



FORUM

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SUFFOLK FREEMASONS

December, 2003

NEW PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

Our new Provincial Secretary is another "Barry" Barry Rackham was appointed as Secretary at the Provincial Meeting held at Holbrook at the end of April. He succeeds Barry Ross, who has been promoted to the position of Assistant Provincial Grand Master. Barry (Rackham that is) was previously Assistant Secretary.



His mother Lodge is Christchurch No 6829 which meets in Ipswich, where he was initiated and served as WM in 1985.

He was appointed Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 1997.

Our new secretary has a good knowledge of the Province as his background is Newspapers. He was MD of the East Anglian Daily Times Company for many years.

Barry has always been heavily involved in the community having served as a JP on the Ipswich bench. Among other things he is a Past President of the Ipswich Rotary Club, and has been a long serving trustee of the Ipswich Sea Cadets.

A recent celebration was when he, and his son and daughter, accompanied his wife Mary to Buckingham Palace where she received the MBE from her Majesty the Queen.

For readers of the Forum it is useful to know a few details behind the name that will be regularly appearing on the paperwork which will continue to flow from the Provincial Office.

Book the Date

The Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge is to take place on **FRIDAY 16th APRIL 2004** at the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook.

As you will all know this will be the last meeting of the province for our Provincial Grand Master and it is expected that we shall have a very good attendance to show our appreciation for all his hard work and dedication over many years.

£50,000 Target for Cancer Treatment in Suffolk

"With further support from the Freemasons' of Suffolk it is my hope to donate, early next year, a total of £50000 for the detection and treatment of prostate cancer in the male population of Suffolk". This is the message from the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Robert J. R. Tile.

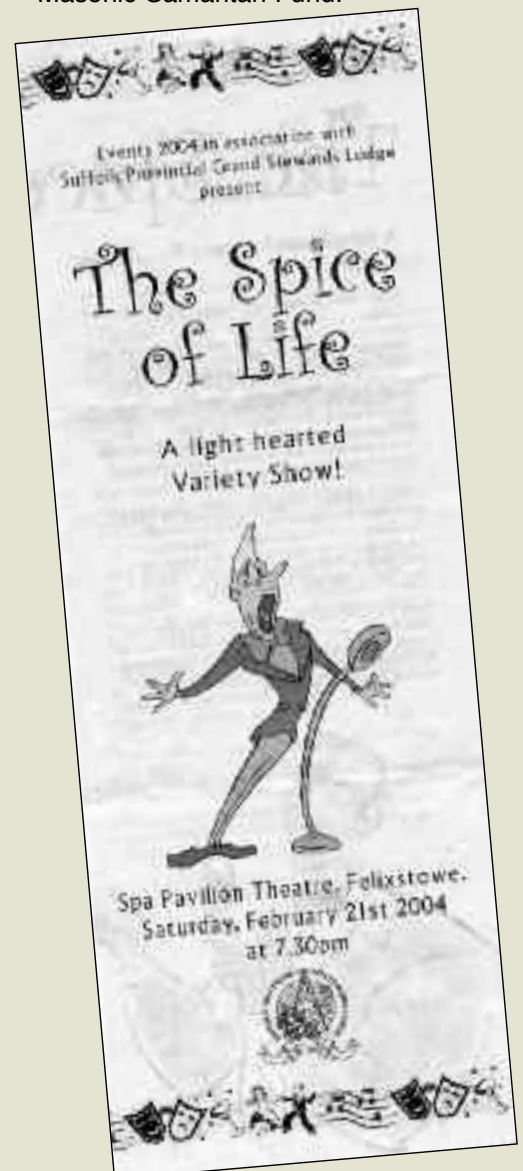
We are almost half way there following the fund raising efforts of the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge, and supported by the Lodges, brethren, families and friends from across the county as part of the Week of Awareness last year. Almost £24000 was raised from the show held at the Spa Pavilion and, with plans well advanced, a similar event is to be held on 21st February 2004 at the same venue. Organiser, WBro. John Yeldham and his team are confident that we can do even better than last year.

Following last year's success, consideration was given to the establishment of a Trust Fund, using the earnings from it to support brethren who needed treatment for prostate cancer and associated illnesses. However, this has not been possible to organise so an alternative way of using the surpluses from the events has been approved by the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Robert J. R. Tile.

