



Provincial Grand Chapter of Warwickshire

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Bi-Centenary Celebrations announced**
- **New RCS Appeal launched**
- **Benevolent Fund Link**
- **100th Meeting of First Principals' Chapter**
- **Provincial Senior Appointments Announced**

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Bi-Centenary Celebrations Announced for 2013

At the Supreme Grand Chapter meeting on 10th November 2010 the ME Second Grand Principal, E.Comp.



M.E. Comp. George Pipon Francis
The Second Grand Principal

George Pipon Francis announced details of the 2013 Bi-Centenary Celebrations. He said "The focus of our attention is now moving to the celebration of the Bicentenary of the Royal Arch in 2013; to mark the official recognition of the Royal Arch as 'the com-

pletion of pure and antient freemasonry', at the union of the two great English Grand Lodges in 1813, which also created the United Grand Lodge of England. We therefore celebrate our official birthday, or to put it another way, the full emergence of the Royal Arch as we know it, 200 years ago.

A key item is the programme for a celebratory Convocation on 16th October 2013. There will be a lunch in the Grand Connaught Rooms, followed by the Convocation to be held later in the afternoon here in the Grand Temple, in the presence of the First Grand Principal, followed by a guest dinner to be hosted by him at The Savoy in the evening. Details of who will be able to attend each event will be communicated to you by your Grand Superintendent, in due course. Another important element in the programme is a fund raising exercise over the next three years to provide a permanent reminder of our celebrations. The amount

raised will be used to create a Research Fund for the benefit of the Royal College of Surgeons, to be administered at no extra cost alongside the Craft's 250th Anniversary Fund for the purposes of research by the Royal College. As soon as this Convocation is closed, and before the outgoing procession, we will be hearing a presentation by members of the Royal College about their research work, so their presence here today gives me the opportunity officially to launch The Royal Arch Masons 2013 Bicen-



tenary Appeal for the benefit of their Surgical Research Fellowship Scheme." Full details of this exciting fund raising event have been advised to all Chapter Almoners and Charity Stewards by E.Comp Paul Wheeler, Provincial Charity Steward.

Launch of Royal Arch Masons 2013 Bicentenary Appeal

The Royal Arch Masons 2013 Bicentenary Appeal has been established to help fund the College's successful surgical research fellowship scheme, which supports surgeons to undertake a surgical research project. This scheme enables the brightest and best surgeons of each generation to explore treatments for conditions and injuries that affect millions of people worldwide. The scheme relies completely on voluntary donations from individuals, trusts and legacies and needs more

funding to continue the many worthy research projects that are supported. **Surgical research continues to provide significant advances in:**

- hip and knee replacements
- the prevention of strokes
- reconstructive surgery for trauma and war victims
- invasive surgery and quicker recovery
- skilled operations to improve hearing and sight
- cancer survival rates

Future innovations in surgery will be driven by research

projects. Further funding is urgently needed and donations to **The Royal Arch Masons 2013 Bicentenary Appeal** will help to support advancements in surgical care for current and future generations. Freemasonry has had a long and close association with the College through the 250th Anniversary Fund established in 1967. This campaign gives us an excellent opportunity to contribute towards something that is helping to save lives and improve the quality of life for us and our families.

The Royal Arch Masons Bicentenary 2013 Appeal



The
**ROYAL
ARCH
MASONS**
2013
Bicentenary
Appeal for

The Royal College
of Surgeons of
England

The new appeal national appeal to raise funds for the Royal College of Surgeons hopes to raise the sum of £10.00 (plus gift aid) per member but hopefully Chapters will be more ambitious and set out to raise more than the minimum.

The procedures which have been agreed for the donations are as follows. The donations are being paid into a special fund that is managed on behalf of the Supreme Grand Chapter by the Grand Charity, and is called a relief chest. This procedure allows tax to be reclaimed on gift aid donations and also some interest to be added. At the end of the appeal, Supreme Grand Chapter will authorise the Grand Charity to transfer all the accumulated funds to the Royal College of Surgeons.

