



To: All Royal Arch Companions

1. MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Companions,

As we embark upon a new Masonic season none of us will be able to forget the horrors of the past few years. Happily, modern science has been able to afford some measure of protection against the worst of Covid enabling us to navigate the past season whilst returning our Chapters to near normality, and I thank all those who worked hard on this front.

However, we must move forward, onward and upward as they say, with our efforts focusing not only on increasing attendances at our Convocations but also on bringing the joy that is the conclusion to Pure Antient Freemasonry to Master Masons who are languishing in loss and despair.

I firmly believe that we have the 'tools' at our disposal that will enable us to work toward bringing about both of these objectives.

How do we attract the interest of a Master Mason?

Probably one of the simplest and yet most thought-provoking observations would be centred around 'what story ends in loss and despair. There must be more to it. Together with reference to the Preliminary Declaration (Book of Constitutions page 1) which states that Pure Antient Masonry consists of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellowcraft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Royal Arch (where the loss is restored and despair turns to joy). Our tri-fold leaflet 'The Next Step for a Master Mason' is available to assist when talking to prospective Exaltees.

I also believe that 'word of mouth' recommendation from recent Exaltees, who have been enthralled and enthused by a well-presented and delivered ceremony, is the most powerful tool in our armoury and is linked to the next section.

How do we retain members and perhaps recover those who are yet to return?

I would again venture to suggest by enhancing an already spectacular ceremony and involving as many companions as possible in its' delivery. Ways in which this could be achieved were suggested back in 2018 and many Chapters have seen the benefit of, where possible, their adoption. To this I would add the delivery of well-rehearsed and learned ritual. If we wish to enthuse and retain companions, we must be as polished in our performances as is humanly possible.

Companions, it is as well that you are aware that recently there has been a Marketing Campaign launched by an Order, whose entry requirement like ourselves is to be a Master Mason, claiming that it should be the next step for a Master Mason. It also quite aggressively promotes itself as the 'friendly degree' - the inference being that others are not. We must be prepared to counter this by not only reference to the Preliminary Declaration but also by ensuring that our meetings and festive boards continue to be polished, vibrant and welcoming to all.

At the recent Investiture of our Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Mark Constant, the Pro Grand Master re-iterated the words of the Grand Master in that a Master Mason should complete his Journey through Pure Antient Freemasonry by Exaltation into the Royal Arch before joining any other Order.

Let us then use the opportunities presented before us during the 2022/23 season to encourage all Master Masons to complete their journey through Pure Antient Freemasonry and may the True and Living God Most High be with you and your loved ones.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Jim Boughton, MEGS

2. NEW MOST EXCELLENT PRO FIRST GRAND PRINCIPAL

Following the retirement of the ME Pro First Grand Principal Peter Lowndes, it has been announced that ME Comp Jonathan Spence, P2ndGPrin, is to be installed as ME Pro First Grand Principal at the bi-annual meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter on 9th November 2022.

HERMES



Message from the Provincial Grand Scribe E.

Hermes is a computer application designed to move the administration of the Craft and Royal Arch in to the 21st Century.

Hermes is to be rolled-out across all Provinces and Districts in our Constitutions by Summer 2023.

Hermes is now live in both our Craft and Royal Arch Provinces.

All Scribes E are now required to use Hermes for the administration of their Chapters.

Whilst we are experiencing a number of teething issues and are in a period of familiarisation with the package and are having to adjust the ways we have worked for many years; long-term we will see a more efficient and streamlined administration.

Mike Binsted

ProvGSE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



PRINCIPALS 7 SCRIBES E DINNER

Thursday 29th September 2022

Rushden Masonic Centre



BI-ANNUAL MEETING OF SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER

Wednesday 9th November 2022

Freemasons Hall, London

3. PROVINCIAL GRAND LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

SGC has announced the creation of a new office of Provincial Grand Learning and Development Officer. Further details will be issued in the Paper of Business for the November 2022 Convocation of SGC.

4. MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Dear Companions – Solomon – the beginning, the ending, and again a new beginning!

SOLOMON - FOSTERING CURIOSITY, DEVELOPING UNDERSTANDING

The Royal Arch – with the summer break to relax and take time out!

The Masonic season has come to an end and the summer break is now upon us. The rigours of our ceremonies and the catch up with those candidates awaiting to be our Exaltees has paused for a few months.

In the early part of 2022, we had the progressive return to Freemasonry across all orders and degrees – yet still with some level of caution and care in how we operate and perform. Confidence is now building as we all plan for the new 2022-2023 season with hope and expectation of a full return to our masonry from September/October onwards, and especially in the **Royal Arch**.

As part of our summer masonic relaxation is the opportunity to spend a little more time in our own personal development – both within and outside masonry. During the summer months there is time to explore the extended material in **Solomon**, with the new and expanded material which has been added to the **Solomon** library of Nuggets, Papers, Presentations, Demonstrations and the Audio and Video Files.

This expansion and development of material is seen to be so true in terms of that contained in **Solomon** for **'The Royal Arch'**, which has now an extensive array of material to browse and to include in the work in our Chapters, especially as we plan for that variety of offerings in our Convocations to make the **Royal Arch** even more attractive.

Over recent months there has been several videoed interviews hosted on **Solomon** and entitled **'Solomon Live'**. To date there are now some 15 of these videos covering various topics, with presentation from and interviews with eminent individuals. These **'Solomon Live'** presentations can be found in the link **'Discover Freemasonry'** in the **Solomon** website.

The most recent of these presentations, to coincide with the Jubilee, was broadcast in June 2022 with Dr John Hawkins, Prestonian Lecturer, presenting on **'Freemasonry and the Royal Family'**.

Earlier presentations are also available, with in May 2022 the RW Bro Michael Hadjiconstantas, District Grand Master of Cyprus, sharing his insights into **'UGLE Districts Worldwide'** where he talked about the customs and traditions of Freemasonry in Cyprus.

Yet with special interest to those in the **Royal Arch**, there is E Comp Patrick Penny sharing his insights into the **Royal Arch** with a presentation entitled **'Through the Archway – developing the Royal Arch in its Third Century'**.

Then previously, with the Third Grand Principal, E Comp Gareth Jones, giving his thoughts around the **'Mysteries of Royal Arch'**.

For those who have yet to register with **Solomon** the process is easy! After logging on to **Solomon** at <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/> you will see two 'module-links' to **'Getting Started with Solomon'** and **'Discover Freemasonry'**.

For those new to **Solomon** going in to **'Getting Started with Solomon'** will give a clear guide to the extent of the **'Solomon Resources'** available as well as the **'Solomon Links'** covering the full array of material embracing all those steps in that Journey in **Pure Antient Masonry**.

Within **'Discover Freemasonry'** can be found the presentation videos which have been broadcast over recent months, and which can now be viewed at your leisure and at a convenient time for you as you relax over the next few months.

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)



PSA TESTING

New Season

Saturday 26th November 2022
Sheaf Close Centre

Saturday 4th February 2023
Peterborough Masonic Centre

Saturday 1st April 2023
Corby Masonic Centre



ROYAL ARCH INFORMATION EVENING

(for all new Companions and Master Masons considering the completion of their journey in Pure Antient Masonry)

Tuesday 29th November 2023
Rushden Masonic Centre



PEMBERTON CHAPTER 3039 CENTENTARY MEETING

Thursday 9th February 2023
Rushden 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](https://www.northants-huntsmasons.org.uk)

The next Royal Arch Newsletter will be published in December 2022

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