

The Grand Superintendents Address

Most Excellent Pro First Grand Principal, Grand Superintendents Present and Past, Companions.

May I firstly, thank you all for attending my Installation this morning and thereby not only supporting me, but more importantly, supporting our Provincial Grand Chapter of Durham.

Companions I know how much you love your Royal Arch masonry your attendance today is testament to that. But we must be able to communicate this to our fellow craft freemasons who have not taken that next step.

There is nothing more special than a well performed exaltation ceremony it must be one of the most special ceremonies in freemasonry, and I encourage you all to educate our friends who are not members about the indissoluble link that exists between Craft Freemasonry and the Royal Arch, with the Royal Arch being considered the completion of a Freemason's journey in 'pure antient masonry'.

In that ceremony the most important person is the candidate, - make it special. it must be right for that person; we must give them that wow factor. Like I said a well performed exaltation ceremony is one of the most special ceremonies in freemasonry.

Please take the time to learn the ritual, break it down and use other members of the chapter to ensure the ceremony flows and is delivered with meaning.

Like our Ceremonies we must make the whole experience enjoyable from the moment they walk in the door to the moment they leave.

We currently have only 40% of our craft masons who are members of a chapter, it is my intention to raise this level and I encourage you all to help in that task.

As you know our executive in Durham is a combined executive with both craft and Royal Arch companions working together for the good of freemasonry in Durham.

Can I take this opportunity to thank our existing Chapter Executive My Deputy E Comp's Michael Shaw and our 3rd Provincial Grand Principal Rak Bhalla and welcome E Comp David Hanson our new 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, Dave is well known to all and will be great addition to the team.

Can I also thank E Comp Paul Hopper who retires today as 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, Paul has given so much commitment to our Province over many years and I'm sure will continue to do so and I will say more about this at our convocation in July.

Communication is key to everything we do in life and freemasonry is no different and I think in the past we haven't communicated enough about our Chapter masonry as much as we have in the craft, I intend to change that, but I need your help, if your chapter is doing something different or has a special occasion coming up, tells us in advance, in order for us to promote it.

As you know we have encouraged every lodge to have a Royal Arch Representative and I'm keen that better support is given to this role going forward. We all know we have problems facing membership and attendance, it's not just a Durham problem companions but an organisation problem. But it doesn't stop us doing something about it.

As you know we have a host of resources we can call upon with Solomon and the members pathway, we need both our craft and

chapter to be strong together. This with other priorities are what we need to tackle head on during the coming months and years.

But I need your help, I with the senior members of the executive have made a commitment today and I trust you will join us in that commitment to promote the Royal Arch Freemasonry in Durham.

Companions, I look forward to visiting as many Chapters as possible in the coming months, it will also give us, the opportunity to listen to the concerns and thoughts of our members as we take chapter freemasonry forward in Durham.

Most Excellent Pro First Grand Principal can I thank you and the Grand Director of ceremonies and your team for supporting The Provincial Grand Chapter of Durham and making this a special morning for us all.

And to all our friends from neighbouring Provinces and from those from further afield for your continued support.

And to you companions for your continued support.

You have my commitment that I will work strenuously for the benefit of Royal Arch Masonry within the Province of Durham.

Remember companions We are stronger together

Finally, can I thank you all for making this day so special for our Province and for the very kind attention you have given to this address.

Companions. I'm proud to be a Chapter freemason and I'm extremely proud to lead this province as your Grand Superintendent.

Thank you.