

The Royal Arch Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire



Province of
Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire



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2022/23 Newsletter Number 4

To: All Royal Arch Companions

Dear Companions

This Newsletter contains details of Provincial Appointments and Promotions for 2023. It also contains details of those who have been honoured with a Grand Rank First Appointment or Promotion.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate all those who are to receive preferment not only in Provincial Grand Chapter but also Supreme Grand Chapter.

These appointments and promotions are bestowed as a small gesture of recognition not only for past and current commitment to the Royal Arch but also in the knowledge that that commitment will continue in the future.



I offer all my heartfelt thanks for all that the recipients do for our Province in general and their Chapters in particular.

The last Newsletter saw the announcement of the launch of our Royal Arch Ambassadors Scheme, the development of which had been delayed by the Covid pandemic and its' aftermath. Recent analysis of our membership data has shown that over the last 5 years the number of subscribing Royal Arch Companions in this Province has dropped by 112. The year-on-year decline matched that of the Craft with a large 'hit' during the suspension of Masonic activity. Many Chapters have made a start toward recovering this loss with a flurry of Exaltations, however, we cannot be complacent and I again urge you all to support those Companions who have accepted the responsibility of Ambassador by laying the foundations through conversations with MM's regarding the Royal Arch (note that we no longer refer to 'The Holy Royal Arch'), actively encouraging them to complete their journey through Pure Antient Freemasonry.

1. Changes to the Provincial Executive

The MEGS, E Comp Jim Boughton has announced the following changes to the Provincial Executive.

Three of its members are standing down:

Second Provincial Grand Principal

After four years as Second Provincial Grand Principal, **E Comp John Payne, PGStB** is standing down. E Comp John is widely known across the Province and has been at the forefront in re-invigorating Chapters and Companions as we emerged from the COVID-19 shutdown. E Comp John has been in RA Active Office for a staggering 12 consecutive years, serving as ProvGStwd (2011), ProvAGDC (2012/13), ProvDepGDC (2014), ProvGDC (2015-2019) 3rdProvGPrin (2019). He was appointed to Grand Rank as PGStB in 2017.

E Comp John is a member of Cytringan Chapter 4048 and N&H Chapter of First Principals 3442. Prior to these appointments, E Comp John was appointed to Active Craft offices, first as ProvGStwd in 2005, followed by ProvAGDC in 2009/10. He is currently a PPJGW.

Third Provincial Grand Principal

After four years as Third Provincial Grand Principal, **E Comp Derek (Del) Pearson, PGStB** is standing down. E Comp Del is again widely known across the Province. In recent years, E Comp Del has been the Province's Hermes Champion and has helped many Scribes E and Hermes

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PSA Testing Session Corby
Saturday 1st April 2023
Corby Masonic Centre



Supreme Grand Chapter
Annual Meeting &
Investiture
Thursday 27th April 2023
Freemasons' Hall, London



Annual Meeting of
Provincial Grand Lodge
Thursday 18th May 2023
Griggs Centre, Sheaf Close,
Northampton

Users to understand the application and resolve many of their problems. Thankfully, there experience will not be lost as he will be remaining in that role. Prior to his current post, E Comp Del served in Active offices, first as Prov1stAsstGSoj (2010), then serving for six years as ProvGAlm. During that time, he was responsible for rolling-out the current model for Provincial Almoners.

He was appointed to Grand Rank as PGStB in 2018.

E Comp Del is a member of Euston Chapter 2283 and N&H Chapter of First Principals 3442.

E Comp Del has served in the Craft as Active ProvJGD (2012) and is currently PPGReg.

Provincial Grand Treasurer

After seven years in office as Provincial Grand Treasurer, **E Comp David Smith, PGStB** is standing down.

Before his current office, E Comp David served as Active ProvGSoj (2007) and ProvGSN (2012).

E Comp David's strong grasp of the Province's finances have enable the Province to maintain a relatively low Provincial subscription year-on-year. In 2021, the Province was able to afford a zero annual subscription charge on Chapters, helping them financially as we came out of the period of suspension.

He was appointed to Grand Rank as PGStB in 2018.

E Comp David is a member of Northampton Chapter 360 and N&H Chapter of First Principals 3442.

