

The Worcestershire Second Risings



Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch Province of Worcestershire Spring 2018

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.**

Welcome to the latest edition of our Provincial Newsletter. I must begin by expressing my personal thanks to all the Companions who contributed to the very successful Provincial Meeting in April. New venues for both the meeting and the lunch gave rise to new challenges and I am delighted that all parts of the day worked exceedingly well.

We welcome a new Executive team and I am sure you will warmly greet these Companions in their new offices. You will read below about the continued success of the Talking Heads initiative and the increasing work of our Charity Fund. Please continue to support these important elements of our work and I wish you a good Summer and look forward to seeing you in the new Masonic season.

1) Supreme Grand Chapter



Once again the Province provided the opportunity to visit the April Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter where we witnessed the Appointment of the E. Comp. Rev'd Justin T Parker to the rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer in recognition of his having been appointed to Provincial Third Grand Principal at the Annual Convocation of the Province.

Unfortunately, this year the number of those travelling, 29, was disappointingly low and has brought into question the viability of providing this opportunity in the future.

At a cost of £45 it still represents exceptional value if you consider the cost includes the price of the Coach, and a Reception Drink and 3 Course meal at the Throckmorton Arms on the return journey.

2) Provincial Grand Chapter

This year's Annual Convocation was all about change.

1. Change of venue ~ The decision was to trial a move from the Avon Suite at the University of Birmingham to the Great Hall of Kings School, Worcester which has been the venue for the United Orders to hold their Annual Meeting for many years. It proved to be an exceptionally good venue, with a great ambiance and very ably assisted by excellent weather.



2. The retirement of E. Comp. Michael G Taylor, PGSwdB, as the Deputy Grand Superintendent of whom the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent lavished praise on his excellent support and commitment during his period in Office. This was an excellent year for Michael as he also received his Certificate for 50 years service to Freemasonry at a Presentation at Kings Heath by the Provincial Grand Master, Robert C Vaughan with a very careful eye being kept by the MEGS.



It also allowed for a very special present to be presented to him on behalf of E. Comp. Stuart Edwards. A large jar of Tartare Sauce.



In his "valedictory" letter Mike wrote *"Dear Companions May I thank you all for treating me so kindly during the last eight and a half years whilst I have been Second Provincial Grand Principal and Deputy Grand Superintendent. I hope to have an opportunity of visiting Chapters, particularly when they have an Exaltation ceremony."*

Many of you will know that I always say of Royal Arch "we do this for fun", and I do hope that all the Companions in the Province will always bear that in mind and endeavour to enjoy their Royal Arch Masonry.

*May I wish all of you all the best for the future. With my very best wishes, Yours sincerely and fraternally **Mike***

3. This retirement led to a complete revision of the Provincial Team ~ The MEGS Appointed, Obligated and Installed E. Comp's. John M Phenix, PAGSoj as Deputy Grand Superintendent, A. John Yeates, PGStdB as Second Provincial Grand Principal and the Reverend Justin T Parker, as Third Provincial Grand Principal.

4. On completion of the Convocation 127 Companions retired to the Old Bishops Palace to enjoy a most enjoyable meal and to witness and wish the MEGS a very Happy Birthday





The Provincial “Unsung Heroes”

At every Provincial Grand Chapter event a great reliance is always placed on this small band of Companions who make up the Provincial Directors of Ceremonies. Always ready to help, and of course one attends every Chapter Installation Convocation as both the Escorting Officer for the Provincial Team and also to assist the Chapter DC in his work.

The Provincial Team also rely on them when called upon to provide a prompt when the team deliver their addresses. Our picture shows the Provincial DC, (Tim Jones), with his two Deputies (Mike Hadden and David Emery), and one of the two ADC’s, (Alan Bolton), unfortunately David Shrimpton missed the “Photocall.”.



Provincial Presentation, “Talking Heads.”

This Presentation continues to provide an excellent opportunity to present all that is right and good and the underlying reasons why all Craft Masons should complete their journey through Ancient Freemasonry as is laid down in the Book of Constitutions.

To date, following every presentation, we have received Candidates for Exaltation and the message therefore is sent out “Loud & Clear” to all Companions to encourage their own Lodges to host this presentation and thereby continue the

excellent work already being done in the area of recruitment.

Provincial Grand Officers Lunch

On Sunday 13th May some 96 Companions and their Ladies assembled for the Annual Luncheon, now in its eighth year. The Lunch is an excellent opportunity for those who have received their First Appointments or Promotions to meet with the Provincial Executive on an informal basis.

The Grand Superintendent and indeed his dear lady wife Patti both commented on the fact that this year they were able to be present throughout the proceedings following last year’s sudden dash to the QE Hospital.

Our pictures show the assembled throng enjoying the Sparkling Wine Reception.



Provincial Royal Arch Charity

Companions will be well aware that at all Installation Convocations the Presiding Officer will mention the Provincial Grand Chapter Charity Fund and the need to receive requests from Chapters and Companions who wish to support the small local Charities where £500 - £1,000 will make a considerable difference. To provide you

with some ideas of how this money is allocated and spent we publish those donations that have been made since March of this year.

In March the Deputy Grand Superintendent was pleased to present a cheque for £500 from the Provincial Grand Chapter Charity Fund to Muddy Boots Ground Care.

