



# Royal Arch Newsletter #14

June 2022

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Provincial Information and Communication Officer



## Address to the Companions on the occasion of the Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022 by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent – E Comp John C Reid

Companions, I welcome you all here this morning and thank you for giving up your precious time to support our Annual Convocation. I have already welcomed our distinguished guests many of whom have once again travelled long distances to be with us, this truly shows the continued support we have for one another, and the enjoyment achieved through the Companionship of the Royal Arch.

On behalf of the Wiltshire Executive, I take this opportunity to thank those Province's represented here today for their most generous hospitality when we have attended their Annual Convocations, we trust your visit to Wiltshire today will be equally enjoyable and memorable.

Companions today is a special day of celebration and I congratulate all those Companions who I have had the pleasure of appointing and promoting this morning. Your preferment is in recognition of your continued contribution and commitment to both your Chapters and the Province.

I couple this with the promotion and appointment in Grand Rank of Excellent Companion Peter Read promotion to Past Assistant Grand Sojourner, and Excellent Companion Michael Taylor appointed to Past Grand Standard Bearer. Companions, whether Grand or Provincial Grand Rank, comes the responsibility for your continued commitment in promoting the Order with the aim of recruiting, supporting, encouraging and retaining members.

We can see from the Registrars report our numbers have reduced primarily due to the period of Masonic suspension, however there is good news Companions, many Chapters are reporting multiple candidates waiting patiently to join. I am optimistic that we can once again return to increasing our membership year on year as we return to some form of normality.

But we must not forget those members who have been hesitant to return to our Convocations, let them know they have been missed and their contribution and attendance is valued by your Chapters, encourage them to return to enjoy our ceremonies and the Companionship of the Order.

I am pleased to say we are now involving more Companions in our ceremonies, even sharing the work between the three Principals, this has brought its rewards, giving members a greater sense of belonging, pride, and ownership, this is to be continually encouraged Companions.

One Chapter in the Province has taken their ceremony a stage further by acting out the findings in the vault, in doing so the ceremony becomes more meaningful to the candidate, as we know actions speak louder than words, Companions it certainly does add value to the ceremony. Should you wish to see how it's undertaken I recommend a visit to St Edmund Chapter at Calne, I guarantee you will be suitably impressed.

Whilst I am a traditionalist, I am always keen that our ceremonies make sense, I am not looking for wholesale changes to be made, but it is often worth looking at the ritual we use and see if it's logical. As an example, in one Chapter I

attended recently I noticed that the sharing of the word was done before the explanation of the signs, and this does seem somewhat illogical. Just because we have always done something does not make it right and there is no harm in the occasional revision of what we do.

Let's not forget our meetings must be enjoyable, fun as well as retaining a sense of humour, while keeping everything in perspective, but I am sure we would all agree that a Masonic ceremony performed well, is a memorable occasion, so let us all strive to perform to the best of our ability, should your Chapter need assistance or guidance the Provincial Team is here to help, you only have to ask.



Once again Companions I thank those Chapters that have given generously in support of our "Children at Christmas" initiative, this year enabling us to assist Victim Support (Wiltshire) specifically to purchase relevant items to supplement the emotional support they provide to children and young people who have been affected by, or involved in, "Hate Crime".

We are currently liaising with Wiltshire Portage, which is an independent organisation providing a free home-visiting, specialist educational service for children up to 4 years of age with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Working with families and their young children they provide unique learning opportunities through holistic play to help the children develop a quality of life and experience in which they can learn together, play together, participate and be included in their community.

Companions through your generosity it will enable us to purchase for Wiltshire Portage specialist resources and aids in supporting each child's individual learning path.

So, Companions it will come as no surprise that the alms collection today using the gift aid envelopes, will go towards our Relief Chest enabling us to continue to support and assist children and young adults.

Companions Supreme Grand Chapter through the Members Communication Working Party and the Regional Liaison Group are working hard behind the scenes gathering information from Exaltees, Master Mason's surveys and Grand Superintendents reports, to provide better guidance in taking the Royal Arch forward, which will lead to the production of a purposeful narrative for the Royal Arch and provide a well-structured "Archway" document in line with the Craft "Pathway". Companions this is a huge task the results of which we will not see until well into 2023.

Later in the year UGLE will be launching their Strategy for the next seven years. Having attended an overview, I can inform you that it will require buy-in from all of us to enable it to be successful, the strategy does incorporate Supreme Grand Chapter and the Royal Arch which goes to show the inextricable link that exists between the Craft and Royal Arch.

