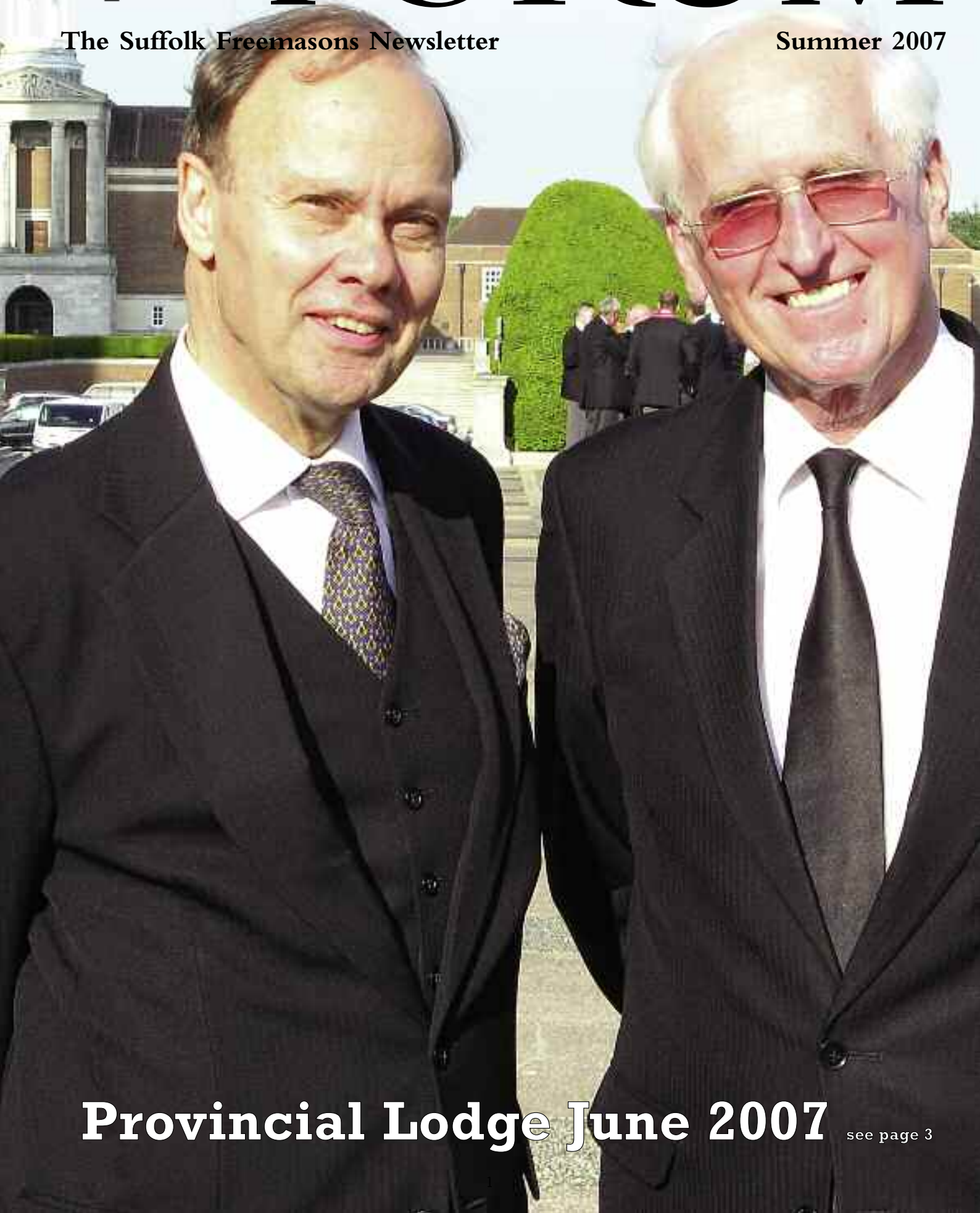




FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Summer 2007



Provincial Lodge June 2007

see page 3

Editor's notes



Having completed my first edition of Forum, I am delighted to see how well liked and respected the magazine is among Suffolk

Masons. This is a clear tribute to my predecessor, Peter Green, and to the work he has done over the years as well as to the support throughout the Province.