Grand Charity Gift Aid envelopes for the Relief Chest scheme are available at each Masonic centre and should have the Relief Chest reference number RA2013 completed to ensure that the tax relief is not credited to the wrong relief chest.

The link with the RCS was established back in 1967, to mark the 250th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), a fund (to be called the Grand Lodge 250th Anniversary Fund), was set up by asking every member of the Craft to donate £1. When the fund closed three years later, a total of £594,850 had been raised. The sole object of the fund is the application of the income from its investments to furthering research in the science of surgery in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The College, to show their thanks for the support given by Freemasons over the years, in 2002 elected the Grand Master, the Duke of Kent an Honorary Fellow. To underline the close bond between the College and English Freemasonry, members of the College explained their work when they addressed the Regular Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter in November at the launch of the fund. At that convocation they spoke about the work being carried out by Freemasons' Research Fellows.

Presentation to Cross Roads Care Warwickshire

Following the decision by the Warwickshire Royal Arch Benevolent Fund committee that a link will be formed for a three year period with Crossroads Care Coventry and Warwickshire a presentation of the first donation of £10,000 was made on 20th September 2010. The charity are providers of help for people who care for relatives or friends who have a disability or long term health problem. They employ care support staff to take the place of the carer so they can give them a break from their caring responsibilities and relieve the stresses experienced by them.

The charity was established in Rugby in 1974 and now provides services throughout Coventry and Warwickshire.

The Chairman of the Trust is a well known Companion, Victor W Keene, MBE who said "Crossroads is the leading provider of services to support carers and the people they care for in Coventry and Warwickshire. The charity is committed to providing high quality personalised services which exceed client expectations and are flexible and reliable."

The presentation was made by the Grand Superintendent to representatives from the Charity, including Victor W Keene, and Penny Collard, Chief Executive of CCCW, at The Council House, Coventry and included the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Cllr Brian Kelsey and other guests.



E.Comps. John Saint and Victor Keene with the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Cllr Brian Kelsey



E.Comp Rev Stephen Wright

Coughton Church again hosts Annual Church Service

Following last year's enforced change of date for the Annual Church Service at Coughton Parish Church caused by the snow and terrible weather, the decision has been made to continue to hold the event in the Spring. This delightful event will therefore be held on Sunday 27th March 2011 when Coughton Court will be bursting with new life and we will have some warm weather! The Provincial Grand Chaplain for Staffordshire, E.Comp. Rev. Stephen Wright will again lead the service in his uplifting manner and the Choir will add to the occasion. This is a splendid event which is always enjoyable and all Companions are encouraged to attend and help fill the church to overflowing!

Afternoon tea will be available as usual at The Kings Court Hotel at a cost of £7.00 per head and full details and a booking form will be sent to all Chapter Scribes shortly.

At the Chapter meeting on 18th September 2010, which was the 100th meeting of the Chapter, the Principals inducted were E.Comp. Rex J. Lowin, **PGStB**, PProvGH, as MEZ, E.Comp. Ronald J. Reed, **PGStB**, PProvGJ as H. and E.Comp. A Bob Frost, PProvGReg. as J.

This year the Chapter sees its 50th Anniversary and by way of a celebration a special meeting was arranged at Rugby on 18th February 2011 when after the Chapter was closed, a demonstration was presented by the Province of Northants and Hunts Demonstration Team of their play "**How and Why the Royal Arch?**". This was performed in period dress, gave an interesting view of how the Royal Arch was developed and was very well received by the

Companions present and the warm applause indicated how much it had been enjoyed. A wonderful addition to the 50th Anniversary Year.



Changes in the Senior Provincial Officer Appointments Announced

The annual Principals' and Past Principals' Dinner was as successful as ever and provided for the two hundred Chapter Principals attending a wonderful social occasion, which gave the opportunity to meet with and hear from the senior members of the Province. After an excellent dinner the evening followed its usual format when the Grand Superintendent, after reviewing the year to date and highlighting the key events that have taken place, maintained tradition by announcing the new Provincial team to be appointed at the Annual Convocation in June 2011.