He has asked Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro. John Yeldham, to research the needs of Hospitals in West Suffolk, Ipswich and the James Paget at Gorleston. Based on the outcome of this study, the Provincial Grand Master will then ensure that the money is allocated, in the best possible way, for the purchase of much needed equipment.

The Provincial Grand Master and his team extend their grateful thanks to WBro. John Yeldham and the Stewards Lodge, together with all the Brethren of Suffolk for their help in supporting this appeal.

With the completion of this fund raising activity, future Provincial efforts will mainly be directed towards our 2009 Festival Appeal for the New Masonic Samaritan Fund.



ILSIAMSA BEGORRAH!

You'll soon be hearing about a new charity gala performance at the Spa Pavilion Theatre, Felixstowe. "The Spice of Life" is a variety show in the good old-fashioned sense, a light hearted evening for everyone to enjoy. It's got quite an Irish touch to it this time, which as the show's Director lives there is not surprising! Topping the bill is 'Tandem', a jazz/easy listening combo of voice and piano which has been packing them in the clubs and cabaret theatre venues of Dublin for over three years now. Nigel Linden, a classically trained pianist/composer, and Simon Morgan (who in another life is an opera baritone), bring their musical knowledge to bear on well known standards, but given their own very special treatment. They've been a great hit in the United States, London, and in Scotland too.

Barry Sinclair has been creating excitement, laughter and applause at sell-out performances from The Opera

House Theatre, Cork to the Desert Inn, Las Vegas with his dazzling blend of comedy and mind reading. The New York Times put it succinctly as "This man is brilliant!" and we think you'll agree.

Leaving the 'Land of the Black Stuff' behind, the show will have music from Neville Dickie, Peter Gosling and the Orwell Singers, comedy from Steven Price, and some lighthearted verse from Gary Pryke. All in all, an evening to sit back and really enjoy.

Make a note of the date now, Saturday February 21st 2004 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £15 or £40, and the latter includes an invitation to the Provincial Grand Master's Post-Performance Champagne Reception with a chance to meet and chat with the artistes. There'll be the usual opportunity for pre-booking for Freemasons, their families and guests, before the box office is opened to the general public, so look



Nigel Linden and Simon Morgan of 'Tandem' – topping the bill at Felixstowe in February next year.

out for further information from your Lodge Secretary in a few weeks time. If you're interested in advertising in the programme (going to press soon so be quick!) then John Rice at 01787 373821 will be pleased to hear from you and can give you all the rate details.

Oh...and by the way, in case you were wondering, 'Ilsiamsa' is Irish for 'A Variety show'!

THANKS FOR THE BLUE BOOK

By now you should have all received your copy of the new edition of the Provincial Handbook. There is a lot of hard work that goes into preparing such a record of our Province. Particular thanks are due to WBro Andrew Sleath of British Union Lodge No 114 who has been responsible for co-ordinating all the details.

RMTGB is a Major Sponsor for 2003 National Junior Games for Children with Disabilities

The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys (RMTGB) will be a major sponsor of the 2003 National Junior Games for children with disabilities to be held at Stoke Mandeville from 24-28 September 2003.

The National Junior Games is an annual event organised and hosted by the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation in conjunction with other National Disability Sports Organisations for children with disabilities aged between 11 and 18 years. This unique event is part of a co-ordinated approach to the development of sporting opportunities for young people with disabilities, and is held in conjunction with Cerebral Palsy Sport, Disability Sport England, British Amputees and Les Autres Sports Association.

This is the second time the RMTGB has sponsored the National Junior Games. This

year's £10,000 grant will help to fund the costs of accommodation, catering, programmes, medals and certificates, for around 180 children from across the UK who will attend the games, accompanied by around 80 escorts and 70 officials.

The children will have a physical and mild sensory disability. They receive instruction from qualified coaches and experienced athletes with a disability in a wide range of sports including archery, athletics, basketball, boccia, bowls, kurling, fencing, polybat, powerlifting, shooting, swimming, table cricket, table tennis, tennis and zone hockey. "We are delighted that the Council of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys has again agreed to support us and be a major sponsor for the National Junior Games", said British Wheelchair Sports Foundation Trust Officer, Melinda Arthur. "The games provide the inspiration for many of the children to achieve far more than they had previously thought possible, and enables them to further develop mentally and physically."

Masonic Children's Trust now Royal

With effect from 1st May 2003, Her Majesty The Queen is content for the MTGB (Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys) to be named 'Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys'.

The official announcement was made by His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of The United Grand Lodge of England, and Grand President of the Trust, at a regular meeting of Grand Lodge in London.

