



The Royal Arch

In East Lancashire

Robert I Frankl
Most Excellent Grand Superintendent



EComp Tony Freemont
2nd Provincial Grand Principal



EComp Andrew Procter
3rd Provincial Grand Principal



EComp Paul Bowen
Deputy Grand Superintendent

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Foreword from the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent

Companions,

I look forward to meeting many of those who were appointed, reappointed or promoted in Provincial Grand Chapter at events throughout our Province over the next year. I am also looking forward seeing you at East Lancashire Provincial Grand Officers Chapter No 3747, which I encourage you to join if you are not already a member.

To reflect our commitment to “One Journey, One Organisation” we are seeing a change in the Provincial Grand and Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies. At Provincial Grand Chapter John Lees was appointed

Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Royal Arch in addition to his role as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Craft. Provincial Grand Deputy Directors of Ceremonies will serve terms in office in both the Craft and Royal Arch.



“One Journey, One Organisation” remains a fundamental part of our strategy restating the 1813 declaration in a modern and succinct form. It articulates that Pure Ancient Masonry started in the Craft is only completed by joining the Royal Arch. It is essential that we consider how we help Master Masons in our lodges complete their masonic journey. But it goes further. We are all Craft masons, as such we should be aware when we bring someone into our Lodges they recognise the whole journey they are embarking upon. To achieve this, we need a greater level of personal introduction of men into Freemasonry. Please think who you might approach to join, and encourage others to do the same particularly newer members, who might have a wider circle of connections outside of freemasonry.

Our Bicentenary: 2025 is a significant year for us. It is the Bi-Centenary of the Province of East Lancashire. The Province of Lancashire had been established in 1734, but 80 or so years on, all was not well, with discontent and even rebellion – I have to say, mainly centred around Liverpool. A major part of that discontent was over the treatment of the Royal Arch following the Union in 1813.





Foreword from the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent

As a consequence, in 1822, the then Provincial Grand Master was suspended, and the Grand Chancellor was appointed to be in charge of Lancashire.

The Grand Master decided to separate the Province, East and West, and in late 1825, the first Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire, RWBro John Crossley, was appointed.

We will celebrate this important event later in the year. Details will be finalised soon. Following establishment of East Lancashire, the Grand Chancellor remained in charge of the remainder of Lancashire until 1826, which is why our West Lancashire cousins will be celebrating their own Bi-Centenary next year.

Festival: Our Festival total now stands at £1.8 million. Our Lodges and Chapters, and ultimately of course, you and all our members, have been hugely generous. I am both proud and grateful for that support. With just over 18 months remaining, I am hopeful that we will reach our target of £2.4 million – hopeful, but not complacent. I do ask you to continue with your wonderful generosity, and, particularly addressing those who have not yet made a personal direct commitment, there is still time to do so, which will also provide a much-needed Gift Aid boost.

We are rightly proud of the Royal Arch in East Lancashire – our long and distinguished history, our values, and our achievements. Companions, thank you for all you that you do to ensure that our meetings are fulfilling and happy, and that our membership is rewarding. Your efforts and your passion for the Royal Arch ensure that we can look to our future with confidence.

Robert I Frankl

Grand Superintendent





Congratulations to all the Acting Officers of the year

ProvGSE	HOLLAND Andrew	C37 Concord Deane
PGSN	KENNY Anthony Michael	C462 Bank Terrace with Leopold
ProvGTreas	COWEN David Joel	C6005 Good Companions of Commemoration
ProvGReg	MCMILLAN Gordon	C462 Bank Terrace with Leopold
ProvGDC	LEES John	C277 Tudor
ProvGSwdB	BEAMAN Edward William	C1055 Derby
ProvDepGDC	BASGER Jonathan	C6594 Ark and Menorah
ProvDepGDC	EVANS Andrew Barry	C367 Probity and Freedom
ProvGAlm	STEPHENSON Tony	C5041 Vis Unita
ProvGAlm	TAYLOR John	C266 Naphtali
ProvGMO	SPIBY William David	C3788 Kitchener
ProvGCO	KENNEDY Darren Michael	C274 Chapter of Fidelity
ProvGSoj	FRIEND John Edwin	C37 Concord Deane
Prov1stAGSoj	REES Peter Ian	C815 Blair
Prov2ndAGSoj	WRIGHT David Arnold	C226 Chapter of Benevolence
ProvAGSE	HARTLEY Clive	C219 Loyal Todmorden
ProvAGDC	SAGAR Richard Michael Piers	C126 Chapter of the Nativity
ProvGStB	DAVIES Francis Ernest Scott	C268 Union
ProvGStB	FLANAGAN Steven James	C1055 Derby
ProvGStB	MULLIGAN David John	C350 Chapter of Meribah
ProvGOrg	WILSON Brian James	C3336 Samaritan
ProvGStwd	DAVIES Benjamin Thomas	C6575 Portland
ProvGStwd	DOVER Vincent David	C1723 St George's
ProvGStwd	HARWOOD Russell John	C2529 Abbey
ProvGStwd	JACOBS Jonathan	C6594 Ark and Menorah
ProvGStwd	JONES David Morgan	C54 Chapter of Hope
ProvGStwd	VAMANU Ionut Marian	C3336 Samaritan
ProvGJan	CARROLL Clive David	C462 Bank Terrace with Leopold