After paying tribute to his enormous contribution to the Province and wonderful support over the past five years he announced that E Comp David Old, PGSwdB had advised that he would retire as Deputy Grand Superintendent at the Annual Convocation in June. The Grand Superintendent then confirmed that E Comp Rex J Lowin, PGStB had accepted his invitation to continue to serve the Province and would be appointed Deputy Grand Superintendent at the Annual Convocation, which news was received with applause and acclaim by the Companions present.

The current Second Provincial Grand Principal, E Comp Stephen J Fowler, PGStB, who was appointed in 2010, will continue in office for a further year.

As Third Provincial Grand Principal the Grand Superintendent was pleased to announce that E Comp Frederick (Fred) Coldrick, PGStB, of the Chapter of Peace and Harmony No 3929, will be appointed.

After serving as Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra for three years, E Comp John K Starley will retire and E Comp John FR Handley, PGSwdB, of Holte Chapter No 1246 will be appointed in his stead.

After taking wine with those new Companion J's attending for the first time the Grand Superintendent encouraged the



E.Comp. David W Old, who retires in June after five years as Deputy Grand Superintendent

Chapter Principals to ensure their newly appointed Companion J's attended next year's meeting and expressed his hope for a full turnout from all of his Chapters next year.

The popular Question and Answer session brought forward many interesting and fascinating queries and questions, all of which were dealt with by the Provincial team in a knowledgeable, informed and occasionally humorous manner which was well received by everyone.

This was an excellent meeting much enjoyed by all who attended and should definitely be put in the diaries of all Chapter Principals, especially the incoming Js - Thursday 24th November 2011. And don't forget the challenge from the DepGS that fancy waistcoats should be worn!

General Chapter of Instruction Festival - 20th April 2011

One of the most popular Provincial events returns to Stirling Road on Wednesday 20th April 2011 commencing at 5.30pm when the General Chapter of Instruction holds its annual Royal Arch Festival. Applications are available for download from the Provincial Website and will also be sent to all Chapter Scribe Es for distribution to Companions.

All Companions are encouraged to support this event and the Festival will again demonstrate the Exaltation ceremony by members of the Chapter of Instruction and other Companions, usually those below the Principals chairs. The President this year will be E. Comp. Rodney J. Wolverson, M.E. Grand Superintendent in and over Cambridgeshire.

The Festival is a demonstration of the Warwickshire working of the ceremony of Exaltation, by Companions of the Province below the rank of Chapter Principal, all of whom are drawn from several different Chapters. It is important that the participants are Companions and all MEZs are therefore requested to encourage those Companions below the Principal Chairs to consider participating. It is hoped that support by Companions of the Province will be at its usual high level.

Dinner will be served at a cost of £23.00 inclusive of wines. Applications should be made on the slip attached to the flyer letter or can be made to the Scribe E, E. Comp N.T. Malden on 0121 308 5735.

Annual Lodge Royal Arch Representatives Meeting

The annual meeting of the Lodge Representatives was held at Stirling Road on 13th November 2010 and again coincided with the Service of Remembrance which allowed the attendees to share in this solemn moment.

This year a different approach was taken to try and maximise the opportunity for direct feedback from the Representatives, and after a brief welcome by the ME Grand Superintendent the 50 attendees were allocated into a smaller "workshop" group, hosted by a senior member of the Province. This provided a much greater opportunity for everyone to contribute their views on the matters being considered and that they wished to discuss.

The discussions were wide ranging and sought feedback and views of the Lodge Representatives on their role, the level of support required from Provincial Grand Chapter and also gave the opportunity to share ideas and initiatives which may have been successful in promoting the Royal Arch and recruiting members. Additionally, views were given on the format and content of this annual meeting to guide future meetings of the Lodge Representatives and ensure that this met their requirements.

The new workshop format proved to be very successful and gave a clear indication of the desired approach for future meetings. The contributions from attendees were varied and wide ranging although there were common themes which came out from the separate groups. To bring together the key points a summary of the issues and ideas discussed has been produced and these will be considered going forward by the Executive and the Strategy Committee.

