



# FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Winter 2007

## A WARM WELCOME FOR OUR DEPUTY PGM

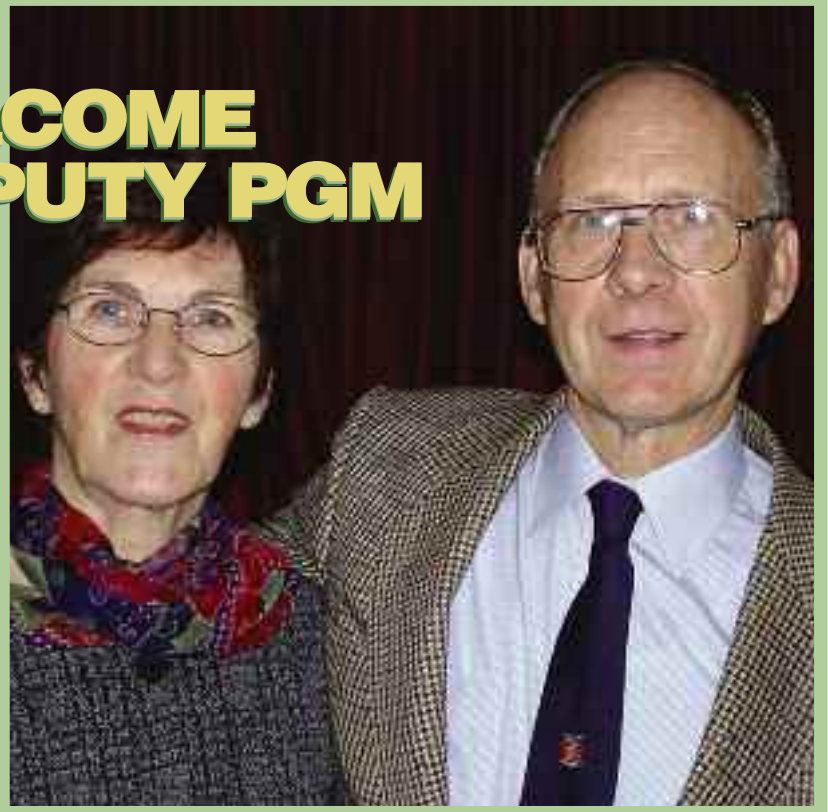
When speaking to *Forum* our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro Robert Mayhew said "I am thoroughly enjoying this new role, everywhere I go there is such a warm welcome and very interesting people to meet."

Our Deputy PGM is now semi-retired from farming, and the spare time he has gained is now being devoted to carrying out his challenging tasks within the Province.

Wife, Diana Mayhew, who prefers to be called "Di" is very supportive of our new Deputy having come from a family of Freemasons. Robert and Di are looking forward to celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary in June. They have three sons and four grandchildren, with a further addition expected early this year from middle son Tim who works in the City. Youngest son David is married and lives in Chicago.

The family have farmed on the Helmingham Estate for at least 250 years, at Helmingham and Pattaugh and eldest son Alan is the fourth generation to take on the task of looking after almost 500 acres, at Old Hall Helmingham. Our Deputy is however on hand to assist on the farm in busy periods.

An extensive period of Community involvement has been a valuable learning curve for the current task, having been closely involved within the Farming and Commercial world for many years, with experience of Road Haulage, Young Farmers, Framlingham Farmers, School Governor, Steward at the Suffolk Show and many other roles. He is a fellow of the Chartered Management Institute.



He was initiated in Old Framlinghamians Lodge in 1977 and was their WM in 1988. He was appointed a Provincial Steward in 1993 and was Acting Senior Warden in 2002. He is a member of Royal York Chapter, and and Albert Victor Mark Lodge.

