



To: All Royal Arch Companions

## 1. Obituary – E Comp Peter Kitson, PGSupt

### IN MEMORIAM



E Comp Peter Kitson, PGSupt passed to the Grand Lodge above on 22nd April 2020.

E Comp Peter was born on 18th October 1935, he was Initiated in to Freemasonry and Beneventa Lodge 2380 on 14th March 1973. He had a distinguished Craft career including being a Founder of Buckby Castle Lodge 8932 (30th September 1980) and Lodge of the Oldest Ally (22nd October 1993). He was appointed Grand Standard Bearer (GStB) in 1990, Past Deputy Grand Sword Bearer in 1998 and Past Grand Sword Bearer in 2004.

E Comp Peter was Exalted in to Royal Arch Masonry and Chapter of Fidelity 445 on 5th September 1975. He was Founder of Beneventa Chapter 2380 (6th April 1978), where he progressed through the various offices and became MEZ in 1988. He was also a Founder of Chapter of Probity 7333 (Cambridgeshire) (27th November 2003). Joining First Principals 3422 in 1998, he came its MEZ on 2001.

His appointment to Active Royal Arch Provincial Grand Registrar in 1990 was quickly followed by promotion to Third Provincial Grand Principal (1992) and Second Provincial Grand Principal (1994). An office he held until appointed Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in 1997. E Comp Peter presided as our MEGS for a period of 10 years, relinquishing that office in 2007.

E Comp Peter leaves behind his loving wife, Avril, who fully supported him through his long and successful Masonic career.

## 2. A Word From The Grand Superintendent

Companions, it was with sadness that I heard of the passing of E Comp Peter Kitson, Past Grand Superintendent. Those of us who remember him will recall his great devotion to our order and his commitment, not only to fostering companionship within this Province, but also with our neighbouring Provinces.

Under normal circumstances we would be able to gather to pay our respects, but sadly at the moment that is not possible. Perhaps one day we may be able to gather together to collectively pay our respects to all those who have departed this life during this pandemic.

It pains me to consider the prospect that it may indeed be some considerable time before we are in a position to once again enjoy the companionship of a Chapter meeting. With this awful prospect in mind I ask that all Chapters begin to consider planning for the Autumn by considering how are we going to maintain interest and enthusiasm?

- Regular contact with members of our Chapter to check that all is well.
- Use of Internet gatherings (not a formal Chapter meeting)
- Consideration of ideas raised in the article by Dr Christopher Clark, Provincial Learning and Development Officer
- Maintaining contact with prospective Exaltees
- Exalting candidates as soon as possible on resumption.

These are but a few thoughts buzzing around in the mind. You may have more. The important thing is that we plan for, and not just drift through, the time until we can again meet in the happy companionship that is the Royal Arch.

Until then may the True and Living God Most High remain with you and your loved ones.

**E Comp Jim Boughton**

*Most Excellent Grand Superintendent*

## SUPPORTING THE CRAFT 2024 FESTIVAL



Chapters have been actively supporting the Craft 2024 Festival. This is in addition to the great work Companions are already doing within their Craft Lodges.

Many Chapters have already forwarded donations through our Royal Arch Province. These donations reflect the tremendous work you are doing in support of our Craft colleagues and demonstrate the indissoluble link between our two Orders.

MEGS, E Comp Jim Boughton, had intended to present a cheque to the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Max Bayes, at the Provincial Convocation this June, at which time, those Chapters who have submitted donations will also be acknowledged. Although we will not now be holding a Provincial Convocation in June 2020, MEGS has decided that a cheque will still be presented to the PGM this June, the details and amount to be given in our next newsletter.

Those Chapters who have so generously donated will be acknowledged at the next Provincial Convocation, currently scheduled for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021, along with those who donate between now and June 2021.

In the meantime,  
Companions –

Keep safe, keep well.

### 3. Project Hermes

As you may know, our Craft and Royal Arch organisations are managed using the “Adelphi II” computer system. Adelphi is a centralised system run by UGLE/SGC. Provincial Offices access Adelphi as a tool to ensure all member and unit details are kept up to date. “Hermes” will be a front-end system interfacing Adelphi to which Lodge Secretaries and Chapter Scribes E will have access. Hermes will see some of the functions currently carried-out by Craft and RA Provincial Offices completed at unit level. Hermes will reduce the amount of paperwork units have to create and issue. Since access to Hermes will be at Lodge and Chapter level, it will also ensure Chapter records, held on Adelphi, are updated more quickly than at present.

Amongst the processes currently using paper and which will transition to Hermes are:

- LP&A4 Installation Returns
- Provincial Installation Returns
- Membership Forms P
- Post meeting reports
- Change of member details
- Clearance certificates
- Dispensations.

The current roll-out date for Hermes is mid-2021. Its progress and development is not being delayed by COVID-19. Training in the new Hermes system will be delegated to the Provinces and will we ensure that Chapters are not adversely impacted by its implementation. Between now and roll-out of we will be keeping members updated with progress and developments.

### 4. Solomon - Fostering Curiosity, Developing Understanding

In 2019 we all had the opportunity to see the launch of the **Solomon** website. I hope you have managed to register to gain access to the extensive amount of materials contained within **Solomon**. If you have yet to register with **Solomon** go to the Provincial website and in the ‘search’ box on the left of the opening page type in ‘**Accessing Solomon**’ and you will be taken to a ‘guidance document’ which will take you through the various screens to successfully register.

Since the start of 2020 we have seen an array of new material being added to **Solomon** with over 20 new Papers and Nuggets on Famous Freemasons and 8 audio sound files for you to listen to and enjoy.

Within the sections covering the Royal Arch the newest addition is an audio Nugget entitled ‘Why Companions not Brothers?’

Then we have the brief discussions between Fred & Charlie (*whoever they may be!*) on ‘Brotherhood & Companionship’!

You will also find the 12 Short Talks for Craft Lodges regarding Royal Arch Chapters.

Specifically, for Companions, there are 7 short Nuggets on ‘What becoming a Companion is all about’. With a further 14 Nuggets & Papers concerned with the ‘Characters found within the Royal Arch Ceremony’ – which include Zerubbabel, Haggai, Joshua and Scribes Ezra & Nehemiah.

Yet not forgetting the number of Nuggets and Papers covering the Story, Evolution and Explanation behind the Ceremony of Exaltation; and the Banners and Furnishings together with their History and Symbolism.

Perhaps most importantly, for those wanting more of the background to our Supreme Order, are the 9 papers covering various aspects of the ‘Origin, History and Development of the Royal Arch’.

To find the items mentioned above go to the **Seek and Learn: Royal Arch** section of the **Solomon** website.

Good wishes as you progress along your own and individual masonic journey of personal learning and development.

All of the above – and much more - can be found from accessing:

**Solomon - Fostering Curiosity, Developing Understanding.**

<https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

**E Comp Dr Christopher R Clark, PProvGReg**  
Provincial Learning & Development Officer

**(If you have a colleague who does not receive this newsletter – just email it to him)**



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 August 2020**