**Congratulations to all newly appointed officers of
Provincial Grand Chapter**

PP1stAGSoj	BOYD Robert Christie Craig	C8763 Tonge Hall
PP1stAGSoj	WEDGEWORTH Thomas Raymond	C152 Chapter of Virtue
PP2ndAGSoj	BINNS John Charles	C367 Probity and Freedom
PPGStB	ALLEN Benedict Charles Lewis	C9659 Internet
PPGStB	BATTERS Michael Royce	C62 Social
PPGStB	BELL Richard Jennison	C2891 Lord Stanley
PPGStB	BLADES Martin William	C1504 Red Rose of Lancaster
PPGStB	GOFF John Anthony	C2185 Ardwick
PPGStB	GREENHALGH John Michael	C9640 Red Rose of Lancashire
PPGStB	GRUBB Noel Richard	C2891 Lord Stanley
PPGStB	MORAN David Thomas	C369 Limestone Rock
PPGStB	O'GRADY Dominic Sean Conleath Gle	C1322 Waverley
PPGStB	TURNER Kenneth Robinson	C815 Blair
PPGStB	WOSKI Artur	C2185 Ardwick
PPAGDC	ADAMSON Peter Hugh	C6577 Mossley
PPAGDC	BAXENDALE Brian	C344 Chapter of Beauty
PPAGDC	BRADBURY Garry	C128 Prince Edwin's
PPAGDC	CLARE Michael Harry	C344 Chapter of Beauty
PPAGDC	DESSER Gordon Russell	C6594 Ark and Menorah
PPAGDC	GAY Irwin	C7958 Unitas Fratrum
PPAGDC	HITCHEN Thomas Richard	C7958 Unitas Fratrum
PPAGDC	SAMSON Brian Ivan	C344 Chapter of Beauty
PPAGDC	THOMPSON William	C6575 Portland
PPAGDC	ZOLTIE Richard Lawrence	C6594 Ark and Menorah





Newly Promoted Officers of Provincial Grand Chapter

Congratulations to all those promoted within Provincial Grand Chapter

PPGSN	BOND Eric Peter	C2529 Abbey
PPGSN	DARBY Barrie Danford	C2185 Ardwick
PPGSN	KAY Leslie Warren	C7224 Fairfield
PPGSN	RILEY Harry	C348 St John's
PPGSN	ROBERTS Malcolm Thomas	C6575 Portland
PPGSN	SMITH John Hartley	C993 Alexandra
PPGSN	WOOTTON William	C5712 Aldwyn
PPGReg	ASTON Jeremy Hesketh	C1055 Derby
PPGReg	BEDFORD David	C381 Hutchinson
PPGReg	ELLIS John Stanley	C116 Cana
PPGReg	GREENHALGH Andrew	C1219 Renaissance
PPGReg	HARTWELL Brian	C381 Hutchinson
PPGReg	PESTELL David	C6163 Werneth
PPGReg	SURTEES David Ralph	C221 Maritime
PPGReg	ROWLATT Kenneth Thomas	C266 Naphtali
PPGReg	THORNTON Ian Frank	C9659 Internet
PPGReg	WINSTANLEY John Graham	C44 Chapter of Friendship
PPGSwdB	BOWDEN Roger Paul	C1055 Derby
PPGSwdB	CLARK Paul Ernest	C274 Chapter of Fidelity
PPGSwdB	GILBERT Martin	C6575 Portland
PPGSwdB	HOLCROFT Stephen Paul	C9640 Red Rose of Lancashire
PPGSwdB	KINSEY Andrew Richard	C1055 Derby
PPGSwdB	SEDDON Peter	C128 Prince Edwin's
PPGSwdB	SPRAY Arthur Desmond	C2185 Ardwick
PPGSwdB	TAYLOR Harvey	C854 Albert
PPGSwdB	TAYLOR John Walter	C6577 Mossley





Congratulations to all those promoted within Provincial Grand Chapter

PPDepGDC	CASSON Gregory John	C44 Chapter of Friendship
PPDepGDC	CHAPMAN Robert Gamble	C8763 Tonge Hall
PPDepGDC	CLAYTON David Lees	C2185 Ardwick
PPDepGDC	CROMPTON Thomas	C344 Chapter of Beauty
PPDepGDC	GREEN William Ormerod	C116 Cana
PPDepGDC	HENTHORN Christopher	C277 Tudor
PPDepGDC	LAIDLAW Kenneth	C42 Chapter of Unanimity
PPDepGDC	RAWAL Soshil Kumar	C44 Chapter of Friendship
PPDepGDC	RALSTON Edward Lee	C1083 Townley Parker
PPDepGDC	WOOD Christopher Charles	C369 Limestone Rock
PPGSoj	BALL Jack	C7958 Unitas Fratrum
PPGSoj	BARNES David Edmund	C6575 Portland
PPGSoj	CATLOW William Anthony	C381 Hutchinson
PPGSoj	CLARKE Phillip James	C5041 Vis Unita
PPGSoj	DUNN Colin Clifford	C54 Chapter of Hope
PPGSoj	HALLIDAY Arthur	C3867 West Salford
PPGSoj	LAMBSHEAD Kenneth	C219 Loyal Todmorden
PPGSoj	MELLOR Frank James	C381 Hutchinson
PPGSoj	PRYCE Melvyn Stuart	C128 Prince Edwin's
PPGSoj	STEWART Alan	C219 Loyal Todmorden
PPGSoj	TEINERT Simon	C6163 Werneth
PP1stAGSoj	FENTON Bernard	C42 Chapter of Unanimity
PP1stAGSoj	FORBES Bernard Arthur	C266 Naphtali
PP1stAGSoj	PRITCHARD David	C9397 Three Shires





