



# FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Summer 2006



## Provincial Meeting Roundup



## Editor's notes

Welcome to our summer edition of Forum. As you will see, its been a busy time for the province, and with many lodges really winding up their fund raising activities. There are still many lodges though hiding their activities from us, or perhaps haven't got time to tell anyone what they're doing. Whether its charity fundraising, or social, remember, this is **your** magazine and **your** forum for contacting ALL freemasons in Suffolk. This is the vehicle for getting problems solved and questions answered. It's your help button for anything you want to know, inform or ask your fellow brothers.

As usual I make a plea asking you to support our advertisers. Their contribution ensures this gets to you personally, so please reciprocate where possible. I am particularly surprised that our masonic centres in Sudbury and Ipswich are not used to their full capacity for Ladies nights etc. They are both excellent venues and provide top class service at a price that makes our social events more acceptable to members. Please lets support them a bit more and give less to the Hotels in the area.

*Peter R Green PPGSofW*

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## Jottings from the Provincial Grand Secretary

The front page of this issue demonstrates better than I can express with words, the success and happiness of our Annual Meeting at Holbrook (on Friday 2nd June 2006). Specifically at the Annual Meeting at Holbrook the PGM, RWBro. Barry Ross, was delighted with every aspect of the day and adding to his pleasure has been the receipt in the office of some 60 letters from our guests and others, expressing their congratulations on such a happy and successful day. Typical of the content was the following extract from one of the letters from a Ruling PGM:

"...It was a splendid meeting in every way which I shall remember with great pleasure – including the quite delightful presentation to VWBro. Vaughan Pryce on the occasion of his retirement after such wonderful service to the Province. May I also congratulate you and the excellent team for the simply first class arrangements provided, as always, throughout every aspect of the occasion. They were greatly appreciated by us all. Likewise, we also enjoyed a quite superb Festive Board in the company of best friends and in the most delightful surroundings..."

To all of you who attended, in whatever capacity, please accept my thanks for helping to make it such a super day. I am fortunate to be invited to many other Provinces and their annual meetings and I can assure you that we do it very well and the extract from the letter does not exaggerate, we're a good team. Well done!

Planning for the New Masonic Samaritan Fund 2009 Festival is proceeding well and it is hoped that it will be a fitting tribute to all

the hard work of the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, WBro. Richard Baker and the Lodge Charity Stewards who



play such an important part in persuading us to part with our money for such a worthy cause. A date for your diary is Thursday 21st May 2009 when we hope for a sell out of all 800 seats at the Celebratory Dinner to be held at the Trinity Park Conference & Events Centre (Suffolk Show Ground) Ipswich – details will be published in future issues of Forum.

The PGM has given his blessing to the organisation of a 'Provincial Grand Master's Summer Ball' which will also be held at the Trinity Park Centre in Ipswich on Saturday 23rd June 2007. A small team has been set-up to organise a relaxed occasion to be enjoyed by the Brethren and their Ladies. Further details will be released later this year so watch out for the tickets and help make it a memorable evening.

Finally, a 'note' from our new Provincial Organist, WBro. Graham Colthorpe. He has been asked by the PGM to organise a Provincial Choir who would be able to perform at Consecrations and similar Provincial occasions. In addition to choristers he will need a Choir Master to lead the choir under his direction so if you can sing and perhaps conduct please make contact with Bro. Graham on 01394 275824.

*Barry Rackham, Provincial Grand Secretary,  
August 2006*

## Letter to Forum

Dear Sirs,

I am sure that you have had many thank you letters regarding your Teddy Bears that you donate to hospital patients.

However as a Charge Nurse at Ipswich Hospital's Emergency Department I would like to thank you personally for the many bears that you have donated not only to us but I assume other hospitals in the region.

These bears have allowed me to provide care to very distressed children who without the promise of a bear to cuddle and love afterwards would not have allowed us to perform the treatment that they needed, and in many cases avoided the child going to theatre, which in itself holds many risks for the child.

I have now seen many of the bears follow the children from our department sometimes when needed to theatre and then onto the ward, and at the end of their stay in hospital to return home with them.

