



FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Summer 2008



Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting

See page 3

Editor's notes



I am delighted at the increasing response Forum is getting for news articles from around the Province and I

hope we can begin to consider enlarging the magazine. However, this will only be possible if it attracts more advertising. If you run a business or control an advertising budget, then perhaps you should consider Forum as a suitable advertising medium. Our rates, from £100 a quarter page, are very reasonable considering the readership profile. We are, of course, very grateful to those who currently support the magazine in this way and make publication viable.

If you respond to any of the adverts placed, please be sure to tell the advertiser where you saw their material so that they are encouraged to advertise again.

Last edition we pioneered a letters feature. This time we had no response. Letters add considerably to the pertinence and topicality of Forum and provide useful feedback to the Province. Please take this chance to see your name in Forum and let us know what you are thinking.

Lastly, I would like to express my special thanks to the team that help to get Forum through your letterbox. Producing the lists of names, labels, and stuffing envelopes are all done by volunteers, they know who they are! If you wish to add your name to the list please contact the Editor.



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JOTTINGS FROM THE PROVINCIAL GRAND SECRETARY



Writing my first Jottings as Provincial Grand Secretary less than a week after our Provincial Meeting, I am just recovering from what was to me a nerve wracking but thoroughly exhilarating day at Holbrook. Our Annual Meeting this year was one of the best ever attended and I do believe was enjoyed by all present. There was a terrific atmosphere both before the meeting and afterwards in the bars and at the Festive Board. The caterers at the Royal Hospital School must be congratulated on serving us a very fine meal.

The addition of a Provincial Choir, an innovation our Provincial Grand Master has been very keen on for some time, was a revelation. The Provincial Grand Organist, WBro Graham Colthorpe and all the members of the Choir are to be congratulated.

The Province has received many letters of thanks from our Provincial guests, many of whom travel a great distance to be with us. I truly believe our Provincial Meeting is second to none.

It was a pleasure particularly for me to see my predecessor WBro Barry Rackham installed as Assistant Provincial Grand Master. He takes over from WBro Reg Rivett who has had a very successful four years in office and who now moves on to take an important role in the team chaired by the new APGM organising the 2009 Festival for the New Masonic Samaritan Fund. The Festival Dinner will take place at Trinity Park (The Suffolk Showground) on May 21st next year. Advance information will be communicated to Lodge Secretaries in September and every member of the Province will be sent an invitation in November. While tickets will be sold on a "first come first served basis", the Provincial Grand Master does hope that every Lodge will have at least one table of ten.

The United Grand Lodge of England has asked all Provinces to assist in co-ordinating a record of Lodge and Chapter archives to be called The Historical Records Project. The information gathered will assist in the celebrations for the 300th anniversary of Grand Lodge in 2017. Support is available from the Provincial Archivist, WBro Brian Woodall, the Provincial Representatives and the Provincial Office. I would ask Lodge Secretaries to ensure the speedy completion of the project.

Finally I would like to thank all members of the Provincial Office including the Editor of Forum and the Information Officer who do so much work behind the scenes. I wish you all a very enjoyable summer break.

David Harries - Provincial Grand Secretary

Profiles of New APGM and PGSec

Our new Assistant Provincial Grand Master is Barry Rackham (pictured right), who was previously Provincial Grand Secretary. Barry was installed at the Annual meeting at Holbrook by the RW Provincial Grand Master, Barry Ross. He succeeds Reg Rivett in his new position.

Barry Rackham is a Suffolk boy having lived in Ipswich since 1937. He and his wife Mary have two children Richard and Jane. They have three grandchildren.

On leaving School Barry trained as an electrician before being conscripted into the Royal Navy. He later joined the East Anglian Daily Times Company as Chief Engineer. He worked for that company for 28 years rising through the ranks to MD, a post he held for 10 years. He served on the main Board of Eastern



Counties Newspapers. He was head-hunted by an International Company as part of a development team for their regional newspapers, where he was a main board director and chairman of two subsidiary companies. Barry retired from full time employment in 1995.

Provincial Grand Lodge

A very successful Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Royal Hospital School at Holbrook on 30th May with a capacity attendance. Many distinguished guests were at the meeting including the Grand Secretary WBro Nigel Brown.



