

The Royal Arch

In East Lancashire



Robert I Frankl
Most Excellent Grand Superintendent



EComp Paul G Bowen
2nd Provincial Grand Principal



EComp David Hudson
3rd Provincial Grand Principal



EComp Harvey Basger
Deputy Grand Superintendent



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Foreword from the Deputy Grand Superintendent

One Journey, One Organisation...From Initiation to Exaltation.

The Pro Grand Master/ Pro 1st Grand Principal, Jonathan Spence's strategy, that was launched towards the end of 2022, clearly states that....

“Every Master Mason should aspire to continue their journey from Initiation in the Craft to Exaltation as a Companion in the Royal Arch”.

When you were Raised to the 3rd Degree, the Hiram Legend tells that the secrets of a Master Mason are lost, this in itself implies that there is more to learn.

Those same lost secrets are discovered in the ceremony of Exaltation and simply put, those Brethren who have not yet continued on their journey by joining the Royal Arch, have not completed the story, they have not found what has been lost.

The Exaltation is a beautiful, dramatic and colourful ceremony and within it, ALL is discovered.

One cannot fail to be impressed by the splendour and drama of the ceremony, as it tells more about the discovery of the secrets during the rebuilding of King Solomon's Temple.

As the journey unfolds you will start to understand Freemasonry in a whole new and enlightened way and you will start to appreciate so much more as 'light bulb' moments begin to unfold and by working together with old friends and new Companions, you build on the principles of the Craft.

I urge you, fellow Companions, to use this ethos and these strategies, to encourage those Brethren who have yet to complete their journey, to become a Companion of the Royal Arch. Work with and assist where possible, the Lodge Royal Arch Representative in his role and each of you set yourselves targets to convert as many 'undressed breast pockets' to ones that bear the Royal Arch jewel.

The emphasis from UGLE, Brethren and Companions, is very much on the Craft and Royal Arch's Indissoluble Link and to encourage Brethren to become Companions. They are promoting that strong link and encouraging membership of the Royal Arch, like never before.

It is the express wish of the Pro Grand Master/Pro 1st Grand Principal that this is a significant part of his strategy and should be uppermost in our masonic undertakings.

Membership Challenge:

This is a challenge that we all face as masons. Through deaths, resignations, Lodge and Chapter closures, exclusions, etc, we are losing more members than we are gaining. Its simple mathematics and this is a trend that has to be reversed. It is not a daunting task and with everyone's help, it can easily be achieved. It only takes an increase in one direction and the other to decrease simultaneously, for the trend to very quickly correct itself.





Foreword from the Deputy Grand Superintendent

My comments in relation to the Membership Challenge may be brief, but don't allow brevity to underestimate the importance of this current predicament. We cannot afford to be complacent about this in any way, as to be so, would ignite a different type of pandemic to affect our Order.

The Membership Challenge varies from Province to Province around the country. Some Provinces are enjoying an upturn in memberships, although that is certainly not the norm and of course we can only look to concentrate our efforts here in East Lancashire, where it must be acknowledged that our Province is suffering more than most.

Your efforts and that of every member of the Province is paramount, by encouraging new members, but equally please work hard to ensure that every Brother is made to feel inclusive so that he will more easily enjoy his masonry and would be less likely to consider resigning.

It is important to know that once a resignation has been submitted there is a 'cooling off' period in which this can be assessed, reviewed, possibly challenged and hopefully reversed.

With our combined efforts, we will I am sure, make serious inroads into reversing the Membership Challenge. It is just a matter of time, concentration of effort and commitment by each of us.

Chapter Mentors or Mentoring Within Your Chapter:

Imagine this Brethren and Companions.....

We, either individually or collectively, have made every effort to encourage members of our Lodge to "take that next step".... "to complete the journey" and your fellow Brother has been exalted as a Companion in the Royal Arch.

In doing so, we are addressing/improving the Craft/Royal Arch ratio and the new Companion has thoroughly enjoyed that new and exciting CHAPTER (excuse the pun) in his masonic journey.