Every year we also see exceptional contribution to the work of Provincial Grand Chapter recognised by appointment to, and promotion within, Supreme Grand Chapter. The following Companions have been so recognised this year:

New Appointments

EComp Mo Afsa- Past Grand Standard Bearer

EComp Andrew Taylor - Past Grand Standard Bearer

EComp Chris Cunliffe - Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Promotions

EComp Paul Gareth Bowen - Past Grand Sword Bearer

EComp Norman Clarke – Past Assistant Grand Sojourner

EComp Colin John Rowling – Past Assistant Grand Sojourner

We congratulate all these Companions and also those Companions who are being appointed to and promoted within the United Grand Lodge of England

New Appointments

WBro Stephen John Holland – Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

WBro Nigel Martin Johnson – Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Promotion

WBro John Curry – Past Senior Grand Deacon

WBro Wesley Marchant - Past Senior Grand Deacon

WBro Paul O'Carroll - Past Senior Grand Deacon



Some thoughts on appointment to or promotion within Provincial Grand Chapter from the Deputy Grand Superintendent



East Lancashire has been a stronghold of Royal Arch Freemasonry for over 250 years. The Chapters we now recognise as Cana, Nativity and Unanimity were warranted in 1769, the first year of the then Grand Chapter. That year the Grand Chapter warranted 7 Chapters, 4 of which were in Lancashire. Of these - 5 remain working and 3 are the chapters named above.

Our province, formed by the division of Lancashire into Western and Eastern Divisions in 1825, is celebrating its bicentenary this year. Over the last 200 years companions who have made an exceptional contribution to Royal Arch Freemasonry in East Lancashire have been appointed into, or promoted within, Provincial Grand Chapter.

Looked at in these terms, those who received Provincial Grand rank or have been promoted within Provincial Grand Chapter on March 20th could be seen as just the latest companions to become part of our Provincial Grand Chapter.

But of course, they are much more than that. With rank comes responsibilities and they are now part of a group of men charged with the responsibility for guiding the Royal Arch in East Lancashire into the future.

Never in the life of our Provincial Grand Chapter has there been more challenges or more opportunities. Freemasonry is facing up to the needs of men living within a new type of environment where society demands immediacy, where everything is being driven anonymously and at a distance, and where tapping away at your mobile phone has replaced face to face interactions. In this new world Freemasonry represents a stabilising supportive environment where the demands of social media and the hurly burly of modern life can be put aside and true values celebrated. The now increasing number of men coming into freemasonry nationally tells its own story.

It is in this atmosphere that we all will need to define the Royal Arch and what it stands for.

We love the Royal Arch; we wouldn't be here otherwise. Amongst the responsibilities that come from the new status of our appointees and promotees is to communicate the love of our wonderful order to master masons in their lodges and excite them into wanting to continue into the Royal Arch. To support this UGLE, Supreme Grand Chapter and our province have embarked on a process designed to firmly identify the true place of the Royal Arch as the completion of entry into Pure Ancient Freemasonry and to aid us all in getting our message across.

So can I make a plea. To all of you honoured on 20th March, please go out into your Lodges and use the opportunity of your newly-acquired status to communicate your love of the Royal Arch to master masons, and into your Chapters to re-invigorate and enhance so that the Province can go from strength to strength over the next 200 years.

I will finish by offering my heartiest congratulations to everyone honoured at Provincial Grand Chapter. You richly deserve the acclaim you received on the 20th March and who will ever forget you were the first to have this bestowed in the Tough Sheet Stadium.





THE PGLEL 2026 FESTIVAL APPEAL

So far we have a Pledged Amount of £1,820,492 towards our £2,400,000 target!

Festival Newsletter
May 2023



The total Cash received to date, plus Gift Aid is £1,530,587 representing 71.21% of the total collected so far against our target figure

If you haven't been to the PGLEL 2026 Festival Appeal web site recently, you've got to visit. There is so much happening, and it's all fun in a serious cause. The link:

<https://eastlancashirefreemasons.org/the-pglel-2026-festival-appeal/>

One current stand out is:

John Taylor is taking on an incredible challenge to support the 2026 Festival. He will be cycling an incredible 2,026 miles on his Wattbike (Indoor bike trainer with programmable routes). Yes, you read that correctly, and it was an incredible 2,026 miles. John is cycling the entire length of the UK from John O'Groats to Lands' End almost 2.5 times.

Every mile John Rides can be sponsored for just £2.

By sponsoring a mile (Or More!) You will help John reach his fundraising goal and support an important cause in his heart.

How can you help?

Sponsor a mile for £2 or as many as you can afford. You can click the button below or scan the QR code.





A report from our Deputy Provincial Grand Master on an exciting event he attended in his mother Chapter

At the meeting of Derby Chapter No. 1055 at Radcliffe, on Wednesday 12th March 2025, the Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, EComp Peter Faulkner, PGStdB, was in attendance and witnessed the exaltation ceremony of the latest candidate into the Chapter, Comp Glen Rosser.

It was the last official visit of EComp Faulkner, as AProvGP for the Western Area, before he stands down at Provincial Grand Chapter on 20th March.

