



**To: All Royal Arch Companions**

### 1. WE'RE BACK!

That was the resounding message from E Comp Jim Boughton, Most Excellent Grand Superintendent at this year's Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter at Sheaf Close on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

128 Companions attended the meeting and 106 joined MEGS for dinner.

In his address, MEGS thanked those many companions who had worked tirelessly throughout the suspension of meetings to maintain chains of communication and keep alive that bond of Brotherly love and companionship – the hallmark of our Fraternity. He mentioned the Executive, Provincial Secretariat, Chapter Secretariats, Chapter Officers – particularly the Almoners - the "Zoomers", those remaining in office – holding the fort, indeed the list was extensive. He thanked us all.

MEGS announced the restarting of the joint Craft/Royal Arch PSA programme this Autumn, thanking E Comp Mike Green and his team for all their hard work.

He charged us all to energise ourselves and return with renewed vigour and enthusiasm to encourage all Master Masons to complete their journey in Pure Antient Freemasonry. To re-invigorate the telling our story of hope springing from the gloom of despair of loss, by re-visiting his suggestions regarding presentations and adopting those suitable for individual Chapters.

An uplifting start to the season – a start like no other. Doubtlessly, many, if not all of us left Sheaf Close with a smile on our face, spring in our step and a determination to return to activities and ethos that bind us all together.

Yes, Companions – WE'RE BACK!

### 2. MEGS Awards Certificate of Merit



Certificates of Merit are like hen's teeth – and rightly so. They are a recognition of outstanding service over many years.

MEGS has awarded his Certificate of Merit to E Comp Stan Goakes, PGStB. E Comp Stan had been Exalted in to St Peter's Chapter 442 in September 1975. He was a Founder of Dr Oliver Chapter 3964, becoming its MEZ in 1984. MEGS remarked that Stan had seen so many changes in Peterborough Masonry during his 46 years of service, and indeed had been

part of most. Suffice it to say, E Comp Stan's list of duties and achievements would be enough to make many lesser companions go weak at the knees.

In receiving his certificate, an astonished E Comp Stan was – unusually – lost for words! He was seen with a broad smile on his face throughout the remainder of proceedings – and may still be beaming now!

### 3. PSA TESTING Programme to Restart

We will be restarting the PSA Testing programme in conjunction with the Graham Fulford Trust., in the Autumn. There will be three testing sessions. One each at the Northampton Centre (27<sup>th</sup> November 2021), the Peterborough Centre (Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022), and one at the Corby Centre (April 2022 – date to be finalised).

This is a co-funded initiative between the Craft and Royal Arches Provinces.

When you receive your invitation to book, please take advantage of the opportunity.

### 4. Message from the Learning & Development Officer

Dear Companions – **Solomon – integral part of the 'Members' Pathway'**

#### **SOLOMON - FOSTERING CURIOSITY, DEVELOPING UNDERSTANDING**

The new masonic season is now upon us with meetings starting again, yet an array of emotions can be seen, across all Lodges and Chapters, from members eager to get-going-again to a level of concern-and-apprehension from some. In all of this we need to respect



#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**



#### **SCRIBES E WORKSHOP**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Rushden Masonic Centre



#### **ELEANOR CROSS CHAPTER 1764**

##### **CENTENARY MEETING**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Northampton Masonic Centre



#### **PRINCIPALS & SCRIBES E DINNER**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Rushden Masonic Centre



#### **SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER CONVOCATION & RECEPTION**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Freemasons' Hall, London



#### **PSA TESTING**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Northampton Masonic Centre



#### **PSA TESTING**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Peterborough Masonic Centre

any concerns that members may have while offering gentle encouragement and assistance, especially by way of opportunities along that **'pathway-of-enhanced-personal-development'**.

Over the next few weeks and months, we will all see, in differing ways, the roll-out of the new and updated 'Members' Pathway'.

Within the Pathway it re-emphasises the relationship between the Craft and the **Royal Arch** with that indissoluble link between Craft Freemasonry and the **Royal Arch**. Together they constitute "Pure Antient Masonry", as stated in the Preliminary Declaration of the Book of Constitutions.

The **Royal Arch** is therefore the completion of this journey in Pure Antient Masonry.

References to it as the completion of the Third Degree have been removed, because the lessons of the Third Degree are fully concluded within that ceremony. However, it states that a Master Mason's knowledge of Pure Antient Masonry cannot be considered complete until he has finished his journey and been **Exalted** as a **Royal Arch Mason**.

Formal introduction of the **Royal Arch** can take place when the Master Mason is presented with his Grand Lodge Certificate. The introductory leaflet to the **Royal Arch** can also be presented. However, it is expected that the **'Four-Stage' masonic journey** and the role of the **Royal Arch** in the completion of that journey will have been clearly explained to all long before this point, even prior to Initiation. The importance of completing this journey was also confirmed by the Grand Master, HRH the Duke of Kent, as the First Grand Principal of the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch, in his Address to **Supreme Grand Chapter** in April 2019.

More comprehensive information on introducing the **Royal Arch** for Lodges and Chapters, as well as further bespoke guidance, will be forthcoming in the form of a separate and dedicated **'Pathway for the Royal Arch'**.

Yet within the current 'Members' Pathway' we see reference to **Solomon**, but this may need to be further enhanced when we are meeting new individuals, as well for all Companions in their own **'pathway-of-enhanced-personal-development'**.

For everyone – not only those new to masonry but for all Companions and Brethren – there is a Webinar presentation in **Solomon** entitled **'How to Use Solomon'**. After logging in to **Solomon** the link for this Webinar is:

<https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/course/view.php?id=126#section-1>

This link will take you to a page within **Solomon** entitled **'Solomon System – Information for Users'**. In this page you will find the dates for the Webinar in October, November, and December. Yet further down this page there is also a link to view the pre-recorded version of this most helpful Webinar.

All the above – and much more - can be found from accessing **Solomon - Fostering Curiosity, Developing Understanding** at: <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

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

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



**GILDENBURG CHAPTER 2533**

**CENTENTARY MEETING**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Peterborough Masonic Centre



**PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER**

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

Northampton Masonic Centre

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 December 2021**

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