President of the new Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, Andrew Stebbings, said, 'This news is welcomed by the Council of the Trust and is a great honour for all of the members of the Craft throughout England and Wales.'

The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys is

one of the central Masonic charities. The primary aim of the Trust is to assist with the education and welfare of the children of deceased or distressed Freemasons. When funds permit, however, the Trust may also assist non-Masonic children by giving grants to other children's charities.

During last year, over 3,000 individual young people benefited from assistance. Sixty non-Masonic organisations also benefited from donations. In addition, throughout England and Wales, 25 children's hospices enjoy the benefits of the Trust's £7.5 million *lifelite* information technology scheme. *lifelites* is a special fund - established in 1998 as the Trust's millennium project - that provides networked multi-media communications and computer-aided educational and recreational facilities to the children in the hospices.

TEDDIES CHEER-UP THE CHILDREN



Elaine Haigh, and Suzanne Gregory show how delighted they are with some of the Teddies who are waiting for new owners at the Accident and Emergency department at Heath Road Hospital, Ipswich.

In the Province of Suffolk we have launched a trial of the Teddies for Loving Care project at the Ipswich Heath Road Hospital. This trial is proving to be such a success that we can confirm our ongoing support. The PGM has given his approval to this initiative and investigations are in place to examine whether we can extend the concept to other hospitals in the Province.

Past Assistant PGM Angus Graham has been responsible for leading the initiative, obtaining the Teddies and all the administrative procedures.

What happens is that we supply the Hospital with a stock of little cuddly teddy bears, which have a small label stating that it has been supplied by Suffolk Freemasons. The nurses in charge at the Accident and Emergency Department then decide when to give a child a teddy. The scheme is being co-ordinated by Suzanne Gregory who is the Play Specialist.

Suzanne tells us that it is a wonderful idea and the Teddies make the experience of Accident and Emergency much more positive for children at a time of extreme stress and worry. A visit to the A & E department is often a first experience of medical care, and because of the urgency, at that time, the necessary cuddly item is often left at home.

Not all children are given a teddy but the nurses use their experience to judge when such a gift can be very useful. Suzanne gives the example of a little boy who came in to have his stitches removed, and he was very apprehensive. However a quick stitch in Teddy and a demonstration of how easily it was removed, calmed the little boy, and the task was then carried out with no fuss at all.

The Teddy is a permanent gift to the child and goes with them on their Hospital journey. One of the stories told at the outset is that the little Teddy needs a home and someone to love them.

Children's Nurse Elaine Haigh tells us that it is a lovely idea and much appreciated, not only by the children but also by the staff. We sometimes give one to a sibling which can help to calm nerves at a time of family stress, she told us.

Elaine tells us that they are now kept on the ambulances for use when away from Heath Road. It can be a useful small gift if the crew attend a house where perhaps there has been a bereavement, and a child needs a little special comfort.

On occasions there has been a young at heart teenager, who has been very distressed, and a cuddly teddy has worked wonders.

Suzanne Gregory thanks you all for your help and tells us that it is lovely to have the support of Suffolk Freemasons with this extremely worthwhile project.

THE 87 YEAR OLD FALL GUY!

The only way was down - at top speed - for 87 years old Jim Baxter when he took part in a 10,000ft skydive.

Jim, of Carlton Colville, wanted to help the East Anglian Air Ambulance and to do so he took to the skies in truly daredevil fashion.

His stunt raised more than £600.

"I've always wanted to do a parachute jump," said Jim. "I had to get my doctor to sign a piece of paper to allow me to do it, and when I asked him what he thought he said 'If you are healthy, do it.' So I did!"

He added: "I believe the East Anglian Air Ambulance does such a very good job. All of us living in the region could be grateful for the air ambulance one day if we find ourselves in trouble, and I was determined to support them as best I could."

He made a tandem jump with his instructor, Andy Page, which meant they were strapped together under a single chute.

Mr. Page was on top to control the free fall and the speed, leaving Mr. Baxter free to enjoy the ride.

"My nephew had suggested that I shout 'Geronimo!' as I left the plane, but the fall only took 35 seconds and in the excitement I just forgot," he said.

The first 5000 feet of the jump was in freefall at a speed of 120mph, then they used a small chute to slow them down as they approached the ground.

"When Andy released the main chute we slowed down considerably and he shouted to me to enjoy the view, which was just fabulous from up there," said Jim, a retired post office engineer.