Highlight of the day was the Installation of the new Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Barry Rackham, who was supported by WBro Kevin Day the Master of Christchurch Lodge.

After appointing and investing the Provincial Officers for the year, the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Barry Ross congratulated them for past achievements and future efforts. Special mention was made of WBro Reg Rivett for his outstanding work as APGM. The PGM also thanked WBro Ian Yeldham, the outgoing Provincial Director of Ceremonies, and WBros Trevor White and Roger Cawston, the outgoing Wardens, who had visited virtually every Lodge in the Province during their year of office.

WBro David Harries was appointed Provincial Grand Secretary and WBro



David Boswell Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Provincial Grand Master said that he was delighted to appoint WBro Trevor White as the first Provincial Orator for Suffolk.

In a very active year for the Province special mention was made of the Master Mason seminars led by WBro John Jarman, the Presentations for Almoners organised by WBro Mac Speake, the Launch of the Orators scheme by WBro Trevor White and the Prestonian Lecture given at a meeting of Lodge Faith by RWBro Roieintin Khambatta.

The Teddies for Loving Care scheme still attracts good support from Lodges and we continue to supply Teddies to the main hospitals in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Gorleston.

The very successful Summer Ball held last

June at the Suffolk Showground was oversubscribed but 450 successful applicants attended a very enjoyable evening. This generated £4,000 for the 2009 Festival. The PGM said that he was delighted with progress on the fund raising for next year's Festival and noted that over 75% of Lodges were expected to exceed their agreed targets. He asked all Lodges to make the Masonic Samaritan Fund their priority over the next few months.

Once again the setting at Holbrook was exceptional with a top quality Festive Board. However, due to the limited dining facilities many Brethren were unable to be accommodated and the local eating establishments were well booked. A new innovation by the North Suffolk Lodges was a coach which carried Brethren back to Lowestoft for their own Festive Board at the Masonic Hall.

He is a past President of Ipswich Rotary Club, was a Magistrate serving on the Ipswich bench, past Trustee and Treasurer of the Ipswich Sea Cadets and held numerous positions within the Newspaper Society.

Any spare time is spent with his family, photography, DIY, cooking, gadgetry and the occasional round of golf where he is a member at Ipswich Golf Club.

Barry was initiated in 1975 into Christchurch Lodge and its Master in 1985. He was appointed PPJGD in 1992, PProvJGW in 1997, AssGSec 2001-02, ProvGSec 2003, PPGStwd 2004 and APGM 2008. He is also Master of Lodge Faith and a member of Suffolk Installed Masters and Philip Jervis Kay Lodges. He was exalted into Royal Arch in 1978 in Royal Alexandra Chapter becoming 1st

Principal in 2000. He was appointed PPPGSoj in 2002, ProvGSN in 2007 and is a Joining Member of Chapter Faith. In Rose Croix he was perfected in 2002 into Elizabeth Chapter and advanced into Provincial Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland in 2004.

Our new Provincial Secretary, David Harries (pictured left), has lived in Felixstowe for 35 years. He is married to Tinty and they have three children. He is a retailer and with his wife runs an established fashion store in Felixstowe called Russell Smith.

Apart from Masonry, David is a golfer and supports Wales at Rugby. He is a member and Past President of Felixstowe Rotary Club, he is also a Past Chairman of Felixstowe Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

He was initiated into Felix United Service Lodge in March 1983 and was its Master in 1994. He was appointed a Provincial Grand Steward in 1995. He is a Past Principal in the Holy Royal Arch as well as a member and Past Sovereign in the Ancient and Accepted Rite. He was appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 2006 and Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary in 2007. He is also Chairman of the Felixstowe Masonic Hall Trust and is very involved in the purchase and development of a new Masonic dining hall in Felixstowe, something Felixstowe masons have been looking forward to for a very long time.

We were sorry to hear that during the preparation of this magazine Barry Rackham's wife, Mary, passed away after a long illness. Our sympathies are offered to Barry and his family.