I note, however, that while there are many regular contributors of news and articles, there are many Lodges and members we never hear from at all. I can only stress that Forum is the magazine for all Suffolk Masons and it will only succeed if it represents the whole Province and all its members. If you have news, anecdotes, stories or things that interest you and might be of interest to others, please let me know. I am happy to advise, and help as appropriate. If you don't feel able to go this far, I would welcome letters or e-mails about masonic issues on which you wish to comment or have questions. If there is sufficient response we will publish the best on a new letters page. I only ask them to be concise, not overly personal, and of the widest possible interest in the Province.

Finally, Forum has to generate enough income from advertising to make publication viable. We offer advertisers the advantage of a very targeted market and reasonable cost (£100 a quarter page, larger space pro rata). Our ambition to improve the magazine depends on both more submissions and more advertising. Please help Forum become the success that everyone wants.

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JOTTINGS FROM THE PROVINCIAL GRAND SECRETARY

Holbrook has once again been a great success and well supported by the brethren, indeed one first time attendee expressed the view that it was "fantastic" and how he had always thought it was a "chore" not the "celebration" it turned out to be. From the many letters of congratulations and thanks, this view is echoed by our many guests, distinguished visitors and brethren who helped to swell the numbers in the 'Temple' to over 500 and over 300 at the Festive Board. Such success comes from team-work demonstrated by how everyone worked with so much harmony and good spirit to support our Provincial Grand Master and to make it an occasion to match the surroundings and wonderful weather.

The PGM's Ball on Saturday 23rd June has been photographically captured on other pages of 'Forum' and many couples were seen departing the evening clutching pictures of themselves as a reminder of a happy evening. RWBro. Barry Ross thanked all those who contributed to the organisation of the event and in particular those who attended to make it such a success. Good food, good wine, good company, good venue a great band and the weather? Well let's say it didn't dampen any spirits!

With each copy of 'Forum' is an application form to attend the

prestigious Prestonian Lecture on Saturday 20th October 2007. Details are set out in the application and you are

advised to return it as early as possible to avoid disappointment. Try to get a table of ten together with your Lodge members so that you can share the experience of hearing this unique presentation, one of only four to take place on this subject throughout the world. It would be marvellous for Lodge Faith and the PGM to see each Lodge giving this their wholehearted support.

On behalf of the membership of the Province, congratulations to the Founders of the new Countryside Lodge No. 9830 in being successful in their application to The MW The Grand Master to accede to their Prayer of Petition to form this new Lodge. Details have to be worked through but I can report that they are well advance and the date for the Consecration is Friday 28th September 2007 at the Masonic Hall, Sudbury.

Finally, I am sure you will join with me in saying 'well done' to our new Editor of Forum, WBro. Harvey Spindler, in producing the first issue under his journalistic direction. It all looks good for the future of our magazine.

*Barry Rackham,
Provincial Grand Secretary,
June 2007*



MQ ON TAPE

For those not in the know, recordings of MQ magazine are available on cassette tape or CD disc for those who have difficulties in reading. It is hoped that by using this facility they can keep up-to-date with current events.

Application forms to receive MQ on disc or cassette are available through the Provincial Office and should be returned to Karen Haigh at United Grand Lodge who can also be contacted with any questions by e-mail at khaigh@ugle.org.uk or telephone 020 7395 9350.

With May one of the wettest on record June opened with glorious sunshine for the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge at the Royal Hospital School at Holbrook.

Among the highlights was the presentation of Suffolk Provincial Orders of Merit to WBros JFG Rynsard and A F Spraggons (pictured). The other recipient, WBro H M Martin, was unable to attend and the PGM said that he would be making a later presentation to him.

In his address, the PGM said how delighted he was to see so many present and extended a special welcome to the Assistant Grand Master, RWBro David Williamson, on his first visit to the Province.