The jump took place at Old Buckenham Airfield in Norfolk, and Andy reckons Jim is his oldest pupil to date.

"We had a woman who was 80 and another man in his early 80s, but Mr. Baxter is our eldest so far," he said.

The event was recorded on video by fellow skydiver Adrian Baldry, who followed them with his camcorder, and Jim has been able to replay the jump at home in Elmdale Drive to his 96 year old wife, Florence.

"She hasn't been able to see very much but she says she is very proud of me," he said.



Around the Lodges

ABIFF LODGE



A Little bit of Derbyshire comes to Suffolk

The Abiff Lodge Ladies Night was held on the 8th of February at the Elizabeth Orwell Hotel in Felixstowe. It sort of got off to a flying start when just a week before the night the WM managed to fracture a vertebra while sledging with his children in Christchurch Park, and had to be airlifted to hospital in the Suffolk Air Ambulance. He was fortunately discharged from hospital the afternoon before the planned Ladies Night, although was under strict instructions to take things steady.

There was a definite feel of Derbyshire about the whole evening, the tables had each been named after a town or village from the county of the WM's birth. The ladies gifts were from a small lead crystal producer in Tutbury. The band which entertained the guests were a 17 piece big band called the Ockbrook Big Band who had also travelled down from Derby, and were resplendent in their GI uniforms.

The raffle was in aid of Crossroads, which is a local charity based in Felixstowe who provide respite care for carers. They manage to support the WM and his wife who have two children with special needs, and they help make the lives of carers bearable.

Worshipful Brother Swift is pictured with his wife presenting a cheque for £1295 to Mr Tyler of Crossroads, which was raised on the night through the sale of raffle tickets and donations from Family and friends.

MARK MASONS

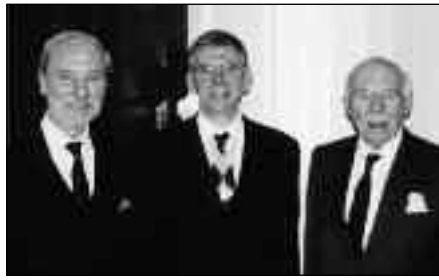


W.Bro. R. Miller and W.Bro. B. Woodall presenting a cheque for £500 on behalf of the East Anglian Mark Benevolent Association to the Bury St. Edmunds Samaritans.

The Association also gave £500 to the Marie Curie Cancer Nurses, Bury St. Edmunds.

The Association is supported by Mark Master Masons throughout East Anglia, and annually give thousands of pounds to local charities. This year over £7000 was raised to provide support facilities for the treatment of prostate cancer, and the appeal hopes to raise the same amount or more in the coming year.

GIPPESWYK LODGE



W.Bro. Bill Conder who has given distinguished service to Gippeswyk Lodge No.4254 was presented with his 50 year certificate by the PGM at a recent meeting. Pictured above (l to r) RW.Bro. R. J. Tile PGM, Martin Bartlett then WM of Gippeswyk Lodge and Bill Conder.

ROYAL ARK MARINERS CENTENARY

Royal Ark Mariners Centenary

In November 2003 The Edmondsbury Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.105, meeting at Bury St Edmunds, celebrated its centenary. The name 'Edmondsbury is not a mis-spelling, but rather an affectation of the period, reflecting the various ways in which the name of the town was spelt in the eighteenth century, and reflecting a whim on the part of the founders, the principal of whom was Owen Aly Clark, the outstanding Bury Freemason of the twentieth century. The Lodge has met on the same premises over its hundred years of existence.

The Lodge was the second created in Suffolk, and the sixth in the Mark Province of East Anglia. Like all such Lodges it was attached to a Mark Lodge, in this case the Freeman Lodge, from which it takes its number. For many years it was merely an adjunct to the Freeman Lodge, meeting on the same evening, and its meeting followed the Mark Meeting, which usually meant that it was difficult to persuade the members to return to the Lodge room, after the Mark had been completed, to commence the Mariner Degree. Meetings often consisted of opening the Lodge, reading the Minutes, and closing the Lodge, and where there was a candidate the advancement ritual was often read and the floor work confused.

Some years ago it was decided that the simplicity and beauty of the Degree deserved better. The Lodge now meets independently and the effect is to persuade members that the Degree is of equal importance and substance with all other Masonic Degrees. The history of the Degree, and its roots within Freemasonry, are described in various Masonic publications.

