



Province of  
Northamptonshire &  
Huntingdonshire



Royal Arch Province of  
Northamptonshire &  
Huntingdonshire

## 2023/24 Newsletter Number 2

To: All Royal Arch Companions

### OBITUARY – E COMP IAN NELSON, PROVGSE



Ian Nelson passed to the Grand Lodge above on 4th October 2023 at the age of 73 years.

Born in humble surroundings in Newcastle, Ian lived with his wife, Helen, in Overstone and was very much involved in the local community. He was active on the local council and Chairman at one stage.

His intelligence shone through in his school days and he achieved academic success. He became a teacher himself, eventually becoming a headmaster. From there he became

an OFSTED Schools' Inspector and then a freelance education consultant.

He was initiated into Junior Chamber Lodge No 8902 in Solihull, Warwickshire, where he was a PM and the current JW.

Ian's consulting work took him to Richmond, Virginia, where he joined and became a "life member in perpetuity" of Richmond Randolph Lodge No 19, in which he was held in very high esteem.

In 2014 he became a joining member of Grey Friars Lodge No 4990, its Master in 2017 and was its current Secretary.

In 2004 he was Exalted into Junior Chamber Chapter No 8902 in Solihull and was installed as its MEZ in 2021. He became a joining member of St John's Chapter No 3972 in 2017 and its MEZ in 2021.

He has received several appointments and promotions in the Craft and the Royal Arch, and was appointed Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra in June 2023.

Ian was well-known as a consummate ritualist and authority on matters Masonic. He was an active member of several Masonic Orders.

Ian was extremely intelligent and popular with a sharp wit and will be sadly missed.

He most certainly lived respected and died regretted.

## 2. APPOINTMENT OF NEW PROVINCIAL GRAND SCRIBE EZRA



The Grand Superintendent has announced the appointment of E Comp John Ford as Provincial Grand Scribe E (Designate). E Comp John was Initiated in to Freemasonry in Thomas a Becket Lodge No 2754 (London) in 1994. He became a Joining Member of Gates of Billing Lodge No 9309 in 2019, Palmer Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards No 8995 in 2023 and is a Founder – and current Secretary – of Lodge of United Services No 10012.

E Comp John was Exalted in to Royal Arch Masonry and Chapter of Emulation No 299 (West Kent) in 1995. He became a Joining Member of Wellingborough Chapter No 737 in 2021 and Pemberton Chapter No 3039 in 2022, where he is currently Scribe E.

As well as holding London Grand Rank, he currently holds two Active Craft Offices – ProvgStwd in our Craft Province and MetGStB in London.

E Comp John will be invested as ProvgSE at the meeting of Pemberton Chapter 3039 at the Rushden Masonic Centre on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024.



One Journey  
One Organisation



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PSA Testing  
Sheaf Close  
Northampton  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023



Active Officers' Full Team Visit  
Chapter of Fidelity 445  
Towcester  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024



PSA Testing  
Peterborough  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### 3. ARCHWAY



You may have seen in the most recent 1st Rising issued by UGLE reference to “Archway”, a tool for Chapters. The item included a link to the Archway tool.

Archway was launched at SGC in October, at which point we in the Province gained access for the first time. Having considered the product we

concluded that before launching it within the Province your Executive will need a period of time to familiarise ourselves with its contents and format in order to decide how we may best advise and support Chapters in the use of Archway. We anticipate we should be able to offer this support for Archway in early 2024.

### 4. PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMME 2023/24

Prostate Cancer affects around one in eight men in this country. Early detection can greatly aid the possibility of surviving this disease.

The Craft and Royal Arch Provinces are again offering a series of PSA testing sessions to enable the members of our two Provinces to benefit from PSA screening. As in past years, we are working with the Graham Fulford Trust to offer three Saturday morning sessions for our members. The dates are:

Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Sheaf Close
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Peterborough
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Corby.