And then, for any number of unnecessary reasons and within a short period of time, he becomes marginalised, he feels left out and becomes disinterested. This is overlooked by the members, nothing is done to correct this and he melts away.

After all that time and effort on so many levels, we simply cannot allow this to happen.

Appointing a Mentor, within each individual Chapter, is without doubt one of the most important offices to be filled. The role of the Chapter Mentor is vital to the wellbeing and strength of the Chapter and its members and we ALL must do as much as we can to assist the Mentor in his very important duties. In truth, WE ALL HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY AND MUST APPLY MENTORING SKILLS.

Please make sure your Chapter has appointed a Mentor, help him where you can and make sure that no Companion becomes marginalised and is allowed to melt away.

Make sure that every new Companion is enjoying that new CHAPTER in his masonic journey. By you applying good mentoring skills, you can make sure that that's not his last CHAPTER in the book that is, his masonic journey.





Foreword from the Deputy Grand Superintendent

Parish Notices:

Deputy Provincial Grand Master:

There are those of our Order that are so totally committed to Masonry and the Province of East Lancashire and then there is VWBro/EComp John Richard Farrington PGSwdB/PAGSoj, who is on a completely different level.

John's commitment and service to this Province, over so many years whilst holding a number of high offices is quite unique. He has always been extremely approachable, totally honest, even when it's not what you want to hear and has always provided a well balance and measured view, which annoyingly is always right.

As the DepGSupt, I have been extremely fortunate to have had John as my opposite number in the Craft and my masonry has been enriched by that association.

On my own behalf, on behalf of the past DepGSupt's along with the present and past Royal Arch Cabinet members, I offer sincere thanks and appreciation to John for his service and support. Indeed, for all that he has done for the Royal Arch, on behalf of the Craft, over many years.

We shall miss his wise counsel and wish him well in retirement.

As a consequence of John's retirement, we all look forward to welcoming his successor. We of course wish WBro/EComp John Griffin every success in his new office and we look forward to working with him and through him, having the continued support from the Craft.

ProvGSecretary/ProvGScE:

I wish to pass on the sincere thanks and appreciation, on my own behalf and that of the Royal Arch Cabinet, to WBro/EComp Chris Wildman for all the help, guidance and sound advice during his tenure in office. We have all enjoyed working with him and we wish him well in his future masonic activity.

In due course, we welcome to that office, WBro/EComp Andrew Holland, who is extremely well known throughout the Province. I am sure he will make a great success of his new exalted position. The members of the Royal Arch Cabinet wish him well and look forward to seeing him being invested as ProvGScE at Provincial Grand Officers Chapter No 3747 next month and as ProvGSecretary in November.

Provincial Grand Officers Chapter No. 3747 and Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No. 8408:

Being installed into the Chairs of 3747 is a great honour and on the 12th October, we look forward to seeing Stuart Booth, Anthony Kenny and David Clayton being installed as 1st Principal, 2nd Principal and 3rd Principal respectively. We wish them well for their year in office.

Can I take this opportunity to recommend to all those, who have received Provincial Honours in the Royal Arch, to make application to join this Chapter. It is an excellent forum to hear from the Grand Superintendent and senior offices of the Province. *(the annual subscription is very reasonable at £30.00).*





Foreword from the Deputy Grand Superintendent

If you do hold Provincial Grand Office and wish to attend, so that you can see for yourself, please contact the ScribeE on davidbasger@gmail.com who will be pleased to accommodate you.

Similarly, I urge any Provincial Grand Stewards, both past and present, to make application to join the East Lancashire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No 8408. Being appointed as a Steward is very prestigious and you will not only have the opportunity of being in the company of many other ProvGStewards, but again will have the opportunity to meet with the Grand Superintendent and/or myself, at their biannual meetings.