HARTISMERE LODGE

Musical Mayhem at Hartismere

The Charity committee of the Hartismere Lodge presented a Jazz Band Conert, by Bob

Kerr and his Whoopee Band, interspersed with fun, foolery and hilarious antics.

An audience, of some two hundred and fifty, members of the Lodge, their friends and families, enjoyed a riotous two hours of fun and laughter at the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds, which had been hired for the day, on Sunday 2nd February.

The Lodge was privileged to have, as their guests, at this event the Provincial Grand Master and his Wife. They, like the rest of those present, afterwards spoke of greatly enjoying their afternoon.

As a result of this event the Charity Steward was able to announce that a further £750 donation could be added to the Lodge's contributions to the 2009 Festival Appeal.

The Charity Committee, having already arranged a Cabaret Night, and a Bowls Match, and other events, in aid of the Festival, is busy organising a number of further "fund raisers" for the current year, including a challenge to a neighbouring Suffolk Lodge, for a Cricket Match and a Bowls Match. Are there any Suffolk Lodges who might wish to test their abilities, in these sports, against our "experts. You will find us in the Blue Book."

ORWELL LODGE



W.Bro. F. A. H. Champkin, Master of Orwell Lodge handing over a cheque for £450 to Julie Baker, representative of Macmillian Cancer Relief. This amount was raised at the Ladies Festival of Orwell Lodge.

ST. LUKE'S LODGE



St Luke's Lodge recently made a donation of £1000 to the Digestive Disorders Foundation, Suffolk. The photo shows the then WM W.Bro. Bryan O'Keeffe, accompanied by W.Bro. Ian Scott, handing over the cheque to Dr. Jeremy Wyke, together with members of the Digestive Disorders Foundation.

STAMP's Visit to Cyprus

It did not seem nearly a year ago that we left Felixstowe for Malta. This time, Tuesday 18 March we left under blue skies at a reasonable time of 10.00 hours, destination Stansted Airport. We flew out at 13.40 hours and after an unscheduled stop in Vienna to assist a sick passenger, arrived at the Venus Beach Hotel, some two hours late, at 22.00 hours local time (two hours difference). The dining room had been kept open for us and after a meal some of us retired to bed soon after midnight. Incidentally, when we arrived at Paphos Airport, Cyprus it was pouring with rain!

Wednesday, another overcast day but no rain, a coach trip in the morning visiting the old market and then to the harbour for a look round followed by lunch at the Pelican. Invited were the medic who had assisted our sick passenger, with his colleague and their wives (sisters). The wine flowed and the conversation grew louder before we collapsed into the coach at about 15.00 hours for a return trip to the Hotel and a sleep. Vaughan Pryce who had joined us for the first time entertained us to drinks in his suite that evening. Yes his was a suite, with lounge, bedroom, kitchen, bathroom and a second loo. Someone must have advised the Hotel management. A very pleasant hour or two before we retired to dinner, once again in the Hotel. They had been good enough to keep the dining room open on our arrival and we reciprocated. The whole staff, both dining and room service made us feel well at home. At this dinner, a new apprentice, Ralph Robertson, joined the two dangerous brothers, Bill Hagger and Peter Peck. Ralph was presented with his medal and a certificate, ably

concocted by John Jarman. Medals with the addition of "Cyprus, 2003" were given to the two originals. Finally a suitably inscribed umbrella was awarded to our Provincial Grand Matron (PGM), David Deal (teach him to keep on resigning) to assist him in leading the members at airports and the like.

Thursday, a quiet day for most of us, before we visited Dionysos Lodge, No.9716EC which was consecrated in May, 2000. An Installation ceremony was held in the late afternoon at the Venus Beach Hotel. The District Grand Master Designate, Theodosios Theodossiou was present, dinner jackets and dress regalia were the order of the day and the ceremony was similar to those we see at home. Roy Chalkley, Master of Wisdom Lodge, presented the new Master of Dionysos, Rex Baggaley, with an inscribed gavel, after which in his usual affectionate manner gave the command "SIT" to the member of STAMP who had stood for the presentation. The festive board was a very happy affair, plenty of speeches but not too long, and the Lodges represented in STAMP were each presented with a framed picture by the Worshipful Master. Mention must be made that in the morning before breakfast, there had been two swimmers in the indoor pool, yes Bill Hagger was one of them this time.