One of the other reasons for EComp Faulkner's attendance was to mark and present the Chapter with a commemorative plaque, on the occasion of the **Chapter becoming a Grand Patron of the 2026 Festival.**

The plaque, being an equilateral triangle featuring a Triple Tau, with both symbols being the most prominent symbols in the Royal Arch, was presented to EComp David Green, First Principal, on behalf of the Chapter and EComp Faulkner thanked all the companions for their generous support for the Festival.

The First Principal, EComp David Green, was delighted to accept the plaque on behalf of the Chapter and assured EComp Faulkner that the Chapter would continue to support the Festival. At the social board EComp spoke on several topics and stated that he had thoroughly enjoyed serving the Royal Arch and particularly the Western Area.

EComp Faulkner's health was proposed in a toast to the acclamation of all present. Once again, a thoroughly enjoyable evening at Derby Chapter.





As you can see from the “thermometer” at the top of the first page about the Festival that we are still a bit over £500k short of our target.

Let’s go for a final sprint to our £2.4m target

Please consider making regular donations through a Direct Debit no matter how small. Regular donations can still make a real difference particularly as we can get Gift Aid. You pay £10/month the Festival gets £12.50





The poster is for a 'Treasure Hunt' event celebrating the East Lancashire Bi-Centenary. It features the title 'TREASURE HUNT' in large, colorful letters with arrows pointing in different directions. Below the title, it says 'JOIN US ON THIS VERY SPECIAL WALKING EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE BI-CENTENARY OF THE MASONIC PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE.' The date is 'SUNDAY 18TH MAY'. It describes a '10 MILE OR 7 MILE WALK INCLUDING TREASURE HUNT FOR ALL THE FAMILY!' with 'STAGGERED START TIMES FROM 10AM FROM HEWLETT COURT'. There is a QR code and an illustration of a treasure chest. A signpost shows three directions: 'HEWLETT COURT', 'KIRKLEES TRAIL', and 'BURRS'. At the bottom, it lists the registration fee: '£10 REGISTRATION FEE OR £25 FAMILY TICKET', and notes that 'FAMILIES AND DOGS VERY WELCOME' and 'REFRESHMENTS INCLUDING BBQ AND KIDS ACTIVITIES' are provided. The location is 'HEWLETT COURT, NEWCOMBE RD, HOLCOMBE BROOK, BURY BLD BX1'.

Tie & Tinsel 2025

Following the fantastic success of the 2024 event, I am pleased to advise that the Cloisters Suite has been booked again for 29 November 2025 – I am also pleased to confirm that the Jersey Coasters have been booked once again. Booking details for this very popular event will be available in the Summer.

Provincial Quiz Final 2025

The Final for 2025 is to be held on Wednesday, 21 May 2025 at Bury Masonic Hall. Please contact your Area team for details of when your Area Quiz is being held.





**Events in the Province – many in support of Festival.
With thanks to “Second Rising”**

Christmas Fair 2025

There are currently plans in the pipeline to hold a Christmas Fair in aid of the 2026 Festival in December 2025. Once the date and venue have been confirmed these will be circulated.

Provincial Carol Service 2025

Sunday, 14 December 2025
St Ann’s Church, Manchester, 2pm – Everyone welcome

Please support the many events happening in your Area.

If you are planning an event please send details to your Area Communications Officer for publication.

Lodge of Silent Temple 126 & ELLC Present

MASONIC Catechism c1740

26th MARCH @ 6PM DARWEN MASONIC HALL

A Dialogue between Simon a town Mason and Philip a travelling Mason

Presented by WBro Hiten Patel & Bro Aaron Garner and assisted by the East Lancashire Level Club

DINNER £17 • FOR RESERVATIONS SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE OR GO TO <http://bit.ly/LOTST126> ANY ENQUIRIES PLEASE EMAIL THOMAS DANIEL - thomas.daniel@protonmail.com

PROVINCIAL QUIZ NIGHT

SOUTHERN AREA QUALIFYING ROUND

WESTHOLME MASONIC HALL MOSSLEY

Invite quiz teams of up to 6 people
friends & family welcome

2ND MAY 7pm for 7.30 start

£10 pp INCLUDING SUPPER
Meat & potato pie or cheese & onion
(please advise of any allergies)

PLEASE BRING A RAFFLE PRIZE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK IN YOUR TEAM
CONTACT Nigel Johnson
bignige1@ntlworld.com tel:07834349432





LAUGHS AT THE LODGE
AT ROCHDALE MASONIC BALLROOM
A 2026 Festival Event
Friday 3rd Oct
Show at 8pm
Early Bird Tickets from £15
Buy Tickets At The Bar

Pete **Mike**
Jamie **Barry**

2 Richard St, Rochdale OL11 1DU

The Lodge of Probity & Freedom No.367
Ladies Evening 2025
W.M. Bro Peter Fitchett & Mrs Sarah Fitchett

The Lodge Ladies Evening will take place at the Freemasons Hall, Richard Street, on
Saturday 26th April 2025

Arrive from 3.45pm for Prosecco reception at 8pm. Dinner at 8pm. Carriages at Midnight.
After dinner entertainment by the talented Matt Corrigan.

The cost per person will be £38.00 (Dish choices must be pre-ordered)
(Any special dietary needs, to be advised, please free available)

Dinner: Chicken goujons, Cr. Mushroom Pate
Meat: Beef Wellington, Cr. Salsiccia, Cr. Stuffed Beef tomatoes,
Served with Dauphinoise Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables.
Dessert: Profiteroles, Cr. Mixed Berry Bread Pudding with Whiskey Cream.

