

## Address PGC Sept 2011

E Comp and Companions welcome to Provincial Grand Chapter.

It is, as always, good to see so many of you here this morning. Many of you are regular attendees at our Annual Convocation so you know what to expect. I extend to those here for the first time either receiving Provincial Honours or supporting some other Companions or indeed just to find out what happens a special welcome and I hope at the end of the meeting you will feel it was worthwhile.

To the recent exaltees with us this morning I would ask you allow time, perhaps even a couple of years, to watch, listen and learn about what is a very meaningful attractive and I hope friendly completion of pure ancient masonry.

I congratulate those Companions just appointed or promoted in Provincial Grand Chapter. Enjoy your preferment but remember we are all judged by the way you conduct your relationships with the Companions of your Chapter. I suggest gentle diplomacy rather than harsh insistence. Perhaps now is a good time to revisit the Book of Constitutions to remind yourselves of what Companions will expect you to know. Do not be afraid to admit you don't know, offering to find an answer is a safe way forward and beats guessing every time.

We have been considering how best to adopt the benefits of mentoring as demonstrated in the Craft and how to adapt the concept to the Royal Arch which has different needs but believe me it has needs. For those Chapters who have not already gone down the mentoring route I have decided to try a simple approach and designate the MEZ as the principal mentor in our Chapters and to expect him to appoint a suitable Companion to be the personal Mentor of each new exaltee. Experience suggests that it may take some time for the ritual in the Royal Arch to be fully appreciated and understood and having a Mentor to support and encourage the new Companion and to whom questions can be addressed is likely to be a help in achieving this understanding. A letter enlarging on this proposal will be sent to all Scribe E's next week

9 November is a date for your diaries being the regular visit from this Province to SGC and this year we are lunching afterwards at Grand Connaught Rooms.

The other date now less important is 2 November when for the first time in this Province a demonstration of the Ceremony of the Veils will take place – not too much to say on this as the event is completely sold out. We had an initial limit of 120 but increased to 140 and have a long waiting list. Next presentation is likely to be in 2013 as SGC has imposed restrictions on the frequency of such a presentation in order that it is seen as unique and special. Comp Jim Lackenby lead this as Provincial Ruler with Paul Harper as Z of Stewards Chapter and Mike Minter did the work!! (as Scribe E). Invitations to act as hosts of the next presentation will be happily received after this year's event

As always I extend a warm welcome to all our guests but more especially to my fellow Grand Superintendents. From Lincolnshire I welcome Graham Ives and from Durham Norman Eric Heavisde. We are delighted to have deputations (large deputations) from Yorkshire West Riding, Northumberland, Cumberland & Westmorland and from East Lancashire – we are delighted to see you all with us after many a long journey.

Companions it is always a delight to have with us, as we do today, our own Past Grand Superintendent who celebrated 50 years in the craft just last Wednesday. Please welcome John Raylor,

The Heads of other Orders who are able to be with us despite many claims on their time are Comp Eric Gore-Browne ProvGM of the Mark degree, Comp David Scott the Grand Superintendent of Knights Templar Priests and Comp David Fox Intendant General of the \red Cross of Constantine

Like other years we say goodbye to some key players.

I have already thanked our 3rd Prov G Principal Jim Lackenby and we now say farewell today to our man from Cyprus and GCHQ – Terry Lister who has given us 4 years of friendship while acting as Prov G.D.C. I have heard it said that he will be a hard act to follow. Andy Hitchen his successor does not look too worried about the challenge.

The new DepGDC is Stuart Dick who brings considerable experience to that role?

I thank all who have represented me - Asst to Provincial Grand Principals Nigel Weightman, Scribe N Maurice Garmston and Registrar Ian Pollard, Past Officers and Grand Officers. We had a happy day at Supreme Grand Chapter in April when the Pro1st Grand Principal invested David Burnett to acting rank of AGDC, John Barlow and Andy Hitchen to PGStB with Nick Varey being promoted to PAGSoj.

I also want to record the appreciation of all of us here today for the work done by our Scribe E Brian Baker Gerald Gelder and the girls Linda and Marie in making all the administrative arrangements for today. Likewise to our Director of Ceremonies and his deputies as well as the vast number of Companions and Brethren from the Stewards Chapter and Lodge.

Companions I was at the Quarterly meeting of Grand Lodge 10 days ago and was so impressed with the address given by the Deputy Grand Master RWBro Jonathan Spence deputising for the Pro Grand Master that I feel that I must draw your attention to his very gifted statement. You can read it for yourselves in the Internet website [www.freemasonrytoday.com](http://www.freemasonrytoday.com)

Quote We need to be absolutely clear when we discuss our Pure Ancient Masonry that we belong to a secular organisation, that is to say a non-religious organisation  
Quote The fact that men from different faiths can meet easily in harmony and friendship without compromising their particular religious beliefs demonstrates that one of the greatest strengths of the Craft and indeed Royal Arch is that of Tolerance

Quote I suggest that we could articulate the fundamental principles to which our members subscribe as integrity honesty fairness kindness and tolerance

Quote We should also make it very clear that we very much enjoy ourselves and what we do. I have no doubt our principles will appeal to those who are not masons, if they are aware of them

Companions I sense that Royal Arch masonry is fit and well in this Province and at the Chapters I have been privileged to visit this year I found happy groups of Companions making every effort to ensure enjoyable meetings. I suggest that the Quality of enjoyment of our Chapter meetings is more important than the Quantity of members.

Companions I enjoy my role as Grand Superintendent although at times it is somewhat demanding. With the help of my team we will continue to try and give you every assistance to develop your Chapters and raise the level of both activity and enjoyment.

Thank you

And so I move to the 2013 Appeal

Companions in 1717 the first Grand Lodge was formed and as you know we will be celebrating that 300<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2017

In 1813 the warring factions known as the Antients and the Moderns finally came together and what is now the United Grand Lodge of England and shortly afterwards Supreme Grand Chapter were born.

While Craft masonry has over the 300 years been busy with many major projects for the good of humanity the Royal Arch has not felt the need to emulate this activity.

However a 200th birthday is a bit special and it has, as many of you know, been decided to mark this milestone with a national appeal to raise, for the Royal College of Surgeons Fellowship Scheme the equivalent of £10 plus gift aid per member (about perhaps £1million) between now and October 2013 when the appeal will close and the total fund handed over

While I look to your support for this Appeal I am minded to issue a challenge to the Companions of this Province to raise £20,000 being our contribution to the appeal but to do it by the end of the convocation in September 2012 - **i.e. in one year**. I am therefore asking for the equivalent of less than £1 per month from each of our members.

It seems a great excuse for some fun events and I am sure that each Chapter will find a unique way to gather their contribution. Indeed some Chapters are already some way down that route. Before I ask you to accept this challenge let us call off Provincial Grand Chapter and invite our guests from the Royal College to join us

*Provincial Grand Chapter was called off and a presentation was made by representatives of the Royal College of Surgeons*

I think you have had all the encouragement you need to support this 2013 appeal. After that splendid and emotional presentation I want you to show appreciation in two ways.

Firstly let us go away committed to find about £10 each in the next 12 months. I suggest your thunderous applause would confirm your commitment.

Secondly words cannot adequately express our appreciation of the presence of the presenters here at the Racecourse on a Saturday morning even if they are staying for lunch. I think it would suffice to show our appreciation to the members of the Royal College in the time honoured way – *long standing ovation*



*Denis Stublely (2nd Prov. Grand Principal), Richard Anderson, (Most Excellent Grand Superintendant)  
John Trout (Deputy Grand Superintendant) and Howard Potts (3rd Prov. Grand Principal)*