On **Friday** there was one, not Bill Hagger. He was accompanied by three German ladies of varying sizes and unfortunately a male escort who sat beside the pool. The day was spent as we wished. Some hired cars to tour the region, one lot arriving back with frost-bite after visiting "them there hills" which still had snow on the summit.



Des Band being presented with the Bona Cup by our Matron, David Deal.

dinner was spent at the Coral Breeze Restaurant, Doral Bay, St. George with six Dionysos members, some of them members of Suffolk Lodges. One in particular, was John James, founder Secretary (retired at the Installation Meeting) and District Grand Charity Steward, who was an initiate in the Lodge of Dawn and a founder of Copperfield Lodge. He hopes to be attending Provincial Grand Lodge this April.

A bade and STAMP headgear were presented to our Deputy, Vaughan Pryce, who suitably responded. Chris Ottoway's chair collapsed leaving an untidy bulk lying on the floor, presumably a weight problem. The Bona cop this year was presented to Des Band. His misdemeanours were three fold" one, having his airport ticket printed with the name Hubert Band (and why not?), two, pinching the district Grand Master Designate's nuts, sorry, bitties with his pre-dinner drinks and three, ordering so much wine he couldn't drink it all and spent some time stewarding other members. He seemed to appreciate his achievements.

And so to our return on **Saturday**. Previous, we had all sent cards to David Woodard recuperating after his health set-back - most saying how much we were enjoying ourselves! We left the Hotel at 10.00 hours, final destination being Larnaca Airport. On the way we stopped at Penta Daktilos, Kleftiko House for lunch where goat was the main dish of the day, tasted something like lamb. Then on to the airport, flying out at 17.45 hours arriving at Heathrow at 20.45 hours (our time). Luggage collected except for Peter Peck's which fortunately arrived a day or two later, and back to Felixstowe arriving soon after midnight. another great five days for those attending, who were: Chris Avis, Des Band, Roy Chalkley, David Deal, Nigel Gibson, Bill Hagger, David Harries, Geoff Harvey, Rod Hellawell, John Jarman, Mike Leighton, Norman Long, John Martin, John Newland, Chris Ottoway, Peter Peck, Greg Phillips, Vaughan Pryce, Ted Race, Ralph Robertson, Peter Seaman, Arthur Spraggons, Ian Treleaven, Adrian Watts and Jack Wright.



Arthur Spraggons (left), last year's winner of the Bona Cup, Vaughan Pryce (centre) and the Revd Roy Chalkley, Master of the Lodge of Wisdom.

Extracts from Address to the PROVINCIAL GRAND CONCLAVE by R.W.Bro. O. T. Harvey, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Province of Suffolk on 17 March 2003 at the Masonic Hall, Newmarket.

Brethren, I extend a warm welcome to you all here in Newmarket. It is most encouraging to see so many Brethren from our own Province, and such a fine gathering of visitors, representing some thirteen different Provinces.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to my Executive Officers for once again, performing their respective duties so efficiently, their loyal support is greatly appreciated.

Brethren we belong to an Order of Freemasonry that is very special and we have every reason to be proud, and to jealously protect our unique bond of fraternal foundation which creates a satisfied feeling of mutual good will and affection. When we have the 'Spirit of Friendship' and brotherhood, we enjoy a delightful fellowship and loyalty to the tasks which we are able to share.

A fraternal spirit has certain characteristics, without which it would be unworthy of the name, for its basis is self sacrifice truth, love and constancy.

If this spirit is present, we find nothing false or insincere, for it creates an entirely happy feeling of kindness and goodwill. It will cause us to rejoice in the joy of our friends and brothers, as if it were our own, and it will make us grieve equally as much with them in their sorrow. We have only to follow the obligations of our Order, to have this fraternal spirit in the truest sense of the word.

Brethren may we be so united in fraternal friendship, that this Order, which is made-up of the highest Principles in life may be one of which we are all justly proud to be members of.

Finally brethren, I would like to close with a masonic wish to express my hopes and aspirations for this Province.

How there are many types of doors, some look inviting to the eye. Some even speak a welcome, and some repel the glances of the passer by. For example:

There are Friendly "Cottage Doors" that have a cosy and "Homely Air." Doors where tangled Roses cling as if they love to linger there.

Doors of Churches through which countless worshippers have passed to sing their songs of prayer and praise.

Prison Doors through which men pass, bereft of hope, and no longer free.

Doors of Hospitals that stand for Mercy and Humility.

And of course there are "Masonic Doors."