Welcome to the Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro David Williamson, on his first visit to the Province.



While there was still concern about membership retention, the loss rate had slowed and he was pleased to report that the average age of Initiates last year had fallen from 51 to 45 years.

Members were congratulated on their efforts for the 2009 Festival in aid of the New Masonic Samaritan Fund and he said that several Lodges had already achieved their original targets.

He also noted the success of the seminars for Lodge Secretaries, Almoners and Master Masons, the over subscribed Summer Ball on 23 June, the Consecration of the new Countryside Lodge of Suffolk, the

honour conferred on the Province by holding one of the four Prestonian Lectures and the setting up of a Suffolk Provincial Choir by the Provincial Organist.

Speaking at the Festive Board, the Assistant Grand Master congratulated all who were invested at the meeting for both their achievement and future endeavours. He talked about the need to improve communications generally and the personal responsibility we all have to promote Freemasonry. He highlighted the work of the Rulers' Forum, praised the PGM's efforts in lowering the age of new initiates and reminded those present of the need to target quality rather than quantity in candidates.



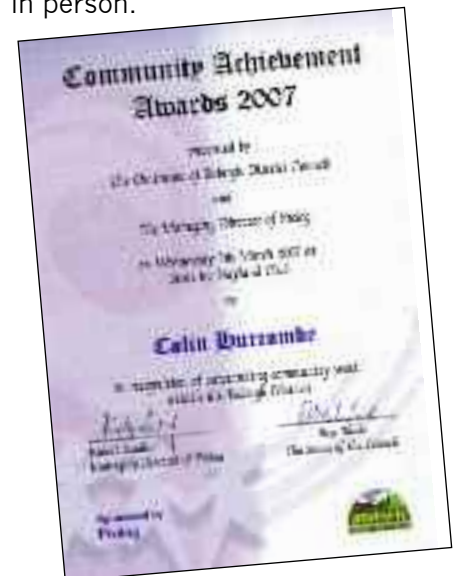
Double presentation at Cornwallis Court

Presentations were made to two Brethren at the monthly coffee morning on 5 May at Cornwallis Court. WBro Alan Waller was presented with his 60 year certificate by RWBro Canon Richard Tydeman. Alan is a member of Martyn Lodge in Southwold and is a holder of the VRD for his naval service. WBro Frank Lovegrove, Almoner of Abbey Lodge and also an ex-naval man, was presented with a certificate and a bottle of rum by WBro Wilfred Moore to mark 10 years service to the residents of Cornwallis Court. Wilfred drives their minibus, as well as being a member of the Friends Committee and a regular helper at social functions.



Capel Mason Honoured

We are delighted to congratulate WBro Colin Hurcombe of Perfect Amity Lodge No6347 who was honoured with a Community Achievement Award by Babergh District Council. The award was accepted on 7 March by Colin's family on his behalf as he was unable to attend the ceremony in person.



Colin has been active in Capel St Mary community affairs for many years. He promoted and founded their first sports club in 1977, was a Parish Councillor for eight years, served as Vice Chairman of the Capel Community Council and continued to play an active role in local affairs long afterwards.

"Forum is sorry to report the death of Colin Hurcombe on 6 May while this magazine was in preparation. With the permission of his family, to whom we offer our condolences, this article is published as a tribute to Colin for his masonic and community work."

House Sale Proceeds to Festival

WBro Ray Green of St Luke's Lodge No 225 has donated the proceeds of his recent house sale to the 2009 New Masonic Samaritan Fund Festival. Before we feel too sorry for a homeless Brother, the house in question was a doll's house built and furnished by Ray. He made his first doll's house some 25 years ago and was offered £1,000 for this one by the IPM of the Lodge, WBro Peter



Taylor. He has donated this to the Festival and presented the cheque to the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Barry Ross at a ceremony at Soane Street on 21 March.

Thanking Ray and Peter, the PGM said that he hoped that this imaginative and generous fund raising effort would help inspire other Lodges in the Province to similar efforts.

