we use them for?

The links to the Facebook Page and Group are at the end of the newsletter.

Posters and Leaflets

You should start to see posters and trifold leaflets advertising our Order appearing at our various lodges. Please do encourage brethren to scan the QR code on the poster as it leads to our website and also please give leaflets to anyone who you think may be interested.

Upcoming Dates

October 2024

Saturday the 12th

Installation of W.Bro Scott Dunn as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Provincial Grand Conclave of Kent. To take place in Temple 10, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London

Thursday the 31st

Ted Meredith Conclave No. 427 meeting at King's Heath
Installation of R.Wy.Bro. Dennis Freshwater

November 2024

Tuesday the 12th

Sabrina Conclave 486 meeting in Stourport

Thursday the 14th

Grand Conclave at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London

Sunday the 17th

Worcestershire and Warwickshire Sunday Lunch at King's Heath

Details of all the above will be circulated when available

December 2024

Tuesday the 17th

Charles Hinitt Conclave 283 meeting in Northfield.

January 2025

Wednesday the 1st

Worcester Conclave 186 meeting in King's Heath.

Wednesday the 22nd

Sir Edward Elgar Conclave 527 meeting in Rainbow Hill.

February 2025

Wednesday the 19th

Bromsgrove Conclave 224 meeting in Kidderminster

March 2025

You all get a month off!

April 2025

Tuesday the 8th

Charles Hinitt Conclave 283 meeting in Northfield.

Contact

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Provincial Recorder, W.Bro. Gareth Hughes WorcsOSM@gmail.com

WOSM on the Web

Web site

www.worcestershire-osm.com

Facebook group (private)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WorcestershireOSM>

Facebook page (public-facing)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564080105660>

Right Worthy Brother Bob Vaughan's masonic account on X

<https://x.com/rwbrobob>