Once again, I would be most grateful if you could pass my thanks onto everyone concerned and wish you all the best in the work that you do for local charities.

Yours sincerely,

Duane M Elmy,  
Charge Nurse, Emergency Department  
The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust, Heath Road, Ipswich.



**PICTURED ON THE COVER:** **1** WBro R Baker, PGCharity Steward, R Douglas CEO New Masonic Samaritan Fund, and the PGM; **2** WBro I Yeldham and WBro D Mason in discussion at the rehearsals; **3** WBro P Peck at the reception desk; **4** The Past PGM and the Past DepPGM sharing a story with the PGM from Norfolk RWBro J Rushmer; **5** Retiring organist WBro M Blakeney rehearsing his music; **6** Some of the escort taking a breather from yet another practice; **7** Our new active Wardens WBro D Harries and WBro J Studd; **8** The Provincial Treasurer WBro A J Sharp and the Provincial Secretary WBro B Rackham compare notes; **9** The PGM with his newly appointed Deputy and his Assistant; **10** WBro R Mayhew enjoying a coffee in the car park; **11** The PGM congratulates his new Deputy WBro R Mayhew after the meeting; **12** The retiring active Wardens WBro M Catton and WBro E Maser checking their duties for the day; The story of our new Deputy PGM will be featured in the next issue of Forum.

## MCCARTHY SLATCHER MEMORIAL LECTURE

VWBro Neville Barker Cryer was the guest speaker at the Annual McCarthy Slatcher memorial lecture organised by Silver Jubilee Lodge No 8811. Seventy members and guests enjoyed an inspirational morning with a prepared paper entitled "Our debt to the Ancients and Moderns" followed by a lively Question and Answer session.

Silver Jubilee Lodge has published their Annual magazine "Thinker" which includes VWBro Cryer's papers which were presented this year and in 2005, together with other papers presented to the lodge. Copies are available for £2.50 including postage from T White, 325 Main Road, Kesgrave, Ipswich IP5 2PT. ■



Pictured: The PGM RWBro I B J Ross together with the PGM from Norfolk RWBro J Rushmer discussing one of the speaker's books which were offered for sale.



## WHAT A CHEEK AT FELIX

On Wednesday, 12th April 2006, Felix Lodge No.2371 had a rather special meeting take place. Brother Simon Cheek was initiated into the lodge. His brother W. Bro. David Cheek, a past master of the lodge, took the Master's Chair to conduct the ceremony. His father, W. Bro. Chris Cheek also took part, being the Chaplin of the lodge. Further celebrations are to follow as W. Bro. Chris is to receive Provincial honours later in the year. (Pictured are left to right W. Bro. David Cheek, Bro. Simon Cheek, W. Bro. Chris Cheek.) ■



## ST ANDREWS LODGE NO. 1631 GIVES GENEROUSLY TO E.A.C.H.

Worshipful Brother Keith Childs and his wife Ann Childs presented two cheques to Quidenham Children's Hospice, one of behalf of St. Andrews Lodge No. 1631 (Great Yarmouth) for £1,000, which was part of the charity monies raised during Keith's mastership year 2004/2005. The other cheque was on behalf of St. Andrews Lodge of instruction and was for £250. The cheques were received by David Went, Charity

Administrator for E.A.C.H., at the Quidenham Children's Hospice on Tuesday 21st March.

E.A.C.H. (East Anglican Children's Hospices), is the fund raising charity organisation for all three children's hospices in the Anglia region, of which Quidenham Hospice is just one who benefits from all the donations gratefully received. ■



## APOLLO LODGE GIVES TO ARTHRITIS RESEARCH

Rick Orme, pictured left, who was WM of Apollo Lodge No 305 last year has presented a cheque for the enormous amount of £3500 to Mr Simon Jamieson who is the Area Appeals Manager for Arthritis Research. This was only part of the funds raised during his year of Office.