APOLLO LODGE PRESENTATION



WBros Michael Hatt (Master) and Steve Faulkner (Charity Secretary) of Apollo Lodge presenting a donation of £3,000 to the Special Care Baby Unit and Palliative Care Centre at the James Paget. Another cheque for £500 was also presented to Beccles Sea Cadets. WBro Hatt said the Lodge was pleased to support such worthy charities as they represent such different age groups.

FURTHER SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



St Luke's Lodge held a Stewards' Evening at the Waldringfield Golf Club which was well organized by Bro Rupert Catlin, a comparatively new member of the Lodge. This event raised the sum of £320 and was donated to the Ipswich Children's Hospice. The picture shows Bro Rupert handing over the cheque to Nurse Penny Linford, daughter of the late WBro Linford,

a Past Master of St Luke's Lodge. The little boy is Callum, 8 years of age, one of the children who is cared for at the Hospice by Penny.

Also in the picture is WBro Peter Taylor, Master of St Luke's and WBro Dennis Thomas. This brought the total donations from St Luke's to the Children's Hospice in 2006 to £2,320.



Georgia on my Mind

Earlier this year, WBro Mike Durrant of Perfect Amity Lodge No6347 had the privilege of

raising his son-in-law Bill Wilcox in Tyrian Lodge, No 111, at Warner Robins, Georgia, USA.

The photograph shows him presenting Bill with a Masonic Bible accompanied by the Master, WBro Don Parrott (in the Chair wearing the hat), and WBro Phil Booth, (Bill's Trainer).



On Wednesday, 10 January after a fascinating lecture in lodge by WBro M R Thomas on the Rosslyn Chapel, over 60 members and guests of No2371 Felix Lodge, retired to a local hotel to attend a long standing tradition of celebrating Burns Night. Bro S McDade, photographed, provided a very accomplished address to the Haggis.

Felix Burns Night



LADIES FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS LUNCH

A distinguished party of Suffolk and Norfolk Masons joined the Ladies Fellowship for their Christmas Lunch on 14 December in the Royal Masonic Assembly Rooms in Great Yarmouth.

The Ladies Fellowship was started by John Harboard 28 years ago as a way of keeping in touch and helping the widows of Freemasons. They meet at the Assembly Rooms twice a month for coffee and chat and organise outings and other events including a Christmas lunch for themselves and friends.

The current and past Provincial Grand Masters of Suffolk and Norfolk and their wives were invited as guests and, in spite of busy schedules, were able to attend among the 59 welcomed to the lunch by Mrs Rene Carter, chairman for the last 11 years.

The photograph shows (left to right) RW Bro Ian Bruce (PPGM Norfolk) and Mrs Jill Bruce, RW Bro Barry Ross (PGM Suffolk) and Mrs Jinny Ross, RW Bro Bob Tile (PPGM Suffolk), Mrs Rene Carter, Mrs Judith Rushmer and RW Bro John Rushmer (PGM Norfolk), Mr John Harboard and Mrs Pam Tile

PRESENTATION TO SELIG LODGE



At the Lodge Installation on the 12 April, the newly installed Master of Selig Lodge, No9459, WBro Michael Orves was presented with a Past Masters and Founders Board by WBro Paul Conolly the Director of Ceremonies.

The oak used, was from some fallen oaks on the Henham Estate during the 1987 hurricane, the panels are of American ash and the doors have been inlaid with Bombay tulip wood and hornbeam, the crest is of brown oak. There is enough space for a further 192 names, so it should last for a while



SUDBURY RETAIN GOLF CUP

The annual match between Sudbury and Braintree Lodges took place at Newton Green on Wednesday 2nd May. The match result was Sudbury 8, Braintree 1 with one match halved. This was followed by an evening meal and raffle that raised £200 for Cornwallis Court and £200 for Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court, Stisted.

