



# FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Summer 2009



100-12-98  
Date 21st May 2009



Pay Masonic Samaritan Fund

Two million, four hundred and seventy one thousand, five hundred and twenty six pounds

£ £2,471,526.00

Province of Suffolk

21052009 100-12-98

# Thank you

see pages 2-3



## Editor's notes



At a time when so many are sceptical of the integrity of their political representatives, it is worth considering the corresponding and unpaid commitment of many in Masonry and this Province in particular. The pages of this magazine have, over the years, reported the extraordinary efforts of so many to raise money for good causes and to directly support those in need both within Masonic circles and the community at large. Indeed, I sometimes think that we actively seek new causes to support – not that we have to look far, especially in such an economic environment. This edition is no exception. I won't name anybody but you have only to read on to see examples we all could, and often do, follow.

I should especially note the support given to the Suffolk Festival in aid of the Masonic Samaritan Fund. Many years of effort raised a quite remarkable sum for so small a Province. While this is a Masonic charity, the monies raised have, for almost every Lodge, been additional to member's personal contributions in money and kind to non-masonic charities as well as their Lodge's support to the benefit of local and regional causes.

We are proud to publish these stories both in recognition of the efforts made and to encourage similar efforts from others. We are also looking for news and activities of a more general nature which reflect the wide range of member's interests and which might similarly interest other members. If in doubt, contact me and I will advise and help as needed.

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# FESTIVAL RA



**Over 750 Suffolk masons and their partners arrived at the Suffolk Showground on a fine summer evening on 21st May for the 2009 Masonic Samaritan Fund Festival Dinner. They eagerly anticipated a great evening and the announcement of the total funds raised. All of Suffolk was well represented with many Lodges having taken one, or even two, whole tables and the marquee being hung with the banners of the Suffolk Lodges. The event was honoured by the presence of the Deputy Grand Master, RWBro Jonathan Spence.**

Following the excellent meal, the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Barry Ross rose to

talk about the close links developed with the Samaritan Fund over the eight years of the Festival and the much greater awareness of the work of the Fund it had promoted. He handed over to Richard Douglas, Chief Executive of the Fund, who provided various statistics on the monies raised – that all Lodges had exceeded their targets, the average of over £28,000 raised by each Lodge, that six Lodges donated over £50,000 each and that the highest contribution of over £84,000 came from Seckford Lodge. The total funds raised by Craft Lodges in the Province was £1,869,267. Further contributions of over £66,000 from Royal Arch Chapters and nearly £11,000 from



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# ISES NEARLY £2.5M



other Orders boosted the Provincial contributions. When all sources had been added, he announced that the total raised by the Festival came to the outstanding figure of £2,471,526, a statement received with pleasure and acclamation by all present.

The President of the Masonic Samaritan Fund, VWBro Hugh Stubbs, rose to thank the Province, on behalf of the Fund and its recipients, for attaining the 'very pinnacle of achievement' both for the monies raised and for raising awareness of the Fund – over the Festival period the Province has made 5 times as many applications for funds than previously. He announced a new initiative for the Fund - the trial provision in three provinces of funding for short periods of respite care in Masonic homes - and finally gave some case studies of the care provided by the Fund before thanking the members of the Province, once again for their support.

The Deputy Grand Master, RWBro Jonathan Spence, who earlier in the proceedings had been very active circulating around the room meeting many



Suffolk masons and their partners, added his congratulations to the Province.

Closing the formal part of the evening, the PGM outlined some of the novel ways funds had been raised such the fun-run, thanked the organising committee, the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge and the rest of the Provincial Officers involved in the success of the evening. Finally, he reminded everyone of the Festival Thanksgiving Service to take place on 19th November at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds.

**It is the intention of the Provincial Grand Master to make the Festival Jewel a permanent one to be worn on any future Masonic occasion in the province. An application to this end has been made to Grand Lodge and the result will be notified in due course.**

*To view these pictures and more photographs taken at the Festival visit [www.petergreenphotography.co.uk](http://www.petergreenphotography.co.uk) where photos can also be ordered. A donation to Masonic Charities will be donated for every photo ordered.*

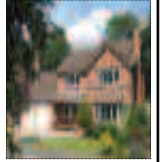




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## FORTY YEARS

At the March meeting of Royal Clarence Lodge, WBro John Rice made a presentation of a decanter and cut glasses to WBro Brother Stanley Atkinson to mark his 40 years of service to the Lodge and masonry. Eighty-five year old Stanley is still the acting Tyler of the Lodge.