The two Provinces are co-funding this initiative so that members may have the benefit of a PSA test for just £14.00. Booking will, as last year, be via an online link where payment will also be taken.

Craft and Royal Arch Masons have recently received a communication from the Acting ProvGSE with details of how to book your test.

The PGM and Grand Superintendent urge you to take advantage of this initiative.

### 5. SOLOMON: ‘LEARNING – EDUCATION – PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT’

*The new season, Christmas, and Solomon.*

Among Freemasonry there are many who have a background of military service or who are interested in such activity with membership of some Service Lodges.



When considering the background and history that relates to the many branches of Service for this Country search within **Solomon** at [solomon.ugle.org.uk](http://solomon.ugle.org.uk) for ‘Solomon live’. This then takes the reader to a list of monthly webinars incorporating lively, engaging conversations in Freemasonry covering all aspects of the Craft and **Royal Arch**.

As we approach Armistice Day, there is a webinar entitled ‘**Freemasonry & the Services**’. Within this webinar four Brethren are involved in the interviews, where they reflect on those who have chosen a life in the services and how that camaraderie and connection lives on within Service Lodges. This webinar will continue to be available to view in **Solomon** at any time after its ‘live broadcast’ at 19.30 on Tuesday 7 November 2023.

More generally, progress since the summer months in yet another masonic year has seen a busy start to our ceremonies and work required to deliver a quality programme of meetings across all we do. With the demands placed upon us all in terms of the ‘membership challenge’ to encourage all masons back to attend and participate in meetings, as well as the need to introduce new members to all orders has created more than usual greater efforts in activity for each unit.

For those in the **Royal Arch** where it has been recognised that there is a greater interest than elsewhere in gaining additional knowledge and information, the forthcoming Christmas break may deliver a relaxing time to sit back and spend a little ‘personal time’ looking at some of the material in **Solomon**. This will give an opportunity to refresh that knowledge held by



**Thistle & Rose Chapter 6644**  
**Banner Dedication**  
**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024**



**PSA Testing**  
**Corby**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024**



**Supreme Grand Chapter**  
**Annual Investiture**  
**Freemasons’ Hall**  
**London**  
**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024**



**Provincial Grand Lodge**  
**Sheaf Close**  
**Northampton**  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

the more established Companion, as well as to offer to those Companions new to the **Royal Arch** a time to explore the delights and privileges that the **Royal Arch** offers to us all.

Within **Solomon** there is much that may engage and enhance interest and pleasure by exploring some of the great expanse of material available.

From searching the '**Royal Arch**' in **Solomon** it will be seen that there is an array of links to many of the topics relating to the **Royal Arch**.

One particular link that may be of much interest can be found by clicking the following link [\*\*The Royal Arch Ceremony\*\*](#). This link will take the reader to a most interesting short Paper detailing generally the background for our Ceremony. This Paper is designed and written for both those within a Lodge or **Royal Arch** setting, as well as those considering that move to the '**light-and-understanding**' that the comes to Companions of the **Royal Arch**.

In addition, there are two more lengthy Papers for those wishing to expand their knowledge and interest in the two Tracing Boards used in some **Royal Arch Chapters**. These Papers or Lectures can be found by clicking the links [\*\*The RA Tracing Board Lecture 1\*\*](#) and [\*\*The RA Tracing Board Lecture 2\*\*](#).

It is hoped that as we transition through Christmas and in to 2024 all Companions will have a relaxing break and return with even greater energy and enthusiasm for the delights and pleasures of the **Royal Arch** which can be further enhanced by exploring **Solomon** at [\*\*solomon.ugle.org.uk\*\*](http://solomon.ugle.org.uk).

**E Comp Dr Christopher R Clark, PGStB**  
**Provincial Grand Mentor**



**Provincial Grand Chapter**  
**Sheaf Close**  
**Northampton**  
**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**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-hunts-masons.org.uk**

**The next Royal Arch Newsletter will be published in December 2023**

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