"I am still feeling my way and continue to learn something new every day, we are very lucky in Suffolk with a Province of our size which allows us all to get to know each other really well." ■



## Seventy, Not-Out

Ninety-five-year-old Jack Kemball celebrated his 70 years in Masonry in Hadleigh at the October meeting of the Lodge of Virtue and Silence. Among the 73 present were the DPGM, W Bro Robert Mayhew, the PPGM, RW Bro Robert Tile, a PPAGM, W Bro John Yeldham and seven other Grand Officers.

After a reading of the minutes of Jack's Initiation meeting in 1936, W Bro Mayhew presented Jack with a framed certificate from the Province and W Bro Ray Dunningham presented a decanter and glasses on behalf of the Lodge.

Their addresses paid tribute to his long service and contributions to the Craft and to the wider world. Responding, Jack treated all to some choice Masonic reminiscences.

Jack remains active in Masonry and farming and while he cannot attend regularly still acts as JW at every Installation meeting.

Jack became WM of Virtue and Silence in 1948, was appointed PPJD in 1954 and promoted to PPJGW in 1975. He is also a member of Seckford Lodge which was well represented at the celebration.

Top photo: Lodge of Virtue and Silence celebrating Jack Kemball's 70 years in Masonry. Right photo: W Bro Mayhew, left with Jack Kemball.

# Editor's notes

Brethren, incredibly this issue marks my tenth anniversary in the role of editor of *FORUM* and I feel its time to move on. From humble beginnings to today's quality publication, I am extremely proud of *FORUM's* progress and I thank all those who have supported me by providing articles and advice over the years. I am also indebted to those behind the scenes in layout, design and production whose enthusiasm has been an inspiration to me. Finally, thank you brethren for reading it and passing back all those helpful constructive comments. Please, if you support our new editor in the same way, I'm sure *Forum* will reach new heights of excellence.

*Sincerely and Fraternally*  
Peter, Editor

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distribution to every member in Suffolk.

*Peter R Green PPGSofW*

## Jottings from the Provincial Grand Secretary

I am sure you will join me in congratulating all those Brethren who are to receive Appointments and Promotions this year at Holbrook and I'm sure you will be there to support them when they are invested with their new Provincial Ranks by the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Barry Ross. If you plan to dine make sure you get your application form, enclosed, returned as quickly as possible.

Following very closely on the heels of our Annual Meeting will be the PGM's Ball on Saturday 23rd June 2007 and I'm very pleased to say that the sales of tickets are going very well. Make sure you get your applications in either for tables or individual tickets, allocation of them will be on a 'first come – first served' basis. Applications need to be accompanied by the appropriate cheque which will not be paid into the bank until the beginning of April.

This year is going to be very busy and support for our many activities from all of you is going to be essential. Apart from the two items referred to above the Provincial Grand Master has approved a proposal from a team lead by WBro. John Rice for a new Lodge which will hopefully be known as The Countryside Lodge of Suffolk. Plans are well advanced and once the Petition is completed it will be submitted to United Grand Lodge of England for approval by the Grand Master following which the name will be confirmed and a Lodge Number issued. It is hoped that the Consecration will take place at the end of September.

In addition to this Faith Lodge, No. 2438, has been granted the honour to host one of four Prestonian Lectures which is to be delivered by RWBro. Dr. R.B. Khambatta, PDistGM

(Pakistan), on the subject of 'The Grand Secretaries 1813 – 1980'. Bro. Dr. Khambatta is a member of Faith Lodge and a Past Master and his family has a long association with the Lodge when it met in Pakistan when it was originally Consecrated in 1862. This event is likely to take place in the Autumn but more details of the venue and date will both be circulated and contained in the Summer Issue of 'Forum'.

The Provincial Grand Almoner, WBro. Dr. Mac Speake, has organised a number of seminars for Lodge Almoners and other brethren who wish to attend, these are to be held throughout this month and early next month. Details with application forms have already been circulated to Lodge Almoners and it is reproduced in this newsletter.