Selection of Cheese & Stouts
Finish your meal with Tea or Coffee (Dish available).

Dress Code: Black Tie
Please return the attached form, indicating names and menu choice to:
The C.O. Bro Gareth Jones
52 Greenmoor Lane, Busby, Runcorn, Cheshire DL13 9DG. Tel: 07737015120
email: 657gareth@gmail.com

It is my intention to be present at the Ladies Evening, Saturday 27th April 2025.
It is my intention to be present at the Ladies Evening and I shall be inviting the following guests:
Please indicate first, W.Bro., Mr., Mrs., Miss, and give all names. Cost per cover £38.00

Enclosed is my cheque Payable to The Lodge of P & F No. 367 or cash for the amount of £...

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Payment by BACS to The Lodge of Probity & Freedom. Sort Code 207367 Acc. No. 00701276
Payment with response if possible, for cash on the night please.

Remember: Applications & remittance NO LATER than Saturday 13th April 2025

RACE NIGHT

£10
PER PERSON
INC.
SUPPER

To book contact John Mellor -
John.mellor1@outlook.com
Crompton Lodge 8879
Sort: 09-02-22 Acc: 10833090

29
MARCH

ASHTON MASONIC HALL
ALBERT SOCIETY LUNCH EVENT

SUNDAY ROAST

SUNDAY
30TH MARCH
2025

1:30PM
UNTIL 4PM

Roast Beef, Roast Pork Loin & Half Roast Chicken
Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding,
Glazed Carrots & Parsnips, Seasonal Vegetables
with a Jug of Au Jus Gravy.

Mixed Roast Meat Platter For Two £24.95
Or Individual Dinner £9.95

Book Now:
ashtonfunctions@gmail.com
or Booking forms at the bar





From the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal

It is almost 11½ years since I joined the Craft Provincial Grand Director Ceremonies' team. Since then, I have "DC'd" for the Province in various roles culminating in becoming the ProvGDC in the Royal Arch for the last 4 years. That all comes to an end at Provincial Grand Chapter on 20th March, when I shall step down.

What a wonderful time I have had! The privilege of being part of that team has brought many opportunities. When I started, I was in just one lodge and one chapter, both in the Northern Area, which was the limit of my Freemasonry. Suddenly I was out most weeks, often several times, across the whole Province. I even had a chance to go to (to me) totally new places such as Mossley that I had only previously heard spoken about in awe.



In my time I have met many new people, made lots of new friends, and been to every hall. Each lodge and chapter I have visited has, without fail, made me feel welcome. Taking part in and organising the various celebrations; Lodge and Chapter Centenaries and Bicentenaries, amalgamations, dedications, Provincial meetings and most especially personal 50ths and 60ths, has been a pleasure and a source of pride. Being able to contribute to making a Brother or Companion's special day memorable, has always made it all worthwhile.

I have been lucky enough to work with like-minded Brethren and Companions, dedicated to making East Lancashire ceremonial as good as any in the country, and the Province is well-recognised for such. As of Provincial Grand Chapter, in one more sign of the closeness of the Craft and the Royal Arch, the two Provincial DCs' teams will become one, a single team with one ProvGDC for both the RA and the Craft. EComp John Lees will take over my role when I step down, whilst also retaining his role as ProvGDC in the Craft. I wish John and the unified team the very best for the future.

.....but you are not quite rid of me yet! Just as I had been looking forward to having the time to do a little more personal visiting, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent had other ideas: he will appoint me the Third Provincial Grand Principal at the Provincial Grand Chapter meeting. It will be an honour and privilege to keep serving the province and I look forward to continuing to visit chapters across East Lancashire, making new friendships and renewing old ones.



Thank heavens for an understanding wife!



Masonry – Its Origins and Raising to Exaltation:

When Masonry was established, in 1717, there were just two ceremonies or degrees, the Initiation and the Passing ceremonies. Originally, Masons were content with only the two degrees, this was at a time when Masons' Lodges met less frequently and would generally convene in varying locations and at different times, when members were low in number.



At the inception of Masonry, membership of Masonic Lodges mainly consisted of working craftsmen, wood carvers, stonemasons, carpenters and the like. Within a short period of time though, popularity in the Order started to gain momentum and the growth in membership saw the demographic broaden to include more professionally trained people such as bankers, lawyers, accountants, architects etc.

With the growth in popularity, Masonry became more established and regularised. Lodges began to meet more frequently, on set dates and times and in established regular locations, just as it does today.

In view of the increase in its membership, it was soon deemed necessary to increase the content of the meetings, to provide the brethren with more to occupy themselves and so two additional ceremonies were written: notably the Raising ceremony and the ceremony of Exaltation. What is most evident, is that the ritual for both, were completely interlinked and were written by the same author at the same time, which came about as follows.

In and around 1720, the 3rd Grand Master Dr Desaguliers, came across a passage in a 4th century book which told of the discovery of a subterranean cavern beneath the ruins of King Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem. Dr Desaguliers saw how this could form the basis of the story for a new degree in Masonry, telling of the discovery of some long-lost secrets.

But in order to rediscover something, it had to have been lost in the first place.

And so therefore, Dr Desaguliers set about creating the story of how, by the untimely death of our Master HA, the secrets of a Master Mason were lost and that certain substituted secrets were to be used until time or circumstance should restore the genuine. This of course is what we now know and understand to be the "Hiramic legend", which is in essence the 3rd Degree, the ceremony of Raising.