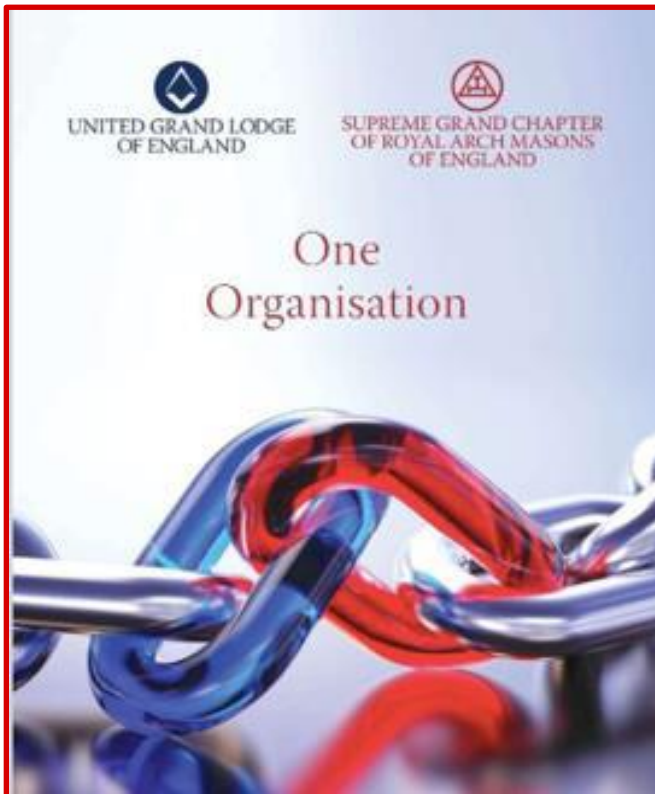
Should you hold Provincial Grand Stewards rank and wish to attend, without any obligation, again so that you can see for yourself, please contact the ScribeE on sylvesterduring@yahoo.co.uk who will be pleased to accommodate you.

Friendship Chapter No. 44:

This Chapter, the home of the East Lancashire Royal Arch Presentation Team (ELRAPT), recently became the approved and appointed Chapter specially aligned to Learning and Development (L&D), as is the Lodge of Silent Temple in the Craft. A visit to Friendship is great fun, very interesting and I am sure that should you wish to become involved in ELRAPT, or anything associated with L&D, this is the place to be and you would be made to feel most welcomed.

We all have much to do Companions to generate as much interest as possible in our wonderful Order, so that Brethren will be encouraged to join and equally important, that once exalted they remain members.

I hope that you all continue to enjoy your Royal Arch Masonry in good health.



**"One Journey,
One Organisation"**





The start of a Masonic season fills me with a great sense of excitement.

The reasons why as a Companion of the Royal Arch, of course, are many and varied and include:

- Observing the enjoyment of others
- Enjoying hearty meals
- Seeing our wonderful ceremonies being performed
- Seeing Companions being installed as Principals
- Seeing Companions becoming members of the Order
- Getting out and about
- Meeting people I've not met before
- Meeting people I have met before



It's difficult to choose what to look forward to the most but I'm always aware that the most important thing about this wonderful Order of ours is the people within it; people who give of their time and energy – the 'stalwarts' of Chapters; the newer members who are feeling their way; people who are yet to join (If you need some visual material to help Master Masons why they should join our order feel free to use the image below). Every Companion – both existing and soon to be – have a story. I like getting to know people and hearing their stories. We have all returned home after a lodge night and said to our wives or partners something like – "I met someone tonight who was truly fascinating. Can you believe that he...." You know the rest.

