



**Provincial Grand Chapter**

**of**

**East Lancashire**

**ANNUAL CONVOCATION**

**King George's Hall, Blackburn**

**Thursday, 26 March 2009**

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**PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF EAST LANCASHIRE  
ANNUAL MEETING  
HELD AT KING GEORGE'S HALL, BLACKBURN  
ON THURSDAY, 26 MARCH 2009**

**REGISTERED PRESENT:**

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| EComp J Price .....                   | ME Grand Superintendent                      |
| EComp A Bennion, PAGSoj .....         | Deputy Grand Superintendent                  |
| EComp R Taylor, PAGSoj .....          | Second Provincial Grand Principal            |
| EComp the Rev'd DK Pryce, PGStB ..... | Third Provincial Grand Principal             |
| EComp DH Thompson, PGStB .....        | Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals |
| EComp WJ Porter, PGStB .....          | Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals |
| EComp PRB Messum, PGStB .....         | Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals |
| EComp T Thomas, PGStB .....           | Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals |
| EComp D Simpson, PGStB .....          | Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals |
|                                       |  |
| EComp PJE Rink, <i>OBE</i> .....      | Past Grand Superintendent                    |
| EComp BB Wallwork, PGSwdB .....       | Past Deputy Grand Superintendent             |
| EComp VF Hodgson, PGSwdB .....        | Past Deputy Grand Superintendent             |
| EComp B Adshead .....                 | PAGSoj                                       |
| EComp MG Boden .....                  | PAGSoj                                       |
| EComp HAJ Garnett .....               | PAGSoj                                       |
| EComp IF Hancox .....                 | PAGSoj                                       |
| EComp H Hesmondhalgh .....            | PAGSoj                                       |
| EComp DB Howells .....                | PAGSoj                                       |
| EComp F Kemp .....                    | PAGSoj                                       |
| EComp N Morrison .....                | PAGSoj                                       |
| EComp D Roberts .....                 | PAGSoj                                       |
| EComp DJ Walsh .....                  | PAGSoj                                       |
| EComp AJ Adler .....                  | PGStB  |
| EComp JA Banks .....                  | PGStB  |
| EComp R Batters .....                 | PGStB  |
| EComp CJ Bolton .....                 | PGStB  |
| EComp DCH Brown .....                 | PGStB  |
| EComp N Cope .....                    | PGStB  |
| EComp B Horne, <i>JP</i> .....        | PGStB  |
| EComp JF Huddart .....                | PGStB  |
| EComp G Hunter .....                  | PGStB  |
| EComp RG Inskip .....                 | PGStB  |
| EComp JE Jackson .....                | PGStB  |
| EComp AC Johnson .....                | PGStB  |
| EComp EL Johnson .....                | PGStB  |
| EComp GW Litherland .....             | PGStB  |
| EComp W Marchant .....                | PGStB  |
| EComp RS Norris .....                 | PGStB  |
| EComp N Rayner .....                  | PGStB  |
| EComp SK Roberts .....                | PGStB  |
| EComp A Rothburn .....                | PGStB  |
| EComp GH Scaife .....                 | PGStB  |

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| EComp KP Schofield .....      | PGStB |
| EComp MF Shaw .....           | PGStB |
| EComp J Sutcliffe .....       | PGStB |
| EComp BW Taylor .....         | PGStB |
| EComp Rev'd JE Thompson ..... | PGStB |
| EComp DN Thornhill .....      | PGStB |
| EComp J Whitfield .....       | PGStB |
| EComp D Winstanley .....      | PGStB |
| EComp H Woodward .....        | PGStB |
| EComp D Worthington .....     | PGStB |
| EComp R Smith .....           | PAGDC |
| EComp PJ Swain .....          | PAGDC |

**PROVINCIAL GRAND OFFICERS OF THE YEAR**

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| EComp HAJ Garnett PAGSoj .....          | ProvGSE     |
| EComp M Landriau.....                   | ProvGSN     |
| EComp RI Frankl .....                   | ProvGTreas  |
| EComp AJ Pearson .....                  | ProvGReg    |
| EComp W Marchant, PGStB .....           | ProvGDC     |
| EComp SJ Horridge.....                  | ProvGSwdB   |
| EComp PL Watson .....                   | ProvDepGReg |
| EComp CP Dinsdale, PProvDepGReg .....   | ProvDepGSE  |
| EComp C Whitaker.....                   | ProvDepGDC  |
| EComp HA Lyons, PProvDepGReg .....      | ProvDepGDC  |
| EComp A Holland .....                   | ProvDepGDC  |
| EComp B Horne, PGStB .....              | ProvGAlm    |
| EComp DH Geldard, <i>MBE</i> .....      | ProvGChStwd |
| EComp JW Hudson .....                   | ProvGSoj    |
| EComp MP Nicholson, PProvDepGSwdB ..... | ProvAGSE    |
| EComp RJ Cleeve .....                   | ProvGStB    |
| EComp A McGovern.....                   | ProvGStB    |
| EComp FGH Smith.....                    | ProvGStB    |
| EComp JA Smith .....                    | ProvGStB    |
| EComp DE Hawkins, PProvGStB.....        | ProvGOrg    |
| EComp GT Hodson .....                   | ProvAGDC    |
| EComp J Kennedy.....                    | ProvAGDC    |
| EComp JAC Porter .....                  | ProvAGDC    |
| EComp AP Sinclair .....                 | ProvAGDC    |
| EComp J Beecroft .....                  | ProvGStwd   |
| EComp SG Booth .....                    | ProvGStwd   |
| EComp PE Clark .....                    | ProvGStwd   |
| EComp N Cooper .....                    | ProvGStwd   |
| EComp DJ Cowen .....                    | ProvGStwd   |
| EComp BH Dalton .....                   | ProvGStwd   |
| EComp P Smillie.....                    | ProvGStwd   |
| EComp S Smith .....                     | ProvGStwd   |
| EComp JA Stahler .....                  | ProvGStwd   |
| EComp D Williamson.....                 | ProvGStwd   |
| EComp G Wilson .....                    | ProvGStwd   |

