



To: All Royal Arch Companions

### 1. Message from MEGS, E Comp Jim Boughton



In the last newsletter I wrote of a time of contemplation in many beliefs and societies of new life and new beginnings. Now, with the ever-increasing deployment of vaccines our hope of a return to some form of normality in general and Chapter meetings in particular seems ever more a reality. However, an ill-considered return will set back all that has been gained, and although I am as keen as anyone to return to socialising at Chapter convocations, I feel that it is highly likely that it will not be until the Autumn before we can safely do so. We will however monitor carefully the ongoing situation making decisions as to a safe resumption accordingly. In the meantime, continue to support each other

by keeping in touch, assisting where possible without detriment to yourselves or your connections.

That being said the end is in sight and perhaps the time is now right to begin planning for a resumption of Masonic activity. Chapters should begin to look at the work ahead; map out the first year's meetings; where possible breakdown the ceremonies along the lines suggested by me some two years ago, adding drama and interest whilst involving as many new companions as possible. Do not leave it to the last minute to communicate these plans to the companions so that all have plenty of time to dust down their ritual book and start learning/refreshing/preparing, for we have many Master Masons eagerly awaiting the completion of their journey through Pure Antient Freemasonry; to emerge from the gloom and despair of the Third Degree by the joyous ceremony of Exaltation into the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch. It behoves us Companions to present to them a ceremony that will not only live up to their expectations but also inspire them into becoming committed Companions.

Let us therefore look forward with a spring in our step to that time when we can again meet in the joyous companionship that is open Chapter.

Until then, take care, stay safe and may the True and Living God Most High be with you and your loved ones.

**E Comp Jim Boughton**

*Most Excellent Grand Superintendent*

### 2. Appointments & Promotions 2021

Chapters have now submitted their recommendations for appointments and promotions for this year. The Honours Board usually sits in January, with those Companions successful, being offered their rank late January/early February. Current restrictions have prevented the Honours Board sitting. It will now sit in March, with successful candidates being offered their rank late March/early April. It is hoped that a full list of appointments and promotions will be published in April.

Many Companions have continued to work hard, both Masonically and in their communities during these trying times and the MEGS, E Comp Jim Boughton, has tasked the Honours Board, which he chairs, to ensure our Companions are duly recognised.

### 3. Project Hermes

Companions all, as we prepare for a return to our meetings sometime later this year, our companions at Great Queen Street have been busy, developing a new software package to assist our busy Scribes. This new package is called Hermes and is a programme (web-based interface) that interacts with the existing Adelphi database that has been used by Supreme Grand Chapter and the Province for many years.



**From the Provincial Charity Steward**

As we continue to be active in various, different ways during this hiatus in our regular masonic activity, it is a good time to acquaint all of our Companions in this Province of the continuing charitable works being undertaken on your behalf.

We had an excellent response to our appeal for donations to cover the alms collection normally taken during the Provincial Grand Chapter meeting in June, which has enabled us to continue our work.

As a result, we have received three official letters, thanking us for our donations, enabling these very deserving organisations to continue their investment in our futures.

They were received from the Royal Osteoporosis Society thanking us for the £1,000.00 that we sent, the Motor Neurone Disease Association also for £1,000.00, and the Graham Fulford Trust for the £2,180.00 sent as advance payment toward the cost of the Prostate Cancer Home Testing Kit project we are launching for those Companions/Brethren who missed out when our visit to Corby in 2020 had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. This will enable testing to continue, despite the Covid 19 lockdown.

Companions, we thank you all, throughout the Province, for your continued support during these very difficult times and look forward to meeting you all again, in the not-too-distant future.

**E Comp Graham Minett**

*Provincial Grand Charity Steward*

Hermes will enable Scribes Ezra to perform the majority of what is presently paper-based tasks online, directly updating the Adelphi database. Hermes will assist and guide Scribes through their administration tasks to ensure all records and requests are in order.

To facilitate the implementation of Hermes a Provincial Steering Group has been formed and is already working to ensure a smooth roll out.

As Chairman of this group, I am delighted to say we have some very experienced brethren and companions working together to ensure consistency of approach between the Holy Royal Arch and The Craft. The roll out programme will be supported by one team with two specialist Champions, one for each order, to assist with those areas of difference in terminology or approach. For the Holy Royal Arch this will be E Comp Del Pearson Third Provincial Grand Principal, who's day job is as an IT Consultant, so he is well-qualified to assist. He will be supported by the Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra E Comp Mike Binsted. Any questions in the first instance in relation to Hermes should be sent via the HRA Provincial Office.