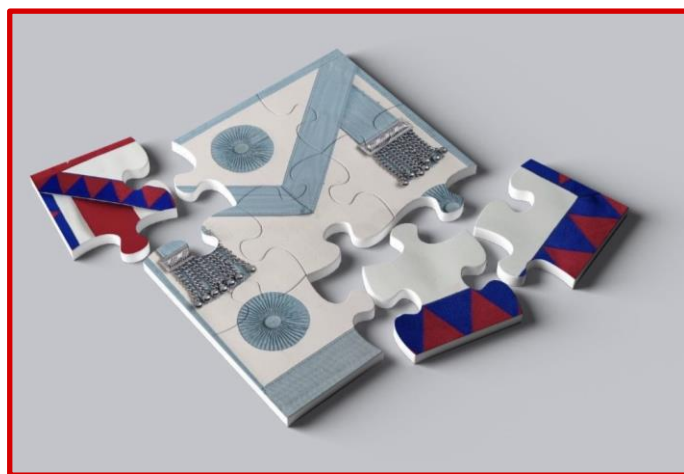
It is said that one major aspect of Freemasonry is that it's about meeting friends you've not yet met. I very much agree with this. If you do not know me, please do come and say hello – but there's a pretty good chance that I will beat you to it.

Companions - enjoy your Royal Arch Masonry this season.

But above all, enjoy each other.

E Comp Paul Bowen PAQSoj

Second Provincial Grand Principal



Message from the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal

Companions, as previously mentioned in my first Royal Arch Newsletter in the spring of this year, I was so privileged to have been appointed as the Third Provincial Grand Principal by The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent. As I now come to the end of my role as Provincial Grand Almoner for our Province after five years in that office, I can now begin to give more time to my role as the Third Provincial Grand Principal. I would like place on record my sincere thanks to our Provincial Welfare Officer's and our Lodge and Chapter Almoners who work hard on assisting myself and our members on behalf of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. It would be remiss me not to thank Julie Ward and Karen Hall for their help and assistance during this period.



Since my appointment I have had the pleasure of attending the Provincial Grand Chapter meeting of Cumberland & Westmorland and the Installation meeting of Stewards Chapter in the Province of Cheshire. Later this month I will be attending the Provincial Grand Chapter meeting in sunny Blackpool in our neighbouring Province of West Lancashire, although I will be giving the Pleasure Beach a miss. In October I will be in North Wales for the Provincial Grand Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter meetings.

I consider that the Royal Arch in our Province is arguably one of the most committed and has the hardest working members for Freemasonry. I am very grateful for the support I have received from the Harvey Basger, the Deputy Grand Superintendent, Paul Bowen Second Provincial Grand Principal and the Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principles during this year.

Finally, Companions I thank each and every one of you for your encouragement and I look forward with great optimism to the year ahead in serving this wonderful Province of East Lancashire.

EComp David Hudson PGStB

3rd Provincial Grand Principal





The 2026 Festival – High on MEGS agenda

Charitable giving is key to Masonic Life – Why, and What Can You Do?

The East Lancashire 2026 Festival:

- Our target for the Festival is to donate £2.4M to the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF)
- The Provincial Message is: “Support the Festival”. Festival Giving is the Province’s priority.
- The Provincial Grand Master is grateful to the hundreds of kind, generous and supportive people who have freely given their time and money for our Festival Appeal or who have participated, or supported the many Fund Raising events taking place throughout the Province. There is still much work to do – only 1 in 5 brethren are making regular monthly payments. It is only through regular payments that we will successfully meet our challenging but achievable target of £2.4M.
- We are very grateful for Lodge and Chapter donations, The use of Gift Aid envelopes in Lodge / Chapter and/or at the Festive Board, will result in an additional 20% income to the Festival.

Why support the MCF?

- The MCF is the biggest Foundation in the country which gives to other charities
- If you want to find out more about the MCF their website is a great resource for current MCF news and about the Charity itself. Additional information is also available in the “Better Lives” magazine. Within the MCF website our microsite is where members can set up their donation plans online.
- The MCF was established in 2015 after the amalgamation of the original 4 charities – the Grand Charity, the Masonic Samaritan Fund (MSF), the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys (RMTGB) and the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI) and celebrates its 7th birthday this year.
- The amalgamation has been a great success, removing the complexity in the application process (only one form now!) and creating one combined masonic support department dealing with needs.
- Since its formation the MCF has awarded over 38,000 grants to support vulnerable and disadvantaged Freemasons or their families. It has also given over 4,300 grants to help fund the work of local and national charities that are supporting communities across England and Wales.
- The MCF is unique in that it does not raise money from the public; instead, its work is entirely funded through the generous donations of Freemasons, their families, and friends. Approximately 40% of this funding is from the Festival system.
- There are two facets to the charity – Support and Services for Freemasons or their families (circa 70%), and Grant Funding to non-masonic charities that operate within the core aims of the MCF – reducing loneliness and isolation in later life and supporting the needs of disadvantaged young people to help offer them the best start in life - (circa 30%). In the 2021/22 Financial Year the MCF gave £5.8M to non-masonic charities and £13.7M in grants given to Individuals and their families.
- During that period, £7.3M helped masonic families and individuals with essential living costs, £3.9M focussed on the health and well-being of individuals and over £1.3M supported the children and grandchildren of Freemasons.