Companions I am in a privileged position to undertake many enjoyable and pleasurable tasks, today is no exception having invested a new 2<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Grand Principal and Deputy Grand Superintendent and in due time I very much look forward to investing Excellent Companion Roger Pounder as 3<sup>rd</sup> Provincial Grand Principal. As masonry is a progressive science as members progress others must move aside, today is tinged with an element of sadness as Excellent Companion Colin Cheshire steps down as Deputy Grand Superintendent a position he has held for the last seven years, a totally dedicated Freemason a very special Companion who has worked indefatigably for the Royal Arch in this Province, arguably one of the most committed, hardest working members for Freemasonry we have in this Province.

I take this opportunity to thank my Executive and Provincial Officers for their loyal support and commitment during what has been a difficult period of uncertainty for us all, and very much look forward to working with the new Provincial Team in the year ahead.

Companions today is a big occasion which takes a huge amount of work behind the scenes, I am so aware of the time, planning and commitment that has been expended by all the Companions involved, to those Companions, I thank you most sincerely. Special thanks are extended to the Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, Vince Delderfield, and his Assistant Excellent Companion Lee Fuller, along with the Director of Ceremonies, Richard Palmer, and his team and those

Chapters under whose banners we are meeting today; the Wiltshire Chapter N° 355, Border Chapter N° 3129 and the Highworth Chapter N° 9009.

Finally, Companions I thank each and every one of you for your support here today and again look forward with great optimism to the year ahead in serving this wonderful Province as your Grand Superintendent, Companions, I thank you for your attention and may TTALGMH be with you all.



## What's next for YOU in Freemasonry?

- Have you just been made a Master Mason?
- Are you a Past Master, thinking of trying something different?
- Maybe you are wanting to expand your Masonic experience?

## Why not join the Royal Arch?

– to 'complete your knowledge of Craft Freemasonry'

Do you want to know more, but are not sure who to ask?

Then register for the presentation:

## 'What's next for YOU in Freemasonry?

– an introduction to the Royal Arch Chapter'

You can learn a great deal about 'The Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch', but not too much that it spoils the impact of your first meeting!

Come and talk with the Companions of the Order.

Saturday morning 18<sup>th</sup> June at the Planks in Swindon, 10 to around 11.30am

Refreshments provided. **Free registration here:** <https://bit.ly/38hgwMx>

Any questions, email Andy at [1295chapter@gmail.com](mailto:1295chapter@gmail.com), or call 07941 041364

**Why not make it the next Chapter in your  
Masonic life?**



The New Provincial Team at the Chapter of Friendship & Unity No. 1271





“ . . . no Brother’s Masonic  
experience can be considered truly  
complete unless he has been  
exalted into the Order of the Holy  
Royal Arch.”

The Board of General Purposes - 2009

### **Biblical timeline for the Royal Arch**

Taken from [solomon.ugle.org.uk](http://solomon.ugle.org.uk)

The Historical Lecture opens with the line:

*‘Companions, there are three epochs in the history of Freemasonry  
which particularly merit your attention.*

*They are the openings of the First or Holy Lodge, the Second or  
Sacred Lodge, and the Third or Grand and Royal Lodge.’*

Many Chapters drink to the memory of ‘The Grand Originals’ from these three Lodges at the festive board.

There is however a great deal to be gained from setting these moments of time in a wider context. Some aspects of our story make more sense when we take a broader view of the history surrounding the three main epochs.

The dates on the following page set a wider context to help a greater understanding of the Royal Arch story.

Getting to know the story itself is the first step in understanding the allegory within it.

The dates are presented as both BCE (before the Common Era), and CE (Common Era).



