

The Worcestershire Second Risings



**Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch
Province of Worcestershire**

Special Edition – April 2023

This Second Rising Communication is for distribution by the Chapter Scribe E to all Chapter members either by email or sent as hard copy by post.

Introduction

By the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent



Companions, firstly may I thank you all for your support at our Annual Convocation, very nearly a full house! From the comments received from you and our guests from several Provinces I can only conclude our move to Kings Heath was a success!

May I also thank you for your kindness and best wishes following my fall at the end of last November. I am still recovering but happy to be out and about again.

Enjoy this bumper issue of Second Risings and have a good summer break.

I look forward to seeing you all in your Chapters in the coming months.

John



1) Supreme Grand Chapter

Although not a Royal Arch event we were delighted to welcome the Pro First Grand Principal, Jonathan Spence, to Kings Heath in January. He was attending in his position as Pro Grand Master a meeting of Worcestershire Installed Masters Lodge to talk about his strategy for the future of Freemasonry. The future is bright Companions!



At the Annual Investiture held on Thursday 27th April our PGM, E. Comp. Stephen J. Wyer has been promoted to the Acting Rank of Deputy Grand Sword Bearer and E. Comp. Stephen N. Middleditch appointed to the rank of Past Grand standard Bearer. Our Congratulations to both of them.



2) Provincial Grand Chapter



On Saturday 15th April some 196 Companions including a galaxy of Grand Superintendents, Deputies, Provincial Principals and other representatives from both near and far, gathered in No. 1 Lodge Room at Freemasons Hall, Kings Heath for our Annual Convocation. What an excellent day it turned out to be.

After greeting all the Guests and Rulers of the other Orders in the Province the Companions then stood in tribute to Departed Merit and so sadly in the Year 01.01.2022 – 31.12.2022 some 26 Companions Passed to the Grand Chapter above, including one of our Past Grand Superintendents, Richard Brian Ward Price. In mentioning his name our Grand Superintendent mentioned the recent Passing of the Deputy, Charles E S Harris, **PGSwdB**.

Following the receipt of the reports from the Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra and the Registrar, who drew attention to our current membership where, in the past 12 months we have lost some 30 Companions. The MEGS made comment on that in his address later in the Convocation. The

Treasurer then gave his report where he had to announce that the Annual Provincial Subscription would need to rise by £1 in the year commencing 1st January 2024.

There then followed the necessary Administrative Elections before what to many is the main items on the Agenda, the Appointments and Promotions.

The MEGS had no hesitation in re-appointing as Deputy Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. Michael D Cox, **PGSwdB**.



And followed this by re-appointing E. Comp. Tim M L Jones, **PGStB**, as the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal



Following this the Provincial DC presented E. Comp. Stephen N. Middleditch, PPrGSN, as the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal Elect who was then Installed in an excellent manner by the outgoing 3rd Provincial Grand Principal E. Comp. Keith M Evans, **PGStB**,



who, in his 20 months service in that Office had attended some 60 Installations within the Province as well as his other duties in a number of Orders.

E. Comp. Stephen then took his rightful place in the Chapter Room.



The MEGS then presented E. Comp. Keith with his Past Provincial 3rd Grand Principals Collarette



This was then followed by the Appointment of this year's Acting Officers followed by the Appointment of Past Ranks and Promotions.

As is the prerogative of the MEGS he then announced his choice of Companions to receive his Certificate of Merit.



This year his choices were.- E. Comp. Roger Hall-Jones, PPrGSN of Royd's Chapter C1204 whose cv proved quite remarkable for his work in Local Government, Charities and a Masonic career of some magnitude and E. Comp. Ken R. Hingley, PPrGSwdB, of Chapter of Dudley C252, who again had enjoyed an interesting business career and had been one of the main contributors to the conversion of the Stourbridge Temperance Hall to what is now the very well refurbished James S Webb Freemasons Centre.

The next item was the MEGS Address where he focused on the future, inviting every Companion to consider assisting in the Retention and Recruiting of members, not forgetting those who for whatever reason have become unattached. To this end an Invitation Card was provided for every member of the Province present to encourage them to become involved in the campaign.

4. New Initiatives

1. At the Annual Convocation on 15 April the MEGS in his address mentioned two initiatives for the forthcoming year.

- The Grand Sanhedrin
- The Archway to Improvement

These initiatives are designed to bolster our membership and amplify our enjoyment of this beautiful order.

It is perhaps worthwhile explaining a little bit more about both.

1. The Grand Sanhedrin is a meeting of all Chapters once a year to discuss how they are getting on and to share best practice. The invitation is aimed at the Z, Scribe E and last exalted Companion of each Chapter to join with the MEGS and his Executive and to discuss what meetings they are holding ; what candidates they are attracting and how they are going about attracting new candidates ; the support they want

from Province ; to foster the idea of visiting and to address any matters which the individual Chapters want to bring to the meeting. The aim is to hold the first Grand Sanhedrin on Saturday 30 September 2023 at Kings Heath at 10.30am. It will be a very relaxed meeting and the MEGS is hoping for a good attendance. Please watch this space for further news.