Time and circumstance did restore the genuine in the form of the Exaltation ceremony, in which it is told that the secrets were rediscovered.





The Origins and Meaning of the Royal Arch

So historically the Craft Third Degree Raising ceremony and the Exaltation ceremony in the Royal Arch, were created at the same time by the same author. One describing the loss of the secrets (the Raising) and the other, just how those secrets were rediscovered, within the cavern below the ruins of King Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem (the Exaltation).

There you have it my dear Brother, these two additional ceremonies are inextricably linked, they are aligned and totally relate to each other.

By being Initiated, Passed and Raised you are only three quarters of the way through your Masonic journey. At that stage the secrets of a Master Mason are lost and that clearly is not where the story ends.

By taking that forth and most important step, the secrets are discovered, all is revealed and by doing so you are completing the story and your Masonic journey.

Becoming a Companion of the Royal Arch is a rich, colourful and beautiful experience, please I urge you, to experience it for yourself.

"One Journey, One Organisation"

It is recommended that "Masonry – Its Origins and Raising to Exaltation" is a document that is handed to a prospective candidate of the Royal Arch, along with the Discover More Booklet, either in advance of, or immediately following the Red Table and Talking Heads presentations.

Consideration should also be given for this paper to be handed to a newly Raised Brother, at the same time as handing him the PGM's letter and Discover More Booklet and indeed handing it out at any other opportunity, when it is deemed to be appropriate.





Those exalted 40, 30, 20 and 10 years ago.

Congratulations to all those celebrating 40 and 30 years in the Royal Arch between 20/10/2024 and 20 /3/2025

40 YEARS	
James Joseph Wilkins	20 February 1985
Alan Armitage	21 January 1985
William Raymond Waite	16 November 1984
Robert Alan Sterling	12 February 1985
30 YEARS	
Ian Mark Suffield Hunter	21 November 1994
Philip John Lawton	15 November 1994
Stanley Jackson	22 February 1995
Peter Gichero	01 March 1995
Robert John Waddington	24 October 1994
James Alan Bolton	20 February 1995
Aubrey Oldham	03 October 1994
Graham John Layzell	02 February 1995
Keith Vernon Melford	08 February 1995
Alan Thomas Imm	18 November 1994
Kenneth Ankers Jones	13 January 1995





Those exalted 40, 30, 20 and 10 years ago

Congratulations to all those celebrating 20 and 10 years in the Royal Arch between 20/10/2024 and 20 /3/2025

20 YEARS	
Brian Ivan Samson	16 February 2005
Garry Bradbury	20 September 2004
Graeme Alexander Hoyle	22 February 2005
Martin David Horan	01 October 2004
William Wootton	07 February 2005
Anthony Bardsley	30 November 2004
Paul Thomas Doran	31 January 2005
David Law	02 March 2005
Brian Hastings Derbyshire	18 November 2004
Ian Robert MacDonald	21 October 2004
Andrew Procter	29 October 2004
Brian Maden	26 November 2004
Clifford Ashley Hayman	12 October 2004
Jeffrey Alan Caplan	08 February 2005
Richard John Kenyon	07 October 2004
Edward Lee Ralston	02 December 2004
Jonathan Stephen Forshaw	27 September 2004
10 YEARS	
Salvador Tiangson	13 October 2014
John Edwin Friend	10 November 2014
Andrew Stanley Lane	03 March 2015
Philip Edward Howarth	24 September 2014
Andrew John Parkin	25 September 2014
Stephen Charles Rowen	28 October 2014
Russell John Harwood	16 October 2014
Barry Thompson	05 February 2015
Christopher Ian Armstrong	14 October 2014
Matthew Simon Phillips	09 December 2014
Haddison Asangmbeng Etchou	12 January 2015





Priceless Protocol Pointers, Proffered by a PastDepGSupt.

Correct Address: Addressing the High Rulers – Familiarity Breeds Contempt:

Because of the more relaxed atmosphere that presently exists within Masonry, there is a tendency to be over familiar when addressing the most senior members of the Province.

Whilst the High Ruler may be well known to you personally, using first names in an open environment can lead to others, who may not have the same relationship, thinking it acceptable and as a result being overly familiar.

In such instances it is preferred to address the senior officer as “Sir” or alternatively please use their title.

To do otherwise can be deemed to be disrespectful and one should take care to observe due respect for the office and more particularly, the bearer of the office.

Correct Title: The acronym “MEGS” stands for Most Excellent Grand Superintendent and is only to be used when referring to him in the 3rd person and/or in written/text format. The term MEGS must NOT be used when making announcements, introductions, or when addressing him.

One may also refer to him as the Grand Superintendent, but not when making a formal announcement.

The correct form when announcing him is the “Most Excellent Grand Superintendent”.

The Deputy Grand Superintendent should only be announced and referred to as such. In written/text format the acronyms DepGSupt and/or DGS are used.

The Second Provincial Grand Principal should only be announced and referred to as such. Very often and quite annoyingly, he is referred to as the Second Grand Principal (inadvertently honouring him with a significant promotion), or the Provincial Second Grand Principal (using all the right words, but definitely not in the right order). These of course are NOT the correct terms of reference and must be discouraged. In written/text format the acronym 2ndProvGP is used.

The above also applies to the Third Provincial Grand Principal.