- Since its formation 7 years ago, within East Lancashire, the MCF has awarded 1200 grants to support Freemasons and their families totalling some £2.5M. 200 grants to support children and young people, 700 grants to relieve financial hardship and over 250 grants to fund health and medical treatments.
- In those 7 years, within East Lancashire, the MCF has awarded 114 grants to local charities totalling almost £1M. In addition, East Lancashire has benefited from the MCF's National Strategic Partnerships with Age UK, Hospice UK, Home Start UK, and the Cranfield Trust.
- In total, nationally, the MCF has given over £120M and supported over 3000 charities. This equates to about £50,000 every single day.
- REMEMBER: The MCF is here to help members of our Lodges and Chapters and their eligible family members. Please look out for those who may need our support, whether it be for financial, health – including mental health needs, or to support children or older relatives who may have care needs. The only thing more heart-breaking than some of the stories we hear, is the knowledge that there are people out there who have no idea that the MCF may be able to help them.
- The reality is that in any year – the MCF puts back into East Lancashire far more than we give them in donations. See the infographic below for a detailed report on how the MCF has benefited our needy during the MCF's last financial year.



Notable Royal Arch Anniversaries since the 2023 meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter



10 YEARS		
Nicholas Harvey Baldwin	Limestone Rock	C369
Craig Lee Charnock	Red Rose of Lancashire	C9640
Terence Francis Charnock	Hutchinson	C381
Paul James Pratt	Bank Terrace	C462
20 YEARS		
David Bartle	Menorah	C4849
Anthony John Freemont	Egerton	C1030
Ian Haworth	Wisdom	C283
Douglas Herbert Stott	Fraternity	C1697
30 YEARS		
Clive David Carroll	Bank Terrace	C462
Harold Hilton	Probity and Freedom	C367
Christopher Rex Jupp	Prince Edwin's	C128
Robert James Pye	Sincerity	C3120
Paul Arthur Richardson	Townley Parker	C1083
Christopher Chalres Wood	Limestone Rock	C369
40 YEARS		
David Brian Armistead	Chapter of Benevolence	C226
Ian John Bell	Abbey	C2529
Dudley Hamilton Bostock	Constitution	C3392
Allan Cunliffe	Thursby	C3855
Charles William Hallworth	Chapter of Perseverance	C300
Michael David Hanson	Fidelis	C8688
Ian Simon Paul	Menorah	C4849
Paul Roberts	Cana	C116
Edward Smillie	Limestone Rock	C369
50 YEARS		
Brian Rosenfield	Menorah	C4849



Thoughts from our Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals from all points of the Provincial compass



One of the best parts of the role of an APGP is getting out to visit Chapters and sample the uniqueness of the Royal Arch ritual and the different ways our Masonic Halls operate. The differences in ritual can be enormous even in Chapters of the same age working just a few miles apart, and if you have been to Bacup you will have sampled some of the individuality of our Halls. Here our APGPs tell you something of their visits and other aspects of their duties



From the North EComp Aubrey Oldham,

Dear Brethren and Companion's, it's great to be starting the new season on a high. On Thursday 7th September I had a pastoral visit to Limestone Rock Chapter No.369. where they had a ballot for two Candidates, one they exalted on the night..



