

One blistering week in June for the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler.

The week before the Annual Provincial Meeting, with three trips into North Wales

Although it is the start of summer and the end of the general Masonic season, there was no let up in the Cheshire and North Wales OSM schedule.

Monday:

On a very hot Monday 12th the PGSR, RWyBro Tony Stringer attended Seal of Solomon Conclave No 463 at Wrexham where he is a member.

The Supreme Ruler, VWyBro Geoff Glover opened the Conclave in a hot and clammy lodge room and carried out the domestic business of the Conclave, which included a favourable ballot for Bro Alan Doyle as a joining member.

It was now time for the main event, a talk entitled 'Unravelling the SCOSM' to be given by RWyBro Tony Stringer.

This talk covered the link between the OSM, the Scarlet Cord, and how they fit into the Craft, Royal Arch Chapter and Mark.

The presentation went down well and was much appreciated by those attending.

With the Conclave closed all 21 members attending enjoyed an excellent meal, accompanied by thunder and lightning and torrential rain.

It had been an enjoyable night for all, but a damp drive home.

Tuesday:

Tuesday 13th saw everyone turn up at Runcorn Masonic Hall on another roasting hot day for Norton Priory Conclave No 266.

RWyBro Tony Stringer was again in attendance being a member of the Conclave.

The Conclave had a triple Princes degree to perform.

And so in another red hot lodge room the Supreme Ruler, WyBro Terry Oke, preformed an excellent Princes ceremony for Bros Rick Chapman and Jacob Potter both members of Norton Priory and Jeff Faulkner a member of Shield of David Conclave No 345.

The Supreme Ruler was ably assisted by WyBro Alan Harrison, Chaplain, RWyBro Walter Yule, who explained the words and the DC, WyBro Jimmy Tang, who also acted as Abishai.

The PGSR gave the Lecture to the candidates and afterwards during the risings presented a Grand Conclave Certificate to Bro Glyn Jones.

At the meeting, the Conclave re-elected WyBro Terry Oke to be Supreme Ruler and WyBro Alan Harrison to be Treasurer for the upcoming year.

WyBro Jimmy Tang also presented the Conclave with a New Bow.

After the meeting it was time for another good meal and again the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler gave permission for jackets off.

Wednesday:

Sun and relaxing with a very large and cold drink!

Thursday:

It was an early start on Thursday 15 June for the 5th meeting of Carreg Yr Wyddfa Conclave No 633 at Bangor.

It was a very nice drive down on another sunny day; travelling along the A55 to Bangor, the sandy North Wales coastline looked very inviting!

The beauty of Bangor Masonic Hall is the Air Conditioning.

This was a blessing for the 25 OSM members attending on another very hot day.

Supreme Ruler, WyBro Martin Wynne Jones, welcomed the PGSR, who thanked WyBro Jones and mentioned how pleasant it was to be in a cool lodge room.

After the salutations, there was a successful ballot for a joining member Bro Peter Talbot, the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master of the North Wales Mark.

A presentation called 'The Duties of the Visiting Deacons' was then given by WyBro John Owens and WyBro Derek Gaskell.

This lecture had been written several years ago by RWyBro Tony Stringer.

The presentation was well received by those present.

The meeting also elected WyBro Paul Richards to be the Secundus Supreme Ruler of the Conclave and WyBro Charles Truman to remain as Treasurer.

WyBro Malcolm Orr was once again elected to be Sentinel.

During the risings RWyBro Stringer presented a Grand Conclave Certificate to Bro Luke Bidder.

After the meeting a nice summer buffet was enjoyed by all present.

Many members then dashed away for evening meetings.

Friday:

Friday, 16th June, another hot sunny day and another trip into North Wales for another OSM meeting.

This time it was Maen Achwyfan Conclave No 514 at Mostyn.

All was going well until there was a call from the Supreme Ruler, WyBro Bill Bell that he had been taken ill.

The Conclave was doing a double Princes degree for Bros Andrew Clark and David Hallows, both members of Dewi Sant Conclave No 457.

At very short notice the IPSR and Deputy PGSR, WyBro Paul Burton, had to perform the ceremony, and several other offices then had to be covered at short notice.

WyBro Paul performed an excellent ceremony and was assisted by Conclave members Bro Matt Fogg and WyBro John Thomson.

The PGSR, RWyBro Tony Stringer delivered the Lecture to the candidates.

Special thanks must go to the following visitors who stepped in to help out the Conclave at very short notice: WyBros Gary Oates, Guide; Graham

Kirby, Guarder; Bro Barry Billinge, Sentinel; John Owens, Chaplain, James Tang, Eleazar and Anthony Lloyd, Assistant Director Of Ceremonies.

As well as the ceremony there was a positive ballot for a joining member, WyBro Tom McLaughlin and a rejoining member, Bro Derek Blackburn.

The night finished with a fine meal and then the week was over, with the weekend ready to put final preparations together for the Annual Meeting the following Wednesday.



Brother Jeff Faulkner; Brother Jacob Potter; Supreme Ruler, Worthy Brother Terry Oke; Right Worthy Brother Tony Stringer, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler; Worthy Brother Paul Burton, Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler; photographed at Norton Priory Conclave No 226 on Tuesday.

Words by Derek Gaskell, Provincial Grand Counsellor