BCE / CE (circa)	Event	Significance to the RA
4000 BCE	Creation – the symbolic or figurative date representing creation.	Genesis: <i>'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep'</i> . The first words of the Book of Genesis.
2000 BCE	Abraham leads the Jewish people from Babylon to Canaan (later Israel); the <i>'Promised Land'</i> .	Genesis later outlines Abraham's journey of some 600 miles, from Ur to Canaan. Based upon God's Promise of <i>'land that I will show you'</i> and of one day being a <i>'great nation'</i> ; hence the <i>'Promised Land'</i> .
1750 BCE	Abraham's grandson, Jacob, (who later changed his name to Israel) and his 12 sons move to Egypt because of the famine in Canaan.	Jacob's 12 sons and grandsons became the patriarchs of the 12 tribes of Israel which are represented by the Banners in the Chapter
1500 BCE	Moses leads the children of Israel out of captivity in Egypt. It takes 40 years for them to reach the Promised Land; then known as Canaan and later to be called Israel.	Moses, Bezaleel and Aholiab build the Tabernacle in the wilderness of Sinai at the foot of Mount Horeb. We refer to it as The First, or Holy Lodge.
1000 BCE	Solomon, son of David, builds the First Temple with help from Hiram, King of Tyre and Hiram Abiff.	Solomon, Hiram King of Tyre and Hiram Abiff build the Temple during which the genuine secrets are lost due to the untimely death of Hiram Abiff as explained in the Third Degree in the Craft. We refer to it as The Second, or Sacred Lodge.
586 BCE	Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon conquers Israel, destroys Jerusalem and with it Solomon's Temple. The Nobility of Judea are taken into captivity, leaving behind the peasantry to till the soil under the Babylonian-chosen Judean (Jewish) governor Gedaliah.	This is the specific event which forms the foundation of the Royal Arch story and is a major theme in the Ceremony
582 BCE	Gedaliah assassinated. The remaining Jewish people are taken captive into Babylon.	
29 October 539 BCE	Cyrus I enters Babylon and becomes Emperor.	
538 BCE	Cyrus King of Persia lets the Jewish people and other exiles return to their native land. The Jews rebuild the Temple. Zerubbabel, Haggai, and Joshua lead the Sanhedrin in supervising this work.	Zerubbabel, Haggai and Joshua preside over the building of the Second Temple. This is the backdrop for the Exaltation Ceremony, in which the genuine secrets of a Master Mason are found by the Sojourners. We refer to this as The Third, or Grand and Royal Lodge.
70 CE	Herod's Temple is destroyed again by the Romans.	



## Provincial Merchandise – Price List

Ties £10.00  
Pocket Squares £10.00  
Napkins £12.00  
Pens £2.00  
Lapel Badge £3.00

Contact E Comp Andrew Tiffin: [jazmin@btinternet.com](mailto:jazmin@btinternet.com)

## Victim Support Donation

“Thank you for the fantastic news; £1,000 is a very generous donation from the members of the Masonic Provincial Grand Chapter of Wiltshire.

May I reiterate personal words I have used on many occasions ... words which come from my heart ... “your invaluable and generous support has conveyed emotional support and encouragement to our staff and volunteer teams and through them to the members of our Wiltshire Community; to the family and friends and all those touched by the trauma - the distress - of the individual concerned”.

The donation from your ‘Children at Christmas’ appeal will be put to invaluable use enabling us to provide a range of resources to support the children and young people of our service users who have been victims of crimes motivated by hostility or prejudice - known as ‘Hate Crime’.”



**RE: Donation from Provincial Grand Chapter of Wiltshire**

Dear Andrew,

On behalf of Victim Support Wiltshire, I am writing today to kindly thank the Provincial Grand Chapter of Wiltshire for their incredible generosity in donating £1,000.00 to our charity.

The donation from your members will enable us to purchase items that we can provide to the children and young people who are often also negatively impacted by the events which have taken place. As an example, one such initiative which has already proved extremely popular are ‘Worry Eaters’; these are soft monster toys with ‘zips’ as mouths who swallow children’s worries. Additional to the Worry Eaters, other new initiatives can now be purchased due to your donation, and will provide a focus enabling families, following our guidance, to create a talking point enabling them to work through what is happening and to see how they can best move forward together.

Due to us taking precautionary measures and to be extra cautious in a bid to protect our beneficiaries as well as our staff and volunteer teams as a result of coronavirus, we are still unable to meet people face to face. So now, more than ever, the ability for us to provide additional support through provision of these items, especially for children and young persons, is so very important in enhancing the support we provide remotely.

Thank you once again for your generosity, and for meeting with our Operations Manager Julie Boyle and Hate Crime Project Worker Daisy Budgen. It was a pleasure to be able to showcase to you the wide variety of support services that we provide throughout Wiltshire.

Yours Sincerely,

**Sarah Hunt**  
Service Delivery Assistant

## Dates For The Diary

Thu 9 Jun 2022	Border	3129
Fri 10 Jun 2022	1st Principals	6731
<b>Fri 24 Jun 2022</b>	<b>Highworth</b>	<b>9009</b>
<b>Thu 1 Sep 2022</b>	<b>St Edmund</b>	<b>4714</b>
Tue 6 Sep 2022	Stonehenge	6114
Wed 14 Sep 2022	Wiltshire	355
Wed 21 Sep 2022	Elias de Derham	586
<b>Thu 22 Sep 2022</b>	<b>Thynne</b>	<b>1478</b>
<b>Fri 23 Sep 2022</b>	<b>1st Principals</b>	<b>6731</b>
<b>Mon 26 Sep 2022</b>	<b>Lansdowne</b>	<b>626</b>

Book in with Scribe E, go along and visit another Chapter.

**Installation Meetings**



## Remember the Travelling Quaich?

After a couple of years not travelling the practice . . . watch this space, its coming back!