Another series of seminars are being considered by the Provincial Grand Master to help Master Masons to be aware of their importance to the present and future development of the Province. The PGM has asked WBro. John Jarman, PAGDC, to carry out some preparatory work and once the content has been agreed details will be circulated to brethren.

As a final point, I'm sure it will not have gone unnoticed that we have endeavoured to include more Chapter articles in *Forum* and for the first time an application form is included for the Annual Convocation to be held again at Greshams. Again, can I urge you to complete the form and return it as soon as possible.

*Barry Rackham, Provincial Grand Secretary,  
January 2007*



## A NEW EDITOR FOR FORUM

WBro Peter Green of Phoenix Lodge No 516, who has been Editor of *FORUM* for the past 10 years is retiring from that role. He has seen it grow from the early days of a small newsletter to the Magazine it is today, which is mailed direct to every Suffolk Freemason throughout the Province. WBro Peter will continue to be active in taking photographs.

Taking on the role of Editor will be WBro Harvey Spindler who is treasurer of *Virtue and Silence* No 332. Harvey has managed other magazines and brings with him a wealth of experience in the publishing field. He has been WM of London Lodges on three occasions in addition to going through the chair of his London Chapter three times. He is currently in the "third"

chair of St Lukes Chapter at Ipswich. During the Summer months he can be found as Scorer for Hadleigh Cricket Club.

The Editor of *Forum* works closely with the Information Officer WBro Trevor White, and the full process comes under the umbrella of the Provincial Grand Secretary. To make sure your Lodge gets featured in *Forum* continue to look out for that interesting little story, and although cheque presentations are very important, the Brethren from across the Province are very interested in your own Lodge news as well.

Our Advertisers provide the means by which we can mail copies direct to every member, so please support them, and if you wish to reach this highly targeted audience please get in touch. ■

Editor W Bro Peter Green

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W Bro T J White

W Bro J Fry

W Bro P King

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**Four Suffolk Royal Arch Grand Superintendents Present and Past**

Photograph taken following the Annual Suffolk Royal Arch Grand Officers Luncheon held at Cornwallis Court on Saturday, 21st October 2006. Obviously a very good meal! From left to right: E.Comp. Dr. Graham Bracewell, Grand Superintendent, 1987-1997; E.Comp. The Rev. Canon Richard Tydeman, Grand Superintendent, 1980-1987; E.Comp. Dr. David Watson, present Grand Superintendent, Installed 2004; E.Comp. Bill Hughes, Grand Superintendent, 1997-2004. ■



**Colneis Lodge 8298**

Pictured is the PGM at Colneis Lodge 8298 on 5th December. Standing with him is WM Steve Whight, Junior Warden W Bro Allen Snow and Senior Warden Bro Robert Hart.



## PHOENIX LODGE DONATES £2000 TO LOCAL CHARITIES

As has become the custom Phoenix again donated £500 to each of four local non-Masonic charities. They were: **East Anglia Children's Hospices** • **Stowmarket First Responder IScheme** • **Optua** (formerly Suffolk Rethink which supports the disabled) • **Suffolk NHS PCT for Harry's Room** (Harry Torp is 5 years old and is severely ill and disabled and grants fall well short of what is needed to enable his family to give him the care and love he needs. (Picture shows WM John Shaw surrounded by recipients lifting a first responder bag which also carries the words "Donated by Stowmarket Freemasons".) ■



The DPGM WBro R Mayhew presented a cheque for £2500, on behalf of the Grand Charity and Suffolk Freemasons to Roger Whomes the Donations Officer for the St Nicholas Hospice. ■



The secretary of the Joint Committee of Lowestoft Lodges (JCLL) W Bro Phil Farnell presented a cheque for £240.00 to Mrs Helen Symonds and Mrs Emma Davey to assist with their training costs as Hospital Play Specialists. Helen and Emma both work in the Children's Ward at the James Paget Hospital in Gorleston but the cost of training which was close to £2,000 each had to be met by the trainees. (From left to right: W Bro Phil Farnell, Mrs Emma Davey, Mrs Helen Symonds.) ■



