

# The Worcestershire Second Risings



*Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch  
Province of Worcestershire  
Spring 2016*

This Second Rising Communication is for distribution by the Chapter Scribe E to all chapter members either by email or sent as hard copy by post.

## Introduction

### **Most Excellent Grand Superintendent E Comp Colin P. T. Brown.**

*Companions,  
Welcome to this 1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter addressed to you all.  
For sometime now we have been very aware of the  
need to provide a much firmer communications link  
within the Province. We appreciate that we do have  
Royal Arch Lodge Representatives in our Lodges but  
we believe we can strengthen our communication by  
issuing a Quarterly Newsletter sent to each  
Companion in the Province. To be successful we also  
need you to inform us of events happening within your  
Chapter, whether it is a Ceremony, Special Event,  
Wedding Anniversary, indeed anything which you  
believe would benefit from being published.*

*For our 1<sup>st</sup> Edition it is probably right and proper that  
we look back on the past year and then look forward to  
the new.*

### **1) Supreme Grand Chapter ~ National News & Events**



After a 10 year period in Office, the Second Grand Principal, E.Comp. George Pipon Francis, retired from that Office last November. His contribution to our Order during that time has been significant and we have been fortunate to welcome him into our Province on a number of occasions.

His successor, E. Comp. Russell Race; who was previously the Metropolitan Grand Superintendent; was Invested and Installed at the Supreme Grand Chapter Convocation on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

It is also with great sadness that we learned of the death of E. Comp. Iain Ross Bryce who served as Second Grand Principal from 1991 to 2005. He will be greatly missed across the Order.

At the April Convocation this year E. Comp. Gareth Jones, the Provincial Grand Master for South Wales, was installed as 3<sup>rd</sup> Grand Principal to succeed E. Comp. David Williamson who has held that Office for 5 years.

This Installation and the Appointments and Promotions in Grand Rank was witnessed by the many Worcestershire Companions who made the Annual Pilgrimage to London who enjoyed another excellent day.

You may be aware from an article published in *Freemasonry Today* that the Royal Arch took on the

task of funding the refurbishment of the Organ in Grand Lodge which is now complete. In recognition of this it now proudly displays the Triple Tau on the front of the console.

## Provincial Grand Chapter



At the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April we witnessed the Appointment and Installation of E. Comp. John Phenix, PGStB as the Second Provincial Grand Principal following the retirement of Michael D. Cox, PAGSoj who has served in that Office for 3 years and A. John Yeates, PGStB as Third Provincial Grand Principal to replace E Comp. Derek Owen. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent thanked them both for their invaluable support during their periods in Office and reminded them that they were still an important part of the Provincial Team.

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent was also very pleased to re-appoint E. Comp. Michael Taylor as his Deputy.



This meeting also witnessed the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Appoint, Promoted and Invests all those Companions who have been selected for an Active Office, a Past Rank or a Promotion for their services to our Order within the Province.

Of particular note was the Presentation of the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent's Certificate of Merit to E. Comp. Martin G Hardeman, PPrGSN of Red Rose Chapter. Martin has been a great servant to the Order and has thoroughly deserved the recognition that this award brings.



The MEGS also announced the continuance of his 3 Initiatives:

1. The Provincial Grand Chapter Charity ~ He has requested that every Chapter considers donating one of their Charity/Alms collections during the course of the year. It is then intended that any Companion may make a bid, via the Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, to support a local Charity in their area. It is not intended to support a local Branch of a National Charity but those small local charities to whom a donation of £100+ means so much.
2. The Office of Almoner ~ Many Chapters do not use the Office of Almoner and he underlined the importance of this role with especial reference to Retention. It is vitally important that all Chapters maintain close communication with their new Exaltees to ensure they are given help and guidance through the first few years of joining Chapter given that it is not an easy Order to understand. It is also essential to keep in contact with those Companions who do not attend to establish the reasons why and to encourage them to attend the next Convocation. This also puts a certain amount of responsibility on a new Members Proposer and Seconder.
3. Training ~ The Provincial DC has been tasked to organise Training sessions for Principals and DC's.. Coupled to this is the availability of the Provincial Demonstration Team to provide the "Commentary" explaining certain parts of the Exaltation Ceremony which gives an excellent insight into why we do certain things. It is felt that this is perhaps more important than receiving a Lecture or Paper when Chapters have no work to do.