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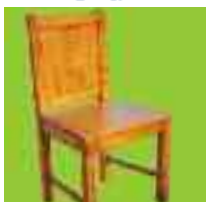
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Masons Support Anglian Regiment Appeal

On the 27th January 2008, members of the 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment staged a parade followed by a service in St Nicholas Church to mark their return from six months active service in Helmand Province in Afghanistan.

During the tour the Vikings were involved in over 350 engagements against the Taliban in which they sustained combat casualties of 9 killed and 50 injured. To help support the injured and the families of the dead and injured the Vikings set up a regimental memorial fund with a target of £150,000. They are over 90% towards achieving this target and a number of Lodges and Chapters in Norfolk and Suffolk responded to try and fill the shortfall.

An appeal to local Lodges and Chapters was launched and coordinated by WBro Stephen Docwra of Lodge of Friendship No 100 and a cheque for £12,200 was presented to the Regiment by the Mayor of Great Yarmouth, Paul Garrod. In the appeal, Suffolk Lodges and Chapters were represented by St Andrews Lodge and Chapter and St Mary's Lodge who, between them, raised £1,700.



Shelley Centre

The first social event of WBro Andrew Wood, the new Master of Virtue & Silence Lodge, was a race evening which raised over £1,400 for the Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Riding near Hadleigh. The Lodge has supported the Centre for several years and recently began sponsoring two ponies named Camilla and Squidgy. Shown in the centre of the picture with the ponies are

Andrew together with, on his left, Diane Godfrey, the Sponsor a Pony Representative, and WBro John Gutsell, Lodge Charity Steward and, on his right, Jan Derbyshire, the Centre Chairman and Bro Mike Heath who played a major part in organising the race evening. The Centre caters for the special needs of young riders and needs to raise some £55,000 a year to fund its work



WBro Norman Pearson was the very first initiate into the Lodge of Dawn after the consecration of the lodge in 1978.

Professional and other matters meant that he had insufficient time to pursue his masonic career. However, about four years ago, with more time to spare, he became more active and progressed to the chair last February.

With the lodge now in its 30th year it has a double reason to celebrate and, as well as installing its first initiate as Master, marked the March meeting by inviting all the surviving Founder members to be the special guests of the Lodge. The photo shows the new Master at the celebrations with four Founders, one of the consecrating officers and other members.

ALMONERS'



WHERE THE GIVING GOES



At a meeting organised by the Provincial Grand Almoner at Stowmarket on 15th February, WBro John Williams and WBro Chris Caine gave presentations respectively on the Masonic Samaritan Fund and the RMBI. About 80 members and wives attended and the following is taken from a report on the meeting by WBro Trevor Tinley of St Luke's Lodge.



WBro Williams said that, in its 18 years, the Fund has approved over 8,000 applications at a cost of £40m. In 2007 there were 626 applications supported at a cost of £3.72m. Wives, partners, dependants and widows are all supported, the youngest being 6 months and the oldest 104 years. These groups accounted for half of beneficiaries to date and the proportion is expected to increase in future. Support is made available for those who are faced with a long wait for NHS treatment. The Fund steps in where a wait for NHS treatment exceeds 3 months. However, this reduces to 2 months for cardiac and still less for some eye conditions.

The early applications were mainly for orthopaedic treatment. The range of support has now widened and includes support for respite care, allowing the carer to have a break.

WBro Caine reminded the audience that the RMBI is the largest of the Masonic Charities founded 160 years ago for "poor and decrepit" Masons.

With 17 care homes, sheltered and other accommodation provided, the Charity employs some 1,150 people. It was emphasised that funds raised are for Masons and dependants not the staff and buildings. There have been a number of legacies that have enabled the premises/staff side to be financially divorced from "care" costs.



WBro Caine went on to say that there is a substantial building programme to meet future needs. One of the major considerations was for the provision of care for those requiring support when affected by Alzheimer's disease. There is a 5 and 10 year plan for this purpose.

The Charity has over 1,000 residents in accommodation that is geared to making each individual feel like it is their home and all of the premises provide a strong social life. The average age of admission is now 90 years with 25 residents over 100.

Programmes for "Respite Care" and "Extra Care" are underway. Short stay facilities are offered so that carers can have a few days to recharge their batteries. It is generally made available in a local home so that visits can be made as required. Extra Care is where land has been made available and a "village" will be built where property can be brought and care will be made available to the level required.

