



Province of
Northamptonshire &
Huntingdonshire



Royal Arch Province of
Northamptonshire &
Huntingdonshire

2023/24 Newsletter Number 4

To: All Royal Arch Companions

1. APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS IN GRAND RANK

The Grand Master has announced the following Appointments and Promotions in Grand Rank:

First Appointments:



E Comp Michael Smith, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Appointed Past Grand Standard Bearer.

E Comp Mick was Exalted into the Royal Arch and Socrates Chapter 373 in 1998, serving as its MEZ in 2012.

He is a member of Socrates Chapter 373, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire Chapter of First Principals 3442.

E Comp Mick has held a number of Provincial appointments – ProvGStB (2015), ProvAGDC (2018) ProvDepGDC (2020) and ProvGDC in 2023.

In the Craft he holds the rank of PPJGW.



E Comp Russell Laxton, Provincial Grand Registrar

Appointed Past Grand Standard Bearer.

E Comp Russell was Exalted into the Royal Arch and Chicheley Chapter 607 in 1995, serving as its MEZ in 2006.

He is a member of Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire Chapter of First Principals 3442.

E Comp Russell was appointed Prov1stAsstGSoj in 2009, promoted to PPGSwdB in 2014 and to his current office of ProvGReg in 2019.

In the Craft he holds the office of PPJGW.

Promotions:



E Comp John Payne, PGStB, P2ndProvGrand Prin

Promoted to Past Assistant Grand Sojourner.

E Comp John was Exalted into the Royal Arch and Cytringan Chapter 4048 in 1998, serving as its MEZ in 2008. This was followed by five years as the Chapter DC from 2013 – 2018.

He is a member of Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire Chapter of First Principals 3442.

He received a number of Provincial appointments: ProvGStwd (2011), ProvAGDC (2012), ProvDepGDC (2014), ProvGDC (2018), 3rdProvGPrin (2018) and 2ndProvGPrin (2019). Also taking into account 2 years' Active officer service in the Craft, he has amassed a total of 14 years' service in actives offices.

E Comp John was appointed PGStB in 2017.

In the Craft he holds the rank of PPJGW.



One Journey
One Organisation



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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

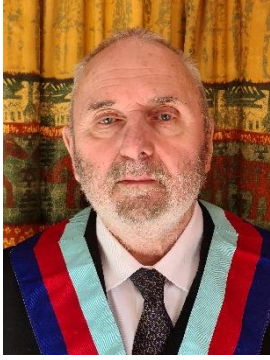


**PSA Testing
Corby
Saturday 13th April 2024**



E Comp Simon Mighall, PAGDC

Promoted to Past Grand Standard Bearer.



E Comp Simon was Exalted into the Royal Arch and Euston Chapter 2283 in 1976, servicing as its MEZ in 1985, 2006 and 2017.

He is a member of Euston Chapter 2283, N&H Chapter of First Principals 3442 and Grafton Chapter 2347 (London).

He has held a number of Provincial offices: PPGSoj (1987), PPGReg (1997) and PPGSN (2001).

E Comp Simon holds the Craft Grand Rank of PJGD (2021).

He has been a member of the UGLE/SGC office team for many years

Recipients will be invested at the Supreme Grand Chapter Meeting at Freemasons' Hall, London on Thursday 25th April 2025.

2. PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS 2024

The Grand Superintendent, E Comp Jim Boughton has announced:

30 appointments to Active Office

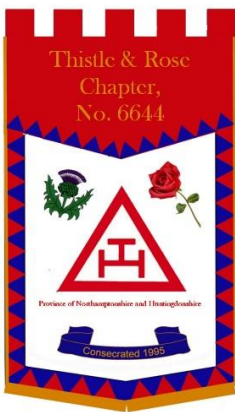
7 first appointments in Past Rank

27 promotions in Past Rank.

A full list is available on the Provincial website and Chapter Scribes E have received a copy of the list.

The Grand Superintendent said "I congratulate all our worthy Companions who have been recognised with an appointment or promotion in my 2024 list. Such awards are not made lightly and reward good effort and work on behalf of our Order. I look forward to presenting these awards at Provincial Grand Chapter on Thursday 27th June 2024 at our Sheaf Close Centre, Northampton".

3. THISTLE AND ROSE BANNER DEDICATION – 9TH APRIL 2024



Thistle and Rose Chapter 6644 are to receive their first banner on 9th April 2024 at 6:30pm. The Banner Dedication ceremony will be conducted at the Corby Masonic Complex by a full Provincial team headed by the Grand Superintendent, E Comp Jim Boughton.

This is the first banner dedication ceremony in the Province for approx 20 years.

Many Companions will never experience a ceremony of this type during their Royal Arch careers. **Places are still available for the ceremony itself and the celebration dinner following.**

You may apply for a summons and book your attendance by contacting the Chapter Scribe E, E Comp Steve Seward, PGStB, 3rdProvGPrin by email at sewardwhu@outlook.com

4. SOLOMON: 'LEARNING – EDUCATION – PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT'

2024 onwards and upwards – Solomon developments and redesign

In the last few months **Solomon** (at solomon.ugle.org.uk) has undergone an extensive redesign. Some of this redesign can be seen in the construction and updates:

- **SolomonGPT** has been launched. Based on the technology of ChatGPT this allows the user to ask questions based on the **Solomon** material relevant to that module. While it is early days for this new addition technology, it does give the user a new way of interacting with **Solomon**.
- The user interface (Dashboard) for **Solomon** has been redesigned.
- Mentor's Corner has now been updated with "Snippets", shorter versions of Nuggets and "Within hail", material for use with those early in their masonic journey.
- The "Welcome" modules are proving very popular. These are [Welcome Apprentice](#), [Welcome Fellowcraft](#), [Welcome Master Mason](#) and especially [Welcome Companion](#).

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



Northamptonshire &
Huntingdonshire
Chapter of First Principals
Sheaf Close
Friday 26th April 2024



Provincial Grand Lodge
Sheaf Close
Northampton
Thursday 16th May 2024



Provincial Grand Chapter
Sheaf Close
Northampton
Thursday 27th June 2024

The modules are 'gamified' to make the learning more fun and provides an explanation of our ceremonies to all new, as well as established, members.

- In the **Welcome Companion** module there are sections covering: Background to the Royal Arch Ceremony; Banners and Ensigns explained; Chapter layout and regalia; Lectures (Historical, Symbolical, Mystical) further explained; and brings together the meaning of the Craft degrees and the Royal Arch. There are several quizzes throughout and a final section covering a review and enhancement of knowledge gained by going through the module in total, plus a short video to conclude the module.

Throughout, every module has a video that explains its purpose. Also, each section has a short video that summarises the content.

Each file now has a standardised summary without having to open a PDF, which is extremely useful when using the Search facility. The Tags (words) function has also been revised and is now available in all modules.

Please note the extended link: <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/login/index.php> which takes the user directly into **Solomon**, or to a section for any new user to create an account to access the full array of material contained within **Solomon**. For any user who is part-way in their masonic journey, the request/suggestion is to go only into those modules you have already covered in your masonic journey, so as not to spoil what is yet to come!

It is hoped you enjoy the updates and the new elements within **Solomon**.

E Comp Dr Christopher R Clark, PGStB

Provincial Grand Mentor

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](http://www.northants-huntsmasons.org.uk)

The next Royal Arch Newsletter will be published in February 2024

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