



# Royal Arch Newsletter #10

March 2021

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

## Solomon . . . it's not just for Craft Masons

On the night of our Initiation, we were given a Book of Constitutions, but how often do we open it . . . or have we ever opened it?

We were all told in the Charge to the Initiate that we should endeavour to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. This may not be easy in these worrying times with the temporary suspension of Freemasonry and other priorities, but help is on hand.

Since its successful launch, some 2 years ago, the world of Freemasonry has moved on considerably, and Solomon has moved on with it. From its original base of pure written material, it has expanded its reach and provided new ways of learning to new audiences with new modules which include sound recordings, interactive and audio-visual content - with more content planned for future release.

Solomon, however, is far more than a library or repository of material. Solomon is a Virtual Learning Environment – like those used by Colleges and Universities – making not only the content easier to navigate, but also enabling each user to customise the ways in which they learn.

With the current meeting suspension, Solomon has taken on an even more significant role as a resource for the enjoyment and instruction of individual Freemasons and as a supply of informative, credible material for use at virtual gatherings and classes of instruction. But it's not just for the Craft Mason. It includes a 'Seek and Learn' module dedicated to the Royal Arch. With fewer meetings than Craft, no dedicated Chapter Mentor and nothing that equates to a Lodge of Instruction, Companions will find the nuggets, short papers, and recordings interesting and informative.

If you have not yet registered on Solomon, I encourage you to do so.

UGLE run monthly webinars for new users of Solomon and once registered you will be invited to attend

(Includes extracts from Arena Magazine, Edition 4)



Start your Journey  
<https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>



**“Provincial DC Soars to New Heights!”**

E Comp Richard Palmer, our Provincial Director of Ceremonies finds a new way to keep an eye on happenings across the Province!

## Online Meetings Continue

The Province has continued with an active virtual presence over the last few months. As well as individual Chapters meeting on a regular basis, the Provincial Executive has been planning and discussing the future.

We have also continued supporting Chapters and Craft Lodges with their meetings whenever we have been asked. As part of this we have currently produced a new talk called "A Momentous Discovery" – if you would like this delivered at a meeting just get in touch.



## Retention

We are highly successful at attracting candidates for Exaltation, but in order to thrive we also need to retain Companions.

The Stages of Retention:

1. Support – encourage Chapter to take part in ceremonies by splitting the ritual into smaller more manageable pieces.
2. Explain – take time to talk through what happened with new Companions and discuss how they felt. Many are impressed by the colour but confused by the ritual – put it into context for them.
3. Visit – arrange a visit to another Chapter to see another Exaltation to help Companions understand and feel a sense of belonging.
4. The Wider Picture – encourage attendance at Provincial Convocation, arrange a lecture or discussion (this could be a zoom meeting).
5. Keep Contact – check in on a regular basis and let people know you are interested in their journey in the Holy Royal Arch.

# Counselling

for Freemasons and  
their families

Contact us on **0800 035 60 90**  
or email **help@mcf.org.uk**  
**mcf.org.uk/counselling**



Royal Arch Masons have always held the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in high regard. It seems that his fame is spreading with his own car lane to make travel to meetings easier!



## Methuen Chapter Donation

Methuen Chapter No.1533 held a virtual meeting in March which saw the MEZ, E Comp Brandon Harman present a cheque for £250 from the Companions to the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent for the Children at Christmas Appeal.





## Chapter No 3129

### Border Chapter Donation

“A massive thank you to Border Chapter 3129 for their very kind and generous donation to this year’s Widows Sons Big Ride Charity event supporting our annual chosen charities.”

Stonecutters WSMBA



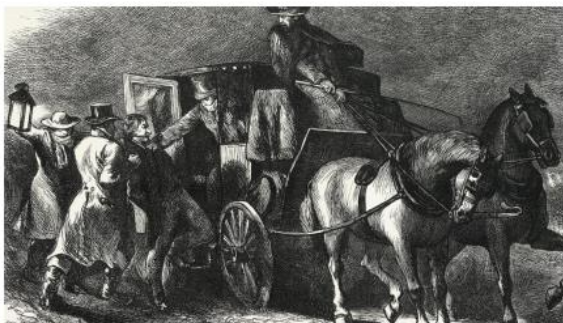
### Dates for The Diary

24 March 2021	7.30pm	General Purposes Committee	Zoom Meeting
08 May 2021	11.00am	Annual Provincial Convocation	TBC
22 June 2021	6.00pm	Wiltshire Chapter of First Principles In attendance – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grand Principal, E. Comp Gareth Jones	

### CHAPTER OF CONCORD No. 632



Presents a Talk to be given by  
E Comp Paul Lane.  
“The William Morgan affair”



Kidnapping, conspiracy, Murder, & intrigue, a scandal that rocked the very foundation of Freemasonry in the early 1800’s.