He said that was delighted to be able to present such a significant donation to the Arthritis Research as Mr Jamieson said that such support was vital and the money would be used for further development and research into finding a cure for the many sufferers of the disease. ■



## STRADBROKE LODGE INSTALLS WBRO PITCHER

It was a special night at Stradbroke Lodge No 3291 in April when WBro Roger Pitcher (right) installed his son Paul into the Chair of the lodge following a kind invitation by the Worshipful master, WBro Victor Saville. Father Roger had already initiated his son in 2000, and delivered the exhortation and charge at his raising. ■



## ELEVEN YEAR OLD PIPER RESCUES A SUDBURY BURNS NIGHT

A traditional Burns night dinner for Sudbury Masons was rescued at the last minute by 11 year old Jordan Humfey. Babergh Lodge was due to hold a Burns evening at the Sudbury Masonic Centre when the piper who had been booked for the event had to call off at the eleventh hour. With the 25th January looming the services of a replacement was proving an impossible task. Fortunately Babergh Lodge's

Master, W Bro Stuart Andrews, thought to contact his son Scott. Scott is currently serving as an RAF Regiment Sgt at RAF Honnington. Opportunely a fellow servicemen and next door neighbour, was learning the bagpipes but felt inadequate to the task. However, this neighbour was able to persuade his apprehensive, but far more proficient son, to accept the challenge. Young Jordan, who studies at Culford School, is a member of The Glen Moriston Pipe Band in Bury St Edmunds. This Masonic Burns night was Jordan's first public performance. Feeling unsure about the traditional parade of Master & Candidate; Jordan played perfectly from the security of the JW's corner. Following the address to the Haggis the Masonic diners gave this very professional performer a well deserved standing ovation. A collection from around the tables meant that Jordan and his father John, travelled back home with sufficient funds to open the lad's first account for his musical future.

Apparently little Jordan had been so taken by the response to his performance that he phoned his anxious Mother three times before reaching home that evening. The evening's festivities proved a most resounding success to both Babergh Lodge and The Masonic hall. Although the evening finished somewhat later than normal, in excess of £600 was raised, due in no small measure to the timely rescue by a slip of a lad of a mere eleven summers. (Picture features the Master of Babergh Lodge, W Bro Andrews, presenting Jordan with the table collection.) ■



## DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER'S FINAL VISIT TO BABERGH LODGE

Sudbury's Babergh Lodge was honoured at their March meeting by the last official visit by VW. Bro. A. Vaughn Pryce, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk. Having served as Dept. Prov. Grand Master for some 17 years VW. A.V. Pryce was no stranger to Babergh Lodge having been a visitor on many past occasions. As a token of high regard, and to commemorate the occasion, the Master of Babergh Lodge presented a traditional Scottish Quaich (whisky drinking bowl) to the distinguished visitor. Unfortunately as the gift had still to be suitably engraved the final hand over had to be a little delayed. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Master of Babergh Lodge, W. Bro. S. Andrews, were both due to attend the Norfolk 2006 RMBI festival on the Friday following the Babergh meeting. At which time a suitable opportunity arose when the final transfer could take place, much to the interest of the assembled brethren. (Pictured: The Master of Babergh presenting the Quaich to VW. Bro. A.V. Pryce at the Norfolk 2006 RMBI festival when £2,941,022.33 was raised against a target of £1.5M.) ■

## ANNUAL MEETING RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Holbrook School was once again the setting for our Annual meeting in June, and the day proved to be another resounding success. The meeting was attended by 550 members and over 300 were able to dine at the Festive Board, which once again proved to be of a very high standard.

The Provincial Grand Master told the meeting that it was a tremendous pleasure to promote and invest so many Brethren for their significant contributions ensuring that our Province continues to be strong and healthy.

Special tribute was made to VW Brother A Vaughan Pryce who retired as Deputy PGM, WBro Mike Leighton who retired as Almoner and WBro Malcolm Blakeney as Organist.

A presentation was made to the retiring DPGM of a Laptop computer and printer, together with a cheque which was to be put towards a digital camera.

Our new DPGM, WBro Robert Mayhew was invested and WBro Reg Rivett was

re-appointed as Assistant PGM.

As part of the meeting and in the run-up to the 2009 Festival the Chief Executive Officer of the New Masonic Samaritan Fund, Richard Douglas, addressed the meeting.

