

INTRODUCING THE ROYAL ARCH

A good practice guide for encouraging Master Masons to become Royal Arch Companions



Introduction.

The rebrand of the Royal Arch as a part of the UGLE masonic experience has been rolled out as a part of the Strategy for Freemasonry 2022 and Beyond.

“One Journey, One Organisation - Initiation to Exaltation”.

The aspiration is that all Master Masons will also want to become Royal Arch Companions, but at a time that is right for them. We are there to guide, encourage and support them.

The role of the Visiting Officer in introducing the Royal Arch.

The Visiting Officer is the link between the Craft and the Royal Arch, bringing the Craft and the Royal Arch together at every step in a members masonic journey - Initiation to Exaltation.

The key elements of the role can be summarised as;

- To be conversant with **Discover More** and with the Royal Arch, its history, its relationship to the Craft, and its value in the Initiation to Exaltation, one journey – one organisation experience.
- To work with the Lodge Secretary to promote greater visibility of Royal Arch membership on Lodge Summons and on Lodge electronic communications.
- To report on Royal Arch matters.
- To encourage all Master Masons to aspire to join the Royal Arch, and to guide them towards a Chapter suitable for them.
- To present Royal Arch information to new Master Masons in open Lodge when they receive their Grand Lodge Certificate.

Available tools.

Copies of the **Discover More** booklet, Discover More business cards and the Devonshire Royal Arch information leaflet are available from pagse@devonshirehra.org.uk.

All Lodge Secretaries should ideally have copies and you may wish to use them if presenting a Grand Lodge Certificate to a Master Mason.

“the Craft and Royal Arch must work seamlessly together at all levels as one organisation”

“I would strongly encourage Master Masons to experience the Royal Arch and complete their journey in pure Antient Masonry before joining any other orders of Freemasonry”

E.Comp Jonathon Spence – Pro First Grand Principal – November 2022

Appendix.

To be conversant with **Discover More** and with the Royal Arch, its history and relationship to the Craft, and its value in the Initiation to Exaltation four stage experience.

The Royal Arch and its relationship to the Craft is steeped in history but in a nutshell the way that we currently work the Royal Arch is as a result of the union between the two original Grand Lodges and the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England. This Union created something unique and lead to the Book of Constitutions declaration of that pure and antient Freemasonry consists of etc etc etc.

Below are links to two documents that you should be familiar with.

<https://www.ugle.org.uk/sites/default/files/media/file/discover-more-royal-arch-for-download.pdf>

<https://b.ugle.org.uk/images/PDFs/royal-arch/grow/empower-your-members/grow-welcome-companion-narrative.pdf>

To work with the Lodge Secretary to promote greater visibility of Royal Arch membership on Lodge Summons and on Lodge electronic communications.

The One Journey theme has become a clear and consistent message from UGLE and from Jan 2025 there is no Royal Arch registration fee.

Where possible encourage Lodge Secretaries to make use of the One Organisation branding and of the Discover More QR code on Lodge Summons.

Links and icons in email signatures can also be hugely beneficial.



[To report on Royal Arch matters.](#)

Be aware of the latest Arch Matters newsletter so that you can pass on information about the Arch that may be of interest to the Lodge.

[To encourage all Master Masons to aspire to join the Royal Arch, and to guide them towards a Chapter suitable for them.](#)

Be aware of Lodge members who are not yet Companions and introduce them to the Royal Arch as the next step in their masonic journey. Know who their friends are , where their interests lay and then try to guide them towards a Chapter that will meet their expectations.

[To present Royal Arch information to new Master Masons in open Lodge when they receive their Grand Lodge Certificate.](#)

Make sure that all Master Masons receive a copy of the Devonshire Royal Arch Information Leaflet and explain that the QR code takes them to Discover More. Let them know that you hope that, when the time is right for them, you hope that they will take the next step in freemasonry and become a Royal Arch Companion.