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**The Vault**

**Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch**

**Province of Worcestershire**

**Edition – 6**

**This is the Sixth Edition following the Initiative of the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent based on a Zoom Video Meeting with Chapter Scribe E’s which took place on Wednesday 21st April 2021.**

**Chapter Scribe E’s are requested to distribute this to all Chapter members either by email or sent as hard copy by post.**

**Present:**

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| J M Phenix (JMP) | D W Hill (DWH) |
| M D Cox (MDC) | J J Tristram (JJW) |
| B J Griffin (BJG) | R W Cheney (RWC) |
| K M Evans (KME) | J D Tildesley (JDT) |
| B R Harper (BRH) | G M Watkins (GMW) |
| W F G Tucker (WFGT) | C M K Dyer (CMKD) |
| R.J Foster (RJF) | R. Morris (RM) |
| B S Rothero (BRS) | E. Farrell (EF) |
| I M Fothergill (IMF) | M J Bartels (MJB) |
| J F Swift (JFS) | M W Statham MWS) |
| K Childress (KC) | R. T. Harper (RTH) |
| K R Hingley (KRH) | A J Bagshawe (AJB) |
| B Benge (BB) | D W Owen (DWO) |
| R F Hall-Jones (RFJ) | D A Alcott (DAA) |

29 logged in.

Apologies were recorded for:

A J Yeates, T M L Jones, D C Harper, A J Smith,

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**Welcome and Introduction**

The MEGS welcomed all to this our sixth Scribe E Zoom Meetings. He expressed his pleasure on the comments received from all those who had been Promoted or remaining in Office conducted by the Provincial Executive on Saturday 17th April.

He hoped that this would be the last time this method of communication was needed. He then outlined the Restart programme as laid down by SGC:

* Stage 1 ~ From 17th May ~ Limited Meetings of up to 6 or if the Masonic Hall Risk Assessment allows up to the maximum allowed within that risk assessment not exceeding 30.
* Stage 2 ~ From June 21st ~ Current restrictions on Masonic meetings and dining will be lifted, although it is not yet clear what restrictions or government guidance will take their place.

UGLE/SGC will issue further guidance in due course.

This is also dependent on the decisions taken by the Management Teams in our Masonic Halls as to when they will be open and catering services restored.

The final and most important part of this is the Health & Safety of our Members and there will be no pressure applied to anyone who does not wish to attend.

All Chapters are requested to provide an indication of their forward programmes of Installation, Exaltation etc. in order that the Provincial Executive and Officers can attend and offer such support as may be required excepting that at this stage, with the Social Distancing requirements, no Exaltations are permitted to take place.

The Provincial Scribe E has issued a format for Chapters to complete providing as much information on their forward intentions. And thanked those who had already provided their details.

The MEGS then requested the Scribe E’s, or the Chapter Representatives present to give their reports.

**280 – St Wulstans**: E. Comp Royston Foster~ Unfortunately missed the Installation Convocation due on 14/4 but held a successful Visual Meeting visa Zoom with 18 Members present. September’s Convocation will be a Proclamation.

**529 – Semper Fidelis:** E. Comp. Keith Evans ~ Standing in for Scribe E who has been busy helping his sister who is ill in Scotland. Not met for 18 months. Next Convocation scheduled for November which is Installation but may well be a Proclamation. Have a possible Candidate.

**560 – Vernon**: E. Comp Michael Bartels ~ Not going to meet in June but wait until September. We are faced with 3 concerns ~ Need to wear facial coverings, Social distancing, and no catering. Installation is due in September. Unfortunately, Stourport Masonic Hall is not yet Covid safe and there is apparently no intent to look at ventilation. The Covid Assessor has stated that after June 21st there may well be no need for risk assessment about Covid. Otherwise, our next Convocations will be November and January.

**564- Stability**: E. Comp Ken Hingley ~ Due to hold a Zoom meeting in October. He has requested a Dispensation for current H & J given they will enter their 3rd year in their respective Chairs. This will allow for Proclamation and Installation in April 2022.

Stourbridge Masonic Hall are signing contracts for cleaning and catering last week of April. Have purchased all electric Candles for all Orders requiring them. Still a question on 3rd Point in Rose Croix. 4 Joining Members, and we have no health problems or resignations.

