

The Royal Arch Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire



2022/23 Newsletter Number 2



To: All Royal Arch Companions

1. MEGS Seasonal Musings

As ever the approach of the end of yet another year leads one to reflect upon times past whilst at the same time looking forward to the opportunities presented with the advent of a New Year.

My seasonal musings of 2018 and 2019 were full of optimism for the continued growth and vibrancy of the Royal Arch born from the energy and commitment of the Companions of this fine Province.



2020 and 2021 seasonal musings were of a very different nature as we struggled to cope with the pandemic and its' aftermath. Yet throughout this terrible period I never lost faith in the resilience and commitment of the Companions throughout the Province. I will ever remain grateful to all those who worked tirelessly throughout this difficult period to endeavour to maintain the spirit of true companionship synonymous with the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.

Clearly as we entered 2022, attendances were still down as we dealt with the aftershocks of Covid, but as the year progressed numbers did begin to improve but, and there always appears to be a but, then came news of an economic crisis. Yet again we find ourselves digging deep into our reserves of resilience, for it is not only those on low income that are concerned but also middle-income earners. All are watching the pennies. We must do all in our power to minimise costs not only to subscriptions but also Festive Boards.

Despite the 'doom and gloom' of events beyond our control in recent years I remain upbeat, for, even though we have experienced trials and tribulations in recent times, there is a growing interest among Master Masons to complete their journey through Pure Antient Freemasonry by Exaltation into the Royal Arch. We must continue to be prepared to capitalise on this growing interest by ensuring that our ceremonies are well presented, vibrant and joyous occasions involving as many members as possible. Also, that our Festive Boards are also well run and happy affairs ending in good time, dare I say by 10pm. In short, we must give value for money.

Much is happening within UGLE and SGC to ensure that the message of the Preliminary Declaration found on page 1 of the Book of Constitutions, that Pure Antient Freemasonry is a four-stage journey, is a clear and consistent message from the very first conversation with a potential candidate for Freemasonry, all the way through to his Exaltation.

Let us then, as we move through this period of Christmas into the New Year, resolve to re-new our energies to bring the joy of Exaltation to all those Master Masons within our Lodges who are yet to complete the journey that is Pure Antient Freemasonry.

Take care Companions and may the True and Living God Most High watch over you and your loved ones.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Jim Boughton

Most Excellent Grand Superintendent.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**PSA Testing Session
Peterborough
Saturday 4th February 2023
Ellindon Centre**



**Pemberton Chapter 3039
Centenary Meeting
Thursday 9th February
2023
Rushden Masonic Hall**



**Provincial Team Visit
Cytringan Chapter 4048
Tuesday 21st February
2023
Kettering Masonic Hall**

2. New Pro-First Grand Principal Installed



MW Companion Jonathan Spence has been installed as Pro-First Grand Principal at the Bi-Annual Meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter on Wednesday 16th November 2022. The new Pro-First Grand Principal actually assumed the office when he was installed as Pro-Grand Master on Wednesday 14th September 2022.

Several hundred RA Companions were present to experience this rarely seen ceremony. Indeed, the previous occasion on which it was performed was in 2009. In his inaugural address, MW Comp Spence emphasised the indissoluble link between the Craft and the Royal Arch, and the forthcoming launch of the Pathway and Archway initiatives.

He reinforced the need for Master Masons to complete their journey in Pure Antient Freemasonry by completing the fourth-stage of that journey and becoming a Royal Arch Companion.

We all look forward to the launch of Archway and the evolution of our Order.

3. Wearing of the Tercentenary Jewel in Supreme Grand Chapter

During his inaugural address, the new Pro-First Grand Principal observed that, given the link between the Craft and the Royal Arch, he could not see why RA Companions should not be able to wear the Tercentenary Jewel in meetings of Supreme Grand Chapter. Accordingly, he announced that with immediate effect, the Jewel may be worn at meetings of SGC. Indeed, he was himself wearing one!

4. Appointments & Promotions 2023

The closing date for recommendations for appointments and promotions to be invested at Provincial Grand Chapter on Thursday 29th June 2023 is 31st December 2022.