EComp SJ Woolfe .....ProvGStwd  
EComp I Ronson, PProvGSwdB ..... ProvGJan

Provincial Grand Chapter was opened in due form.

*ME Grand Superintendent:*

“Companions, inevitably at the beginning of every Provincial meeting, there is a sombre moment and this is no exception. It is with great regret that I have to announce since our last meeting the following Grand Officers have died:

EComp James D Hemsley, PMEGS – 8 August 2008  
EComp Frederick C Mephram, PAGSoj – 9 September 2008  
EComp Harry Lawton, PGStB – 1 October 2008  
EComp Maurice Hargreaves, PAGSoj – 23 December 2008  
EComp Ronald Unsworth, PGStB - 23 December 2008  
EComp Thomas R Crowther, PGStB – 12 January 2009  
EComp W Gavin Haig, PGStB – 15 January 2009  
EComp Eric Riley, PAGDC – 25 January 2009  
EComp William H Walker, PAGSoj – 30 January 2009  
EComp Derek Day, PGStB – 11 February 2009  
EComp William N Brewood, PAGSoj – 23 February 2009  
EComp Glynne D Roberts, PGStB – 18 March 2009

An enormous loss, some of them you and I knew well and they, of course, will be much missed. In equal measure Companions, there are 34 Past Provincial Officers and Companions of private Chapters, each of them in their own way will have an association of companionship and friendship with you in this room and beyond. They will be much missed and I would ask you please if you will stand for a moment’s reflection in memory of departed merit.

Thank you Companions.”

## **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held at Blackburn on 13 May 2008, were taken as read and confirmed.

*ME Grand Superintendent:*

“Now Companions, on a lighter note, may I first welcome our visitors from other Provinces. It is a great pleasure to have you with us today and it is a great strength, to know that the Senior teams find time in their busy schedules to support each other in their Provincial Meetings. We are very happy to have so many guests here today.

## **Northumberland**

EComp Peter Magnay, ME Grand Superintendent  
EComp Barry Speker, Third Provincial Grand Principal  
EComp Colin Hume, Provincial Grand Scribe E

### **Yorkshire, North & East Riding**

EComp Richard Anderson, Grand Superintendent  
EComp Alan Brundall, PGSwdB, Deputy Grand Superintendent  
EComp Philip Stewart, Third Provincial Grand Principal  
EComp Denis Stublely, Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals

### **Durham**

EComp N Eric Heaviside, ME Grand Superintendent  
EComp Raymond G Snaith PGSwdB, Deputy Grand Superintendent  
EComp John Stirman, Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals

### **Cumberland and Westmorland**

EComp Norman J Thompson, ME Grand Superintendent  
EComp Peter J Lightburn, Third Provincial Grand Principal  
EComp Charles A Floodgate, PGStB, Provincial Grand Scribe E  
EComp John C Beadle, PGStB, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies [Designate]

### **Derbyshire**

EComp Graham M Sisson, PGSwdB, Deputy Grand Superintendent  
EComp Dr Anthony P Briggs, *TD*, Third Provincial Grand Principal

### **West Lancashire**

EComp Dr Stephen PJ Reid, PGSwdB, Deputy Grand Superintendent

### **Yorkshire, West Riding**

EComp John A Briggs, PGSwdB, Deputy Grand Superintendent  
EComp Rev'd Frank A Chappell, PGStB, Third Provincial Grand Principal  
EComp John R Parker, PGStB, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies

### **Isle of Man**

EComp Charles Craine, PGSwdB, Deputy Grand Superintendent

### **Shropshire**

EComp B Keith Downing, Third Provincial Grand Principal  
EComp Dudley Yorke-Summerskill, PGStB, Past Third Provincial Grand Principal

### **Cheshire**

EComp David R Hindle, PGStB, Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals  
EComp Peter E Carroll, PGStB, Provincial Grand Scribe E

Companions, please now offer our distinguished guests a hearty East Lancashire welcome.

[Applause]

Companions, I welcome on your behalf, the Distinguished Guests from our own Province and, perhaps again, you would refrain from applause until I have introduced them all to you.

First, the Past Grand Superintendent, Companion Paul Rink, whom we welcome back into the fold after a number of months absence. Paul, we very pleased to see you looking so well.