Collectively, the MEGSupt (or DepGSupt) and the 2ndProvGP and the 3rdProvGP are also referred to as “The Provincial Grand Principals”, but this is a term that is never used when introducing them or making formal announcements.





Sound Advice From a Past Deputy Grand Superintendent

Representative (or not): When is a Representative of the PGM/GSupt, not a Representative:

When a Grand officer is invited, by the Provincial Grand Master and/or the Grand Superintendent, to attend an installation on his behalf, he does so as a “Representative” of the PGM/GSupt and therefore should be referred to as the “Representative”.

However when a “Chain Bearer” attends an installation, in an official capacity, he is NOT a Representative, he attends “in his own right”.

In such circumstances he SHOULD NOT be referred to as a Representative.

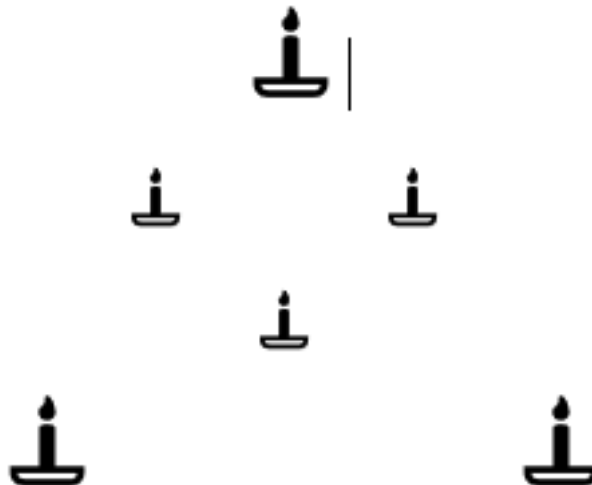
Candles: There are six candles placed at the eastern end of the pavement, three tall ones and three shorter ones. When positioned correctly they form two equilateral triangles, one of the most prominent symbols in the Royal Arch along with the Triple Tau. They are to be arranged in the following manner.

Please note that the large centre candle in the East, should always be lit prior to the opening of the Chapter and should always remain lit after the closing of the Chapter.

H

Z

J





Banners:

Five Principal Banners – The five main banners are positioned behind the Three Principals Chairs, they are:-

- The Triple Tau.
- and
- A man.
 - An Ox.
 - A Lion.
 - An Eagle.

The Triple Tau is always in the middle and the others are arranged in the following order and to more easily remember the order you should use the acronym OMLE.

Ox	Man	Triple Tau	Lion	Eagle
	H	Z	J	

The Full Suite of Banners of the Twelve Tribes of Israel – These should be arranged in the following order. The Tribes indicated in red indicate the four main Tribes who, when the Tribes came to rest from journeying through the wilderness of Sinai, stood vigil at each corner of the encampment as security for the Tabernacle that housed the sacred scrolls, as well as standing security for the other Tribes.

	H	Z	J
Judah (Lion)			Issachar (Ass)
Naphtali (Hind)			Zebulun (Ship)
Asher (Cup)			Reuben (Man)
Dan (Eagle)			Simeon (Swords)
Benjamin (Wolf)			Gad (Horseman)
Mennaseh (Vine)			Ephraim (Ox)





Sceptre:

Offering the Sceptre – As in the Craft, where the gavel is offered to a brother that holds a Patent of Office, in the Royal Arch the same courtesy is offered to the MEGSupt, the DepGSupt and including the 2nd and 3rd ProvGP's and is carried out using the Sceptre. (The above Principal Officers also 'demand admission').

Accepting the Sceptre - The correct manner of offering the Sceptre is as follows.

- It is held horizontally in both hands.
- The head of the Sceptre to the left, as the 'installer' holds it.
- The palms, in an upwards position, are supporting the Sceptre from the underneath, by the 'installer' and offered to the person taking the Chair, the 'installee'.
- The 'installee' then takes hold of the Sceptre, palms downwards.
- Whilst both people are holding the Sceptre they turn each other around in a clockwise direction so that the 'installee' ends up at the Chair.
- He then takes hold of the Sceptre, salutes it and sits.

Saluting the Sceptre – The Sceptre is saluted on the following occasions:

- As part of the Opening of the Chapter.
- When one is offered the Sceptre and takes one of the Chairs.
- When one is installed into one of the Chairs.

Saluting the Sceptre means kissing it, however hygiene laws may wish to be observed, so whether one actually comes into contact with the Sceptre is a personal choice, otherwise one would just motion towards the Sceptre, as if kissing it.

Once the Sceptre has been saluted it is customary for that person to repeat the 'Word of his Chair'.

Holding the Sceptre – When holding the Sceptre it should always be held across the body with the head over the left arm.

Turning to face the Chairs or turning back from facing the Chairs – This should always be done in a clockwise direction.





Sound Advice From a Past Deputy Grand Superintendent

Royal Arch Jewel: It is frustrating to see many incorrect variations of how the Royal Arch Jewel is worn, however there is only one correct way to wear it.

- The Royal Arch Jewel must always be worn in the left-hand breast pocket.
- The Royal Arch jewel always takes precedence over any other jewel, such as a festival jewel, tercentenary jewel, or other.
- The Royal Arch Jewel must therefore always be worn closest to the heart and takes precedence to other jewels.
- As well as in a Royal Arch Chapter, the Royal Arch Jewel must also be worn in a Craft Lodge as part of the Craft regalia. Again, the Royal Arch Jewel is the predominant jewel to all others.