IMF in his position as District Recorder for Rose Croix informed meeting that the Third Point has current Ritual Amendments provided to all RC Chapters by Supreme Council which considers all Health & Safety & Covid requirements.

**573 – Perseverance:** Comp**.** Eugene Farrell–Next Convocation is Septemberwhere we will Proclaim Principals and then look forward to our Installation in November.

**1204 Royds:** E. Comp**.** Roger Hall-Jones ~ Held a delayed Installation in October 2020 under Rule of 6, as a Proclamation. Next Convocation will be in October which will again be a Proclamation requiring a Dispensation. Have held regular chats & lectures via Zoom. Unfortunately, no Candidates in the pipeline at present.

**3185 – Stechford**: E. Comp Brian Harper ~ Unable to hold Zoom Meetings. Next scheduled Convocation is Installation in October. Hope to be able to promote a Companion below the J Chair to that Office as BRH and BSR will move to Z and H. Last Convocation held was March 2020 which was an Exaltation and keen for Companions to see the ritual at work. Have a possible Candidate. Little to report.

**3308 – Abbot Lichfield**: E. Comp. Richard Harper ~ Next Convocation is due on 23rd September which is our Installation. A Companion below the Chairs will be Installed as J. Our last Convocation was in February 2020. We have two Candidates. The Chapter has kept in touch via various media means.

Evesham Masonic Hall should be fully operational by September. We will need to find a date and location for our delayed Centenary Celebrations.

Question to the MEGS relating the wearing and transfer of Regalia. The answer is that we must await guidance from both the government and SGC.

**3378 Page –** E. Comp. Barry Benge, IPZ ~ Scribe E unavailable as had to take wife to a Hospital appointment. Have held regular Zoom meetings and looking forward to our first Convocation, which should be our Installation in October. Unfortunately, no Candidates at present.

BRH stated that SGC had granted Centenary Warrant subject to the Chapter paying the necessary fees. Also requested a confirmed date for the Centenary Celebrations although appreciated they had held an informal get together in the Car Park at Rainbow Hill.

**3569 – Avon:** E. Comp. Roger Cheney ~ Providing Evesham Masonic Hall is open we will hold our first Convocation on June 23rd. Intend to Proclaim the Principals.

**4001 – Kings Norton:** E. Comp. John Tristram, MEZ. It was with much sadness that we lost our Scribe E Mike Burke who died suddenly whilst visiting his family. November is our next scheduled Convocation with our Installation due in January 2022.

Prov Scribe E, BRH reminded Companions that where no Installation has been held for the current year a Proclamation is required in accordance with SGC requirements. Put simply if the first Convocation since lockdown is not an Installation, then conduct a Proclamation and if the Principals were moving into a third year in office the MEGS will grant a free Dispensation and then hold the Installation Convocation in accordance with the Chapter By-Laws.

**4495 – Bordesley Abbey**: E. Comp Keith Childress ~Next Convocation due on 15th September will be the delayed Installation Convocation from March. Chapter not met since January 2020. Waiting for Redditch Masonic Hall to declare itself Covid safe and that they have a new caterer in place from September. Unfortunately, no Candidates in the pipeline.

**4621 – St. Edburgha:** E. Comp. Bob Morris ~ Have held Zoom meetings and conducted online lectures. Planned to conduct a Proclamation in September and the conduct our Installation in November.

**4935 – Wigornia:** E. Comp. John Phenix ~ Installation in May will not take place as Kings Heath MH is closed until 21st June. The Installation will now be in November. Struggling with member numbers due to deathe and resignations. Holding regular Zoom meetings jointly with Lodge of Bon Accord No. 4935

**5414 – Bromsgrove:** E. Comp. Tony Bagshawe ~ Installation Convocation scheduled for 3rd Thursday in September where it is anticipated we will be recycling the Officers. Pleased to announce that E. Comp. Jonathan Swift will be relieving me as Scribe E.

**5583 – Severn:** E. Comp. Geoff Watkins ~ Next Convocation scheduled for 3rd Friday in October where we will conduct a Proclamation, Have retained all our members but no Candidates in the pipeline.

**5691 – Red Rose of St. George:** E. Comps.

Derek Hill ~ Our next Convocation is due in October which will be our Installation.

Had attended Mike Burke’s funeral as a close friend and reiterated that he dies suddenly whilst packing the car prior to returning home.

