

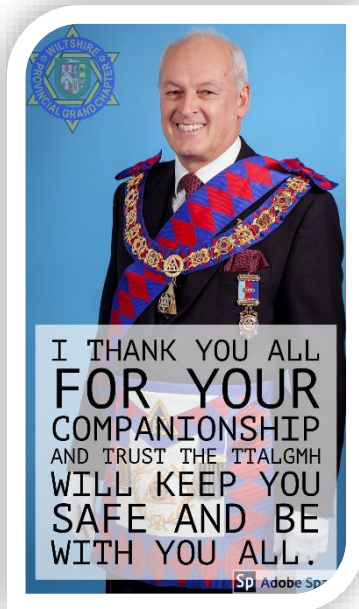


# Royal Arch Newsletter #8

May 2020

E Comp. Mark Fuller PrGReg – 0797 096 0541/Chapter4714@hotmail.com  
Provincial Information and Communication Officer

## Message from the Grand Superintendent 9th May 2020



Companions I greet you all well. Today, as I am sure many of you know, was to have been our Annual Provincial Grand Chapter Convocation at Melksham where we as members of this Province we would have welcomed our friends and distinguished guests from the surrounding Provinces.

Unfortunately due to the unprecedented, difficult and challenging circumstances, we are currently faced with Covid-19 virus causing the suspension of all masonic activities. I am sure like me you are missing the camaraderie and companionship we all enjoy as members of the Royal Arch.

As our convocations have been suspended we have immediately turned to social media to keep in contact with one another. Information technology has provided the conduit for our daily advancement in masonic knowledge, and while this may be a dormant period for us, it provides an excellent opportunity to enhance our knowledge in all things masonic, even brushing up or learning a new piece of ritual.

Here I acknowledge the commitment of two Companions - Excellent Companions Michael Lee Past Deputy Grand Superintendent and Mark Fuller the Provincial Grand Registrar and Communications/Information Officer who have both contributed greatly in providing us with copious amounts of interesting masonic facts, and thought provoking material. Excellent Companion Michael's "Fred and Charlie" papers now have a large following, these can be viewed via Solomon (which can be accessed through the UGLE website) and at [www.pglwilts.com](http://www.pglwilts.com) both sites are a must view for both Craft and Royal Arch referencing.

Excellent Companion Mark has provided us and his followers across Twitter with numerous enlightening Royal Arch articles, editing and producing our very informative quarterly newsletter. Continuing through the year to cover and report on all of our important events within our Chapters, charitable presentations and social events, a huge undertaking and keeping the Royal Arch at the forefront of our minds.

In mentioning charity, over the last 12 months we have supported - Victim Support Wiltshire, Springboard Pre-School at Chippenham and Wylde Valley Disabled Children's Charity. Companions I cannot thank you enough for your continued generosity enabling the Province to support these deserving charities which are child and young adult biased. We shall continue to support such charities again this year, especially through our Children at Christmas initiative.



Not being able to hold our Annual Provincial Convocation I cannot express how disappointed I am at not being able to personally invest the newly appointed Provincial Grand Officers together with those receiving well-deserved promotions but we must all look forward to the day the suspension is lifted and we can return to our Chapters and move forward.

In the meantime it is important that we continue to stay in contact with the each other providing support and assistance where needed, Excellent Companion John Deane and his team at Corsham (delivering food parcels etc.) are a true example of how we as an organisation portray ourselves, caring for our fellow beings. I know there are many other members contributing in many valuable and appreciative ways. However please let's not forget those members who have not attended our meetings for some time, it's so important they are not forgotten, who knows they may be in desperate need of our assistance. By communicating with them now in these uncertain times by just having that conversation or an offer of assistance may just be the catalyst that brings them back to enjoy the Companionship of the Order, but most importantly we need to know they are safe and well.

As always it's these difficult times that bring people together, but Companions for us that should never be the case, so I ask each Chapter to focus on re-engagement, to implement a strategy that best suits your members to maintain contact with our non-attendees, as we know the longer a member is absent from our meetings the harder it is for them to return.

So now is a good time to plan for the future, and it is most pleasing to know there are a number of candidates waiting to be exalted. Our ceremonies when well performed are rewarding and invigorating, whilst ensuring a most memorable evening for both candidates and members.

