

INTENDANT-GENERAL ADDRESS TO DIVISIONAL CONCLAVE 2024

WORTHY KNIGHTS, I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE FOR THE START OF MY 9th YEAR IN THIS OFFICE AND I OFFER YOU ALL MY SINCERE THANKS FOR MAKING THE EFFORT TO ATTEND TODAY'S MEETING.

OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITORS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED AND I HOPE THAT THEY HAVE ALL ENJOYED THE DAY SO FAR. I AM PLEASED TO RECIPROCATATE THE FRIENDSHIP AND HOSPITALITY SHOWN TO US WHEN WE ATTEND THEIR AGM'S. THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE WITH HEADS OF COMPANION ORDERS IN SUSSEX CONTINUES TO BE HEALTHY AND SUCCESSFUL AND LONG MAY THAT CO-EXISTENCE CONTINUE.

YOU HAVE HEARD THAT IN THE PAST YEAR 10 MEMBERS DIED AND 7 RESIGNED. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS WAS DECIMATED BY COVID AND SOME MEMBERS ARE STILL RETICENT TO ATTEND. NEVERTHELESS, CANDIDATES ARE BEING FOUND BY A SIMPLE REQUEST TO READ THE INTRODUCTORY BOOKLET AND NUMBERS ARE SLOWLY IMPROVING, BUT WE NEED TO CONTINUE OUR RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN. WORTHY KNIGHTS, IF WE DO NOT ADDRESS OUR RECRUITMENT ISSUE, WE WILL LOSE CONCLAVES WITH A HOST OF EXPERIENCE AND HISTORY TO REVEL IN. IT SIMPLY NEEDS EFFORT ON THE PART OF ALL CURRENT MEMBERS TO CONTINUE THE SUCCESS STORY WE HAVE ENJOYED IN THE PAST IN SUSSEX. ONLY YOU CAN DO IT, BUT NOW IS THE TIME. MY EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND I ARE READY AND WILLING TO ASSIST YOU IN ANY WAY WE CAN.

IT WAS WITH A VERY HEAVY HEART THAT ST. PETER CONCLAVE NO 350 HANDED IN THEIR WARRANT EVEN THOUGH I ATTENDED THEIR MEETING TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS. REGRETTABLY THEY FELT THERE WAS NO FUTURE THERE. ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, MOST MEMBERS HAVE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER CONCLAVES.

I REGRET TO SAY THAT WE STILL STRUGGLE TO GET 50% ATTENDANCE TO SOME MEETINGS BUT THERE IS PROOF THAT THE ALMONERS OF CONCLAVES ARE CHECKING ON THOSE WHO ARE ABSENT TO MINISTER TO THEIR NEEDS IF PRACTICABLE AND ENCOURAGING MEMBERS TO ATTEND MEETINGS BY LENDING A SYMPATHETIC EAR AND ENTICING THEM TO RETURN TO THE FOLD.

I NOW WISH TO CONGRATULATE SIMON LANGTON ON HIS RE-APPOINTMENT AS MY DEPUTY INTENDANT-GENERAL AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH HIM DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS. HE HAS BEEN A TOWER OF STRENGTH AGAIN OVER THE PAST YEAR AND BOTH OF US HAVE EACH ATTENDED EVERY CONCLAVE.

WE HAVE A NEW TEAM OF OFFICERS TO ASSIST US IN THE DISCHARGE OF OUR DUTIES AND SOME OF YOU WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE GENERAL RUNNING OF THE DIVISION. I OFFER MY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE APPOINTED PROMOTED, AND CONTINUING IN OFFICE TODAY AND I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENJOY YOUR TIME IN OFFICE. TO THOSE WHO HAVE STOOD DOWN FROM OFFICE, I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PAST SERVICES. I ALSO PERSONALLY THANK THE NEW DIVISIONAL RECORDER, JOHN ELLENGER, WHO NOT ONLY ACCEPTED THE OFFICE FOLLOWING JOHN CHALLIS'S UNTIMELY DEMISE, BUT HAS AGAIN WORKED TIRELESSLY AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TO ASSIST BOTH SIMON AND ME. WE ARE BOTH VERY GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS JOHN. WHILST ON THIS MATTER I MUST THANK ILL.KT. ANDY KNIGHT FOR COVERING THE OFFICE OF RECORDER DURING OUR TIME OF NEED AND UNTIL I COULD FIND A REPLACEMENT. IT IS A JOB THAT ANDY KNOWS ONLY TOO WELL BUT HE DID NOT HESITATE TO VOLUNTEER HIS SERVICES. I GIVE YOU THE THANKS OF THE ENTIRE DIVISION ANDY.

I THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE DIVISIONAL SEPULCHRE GUARD FOR ATTENDING MEETINGS WITH ME DURING THIS YEAR AND FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT. THE TWO FULL TEAM MEETINGS DURING THE NEXT YEAR WILL BE AT ROSE OF ST. MARY CONCLAVE No 274 IN EASTBOURNE ON 10th MARCH 2025 AND AT BLACKHAM CONCLAVE No 160 IN BRIGHTON ON 12th APRIL 2025.

I MUST THANK ALL THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE WORKED EXTREMELY HARD TO MAKE THIS MEETING THE SMOOTH - RUNNING SUCCESS IT IS AND ALSO THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN ITS PREPARATION. TO YOU ALL, I AM MORE THAN GRATEFUL.

I AM DELIGHTED TO REPORT THAT AT GRAND IMPERIAL CONCLAVE THIS YEAR THE FOLLOWING KNIGHTS WILL BE APPOINTED TO THEIR :-

FIRST GRAND RANK,

RICHARD GAMMIE TO PAST GRAND PREFECT

BOB GREENHEAD TO PAST GRAND WARDEN OF REGALIA

PROMOTIONS,

ALAN HOBDEN TO PAST GRAND CHAMBERLAIN (O/S MY ALLOCATION)

ROBERT BROWN TO PAST GRAND CHAMBERLAIN

MARTIN WILSON TO GRAND SWORD BEARER (O/S MY ALLOCATION)

RE-APPOINTMENT:-

ROGER RICHARDSON TO DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL (O/S MY ALLOCATION)

PLEASE RECOGNISE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.

OVER THE PAST YEAR SIMON AND I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF PRESENTING 7 MEMBERS WITH A 25 YEARS SERVICE CERTIFICATE AND LAPEL PIN AND 1 MEMBER WITH A 40 YEARS SERVICE CERTIFICATE AND LAPEL PIN. THERE ARE 18 MEMBERS OF THE DIVISION THAT HAVE SERVED BETWEEN 25 YEARS AND 40 YEARS, THEREBY PROVING THE WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE WITHIN THE DIVISION AND I CONGRATULATE THEM ALL.

WE WERE INVOLVED IN THE CHRISTIAN ORDERS CHURCH SERVICE IN BURGESS HILL ON 17TH MARCH 2024 WHICH WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. THANKS TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED AND SUPPORTED THIS ORDER.

PLANS ARE IN PROGRESS TO HOLD A HOG ROAST AT THE GRAND SOVEREIGNS HOME AND OTHER COMPANION ORDERS WILL BE INCLUDED. YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED NOTIFICATION AND I HOPE YOU WILL BE HAPPY TO ATTEND WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO SUPPORT THIS ORDER.

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER DIVISIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE BIRCH HOTEL IN HAYWARDS HEATH, TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2024 AT NOON, DETAILS WILL BE SENT SOON. I HOPE THAT THE ANNUAL SUNDAY LUNCH ORGANISED BY ROSE OF ST. MARY CONCLAVE NO 274 IN EASTBOURNE WILL CONTINUE WHILST THERE IS STILL GOOD MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT FOR THIS TYPE OF FUNCTION.

MY WIFE, JANET, ASKED ME TO THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GOOD WISHES FOLLOWING HER BRUSH WITH CANCER. SHE HAS FULLY RECOVERED FROM THIS DREADFUL ILLNESS AND IS GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR KINDNESS.

LASTLY, I WANT EVERY MEMBER OF SUSSEX RCC TO BE HAPPY IN THEIR MEMBERSHIP OF THIS WONDERFUL ORDER AND THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICES YOU ALL PERFORM. NEVER FORGET THAT THIS IS A HOBBY AND THAT IT IS MEANT TO BE AN ENJOYABLE PASSTIME. IF YOU HOLD OFFICE, ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT TO YOUR OWN SATISFACTION AND THE SATISFACTION OF YOUR PEERS AND CANDIDATES.

NEXT YEARS BANNER CONCLAVE WILL BE BLACKHAM CONCLAVE no 160.

THANK YOU ALL ONCE MORE FOR ATTENDING TODAY. WE ARE SHORTLY ABOUT TO ENJOY REFRESHMENT AND A GOOD LUNCH. I TRUST YOU WILL ALL HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY HOME AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.