

Summary of the Address of the ME Grand Superintendent entered into the report of the rearranged annual meeting held on 26th May 2021

- Excellent Companion the Reverend David Halford has retired from his position as Third Provincial Grand Principal and Excellent Companion David Dunn has retired from his position as Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals.
- EComp Colin Whitaker was appointed as Third Provincial Grand Principal and EComp Aubrey Oldham as the Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals for the Northern Area.
- The MEGS expressed his sincere thanks to all of his Royal Arch District Officers for all their hard work and enthusiasm and asked for the Brethren and Companions to support them in their vital work.
- There has been a further increase in the number of Exaltations in our Chapters since our last Annual Meeting and we have also seen an increased number of presentations and lecturers being made in our Chapters.
- It was most welcomed, the fact that so many Chapters are doing this when there is not an Exaltation Ceremony to perform. This underlines the importance of ensuring that no Chapter should have an occasion when it simply transacts business.
- There cannot be an excuse for not using one of the presentations and lectures which are now online and which compliments the online resource “Solomon” which also provides a whole range of materials. There is no shortage of Royal Arch materials on Solomon to add value and interest to every and all meetings.
- “Talking Heads” has been well received and will continue throughout the Districts in an updated format.
- We will be organising workshops for Royal Arch Representatives in our Craft Loges in the not too distant future. We must make sure that we have the right Royal Arch Representatives in our Lodges. It is such an important matter that it has been publicly endorsed in a speech given at a quarterly meeting of United Grand Lodge by the Pro Grand Master
- As of the 1st December 2019, this Province had 245 Freemasons who had been raised to the Third Degree in the last five years but not yet Exalted into the Holy Royal Arch. This means there are 245 opportunities for us all to engage and discuss with a Master Mason about our love of this Order, what it has to offer and encourage him, at the right time, for him, to complete his final step in pure ancient Freemasonry. The future sustainability of the Holy Royal Arch is, not only in our hands, but standing right before us every time we attend our Lodges
- We have some very successful Chapters meeting during the daytime across this Province. They cater, not only for older members who feel more comfortable not having to travel at night but also, members of all ages for whom their work and private lives are best suited to enjoying their Royal Arch membership during the day. There is no reason, why Companions should be leaving the Royal Arch simply because their

own Chapter no longer suits their changing needs. There are a range of opportunities across the Province and your APGP and RADO are very happy to assist in finding the right fit for you if needed.

- The MEGS would like to see a wider use of the East Lancashire Royal Arch Presentation Team. The team is full of enthusiastic, extremely competent and intelligent Companions who are only too willing to make a presentation in either a Craft Lodge or Chapter. Please use them. They are a valuable resource in this Province.
- With the energetic support of all the Royal Arch Cabinet and the Royal Arch District Officers we will always come up with new ideas to promote the Order in this Province. We cannot afford to stand still. As Albert Einstein once said, "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." I would only add to that "that we should not limit our challenges but challenge, our limits.
- We still need to encourage Chapters to share the work more frequently in our ceremonies. The Royal Arch ritual is to some, more complicated and daunting than we may realise. There is no harm in sharing some of that ritual. We should not be losing members as a result of them learning long passages "by wrote"; sharing ritual is a simple solution and much less demanding!
- Bro Chris Powell gave an excellent address to our Annual Meeting of the Craft which was placed address on our website incorporated in full in the Provincial Royal Arch Newsletter. There is a very strong case for either the Royal Arch Representative in your Lodges to deliver an abbreviated or precise version of that at a Lodge Meeting, or at the very least to hand a copy of it to a newly raised Brother. It could easily whet the appetite of those who may well consider joining a Chapter.
- The next East Lancashire Festival will commence in 2021. A strategy document has already been written by EComp Chad Northcott who has been appointed as Chairman. The members of the Festival Appeals Committee have already been identified and they are all keen to see the launch of that Festival in the early part of next year.
- In the meantime the MEGS is anxious that more of our Brethren and Companions should sign up to become a Friend of the ELMC as it is abundantly clear that when the Festival gets underway, the attention and focus of our Lodges and Chapters will be on that Festival with a commensurate drop in funding for our own Provincial Charity. For the price of £5 a month, it is hardly costly to become a Friend of ELMC and he urged those who have not committed already, to approach your Charity Stewards to sign on the dotted line.