



**The Order of Royal and Select Masters
of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas.
District of Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight.
R. Ill. Comp. Frank Jeremy Shaw. District Grand Master
District Newsletter No 1 -Summer 2020
Edited by Ill. Comp. Bob Brown PAGDC; DistGPCW**

Companions all,

This is the first attempt to produce a newsletter to keep you all informed and up to date with things around the Districts of Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

I trust you are all keeping as well as you can. We currently find ourselves in strange times, individually and as Royal and Select Masons, as we approach the end of the third month of this pandemic and a slight easing of lockdown, especially with shops beginning to open.

When Freemasonry will reopen is still not clear but our District Grand Master, R.III.Comp. Jeremy Shaw and the District Executive are working closely with our Grand Master. M.III. Comp. Kessick John Jones and his Executive to achieve a safe return when the time is considered to be right for us all.

As you all probably know by now, our District Grand Almoner Ill. Companion Malcolm Lloyd is standing down to take up his new appointment in the Grand High Priests He has worked hard for our Order and we are all eternally grateful. Soon it will be our pleasure to welcome our new Almoner, Companion Alan Wakeford. Many of you already know him and, like Malcolm, he will offer support and help whenever needed.

While I'm talking about Almoners, please don't forget your Council Almoner. When we are not well, we all call the Almoner, which is correct, but at this time he's worked off his feet looking after everyone. Also spare a

the new team appointments on 29th August at District Annual Meeting, but due to the situation of uncertainty this may be postponed until such times as it would be possible to hold a truncated business meeting. However, the new District Officers will assume their Office from that date, and will have their new Regalia just waiting to be used. When the time comes, wear it you will look smart.

I though it only proper that you should know that, although we are not all out and about, the Executive has been hard at work behind the scenes. Our District Recorder Ill. Comp Ron Bentley has been very active with our District Grand Master Jeremy Shaw in making sure that when we all get back to our Masonry in general the Royal and Select is up to speed with Official Visits and hopefully allowing the Recorders to plan their side of things with regards to meetings.

Ill Companion Ron Bentley has been extremely busy in conjunction with our District Grand Master in fixing District Team Visits for the future and as Recorders you will have received them. I know that the team for the new year is looking forward to getting out and about and meeting up with you all in due course. All visits have been scheduled for the period January to July 2021 to avoid any rescheduling if Meetings are not back to normal in the autumn.

The District Executive has entered into the 21st Century. We have held a few "zoom" chats" which have all been very successful, pooling ideas to make sure we all support you and the Order. Again, it's another way forward

for all our Councils to keep in touch with their members and, as you are all aware, WhatsApp and Facebook are also now regularly used.

In Memoriam

Sadly, the District suffered the loss of **Comp. Rodney Styles** a member of King Alfred Council, on 20th November 2019, **Ill. Comp. George Tunnicliff, PGStwd** on 21 November 2019, a member of Carnarvon Council No 5, and **Ill. Comp. Myron Peacock. PGCapt.Gd**, also member of Carnarvon Council No 5, on 8th May 2020. He was the District Grand Treasurer from 2000-2010.

The Silver Trowel

Seven Ill. Companions received the Silver Trowel at the Meeting of Wessex Council No. 283 in February and three more Ill. Companions were due to receive it at the July Meeting of that Council. However, they will now receive the Silver Trowel at the scheduled meeting of Wessex Council No 283 in February 2021, with other new Candidates.

Recruitment

One of the big issues will be that of new members, where do we look for them, how do we entice them because, as you all know it's that which keeps all the Orders alive and one that we know you will all strive for. Remember, we have a full Power Point presentation available for our Order and all that is required is that you give us due notice.

Both the Deputy District Grand Master Steve Brown and myself are also eager to get out and about and, as I've mentioned, the District Recorder Ron has sorted out a matrix for the Official visits which will see our District Grand Master being very active again.

The Brian Barfoot Memorial Lecture.

The second lecture was due to be given in Wessex Council No 283 by Comp. Tony Ayres of King Alfred Council. No 71, on 2nd July 2020, but cannot now be given due to the current suspension period. It will be given at a later date,

The District Year Book for 2020-2021 is nearing completion and the editor, Ill. Comp. Antony Nailer, has been a bit hamstrung as there has not been any Council activity since late March and some Installations have not taken place. So, for this year, he has suggested that it will be an electronic edition with a limited number of hard copies for Council Recorders etc. to have as an "on desk" reference. Our DGM is pleased for this to happen.

It is my intention to try to produce a news sheet Quarterly, so if you have a special event that you would like promoted. or visits, or that you would like a bit more support, or any other contribution, do drop me a line and we'll see how we get on. Remember, it's your Order and we are here to give help and support.

The Annual District Ladies Luncheon. which this year would have been held in Bournemouth, became a victim of the Lockdown. However, the DGM intends to hold the 2021 luncheon at the same venue.

Our District Grand Master has requested the District Recorder Ill Comp Ron Bentley to forward this Summer news sheet to all Recorders who it is hoped will distribute it to all Council members.

Companions, I think that's about it for now from me. I'm also very much looking forward to your company in the not too distant future.

On behalf of our District Grand Master, the Deputy District Grand Master and the Executive, keep safe, keep well and keep in touch.

Ill. Comp. Bob Brown P.A.G.D.C

27th July 2020