*There was an apology from Comp Dr Nigel Bramley-Haworth, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Craft, a Past Third Provincial Grand Principal and the Intendant-General of the North and East Lancashire Division of the Red Cross of Constantine. He sends his hearty greetings and his sincere congratulations to all those Companions who will, later in the meeting, receive an Honour.*

The following Assistant Provincial Grand Masters:

Companions: Harold Woodward  
Philip Mountford  
James Sutcliffe  
Derek Thornhill  
Martin Caller and  
Geoffrey Litherland.

There is an apology from Companion Stephen Blank who, today, is in London awaiting the birth of his first grandchild.

From the other Orders we welcome:

Comp Keith Schofield  
The Provincial Grand Master in the Mark Degree,

Comp Fred Kemp  
Past Provincial Grand Master in the Mark Degree,

Comp David Gallear  
Provincial Prior of the Knights Templar

Comp Barry Wallwork, Inspector General for the South East Lancashire District of the Ancient and Accepted Rite and a Past Deputy Grand Superintendent in this Royal Arch Province.

Comp David Hawkins  
Inspector General for the North East Lancashire District of the Ancient and Accepted Rite

Comp Colin Williams  
Past Intendant - General of the Red Cross of Constantine.

Comp Alex McLaren  
The District Grand Prefect of the Allied Masonic Degrees

Comp Howard Nuttall  
The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor.

Comp Geoffrey Litherland  
The Past Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor and

Comp Malcolm Moreland  
The Regional Grand Prefect, Knights Beneficent of the Holy City

Now Companions , we can acclaim them.”

### **ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

EComp Robert Frankl, Provincial Grand Treasurer:

“ME Grand Superintendent and Companions, I have pleasure in presenting the Accounts of Provincial Grand Chapter for the year ended 31 December 2008, copies of which have been distributed to you.

Although our overall expenditure for the year increased by over £2,500, our total gross income, at just under £38,000, held up robustly and we have enjoyed a surplus for the year of £2,364 compared to a small deficit of £108 that we suffered in 2007.

As a consequence, our reserves as at 31 December 2008 increased by the amount of surplus to £17,601 and I am pleased to report that the finances of Provincial Grand Chapter remain in a healthy state. It is because of this that I am not, once again, seeking an increase in Provincial Dues which will mean that there will have been no increases for three successive years.

I would like to express my thanks to our auditors, Excellent Companions Hesketh and Taylor for the professional manner in which they carried out their duties and for keeping me on a short leash in such a polite manner.

Finally, I thank the Provincial Secretariat and volunteers for the assistance they provide me on a day to day basis and which is very much appreciated by me.”

### **AUDITORS REPORT**

*EComp Neville Hesketh, PProvGSN, gave a report on behalf of the auditors.*

*EComp Donald Simpson, PGStB, Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, proposed a vote of approval and thanks to the Treasurer, EComp Robert Frankl and the Auditors, EComp Neville Hesketh, PProvGSN and EComp Keith Taylor, PProvGSwdB. This was seconded by EComp William Porter, PGStB, Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals.*

*ME Grand Superintendent:*

“EComp Treasurer, your accounts have been approved. Thank you for the work that you have completed for the Province during your first year. I also extend thanks to Companions Neville Hesketh and Keith Taylor, our Auditors.”

### **ELECTION OF TREASURER**

*ME Grand Superintendent:*

“The next item is the election of a Provincial Grand Treasurer and I am delighted to say that EComp Robert Frankl has readily agreed to serve for another year and I now invite EComp Trevor Thomas, PGStB, Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, to make the appropriate proposition.”

*The proposition was seconded by EComp Donald Simonson, PGStB, Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals and duly carried.*

### **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

*ME Grand Superintendent:*

“We now come to the appointment of Auditors. EComp Neville Hesketh and EComp Keith Taylor have, once again, kindly agreed to stand for a further term of office”.

*A proposition by EComp William Porter, PGStB, Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, seconded by EComp Trevor Thomas, PGStB, Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, was approved. The ME Grand Superintendent declared EComp Neville Hesketh and EComp Keith Taylor duly re-elected. He thanked them for their past services and looked forward to their continued involvement.*

*[The ME Grand Superintendent then, for logistical reasons, withdrew Agenda Item No 8].*

### **RE-APPOINTMENT OF ECOMP ALLAN BENNION, PAGSoj, AS THE DEPUTY GRAND SUPERINTENDENT**

*ME Grand Superintendent:*

“Companions, Companion Allan Bennion, is a dedicated Royal Arch Freemason and we all know that anything he undertakes he does with great energy and enormous commitment, in good humour and in fine style. I rate him as a friend and a man with whom I have the most happy and cordial relationship. We are lucky that such a man has proffered himself again for service for this Province. Quite clearly, he has much to offer and we will harness those energies in many aspects of the Royal Arch.

I now reappoint EComp Allan Bennion, as my Deputy Grand Superintendent and call upon the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies to make the necessary proclamation.”

*The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies then proclaimed the Deputy Grand Superintendent.*

### **RE-APPOINTMENT OF ECOMP ROY TAYLOR, PAGSoj AS THE SECOND PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL**

*ME Grand Superintendent:*

“Companions, Roy is one of those rare animals who pop up in the most unlikely places. You see him in other Masonic Halls in our Sister Provinces working diligently. If you go in to the Provincial Office invariably you find him seated in a darkened corner with mounds of paper all around him doing all sorts of miraculous works all of which is designed to make this Province function that little bit better. He has done this unheralded and unsung for many years now. He, as you know is also a very competent Scribe Ezra and Secretary of Lodges and Chapters, quite when he gets time to rest I am not sure. He is very able, very competent and he is fortunately one of ours. I am now, very happy to re-appoint Companion Taylor as second Provincial Grand Principal.