These are situated in the "West" of each structure.

They are made secure, by being "Tyled" within and without.

To stop Strangers, but welcome Members and visitors.

My wish for this Province, is that behind these closed Doors May the "Lamp of Friendship" ever Burn well within the assembled Ranks of our Conclaves. May the Lamp ever be filled with the "Oil of Sincerity." May the Hinges of our "Close Tyled Door," always be lubricated with the "Oil of Fellowship" to those who journey to sojourn among us.

Thank you very much for your attention.

CORNWALLIS COURT

6 August 2003

Official Presentation of Wheelchair to Amber Paynter by the Provincial Grand Masters of Suffolk and Norfolk.

Amber was born 29 weeks prematurely and suffers from decreased mobility and partial sight, despite this she enjoys a good life and loves to play with her twin sister Holly. This new wheelchair which will last her until she is about 14 will mean increased independence and will therefore mean she can play with her sister and school mates a lot more. It will also be better for her hip joint which is very weak, Amber will have to undergo ongoing treatment for her hips as the joint is permanently dislocated.

A combined fund-raising lunch for British and American Freemasons was held to help a girl suffering from cerebral palsy get the wheelchair she needs.

The lunch, at the Risbygate tennis and bowls club, in Bury St Edmunds, raised £3,000 which will go towards a hi-tech £6,000 wheelchair for five year old Amber Paynter.

Other contributors:

Sandringham Lodge
Hi12 Square and Compass Lodge
Priory Lodge
UK Shrine Oasis
Risby Bowls and Tennis Club



PGM's of Suffolk and Norfolk with Amber and her twin sister Holly

AMBER ACHIEVES HER INDEPENDENCE

GIPPESWYK LODGE LADIES FESTIVAL

At Gippeswyk Lodge Ladies Festival they raised £800 for the St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich. The event held at the Belstead Brook Hotel in Ipswich was well supported by members, friends and family. The WM, Martin Bartlett together with his wife Mary were delighted to be able to present such a large cheque to Charlie Smith, community fundraising manager for the Hospice. Martin and Mary were keen to support the Hospice and early enquiries established that they were in need of "slide sheets" which are used to assist in the movement of patients. Each costing £80, this donation will satisfy their needs for several years to come.



WBro Martin Bartlett of Gippeswyk Lodge together with his wife Mary, present a cheque for £800 to Charlie Smith, Community Fundraising manager of the St Elizabeth Hospice.

Gt. Yarmouth Masonic Association Social Committee

Invite you to

MASONIC SPRING BALL

Saturday 24th April 2004

**The Ocean Room
Pier Gardens, Gorleston**

Dancing to
Music Express
with D.J. Paul Allen

Tickets £25 each

All freemasons and recommended non-masonic guests welcome

Reservations:
Ron Hanton Esq., 1 Cromarty Way,
Caister-on-Sea, Gt. Yarmouth NR30 5UG
Tel: 01493 720070
Email: ron.hanton@talk21.com

A NEW TAIL PIECE



More lives will be saved by East Anglia's vital air ambulance after officials received generous donations from Freemasons in three provinces to help keep their facility in the air.

A total of £70,000 was raised in just one year by groups in Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridge - cash which will provide essential cover in rural, isolated communities around the region.

Brian Cave, fundraising manager for the East Anglian Air Ambulance, welcomed the donation, saying public support was essential to allow crews to reach casualties injured as a result of riding or farming accidents, who are often difficult to reach by road.

"Donations like this are really important, and go a long way towards keeping the ambulance in the air," he said.

"But every donation is equally important to us, whatever the size. The public are supporting us in a big way, as they really see the need for the service we provide."

"Although we are the newest air ambulance in the country, we answer more calls than any other facility in the country, which shows just how important the service is."

The ambulance, whose annual running costs of £750,000 are met through fundraising alone, was launched in January 2001 and has answered more than 100 emergency calls during each month since.



"We thought this was a very worthwhile charity within our local community," RWBro Robert Tile, Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk, who donated £15,000 to the cause.

"This is a lifeline facility for the people of East Anglia, especially as we have a large coast line which can be difficult to reach by road.

RWBro Ian Bruce, Provincial Grand Master of Norfolk, said his members had donated £25,000, with an additional £25,000 raised by 3,700 members in 72 different lodges during the year.

"The air ambulance is a brilliant facility, and we are rather proud we have managed to raise this money," he said.