A very warm welcome to the Royal Arch to Companion Michael Walsh, who experienced a wonderful exaltation carried out to an excellent standard by all who took part In addition we have welcomed into the Royal Arch Companions: Daniel T Wilson and Alistair R Culshaw. Hutchinson Chapter No. 381, Simon McHardy, Cana Chapter No. 116 and we have 4 more exaltations in the very near future.

On Friday 6th October I attended Huntroyd 1st Principals Chapter No. 6385, to present them with a plaque commemorating their becoming the first Chapter in the Northern area, to become Grand Patrons of the 2026 Festival. Well Done E. Companions, on your sterling commitment.

On 11th October 2023 Red Rose of Lancaster No. 1504 hosted a joint convocation at Padiham Masonic Hall, attended by the Grand Superintendent E. Comp. Robert Frankl. The Presentation was "Building the Chapter", a presentation by EComp Peter Mason, PDepGSupt (Cumberland and Westmorland). I am grateful to the following Companions for making this so enjoyable. Keith Jackson (Red Rose of Lancaster), Russell Harwood (Abbey), Brian Carter (Huntroyd), David Abram (Cathedral) Michael Greenhalgh (Red Rose of Lancaster), Tony Hindle (Cana), Phil Myers (Nativity) and Bruce Pollard (Limestone Rock).S.N. The Red Rose of Lancashire 9640 Michael Greenhalgh

The 7th of November will see the amalgamation of Bank Terrace and King Oswald Chapters. The Deputy Grand Superintendent will be attending.

As with all the APGPs, my Provincial role has changed over the summer, now involving me with mentoring within the Royal Arch. I will liaise with the ProvGMentor, promoting the appointment of a Mentor in each Chapter. These appointments will assist myself and the Area Royal Arch Officers in retention and retrieval of lapsed Companions.





And finally, I make no apologies for this Advertisement. I am currently the First Principal of 8408 East Lancashire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter.

At our December Meeting on Monday the 4th December, to held at Rochdale Masonic Hall, Richard Street, we are having E. Comp. Tony Harvey the Prestonian Lecturer giving a talk on the "The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Chapters."

The Royal Arch is an Excellent Order and one to be proud of being a member.

Enjoy your meetings, look after your Companions, keep in touch with Companion's who have missed a meeting or two, ask if they are OK, and invite them to return to meetings.

Tell them how we are enjoying our Royal Arch meetings again, and that we are missing their Company at meetings. In particular, tell them what is happening and make sure they are kept up to date with everything in your Chapters, and Lodges. But most of all do what feels right for you.

Enjoy your Royal Arch Freemasonry.

Aubrey Oldham,

From the South EComp Peter Douthwaite,

Our new season starts with four exaltations within the next few months.

There has been little change within the Chapters, and all are positively working towards attracting new members. Like most other areas, we have seen some changes, seeing the appointment of a new Area Royal



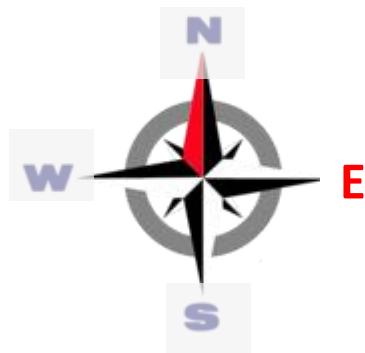
Arch officer, In E.Comp Ray Charlton, replacing Comp Walter Spence, who is taking up the duties of Deputy Chairman for our area and we wish Walter all the best in his new role.

Once again Southern area is looking forward to welcoming the Companions from Denmark who will be guests of Chapter of Friendship no. 44 on Friday 27th October, at Audenshaw Masonic hall from 6pm. Those who have attended the event in the past, know it will be a very exciting evening.

Sincerely and fraternally

Peter Douthwaite





From the East *EComp Steven Boyle,*



Companions, I hope that you all had a very enjoyable summer and managed to get away.