Canon Richard Tydeman pictured with Barry Ross and Graham Bracewell at a meeting of Victoria Chapter Rose Croix in October of last year. Special tributes were made to Canon Tydeman on his 90th birthday celebrations. Many distinguished members of the order had travelled to Ipswich for the meeting. ■

The PGM RWBro Barry Ross presented a cheque for £3250 to the Community Fundraiser for St Elizabeth Hospice, Hayley Haler, on behalf of the **Grand Charity and Suffolk Freemasons**. A further cheque for £3250 was presented to East Anglian Children's Hospice, and was received by Trustee Bob Jones. ■



## MASONIC CARAVAN RALLY

WBro Phil Gooch of Priory Lodge No 4618 organised a caravan Rally for some of the Brethren during the Summer. This picture has found it's way to Forum, which you could think is a result of a rather fine Festive Board or an urgent need for finer adjustment of the caravan awning. ■

## 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.





**4085 ORIENT LODGE' S STARLINGS RECEIVE JU-JITSU AWARDS IN ITALY**

Father and son of 4085 Orient Lodge, Suffolk, who both recently represented Great Britain in the World Ju-Jitsu Championship in Pisa, Italy both received high awards from the Italian and British associations.

W.Bro Professor Thomas Starling Sr, 73 years old, is an 8th Dan with the World Ju-Jitsu Federation. He is Charity Steward in Orient Lodge. Bro Thomas Starling Jr is a 6th Dan with the World Association as well. ■

**HARTISMERE AND WAVENEY GO HEAD TO HEAD... AGAIN!**

For the past four years Hartismere Lodge and Waveney Lodge have played a cricket match in July each year at Stradbroke Playing Fields. The match is hotly contested and results in the winners taking away a cup, a trophy much prized by both Lodges.

This years match took place in July and as Henry Newbolt once wrote, "There's a breathless hush in the Close tonight. An hour to play and the match to win". An hour was the most that the majority of players in either team could manage, and there was lots of huffing and puffing, as the distance between the wickets seemed to lengthen by the minute. There was some fast but often erratic bowling and it is no surprise that the leading scorer in either side was "extras". In the end Waveney, who batted first must have been caught out by some dampness in the pitch and finished with 55, whilst Hartismere soared to a magnificent 101, taking the cup, which was reluctantly handed back to the winning team after Waveney won last year's encounter. Both teams are now in winter training!

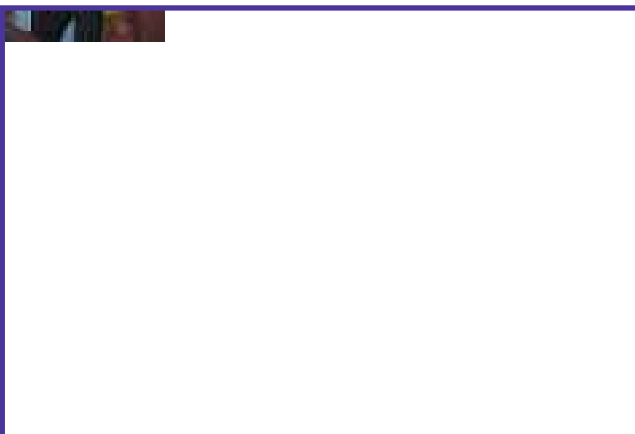
Inevitably the match was followed by a magnificent repast and we even managed to raise some money for charity. ■



**SCOTT OFF TO TEXAS WITH ITFC**

Brother Scott Hartless, who is an Honorary member of Gippeswyk Lodge No 4254 recently visited the lodge, whilst staying at Mildenhall. He was presented with an Ipswich Town Shirt which had been carefully chosen and prepared by Chief Steward Steve Rae.