*The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies then proclaimed the Second Provincial Grand Principal.*

**APPOINTMENT OF ECOMP THE REV'D DONALD PRYCE, PGStB  
AS THE THIRD PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL**

*ME Grand Superintendent:*

In like manner, companions, I am delighted to re-appoint Companion Rev'd Donald Pryce. I think at this juncture perhaps I may say that Donald and I were at another Provincial Meeting last week and Donald sadly at that time was not too well, in fact he went positively pale. However, I can tell you in true Masonic spirit and I mean that in the full sense of the word, Companions of the Province of Derbyshire were most helpful and supportive and looked after us and more importantly, saw to it that Donald was looked after. He was taken to hospital, was well looked after and I can add at this point that Peter Messum did an absolute superb job as Florence Nightingale. However, on a happier note, thankfully, normality has been restored; Donald is with us in good heart and good fettle as they say. He is a gentleman, a man without malice, a man with a constant smile wherever he is and under whatever adversity he finds himself. He did confide in me that when he got home, his delightful wife Inza pinned his ears back; make of that what you will Companions.

However, it gives me the utmost pleasure to re-appoint the Rev'd Donald Pryce as the Third Provincial Grand Principal.

I now call upon the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies to make the necessary proclamation”.

*The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies then proclaimed the Third Provincial Grand Principal.*

“Companions, I now come to the reappointment of my Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals.

May I record my personal thanks to my Assistants who will remain in office and for the willing support they have given to the Deputy and his team over the past year?

I now re-appoint the following Companions:

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Comp William Porter | to Manchester Area    |
| Comp Trevor Thomas  | to Central Area No 2  |
| Comp Donald Simpson | to Northern Area No 1 |

**APPOINTMENT OF ECOMP NORMAN CLARKE, AS AN ASSISTANT TO THE  
PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPALS**

*ME Grand Superintendent:*

“Companions, time moves on and we now have two new Assistants to appoint. EComp Norman Clarke, PProvGSN, will take the place of EComp David H Thompson.

Companion Clarke was Exalted into Fairfield Chapter No 7224 in 1986 and became MEZ in 1994. He is a Founder member of Waverley Chapter No 1322, Three Shires Chapter No 9397 and Aldwyn Chapter No 5712 and a joining member of Equity with Dignity Chapter No 8304 and Unanimity Chapter No 4130. He is a member of the East Lancashire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No 8408 and East Lancashire Provincial Grand Officers' Chapter No 3747.

He was appointed Provincial Grand Steward in 1997, promoted to Past Provincial Deputy Grand Registrar in 1999. He has held the office of Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah since 2003.

He served as the District Officer Royal Arch for Ashton District from 1997 to 2002.

He was Initiated into Fairfield Lodge No 7224 in 1985 and was appointed Worshipful Master in 1991 and for a second time in 1997.

He is a joining member of Ashton District Lodge of Installed Masters No 8341, Trinity Lodge No 5651 and the East Lancashire Provincial Grand Officers' Lodge No 3747.

He was appointed a Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1996, promoted to Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works in 2002, and promoted to the rank of Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 2005.

He was appointed Chairman of Audenshaw District 2005.

Companion Clarke's services to the Craft were recognised in 2007 at United Grand Lodge, when he was appointed to a Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

A wonderful record of service to Freemasonry in East Lancashire and a worthy successor to Comp David Thompson."

*EComp Norman Clarke was then invested as an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals.*

## **APPOINTMENT OF ECOMP EDWIN CHEADLE, AS AN ASSISTANT TO THE PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPALS**

*ME Grand Superintendent:*

Companion Cheadle was Exalted into Chapter of Unanimity No 42 in 1994 and became MEZ in 2004 remaining in office for 2 years. He is also a member of East Lancashire Provincial Grand Officers Chapter No 3747.

He was appointed Past Provincial Grand Sojourner in 2006 and he has held the office of Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer since 2007.

He was initiated into Queen Victoria Lodge No 2584 in 1977 and was appointed Worshipful Master in 1986. He joined East Lancashire Provincial Grand Officers Lodge No 3747 in 2003.

Companion Cheadle was appointed Provincial Assistant Grand Pursuivant in 1991 promoted to Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon in 1994 and appointed Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 2001. He was Deputy Chairman for Sykes District for 3 years before being promoted to Chairman in 2002, an office he has held until now.

His services to the Craft were recognised at United Grand Lodge in 2006, when he was appointed Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

A worthy man and very committed to all aspects of Freemasonry, he gives of himself fearlessly and zealously and I would now ask the Provincial Grand DC to escort Comp Cheadle to me for Investiture.

*EComp Edwin Cheadle was invested as an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals.*

*ME Grand Superintendent:*

“Companions, in the Royal Arch there is no formality, other than that which you have seen today, for an investiture of an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals. Perhaps one day that may occur, but not yet. However, it does not prevent us from greeting our new colleagues with a nice warm welcome.