The Dep Grand Supt E.Comp Mike Taylor is seen here with E.Comps Paul Masters & Mike Wakeman along with the Muddy Boots Team



From a request by E. Comp. Peter Davies of Vernon Chapter a donation of £400 was made to Wyre Forest CAB in April to Kate Bennett, Manager of the Kidderminster based CAB by E. Comp. John Yeates. The Second Provincial Grand Principal



Whilst much of the CAB budget is funded by County & District Councils the cumulative effect of cuts has created a deficit to its finances of over £13,000. This totally independent advice centre has a constant requirement to train new volunteers to obtain the necessary skills to continue its growing requirement in the Province.

The Albert Middleton Community Association sits close to Kings Heath Masonic Hall and is a “phoenix” rising from the ashes of the City Council Community Centre that was forced to cease its effectiveness by the financial cuts made over the last few years. The local residents have rallied together and the “new” Community Association is drawing people together again and restoring a sense of “ownership” back in the local area.

E. Comp. Steve Middleditch of Remembrance Chapter proposed the Community Association to the Provincial Chapter Fund so that their idea of helping them “break through” the isolation that the 60 residents of Alcester Gardens are now experiencing since the withdrawal by the City Council of their Warden controlled Centre. E Comp John Wright – Prov Grand Charity Steward – was pleased to present a cheque to the Chair of the Committee of the Association.



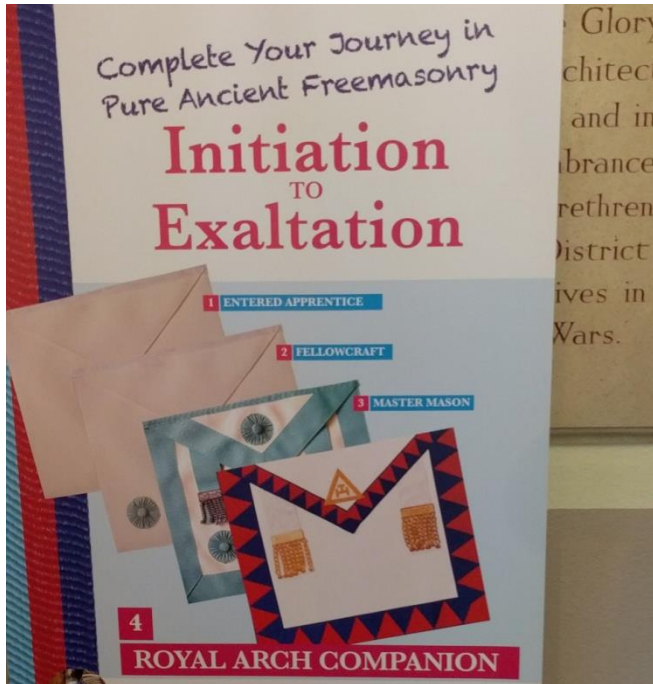
Companions will be aware that at all of our Provincial Chapter Meetings we are supported by a Community First Aid Responder provided by FastAid (Birmingham & Solihull). Established in 2005 this organisation trains volunteers to a nationally recognised medical standard to provide life saving treatment to people in the local community.

Their vehicles are fitted out with full medical facilities to enable them to provide the necessary support until the Ambulance Service arrives. The Deputy Grand Superintendent carried out one of his last duties in presenting a cheque to Stuart Jenkins, Secretary of FastAid (Birmingham and Solihull).



3) Chapter News

Recruiting, Retention, Re-Joining



Companions, most of us will be familiar with the educational criteria of the 3 R's (Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic, but of course to us it means, as the heading suggests, Recruiting, Retention and Re-Joining.

All of us have an individual responsibility to promote our Order and to ensure that all Master Masons are fully aware of the 4 steps that are required to complete the journey in Pure Ancient Freemasonry.

To this end the Province have appointed a Lodge RA Representative in every Lodge and, Companions, make no mistake, this is not just a title it is perhaps the most important communication conduit we have between individual Craft Masons and Royal Arch Masonry.

Not only do we ask you to promote the Royal Arch at every Lodge Meeting, whether your name is on the Summons, you are asked to give a Report as part of the Agenda or perhaps you take the opportunity to raise the subject during the Third Risings, but we have now asked you to provide a report to your RA Coordinator. (There is at least one of these in every Masonic Building).

We would please request that you provide us with an end of Masonic Season Report answering the following questions:

1. How many Members in the Lodge?
2. How many are RA Members?
3. How many are currently subscribing members of a Chapter?
4. How many Master Masons are in the Lodge and have yet to take the Final Step?

At the presentation of every Supreme Grand Chapter Certificate conducted by the Provincial Team, the officer carrying out the presentation will mention the "Indissoluble Link" between the Craft and Royal Arch Masonry and will further state that the Royal Arch really is the Foundation of the whole Masonic structure.

With this in mind let us therefore approach the new Masonic Year with an earnest intent to ensure that each and every one of us promotes the benefits of being a Member of the Order.

Companions, you are the ones who can ensure our future success and, if you find that you have no work to do in your Lodge and to avoid the oft repeated Order of Business ~" To receive a talk of Masonic interest" encourage your Lodge to contact E. Comp. Geoff Weston and book the "Talking Heads" team.

To date they have still to attend Northfield, Malvern and Tenbury Wells Masonic Centres and are always on the look-out for booking opportunities. All that is asked is that you do all that is possible to maximise attendance by inviting other Lodges and Craft Masons to join you.

In conclusion, enjoy your Summer and return refreshed to continue to enjoy our wonderful Order.

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.

http://www.worcestershirepgchapter.org.uk/contact_us