5. SOLOMON - FOSTERING CURIOSITY, DEVELOPING UNDERSTANDING

Dear Companions – **Solomon: 'Learning – Education – Personal Development'**

The Royal Arch – back in full flow with developments ahead!

The Masonic season for 2022-2023 has seen a steady and progressive increase in members now getting back to the enjoyment and delight of masonic meetings again after what has been an enforced period of reduced activity from masonic involvement.

The Masonic season has started with a focus on regaining energy and activity for our ceremonies and the catch up with those candidates awaiting Exaltation.

Yet Change is the greatest constant that can now be seen! Change is ever pervading across the Financial, People and Structural elements of our masonic operation. Yet Change can be for the 'good' as we look to the future.

As part of Change is the Learning circle embracing Learning (the new things that might be before us) – Education (through gaining more knowledge of the work we do) – Development (as a person or within the structure of Freemasonry).

In October 2015 UGLE/SGC undertook a process of asking members to respond to a survey of what members wanted and thought were priorities in terms of Freemasonry as it Develops and Changes for the future.

One significant result of the survey was a desire for greater understanding, knowledge, and information about Freemasonry – with this being the most significant for those in the Royal Arch.

Essentially a process of **'Learning – Education – Development'** (both personal as well as across Freemasonry in general).

From this survey, work started on creating **Solomon** which was launched in November 2018, with a significant aim to create something that would be recognised as **'the-world-leading'** repository for Masonic knowledge and information. This aim has



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



surely been achieved and we all now have direct access to **Solomon** at <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/>

At the launch it was highlighted that:

Solomon was there to promote **'Learning'** as an integral part of Lodge and Chapter programmes; it would aid the promotion and support the concept of **the 'Personal Masonic Journey'**; enhance the Member's enjoyment and interest of the Craft and the **Royal Arch**; improve understanding and performance; aid engagement and retention by providing Materials for personal study and presentation.

All of this being provided through Nuggets, Presentations, Papers, Demonstrations and Quizzes.

Since the launch, much has happened with extensive amounts of material being added to the **Solomon** library and especially for the **Royal Arch**.

*In the Introduction in the 'Mentor's Corner' on **Solomon** it recounts that:*

'People join freemasonry for a wide variety of reasons. They may be attracted by the social aspects, the friendships it offers, the charitable works about which they have heard, for spiritual reasons, a desire to learn and deliver ritual, or they may simply be intrigued by what they do not know, or they may be inquisitive to learn more than the little bit they do know.

Or they may believe, correctly, that freemasonry will offer them an opportunity to 'Learn and Develop' themselves as citizens and individuals. Some of this huge amount of 'Learning and Development' happens whether we like it or not. And, for all of us, that vast Learning which may be referred to as 'automatic', will have had an effect to some extent on all of us as individuals and as the ritual tells us as 'citizens-of-the-world'.

However, is it enough for everyone to simply go through their masonic journey picking up the automatic learning? For some it will be, and that is fine. But, for others, and the surveys would suggest that for quite a number, it is not enough, and they are looking for more'.

In this respect, **Solomon** may be where some of this additional resource and assistance can be found.

For those who have yet to register with **Solomon** the process is easy! After logging on to **Solomon** at <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/> you will see two 'module-links' to **'Getting Started with Solomon'** and **'Discover Freemasonry'**.

For those new to **Solomon** going in to **'Getting Started with Solomon'** will give a clear guide to the extent of the **'Solomon Resources'** available as well as the **'Solomon Links'** covering the full array of material embracing all those steps in that Journey in **Pure Antient Masonry**.

Within **'Discover Freemasonry'** can be found the array of materials and presentation videos which have been broadcast recently, and which can now be viewed at your leisure and at a convenient time for you as you relax and head towards the start of 2023.

All the above – and much more - can be found from accessing **Solomon - Fostering Curiosity, Developing Understanding** at: <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/>

E Comp Dr Christopher R Clark, PGStB
Provincial Learning & Development Officer

November 2022

(If you have a colleague who does not receive this newsletter – just email it to him)



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



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 March 2023

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