RWBro Colin Hutchinson, Provincial Grand Master of Cambridgeshire, said £30,000 had been collected by members from the province as part of their ongoing fundraising efforts.

"Freemasonry is renowned for raising money, and we support our own charities as well as non-Masonic ones," he said.

"We thought the air ambulance was a very worthy cause."

MARK DEGREE SUPPORT FOR EAST ANGLIAN CHARITIES

A cheque for £7,000 from the East Anglian Mark Benevolent Fund was presented to Mr. Krishna Sehia at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital by R.W.Bro. Peter Rollin the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of East Anglia.

Prior to the presentation Mr. Sehia gave a short illustrated talk about the prostate gland, the research that is being carried out to find the causes of prostate cancer and advances being made in its treatment. He said that the £7,000 given represented more than a third of the total amount given by the Government for prostate cancer research in 1999 and he intends to put the money towards the purchase of laser equipment to aid the treatment thus eliminating the need for surgery in some cases. It was particularly appropriate that Freemasons should be supporting research into a disease which

affects one in three of the male population.

Total donations to non Masonic charities to the end of March this year were £16,500 which include £4,000 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance.



R.W.Bro. Peter Rollin presenting the cheque to Mr. Krishna Sethia at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FOR HOSPICE

The Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys as part of the Millennium Lifelites Project is providing Children's Hospices throughout the Country with Computer equipment. It is the turn of EACH Children's Hospice in Ipswich, in the Autumn of this year.

W.Bro Bill Bunn of Lodge Prince of Wales No 959 has kindly offered to co-ordinate the handover of the equipment and to assist with the training and installation.



Odd Bits...



South Island, New Zealand - Is this taking our new found spirit of openness too far!

Sudbury Beat Braintree at last in this years Golf Challenge and raised £300 for Stisted and Cornwallis Court, the picture shows Sudbury Captain W.Bro. Phil. Gooch receiving the New Trophy.



The Lodge Ceremony was Chaos. No one could remember their words, nothing was in the right sequence, no one was in the right place.

The Treasurer turned to the Secretary "What's the time by the clock up there", he asked.

"A quarter past seven," the Secretary replied.

"Is that right," asked the Treasurer. "Yes." said the Secretary, somewhat puzzled.

"If so," said the Treasurer, "what's it doing in here?"

RMBI NEWS

H. Brian Smith, the President reports that a fundamental change took place in 2002 when responsibility for the administration for annuities was assumed by the Grand Charity. This enables the RMBI to concentrate upon the core activity of providing accommodation for older Freemasons and their dependents. It also reveals the commitment to ensure that our charities are run in as an efficient manner as possible and with the advantage of economies of scale.

The President has also pointed out that the members of the Association of Friends at each Home under the direction of the RMBI adds a special dimension of love, security and friendship not to be found in a standard care home and that this is where Freemasonry shines in serving a friend or brother in time of need.

"You maybe assured that the RMBI will not fail the Craft whilst the Craft gives it the encouragement and support on which it relies."



W.Bro. Lee Verrier WM of Stour Valley Lodge presenting an engraved decanter to mark 60 years in Freemasonry to W.Bro. Lionel D. Bell, PPJGW Initiated 15/10/1943 Passed 17/12/43 Raised 18/2/1944.

each

SUFFOLK MASONIC TANDEM RIDE

in aid of

each - EAST ANGLIA'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICES

Bro. Mac Speake and W.Bro. Dick Beechener, Senior Warden and Director of Ceremonies of the Lodge of Virtue and Silence No.332, intend to visit, on a tandem, every location in the Province of Suffolk where Lodge meetings are held. To take place over two days in the summer to raise money for **each**.

The distance of approximately 230 miles starting and finishing in Hadleigh.

They are hoping that all the Lodges will meet them at their Temples and help with fund raising for this worthy cause.

All details and times will be sent to Lodge Secretaries in the Spring.

Telephone: 01449 740635
Fax: 01449 744514
Email: mac@speake90.freeserve.co.uk

Editor's notes

PLEASE...With the advent of digital cameras, there has been a rising tendency over the last few issues, for our contributors to take a photo, print it out via their inkjet printers and send the printout to us for publication. Although your printout may look reasonable, it often causes scanning issues. If you use a digital camera, or otherwise have a photo on you PC, please send us the file on disc or email it to us. You'll enjoy much better results and cut down our workload dramatically! Normal photos, as always, are fine!

**Editor: W.Bro. Peter Green
01359 270598**