He told us that although it is vital to the long-term future of the Fund that the 2009 Festival raises as much as possible, it is as important to ensure that the Festival serves to increase awareness of the work that the Fund does and the support that it can provide. The Festival will have been a success if every member of the Province knows and understands how to seek support should they, or anyone they know, need our help.

The 2009 Festival will be only the 10th Provincial Festival held on behalf of the Fund. Despite its relatively recent arrival the Fund continues to maintain its proud boast that no qualifying applicant has been turned down through a lack of available funds. From the progress to date within Suffolk I am confident that this boast can be maintained for many years to come.

## MASONIC CARAVANNERS

There has been some interest expressed in a Masonic Caravanners group, if you are at all keen to caravan with fellow masons get in

touch with W.Bro Phil Gooch of Priory Lodge on 01787 372013.



**ST. LUKE'S LODGE, NO. 225/  
IPSWICH CHILDREN'S HOSPICE**

St Luke's Lodge recently raised £900 for the Ipswich Children's Hospice. Shown handing the cheque over is the Worshipful Master, W/Bro Peter Taylor to Palliative Children's Care Nurse Penny Linford, whose father, the late W/Bro "Nobby" Linford was a Past Master of St Luke's Lodge. On the left is W/Bro Dennis Thomas. ■



**SOLEA LODGE HAS AN EASTER  
EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

Solea lodge No 948 held an easter lunch at which each person attending was asked to bring an Easter Egg, these were then delivered to Cornwallis court for the residents in time for Easter picture shows W Bro Derek Barnard with his wife Olive WBro Ben Bullen Lodge Almoner and Alan McMahon Manager of Cornwallis Court. ■



**PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER  
TAKES SECOND PLACE**

As by tradition Right Worshipful Brother 'Barry' Ross took second place to the Initiate at the Festive Board during his visit to Magna Carta Lodge on Tuesday the 21st March when he saw a new mason enter the Brotherhood.

The Initiate, Bro. Arthur Duncan Shiels, should soon begin to understand some of the ceremony and events which occurred during the evening he was introduced to the 'Secrets and Mysteries' of the Order.

However, it will be several years before he appreciates how unique his particular admission among Masons was and the significance and warmth of this welcome by the Provincial Grand Master. ■



**WB IAN YELDHAM, LAST MEETING  
AS ACTING GRAND ADC**

As some of you may be aware, our own Provincial director of Ceremonies W.Bro. Ian Yeldham, has for the past year also been an Assistant Director of Ceremonies (Eng.). His appointment to this acting Grand Rank is drawing to a close, and he was supported at his last complete meeting by many other members of the Sudbury Lodges. A few seen here supporting W.Bro. Ian further! ■

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**TEDDIES FOR LOVING CARE**

The three Stowmarket Lodges of Phoenix, Ala and Bosmere are enthusiastically supporting the Province's appeal for Teddies for Loving Care and between them have recently made donations totalling £1,700 to the appeal. The latest cheque is seen being presented to W. Bro. Dr. Mac Speake by W. Bro. Roger Young W.M. of Bosmere Lodge supported by Bro. Alan Parsons Almoner of Bosmere, W. Bro. John Shaw W.M. of Phoenix Lodge, W. Bro. George Voyle W.M. of Ala Lodge and W. Bro. Reg Rivett Assistant Provincial Grand Master. ■

# Bury St Edmunds Cathedral Service

## Evensong April 2006



The Evensong held at the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds was very well supported with over 700 members, families and friends present. The event organised by the Provincial Grand Chaplain WBro George Pipe, had many months of planning.



The address was given by the V Rev Keith Jones, the Dean of York. As part of his address he said:

"This tower, to which you, the Freemasons of the Province of Suffolk have generously contributed, is one of the most needed constructions in England. I can hardly think of a town which so much needed a focus. Not that any of us, I am

sure, are so snobbish as to think that there is not something rather sublime about the sugar refinery, wreathed in clouds; and not that any of us who appreciate beer would want to disparage the Greene King brewery stack; only that the people of St Edmundsbury must have been tired and embarrassed by pictures of St John's church, not an architectural success, being labelled in the newspapers as the cathedral, and it being so difficult to distinguish this delightful cathedral from the A14. But now it stands, and is a thing of beauty, and everyone should feel well disposed to the people of Suffolk who supported the appeal for it, and Dean James Atwell and his colleagues who managed it. And to you, for your significant part in it. And in that context, I have to add how grateful I am that you have given me the excuse to revisit Suffolk, and this cathedral of which I am proud to have been an Honorary Canon while I was vicar of St Mary le Tower Ipswich. And, by way of that, to express the kind regards of a Dean to the Freemasons who have been so friendly to this church and to many cathedrals up and down the land.