*[Applause]*

### **District Officers’- Royal Arch.**

One of the successes of East Lancashire, which I can say with some pride, is emulated up and down some of the Provinces are the District Officers Royal Arch or more affectionately known as DORA’s. They are a goodly number, all of whom work well. They have a varied task because on the one hand their direct link is through the Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, but on the other hand, the work directed by the District Chairman and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master. So they are quite busy fellows! I now re-appoint the following:-

|                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Comp Eddie Barlow       | Derby                |
| Comp Denny Stevens      | Derby                |
| Comp Stephen Horridge   | Starkie              |
| Comp Ken Edwards        | Sykes                |
| Comp Nigel D Renshaw    | Sykes                |
| Comp Ken Olive          | Salford              |
| Comp Graham Rawlinson   | Audenshaw            |
| Comp John B King        | Audenshaw            |
| Comp Michael R Williams | Ashton & Mossley     |
| Comp Paul M Holt        | Rochdale             |
| Comp Keith Doyle        | Bolton               |
| Comp James Fallow       | Blackburn            |
| Comp Fred Holden        | Accrington           |
| Comp Stephen Jansen     | Burnley/Colne/Nelson |

In addition, I appoint and welcome the following Companions as District Officers Royal Arch:-

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Comp Roger Bower     | Starkie |
| Comp Stuart Booth    | Oldham  |
| Comp Michael Gibbons | Bury    |

My grateful thanks go to Comp Fred Whittingham, Comp David Thornton and Comp Ian Lord for the excellent work they have completed whilst in office. I am sure that we will still see them giving their full support to the Royal Arch in the future. Companions let us record together our appreciation for what these Companions do for our Province.”

*[Applause]*

## **COLLECTION**

*A collection for the ELMC then took place.*

*ME Grand Superintendent:*

"I now call upon the Provincial Grand Scribe E to present his Report".

*Provincial Grand Scribe E:*

"ME Grand Superintendent, during the year, you have visited Aldwyn Chapter No 5712 on 26 September 2008 and attended a Banner Dedication at Abbey Chapter No 2529 on 7 November 2008.

The Deputy Grand Superintendent has attended

- the Amalgamations of
  - Goulburn with Turton Chapter No 3478 on 13 January 2009 and
  - Concord Deane Chapter, No 37 on 9 February 2009,
- the Golden Jubilee of Albert Chapter No 854 on 21 October 2008,
- an Exaltees' Meeting held at Cathedral Chapter No 7814 on 26 January 2009 and
- a joint Convocation at Radcliffe Masonic Hall on 11 March 2009.

There have, also, been celebrations for the

### **Personal 60ths of**

EComp Bartle Hodgkiss, who was Exalted into St John's Chapter No 348 on 21 September 1948 and

EComp George Cattanach, who was Exalted into Moray Chapter No 263 [SC] on 2 December 1948 and the

### **Personal 50th of**

EComp Stanley Brooke, who was Exalted into Hope Chapter No 414 [Berkshire] on 21 May 1958.

## **Statistics**

*For the year 2008, **63** Companions were Exalted, a decrease of 33 on 2007 and there were **111** resignations; a decrease of **43** on 2007.*

In summary, the year commenced with **2779** Companions and ended with **2682**, a net decrease of **97** Companions.

The number of Chapters is now **128**.

## **ADDRESS OF THE ME GRAND SUPERINTENDENT**

*ME Grand Superintendent:*

What a tremendous nine months for all of us. So much has been completed in so short a time scale and my sincere thanks go out to all of you.

At my Installation, from the moment I entered the Chapter, to the end of the evening, I felt very humble, yet uplifted from the immense feeling of true Companionship and unanimity all of one accord, to cherish and support each other and to be a part of our very successful Royal Arch life together.

My entry into the Chapter was a moment long to be remembered and certainly one I will never forget. I very much appreciated the superb support given then and the subsequent support that you have given to the Province, to your Chapters and to me, since that happy day.

My theme was then and will continue to be, one of consolidation of the relevant initiatives and focuses, together in due time and when appropriate, moving into new activities. Thus the main theme from that meeting and now is tender loving care; TLC in short. My Executive teams and I have had a period of bonding together, with much success. We have now consolidated and moved forward. The Executive is now much stronger, with a clearer vision of the future of our Province coupled with commitment and drive moving in the same direction, with great enthusiasm.

We have, today, seen the completion of successful periods of senior office by a number of Companions. To all these, I give the grateful thanks of the Province, together with my own. We welcome Companion Norman Clark as Companion David Thompson's successor.

Companion Thompson is moving his considerable talents from the Office of the Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals for the Central Area No 1, to his new and very substantive position as the Chairman of the 2015 Festival.

Companions, time moves on and another Festival Appeal - this time for the RMBI, approaches in the near future. It is my intention to launch that Appeal at the next Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in November. Companion Thompson now has a number of months to work behind the scenes, laying his schemes and planning the next major event within the Province. Various committees will be formed, appointments made and essential paraphernalia purchased in sufficient time for the formal announcement of the Festival. I do hope that you will extend to Companion Thompson every assistance and encouragement in the task that lies ahead. Having learnt our lessons from the last Festival in 2004, we need to ensure that we "hit the ground running" at the launch on 19 November 2009.