Book Review **HISTORY OF LODGE 1008**



An incredible book has just been published by WBro Brian Woodall. Brian has been the Provincial Archivist for the past 10 years, and has used his knowledge well to present this magnificent record of his own Lodge, Royal St Edmund No 1008.

The book extends to 388 pages and contains many illustrations and wonderful records of the Lodge. The method adopted by the author is to feature each Worshipful Master from 1864 and to give an insight into who they really were. What makes this book even more a good read is that each Master is set against the social background of that time.

Brian makes numerous references to the "lost" records and artefacts from his Lodge, and how being the diligent historian he is, has recovered numerous items from the dustbins which had been placed there by less diligent brethren over the years.

The cover has a picture of William Hubbard Lucia, the first WM of 1008. The photograph was taken in 1878 when he was appointed as the acting Grand Sword Bearer in the United Grand Lodge of England. He was also Provincial Secretary from 1870 until his death in 1883.

Another lovely piece of history is the reproduction of a letter, dated 21st June 1973, from Lord Stradbroke to WBro R W Elliott offering him the role of Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

I am sure that this book must be amongst the best Lodge Histories you will ever find. I have read lots of them and all I learned from them was lots of names from the past and what ceremonies were held.

This work is a must read for all those interested in how Freemasonry developed in West Suffolk, and the various characters involved.

As a footnote I find it very sad, reading that valuable Lodge records have been lost over the years. All our Lodges need to ensure that those boxes of old papers which are kept by the Secretary in his loft are dutifully passed on to his successor, or better still stored in a safe place for our future historians.

Trevor White.

ALMONERS' AND MASTER MASON'S' SEMINARS

The Province has now run a seminar for Master Masons from the Provincial Groups in Ipswich, Woodbridge and Felixstowe at Soane Street on 27 April and a weekend series of seminars for Almoners at Bury St Edmunds, Lowestoft and Ipswich.

The evening seminar for Master Masons was opened by the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Barry Ross, supported by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V W Bro Robert Mayhew, who both joined with the brethren in a drink and an informal and personal chat at the buffet following the meeting.

Three talks covering Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge and Private Lodges and their working were given by W Bros David Boswell, Bernard Horstead and John Jarman, which were followed by a question and answer session.

The success of the evening has prompted the Provincial Grand Master to call for this seminar to be repeated in other venues in the Province with a wider audience. It is hoped that these can be held at Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds in November or December.

Details will be forwarded to Lodge Secretaries and Provincial Group Representatives as soon as arrangements are confirmed.

The seminars for Almoners, run by the Provincial Almoner, W Bro Dr Mac Speake, were attended by 88 members representing nearly every Lodge in the Province.

While the Almoner seminars were judged a success by delegates, suggestions included providing more information on charities, state benefits, how social workers function, care for widows and widowers, the setting up and operation of Ladies' and Widows' Groups and about handling bereavement. Also requested were more discussion time, case studies and an introduction pack for new Almoners.

It became apparent that in some Lodges there is sufficient work to justify appointing an Almoner's Assistant. This would be a way for bringing on new Almoners.

Next year, it is hoped to hold a weekday evening meeting at a central location to allow those not able to come at a weekend a chance to attend.



WBro John Waterman with Staff of the Hospice

WBro John Waterman, Master of Court Knoll Lodge No 9194 found an unusual way to raise money for the East Anglian Children's Hospice. The observant among the brethren noticed that he gained an addition to the rear of his cranium of a type more usually associated with the hind end of a donkey. The assumption was that on his move to a warmer climate he had vowed to become a latter day hippie

JOHN GROWS HIS HAIR TO AID CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

or even the oldest swinger in town. But no, his intentions were far more altruistic.

At his Ladies Festival, Kath, John's wife, took up the 24 inch gauge and gave a verdict as to the length of John's ponytail. His friends had sponsored the growth at a sum per inch. Kath declared the result and the winner was duly rewarded with a bottle of champagne.

More importantly the Lodge was able to present to the Hospice with a total of £2,683. John is here seen handing over the final cheque to Sue Meader of the Hospice.