I am not a Freemason. I therefore speak to you with respect and gratitude from outside. I habitually answer those who are critical of Freemasons that as a rule we should judge every organisation by the best we find in it, and not the worst; and that the best defence of the Masonic tradition so far as I am concerned is the people whom I have known, loved and respected, who have been Freemasons. They number, for example, an uncle; my loved parish priest, Bishop Edmund Sara; Dean Peter Moore of St Albans, who has just died; and a large number of parishioners, colleagues and friends past and present who in themselves seem to

me to refute the more idle and indeed palpably ignorant accusations which are sometimes bandied about."

You cherish long and intricate pedigrees to very ancient foundations in human civilisation. I leave you to enjoy those as you wish. The real history of your movement, where it emerges as an important force in British life, strikes me as magnificently eighteenth century. And none the worse for that. For the eighteenth century was the age of common humanity and the Rights of Man. Your first lodge in Suffolk was founded in the 1730s, which is exactly typical of the age when Masonic lodges were being founded in English towns." ■



# THE BLUE CLOCK

On the wall of the Dining Room in the Masonic Hall, Soane Street there is mounted a blue faced clock, surmounted with masonic symbols, which hangs adjacent to a second white faced clock.

It is likely that many of the Brethren from Ipswich Lodges are themselves not aware of the story behind the 'two clocks' and are unable to answer the questions that come from curious guests and visitors, both masonic and non-masonic as to why there are 'two clocks'. This article is intended to throw some light on the subject, not only to satisfy the curious question but also to enable informed Freemasons to extol the virtues of a truly important Masonic virtue namely 'Masonry Universal'.

In 1996, Caduceus Lodge No. 9536, a peripatetic lodge in the Province of Suffolk that comes to Soane St. once a year for its Installation Meeting, approached the then Chairman of the Ipswich Masonic Hall

proposing the toast to the 'Queen and the Craft' at the Festive Board. This kind and generous offer was gratefully accepted by the Hall Co. and the picture was eventually brought to the Ipswich Masonic Hall.

**However, and in the nicest possible way, that was when the problems began. Just exactly where should the picture be mounted?**

At the time of preparing to hang the picture, the place in which it needed to be placed was occupied by the existing White Clock which had been in situ for more than fifty years!! Given that Ipswich Freemasons guard their traditions most zealously, it was easy to imagine the likely furore amongst them at the very thought of having their clock re-positioned. After all, for decades they had turned to that clock at the time of the 'nine o'clock toast'.

**It was then that Divine intervention kicked in! The idea was conceived that perhaps the problem could be solved by having a second clock (blue) and that the two clocks should be positioned, either side of the picture of Her Majesty as can be seen today in the Dining Room.**

**The idea was that the arrangement would then become a representation of 'Masonry Universal', a massively important tenet embedded in masonic ritual, symbolised by 'Celestial and Terrestrial Clocks' representing time either side of the world, and presided over by Her Majesty the Queen.**

And so it came about that in November 2005, almost 10 years later, when Caduceus Lodge No.9536 was holding its Installation Meeting at Soane Street when one of the members of Caduceus Lodge was heard to mention that he was to visit New Zealand in February 2006.

**This was clearly the long awaited opportunity to make that Masonic link with the other side of the world and thereby fulfil the pledge that had been made so long ago. On behalf of the Ipswich Masonic Trust a letter was sent to that same Brother inviting him and Caduceus Lodge to search for that link and to make contact with a Lodge in New Zealand.**

**The invitation was taken up and as a result Caduceus Lodge has done a magnificent job by formally linking with Wellington Lodge No. 1521 EC, New Zealand. The process of linking the two Lodges was done under the auspices of our own United Grand Lodge and as such the two Lodges are described as Reciprocating Lodges.**

At the time of preparing for the visit to Wellington Lodge by the particular Brother, Caduceus Lodge were gathering together certain gifts and memorabilia to mark the occasion. It was at this time that The Ipswich Masonic Trust was invited to send a gift also.