Companions, you as individuals will have to decide how your various contributions can be afforded. Perhaps I can ask you to consider that the ELMC needs us to continue our essential support? Our care structure is still of the highest Order and thanks are due to you all for the financial support you give and for the dedicated assistance given by the support staff.

The Chairman and the Board of ELMC have agreed funding for Community Projects throughout the next five years (though clearly and sensibly at a reduced level) commencing in November, so that we might concentrate on the RMBI Appeal.

Companion Peter Messum has agreed to vacate his position as the Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals for the Central Area No 2. His successor is Companion Ed Cheadle, from whom we will hear more at the Festive Board.

I am most grateful to Comp Peter Messum for relinquishing the position one year early in order to accept the position of Chairman of the very important and influential Education and Development Committee. His skills have already been put to the test, as his Committee was extremely successful in the organisation and involvement in the "Let's talk Masonry" Conference held at Hemsley House, Salford two weeks ago. The Conference was successful beyond all our expectations and was attended by well over 100 Masons, all of whom gave very positive feedback. Most came away with a different outlook and perception of our ritual. The majority, even after many years of membership, felt that they had learned and suddenly understood aspects of ceremony / ritual which previously had been too daunting to explore further. I have every confidence that they will certainly be stimulated to further exertions and hopefully carry their understanding back to their Lodges and Chapters.

This is just one new and successful initiative that I have encouraged the Committee to progress, that is to further the work of the Province's Mentoring Initiative. The members of this very important Committee have already spent extensive time, debate and energy in listening to the Brethren in the Craft and to the Companions in the Royal Arch with a view to the needs and the improvement of, the knowledge of all our members

The Committee has given tremendous support to our new Provincial Grand Mentor (Designate) Companion Martin Roche in his quest to provide appropriate Masonic experiences for our members.

One of our aims must be to relieve the feeling of listlessness and dissatisfaction resulting from lack of interest in the work within both Chapters and Lodges and to work towards ensuring that all of us understand our ritual. This includes the reason why we do certain things and, more importantly, to provide the facility to impart that knowledge to our newer brethren, in a timely manner and before they progress on to the next level.

This approach may be a seismic jump for some, but not all Chapters, and fits in most appropriately with our quest to be able to "spread a little TLC".

Tender loving Care can take many forms: the love for one's family - the love of the Almoner caring for the bereft widow - the brotherly love of the Mentor or DC, taking time to advise the new Mason, for example, on the reason for the perambulation, or the passage of Ritual he has been asked to learn - the love of the brethren building for the local community good cause, or the giving of money to support our brethren in time of need.

These are all aspects of brotherly love, but each requires overcoming apathy, expending energy, giving of ourselves and taking the time to truly nurture another – both for the benefit

of their and our own spiritual growth. Freemasonry within East Lancashire should encompass all of these.

At the end of the month, in order to cement the Mentoring aspects of the Royal Arch and the Craft together, Companion Roche will be appointed and invested in the East Lancashire Provincial Grand Officers' Lodge No 3747, as the Craft Provincial Grand Mentor. He will oversee the introduction and implementation of the mentoring scheme in the Craft and likewise in the Royal Arch, as and when the Supreme Grand Chapter authorise the appointment.

Assisting in this great design will be Companion Kai Hughes who will also in like manner, be appointed and invested, as the Craft Provincial Grand Orator and similarly in the Royal Arch when Supreme Grand Chapter so authorise. In both these important tasks, I do not wish the Royal Arch to be devoid of the considerable skills of both these worthy Companions: I see them, immediately, assisting the Royal Arch.

Companions, in addition, many of you will already be aware of the skills contained within the Communication Committee and have seen the results of the dedicated Chairman, Companion Chad Northcott. The Committee is beavering away and assisting all areas of the Province from the web site to the recent conference on ritual.

Communication and recruitment is taken very seriously and we are moving successfully into the modern world of communication. Many young men out there are disenchanted with the roller-coasting negativity of many aspects of modern society. These are seeking stability and meaning to their life. The best communicators of the positive story of Freemasonry are you, the Brethren and Companions of East Lancashire. Recruitment and retention continue to be so important; our future is in all our hands.

Companions, now moving on, we have, today, 154 Companions, some who will be experiencing their first Appointment, others the elation of Promotion and not forgetting the long-standing and faithful re-appointments. I do thank all of you for the work that you have undertaken and, of course, in anticipation of what you will do in the future. Your Chapters will know that the rank to which you have been appointed reflects not only what you have achieved in your own Chapter but also in many cases, the work you do within the Districts of the Province and in the community.

In addition to the Provincial Grand ranks, I am very happy to announce that the following Companions have received notification from Supreme Grand Chapter that they are to receive Grand Rank at the Royal Arch Annual Investiture in April 2009.

#### Promotions

Allan Bennion to PGSwdB

Christopher Bolton to PAGSoj and

#### First Appointment to Past Grand Standard Bearer:

Norman Clarke

Philip Conn

Ivan Eastwood

Alexander McLaren

Finally, Companions, as you all know, events such as today do not just happen.

We have relied on many Companions, our “Bridge Street” Ladies, support staff here at King George’s Hall, the Hall Stewards and the Security Stewards.