So, this was a successful and fruitful meeting which attendees found enjoyable and provided the opportunity to bring together many views on the Royal Arch and help to guide its future development.



First Principals' Chapter Ladies Festival

As part of the celebrations of its 50th Anniversary, the Chapter has organised a black tie Ladies Festival at Stirling Road on 14th May 2011 with the theme of "Casino Royale". This will be a very special and different occasion which will ensure a splendid night for our Ladies and will also be raising funds for the 2013 Royal College of Surgeons Bicentennial Appeal! As well as a wonderful gourmet banquet there will be fun casino entertainment of roulette and Blackjack with a prize for the person who has won the most amount of money at the tables. This has proved very popular at recent events so do come along and try your luck.

There will be superb cabaret entertainment by International singing star Miss Dawn Alacey! Dawn has a special James Bond show "Licensed to Thrill!" which sees her perform every song recorded for the greatest iconic figure in cinematic history. She has performed at venues all over the world and worked with some major stars so knows how to provide a wonderful evening of first class entertainment.

The Chapter MEZ, E.Comp. Rex Lowin said "I wanted in our 50th year to host an event for the Ladies and do hope that Companions will support this special celebration which I know will be a very enjoyable and memorable occasion."

Tickets cost £34.00 per person and tables of ten or twelve are available.

Full details and booking forms can be obtained from E.Comp. John Handley on 07946 637773 Mob 01564 777578 Home or johnfrhandley@gmail.com



Miss Dawn Alacey

Did You Know.

Brethren's Evenings

Any Chapter wishing to arrange a brethren evening to outline to Craft masons who have not yet joined the Royal Arch are recommended to make contact with the RA Development Committee. There are a number of tried and tested formats which have been used and can be adapted to fit in with the requirements of the Chapter. If you wish to discuss the options for hosting an event contact E.Comp. Peter Wellings.

Inbound Visit by Province of Staffordshire

The Abbey Chapter No 432 at Nuneaton were the hosts for an inbound visit by the Province of Staffordshire on 14th February 2011. The fact that this was Valentine's Day did not prevent M.E. Grand Superintendent E.Comp David Hampson and twelve of his officers from attending what was a splendid Exaltation meeting and gave the Province an opportunity to say farewell to E.Comp. Hampson on his last visit to Warwickshire before his retirement as MEGS.

Exaltees Meeting

The Exaltees' Meeting was held on 13th October 2010 in the Royal Arch room at Stirling Road and this popular event attracted a number of new Exaltees. The Provincial Principals outlined the history of the Royal Arch, the layout of the Chapter room, the offices of the Chapter, and the meaning and historical significances of the ceremony. After the meeting there was an informal buffet with the Senior Officers of the Province which gave everybody an opportunity to chat informally and ask any questions.

50 Year Certificate Presentation in Hertfordshire

A very pleasant surprise awaited E. Comp Richard V Illott, a subscribing member of St Augustine's Chapter No 3713 which meets in Stirling Road, when E.Comp David W Old, Dep GSupt travelled with a party from Warwickshire to Royston in Herts to present him with his 50 year Royal Arch certificate. His brother, E.Comp John Illott who is the MEGS of Hertfordshire also presented him with a certificate at the same time.

STOP PRESS—Irish Chapter to Visit Warks

Confirmation has been received that at the meeting of the Installed First Principals' Chapter on 9th May 2011 a presentation by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland's General Chapter of Instruction will demonstrate their Installation Ceremony. The Irish team last visited Warwickshire eight years ago and were very popular. Further details available soon!

Provincial Website

www.royal-arch.org.uk

The Province continues to post more information to the Website thanks to the efforts of Comp. Phil Benson. The new user friendly, up to date site is easier to navigate and includes more information for interest to Companions. We are able to upload articles and news items submitted by Companions on behalf of Chapters.

Please send any item and good quality photographs, preferably by e-Mail, to the Provincial Scribe E.

The Provincial Newsletter is edited and produced by the Provincial Scribe E, E Comp John Starley, to whom all news, views and reviews should be sent:

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