It was then that the Trust Co., the Hall Co. and the Ipswich Masonic Club, each being a fundamental part of the Ipswich Masonic Hall, collaborated and decided that a very fitting gift would be a replica of the Blue Clock in the dining room and that the gift should go in the name of all Ipswich Masons. Such a clock was commissioned and then personally carried, by hand, all the way to New Zealand by the Brother from Caduceus Lodge and presented to the Brethren of Wellington Lodge. A presentation plate was also sent which reads as below:

*This clock is presented to the Brethren of Wellington Lodge No. 1521 EC, New Zealand by 'The Freemasons of Ipswich' in The Province of Suffolk UK. February 2006 'Fraternal Greetings Across the World'*

This largely brings the story of The Blue Clock, in itself, to a conclusion— however it is very much hoped that it is but the beginning of a heartfelt, lasting and meaningful relationship between Wellington Lodge No.1521 and all Ipswich Freemasons who, between them, number almost a thousand Brethren. It can be imagined that any Brother from the Province of Suffolk visiting Wellington Lodge would receive a truly Masonic welcome.

**Equally important is the hope that the story throws a light on the need for all Freemasons to sustain the concept of 'Masonry Universal' which is so crucial to all of us in today's troubled world.**

*W.Bro.C.A.Hurcombe P.G.T.*



L-R: W.Bro.Harry Watson - Chairman Hall Co., W.Bro.Colin Hurcombe - past Chairman Trust Co., W.Bro.Gilbert Corbett - Chairman Ipswich Masonic Club. 'The Clock that now Hangs in Wellington Lodge No.1521 EC, New Zealand'

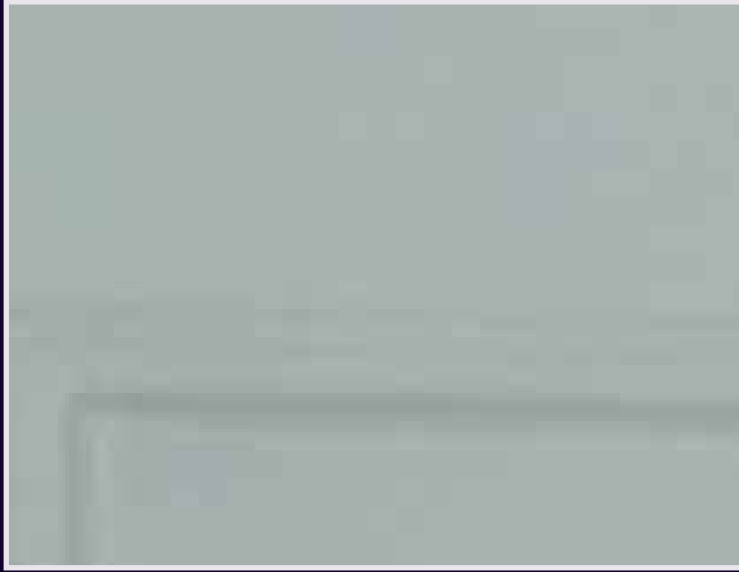
Company Ltd. indicating that the Brethren of the Lodge wanted to present the Masonic Hall with a picture of Her Majesty the Queen and for it to be placed in the Dining Room. It was intended to, and indeed does, provide a fitting focus for Masons at the time of

But the story doesn't end there. From that point on, and having symbolised 'Masonry Universal' as described, it was always intended that, at some time, 'life' should be breathed into the display by actually connecting with Freemasons on the other side of the world.

# CORINTHIAN LODGE NO. 3093



Corinthian Lodge No 3093 celebrated its 100th Anniversary earlier in the year. Pictured is the PGM presenting the Centenary Warrant to the WM assisted by the Provincial Grand Secretary.



## GROUP SIX June Soiree

Group 6 held an evening soiree in June at the home of WBro Traver Scarff. Pictured here are members from Phoenix, Ala Bosmere Virtue & Silence, Brett Valley Round Table & Rotary.



