



Triple Tauk

COMMUNICATION for the ROYAL ARCH in SOMERSET

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2016, A NEW YEAR in the LIFE of the ROYAL ARCH IN SOMERSET

A Day in the Country for over 200 Companions Including: 13 Grand Superintendents, 3 Past Grand Superintendents, 10 Deputy Grand Superintendents, First Principal of all 28 Somerset Chapters.

A Galaxy of Companions filled the main hall at the Webbington Hotel, Loxton for the Annual Convocation of Somerset Royal Arch Masons. The afternoon commenced with the ceremonial processions of distinguished guests and visiting Grand Superintendents associated with such an event in an array of crimson and blue. The First Principals entered under the banner of Dungarven Chapter No. 973. The accompanying organ music of Comp Barry Renwick adding atmosphere and grandeur.

It was over 30 minutes into the proceedings when a visitor, E Comp Keith Taylor, 3rd Grand Principal of Cornwall collapsed, this naturally caused a stir and the Convocation proceedings had to be called off. It took over 30 minutes with the help of three experienced aiders to revive him before paramedics arrived to take over. To the great relief of all present he was able to stand before retiring and escorted to hospital for further checks. It was later established he recovered well.

This unfortunate incident highlighted the need for medical attention to be on hand when such a large number of mature gentlemen are gathered standing in a warm atmosphere for long periods, it was a welcome sight to see some of our own members had the experience and knowledge to react to the emergency to provide adequate interim care. Our grateful thanks are expressed to them.

The convocation eventually restarted almost an hour later and the Grand Superintendent was forced to rearrange the remainder of the agenda in order to cover the most pressing items. The MEGS gave his address and other formalities completed including First and promotion appointments, except it did result in the postponement of the investiture of the new Deputy Grand Superintendent, the new 2nd and 3rd Grand Principals.



Out with the Old—In with the new, Bob Moore retires after 14 years service

This took place at Taunton Deane Chapter No. 5221 on Friday 27th. It was a warm sunny start to the Bank holiday weekend and a good number of Companions gathered in Taunton including the MEGS of Dorset and his 2nd Prov Grand Principal, everyone treated this unplanned occasion of a Provincial meeting within a Chapter meeting as one to remember and the first time a Deputy Superintendent, 2nd and 3rd Prov Grand Principals had been invested within a Chapter.

The festive board reflected the convivial atmosphere of the meeting culminating in a unique event to treasure in the history of the Province.



The new Principals with Taunton Deane Officers and guests

Hiatus of hierarchy or high tension of hierarchy

Which is the most suitable collective noun? Whichever applies there is no doubting the tremendous amount of time and effort that each individual member of the Provincial leaders put into their year in Office. There are several meetings each week to oversee and the result is a lively Province providing a substantial donation towards their chosen Charity at the end. Your support and recognition for this major contribution to Masonry is welcomed.



Section of the visiting dignitaries from Provinces mainly in the south of England and Wales

At the meeting in Taunton following the Chapter Installation procedure and under AOB the Sceptre was proffered to the MEGS who accepted it to carry out the delayed Provincial appointments. E Comp Barry Woodside Deputy GS designate was escorted into the Chapter, he was read the Deputy GS patent and formally invested with his Robe and Chain of Office.

This was followed by E Comp Maldwyn Thomas Davies who was invested and presented with his robe and Chain of Office as 2nd Provincial Grand Principal.

E Comp Clive Albert Francis Lambert was then duly obligated and invested with his Robe and Chain of Office as 3rd Provincial Grand Principal.

E Comp Chris Moore the retiring 3rd Prov Grand Principal was then invested as Provincial Director of Ceremonies.

The new year for these Companions starts with meetings in June, there are 28 Chapter Installations, 6 Team visits ending on Thursday 18th May 2017 with the next Annual Convocation at the Webbington.



The unfortunate Companion who suffered the fall was quickly tended by three able members with medical First Aid experience.

E Comp Michael Jakins is a trained First Aider with the Boys Brigade and his local church community.

E Comp Chris Haliburton is trained at medical aid both with his work and as a past lifeboat man.

E Comp Stuart Hadler our PGM was a St Johns ambulance member and former nurse.

St Johns was founded in 1877 in the UK and

now has 500,000 volunteers worldwide. During its history it was responsible for teaching First Aid to workers before there was access to a doctor in the 19th century. From 1887 it was organised into a uniformed Brigade to provide a First Aid and Ambulance service at public events and still remains free at the point of delivery.