WBro Caine reminded the meeting of the equity release scheme. Qualifying Masons may have a percentage of the value of their property released for a lump sum which is given at 1% above the base rate and is seen to be very competitive.



MASONIC

A good crowd of friends, families and runners in the Fun Run on 22nd June created the right conditions for a good an extra challenge to those competing.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Master, having recovered from his effort involved and awarded prizes to the various WBro Mike Leighton who completed his the story.





FUN RUN

their dogs turned up to support the 97
e at Bentwaters. A bright sunny day
turnout while the strong wind provided

s and, afterwards, the Provincial Grand
ts in the 3 mile event, thanked all those
ious winners including one for effort to
s event on crutches. The pictures tell



AGM OF THE MASONIC SAMARITAN FUND

On 18th March the Province had the honour of hosting the AGM of the Masonic Samaritan Fund at Freemasons' Hall in Soane Street, Ipswich. A full audience of Suffolk Masons was in evidence including most Almoners, Charity Stewards and other representatives from Lodges in the Province.



The Chief Executive, WBro Richard Douglas gave a presentation of the work of the Fund.

He noted that it had spent nearly £40m since its creation in 1990 benefiting some 8,000 applicants. Of these 69 had come from this Province costing £432,000. He discussed the qualifications for application and support (covered in other reports) and noted in the last few years around 50% of the support had gone to wives, widows and parents. The main sources of income are donations, sponsorship, merchandising, legacies and investments. The last of these is used to meet administration costs. In future he expects an increasing demand for their support to come from the greater proportion of elderly people in the population and from new areas of demand such as drugs for cancer treatment, an increase in degenerative disease and respite care. They are also considering involvement in supporting dental care. He also stated that the Fund had looked into operating a medical insurance scheme for Masons but this had met with problems from the Charity Commissioners.



The MSF President, WBro Hugh Stubbs, remarked that this was the 6th AGM held out of London and it was now the custom to hold the meetings in the Province which was due to hold its Fund Festival in the following year. Several important points were made which are not covered elsewhere in Forum. This included, from the President, the recent strategic review on the future development of the Fund and the successful move to the new offices in Freemason's Hall in Great Queen Street. This has improved facilities and enabled them to interact better with the other co-located Masonic charities to pool resources and reduce overheads.



The Treasurer, WBro James Bartlett reported on the accounts noting the £3.245m spent during the year on patient costs covering 626 applicants.



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EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA

Solea Lodge, No 9498, held its annual Easter lunch on Sunday 16th March and attendees also brought an Easter egg to be given to residents at Cornwallis Court

with each ticket purchased.

The lunch was very successful, with a full dining room at the Masonic Lodge in Bury

St Edmunds. A raffle also raised the sum of £177 that went towards the Master's Charity Purse. Forty Easter eggs were collected in total, and Cornwallis Court topped up the numbers to 72 with, mostly, special eggs for diabetes sufferers.

The Master, WBro Peter J Smith, with the assistance of Brethren and staff from Cornwallis Court, along with WBro Derek Barnard, presented the eggs on Thursday 20th March. These were to be distributed at the Easter gathering on Good Friday, at which time a Parade of Easter Bonnets was also on the agenda.

The picture shows left to right, De-Vick, Deputy Manager, Sue Gosling, Social Activities Co-ordinator, Hazel Smith and WBro Peter Smith, WM Solea Lodge.

Gippeswyk Lodge held a fish supper and quiz evening in February for members and friends. All enjoyed the cold fish platter and trying to answer the questions. The evening raised £414.50. The picture shows the Master, WBro Kevin Payne (left) with the winning team of WBro R Blackburn, his partner Heather and their friends.



