



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

Provincial Bulletin 38

2nd December 2022

Message from the Provincial Grand Master:

Dear Brethren,

I was delighted to see huge support for Remembrance Services and Parades across our Province last month, continuing to raise our profile within local communities. Thank you to all those who took part.

For those of you interested in statistics – our overall headcount continues at around No8000 members, having initiated 440 Brethren in the last year, with resignations remaining fairly consistent at 345. We remain the largest Province in terms of members, excluding London. I am aware of resignations from those with multiple lodge memberships and fully understand the challenges of Covid and the economy. My ask Brethren is that we continue to seek out those Brethren that we do not see at lodge meetings – a phone call to them does make a world of difference sometimes.

Sadly, I had to preside over the closure of three lodges last month. Each moving and dignified ceremonies, with over 100 attending and dining in one case. Those lodges have made positive contributions to our Craft and I was pleased that the majority of their members are joining other lodges. Provision has also been made for their Lodge widows for the future. We also welcome Aultone Lodge No.6873 from Surrey who transferred into our Province.

The Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch and I attended the Craft Pro Grand Master's business meeting/Grand Chapter with representatives from Mark Masons Hall and Duke Street Rose Croix. The Seven Year Craft strategy is to be formally launched this month which includes working more closely together. Steve Allum and I speak weekly, and I know he will be writing to all Companions shortly.

The Heads of Provincial Orders met last month and once again will be hosting a joint Lecture next year. It will be an entertaining evening – watch out for details.

Brethren, as we rapidly approach Christmas, I look forward to seeing many of you at the Provincial Carol Service on Sunday.

Lynn and I wish you, your families and friends an enjoyable time over the Festive period.

Enjoy your Freemasonry.

Jon

Provincial Carol Service

**Richmond Hill St Andrew's United Reformed Church, St Stephen's Road, Bournemouth
BH2 6JJ**

Sunday 4th December 2022 2.30pm

There will be a Provincial Carol Service at the date, time and venue above. Richmond Hill St Andrew's United Reformed Church is the church normally used for the SW Area Carol Service and earlier this year was also used for the Memorial Service to the late W Bro Leon Whitfield, the SW Area APMG, so it should be familiar to many.

However, for those who are unfamiliar with the church, the good news is that not only has the church got its own car park but on that Sunday we shall also have exclusive use of the adjacent car park. There are also a number of public car parks nearby.

The Service will be attended by our Provincial Grand Master and his wife Lynn together with members of the Provincial Executive. The Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth will also be in attendance. During the Service, which lasts for about an hour, as well as the usual Scripture Readings and familiar Christmas Carols, we will again be entertained by the Wessex Chorus. Although it is a Provincial Carol Service, no masonic regalia will be worn. Dress code for the brethren will be lounge suits of something similar. Christmas ties will be welcome!

After the Service, brethren, their families and friends are invited to Freemasons' Hall, Knole Road, Bournemouth BH1 4DH which is about a 10 minute drive away where they can enjoy tea, coffee and mince pies.

In order to assist with the catering arrangements, if brethren think they will be going onto Knole Road for refreshments they are requested to register their interest via the *Square Events Website*. This will give the Steward at Knole Road a good idea of how many to cater for. There will be a small charge for the refreshments of £2.00 per person, payable at the door.

It is hoped that as many brethren, together with their families and friends will be able to attend this joyous occasion in celebration of the true meaning of Christmas.

(Poster attached at end of Bulletin)



Hermes Update Number 4 - for Hermes Administrators (“HAs”) (Secretaries and nominees)

“Keeping Hermes warm over winter”

My update to you of the 3 October advised of the difficult decision that was taken by UGLE to pause the roll-out of Hermes in our Province. This update will help us all to be ready for the launch as and when it is replanned.

The Provincial Hermes team is in regular contact with the team at UGLE who are working hard to address several changes to address bugs and simplify data input to the system. We do not, yet, have any indication of a revised launch date for us but we are keen to stay as ready and prepared as possible so that we are ready to go in due course. There are several things you, as Hermes Administrators, can do to make your life as easy as possible.