## A WEALTH OF WARNES

*Mr. (Hadleigh Warnes) WBros N. Warnes, C. Warnes, R. Robinson, B. Robinson*

This year has been an eventful year for the Warnes, their family, friends and namesakes.

On 11th February, WBro Chris Warnes was installed as Master of the Lodge of Virtue and Silence at Hadleigh. Not only was he installed by his father WBro Neville Warnes, PM of Royal St Edmunds and a member of Virtue & Silence, but also present were WBro Richard Robinson, the WM of Brett Valley Lodge, and his father WBro Barry Robinson, a PM of Virtue and Silence and Founder Member of Brett Valley. Chris and Richard were at school together, in Scouts together and shared most coming-of-age activities and celebrations. All these coincidences made his installation an even more memorable event than usual.

Equally unusual, the following month saw the installation of Chris Warnes as WM of Orient Lodge in Lowestoft. Before confusing our readers it should be pointed out that this is another Chris Warnes and, as far as anyone knows, not a relative of the WM of Virtue & Silence.

Chris from Lowestoft joined the fraternity by a different route. Following the Freemasonry in the Community Week, a bus was fitted out as a Masonic Information Centre which toured towns in the county. During the visit to Lowestoft, Chris showed interest, and was invited to the open day at the Temple. Details were left, and a couple of weeks later Chris was contacted and visited by two Brothers from Orient Lodge. After attending a few social events with the Lodge and the usual admission proceedings, he was duly initiated into Orient Lodge culminating in his installation as WM earlier this year. To add icing to the cake, his first ceremony was to initiate his twin brother Nick. They were born on 30th September 1967 which, coincidentally, was the same day that the Masonic headquarters at Lowestoft was officially opened.

Are there any other Provinces that have had two unrelated Masters with the same name?

## JOTTINGS FROM THE P.G. Secretary



Provincial Grand Lodge this year was held in early April. The weather was perfect, which was fortunate as a Brother was taken ill and the Brethren had to leave the Temple for a period. I am glad to report that although the Medical Staff were concerned at the time the Brother himself recovered later and was allowed home.

The event itself was not spoilt and was a very successful meeting.

May 21st saw the culmination of the appeal for the 2009 Samaritan Fund. The Province was honoured by a number of distinguished guests including the Deputy Grand Master, RWBro Jonathan Spence. The hard work and commitment of the members of the Province contributed to a total very close to £2.5 million.

The Brethren and their ladies who attended the Festival Dinner enjoyed a marvellous day, good weather, great atmosphere and an excellent meal. An occasion to be remembered by those present for many years to come.

The Dean and Chapter at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral recently asked the Province through our Provincial Chaplain, WBro George Pipe if we would be prepared to contribute to the furnishing of the Chapel of the Transfiguration. The Provincial Grand Master arranged for a gift of £15000 to be made and he and other members of the Province were invited to the Consecration when the Archbishop of Canterbury visited the Cathedral on 5th June.

To celebrate the end of our Festival year, the Province is holding an Evensong in the Cathedral on the 19th November at 6.30pm. I do urge all Suffolk Masons and their families and friends to attend what will be not only an uplifting service, but also to visit the Chapel of the Transfiguration and to witness what has been achieved with the gift from the Province.

Masons are by nature charitable people and I am sure that now that the Festival is over we will not forget those less fortunate than ourselves. We should also remember that to meet we require a roof over our heads. Some of our Masonic Halls are in a poor condition and all could have improvements made. I believe that this is a good time to move forward and for every Masonic Centre to have a development project or at least to raise a substantial building fund for the future.

The Provincial Grand Almoner, WBro Mac Speake is pursuing an idea put forward by Bro David Mullett of Orwell Lodge which could possibly help Brethren or their families when visiting hospitals where parking is a problem. Many members live within easy reach of the various hospitals and may be only too pleased to help with a parking space and perhaps a lift to the hospital. Investigations are taking place on the implications, but in the meantime we should not be afraid to call on the help of our Brethren in time of need. There will be further details in the new Masonic season.