WBro Eric Solomon was cartooning all afternoon seen here with Jinny Ross.



# MQ

### ARE YOU GETTING MQ?

When the *MQ Magazine* was launched we supplied the publishers with a list of names and addresses of all members which enabled you to have your copy posted direct to your home.

We have recently updated this information. However if you have recently moved home or do not receive your copy the number to call is 02392 313890, and they will be pleased to update your information.



# INTRODUCING Our New Provincial Almoner

My predecessor, W.Bro. Mike Leighton, has been a pillar of strength to me during the handover period. For this I am most grateful.

For those of you who do not know me I am a retired General Practitioner, having served at the Bildeston health centre from 1970 to 2002. My Mother Lodge is the Lodge of Virtue and Silence, number 332, meeting in Hadleigh. I was Initiated in November 1995 and was Master in 2004. I am currently ADC. At present I am Master of the Needlemakers' Lodge in London. Apart from Freemasonry my main hobby is Road Running. (And tandem riding!) I am sure I have bored some of you about this. I have a Medical interest in Men's Health

and I hope to apply this to Freemasonry.

The Grand Master and the Pro Grand Master have given us direction recently which has been published in MQ as reports of Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge and the Investiture of Grand Lodge Officers. It is essential that we all personally consider these matters. We are all in charge of our own destiny. That is our physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being.

It is important to remember that we are not just a money raising organisation to provide funds for charity. We are charged with Benevolence (how we feel about others) and Charity (what we do to help others).

Each Lodge has an Almoner and it is to him that we look to orchestrate Benevolence and Charity. We are all there to help him in this process. The burden of care should not rest on his shoulders alone. He is there to direct that care. Offer your services to him, visiting the elderly, the infirm or sick, offering transport and assistance to Lodge Meetings and social functions to those who need to that service, find out why a Brother no longer attends Lodge meetings. In other words be pro active.

There will be times when further assistance is required. This is where the Provincial Almoner can be of assistance. He is a resource to be used for help information and guidance, just as are the other Provincial Officers, G.Secretary, G.Treasurer and G.D.C.

I hope in the future to organise meetings for Lodge Almoners in various localities throughout the province. These will be open to all, not just the Almoners.

*Dr. Mac Speake. P.G. Almoner (Suffolk)*



## Brother Neil says Thanks

Neil Russell who was initiated into Waveney Lodge No 929 at Bungay in April described the night as very special and something he will always remember.

Neil who lives with his wife Tanya and one year old baby George in Loddon brings with him a wealth of experience in fundraising.

Following a very traumatic period when Neil and Tanya were hoping to start a family they suffered several miscarriages and two stillbirths. Neil wanted to say a big thank-you to the Norfolk and Norwich University

Hospital obstetrics and gynaecology department for steering them through the weeks before and after the birth of George who is now one year old.

Neil has just completed a charity walk on the West Highland Way followed by an ascent of Ben Nevis which has raised £3000.

If any Brother wishes to support Neil cheques should be made payable to "Norwich Women's Health Fund" and sent to Neil Russell at 64b High Bungay Road, Loddon, Norfolk NR14 6JS. ■



## Diary Date **PRUDENCE LODGE NO. 388 QUIZ NIGHT**

Why don't you support the Quiz being organised by Prudence Lodge NO 388, at 7.30 pm on 14<sup>th</sup> October being held at Wenhaston Village Hall. Entry is not limited to Masons but also friends and family although you enter under your lodge name, with Four members for each team. Questions will be of a general nature. Entry fees are £10 per team and all proceeds will be going to the 2009 festival. There will be a bar available on the evening.

**To book your place contact WBro Stephen Elms on 01502 713362  
or email him at [prudence@atbs1.co.uk](mailto:prudence@atbs1.co.uk)**

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# Off The Cuff *Other Orders*

## THE FIRST YEAR OF COLUMBYNE LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS' NO.1866

The Columbyne Lodge of Mark Master Masons' was consecrated at Ipswich on 22 September 2005, by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro P H Rollin.

