



Royal Arch News



Welcome and Farewell

The Annual Convocation on the 7th June brought some major changes to the Executive line-up with the appointment of E Comp Rodney Bancroft, PAGDC as Third Provincial Grand Principal. Rod is already well known to the Royal Arch, having served as Deputy Director of Ceremonies for several years and as Provincial Grand Scribe N in 2010. He was appointed to Grand Rank as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2017, and brings enormous experience of Masonry with him, being active in several other Orders, notably Knights Templar and Rose Croix. Rod is stepping into the vacancy created by Mike Warner's promotion to Second Provincial Grand Principal.



E Comp Michael Warner, PAGDC has already served as Third Provincial Grand Principal with distinction, having delivered several Orations at Dedications and Services of Thanksgiving. He has also found a talent for presenting 50 year Certificates where he has taken much pleasure in researching the history of the recipients, to the delight and amazement of the Companions. He too has great experience of Royal Arch Masonry being a member of four Berkshire Chapters, including the First Principals, and two Chapters in Middlesex, and is also active in the Craft and Other orders. Mike replaces Jeremy Whitmore who is appointed as Deputy Grand Superintendent, on the retirement of Bernard Greenwold.



E Comp Jeremy Whitmore's, PGStB appointment as Deputy Grand Superintendent is a much deserved reward for the many years of distinguished service he has already given to the Royal Arch, having worked his way steadily up the ranks from Assistant Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, to Deputy DC, then Third, and lastly Second Provincial Grand Principal. All of these offices he has served with great distinction. He is well regarded for his coolness under pressure, a can do approach and his undoubted proven abilities to manage all issues presented to him. He is a worthy successor to Bernard who has been a steady guiding hand since his appointment as Deputy in 2015.



The Grand Superintendent expressed great pleasure in being able to make these appointments and acknowledged the various talents and characteristics that each of his team members now bring to the Executive, stating that "these characteristics will play a key factor in helping me drive the Province forward in these modern times."

And Farewell

So, after a career in Acting Provincial Offices stretching over 11 years, and a very respectable Masonic history ranging over 48 years in Craft masonry, with 41 years in the Royal Arch, E Comp Bernard Greenwold, PGSwdB, Past Deputy Grand Superintendent has decided to retire again.



Having already served with distinction as Third provincial Grand Principal and then Second Provincial Grand Principal from 2006 to 2012 he was coaxed back by E Comp Ian Hopgood, on his installation as Grand Superintendent in 2015, to support him as Deputy. Bernard was delighted to accept and has been a rock to all on the Executive ever since. His great humour, unbounded knowledge and steady guiding hand has been a major factor in establishing the ethos of the new team, and in ensuring that the Grand Superintendent's vision for the future has been reflected in policies and initiatives and that the Province is well set up to progress with these ambitions. He is well known and highly regarded throughout the Province, particularly for his good humour and ability to raise the game in any situation. He now stands down so that he can celebrate 50 years of marriage to Nicole next year, in style, and with extensive travel plans throughout 2019. We pass on our Congratulations to Bernard and Nicole on achieving their Golden Anniversary.

He was presented with a splendid watch, at the Festive Board following the Annual Convocation, as a gesture of thanks and appreciation for all his services, subscribed to by every Chapter in the Province, with many expressions of admiration and support for him, and best wishes for many more years to enjoy a less hectic life in Freemasonry.

And Congratulations

Supreme Grand Chapter Investitures

On the 26th April 2018, over 50 Royal Arch Masons from Berkshire travelled to Great Queen Street to attend the annual Investiture Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter. The Berkshire contingent, had turned out in great form to witness four of their number receive Grand Chapter honours, namely,



E Comp Anthony Howlett-Bolton, *OBE*, Sandhurst Chapter No. 8505, who received a first appointment to the acting Grand Chapter Rank of Grand Sojourner, together with:



E Comps David Cox, Pangbourne Chapter No. 4381 and Clive Litten of St Hilda Chapter No. 1887, who both received appointments as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.



In addition, a Promotion to the rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer was awarded to E Comp Brian Bicknell, PAGDC, of Etonian St John Chapter No. 209. All of whom were rousing greeted with applause from the Berkshire group, as they were presented with their much warranted appointments.

Following the meeting, Companions, retired to celebrate the appointments, and express sincere congratulations to the recipients of the awards, with a splendid and convivial lunch at the Concerts Artistes Club in Bedford Street, a short walk from Grand Chapter. This venue proved a most worthy choice with good food and wine, for the social side of the day.