Scott was a member of the lodge during the 70's when he was stationed at Bentwaters, and manages a visit every four to five years. He regularly supplies the lodge with Texas "goodies" and his colourful neck-ties have now become a collectors items within the Lodge. ■



WBro Graham on his 102nd birthday at Cornwallis Court being presented with a card and present from the brethren of Royal Clarence Lodge 1823.

Picture shows WBro Graham flanked by the Almoner and the Master elect of Royal Clarence.

At 102 WBro Graham is possibly the oldest Mason in the Province, possibly East Anglia. ■

The winning quiz team called "The Gippeswyk Singers" pictured receiving their prize from the WM of Lodge of Prudence at Westleton Village Hall. All Lodges from across the Province were invited to attend and the questions set by WBro Morgan Caines proved to be challenging. Pictured l to r Mary and Martin Bartlett, WM of Prudence Alan Dunce, Stephen Elms the organiser from Prudence and John and Marion Ling.





## Children's Hospice Receives Additional Donations from St Luke's Lodge

During the summer of 2006 St Luke's Lodge held a Sunday fish lunch which was organised by WBro Ray Green (pictured second on the right). This raised the sum of £300. Later in the year, Bro Pete Walls (pictured on the far right) came up with the suggestion that he would like to put on a BBQ. This he did, arranging and purchasing all the necessary ingredients and equipment, and did the cooking himself. This was in August and we were lucky to be blessed with one of the few dry and warm evenings of that month. This was well supported and gave us a handsome sum of £800. (Pictured are Nurse Penney Linford of the Children's Hospice, daughter of the late W.Bro 'Nobby' Linford of St Luke's Lodge receiving a cheque for £1100, bringing 2006's total donation to St Luke's to £2000. Also pictured are the Worshipful Master of St Luke's Lodge W.Bro Peter Taylor [second from left] and W.Bro Dennis Thomas.) ■

## WBro Tom Savill and his wife Nelly celebrated seventy years of marriage

in November. Tom is 93 years of age and the occasion was marked by a visit from the lodge Almoner, WBro Geoffrey Booker, WBro Ray Green and WBro Dennis Thomas who presented Tom and his wife Nelly with an anniversary cake. WBro Tom is a Provincial Officer, in the Province of Hertfordshire and became a Joining Member of St Luke's Lodge when he moved to Suffolk three years ago.

During the War, Tom served with the Argly and Sutherland Highlanders and took part in the Normandy landings in June 1944. His wife worked as a 'Clippie' (bus conductor) on the London buses. Well done the both of them!



**Many readers will be familiar with the last verse of this song, but we thought it interesting to read the rest of the words which go before.**

### The Final Toast

Written by D L Richardson

Are your glasses charged in the West and South?  
The Worshipful Master cries;  
They're charged in the West, they're charged in the South, are the Warden's prompt replies;  
Then to our final toast tonight your glasses fairly drain  
Happy to meet – sorry to part – happy to meet again, again. (chorus)

The Mason's social Brotherhood around the festive board,  
Reveal a wealth more precious far than selfish miser's hoard,  
They freely share the priceless store that generous hearts contain.  
Happy to meet etc

We work like Masons free and true, and when our task is done,  
A merry song and cheering glass are not unduly won;  
And only at our farewell pledge is pleasure touched with pain.  
Happy to meet etc

Amidst our mirth we drink "To all masons o'er the world"  
On every shore our flag of love is gloriously

unfurled;  
We prize each Brother fair and dark, who bears no moral stain.  
Happy to meet etc

The mason feels the noble truth the Scottish peasant told,  
That rank is but the guineas stamp, the man himself the gold,  
With us the rich and poor unite, and equal rights maintain.  
Happy to meet etc.

Dear Brethren of the mystic tie, the night is waning fast,  
Our duty's done, our feast is o'er, this song must be our last:  
"Good night" – "Good night" once more, once more repeat the farewell strain,  
Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again.