The first regular meeting of the Lodge was held at its permanent home, the Masonic Hall, Stowmarket. W Bro Peter King, a member of Virtue and Silence Lodge was the first candidate. He was Advanced in an excellent ceremony conducted by the Worshipful Master, W Bro Dick Jones, who was ably assisted by his Officers.

Bro Paul Smith, also a member of Virtue and Silence, was the candidate at the next regular meeting held on 4 November 2005. The ceremony of his Advancement was as equally impressive as that of his friend Peter King. At the meeting on 5 May 2006, Bro \* Wood, of \*\*Lodge was Advanced. This ceremony was unusual in that Bro Wood, being a Stonemason by profession, brought his own Mark to the Lodge. This ceremony was followed by the Installation of W Bro Eric Hyner as Worshipful Master by W Bro Dick Jones. We look forward to a happy and successful year under his Gavel.

In March the Lodge held a social evening with the ladies at the Cedars Hotel, Stowmarket. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. We hope to hold a similar event next year. On this evening the raffle realised the sum of £115.00, which was donated to the East Anglian Air Ambulance, to which a further sum of £89.00 was donated in May. Other contributions have been made to the EAMBF and the 2013 Festival.

The first year of Columbyne Lodge has been very successful and we look forward to continued Fellowship and hope that we can soon attract some candidates from the Stowmarket Lodges. ■

## THE ROYAL SUSSEX CHAPTER OF PERFECT FRIENDSHIP, NO. 376

Last November The Royal Sussex Chapter of Perfect Friendship celebrated its 175th Anniversary, the warrant was granted in November 1830. Unfortunately the original minute book is in a very bad state, it is extremely fragile and the paper is flaking. We have now placed it in the care of the Records Office in Ipswich where it will be stored at the correct temperature and humidity. They issued a well written and considered report on its condition and the possibility of its repair.

The estimate for the latter was getting towards £1000. This would only stop the flaking. So my advice to all secretaries is to look after your minute books. The Record Office would probably store the older books where they would then be available to

members of the public if they wished to view them. I cannot find any objection to that as they are only records of our meetings and would not contain any "Masonic secrets".

It is a shame our original minutes have deteriorated as we were unable to turn the pages without them flaking and losing some of the lovely copperplate writing the Scribe E used to record the convocations. I might add that our later minute books are all in good condition. So Freemasons who are interested in the Masonic history look after your records correctly. ■



## PHOENIX LODGE COMES TO BOSMERE LODGE' S RESCUE

Bosmere's WBro Dick Jones and Bro Stuart Hines with their 1920 steam roller stopped at Phoenix Lodge's WBro Codge Barber's Old Village Hall in Old Newton for a brief respite from the blistering July heat on their way to Stowmarket. ■



## INSTALLATION OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND PRIOR

Left to right: The Provincial Prior Rt Eminent Knight Geoffrey Hewitt, Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master Leslie Felgate Dring GCT Provincial Sub-Prior The Eminent Knight Martin Richard Beardall. ■



## PROVINCIAL GRAND CONCLAVE MEETING

On 20th March 2006 the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Conclave of Suffolk was held at Soane Street in Ipswich. The meeting was presided over by Right Worthy Brother O. T. (Ossie) Harvey, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor in Suffolk. The meeting was honoured by attendance of eight visiting Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers from as far away as Northumberland plus a wealth of visitors from various Provinces.

After opening the meeting and completing the administrative part of the agenda Rt. Wy. Brother Harvey reappointed Very Worthy Brother Richard Hack as his Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler before he invested his new Provincial Officers. Following the meeting the brethren enjoyed a superb festive board and the fellowship that is inspired by the Order.

The Order of the Secret monitor is open to any master mason. The Order teaches the value of friendship. The ceremonies consist of three degrees though once inducted a new member can attend his conclave and visit other conclaves. In Suffolk there are Conclaves meeting in Newmarket, Ipswich, Woodbridge, Bury St Edmunds and Southwold.

Any master mason interested in the order should look in the back of the Suffolk Year book for details of his local conclave where he can be sure to find the friendship on which the order is founded. It is interesting to note that in many parts of the world the Order of the Secret Monitor is second to Craft Masonry in popularity. ■

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