

Minutes of the Convocation of the Provincial Grand Conclave of Cheshire and North Wales of the Order of the Secret Monitor held at Freemasons' Hall, Cheshire View, Plough Lane, Christleton, Chester, on Wednesday 19th June 2024

Distinguished guests and Right Worthy Brethren entered in procession under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. William Anthony Stringer, accompanied by Wy.Bro. Paul Morrison Burton, P.D.G.D.C. Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler, and Provincial Officers entered in procession, to the acclaim of the brethren.

Before proceeding, R.Wy.Bro. William Anthony Stringer welcomed all brethren present.

1. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler opened Provincial Grand Conclave in due form at 11.00 a.m. There were 89 Brethren present whose names are recorded in the register attached to these minutes.
2. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies called the brethren to order and R.Wy.Bro. William Anthony Stringer, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler was saluted with 7 PDP, for which he thanked those present.
3. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies called the brethren to order and Wy.Bro. Paul Morrison Burton P.A.G.D.C. Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler was saluted with 5 PDP, for which he thanked those present.
4. The Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies called the Brethren to order and R.Wy.Bro's Samuel Keery and David Littlewood Past Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers were saluted with 7 PDP, for which R.Wy.Bro. Sam thanked those present.
5. The Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies called the brethren to order and R.Wy.Bro. Uri Patel, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Province of East Midlands, and other R.Wy. Brethren were saluted with 7 PDP, for which he thanked those present on their behalf.
6. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler stated that the minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday the 21st June 2023 had been distributed to members by email, published on the website & had been available for members to read outside the Lodge Room since 09.00 hrs. and on proposition of Wy.Bro. Derek Gaskell Prov.G.Coun. and seconded by Wy.Bro. John Owens Prov.G.G. the minutes were approved by the brethren.
7. The Provincial Grand Recorder called the muster roll of Conclaves all of whom were well represented by a good attendance of their members.
8. The Provincial Grand Recorder reported that he had received two apologies from outgoing Provincial Grand Officers who had medical issues, other than those all Provincial Grand Officers were present.
9. The Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler reported that the following Brethren had passed to the Grand Conclave above since our last meeting:-

Wy. Bro Barry Howarth, PGStBr, member of Shield of David conclave 345. Died Sunday 20th August 2023 aged 76.

Wy. Bro Walter John Astbury, PPrGStBr, member of Semper Fidelis conclave 261. Died Wednesday 23rd August aged 77.

Wy. Bro. Thomas Idris Davies, member of Seal of Solomon 463 and Maen Achwyfan 514. Died Monday 30th October 2023 aged 94.

Wy. Bro. Bernard Bloom, PPGCoun, member of Verney Clayton conclave 45. Died Tuesday 14th November 2023 aged 92.

Wy. Bro. Kenneth Smith, PGStBr, Hon. Member of Shield of David 345. Died 19th December 2023 aged 92.

Wy. Bro. George Hughes, PGSwdBr. PProvGG, Hon Member of Norton Priory 226 and PGO 302. Died 17th March 2024 aged 88.

Bro. Peter David McMahon. Member of Shield of David conclave 345. Died 30th March 2024 aged 57.

R Wy. Bro. Arthur Clare, PGG. Honorary Member of Norton Priory Conclave 226. Died 9th April 2024 aged 98.

Heartfelt condolences were, and had been, offered to the bereaved. At the request of the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, the Provincial Grand Chaplain, Wy.Bro. Malcolm Orr P.A.G.D.C. offered a prayer for these worthy brothers and called the brethren to stand in silence in respect of departed merit. The Provincial Grand Organist then lead the brethren in the Hymn "The day thou gave them".

10. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then introduced R.Wy. Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers and Brethren from other Provinces and also Brethren of other Orders within the Province. He thanked them for their attendance and their support at this meeting. The Brethren were acclaimed with enthusiasm by the members present.
11. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler announced that the Annual Statement of Accounts had been distributed to members by email, published on the website & had been available for members to read outside the Lodge Room since 09.00 hrs. and on proposition of Wy.Bro. Derek Gaskell Prov.G.Counc. and seconded by Wy.Bro. John Owens Prov.G.G. the accounts were approved by the brethren.
12. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler reported that the only nomination for Treasurer was for Wy.Bro. Ronald Glyn Hewitt and in the absence of any other nomination or any brother requiring a ballot he declared Wy.Bro. Hewitt duly elected.
13. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler also reported that the only nominations for Account Examiners was for Wy.Bro.'s Keith Butterworth & David Meacher Jones and in the absence of any other nominations or any brother requiring a ballot he declared them both duly elected.
14. The Provincial Grand Guide, Wy.Bro. John Owens, addressed the meeting and presented his annual report. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler thanked the Provincial Grand Guide for his comprehensive report and for his work throughout the year.
15. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then rose and stated he had the greatest pleasure in re-appointing his Deputy, Wy.Bro. Paul Morrison Burton P.A.G.D.C., and thanked him for his support throughout the year.
16. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then appointed/re-appointed and invested Provincial Officers for the ensuing year, including four promotions to Past Provincial Grand Rank.
17. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies called the Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers' Arch of Steel to order and presented the Commander of the Arch of Steel, Wy.Bro. Philip Rose to the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Rose then individually presented each member of the Arch of Steel to the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and his Deputy. New members were invested, and current members were thanked for their continued support of the Arch of Steel by the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler.
18. Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. William Anthony Stringer then addressed Provincial Grand Conclave and a full copy of his address is attached to these minutes.
19. Alms were collected in the sum of £320.71.
20. The Provincial Grand Recorder reported he had no other business to be transacted.
21. Provincial Grand Conclave was closed by the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler at 12.10 p.m. after which the Welsh National Anthem and first verse of the National Anthem were sung.

The recession of the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, accompanied by the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Provincial Officers, Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers from other Provinces, R.Wy. Brethren and Distinguished Guests, was acclaimed by the Brethren at 12.20 p.m.