You are invited to join the Chapter of Concord on the  
22<sup>nd</sup> Feb at 19:30hrs: To Join our Zoom Meeting & Talk:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78351141590?pwd=bEdOc3FLL0tRZlIdPQm5sWkRlYk9nQT09>

Meeting ID: 783 5114 1590

Passcode: 632

### The Morgan Affair

“I would suggest that there have only ever been two major scandals in the modern history of Freemasonry; the most recent being the “Roberto Calvi Affair” in England and Italy; and the “William Morgan Affair” which took place in America in the early 1800’s.”

So started an excellent presentation by E Comp Paul Lane of Chapter of Concord No. 632 on ‘The William Morgan Affair’ which took place in the early 1800s.

A good number of Companions attended, and a number of questions were asked afterwards, including a remarkably interesting diversion into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the Wiltshire Village of Steeple Ashton.

Thanks E Comp Paul – a fascinating evening

## Recruitment

The past year has been challenging for Royal Arch Masonry as we have had no chance to Exalt any new Companions. The Province has at least 19 Brethren waiting to join Chapters, but we should not be complacent.

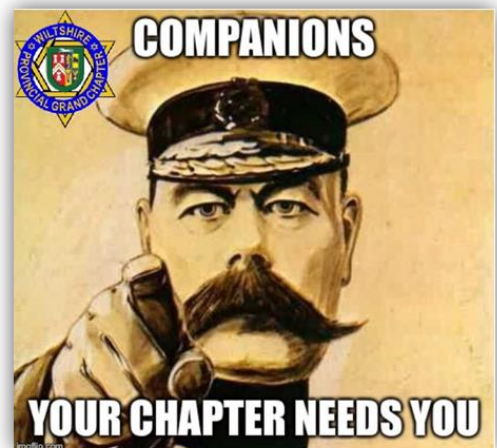
There is now light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully we will, very soon be meeting in our Chapters again and enjoying the Companionship of The Royal Arch.

Retaining our members is something we must do, but it is only one side of the coin – we must also all play a part in recruiting new members if we want our Chapters to thrive. Remember you can recommend someone for membership however long you have been a Companion.

### The Stages of Recruitment:

1. Be visible – be proud of the Royal Arch and wear your Chapter Jewel, tie, and lapel badge. Take the opportunity to update your Craft Lodge about the latest developments in the Province and at Supreme Grand Chapter. Suggest the 'Talking Heads' presentation if you don't have a ceremony.
2. The Private Conversation – talk to Brothers who are not yet members and gauge their interest.
3. Know your audience – follow up the private conversation as appropriate. Revisit it on a regular basis and see if anything has changed.
4. Be Honest – be clear about commitments and cost. Ensure you recommend the right Chapter for the individual (it might not be the one attached to your Lodge or even your own Chapter).

We know many new Master Masons are interested in the Royal Arch, but do not know how to find out more – talk to them and engage them. We also know there are many more experienced Craft Masons who think they must be asked and therefore the opportunity has passed them by – again just have a conversation.



**“ . . .no Mason should be joining other orders without first completing their journey in Pure Antient Masonry by becoming a member of the Holy Royal Arch.”**

From the address by the ME First Grand Principal HRH The Duke of Kent on 25 April 2019

From: <https://www.freemasonrytoday.com/ugle-sgc/supreme-grand-chapter/speeches/first-grand-principal-s-address-april-2019>

## A Momentous Discovery

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Excellent Companion John Reid and Provincial Information Officer, Excellent Companion Mark Fuller took the new Royal Arch Zoom Presentation, A Momentous Discover to both Sarum Lodge No. 5137 and St Edmund Chapter No. 4714 on 03 and 04 March, respectively.

Both evenings saw a large number of Brethren and Companions in attendance and after each presentation the questions and discussions were enjoyable and at times challenging.

The team are happy to present to your Craft Lodge or Chapter, just get in touch.