Its logo has always been the Maltese Cross.



St John

*Provincial communication has a new man, new title and a new approach. E Comp Adrian Halliwell is the **Provincial Liaison Officer** and will coordinate with each Chapter to promote activity.*

The Chapter Liaison member appointed will wear a new badge, attend the Calderley Chapter meetings and direct their own web page input.

"What are they looking so pleased about? We know what's ahead of them!"

The Eternal Triangle

MEGS

Dep GS

2nd GP

3rd GP



A Lighter Shade of Gray

Andrew Edwin Gray—our newest Officer to receive Supreme Grand Chapter rank of Past Assistant Grand director of Ceremonies. As Provincial Archivist he has worked tirelessly researching the history of the Province and all its Chapters which will culminate in the production of the new Provincial book this year.

Married to Margaret for 45 years and living in Clevedon Andy became a Police Officer with the Somerset force aged 25 and remained with them working in Weston, Clevedon and Portishead for 30 years. Next to his wife, 2 children and 4 grandchildren his love is the roar of

motorbikes, he owned a BMW but had to give it up when too heavy to manoeuvre, he now owns a lighter Yamaha 600. Only this year he fulfilled an ambition by riding through the French and Swiss alps to his sons home in Bologna, Italy.

Andy always had a passion for rugby, playing for Bristol Saracens but like many players was forced to give up when his joints told him to. He then refereed with Glos RFU and remains a season ticket holder at Ashton Gate.

In 2003 he was accepted as a full time student at the University of Bristol resulting in a degree in history graduating with honours. So Andy is the perfect choice to research the history of our Province, he is a Gray that has brought colour into many lives. His Masonic career has been fulfilling going through the chair for a second time in Tennyson Lodge No. 4947. Now Treasurer in Adair Chapter No. 1750. He also excels in Rose Croix, Mark, Royal Ark Mariners and Knight Templar.

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MALDWYN DAVIES 2ND PROV GRAND PRINCIPAL FROM 27TH MAY 2016

With the rugged good looks of a Hollywood legend Maldwyn joins the hierarchy of the Province with charm that would make any leading lady swoon. His family originated in the mountains, well Mountain Ash actually, his father being a 'Bevan Boy' coal miner. They moved to Somerset post war and Maldwyn was born in Taunton attending school in Bishop Lydeard then Huish Grammar until aged 16. His brother must have been an early Masonic influence, he became a Chief Petty Officer in the Navy and was a member of Loyal Vacation Lodge No. 6209 and enjoyed many visits to foreign Lodges when docked.

Whilst at school Maldwyn revelled in sports succeeding particularly in running, he has one regret in life, that he refused piano lessons, that Welsh musical heart was beating but the lure of the football pitch won. Today one of his passions is Somerset Cricket where he holds a season ticket.

His business life has been in the Building trade where he began as an estimator and remains employed as a company director. He married his leading lady Anne in 1971, has 3 children 2 boys and a girl and 2 granddaughters. He is a patient, tolerant person which has shown in all his activities throughout, even to the point of patiently waiting for Somerset to win the Championship. Perhaps that is also why he has excelled as a DC, a role that requires an infinite understanding of the weaknesses of others.

Masonically he has excelled, Initiated into Richard Huish Lodge in 1983, WM in 1992, was Prov ADC in 1998, PPrSGD in 1999, PPrSwdB in 2005 and PPrJGW in 2013.

In the Royal Arch, Taunton Deane Chapter No. 5221 in 1987, 1st Principal in 1999, Founding DC of Chapter of Protection No. 9047 in 2007, currently ScN in Som First Prin No. 3746. Prov Grand Chapter—PrGStwd in 2001, Past AsstSoj in 2002, ProvDepGDC in 2009.

He calmly takes on his new role emanating guidance and authority from his wide experiences, we all wish him well and welcome his company as he travels the Province.

At Supreme Grand Chapter on 28th April the main business was the Investiture of Officers for the ensuing year.

Under the control of ME Comp Peter Geoffrey Lowndes Pro First Grand Principal. E Comp Douglas Burford was promoted to Past Grand Scribe Nehemiah, he is a member of Chapter 41.

Our own Andy Gray was appointed PAGDC to enthusiastic applause from the Somerset contingent. Nearly 2000 Companions left Great Queen Street, the Somerset boys making their way to a nearby restaurant with their ladies to celebrate the success of the evening.