



Autumn 2011

Provincial Grand Chapter of East Lancashire



Supreme Grand Chapter Bicentenary Celebration 2013



EComp Wesley Marchant
Second Provincial Grand Principal

East Lancashire Celebrations

Companions, in 2013 we will be celebrating, together with all of those under the banner of Supreme Grand Chapter, the Bicentenary of the Royal Arch. This is a very significant milestone; 200 years ago the Royal Arch was formally recognised as the completion of pure and antient freemasonry, by the two great English Grand Lodges who, in 1813, came together to also form the United Grand Lodge of England. This then will be the 'official birthday' of this magnificent Order to which we belong. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, EComp Jack Price, has asked me to make the necessary arrangements within this Province for our own celebrations of this historical achievement. We shall almost certainly be

arranging some special events during 2013 to mark this occasion and there will be more about that in due course. Supreme Grand Chapter itself is hosting a variety of celebratory events at which I and other leaders will be representing the Province. Supreme Grand Chapter is also raising money to create a **Research Fund** for the Royal College of Surgeons, to be administered along side a similar 250th Anniversary Fund set up by the Craft in 1967. Freemasonry has always supported the Royal College of Surgeons since 1800 when it was founded. The Royal Arch Fund though will be very specifically focused towards supporting a special programme: The Surgical Research Fellowship Scheme, described overleaf.

The MEGSupt and the Royal Arch Executive are keen that we collectively and actively support the success of the Royal Arch. In an act of solidarity I am earnestly asking that each of you, as members of the Royal Arch Province of East Lancashire, make a simple and single donation of £10 to signify your support. Some Chapters may arrange a simple collection, others may collect small amounts over a period of time and others may hold a special evening or event to raise the necessary funds. It matters not how we achieve our goal, as long as we meet it. Finally Companions, I understand fully the calls currently being made on our goodwill, but an opportunity to support this bicentenary will not come again.

- In a Nutshell:**
- We, with all other members under Supreme Grand Chapter, will be celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the emergence of the Royal Arch as we know it in 2013.
 - The Royal Arch in East Lancashire will mark this Bicentenary with a number of Special Events during 2013.
 - We hope to support the Royal Arch Masons 2013 Bicentenary Appeal with a donation of £10 from every Companion in the Province.

How you Can Help

It is our hope to be able to deliver a cheque to the 2013 Bicentenary Appeal for an amount representing a donation of £10 from every Royal Arch Companion in East Lancashire. I am asking, on behalf of the Province, for no more than £10 from each person. The easiest way for us to collect this is on a Chapter by Chapter basis. I am asking each

Chapter to appoint someone to coordinate the collection. The Chapter will then be able to give a single cheque to the Province. There is no requirement for you to make any other type of donation for this appeal, nor do we expect you to donate £10 more than once, for example if you are a member of more than one Chapter in this Province. In 2013 it will be a very proud day when the MEGSupt is able to present a

cheque, for somewhere in the region of £20,000, which we know will not only be usefully applied, but will demonstrate the well known commitment associated with East Lancashire Masons.





What is the 2013 Bicentenary Appeal for?

The Royal College of Surgeons is a Registered Charity (not part of the NHS) and plays a vital role in the support of surgical research. Their mission is to enable surgeons to achieve and maintain the highest standards of surgical practice and patient care. They do this by a process including education, audit, research and support. The Surgical Research Fellowship Scheme support surgeons to undertake a surgical research project. This scheme enables the brightest and best surgeons to **explore treatments for conditions and injuries that affect millions of people worldwide**. This scheme relies only on voluntary donations from individuals, trusts and legacies. Continued funding is needed to maintain the number of worthy research projects that are supported. Less than 2% of funding for medical research is given to surgical projects and innovations in

surgery are only driven by research. Think how many people you know who have had hip or knee replacements, strokes, reconstructive surgery, cancer surgery or eye and ear surgery. Advances occur in all of these areas continuously and this is only because of the research that is possible because of funding from schemes such as this. This is why Supreme Grand Chapter has chosen to support this cause and why we in East Lancashire are choosing to offer our support as part of our own celebrations and in recognition of 200 years of existence of this Supreme Degree.



View from the Top



I am delighted that we will mark our 200th anniversary in 2013 by working with The Royal College of Surgeons of England to establish **The Royal Arch Masons 2013 Bicentenary Appeal**. Freemasonry has had a long and close association with the College through the 250th Anniversary Fund established in 1967, and we are delighted to have supported so many important research projects. This campaign gives us an excellent opportunity to contribute further towards something that is helping to save lives and improve the quality of life for us, our children and grandchildren.

HRH The Duke of Kent

First Grand Principal



At this investiture meeting in 2010 I announced that as part of the Royal Arch celebrations in 2013 it had been decided that a donation be made to the Royal College of Surgeons. The Royal Arch Masons 2013 Bicentenary Appeal was launched at the November Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter. Our donation will help to fund the College's successful surgical research fellowship scheme, which supports surgeons to undertake a surgical research project. Freemasonry has had a long and close association with the College and we are their major benefactor.

MComp Peter Geoffrey Lowndes

Pro First Grand Principal

And Finally



The MEGSupt, his Deputy, the Second and Third Provincial Grand Principals, the Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals and the District Officers Royal Arch—all of us are there to answer your questions and offer assistance with this, or any other Royal Arch matter you wish to discuss. This is a splendid Degree to be associated with and, as has been described as long ago as 1752 by Lawrence Dermott, it is "the root, heart and marrow of Freemasonry". Let us continue to celebrate this today.