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STAMP DOWN ON LANZAROTE



W Bro Ralph Robertson reports on the latest expedition of STAMP, the travelling masonic group:

Twenty-five of the usual suspects from STAMP travelled to Lanzarote on 11 March, enthusiasm mounting as we got nearer our destination. This only increased as we met our hosts, the Master, W Bro Roger Dadswell and W Bro Peter Slade from South Porch Lodge, No 59, in the bar of our hotel in Arrecife. Peter is very active in island masonic activities and helped greatly in organising our visit. South Porch Lodge is an English-speaking lodge held under the Grand Lodge of Spain using Emulation Workings. Their

membership is about 27 ex-pats who are resident on the island

The next day we took a coach trip taking in the volcanic area of the island followed, in the evening by a convivial meal at a local restaurant. STAMP traditions were observed and commemorative medals, with an updated clasp for "Lanzarote" were presented to Bill Hagger and Peter Peck. Absent brethren were remembered, in particular W Bro John Jarman who, despite being unable to travel, had been very much involved in the arrangements as usual. John had written a poem for Bro Peter "The Navigator" Seaman, reflecting his uncanny ability to find a short cut which

usually adds miles to the shortest of journeys! Peter was also presented with a specially commissioned compass that has a variable North that can be set at any point within 360 degrees.

On Tuesday we joined the members of South Porch Lodge. On our arrival, their building looked similar to an old lock up type garage. This was because it was an old lock up type garage and had been converted for their purposes into Lodge rooms, kitchen and bar area. The surroundings were not that important as the warmth of welcome extended to us was second to none and the ceremony of the highest standard. W Bro Dave Deal presented the Lodge with a gift and their Master with an inscribed gavel to commemorate the evening. In turn, we were presented a beautifully engraved mirror from the Master and brethren. We left after the meeting with a feeling that Masonry was alive and well in Lanzarote. We might even have converted them to singing Suffolk style!

Wednesday took us on another coach trip, further socialising, more presentations and conviviality (hard work this STAMP business – editor) before our return to Suffolk.

Half-century of Perfect Friendship

At the April meeting of the Lodge of Perfect Friendship, No376, 93-year-old W Bro Eric Davey celebrated his 50th year in Masonry almost to the day. The Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Barry Ross, presented Eric with his 50th year certificate from the Province and gave a brief summary of his masonic career. Afterwards, W Bro Forbes Powrie presented Eric with a decanter and glasses on behalf of the lodge and expanded on his personal and masonic history, including his year as Provincial Third Grand Principal and membership of other orders. It was a very happy and joyous evening enjoyed by all present, and truly in accord with the name of the Lodge.





In his address at the Annual Craft investiture on Wednesday 25 April, the MW The Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent, made a statement about the relationship of United Grand Lodge and Supreme Grand Chapter with the other orders in Freemasonry. He said:

GRAND LODGE AND OTHER MASONIC ORDERS

“The Preliminary Declaration of the Act of Union of the two Grand Lodges in December 1813 says that it was ‘declared and announced that pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more’, that is to say ‘Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch’. This has been the position for nearly two hundred years and will remain unchanged.

However, since many members of the Craft are members of these Orders, I am pleased to acknowledge formally their existence and regularity, and in particular their sovereignty and independence. The best known of these orders are: Mark, Ancient and Accepted Rite, Knights Templar, Royal and Select Masters,

Royal Ark Mariner, Red Cross of Constantine, Allied Masonic Degrees, Order of the Secret Monitor and Knight Templar Priests. I also accept the valuable role they play in providing additional scope for Brethren to extend their Masonic research in interesting and enjoyable ways.

The Orders I have just mentioned are simply the best known and largest of those practised in London, the Provinces and Districts overseas. I am aware that there are in addition others that have a valid place in Freemasonry and with whom we enjoy a good relationship. What is important is that Brethren who join these other Orders still retain their membership of a Craft Lodge and I am pleased that the Orders will be encouraging their members to do so.”