I am heartened to see much of the ritual is now being shared not only by the Companions on the floor but in some Chapters by the Three Principals, on each occasion I have had the pleasure to witness this, the ritual has been exceptional and brings another dimension to our meetings. Companions, quality has to be central to the Province's future, we are the custodians of our Chapters, we are the foundation and building blocks for the future, so the standards we establish today will be the standards our new members will live up to in the future.



As this should have been our Annual Convocation I congratulate all those who were to be appointed and promoted in Provincial Grand Chapter and remind you there is the expectation as ambassadors of the Royal Arch that you will continue to support and encourage the newer members to take part in our ceremonies whilst guiding them to, and through the Principals Chairs, not forgetting where ever possible to promote the Holy Royal Arch within your Craft Lodges.

To the newly appointed active Provincial Officers when we are able to resume our meetings I encourage you to fully embrace the year of your appointment by supporting the Provincial Executive at Installations, Fraternal Visits and Special Convocations, only then will you fully appreciate and enjoy the honour you have received.

I acknowledge the loyalty and support that I have received from the outgoing team of Provincial Officers, whether it be standing in whenever called upon to support our chapters, assisting the Province in ceremonies of exaltation, lectures, Talking Heads, Your Chapter in Camera, the list goes on Companions, but I am truly grateful for their commitment, as are the individual Chapters on nights of Installation.

Companions the Province continues to run smoothly due to the tireless work undertaken by the Provincial Executive, much of their work goes un-noticed as does the work of the Chapter Scribes, Treasurers, Directors of Ceremonies, Almoners and Charity Stewards, these are important offices which bring with them huge responsibilities in the

administration, welfare and ceremonial aspects of our order. As Companions let us lighten their burden – respond to the summons, send an apology where necessary, commit to the office you have accepted by attending all rehearsals and meetings, ensure dues are paid in a timely fashions, let the Almoner know of those who may be requiring assistance. Companions I am sure you will agree, as Freemasons and Companions this is just common decency, respect and commitment not only for each other, but more importantly, for those Companions who hold these important offices who ensure the Chapters run in conformity with the Regulations and By-laws ensuring our continued enjoyment of the Royal Arch.



Our enjoyment should have been shared more recently with those Companions and Brethren receiving Grand Honours, alas both Supreme Grand Chapter and Grand Lodge succumbed to the suspension, but on a much happier note I am sure you will join with me in congratulating Excellent Mark Lovell our 3rd Provincial Grand Principal on his appointment in Grand Chapter to Past Grand Standard Bearer and I couple this with Excellent Companion Colin Cheshire our Deputy Grand Superintendent who in Grand Lodge was promoted to Past Junior Grand Deacon both richly deserved honours.

It cannot go without mentioning the continued support we receive from the Craft, as always I acknowledge my grateful thanks to the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master in support of Royal Arch and the continued collaboration with the Craft Executive in promoting the Holy Royal Arch as we are the natural complement to the Craft, that in-dissolvable link that binds both Craft and Royal Arch together.

Finally Companions I thank each and every one of you for your support over the past year and as always look forward to meeting you all when safe to do so, in the

knowledge that the Holy Royal Arch in Wiltshire is a most appealing Order in which to belong. I thank you all for your Companionship and trust the TTALGMH will keep you safe and be with you all.



### The Royal Arch Bookshelf

One of our Companions has been keeping himself busy reading through the various Royal Arch books on his bookshelf!

What other titles would you recommend?

## The Royal Arch Online

Despite the pause in our usual meetings many Chapters have continued to be busy with a variety of online activities – WhatsApp, Zoom etc.

The Province was not going to miss out when it was invited by Vastern Lodge No. 8977 to take part in one of its weekly online discussions. A quick conversation with the Grand Superintendent and the production of a script saw the Province ready for the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

The format was an introduction and discussion between the Grand Superintendent and E Comp Mark Fuller before opening the presentation up for questions. The type of questions covered included:

1. What is the Royal Arch all about?
2. What is the origin of the Holy Royal Arch?
3. At what date was the Royal Arch first mentioned?
4. Is the Royal Arch an Order or a Degree of Freemasonry?
5. What is the difference between Holy Royal Arch and Chapter?
6. What is Holy Royal Arch Freemasonry?
7. Why are you called Companions?
8. How does the Royal Arch fit into Craft Masonry from a Historical Perspective?
9. When should you join the Royal Arch?
10. What do you get on a personal level from being in the Royal Arch?
11. Why is it the 'Holy' Royal Arch?
12. Why is it in some Provinces the Provincial Grand Master and the Grand Superintendent are the same person?