Not many of you know but I have been a lifetime supporter of Leigh Rugby League FC and this season has been an exceptional one for us. We got promoted to Super League and changed our name to Leigh Leopards, (which

didn't go down too well with some of the supporters, but now we are riding high in Super League and on the 12th of August this year we won the Challenge cup for the third time in our history. A memorable day in many ways for my family as my Grandson was one of the Mascots that day.

I'm sure you are all getting back in the swing of things for this new Masonic year. Keystone Lodge, number 363 was hot off the blocks, hosting the Provincial L&D's presentation "Talking Heads" at Rochdale Masonic Hall on Thursday 21st September. TH explains the importance of Royal Arch Freemasonry in the Masonic Life of a Master Mason. Two Master Masons came forward from that meeting asking to join the Royal Arch. There will be a further opportunity to see Talking Heads presented in Eastern Area soon when the L&D team perform at Langley Lodge 3989 at Middleton Masonic Hall on Thursday 2nd November. Please try to attend to support the presenters and learn why United Grand Lodge of England feels it is so important that all Master Masons join the Royal Arch that it has adopted the strap line **One Journey, One organisation!**

As part of my role as APGP, I am also responsible for communication and social media within the Royal Arch. If any Chapter has any special events, please relay that information through to your Area Communications Officer so that we can publicise it on the website and through social media.

A well-known and respected Royal Arch Mason known to most people in the province and especially in Eastern Area, Dr Michael Boden PAGSoj PAPGP will be celebrating 50 years in the Royal Arch in January 2024, Michael we thank you for your services to the Royal Arch.

As you all know there have been some major changes throughout the Province with Districts being merged into Areas, this has meant that the RADO's will now become Royal Arch Area Officers (RAAO).

I would like to wish our APGM WBro Peter Rhodes PSGD a very enjoyable retirement as from November and congratulate WBro John Curry AGDC who takes over from Peter.

I am also looking forward to working with the new Area Team which is led by the Area Chairman Andy Halford.

I will soon be getting around to as many Chapters and some Lodges over the course of the Masonic season.

Steve Boyle





From the West EComp Peter Faulkner APGP



We have eleven Chapters meeting across the area, two in the daytime, Radcliffe and Rossendale, feedback indicates that a goodly number of exalations are taking place across the Area, Prince Edwin's Chapter No. 128 in April, September and another planned for

November. Derby Chapter 1055 has four in this season, St John's 348 one in November, all very encouraging indeed. The gains by all Chapters is most encouraging. At the forthcoming Installation of Derby Chapter we have the retirement of EComp Jim Hodge after 21 years as DC – is that a record I wonder?

We don't have any formal celebratory meetings in the next six months, but do please let me know of any other 'special occasions'. I was very happy to see the success of the East Lancashire Royal Arch Presentation Team's performance of the Ceremony of Passing of the Veils, hosted by St George's Chapter No. 1723 on Friday 6th October at Bolton Masonic Hall, Our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent EComp Robert Frankl and a deputation were in attendance for this most informative meeting.

I would also like to mention that a number of lectures are available to the members through the Royal Arch Area of the The Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire Website (eastlancashirefreemasons.org) a great learning opportunity to enhance a business meeting. Likewise Solomon: Log in to the site (ugle.org.uk) a source of modules, we are also awaiting SGC to launch 'Archway' another source of helpful information – more to follow.

We are working on improving the Royal Arch pamphlets, and providing a 'pop-up' banner to be provided for each Masonic Hall, to be used to raise awareness of the Royal Arch.

Peter Falkner





Musings from the Editor

Every now and then I think about what I gain from being a Freemason. However, I do find it very difficult to corral my thoughts into something that doesn't sound trite. Being a Freemason means a great deal to me, but I can't easily put why into words.