He also introduced the new method of Closing the Chapter where we "Return our Secrets to the Safety of Darkness". It is hoped that this will be introduced by every Chapter as it brings far more meaning to the Opening Ceremony of "Illuminating the Pedestal"

**Note: This and other Ritual matters are available as downloads on the Provincial Web Site.**

As is customary the MEGS and Executive have had their usual busy year travelling to many Provinces for their Annual Convocations and having a full team deployed to every Chapter Installation.

## Local News

During the past year a number of events have been held by various Chapters. In particular:



The Annual Installation at **Campbell Chapter** who on Thursday 17th September 2015 enjoyed a "Grand" affair given that in attendance were two Grand Superintendents, A Past Grand Superintendent and a Provincial Grand Master, representing three Provinces. In the photograph you will be able to identify (from left to right as you see it), E. Comp. David Hampson Past Grand Superintendent for Staffordshire, E. Comp. John Saint, Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Warwickshire, our very own Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. Colin Brown, and E. Comp. David Macey Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire.



On Tuesday 24th November Northfield Chapter celebrated their 50th Birthday and our MEGS, E. Comp. Colin Brown, decided that this merited a "Provincial Visit". To this end some 26 visitors from the Province, including the Deputy Grand Superintendent, 6 Grand Officers including 4 Past Provincial 3rd's, and

all but 4 of the Officers of the Year were in attendance, and our total numbers were boosted by other visitors and members.

Our Deputy Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. Michael Taylor, has been Installed as MEZ of Worcs. Installed First Principals Chapter 6889, ably assisted by our Provincial Grand Master, E. Comp. Robert Vaughan (Second Principal) and E. Comp. Colin Young (Third Principal). What a team!

## New Members

On Tuesday 1st September **White Ensign Chapter** held its 1st Convocation of the new Masonic Season and what a "cracking" meeting it turned out to be with some 32 Companions in attendance.

They had the great pleasure of enjoying the company of two of their Consecrating Officers, E. Comp. Michael G Taylor, **P.G.Swd.B.**, Deputy Grand Superintendent, who was then the Provincial 3rd Principal, and Richard B W Price, **Past Grand Superintendent** who was the Grand Superintendent on that auspicious day.

They had the excellent and unique opportunity of Exalting 2 Candidates on the same day, Bros Warby and Pace. Each of the Candidates being conducted through the 1st part of the Ceremony independently and then coming together with the Principal Sojourner for the 2nd part.

## Anniversary Celebrations

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting of **Francis Burgess Chapter** was held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

The meeting was treated to an excellent demonstration of the Exaltation ceremony and, to celebrate the Anniversary, the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Comp Mike Taylor, read the Oration which was written and delivered by E Comp Dick King who was Third Provincial Grand Principal at the time of the Consecration: most interesting and thought provoking.

MGT writes "There are quite a number of Lodges and Chapters named after senior and well known Masons who were Rulers in the Province in years past so it was interesting to learn that, as far as can be ascertained, Francis Burgess was never a Mason. In his early career he was an Officer in the army where he was in saw action at Waterloo. After 1815 the British Army was much reduced and he retired becoming a successful barrister before becoming the first Chief Commissioner for Police for Birmingham in 1839. In 1843 he took the very important post of Chief Police Magistrate for Tasmania where he was responsible for supervising the Police at a time when Tasmania was still a penal colony. He lived in Tasmania for the rest of his life and died in 1864."

The meeting was followed by a most enjoyable festive board where a toast to the future of the Chapter was proposed by the Deputy Grand Superintendent.



The **Chapter of Dudley** had an auspicious meeting on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 when they celebrated their 700<sup>th</sup> meeting at Dudley Masonic Hall in the company of many Companions of the Chapter and numerous visitors. The Province was represented by E.Comp. Michael Cox, PAGSoj, the Second Provincial Grand Principal, E.Comp. Derek Owen, PGStdB, the Third Provincial Grand Principal together with E.Comp. Tim Jones, the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

During the meeting, a very interesting talk was given by E.Comp. David Edwards, PGStdB, on the history of the Chapter during which it was explained that the Chapter was the oldest in the Province of Worcestershire having been consecrated on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1844, originally numbered No. 313 but subsequently renumbered No. 252. However, it was explained that although Chapter of Dudley was the oldest in the Province, this was only by 5 days as St. Wulstan's Chapter No. 280 was Consecrated on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1844!

**Editors Footnote:**

**Companions, to be successful any communications media needs to be two-way. Please forward any information that you believe would be helpful to the Provincial Information Officer:**

**E. Comp. Ian Fothergill**

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