



# Provincial Grand Chapter of Cumberland & Westmorland

Masonic Hall, Station Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 6BT

## Address of the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent to the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter 2013.



Have you noticed Companions that news readers always say, “Good afternoon” and then go on to tell why it is not. Well that is not the case this afternoon for it is and will continue I am sure to be a good afternoon and evening.

Today is a special day for those companions I have had the pleasure of investing with their new Royal Arch Provincial ranks, I congratulate you all and hope that you will enjoy your preferment and at the same time work even harder in your chapters encouraging all the companions to involve themselves in working in their chapters and at the same time explaining to newly raised Master Masons the indissoluble attachment between the Craft and Royal Arch so that they may consider joining this Supreme Degree.

The Executive have this year been once again very proactive in their work to help companions fully understand the ritual and the hidden meaning it contains. In order for a candidate to more easily understand the Exaltation Ceremony we have issued a short information card that the Janitor should give to the candidate before he enters the chapter explaining some of the aspects of the ceremony of which he will be the principal player.

We have also issued a number of information booklets and I hope these are being used by companions and circulated to all members so that they will expand their knowledge of this Supreme Degree.

E. Comp. Peter Mason has continued with the mandate I gave him to attend chapters and present various lectures and papers for the companions relating to the degree. He has also attended many Craft lodges where he has again been able to enlighten brethren in relation to the Royal Arch being the continuation of Craft Freemasonry, a matter overlooked by some.

As many of you will know Custodes Copiae Chapter of Provincial Grand Stewards took the lead in performing the Veils ceremony held in Carlisle and the Building of a Royal Arch Temple held in Cleator Moor. Both these events were well received and will be repeated this year in different venues.

The Building of the Royal Arch Temple will be held at the Masonic Hall, Kendal on 28 October and the Veils Ceremony will be held in the Masonic Hall Penrith on 29 November. Please come along and support the events, both are interesting and instructional.

On 17 November 2012 we consecrated Flowerden Chapter which will meet in Milnthorpe. With 21 Founders the new chapter is well placed for a successful future and has already exalted candidates. Supreme Grand Chapter will celebrate its Bi Centenary this year and in October there will be a full day of events in Grand Chapter. As you all know to celebrate this event we have throughout the constitution been supporting the Royal College of Surgeons of England. We were asked to donate £10.00 per member plus Gift Aid. I am pleased to report that the Province has exceeded its target, the total donated stands at £23,000. As you know I decided to close the appeal so that we can concentrate on the 2016 RMBI Festival and I hope chapters will continue their support for this Masonic Charity.

Management in all business and organizational activities is often defined as the task of getting people together to accomplish desired goals in an efficient and effective manner. This important responsibility rests with the First Principals and their Co-Principals of our Chapters. I now invite the First Principals to stand. Companions, thank you for the work you are doing and I hope will continue



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to do for your Chapters and the Province. I am most grateful that you have attended today thus showing your support for you Chapters and the Province. Please resume your seats.

On the social side the Summer Ball for the Province is over subscribed and there is a waiting list, this should be an enjoyable event.

My Picnic Garden Party will be held on 2 June from 2-00pm to 5-00pm at my home, full details are on the website and tickets are available from the Group Charity Stewards priced at only £2-00

The Provincial Church Service will be held this year in St Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle at 3-00pm, 7<sup>th</sup> July, and will be led by E. Comp. Canon Roan, Past Grand Superintendent and our Provincial Grand Chaplain, please support the church service.

The Masonic Exhibition "Into the Light" to be held at Tullie House here in Carlisle from 25 May to 7 July will be well worth a visit and I hope companions you will visit with your family and friends. Admission is free so that is a bonus.

At the Annual Meeting of Grand Chapter where the Most Excellent First Grand Principal presided our Third Provincial Grand Principal the Rev. Fred Roeschlaub was appointed to the rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer and E. Comp. Peter Messenger was appointed to the acting rank of Grand Standard Bearer, he has been suitably cautioned and advised as to how he should perform his duties. I congratulate both these companions and wish them success in the future.

During the year members of the Executive and members of the Province have the pleasure of attending the Annual Convocations of adjacent Provinces. We are always well received and enjoy excellent hospitality. Today we are able to return that friendship and hospitality.

*The Grand Superintendent then introduced the Guests and Heads of Masonic Orders.*

Companions I place on record my thanks to the retiring Provincial Officers who have served during the last year and to those companions who have represented me at chapters especially the Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah, Comp. Ron Cameron who has visited all our chapters.

To the Provincial Grand Scribe E., his assistant and his team who work hard for us throughout the year. I am also most grateful to E. Comp. Bob McMillan who has the unenviable task of looking after the booking and seating arrangements for our dinner this evening.

Thanks also to the Provincial Grand Treasurer for looking after our financial affairs.

To the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and his Team including the Provincial Grand Janitor for their work today and throughout the year.

We continue to lift the profile of Freemasonry throughout the county and on home ground we are encouraging all master masons to complete their Masonic journey by joining the Royal Arch.

Companions I wish you well for the ensuing year.