Grace: Grace and Returning Thanks – There are sadly too many incorrect interpretations of this very important blessing, the correct pronunciations are:-

For Grace - Benedictus, Benedicat.

For Returning Thanks - Benedictus, Benedicatur.

And the correct form of response to the above, in the Royal Arch, is “Amen” and not So Mote It Be.





Musings from the Editor

I have recently become involved in the national Archway project. You can find the link to Archway here: <https://b.ugle.org.uk/membership/archway>

There are some exciting things in the offing.

One I have a particular affinity with is a practical user guide for Archway. It's not finished yet, but it is ready to be "road tested".

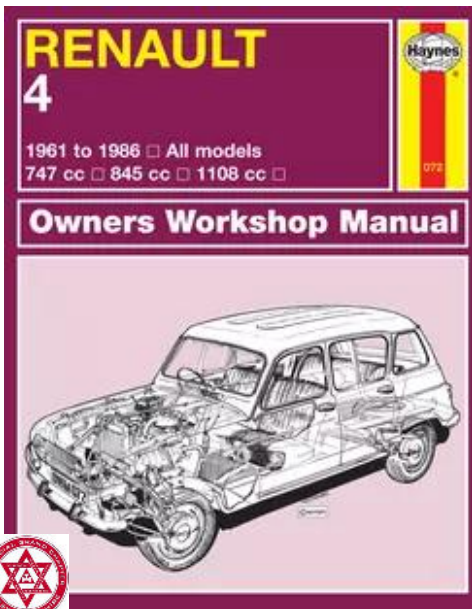
Over the last few months I have visited 4

Chapters at the time of their installations. Beauty, Bank Terrace with Leopold, Cana and Strength). I had a wonderful time at all of them. They were very different from one another and the uniqueness of each just added to the evening's pleasure (with the exception of Beauty which is a daytime Chapter and there the pleasure went both sides of lunch!).

At each I made a promise that I would send them the practical user guide to Archway which until recently was called a User Manual to comment on. I rather liked the name as it reminded me of my days working from a Haynes Manual on my first car (a Renault 4). Each page of the Haynes Guide was a revelation and an education and somehow together they made a cohesive whole, which is how I saw the User Manual for Archway. Anyway, I digress. At the Installations I asked if I could send the "User Manual" to the Chapter so they could, as a group, road test the document.

Such is the pace of harmonisation across Pathway and Archway I cannot do that, but I can ask individuals to give it a trial. So, I'm looking for individual Royal Arch Masons to have a play and then feedback to me.

Any takers?





Correct Protocols for the Signs in the Royal Arch:

Standing to Order in the Royal Arch – One does not stand to order in the Royal Arch when addressing other Companions.

Contrary to what may be seen around the Province and contrary of what takes place in the Craft, one does not stand to order when addressing the Three Principals or indeed any other individual.

Salutations - Salutations in the Royal Arch are never given to any one individual. In the Royal Arch the only 'greeting' given to an individual is done by giving a Court Bow, when directed to do so.

The Reverential or Hailing Sign - The Reverential or Hailing Sign should only be given at the opening and closing of the Chapter and on entering or leaving the Chapter. On such occasions the Reverential or Hailing sign is always given directed toward the Pedestal, it is not directed towards the Three Principals or indeed any individual.

Also, there is NO step taken prior to giving the Reverential or Hailing sign.

The Reverential or Hailing Sign, Thumbs or NO Thumbs - there should be no evidence of thumbs being raised when adopting the Reverential or Hailing Sign.

The left hand, with closed thumb, is placed on the forehead, as if shielding the eyes and the right hand is placed over the left breast and again with a closed thumb. In both cases the thumb is hidden.

In Craft we are taught that "all squares, levels and perpendiculars are true and proper signs".

However, remember what is said in the exaltation ritual when instructing the Candidate and how the Reverential and Hailing sign is communicated in the Mystical Lecture. This is with reference to Moses, who, when the Lord appeared unto him in the burning bush at the foot of Mount Horeb in the wilderness of Sinai, "thus shielded his eyes from the brightness of His divine presence and placed his hand on his heart in token of obedience"; (Exodus Chapter 3 verses 1 to 6.) and this sign was afterwards accounted unto him for righteousness.

The emphasis is upon the sign being for reverence, therefore the thumb should not be visible.





More Sound Advice From a Past Deputy Grand Superintendent

Prayers and Obligations, “Thumbs Up” ?.....NO not in the RA – In the Royal Arch, as in the Craft, when standing to order for prayer the thumb is in a closed position. However, for an obligation in the Royal Arch and contrary to what takes place in the Craft, the thumb is in a closed position for an obligation too.

Companions generally tend to adopt the practices of the Craft, but this is not always correct in the Royal Arch.

The Royal Arch is given a “Thumbs Down” In the Royal Arch signs are always given, without displaying the thumb. The 'popular' rituals state that the thumb is never visible. The only exception to this is with the Monitorial Sign, which is given.....“with the hands girding the loins and thumbs to the fore”.

These protocols and practices should be adopted as described. They are always correctly observed by the Royal Arch Executive and the same are evidenced and practiced by the High Rulers in Supreme Grand Chapter.



The only known picture of Admiral Lord Nelson in his Royal Arch Regalia. But, oh dear, he has his sash inside his jacket and that thumb!!

Mind you, you have to admire his Royal Arch Jewel!



I make no excuse for using this again. It's such fun. In fact I think it should become a fitting end to all out Newsletters going forward!



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