*There has been some dispute over the writer of this poem, some saying Burns and others Kipling however in a paper presented to Quatuor Coronati Lodge No.2076 in 1978, Bro. Will Read advises us that the verses were written by Bro. David Lester Richardson who was born in London in January 1801. He served in India with the army and was at one time Aide-de-Camp to the Governor General, Lord William Bentinck. Bro. Richardson was initiated into Freemasonry in the Lodge of Industry and Perseverance No.126 in Calcutta but it appears he never held any office. However one does not need to hold office to make a significant contribution to the Craft.*





# THE STORY OF THE LOWESTOFT PILASTERS

*Pictured: WBro D Blythe, left, and WBro Roger Reed, both of Queenborough Lodge No 3893, pictured with the WM's Pilasters at the Lowestoft Masonic centre, on their recent visit.*

The six oak pilasters, which are positioned behind the chairs of the Worshipful Master and Wardens in the Temple at Lowestoft, have a very interesting history which has only recently been fully explained.

WBro Harry Watson of Orient Lodge No 4085 tells us the following:

*"On 1st. April 2006 St Michaels Lodge No 1273, from Kent were celebrating their Ladies weekend at Gt Yarmouth and two members who are also members of Queenborough Lodge No 3893 expressed a wish to visit Lowestoft to view the pilasters. This was arranged and on Saturday, 1st April they visited the Lowestoft Temple.*

*During the visit it became evident that there was some mystery as to how the pilasters came into the care of Orient Lodge. From enquiries I have made it appears that Bro.R J Harris had been a member of Queenborough Lodge but on moving to the Lowestoft area became a Joining Member of Orient. He retained a close contact with Queenborough Lodge and especially with W.Bro L.F.Read, and it was through this close contact that he learned that their Temple was being closed and that the furniture was available.*

*After discussions with senior members of both Queenborough and Orient Lodge it was agreed that the pilasters would be handed into the care of Orient Lodge so that they could once more grace a Masonic Temple. W. Bro. J. Croft and W.Bro. L. Croft accompanied by Bro Harris, took their lorry to Kent and brought the pilasters back to Lowestoft.*

*In appreciation of the work he had done to obtain the pilasters for the Lowestoft Masonic Temple, Bro. Harris was made a Hon Member of*

*Orient Lodge."*

From an account by WBro A B Hogg WM of Queenborough Lodge in 1972 we learn the following:

*"Queenborough Lodge No.3893 was formed and consecrated in 1918 at which time the meetings were held in the established Masonic Club at Sheerness, the amenities being shared by three other Lodges.*

*However, the Founders being determined to construct their own Temple purchased two old houses each with a large rear garden at Queenborough. The houses did adjoin each other. One house was converted into a Clubhouse, and the other was let. By combining the two back gardens sufficient space was created to permit the erection of a large Temple.*

*This was completed in 1920 in which year the Lodge moved into its new home.*

*During the construction of the Temple, one of the Founders, who was an important personage at the local Glass Works, commissioned the Carpenter at the works to make six oak pilasters.*

*These were duly made and were placed in position in the Temple prior to its dedication and occupation. It is worthy of especial mention that the Carpenter who fashioned the pilasters was NOT a member of the Craft.*

*When one examines the intricate details, correct in every essential to the minutest dimension, it can only be assumed that the craftsman was supplied with the most detailed plans and instructions. It is also worthy of note that the Carpenter did eventually become a member of the Craft. This was the situation until 1970.*

*For a few years prior to that time, although we had in the meantime given birth to a daughter Lodge (Isle of Sheppey Lodge No6769) we had been increasingly aware that the growing financial burden of the upkeep of the Temple and its attendant buildings was becoming an unbearable. Reluctantly therefore the decision was eventually forced upon the Trustees to sell the property, and the whole sad business was finalised in 1970, in which year we returned to the Masonic Club at Sheerness, which we now share with four sister Lodges. The Temple at Queenborough was converted into a Lecture Hall by a large local firm, for the instruction of its employees.*