What a wonderful job they all do for us in bringing together the mechanics of the meeting. Perhaps I can, though, include everyone by mentioning the two teams in particular, those of the Provincial Grand Scribe E and those of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, to all of you who have been involved in any way, my very grateful thanks.

To conclude, I just wish to say,

- well done to each and everyone for the contribution that you are making to your Chapter,
- well done to those receiving an Honour,
- well done for the tremendous support that you are giving to the Province,
- well done for using your very precious time by being present with us this afternoon and
- my heartfelt and sincere thanks for the continued support that you give to Dorothy and to me.

God Bless You All.”

## INVESTITURE OF PROVINCIAL GRAND OFFICERS

|              |                                  |      |
|--------------|----------------------------------|------|
| ProvGSE      | Alan Garnett, PAGSoj .....       | 993  |
| ProvGSN      | Carl Dinsdale .....              | 2905 |
| ProvGTreas   | Robert Frankl .....              | 4849 |
| ProvGReg     | John Pearson.....                | 8798 |
| ProvGDC      | Wesley Marchant, PGStB .....     | 1083 |
| ProvGSwdB    | Mark Davis.....                  | 8763 |
| ProvDepGReg  | Peter Watson .....               | 3478 |
| ProvDepGSE   | Michael Nicholson.....           | 5041 |
| ProvDepGDC   | Henri Lyons, PProvDepGReg .....  | 8803 |
| ProvDepGDC   | Andrew Holland .....             | 37   |
| ProvDepGDC   | Gerald Hodson.....               | 6005 |
| ProvDepGSwdB | Stuart Cass .....                | 5771 |
| ProvGAlm     | Brian Horne, PGStB.....          | 126  |
| ProvGChStwd  | David Geldard, <i>MBE</i> .....  | 3342 |
| ProvGSoj     | John Hargreaves .....            | 1775 |
| Prov1stAGSoj | Christopher Byrom .....          | 8304 |
| Prov2ndAGSoj | George Matthews.....             | 266  |
| ProvGStB     | Alan Griffin .....               | 4828 |
| ProvGStB     | David Holt .....                 | 345  |
| ProvGStB     | Alan Moss .....                  | 1723 |
| ProvGStB     | Howard Munton .....              | 78   |
| ProvGStB     | Clifford Renshaw.....            | 1219 |
| ProvGOrg     | David E Hawkins, PProvGStB ..... | 116  |
| ProvAGDC     | Jack Levene.....                 | 6594 |

|           |                             |      |
|-----------|-----------------------------|------|
| ProvAGDC  | John Porter .....           | 993  |
| ProvAGDC  | Bernard Spencer .....       | 3787 |
| ProvGStwd | Roger Bower .....           | 6594 |
| ProvGStwd | Ian Dewar .....             | 116  |
| ProvGStwd | Jack Gallagher .....        | 8561 |
| ProvGStwd | John Gannon .....           | 348  |
| ProvGStwd | Shaun Higson .....          | 4365 |
| ProvGStwd | David Hoyle .....           | 2341 |
| ProvGStwd | Martin McKinlay .....       | 1219 |
| ProvGStwd | Philip Myers .....          | 126  |
| ProvGStwd | Aubrey Oldham .....         | 54   |
| ProvGStwd | Terence Walmsley .....      | 381  |
| ProvGStwd | Paul Waring .....           | 8763 |
| ProvGStwd | Gregory Wood .....          | 5197 |
| ProvGJan  | Ian Ronson, PProvGSwdB..... | 3921 |

## PROMOTIONS

### PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND SCRIBE NEHEMIAH

|                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| John Bacon, PProvGSwdB.....         | 5332 |
| Stanley Brooke, PProvGSwdB .....    | 854  |
| Geoffrey Creswick, PProvGSwdB ..... | 633  |
| George Fildes, PProvGSwdB .....     | 3478 |
| David Gallear, PProvGSoj.....       | 2193 |
| David Geldard, ProvGChStwd .....    | 3342 |
| David B Hawkins, PProvGSoj.....     | 993  |
| Brian Herring, PProvGSwdB.....      | 1219 |
| Kenneth Irvine, PProvGSoj.....      | 1030 |
| Miles Leadbeater, PProvGSwdB .....  | 369  |
| William Livesey, PProvDepGReg ..... | 381  |
| Michael Nicholson, ProvDepGSE ..... | 5041 |
| Harry Rogers, PProvDepGReg.....     | 757  |
| Ian Ronson, PProvGSwdB .....        | 3921 |
| Geoffrey Smith, PProvDepGSwdB ..... | 7489 |
| Stanley Stretton, PProvGSwdB .....  | 2701 |
| Fred Whittingham, PProvDepGReg..... | 2702 |

### PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND SWORD BEARER

|                                    |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| David Biggs, PProvDepGReg.....     | 116  |
| Paul Chadwick, PProvDepGReg .....  | 1147 |
| Stephen Holt, PProvGSoj.....       | 8763 |
| Barry Leech, PProvGStB.....        | 8763 |
| Brian Robinson, PProvDepGSwdB..... | 815  |
| Colin Taylor, PProvDepGSwdB.....   | 5677 |
| Colin Whitaker, ProvDepGDC .....   | 116  |

