



Triple Tauk

COMMUNICATION for the ROYAL ARCH in SOMERSET

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50 year Celebration for our Past-Grand Superintendent



E Comp Denis Calderley Past Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of Somerset was presented with his 50 year Veteran Certificate by the ME Grand Superintendent D John Bennett at a meeting of the Royal Cumberland Chapter No. 41 Bath on Tuesday 19th April.

The occasion was supported by the Provincial Team, nearly 70 Companions including 14 Officers of Supreme Grand Chapter and Heads of Orders. It was a splendid evening full of history and humour with Denis enjoying the moment in his light-hearted yet thoughtful customary manner.

It is a milestone in any Masonic career but in this case the history speaks for itself: In Royal Cumberland he was Installed as 1st Principal on 1st November 1979. In Somerset First Principals No. 3746 he was 1st Principal on 25th August 2004.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF SOMERSET—Scribe N 1982, 3rd Grand Principal 1987, Scribe E on 1989. 2nd Grand Principal 1994. Grand Superintendent 1998-2008.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER OF ENGLAND—Past Grand Standard Bearer 1988, Past Asst Grand Sojourner 1996.

To use Denis's own words I look forward to the next 50 years—and so say all of us.

Picture: Derek Tadman

OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW

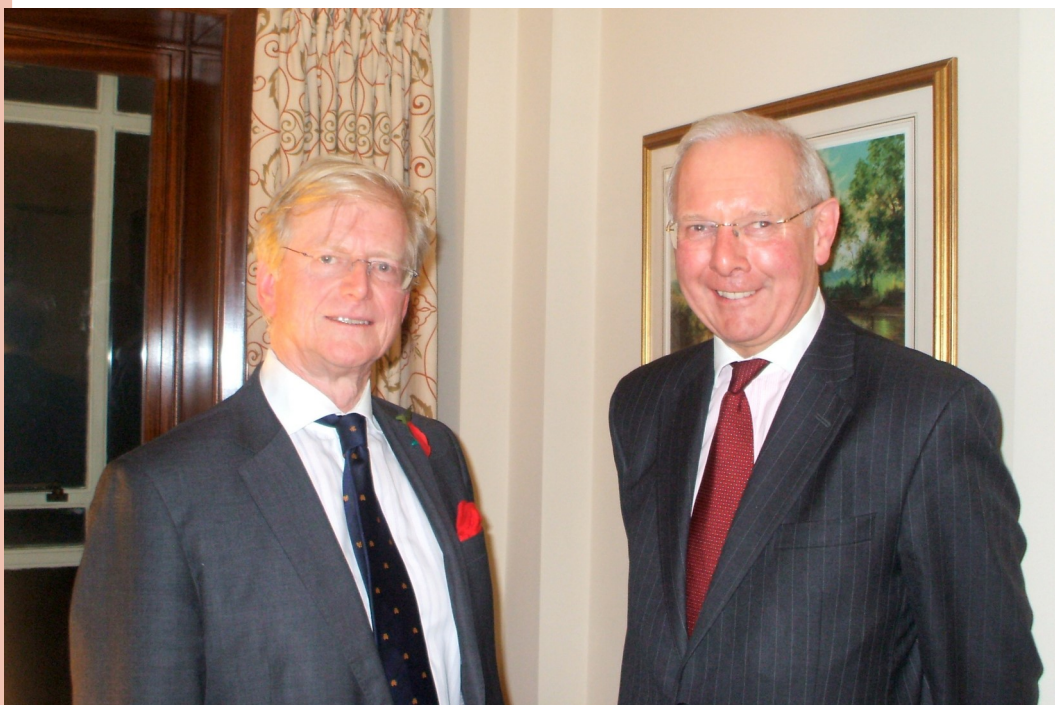
George Pipon Francis RETIRES AS 2ND GRAND PRINCIPAL

Russell John Race TAKES OFFICE



Above George Pipon Francis receives a retirement gift of an engraved fruit bowl at his celebration dinner.

Left The new 2nd Grand Principal Russell John Race ready for action.



After 10 years of exceptionally dedicated work the 2nd Grand Principal retires leaving a legacy of promoting the Royal Arch contributing to the higher profile the Order experiences today.

Further Change

In April **Gareth Jones** replaced **David Kenneth Williamson** as The Most Excellent Third Grand Principal

Gloves—that thorny subject, was it ever really resolved?

In the middle ages the Bishops and Priests in Christian churches wore gloves during ecclesiastical functions to denote chastity and purity.

The wearing of white gloves in Masonry is a symbolic idea and was intended like the Apron to denote purity in life, both were used by operative Masons as protection from the effects of their work.

It was decided some time ago that the wearing of gloves did not an official part of the Royal Arch regalia and therefore not worn at Supreme Grand Chapter.

At that time the Province of Somerset agreed to continue the practice but some individual Chapters did not. It became a confusing issue, when visiting do we, or don't we!

Recently a survey throughout the Province agreed by a majority vote to abolish the formal use of glove wearing at our convocations from January this year, however a minority of Chapters felt it was a part of their tradition to maintain the practice.

So, there is no wearing of gloves at Provincial meetings, no wearing at those Chapters who also accepted the policy, but if you visit a Chapter that has retained the policy should you wear them?

Perhaps a pair kept in your case is the wisest answer.



NEW ROBES OF SPLENDOUR FOR ROYAL CUMBERLAND CHAPTER NO. 41



Excellent Companions from L to R: Richard Cooper Haggai, Barry Woodside 2nd Prov Grand Principal, R Granville Mason Zerubbabel, D John Bennett MEGS, Roger Karn Joshua, Chris Moore 3rd Prov Grand Principal

Tuesday 19th April at the Masonic Hall, Bath the Royal Cumberland Chapter No. 41 were presented with new replacement Principals robes by D John Bennett MEGS. The evening was enhanced with members of the Provincial Team and a dedication ceremony was performed with ritual and dignity, fitting of a grand occasion.

The previous robes were in excess of 60 years old, records show them in use around 1935 pre war years and they had become deteriorated and shabby with use over that period. Repairs had taken place on at least two occasions, in 1955 at a cost of £3.19s.6d (just under £4.00) and again in 1964 costing £1.1s.0d (just over £1.00) Yes times and values have changed!

The Chapter decided last September to fund new robes and an appeal to members received some donations, other finance came from the Chapter funds and raffles at meetings to raise the £615.00 required. Warminster Regalia were commissioned to manufacture in November last year and the superb result was witnessed on the 19th.

The style of robe will never be repeated by the makers and will remain unique to Royal Cumberland Chapter as the oldest in the Province of Somerset.



The jollity and enjoyment of the occasion spilled over into the festive board which was reflected on the faces of those present, one can only guess at the comment made to amuse the 1st and 2nd Principals of the Chapter.

During the ceremony E Comp Chris Moore 3rd Prov Grand Principal gave a wonderful thoughtful and historical oration on Robes and Robe wearing detailing not only in Masonic circles but as an official vestment worn on ceremonial occasions by peers, judges, mayors, academics and clergy and of course by Monarchs throughout the ages. The Robe worn by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at her coronation for example took 8 months of research, design and workmanship with intricate embroidery to emphasise its regal elegance. 6 Maids of Honour carried its 6 yard train behind the Queen.

No maidens were visible and no train for the Royal Cumberland robes but nevertheless equal in importance for the long established history of the Chapter and the anticipated long life ahead.



Pictures: Derek Tadman