He has served in the Craft as ProvGPurs (2006) and has just received a promotion to PPJGW.

There are five new appointments within the Executive:

New Second Provincial Grand Principal



E Comp Mike Binsted, PGStB is promoted from ProvGSE to Second Provincial Grand Principal.

E Comp Mike was Exalted in to the Royal Arch and St John's Chapter 3972 in 2003. He served as MEZ in 2013. Appointed ProvAGSE in 2016, he was then promoted ProvGSE in 2019. Amongst other achievements whilst in the Provincial Office E Comp Mike can be credited with launching and producing the regular Provincial Newsletters, authoring guidance for Provincial appointments and promotions, sourcing and organising the successful Grand Superintendent's Reception and Luncheons which follow the bi-annual meetings of SGC,

and assisting Chapters in three Centenary Convocations.

He was appointed to Grand Rank as PGStB in 2020.

E Comp Mike is also a member of N&H Chapter of First Principals 3442, and in Metropolitan GC, Royal Air Force Chapter 7335 and London First Principals 2712.

In the Craft, he is a member of several Lodges across three Provinces and was first appointed to Grand Rank as PAGDC in 2013, being promoted to PJGD in 2022.

New Third Provincial Grand Principal



E Comp Steve Seward, PGStB is promoted from ProvGDC to Third Provincial Grand Principal.

E Comp Steve was Exalted in to the Royal Arch in Thistle and Rose Chapter 6644 in 2001. He served as MEZ in 2011.

E Comp Steve was appointed ProvAGDC in 2015, promoted to ProvDepGDC in 2016 and ProvGDC in 2018.

E Comp Steve is responsible for the coaching and mentoring of his team of Provincial DCs, for advising Chapters on DC matters and the successful running of our Provincial meetings, where we are regarded as having one of the "slickest" entries and retirals amongst our fellow Provinces.



**Annual Meeting of
Provincial Grand Chapter
Thursday 29th June 2023
Griggs Centre, Sheaf Close,
Northampton**



He was appointed to Grand Rank as PGStB in 2021.

E Comp Steve is also a member of N&H Chapter of First Principals 3442.

In the Craft, he has held Active Provincial office as ProvAGDC (2015/16), ProvDepGDC (2018/2017). He is currently PPGSuptWks.

New Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra



E Comp Ian Nelson is promoted to ProvGSE.

E Comp Ian was Exalted in to the Royal Arch in Junior Chamber Chapter 8902 (Warks) in 2004 and became a joining member of St John's Chapter 3972 in 2017, where he served as MEZ in 2021 and is currently Scribe E.

E Comp Ian is well-known for his love of ritual and for being an authority on various informative pieces of narrative. He has also provided significant assistance to our Scribes E with Hermes.

He received a first appointment as PProvGStB in 2020.

He remains a member of Junior Chamber 8902 and is a member of N&H Chapter of First Principals 3442.

In the Craft, he is a member of Greyfriars 4990, where he is Secretary. He is currently a ProvSGD.

New Provincial Grand Treasurer



E Comp Duncan Childs has been appointed ProvGTreas.

E Comp Duncan was Exalted in to the Royal Arch and Perseverance Chapter 455 in 1998. He served as Treasurer with Perseverance for eight years between 2007 and 2015, becoming MEZ in 2019.

He is a member of N&H Chapter of First Principals 3442.

In the Craft he is currently serving as ProvGMentor.

New Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies



E Comp Mick Smith has been appointed ProvGDC.

E Comp Mick was Exalted in to the Royal Arch and Socrates Chapter 373 in 1998, serving as its MEZ in 2012.

He is a member of N&H Chapter of First Principals 3442.

E Comp Mick has held a number of Provincial appointments – ProvGStB (2015), ProvAGDC (2018) and is currently a ProvDepGDC having been appointed to that office in 2020.

In the Craft E Comp Mick has just received a promotion to PPIGW.

2. 2023 Provincial Appointments and Promotions

The Grand Superintendent, E Comp Jim Boughton has announced 30 appointments and re-appointments to Active Provincial Office, seven first appointments in Past Rank and 32 promotions in Past Rank. A full list of these awards appears on the Provincial website.