### **PAST PROVINCIAL DEPUTY GRAND REGISTRAR**

|                                      |      |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Brian Austin, PProvGSoj .....        | 4828 |
| Stanley Bibby, PProvAGSoj.....       | 6005 |
| Keith Doyle, PProvGSoj .....         | 1723 |
| Kenneth Edwards, PProvGSoj.....      | 54   |
| James Fallow, PProvGSoj.....         | 345  |
| Kenneth Hampson, PProvDepGSwdB ..... | 1218 |
| Leonard Hayes, PProvGSoj.....        | 204  |
| Kai Hughes, PProvGSoj .....          | 993  |
| Adrian Hunter, PProvGSoj.....        | 1723 |
| John King, PProvAGSoj .....          | 7958 |
| Tom Young, PProvGSoj .....           | 298  |

### **PAST PROVINCIAL DEPUTY GRAND SWORD BEARER**

|                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Joseph Barlow, PProvGSoj .....   | 2701 |
| Frank Eastwood, PProvGSoj.....   | 266  |
| Allan Hardman, PProvGSoj.....    | 42   |
| Ian Horton, PProvAGDC.....       | 300  |
| John Preston, PProvGStB.....     | 1219 |
| Peter Schofield, PProvAGSoj..... | 5041 |
| Neil Taylor, PProvAGDC .....     | 1055 |

### **PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND SOJOURNER**

|                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Alan Ashworth, PProvGStB .....    | 128  |
| David Barlow, PProvGStB.....      | 42   |
| Charles Boardman, PProvGStB ..... | 3478 |
| Paul Bowler, PProvGStB .....      | 1030 |
| Geoffrey Brown, PProvGStB .....   | 3615 |
| Tom Brown, PProvGStB.....         | 2193 |
| Lawrence Clapham, PProvGStB ..... | 5332 |
| Thomas Corbally, ProvGStwd .....  | 757  |
| David Cowen, ProvGStwd .....      | 3264 |
| Peter Douthwaite, ProvGStwd.....  | 268  |
| Derek Exton, PProvAGDC.....       | 2529 |
| Ronald Hall, PProvGStB.....       | 42   |
| Stephen Hancock, ProvGStwd .....  | 1147 |
| David Hundleby, PProvAGDC .....   | 6577 |
| Harold Maudsley, PProvGStB .....  | 8948 |
| Roger Paul, PProvGStB .....       | 3615 |
| Graham Rawlinson, PProvGStB.....  | 8763 |
| Arthur Renshaw, ProvGStwd.....    | 999  |
| Mahtarr Samba, ProvGStwd.....     | 1147 |
| Douglas Walker, PProvAGDC .....   | 126  |
| Gordon Wellens, ProvGStwd.....    | 3317 |
| Maurice Whittle, PProvGStB.....   | 3120 |
| David Williamson, ProvGStwd ..... | 2341 |
| Trevor Wood, ProvGStwd.....       | 317  |

**PAST PROVINCIAL ASSISTANT GRAND SOJOURNER**

Eric Morley, PProvAGDC.....266  
David Rigg, PProvAGDC.....226

**APPOINTMENTS**

**PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND SOJOURNER**

Bill Cavanagh .....7958  
Roy Grime .....645  
Paul Holt.....298  
Stephen Jansen.....2193  
Eric Kirkbride .....298  
Philip Mountford.....128  
John Palmer .....8304  
Gordon Rowe .....3867  
Arnold Slaney .....5197

**PAST PROVINCIAL ASSISTANT GRAND SOJOURNER**

Colin Bodimeade .....3264  
Peter Chadwick .....2529  
John Collier.....350  
Douglas Hayes .....1775  
David McDermid .....5771  
Keith Patton .....854  
John Radford.....286  
Paul Richardson .....1083  
Martin Schwarz.....993

**PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND STANDARD BEARER**

David Cartledge.....5412  
Peter Crompton .....8803  
Arthur Davies.....1219  
Leonard Davies .....268  
Duncan Ferguson .....7285  
Malcolm Hoodless .....2341  
John Lane.....2185  
Squire Lavin.....1064  
Andrew Lewis .....2185  
Peter Lindsay.....2891  
Frank Mellor.....8948  
William Morris .....3120  
John Nesbitt.....78  
Philip Norbury .....2320  
David Radcliffe .....283  
Anthony Rosenfield .....6594  
Joseph Skidmore.....345  
Simon Thomas .....8798  
William Tonge.....1634  
Roy Woods.....298

**PAST PROVINCIAL ASSISTANT GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES**

Joe Boardman .....210  
Ted Cooper.....3615  
Michael Hacking .....369  
Neil Jackson .....2702  
Dennis Jones.....4082  
Peter Marsden .....269  
James Strudwick .....999  
Kevin Thomas.....3478  
Frank Ward.....2701

MEG Superintendent, this gives a total of 154 honours conferred during the year.

**REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND STEWARDS**

The Provincial Grand Scribe E announced that

- the total attendance was 512 and
- the collection for the ELMC, which included the tax reclaim, was £2,556.64.

There being no further business, Provincial Grand Chapter was closed in due form and the proceedings terminated with the singing of the first verse of the National Anthem.

EComp H Alan J Garnett, PAGSoj  
Provincial Grand Scribe E  
Freemasons' Hall  
Bridge Street  
Manchester  
M3 3BT.