When visiting Lodges round the Province I am heartened by the effort that the majority of the Brethren put into learning the Ritual and I have experienced many excellent ceremonies. I find it a little disappointing however that occasionally it appears acceptable to read the Ritual word for word. I believe this is a practice that should be discouraged.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the Provincial Office for their continuing support and the Information Officer and the Editor of Forum for producing this excellent magazine.

I wish you all a very enjoyable Summer Break.

### HOW TO ACCESS HELP FROM THE GRAND CHARITY, DEPARTMENT OF WORK AND PENSIONS AND THE ROYAL MASONIC TRUST FOR GIRLS AND BOYS

**A meeting for Masons and their Partners at Stowmarket Masonic Centre on Sunday 15th November 2009, 9-30 to 11-30 (Registration & Coffee, 9-15am)**

*"The Masonic Relief Grant Process and State Benefits" – WBro Roger Freeman. Head of Masonic Relief Grants.*

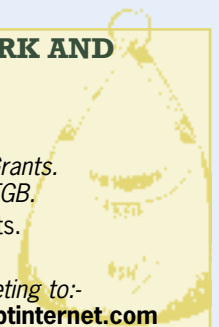
*"The RMTGB. A Jewel in the Crown of Freemasonry" – WBro Ray Collings. Fund Raising Manager. RMTGB.*

Morning coffee and a light buffet lunch provided. There is no charge for the meeting or refreshments.

Handbooks will be available for those Lodge Almoners not possessing one.

*Please reply, stating whether partner attending and numbers requiring lunch at least 4 days before the Meeting to:-*

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## Promotion for APGM

Forum is delighted to report that the MW The Grand Master, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, has promoted our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Barry Rackham, to the rank of Past Senior Grand Deacon in the United Grand Lodge of England.

## STAMP VISIT TO ST. MALO

The latest travels of STAMP as reported by WBro Ralph Robertson.

On 5th February our party of 19 travelled by coach to Portsmouth to catch the overnight ferry to the French port of St Malo. This was our 13th trip abroad, all of which have been superbly organised by WBros David Deal, John Jarman and Peter Seaman.

An uneventful crossing, an agreeable meal and a glass of wine were accompanied by the usual catch up on Masonic gossip. After arrival the following morning we made for our small but comfortable accommodation at the Hotel de la Cite. After breakfast, we ventured out into the French countryside by coach. Our driver, WBro Steve Bye, remained with us for the entire trip and could not have been more helpful. Later that evening we took dinner at a nearby restaurant, which, in the finest traditions of STAMP proved to be a convivial affair. Bill Hagger & Peter Peck, were presented with the St Malo name bar to their medallions to commemorate the visit.

On Saturday we were on the move early and heading for the highlight of the trip, our visit to Lodge Les Freres de L' Avenir No. 179. This Lodge uses emulation ritual. The lodge room was not grand in its appointment but we were made extremely welcome. The Suffolk contingent processed in, accompanying our own Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Barry Rackham, and were met by his French opposite number. After an exemplary ceremony a commemorative gavel was presented to the Master by WBro Barry Rackham, together with a glass ornament for the lodge. For the Festive Board, we moved to a local hotel. The format would have been easily recognised anywhere in Suffolk, however our French brethren were introduced to the odd song and Suffolk Fire during wine taking and the toasts. The Master gave a particularly poignant toast to WBro Arthur Spraggons. Arthur, who had last stepped foot in that part of France when he came ashore during the Normandy Landings in June 1944, received a standing ovation. There was even the odd tear in the eyes of our hosts as WBro Arthur reflected on those times.

The remainder of our trip comprised a little sight-seeing, the presentation of the coveted "Bona Cup" to WBro David Harries and a safe journey back to Suffolk on Monday courtesy of WBro Steve Bye.



## SOLEA EASTER EGGS

Solea Lodge Easter Lunch was held at the Masonic Hall in Bury St Edmunds on Sunday 5th of April with a full-to-capacity dining room. Each adult attending gave an Easter egg on the day, in addition to the cost of the meal, and a total of 53 eggs were collected. A raffle on the day also raised the sum of £205 for the WM's motor-neurone charity.

