

**Summary of the Address by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent to
Provincial Grand Chapter
on 25 September 2010.**

I extend a very warm welcome to all the Companions here to day with a particular welcome to those attending for the first time.

Likewise I welcome those Companions who have taken on the responsibility of ME Zerubabul. I look forward to meeting some of you on my visits to Chapters.

I also look forward to your company at the First Principals Dinner. This event is growing in popularity and in 2011 is to be held on Tuesday 7 June at the Feathers in Helmsley

Companions, I wish to put on record my thanks to all of you and your friends and families for the contribution, the very valuable contribution that the Royal Arch Chapters made to the Prostate Cancer Appeal.

I had no preconceived idea as to the amount that we might be able to raise in 12 months but £124,000 was beyond my wildest dreams and I thank you for your generosity

There has been much said and written about the development of the Royal Arch and its relationship with the Craft. So much so that I think we may be in danger of over exposure of what might be no more than perceived issues

This Province has the enviable position of having exalted and retained as subscribing members over 48% of our Craft members.

In our neighbouring Provinces this figure is somewhat lower.

Having reasserted that the Royal Arch is the completion of the third degree and the conclusion of the journey through pure and ancient freemasonry, we have created an atmosphere which seems to assume that every Craft mason should, indeed must, be exalted into the Royal Arch.

I suggest to you that with nearly 50% of craft members already exalted it may be that many of the others - however much we might wish - just are not suitable candidates for the Royal Arch.

Whilst all of us here would like as many as possible to take the opportunity to become a Royal Arch Mason let us not bring into Chapter Masonry - brethren - who for whatever reason - are not so inclined.

I want them to be happy freemasons and while we can lead horses to water we should not try to make them drink and indeed we need to be sure that we are not bringing to the water those who may not want to be there and who may in future years be a statistical bad message for both Craft and Chapter

There is much that can be done to make the Royal Arch easier to understand and to make both the exaltation ceremony and the lectures more attractive and exciting.

I am not thinking of a Stephen Spielberg makeover or indeed something on the lines of Angels and Demons by Dan Brown but the discovery by the Sojourners has all the makings of a moving, exhilarating symbolic yarn.

Let us make sure that we take full advantage of the words handed down to us.

In a sense they were handed down to us nearly 200 years ago.

There are plans, not yet fully publicised, to celebrate this 200 year achievement which include a special meeting in October 2013 and an appeal to make a timely additional contribution to the Royal College of Surgeons Fund.

With this in mind the Alms collection this morning and for the next two meetings of Provincial Grand Chapter will go to Provincial Grand Charity, earmarked as the seed corn of our local fund raising efforts to support this 200th Anniversary Appeal.

This reminds me that we have again booked the Freemasons Arms in Great Queen Street for a Provincial lunch following the meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter on Wednesday 10th November.

The Grand Chapter meeting is open to all Companions and is of course colourful and conducted with the usual panache by the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team

I am sure that you would want to join with me in congratulating our recently appointed Officers of Supreme Grand Chapter. They are Dennis Stublely as P.G.St.B., Paul Harper to acting rank of A.G.D.C. and Tom Tomlinson as P.A.G.D.C.

The promotion this year went to Philip Harrison P.A.G.Soj.

Well done to them all.

I wish to record my thanks to my fellow Rulers, the Grand Officers and other Representatives this year including the top team of Stuart Dick -,Assistant to the Principals, Jollyon Smith – Prov.G.Scribe N. and Nigel Weightman – Prov.G.Reg. all of whom have been very active in making visits and supporting my team visits.

No I have not forgotten those that I have appointed or promoted this morning!!!!!!

You are perhaps the main attraction or the reason why we have so many Companions with us this morning.

Congratulations to you all but please remember that others will look up to you and we will all be judged by your caring and thoughtfulness in guiding Companions who might seek your assistance.

Events like to day do not just happen.

Months of planning go into the preparations.

Thanks are due to all those involved from the members of the Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter (and Lodge), the sound team so vital in this large venue, the secretarial team including the ladies Linda and Marie with Gerald Gelder and all

led by our Provincial Scribe Ezra Brian Baker . And importantly as always the DC team lead by our ProvGDC Terry Lister .

It is an honour for me to be your Grand Superintendent and I leave you with these words from the Royal Arch

“Companions be all of one mind; live in peace; and may the God of Love and Peace delight to dwell within you and bless you for evermore”