*The dismantling of the Temple was an extremely sorry affair, in view of the fact that it was, without doubt, the finest Temple in Kent, and far superior to that which we now use for our meetings. Various items of furniture were taken with us to our new home, but much was distributed among other Lodges in the County, and it is largely due to the untiring efforts of our Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro L.F.Read P.M. and Bro. R.J.Harris of Orient Lodge, No. 4085 that these Pilasters have now been presented to Orient Lodge in order that they can be preserved in their rightful setting.*

*In transmitting them into your keeping, they have obviously lost none of their former splendour, and it is the wish of all Brethren of Queenborough Lodge that they continue to glorify your Temple from generation to generation."*

In October of last year a further visit was made to Lowestoft by two Brethren from Queenborough, WBro Roger Read (WBro R F Read who made most of the arrangements was his father) and WBro D Blythe, who were visiting the area and wanted to view the Pilasters.



## Saint Margaret' s Lodge No 1452

The 50 Club of Saint Margaret's Lodge No 1452 were pleased to donate £500.00 to the Gillian Francis Memorial Fund which is working to raise funds for the Oxygen unit at Chedgrave which assists people with various illnesses including MS and Cancer by utilising decompression chambers and high oxygen environments.

The Gillian Francis Memorial Fund is also working to supply

a special treatment chair for one of the local group surgeries and the money donated by the 50 Club will be utilised to assist in both of these worthy causes. The cheque was presented to Gill's son and grandson.

A further £500.00 was presented to the Children's Ward at the James Paget Hospital. The money will be used to help support the cost of Hospital Play

Specialist Training for two members of staff. The Hospital Play Specialists are trained in distraction techniques that successfully distract the children from the trauma of the treatment they are receiving.

(Pictured from left to right: Simon Francis and his son, WBro S Farnell IPM, Helen Symonds, Bro M Mackay Charity Steward, Emma Davey, WBro G Foulger 1452 Fifty Club.)■

# 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.



# REFURBISHMENT OF MASONIC HALL, FRAMLINGHAM

October saw the first meeting at Framlingham since the recent refurbishment, and was attended by the Provincial Grand Master, Barry Ross.

The building, which in its time had been used as a school and, during the first world war, an army billet, is part of a grade II listed almshouse dating from the late 18th century and this provided considerable difficulties with respect to planning permission and external construction. The idea was to create a separate and permanent dining room whilst at the same time maintain the basic size and characteristic atmosphere of the temple itself, known and loved by so many members and visitors over the past eighty years.

Confining all the work internally and altering none of the integrity and traditional shape of the building overcame these difficulties. The project was supported by all the contributing Lodges and Chapter who regularly use the temple plus, of course, certain individuals who provided financial and trade assistance.

Phase II of the work, to include the robing area, bar, toilets etc is planned and will commence as soon as funds are available.



# New Royal Arch Chapter Consecrated in Mildenhall



Years of dreaming and months of planning finally came to fruition in November for the masons in Mildenhall with the Consecration of a new Royal Arch Chapter by the M. E. Grand Superintendent, E.Comp. Dr. David Watson assisted by the Officers of Suffolk Provincial Grand Chapter.

With only one craft lodge in the Mildenhall area it meant a big challenge for the petitioners to organise all the additional furniture and regalia required; but by the time the Consecration date arrived everything was in place.

The Petitioners and their guests were treated to a superb ceremony by the Consecration Team including an excellent oration by the Provincial third Grand Principal, E.Comp. Mike Caddock.

Having consecrated the new Chapter, to be named 'Mildenhall', Dr. David Watson installed E. Comp. Tommy Nelson as First Principal who then appointed his officers. The moving and very happy ceremony was followed by a banquet and party at the Bell Hotel where all who attended were presented with a set of cuff-links engraved with the logo of the new Chapter. It was mentioned at the Festive Board that the easy part was now over and that the hard work was about to begin; to establish Mildenhall Chapter's traditions and standards.

