



THE ANCIENT AND MASONIC ORDER OF THE SCARLET CORD

in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas

Good afternoon Companions and I hope you are all well.

Its at this time of course that we should all have been packed into the Grand Temple at Mark Masons Hall for Grand Senatus.

I'm sad that I don't have the opportunity of investing those appointed to or promoted in Grand Rank and yes, sad at missing the chance to meet and chat with everyone that comes along, as I always try to do. We were expecting a large contingent of our overseas Companions this year, particularly from India, several of whom have never been here before. Yesterday we would have conferred the 4th Grade on something like 70 Companions and the 5th on 15. Rest assured that we will catch up at the first opportunity.

Sad also that during the last 12 months we have lost a number of our most valued friends and I would specifically like to mention Most Distinguished Companion Peter Glyn Williams, the inspiration and founding father of our re-born Order, Right Distinguished Companion Stephen Ayres who was such an integral part of our higher Grade ceremonies and Companion Mike Baker, Communications Consultant at Mark Masons Hall, with whom I was working very closely on publicity for Scarlet Cord within the wider masonic world. They and all our Companions who have passed on will be greatly missed.

Companions, up until lockdown it had been another busy year. Our membership numbers up by a staggering 8.5% and with 11 new Consistories- but for the virus it would have been 13.

In May I was in Guernsey for the Consecration of the first Consistory there, Guernsey Lilly and in July we consecrated Thames Valley at Oxford and S N Goenka at Mumbai. October saw me in Surrey for Warlingham, November Devon for Valley of Rocks and January South Wales for Vale of Glamorgan. We've also had new Consistories in Southern India, South East Asia and three in the east of India, a new project. I'm grateful to Madhavan Chellappa, Vincent Tang, Stephen Hindes, Krishnamachari Gopal and Geoff Gill for undertaking those duties.

There have also been new Provincial and District Grand Summi to install. In July the GDC and I travelled to Singapore to install Derek Lo for South East Asia, returning via Chennai to install Krishnamachari Gopal for Southern India and Mumbai to install Stephen Hindes for Western India. In all those places we were quite overwhelmed by kindness and hospitality and on a walking tour of Singapore the GDC was nearly overwhelmed by the heat!

In November I installed Keith McCully, Provincial Grand Summus for East Anglia, after a long period as Deputy in Charge.

Right Distinguished Companion Geoff Windsor has now retired as Provincial Grand Summus for Cheshire and North Wales and I'd like to express my personal thanks to him for his dedicated service over a five-year term. Right Distinguished Companion Chris Welton took over on 18th April, without a formal Installation but with a virtual one on Facebook and Twitter from my back garden- much to the puzzlement of my neighbours.

I've also travelled to Plymouth to rename the old Province of Western Counties Devon and Cornwall and to Botley to re-constitute Hampshire and Isle of Wight as Hampshire, Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands, bringing Le Couperon and Guernsey Lilly into the Provincial fold.

My next task is to congratulate all those who are appointed and promoted today. Your new ranks take effect from this moment. I've already expressed how sad I am that I cannot invest you personally but I do hope that today will be a cause for private celebration - certainly I am led to believe that in Pune in Western India, the new Very Distinguished Companion Shri Arole will be opening a bottle of Glenfiddich especially. Seems like a good idea!

You will all know that these ranks bring with them responsibility. I'm confident that each and every one of you will strive to excel in Scarlet Cord masonry just as soon as we are free to meet again.

And now some thanks. To this year's Grand Team for their excellence, including of course the Grand Tzaddikim. To all our Provincial and District Grand Summi and their teams and those Consistory officers whose dedication makes it possible for us all to enjoy our meetings so much. And to the Grand Recorder and his staff at Mark Masons Hall whose professionalism, assistance and kindness are hugely appreciated.

Companions, even with lockdown measures being gently eased in many countries, we cannot be sure when we can resume meetings. Until that time keep in touch with one another by phone or Whatsapp and with me on our Facebook and Twitter platforms. Mentally, these are difficult times so have Faith in the God of our Fathers, retain Hope for this *will* end and show Charity when you can. Companions, keep safe and well.

Ian

M.Dist.Comp. Ian Stanley Currans, VI, Grand Summus