I know why I joined. When I was a child my father, a freemason, was taken ill and my mum and I looked after him at home. We went from having two incomes to having half an income. In a genteel way we were poor. When I got a scholarship to a Direct Grant School I couldn't take it up because we couldn't afford day to day expenses, meals, uniform, travel etc. At that point the Freemasons stepped in. I didn't realise it at the time, but as I looked back in my 30s I realised what that support meant to me, and what doors it opened. I knew I wanted to give something back to the organisation that helped me and in my turn help others. So I joined a Lodge and the rest is history. I have come to understand that I joined one of the oldest social and charitable organisations in the world, with its own ethos and 4 key values to help define a man's path through life: Integrity, Friendship, Respect, and Charity. I am friends with people from all backgrounds, each empowered by Freemasonry to become the best they can. Perhaps most importantly, Freemasonry has honed my ability to make a positive contribution to society through my actions and charitable giving. Ours is a society that helps cultivate lasting friendships, build character and support members to develop as individuals, acquiring transferable skills and increasing self-confidence. OK, all that makes real sense, but I have recently been asking what does the Royal Arch add to my Masonic experience and, if it comes to that, why did our Masonic forefathers feel the need to take their understanding beyond the Craft? What we now recognise as the Royal Arch was to them the supreme degree in Craft Freemasonry. Clearly it added to their Masonic lives.

During my progress through Craft Freemasonry I always felt I was looking upwards to the next goal whilst not quite making it out clearly, and feeling limited as if I didn't quite know what was going on around me. I felt as if I had entered a funnel from the narrow end.

Whilst with time and as I progressed through each stage I knew a little more and saw a little further I still felt my view and understanding were limited and all I could see above and around me was the funnel.



I felt the same, perhaps more so, when I joined the Royal Arch. Everything was so new. But as I immersed myself in it I suddenly had one of those light bulb moments. I saw, and saw beyond the broad end of the funnel with nothing constraining beyond it.

Now you may well think for the safety of the King's realm and his people, I should be locked up. And you would not be the first to have voiced that view. However, as I sat in Freemason's Hall in London one day I suddenly realised that the ceiling designer and I were almost as one!





OVER 400 YEARS LATER - WHAT SECRETS AWAIT REDISCOVERY BENEATH THE RUINED CITY?

DISTANT
TRAVEL

ANCIENT
MYSTERIES

HIDDEN
DANGERS

UNDERGROUND
ADVENTURE





Royal Arch Upcoming and Future Events

2023		
12 Oct (Thu)	3747 Chapter Installation	Manchester Hall
2 Nov (Thurs)	Talking Heads - Langley Lodge	Middleton
7 Nov (Tues)	AMALGAMATION: Bank Terrace with Leopold Chapter 462.	Accrington
8 Nov (Wed)	Supreme Grand Chapter	London
16 Nov (Thu)	Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire	Blackburn
23 Nov (Thu)	RA Cabinet Mess (Companions only, no ladies)	Manchester Hall
4 Dec (Mon)	8408 Provincial Grand Stewards' Chapter - half yearly. Tony Harvey is guest speaker.	Rochdale
10 Dec (Sun)	Provincial Carol Service - St Ann's Church	Manchester
2024		
24 Jan (Wed)	Royal Arch P50th - M Boden (a past APGP). Hollingworth Chapter 2702.	Rochdale
20 Feb (Tues)	RA Cabinet Dinner, with ladies	Manchester Hall
22 Feb (Thurs)	Talking Heads - Felicity Lodge	Manchester Hall
4 March (Mon)	8408 Chapter Installation	Manchester Hall
5 March (Tues)	Royal Arch Acting Officers' Dinner.	Bury Masonic Hall
21 March (Thurs)	Provincial Grand Chapter of East Lancashire	Blackburn
28 March (Thurs)	Palatine Chapter: Visit of the Third Grand Principal.	Warrington
4 April (Thurs)	LRARs / RA Area Officers annual event	Rochdale
24 April (Weds)	Dinner in London for RA Cabinet (evening)	London
25 April (Thurs)	Supreme Grand Chapter Investiture meeting	Great Queen Street
9 May (Thurs)	3747 Chapter - half-yearly	Manchester Hall
21 May (Tues)	Grand Officers' Reception (with ladies)	Manchester Hall
10 Oct (Thurs)	3747 Chapter – installation	Manchester Hall