The roll out of this new system will be managed in stages. Scribes will be asked to ensure all their data and their members' information is current and as up to date as possible. If you have moved house, changed your phone number or email address please ensure you let your Scribe know as soon as possible. You should also keep them updated with any future changes. This will ensure you are kept informed of everything that is going-on within your own Chapter, and also at Provincial and National levels.

Scribes will be receiving further details and all the necessary training in the new system, to ensure a smooth roll-out and implementation of this exciting new initiative, which will make everyone's life much easier and ensure all data and communications are kept as up to date as possible.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation with this matter.

**E Comp Mark Constant, PGStB**

*Past Third Provincial Grand Principal*

#### **4. Message from the Learning & Development Officer**

##### **Solomon 'from locked to the future'**

##### **SOLOMON: FOSTERING CURIOSITY, DEVELOPING UNDERSTANDING**

We have now seen, with some relief, the close of 2020 and now we look forward with some level of significant hope and positive expectation that 2021 will see us returning to the pleasures and delights of masonry and especially the Holy Royal Arch.

From the membership survey some time ago, which effectively brought about the creation of Solomon – which is not a website, but rather a computer system that uses web technology – it transpired that members of the Holy Royal Arch were much more aware and desired more in the way of learning and personal development in terms of gaining further insights and knowledge of Freemasonry.

During our masonic 'closedown' the Solomon Learning & Development Team have been working with energy and enthusiasm to assist you with new materials and information.

Yet it is recognised that there are still many masons who have not managed to log-in, register and set up a Solomon account. The Solomon Team have now set up an easy-to-access and convenient way for you to 'get-on-board'.

Simply go to Solomon at <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/> and scroll down a short way where you will find in the middle of the page a link which is entitled 'Getting Started with Solomon'. At this point just click on 'Enter' and you will be taken to a page which will guide you through the process to 'Create an Account on Solomon'.

There is much to view and discover in Solomon but to highlight a few items which may generate some interest for you and may also be useful for discussion and amusement in any Zoom meeting you may be holding for your respective Teams.

Within Solomon there is a new 'Mentor's Corner' which can be found at <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/course/view.php?id=101>. This section of Solomon will be especially useful for Mentors and Preceptors as in there can be found some ideas and materials to be used during on-line meetings with suggested presentations and quizzes, which may easily fit for on-line meetings.

Where the Companion is not involved in, or comfortable with, such on-line meetings the material presented in Solomon can be read and will in any case be a delight, and build that individual's personal Learning and Development portfolio.



#### **PSA Home Testing**

Craft Brethren and Royal Arch Companions in the Corby catchment area have been invited to apply for a PSA home testing kit. Working with the Graham Fulford Trust, the joint Craft/Royal Arch initiative aims to allow its members from that cohort the opportunity to test themselves, with the Provinces funding approx 50% of the cost.

E Comp Mike Green, PGStB, PProvGChStwd is again running this batch of testing. At the time of printing, 56 members have taken up the offer.



One area that might interest is the information on Famous Freemasons. This can be found again in the Mentor's Corner section of Solomon which is located in the 'Share and Encourage' section which is accessed from the first page of Solomon once you are registered and have an account to access Solomon.

Lastly, for every Companion there is within this 'Share and Encourage' section a dedicated area for those in the Royal Arch. Within this Royal Arch area you will find many Presentations and Demonstrations on so much in our Supreme Order. There is included here, for instance, a delightful PowerPoint presentation for you to view on the 'Principal Banners of the Royal Arch'.

Hopefully in this time of 'masonic-rest' Solomon will keep and develop your interests as we look forward with significant hope and positive expectation for a return to our masonic activities and enjoyment – especially and particularly in the Holy Royal Arch.

Good wishes as you progress along your own and individual masonic journey of Personal Learning and Development.

All of the above – and much more - can be found from accessing Solomon - Fostering Curiosity, Developing Understanding at <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

***E Comp Dr Christopher R Clark, PProvGReg***  
*Provincial Learning & Development Officer*

(If you have a colleague who does not receive this newsletter – just email it to him)

**You can keep abreast of matters Royal Arch (and Craft) in the Province by signing-up to the Provincial website. Not already signed-up? Here is the web address you need:**

**[//www.northants-hunts-masons.org.uk](http://www.northants-hunts-masons.org.uk)**

**The next Royal Arch Newsletter will be published in April 2021**

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