FISHING FOR ANSWERS



PHCENIX DONATIONS

In 2007 Phoenix Lodge in Stowmarket donated £2,100 to local charities - £500 to each of four and £100 to a fifth. The photograph shows members of Phoenix Lodge and recipients after being presented with their cheques. Shown, left to right, are Terry Potter of Phoenix Lodge, Dustin Goymer of Stowmarket First Responders Scheme who received a £100 maintenance grant, Rev Michael Eden of St Peters Church representing Café 52 Project, Judith St Pier of Street Forge workshops at Thornham Magna who provide support to the disabled, Alix Mitchell representing ICANHO the Suffolk Brain Rehab Centre, Sue Clements and Mark Farley from OPTUA, the advice and advocacy service supporting local people with long term illnesses and disabilities together with David Frost the 2007 Master of Phoenix Lodge,

FIRST INITIATE FOR COUNTRYSIDE



The photograph was taken at the Countryside Lodge of Suffolk's second regular meeting at Freemasons' Hall Ipswich on 29th January at which they initiated their first candidate, Bro Clifford Sargeant from Great Cornard.

The meeting was attended by the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Barry Ross, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Reg Rivett, who are both Honorary Members. They are shown with the Initiate and WBro John Rice, the Founding Master of Countryside Lodge.

STRADBROKE LODGE CENTENARY



The Centenary meeting of Stradbroke Lodge was held on 10th April. Some 150 attended including the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Senior and Junior Grand Wardens. After opening, the PGM took the chair and opened a Provincial Grand Lodge during which he presented WBro F G Bowles with the Suffolk Order of Merit informing the Brethren of his unstinting work both for Stradbroke Lodge and the Province. After closing the Provincial Grand Lodge, the PGM then invited the Master of the Lodge, WBro Allen Goodchild, to continue.

WBros Allen Goodchild, Roger Pitcher, Douglas Mitchell and David Carman presented a history of the Lodge, each covering 25 years, and WBro Reg Rivett linked each section together with comments and appropriate slides.

The Provincial Grand Secretary then read out the Centenary Warrant which was presented to the Lodge by the PGM. A cheque for £20,000 was presented to WBro Chris Williams, the Grand Charity Representative. After the meeting 130 Brethren enjoyed a sumptuous celebratory meal.

A Family Affair - Again!



The December meeting of Felix Lodge again saw a father take part in initiating his son. Bro Michael Chambers delivered the Charge to his son Ian, while his brother Anthony, a Lodge Steward, looked on. This follows the initiation last year when the Cheek family became the first Masonic trio in the Lodge. The proud father is photographed with his two new Brothers.

FIFTY TIMES TWO

WBro Fred Steed is now starting on his second 50 years as a mason. To add icing to the cake, he was installed as the 6th Worshipful Master of Laconic Lodge on 25th April, the week after receiving his 50th Anniversary certificate from the Province of Essex. He was initiated into The Villerica Lodge No 4053 in 1958 and became their 50th Master in April 1971.

Is this a record?



WBro John Parris (on left), who has just completed his year as Master of WM of Perfect Friendship Lodge, has certainly taken on the advice to visit whenever possible. Together with Bro Colin Martin, Senior Deacon (on right), they made a total of 76 visits during the year, including three to Great Queen Street. Having made so many friends through visiting, this intrepid pair have carried on. The total now stands at 110 Craft Lodge visits, and this does not include the numerous Ladies Nights taken in along the way.



Provincial Grand Chapter Meeting



Nearly 200 members and distinguished guests attended the annual Suffolk Provincial Grand Chapter Meeting at Greshams on 20th May. After the formal business the

Provincial Grand Superintendent, EComp Dr David Watson invested Officers for the year and presented the Order of Merit to EComp Tom Nelson. The other recipient, EComp Victor Brookes, was unable to attend.

support the Provincial Carol Service in Woodbridge last Christmas he added that the money raised had been used to donate a travelling Communion Service to St Mary's Church.

The continuing success of the Travelling Tools scheme was reported together with its value in promoting visiting between Chapters.

He congratulated EComp Dr Graham Bracewel, Grand Superintendent from 1987 to 1997 to whom he had presented a 50-year Certificate on 4th December and who remains very active in the Royal Arch and many other Masonic orders.

Finally, the Grand Superintendent pledged the support of the Royal Arch to the Provincial Grand Master for the 2009 Festival in aid of the Masonic Samaritan Fund. He asked all Chapters to make donations to the Fund by the end of February to make sure these can be included in the sum raised.