# THE HOLY ROYAL ARCH

an introduction for master masons

Join Provincial Communication Officer  
E.Comp. Mark Fuller for an online  
presentation and discussion

**Tuesday 21st April 7.00pm**

Hosted by Vastern Lodge No.8977

Making a daily advancement in Masonic Knowledge.

To join the discussion email: [pcowiltshire@gmail.com](mailto:pcowiltshire@gmail.com)



## A Daily Advancement

Throughout March and April the Province ran a series of forty daily advancements related to the Royal Arch.

These were hosted on the Provincial Twitter page - @PGCWiltshire.

Even if you are not on Twitter you can still 'google' the @PGCWiltshire page and enjoy the advancements.

**PGChapter Wiltshire**  
3,034 Tweets



**PGChapter Wiltshire**  
@PGCWiltshire

Official Twitter page of the Provincial Grand Chapter Of Wiltshire

Wiltshire [pگلwilt.org.uk/royal-arch/](http://pگلwilt.org.uk/royal-arch/) Joined July 2013

1,405 Following 1,727 Followers

[Edit profile](#)

**PGChapter Wiltshire**  
3,034 Tweets

**PGChapter Wiltshire** @PGCWiltshire · Apr 26  
Daily Advancement #37

The Ark of the Covenant  
Legend has it that King Solomon's son by the Queen of Sheba, stole the Ark and took it back to Ethiopia where it is today or the book of Maccabees claims it is hidden in a cave, somewhere on the West Bank or the Dead Sea.



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**PGChapter Wiltshire**  
3,034 Tweets

**PGChapter Wiltshire** @PGCWiltshire · Apr 17  
Daily Advancement #29

The trowel applies mortar to bind building material together & is recognised as a symbol of companionable unity. It is also a sign of confidentiality in that the secrets of a Companion would be equally well preserved and cemented in our breast.



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**PGChapter Wiltshire**  
3,034 Tweets

**PGChapter Wiltshire** @PGCWiltshire · Mar 27  
Daily Advancement #9

Why do Companions wear a sash?

Companions wear a red & blue sash to remember those who helped at the building of the Second Temple, who, with the trowel in their hand and sword by their side were ever ready to defend the City and Holy Sanctuary.



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**PGChapter Wiltshire**  
3,034 Tweets

Masonry".

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## Donations Continue

The Province has continued to make donations to worthy causes over the last few months. At one of the last engagements before meetings ceased the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Excellent Companion John Reid, hosted the Annual Provincial Luncheon on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Despite the challenging conditions and the rapidly changing advice the luncheon was still well attended.

After a fantastic meal and good conversation, the Companions and their partners received a short presentation from Jane Boulton representing the **Springboard Pre-School** in Chippenham. She explained about the work they do with pre-school children with special needs and their families. Jane also explained how the items donated by the Province before Christmas were being used. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent thanked her and all the staff at Springboard for the fantastic work they do and presented her with a cheque for £500 to further support their work – see photos below.

A further £500 donation was made to **Victim Support Wiltshire**. In these difficult days, the charity devised a number of new support packs for clients, which play a big part in the support they are able to offer. Packs include support and advice on managing Anxiety, Mindfulness and Antisocial Behaviour. Where possible the packs are sent electronically but not all clients have access to this method so hard copies are being printed and sent to them. Clients read through the packs and receive a scheduled call to go through it with them. There is a printing cost for which we will need to rely on local financial donations.

*“The Provincial Grand Chapter of Wiltshire has shown through their support and encouragement for local Charities and Community Groups that you are an organisation ‘who cares for the Carers’ ... thank you ...”*



# The Holy Royal Arch

Are you ready  
to complete your journey  
into pure Ancient Masonry



Step 1  
Entered Apprentice

Step 2  
Fellowcraft

Step 3  
Master Mason

Step 4  
Companion

The Royal Arch provides the last piece in the jigsaw. Only by joining the Royal Arch do you complete the journey through what has been called Pure and Ancient Freemasonry, which is what you joined when you took your first stumbling steps through the door of your lodge. The Royal Arch is the fourth step and the one which makes you a complete Freemason.

G.S.



Postcard From The Province