# GIVE OF YOURSELF

~MEETINGS AT THREE CENTRES IN THE PROVINCE OF SUFFOLK~

*"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."* Kahlil Gibran

These Meetings are intended for Lodge Almoners, those interested in becoming Lodge Almoners, any Brother involved in selecting the Almoner and any Brother interested in the Office. Open to all Masons from Entered Apprentice and above.

Subjects presented and for discussion will include:

- 1 The role of the Lodge Almoner. Re-active or Pro-active?
- 2 The Masonic Charities. An explanation and discussion as to who can benefit; how to claim and when.
- 3 The role of the Provincial Almoner and how he can help.
- 4 Bereavement. That most difficult problem.

A handbook will be provided to all Lodge Almoners attending.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick one and indicate if you will require lunch. Morning coffee and a light buffet lunch provided.

Lunch Yes / No

Cornwallis Court, Bury St. Edmunds — Sunday 21st January (ALREADY HELD)

Masonic Hall, 101 The Avenue Lowestoft — Sunday 28th January

Freemasons' Hall, Soane Street Ipswich — Saturday 10th February

9:15am coffee and registration. Meeting 9-30am to 11:45pm.

*There is no charge for this meeting.*

Please reply by the Monday before each Meeting to: Dr. Mac Speake, Dockyard, Kettlebaston, Ipswich IP7 7QA • Telephone: 01449 740635

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# Lodge 'Prince of Wales' No 959

by  
David S G Lewis  
Secretary,  
Lodge Prince of Wales,  
No. 959

In keeping with many other Lodges, we have been actively looking at ways of encouraging new members and ensuring that existing members remain involved. Whilst we have had a Ladies Festival for many years, and our December meetings enable us to invite partners and guests to a Christmas Festive Board, other social activities have been fairly infrequent.

It was decided that a 'White Table' event would be an excellent opportunity to invite male guests who may have expressed an interest in becoming Masons, or at least would like a better understanding of what we are about. We did not want the evening to be too 'hard sell' and we were keen to ensure that some mystique remained for those who may become initiates. For this reason our guests remained in the Soane Street bar, attended to by some of the brethren to answer any general queries, whilst the Lodge Officers opened the Lodge, read the minutes, then closed the Lodge in the Temple. The brethren and the guests assembled in the Temple, where an informative talk was given on the History of our Lodge, which had been responsible for the conception and construction of the first Masonic Hall in Ipswich. The WM, Peter Wood, then gave an entertaining explanation on the layout of the temple, his role and those of his officers and general format of a masonic meeting. Our Provincial Representative, John Frew, highlighted the charitable side of our work. He and Peter then took questions from our guests

and an ample supply of pamphlets was made available. We returned to the Festive Board, which was kept as similar to a normal meeting as possible, with the exception of masonic toasts. Fifteen non-masonic visitors attended the meeting and to date two applications for membership have been received.

As social activities are an important means of bringing everyone together, and in raising further monies for charity, a Sunday afternoon trip on board the Thames barge, the S B Thistle, was arranged for family and friends. This was a 4 hour trip leaving from the Old Custom House in Ipswich Dock to the Felixstowe/Harwich docks area, the return journey under sail being most impressive. The skipper of The Thistle, Dave Copsey, is our Asst CoC, and the family crew includes son Simon, one of our recent initiates. For any Lodge considering a social event I would highly recommend this—Topsail Charters can be contacted on 01621 857567.

Our season ended with a Bar B Q at Peter's house in June. A convivial time was had by all attending, which included a live big screenshowing of the England World Cup Match (we were still in it then). We feel that not only are we addressing the issues being raised by Province, we have hopefully increased our numbers by at least two, provided entertainment and pleasure for family and friends, and boosted our contribution to the 2009 Festival. ■

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