



## **PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF BERKSHIRE**



### ***Executive Appointments***

***3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021***

I am pleased to announce that at the Annual Convocation, due to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, Covid Rules permitting, and from that date, the following changes are to be made to the Provincial Executive Officer line up:

E Comp Michael J Warner, PAGDC is retiring from his role as Second Provincial Grand Principal after serving the Province for the past 13 years in various capacities, starting as the Provincial ADC in 2008, working through to become Provincial GDC in 2013, Third Provincial Grand Principal in 2016, moving to his present position in 2018. During this period Mike has carried out his duties with commitment and zeal, and I am grateful and thankful to him for the support he has given and continues to give to me and the Province. I wish him great success in all his future endeavours.

His place is to be taken by E Comp Philip S Howells, PAGDC, who is currently the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, a role he has held since June 2016 and has carried out in an exemplary manner since. Prior to this he served in the Province as an Assistant and Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies from 2006, and then as Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in 2015. Philip brings a wealth of both experience and continuity to the new Executive Team.

E Comp Rod L A Bancroft, TD, PAGDC, is also retiring from his role as Third Provincial Grand Principal, after having held the post since 2018, during which time he has delivered numerous Orations at a variety of events, making his own mark to the delight and satisfaction of the Chapters and all attending the Celebrations. Rod has also made great strides in raising the profile of the Royal Arch Representatives in Craft Lodges and introduced the role of Royal Arch Ambassadors in Chapters, assisting with recruitment and liaison with the Craft.

Prior to his current position Rod has held Offices in the Province since 2002, when he became an Assistant Provincial GDC, progressing to Deputy Provincial GDC in 2004 and subsequently promoted to Provincial Grand Scribe N in 2010. He is also highly active in other Orders, and I thank him too for his support and commitment to the Province and wish him well and great success in all his future activities.

Stepping up to replace him is E Comp Colin D Townsend-Green, a worthy successor who is currently the Scribe E of St. Swithun's Chapter No. 8550, a role, which except for an interval in 2017, he has held since 2005. In 2017 Colin stepped up to act as First Principal of the Chapter for the second time, remaining as IPZ in 2018, and resuming as Scribe E again in 2019, where he remains at present.

Colin received a First Provincial appointment in 2007, as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Grand Sojourner and a promotion to Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in 2015. He is also a member of the Royal Naval Anti-Aircraft Chapter No. 3790 in London and of Berkshire First Principals Chapter No. 3684 and brings a wealth of Masonic experience to the Provincial team.

The last change I need to announce is that E Comp Steve Hieke will be replacing Phil Howells as the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, having already served over the past 14 years, first as a Steward, then Provincial Assistant GDC and Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies. In this capacity he has proved himself to be very capable and a worthy successor to Phil.

I am sure you will all wish to join me in thanking all those who are standing down, for their past services, and wishing well to those who are stepping into their shoes.

Please stay safe.

*I.R.G. Hopgood*

**Most Excellent Grand Superintendent**