



# Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset

To: Lodge Secretaries

## **Royal Arch Representatives**

Many of us were blissfully unaware when we were initiated, or even when we were raised, that the Holy Royal Arch is inextricably linked with Craft Masonry.

Individually we have all been presented with a copy of the Book of Constitutions. The Preliminary Declaration describes 'Pure Antient Masonry' as consisting of three degrees; the three Craft degrees with which we are all familiar 'and no more'. It then describes the Master Mason's degree as including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.

The very close affinity between the two Orders has for many years resulted in the presence of a Royal Arch representative in our Lodges. In a few cases the representative scheme has not achieved everything expected from it. In order to address this issue a Working Group consisting of Brethren and Companions of this Province have undertaken a review to address how matters might be improved and have made the following recommendations:

- The Royal Arch (RA) Executive in consultation with the Lodge should have an input in the appointment of the RA representative, and the appointment should ideally be for a term of up to 5 years rather than an annual appointment. Therefore, the RA would like to agree the appointment with the Lodge.
- The Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent's joint letter should be presented to all Master Masons in Open Lodge and whenever possible by the RA representative. Ideally this should be at the same time that they receive their Grand Lodge Certificate.
- From the outset, applicants and new members should be made aware that there are four steps in Pure Antient Masonry and that the natural next step should be to complete those steps.
- RA representatives to be invited to give a short presentation once a year to their Lodge or Lodge of Instruction so the newer Brethren are better informed about the Order.
- The name and contact details of the RA representative to be recorded on the Lodge summons.
- If and when appropriate the RA representative could be invited to give a report during the meeting under a specific agenda item or Any Other Masonic Business.

Brethren, the Craft and Royal Arch in our Province of Somerset continue to enjoy the affinity of Pure Antient Masonry and together with the Grand Superintendent and our respective Executives I fully support and endorse the recommendations made by the Working Group.

In order for the Royal Arch representative scheme to be successful I trust you will give the aforementioned recommendations your full attention and support.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

*David Medlock*

David J Medlock

**Provincial Grand Master**