NEW ATHELSTAN COURT

Around forty masons gathered at Lowestoft Masonic Hall on Thursday October 12th 2006 for the Consecration of Court of Anglecynn No. 11 in the Province of East Anglia of the Masonic Order of Athelstan.

With MW Bro Dr. Nicholas George, Sovereign Grand Master, in the Chair and RW Bro Roy Foster, Provincial Grand Master of East Anglia, acting as Grand Marshall, the colourful ritual was skillfully delivered, including a

delightful Oration by RW & EmBro M H Roalfe, Eminent Grand Prior, on the subject of Anglecynn or Englishness. WBro Frank Barber was then installed in the chair, and the private business of the Court was conducted.

The day's labours concluded in a Festive Board attended by all. The toasts were taken in the usual Athelstan manner, that of having no reply, finishing with the toast to King Athelstan, first King of All the English.

TELL ME MORE

For those interested in other orders Forum has received two guides written, respectively, by WBro Ian Foster and WBro James Fry.

WBro Foster's paper, entitled "The Separation of the Masonic Degrees" is an updated paper originally based on a talk given by WBro F A H Champkin. In its three pages it summarises the background to, and relationship of, the various orders. Its brevity limits the depth of content but does provide a useful overview. The paper entitled "The Other Degrees" by WBro James Fry, who has been a regular contributor to this page, has been prepared with advice from leaders of the various orders represented in Suffolk, and offers a longer but still succinct tour of the subject.

He goes into more depth on the relationship between the various orders and their links with Craft Masonry as well as summarising the purpose, history, and activities of each order as appropriate and the qualifications for membership.

These complementary papers provide a convenient source of information especially to those new to the subject. Copies can be obtained by contacting the authors at their respective e-mail addresses: ian.foster21@ntlworld.com and jamesfry702@aol.com

Provincial Grand Chapter Meeting



Another very successful Annual Convocation of the Suffolk Royal Arch Provincial Grand Chapter was held at Greshams on 22 May. The meeting went smoothly and enjoyably for the nearly 200 attending, including the many distinguished visitors from other Provinces. The friendship and humour of all was apparent without detracting from the dignity of the occasion.

Addressing the Companions, the ME Grand Superintendent, EComp Dr

David Watson, stressed the importance of promoting the Royal Arch to members of the Craft. He reported that membership numbers were healthy and several 50-year certificates are coming up in the next year.

He praised the Sojourners Travelling Tools initiative, started last year, in its role of promoting visiting between Chapters and was especially pleased to note the Consecration of Mildenhall Chapter, the first in the Province for a decade.

He took great pleasure in presenting Provincial Orders of Merit to EComps Bill Curtis and Derek Farr and in recognising EComp the Rev Canon Richard Tydeman's contribution to 65 years in the Royal Arch with a special presentation of a certificate of achievement

Finally, he congratulated all those invested at the meeting, and those promoted to Grand Rank, for their enthusiasm and dedication and thanked the Provincial Stewards for their role in organising the meeting.



Four Royal Arch Grand Superintendents, Present and Past.

It cannot be very often to get three Past Grand Superintendents and a current Grand Superintendent from one Province together, let alone in a very relaxed atmosphere!

The photograph taken after the Provincial Grand Chapter meeting shows, standing from left to right: EComp Bill Hughes, Grand Superintendent 1997-2004, EComp Dr David Watson, present Grand Superintendent Installed 2004, EComp Dr Graham Bracewell, Grand Superintendent 1987-1997 and, seated, EComp The Rev Canon Richard Tydeman, Grand Superintendent 1980-1987

The Rev Canon Richard Tydeman, who celebrated his 90th birthday last September, is a resident of Cornwallis Court and still writes regular extremely interesting articles for Freemasonry Today. Dr Graham Bracewell, younger at 84, is still very active as the Inspector General of the Rose Coix in Suffolk. Bill Hughes, at 77 a youngster, is still very active while Dr David Watson, at the tender age of 66, has some catching up to do.

It must be something to do with the Suffolk air that keeps them all going!!



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