**6116 – Woodlands:** E. Comp. Mike Statham ~ Have held Zoom Meetings, last one in January. We have a Convocation due on 10th June and then our Installation Convocation is due in November. We have a draft forward plan for 2021-2022 year.

**6879 Merston Culy:** E. Comp. Derek Owen ~ Hold regular Zoom Meetings. We have had 1 Resignation and no Candidates in the pipeline at present. Our Installation is due in May but that will not take place and we will conduct a Proclamation at our next Convocation on 24th September.

**6889 – Installed 1st Principals:** E. Comp. Ian Fothergill ~ Very unlikely that our June, Installation, Convocation, due on 16th June will take place due to membership lack of appetite, given it is in the week prior to the expectations that the current lockdown will be fully lifted on 21st June. This means we will endeavour to conduct our Installation following our usual Remembrance Service at Worcester in November.

We have had one resignation and sadly five deaths in the last 12 months. We have Joining Members who will hopefully be balloted for and welcomed at the November Convocation. Reminded all the Companions that as the Premier Chapter in the Province we are always ready to accept new qualified Members.

**8323 – Remembrance:** E. Comp. Don Alcott~ Our next Convocation should be our Installation in June but the members are not prepared to meet given the restrictions in force and the lack of catering. We will therefore conduct a Proclamation at our September Convocation. We have no Candidates and our Mother Lodge is struggling.

**9169 – White Ensign:** E. Comp. Ian Fothergill ~

Our June Convocation is likely to be abandoned as the membership have no desire to meet under the current restrictions and we are still awaiting the Covid Risk Assessment from Redditch Masonic Hall knowing that the current lack of any form of ventilation, other than a few open windows, does not satisfy the requirements. They have had a quote for £30,000 to provide a satisfactory through flow ventilation system. There is also no catering contract currently in place. Likely that the Hall will not be declared open until September. We conducted our requisite Declarations at our October Meeting under the Rule of 6 last October and Proclaimed our Principals therefore no requirement to conduct Proclamations at our September Convocation. We have submitted a request for a Dispensation for our MEZ to remain in the Chair for a 3rd year up to December 2021 and as H & J will remain in Office, we only have the Z Elect to Install who unfortunately missed his Installation due to being in Hospital. No Candidates but have a Re-Joining and Joining Member. Our Lodge Mentor has relinquished that role so it is hopeful we can now approach our Light Blue members and seek to persuade them to take the 4th Regular Step and complete the journey. The Lodge holds weekly Zoom Meetings and several of our Companions join in that discussion.

**9287 – Francis Burgess:** E. Comp. Joe Tildsley ~ Received personal congratulations for both his wife’s and own recent Incident involving an attempted carjacking. Have regular Zoom Meetings and looking forward to the September Installation Convocation. Thanked BRH for the recent comprehensive documentation provided by Province.

**Membership Officer** – E. Comp. Charles Dyer, Reminded all Scribe E’s of his role and the need to ensure that any Companion considering Resignation must be flagged up, otherwise once the resignation has been submitted it is highly unlikely it will be rescinded. There is also the current problem with Rule 66b regarding the need to be a Regular Subscribing or Hon Member of a Craft Lodge to retain Chapter Membership. The period of grace has been extended to 18th December.

**Deputy Grand Superintendent**: ~ E. Comp. Michael Cox ~ Informed the meeting that the Provincial Visiting Teams Schedule has been planned and that the members of the team will offer as much support as possible especially where alternative Installation dates are planned.

**Prov. GSE:** E. Comp. Brian Harper ~ Informed the meeting that any Regular Meetings that are due to take place after May 17th must have a Summons produced even where their may be abandonments due to non-quorate attendance or that the Meeting place may not be available.

The introduction and Training on the Hermes Project will be scheduled for the end of this year. The Province has established a team under E. Comp. John Crowther in his role as an APGM together with the Prov. G. Sec. Prov. GSE, W. Bro. Dave Morris as a Lodge Sec and E. Comp. Derek Owen as a Chapter Sec.

The MEGS then thanked everybody for their attendance and their interesting and significant input and reminded everyone that the next Chapter Chat would take place on 30th April including of course his quiz. And on 28th May we have W. Bro. Tony Baker, a well-known speaker coming to talk to us about Bristol Freemasonry.

He concluded by wished everyone to remain Happy, Safe and Well. There is light at the end of the tunnel, and we look forward to resuming our usual Convocations in the not-too-distant future.