3. Appointments and Promotions in Grand Rank

The following first appointments and promotions in RA Grand Rank have been announced by the First Grand Principal:

First Appointments

E Comp Graham Minett, ProvGChStwd is appointed as Past Grand Standard Bearer (PGStB).

E Comp Graham was Exalted in to Chapter of Fidelity 445 in 1996 and rose to be their MEZ in 2008.

He was appointed ProvGStB in 2011 and ProvGSoj in 2016.

He is currently ProvGChStwd, an office to which he was appointed in 2018. E Comp Graham is perhaps best known in the Province for running the PSA testing programme.

E Comp Ian Knox, PPGSN is appointed as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (PAGDC).

E Comp Ian was Exalted in to St Peter's Chapter 442 in 1988 and served as its MEZ in 1999. He was a Founder of Waynflete 4452 (2002) and currently serves as its Scribe E – a post he has held for 20 years.

He has received 3 Provincial appointments, Prov1stAsstGSoj (2002), PPGReg (2008) and ProvGSN (2013).

Promotions

E Comp Mark Constant, PGStB is promoted to Past Deputy Grand Sword Bearer (PDepGSwdB).

E Comp Mark was Exalted in to RA Masonry and Euston Chapter 2283 in 1998, serving as its MEZ in 2008.

He was appointed ProvGSoj in 2011 and became our Third Provincial Grand Principal in 2015. An office he held for 3 years.

He was appointed to Grand Rank as PGStB in 2017.

Of course, E Comp Mark is very well-known as the Craft PGM. A strong supporter and ambassador of the RA, I am sure we all congratulate him on his promotion.

E Comp Tony Greene, PGStB is promoted to Past Assistant Grand Sojourner (PAGSoj).

He was Exalted in to Palladian Chapter 120 (Gloucester & Hereford) in 1981. He joined Northampton 360 in 1987 and N&H First Principals 3422 in 2001.

E Comp Tony served between 2001 and 2006 as ProvAGSE, becoming the Province's Treasurer in 2005. An office he held for 9 years. He is currently in his 14th year as Treasurer of N&H First Principals 3422.

E Comp Tony was appointed to Grand Rank as PGStB in 2010. He also holds Craft Grand Rank as PAGDC (2010).

Promotion in Craft Grand Rank

E Comp Jim Boughton, MEGS has been promoted to Past Grand Sword Bearer in the Craft and will become a VW Bro.

Appointed as MEGS in Feb 2018, He has guided the Province through the recent period of suspension and has been instrumental in moving the Exaltation ceremony and its understanding forward during his time in office.

Investitures

Recipients of 2023 Craft honours in Grand Rank will be invested in the Grand Temple on Wednesday 26th April 2023.

Recipients of Royal Arch honours in Grand Rank will be invested in the Grand Temple on Thursday 27th April 2023.

4. Duration of Meetings and Festive Boards

At the December 2022 meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter, the ME Pro-First Grand Principal reiterated his belief that Lodge and Chapter meetings should take no more than one and a half hours and that Festive Boards should end by 10:00pm.

Meetings and dining should consider the capacity of members and guests to enjoy Masonic meetings and also ensure they are able to return home within a reasonable hour.

Speeches should be time limited. Five to seven minutes should be adequate to get your message across.

E Comp Mike Binsted, PGStB
Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra

5. Three Pillars in Northampton

The success of E Comp Ged Dempsey's "Three Pillars" initiative in the Peterborough is well-known and a cornerstone of the Craft Province's support for the local community.

The initiative has now been extended to the Northampton area with E Comp Aaron Day at the helm. After a slow start, it has now taken-off and E Comp Aaron has a team of helpers busily providing much-needed assistance to those people having to make difficult choices in the current economic climate.

These initiatives represent Freemasonry at its very best.

Your support will be greatly welcomed. Whether it is time or financial support, you may rely on Three Pillars to apply that support faithfully.

Further details can be found on the Provincial website or by contacting E Comp Aaron Day via the Craft Provincial Office.

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](http://www.northants-hunts-masons.org.uk)

The next Royal Arch Newsletter will be published in May 2023

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