In his subsequent address he stressed the vital role senior members held in supporting and promoting the Royal Arch and encouraged them to join Suffolk Installed First Principals' Chapter which he hoped would become an even more effective forum for Royal Arch matters in the Province. He said that we must all do more to encourage young Master Masons to join the Royal Arch and later greeted all those present who had been Exalted during the previous year.

Thanking all those who had been involved in helping organise and



MARK PROVINCE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

On 18th April a special meeting of Youell Lodge No 317 of Mark Master Masons was held at the Masonic Royal Assembly Rooms in Great Yarmouth to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of both the Consecration of the Lodge and the Constitution of the Province of East Anglia at the Town Hall in Great Yarmouth in 1883.

The Meeting was honoured by the presence of the Mark Provincial Grand Master RWBro Peter Rollin, RWBro Geoffrey Dicker, Past Deputy Grand Master, and the Mark Provincial Grand Master for Essex RWBro Michael Spencer together with other holders of Mark Grand Rank.

After a short formal meeting the guests, which included the ladies of the members and representatives of other orders, were admitted and entertained to two playlets written by WBro Gary Allan and given by the Maids Head Demonstration Team. They concerned the founding of Mark Grand Lodge in 1856 and a demonstration of part of the working of a Mark Lodge at that time.

Some £300 was collected in alms and the raffle of which £50 was donated to the Maids Head Lodge Benevolent Fund and the rest to the 2013 Mark Benevolent Fund Festival which will be held in East Anglia.

CHANGE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



V Illustrious Bro Dr Graham Bracewel has stood down as Inspector General of Rose Croix for the District of Suffolk.

Graham Bracewel served as Inspector General with distinction for 19 years. His leadership, enthusiasm and advice were highly valued by so many in the Order and will be greatly missed.

He is succeeded by VIII Bro Robert JR Tile who was installed at an emergency meeting of Victoria Chapter at Woodbridge School on 8th April attended by a large number of members of the Order and distinguished visitors, including several from Supreme Council.

O R A T O R



The Province became one of the first in the Country to formerly invest the Provincial Orator with his jewel at the Annual meeting at Holbrook.

WBro Trevor White is the first holder of this rank within Suffolk. He told Forum that during the last few months he has presented "Orations" to nine Lodges and that they have been well received and have certainly stimulated some superb discussions.

If your Lodge wishes to become involved please contact him on 01473 622580 or email mrtjwhite@aol.com

Martyn Lodge Masonic Milestone

At the February meeting of Martyn Lodge in Southwold, 95 year-old WBro Eric France celebrated his 60 years as a Freemason and was presented with a framed certificate by WBro Alastair Anderson, a past Provincial Representative.

Eric was initiated into Martyn Lodge in 1948, Master in 1956 and was made Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer in 1963. He was exalted into St Edmunds Chapter in 1950 and later, having moved to Bath, joined Royal Sussex in Somerset in 1960 becoming First Principal in 1965 and made PPGSoj in the Province of Somerset in 1967. In 2000, Denis Calderley, Grand Superintendent of Somerset, presented Eric with his 50-year certificate and sent his best wishes to him for this occasion.

An active and dedicated Freemason he proudly informed the Lodge that he has been through the chairs of no less than 11 different orders. Although his career took him away from Suffolk, Eric remains a full member of Martyn Lodge and on thanking the brethren for the presentation affirmed his great love of all things East Anglian.

Now living in Bexhill on Sea his visits to Southwold, though infrequent, are always well received by the Brethren. WBro Eric joined the brethren for the festive board and is pictured with the Master WBro Steve Bignell.



Richard Strutt Presentation

WBro Richard Strutt has retired from running the Ipswich Masonic Club. On 4th February, at a meeting of Lodge Prince of Wales, he was presented with a picture of HMS Collingwood by RWBro Barry Ross, the Provincial Grand Master, on behalf of the Hall Trust Company, to thank him for 25 years of service to the Freemasons' Hall in Ipswich. The picture reminded WBro Richard of his strong Naval family connections.

During his presentation the PGM related some amusing anecdotes regarding their visits to a Chapter they are both members of in the West Country. The PGM emphasised the contribution that WBro Richard had made, as a Director and Club Secretary, to the development and refurbishment of the bar facilities and the capital projects at the Hall.

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