1. You should all have access to the Sandbox environment. Please use this facility and really familiarise yourself with the Hermes functionality. If you are unsure of your log in details, please contact your Area Lead.
2. Please continue with the webinars – they are really quite good and why not do them 2 or 3 times – it will really help! Area Leads can provide you with links if you have mislaid them.
3. Data, data, data! – Please keep the Adelphi database updated with membership details, especially email addresses and telephone numbers. Timely submission of installation and annual returns and Form Ps will assist.
4. Please use the annual return to record your Hermes Administrator’s details – this will normally be the Lodge Secretary but, in a few cases, you may appoint a separate HA to assist with the process. If your Lodge’s Hermes Administrator is to change, either before or after live date, please advise your Area Lead and the Provincial Office who will update the system and generate replacement Hermes log in details.

I will commit to keeping you updated as soon as I receive any more relevant news. In the meantime, thanks for your help and patience and I know that you will all wish to prepare for the launch of this new way of working as soon as it is available.

Please address any questions to your “Hermes Super Secretaries” in the first instance or your Area Lead.

W Bro Kevin Head PAGDC

Hermes Champion, Hampshire & Isle of Wight

26 November 2022

Hermes Area Leads

North East	Nigel Edwards	nwedwards@outlook.com	01256 881213	07986 388404
North Central	Peter Berry	petereberry1952@gmail.com	07495 526570	01489 782990
South Central	Mark Green	mark.green1961@icloud.com	02380 899062	07971 965443
South East	David Nix	hayl2ng32@btinternet.com	02392 462024	
Solent	Mick Poole	mjp.judoka@hotmail.co.uk	01983 523684	07966 848571
South West	Huw Evans	huw.evans12@btinternet.com	01202 475092	07927 796779

Royal Arch

Update from MEGS Steve Allum

The recent meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter saw the installation of Most Excellent Companion Jonathan Spence as Pro 1st Grand Principal and, in his address to the assembled Companions, ME Comp. Jonathan conveyed several positive messages, each of which will be endorsed and implemented in our Royal Arch Province.



The first is a small but significant change - that the Tercentenary Jewel may now be worn alongside the Royal Arch jewel and the 2027 Festival jewel at all future Royal Arch meetings within our Province.

Supreme Grand Chapter are also recommending that Chapters should consider whether it is appropriate that Lectures are given on the evening of an Exaltation ceremony. I also encourage this, and the Royal Arch Provincial Executive are also looking at how our ceremonies can be made more inclusive, dynamic and, where possible, shorter; involving more Companions to ensure the interest and understanding of all those present.

Above all and echoing something our Provincial Grand Master focused on last month, please don't read the ritual; engaging with the candidate includes being able to look him in the eye as the ritual is delivered. I feel sure we would all much rather see imperfect ritual delivered well than perfect ritual read from a page.

Following on from the meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter, I can now formally appoint a Provincial Mentor and Provincial Membership Officer, and I am encouraging individual Chapters in the Province to consider appointing a membership officer (for contact with potential members once they have expressed interest in joining), and a mentor.

With best wishes for the Festive Season and thanks, as ever, for your support.

Missing Royal Arch Regalia and furniture

Following the closure of the Chapter of Maturity No 9390, all of the regalia and furniture of that Chapter was passed to Prytaneion Chapter No 9340 and was housed in the original Maturity locker in the basement at Kings Court in Chandlers ford. Very regrettably the locker was somehow opened, despite being locked (with the only key being held by the DC) and the complete contents removed. The banners were found on a table in the basement, but the majority of the Regalia and furniture has not been located. If anyone has any information relating to the removal of these items Prytaneion Chapter are anxious to hear from them.

Malcolm Collier DC of the Chapter – Telephone 07736 775681

Finally this month Brethren, can I let you know that the provincial office will be closed from mid-day on 23rd December, re-openig on 3rd January 2023.

Wishing you an enjoyable Festive Season, best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Ryan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Ryan, Provincial Grand Secretary



Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire
and Isle of Wight

Carol Service

**Richmond Hill St. Andrew's
United Reformed Church,**

St Stephen's Road

Bournemouth BH2 6JJ



Sunday 4th December 2022

at 2.30pm

with the Wessex Chorus

Families and Friends all *very*

**Teas, coffees & mince pies at Freemasons' Hall,
Knole Road. Bournemouth, BH1 4DH after the
Service**

book in via Square Events

