



Province of
Northamptonshire &
Huntingdonshire



Royal Arch Province of
Northamptonshire &
Huntingdonshire

2023/24 Newsletter Number 3



To: All Royal Arch Companions

1. MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND SUPERTINTEDENT



To quote Victor Meldrew, with apologies to our younger Companions, 'I don't believe it!' This will be my sixth Christmas Musings; time really flies when one is enjoying life. As ever the approach of the end of a year leads you to reflect on the past twelve months, a year packed full of development in the world of Pure Antient Freemasonry.

The year began well when it became clear that UGLE/SGC were going out of their way to emphasise that Pure Antient Freemasonry was a four stage journey. There appeared regular Royal Arch articles in Freemasonry Today, the Chain Logo appeared with UGLE and SGC emblems joined with blue/red chain links, the strap line 'One Journey – One Organisation' appeared, on the 8th November Archway (a resource for Chapters, but more of that in the New Year when we have studied it) was launched and permission was given for Lodges and Chapters to use 'The King, the Craft and Royal Arch Masonry' as the First Toast. To cap it all on the 7th November the Pro Grand Master of the Degree of Mark Master Masons gave an address at a meeting of PGM's and MEGS's in which he expressed the opinion that Master Masons should complete their journey through Pure Antient Freemasonry before extending their Masonry in other Orders. What a year!

Within the Province the Craft and Royal Arch continue, as we have always done, to work in close harmony and with a unity of purpose in order to encourage all Master Masons to complete that wonderful journey of self-enlightenment that is Pure Antient Freemasonry. With the support of the PGM, we have developed the Ambassador Scheme to support Chapters and maintain contact with Master Masons following their Raising. We continue to encourage Chapters to deliver the Exaltation Ceremony in a way that will not only enhance the Exalte experience, but also afford as many Companions as possible to participate thereby increasing retention rates and minimising resignations.

The ingredients for success are almost complete, but like a dry Christmas Cake that has not been fed with Brandy, one ingredient is missing - you the Companions. You, dare I say, are the most important ingredient for there is nothing quite like personal contact. Let us then, as we move to a new year, resolve to embrace the opportunities before us to strengthen all our Chapters and make each and every one of them vibrant units where all look forward to attending.

Take care Companions and may the True and Living God Most High watch over you and your loved ones and I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy and fulfilling New Year.

E Comp Jim Boughton
Grand Superintendent



One Journey
One Organisation



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Active Officers' Full Team Visit
Chapter of Fidelity 445
Towcester
Monday 15th January 2024



PSA Testing
Peterborough
Saturday 10th February 2024



Thistle & Rose Chapter 6644
Banner Dedication
Tuesday 9th April 2024



PSA Testing
Corby
Saturday 13th April 2024

2. GRAND SUPERINTENDENT AND CRAFT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER MUSE OVER 2023

MEGS, E Comp Jim Boughton and Craft PGM, RW Bro Mark Constant, met recently and reviewed their respective Masonic experiences of the year. As it happened, a camera crew were on hand to record the fireside chat!

Click on the link below to listen in on what they had to say.

[MEGS and PGM Meet and Muse](#)

3. COMPANIONS WE MISS



In today's busy world it is often easy to forget a few of the friends we have made in our Fraternity over the years.

While we all are enjoying the Festivities this Christmas period, let us think of the Companions who are members of our Chapters and who we have not seen for a while. Why not phone them and ask how they are? Let them know we have missed them. Is there anything we can do for them? Wish them a Merry Christmas and ask if we will

see them in the New Year. (Remember to have the date of the next meeting handy!). Our meetings will be all the better for their company.

Join with me in contacting those of our companions absent from recent meetings and whose company and friendship we value.

I will sign off by wishing you and all your family a Merry Christmas and Happy and healthy New Year.

E Comp Chris Gauntlett
Provincial Grand Almoner

4. PROVINCIAL CHARITY - CONTRIBUTION FUNDING



I am delighted to announce our Provincial Grand Charity Contribution Funding Initiative.

This initiative will enable Chapters to bid for a contribution from the Provincial Charity to bolster their own donations to local charities.

The first such award has been made to Beneventa Chapter 2380. The Companions of Beneventa Chapter are supporting the local "Coats for Kids" charity project of the Holy Cross Church, Daventry. Coats for Kids provides coats for those local children who have no coat or jacket at wintertime to help them

get through this cold, sometimes freezing, period. A most worthwhile project.

This initiative is a perfect demonstration of Freemasonry in the Community, made possible by the generous donations of our members. Thank you Companions.

Our Province may be justly proud we are able to exercise some small relief to needy children at this time of year when giving is such an important part of the Masonic ethos.

E Comp Graham Minett. PGStB.
Provincial Grand Charity Steward

5. PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMME 2023/24

Prostate Cancer affects around one in eight men in this country. Early detection can greatly aid the possibility of surviving this disease.

The Craft and Royal Arch Provinces are again offering a series of PSA testing sessions to enable the members of our two Provinces to benefit from PSA screening. As in past years, we are working with the Graham Fulford Trust to offer three Saturday morning sessions for our members.

The Sheaf Close session took place on Saturday 16th December 2024 when over 160 Brethren and Companions attend to be tested.

The remaining dates are:

Saturday 10 th February 2024	Peterborough
Saturday 13 th April 2024	Corby.



Supreme Grand Chapter
Annual Investiture
Freemasons' Hall
London
Thursday 25th April 2024



Provincial Grand Lodge
Sheaf Close
Northampton
Thursday 16th May 2024



Provincial Grand Chapter
Sheaf Close
Northampton
Thursday 27th June 2024

The two Provinces are co-funding this initiative so that members may have the benefit of a PSA test for just £14.00. Booking will, as last year, be via an online link where payment will also be taken.

Craft and Royal Arch Masons have recently received a communication from the Acting ProvGSE with details of how to book your test.

The PGM and Grand Superintendent urge you to take advantage of this initiative.



You can keep abreast of matters Royal Arch (and Craft) in the Province by signing-up to the Provincial website. Not already signed-up? Here is the web address you need:

//www.northants-huntsmasons.org.uk

The next Royal Arch Newsletter will be published in February 2024

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