2. The Archway to Improvement is a peer learning group aimed at all Royal Arch Masons who are curious to know more about this beautiful order. The aim is to hold 4 meetings each year in Kings Heath, Worcester, Kidderminster, and Malvern (all being well); to have a presentation at each meeting and a discussion following the presentation about all things Royal Arch. The presentations will vary in their complexity with the aim being to provide a real understanding of what Royal Arch Masonry is all about, the story the players and its significance. Again, this will be a very relaxed occasion, mufti being the order of the day. More news will follow once we have finalised the speakers, topics, and venues. We already have a number of highly experienced Royal Arch Masons willing to contribute but if you would like to be given the opportunity of presenting please feel free to email Tim Jones, Second Provincial Grand Principal secondprincipal@worcestershirefreemasons.com with details of the topic you would like to talk upon.

5. Provincial Chapter of Improvement

From the beginning of the new Masonic Season commencing September 2023 the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Alan Bolton together with the Provincial Scribe E and their respective teams will be launching the:

The teams will be hosting events at several masonic venues across the Province to which all Royal Arch Masons will be invited. The aim will be to enable all our Companions to enhance their understanding and enjoyment of their Royal Arch ceremonies and ritual.

The Chapter of Improvement events will cover discussions and demonstrations of the following:

- Opening and Closing the Chapter by the Principals,, DC, IPZ and Sojourners.
- Illuminating the Pedestal and Returning our Secrets to darkness.
- The role and duties of a Chapter DC during a Convocation.
- The work of the Chapter Sojourners during the Ceremony of Exaltation.
- The role and duties of a Chapter Scribe E on the preparing, during and following a.
- Convocation.
- Sharing the work by Companions during a Convocation..
- Chapter assistance by the Provincial Officers, how it works and how to access it.
- A question-and-answer session, to deal with any Royal Arch related queries that attending Companions may have.
- And more

Details of dates and venues will be published over the coming weeks and your support and attendance at these events will be warmly welcomed.

6. Reflections of the Third Provincial Grand Principal after 20 months in Office



When I stood down as APMG in June 2019, you can imagine my delight when later that year I received a telephone call that the MEGS was desirous of appointing me to the office of Third Provincial Grand Principal at the Annual Convocation in April 2020. Having previously had the pleasure of serving as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies I knew the pleasure and companionship obtained from Royal Arch masonry.

Little did I know then that because of Covid that appointment wouldn't take place until the 1st September 2021. Was it worth the wait? It most certainly was! Over the past almost 20 months I have had the pleasure of visiting almost all the Chapters in the Province and meeting many wonderful Companions.

The office of Third Provincial Grand Principal is normally a one-year appointment. Largely because it is a very intensive commitment, as it is anticipated that you will attend as many Installations as you can, delivering the Address to the Chapter and presenting Supreme Grand Chapter Certificates.

You are very much part of a team and I have been pleased to cement good relationships with the other Principals, the DC's, and admin team that I know will be long lasting. If you ask all the recent Third Principals, they will tell you it is one of the best jobs in the Province and I do not disagree with them.

It was hard to hand over the mantle to E. Comp. Steve Middleditch at our recent Annual Convocation, as I will certainly miss the very regular Chapter outings as Third Principal. However, I know that the MEGS has made an excellent choice and that E. Comp. Steve will now have the pleasure and enjoyment that I have received over the last 20 months.

7. Chapters

Royds Chapter C1204 At the December Meeting of the Chapter there was a significant event when the Third Provincial Grand Principal presented a 50 Year Certificate to E. Comp. Richard Harrison, PPrGSN.



The Travelling Sceptre



The Sceptre has just recently; 27th April; been claimed by the visitation of a Raiding Party from Vernon Chapter C560 to the Lechmere-Hughes Volunteer Chapter. It means it will reside in Stourport from now through the Summer lockdown on the banks of the River Severn but will be available for any Chapter outwith Stourport and who have not held it before to send in a Raiding Party to their September Convocation.



Any Chapter interested in claiming this prestigious Provincial Trophy should contact the Chapter Scribe E to make the necessary arrangements.

Remember a Raiding Party should consist of a minimum number of 5 Companions from the Chapter one of whom should be a recent Exalte.

8. Future Events

17th June – Provincial Grand Lodge at the Great Hall, University of Birmingham

9th July - Cathedral Service - Worcester

3rd December - Carol Service – Pershore Abbey

8. ADVERT

Are you a wordsmith with good IT skills?

The Province is seeking an Assistant Provincial Communications Officer to understudy the current PGCO who is seeking to retire after 10 years in the role.

This is an important Office in the Provincial Team, and the holder will be part of the Craft Provincial Team as we move to integrate our 2 websites as part of the progression required by the Pro Grand Master's "Freemasonry 2022 and beyond". In the first instance contact Ian Fothergill imfandif@btinternet.com

Editors Footnote: Companions, to be successful any communications media needs to be two-way. Please forward any information that you believe would be helpful to the Provincial Information Officer:

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or use the website address
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