All the eggs collected were presented to Cornwallis Court for distribution to the residents at their Easter lunch the following weekend.

*The picture shows, left to right, Mrs Colleen Smith, WBro Malcolm Smith (WM), Bro Paul Boast (resident carer and member of Solea Lodge), and Miss Liz Fleming (residential home manager).*

## Letters... Letters...

### Sir, Reflections on Scottish Masonry

In 2001, following retirement, my wife and I moved to Gairloch on the NW coast of Scotland. Through the Grand Lodge of Scotland I obtained details of our nearest Lodge, and became an affiliated member of Lodge Loch Ewe, No 1551.

Freemasonry in Scotland is different from England. In particular, it is less formal, more variable and great tolerance is exercised in the memorising of ritual. Dress is relaxed as, historically in poorer lodges, few men owned suits, but it did not make them lesser Masons. Loch Ewe Lodge is small having 25-30 members.

The Provincial Lodge of Ross & Cromarty encompasses about 12 Lodges. Provincial meetings are held in each Lodge in turn with a degree ceremony normally worked. In many smaller Lodges like Loch Ewe, the Master serves for 2 years Also the Mark Degree is considered to be the next step after Craft rather than the Royal Arch as in England.

In 2005 I visited Grand Lodge in Edinburgh, and it was a very colourful experience each Lodge wearing a different (normally tartan) apron. Lodge Loch Ewe celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2008, and the Lodge was re-consecrated.

I can assure any visitor that a warm welcome awaits them.

*WBro Ken McMorran*

WBro Ken McMorran was initiated into Apollo Lodge in Beccles in 1984 and became Master in 1992 and has been organist for some 8 years. He served as Master of Loch Ewe Lodge from 2005-2007

### Sir, Travelling Lodge Lost Regalia

In our very enjoyable travels around the temples of Suffolk we seem to have mislaid some of our regalia. Probably the rapid pace of clearing the temple to get to the festive board is the most likely cause.

The most precious item is our VSL which has the Rotary logo and an inscription on the front. We have also lost a couple of collars.

If anyone spots them lurking in some dark and remote corner of their premises we would gratefully welcome their return.

*With hope and thanks in anticipation,  
Les Howard, Secretary, Rotary lodge of Suffolk No 9306*



## DORIC LADIES

A report by **WBro Ralph Robertson**, Charity Steward of Doric Lodge

**“While Europe's eye is fix'd on mighty things,  
The fate of empires and the fall of kings;  
While quacks of State must each produce his plan,  
And even children lisp the Rights of Man;  
Amid this mighty fuss just let me mention,  
The Rights of Woman merit some attention.”**

So wrote Robert Burns, Scotland's bard and our Brother. The Ladies of Doric Lodge at Woodbridge, however, are more inclined to take their lead from the order of architecture the lodge is named after and its masonic reference to strength. Many years ago, the ladies of Doric Lodge, had the strength of character and mind to form a luncheon club at the suggestion of Mrs Jenny Archer, wife of WBro Bryan Archer. The Doric Ladies are now an intrinsic part of the Lodge and continue to go from strength to strength. In the Ionic tradition, they have the wisdom to organise luncheons and suppers that are well supported and there is a strong feeling of togetherness and friendship that is very apparent from the frequent meetings the Ladies arrange. The Corinthian order, one of beauty, goes without saying when referring to our Ladies. They do, however, possess a greater beauty of character. For many years, they have sought to raise money for charitable purposes. Sometimes masonic, sometimes local but always with care and consideration as to what is occurring in the community in our area. The Air Ambulance, Suffolk Horse Trust, EACH, Macmillan Nurses, St Elizabeth Hospice & CLICC, to name but a few, have all received donations from our Ladies. They are in their own right Patrons of the Masonic Samaritan Fund. Their certificate sits proudly in the anteroom at Woodbridge Masonic Hall and is probably unique in Suffolk.

As the Charity Steward of Doric Lodge, I felt it is time to tell the Ladies just how much their support is appreciated and that the contributions they make to our charitable causes are always very welcome indeed. Their generous and cheerful disposition has existed for many years and I can only hope that it will continue with the same enthusiasm in the future. So it is with much sincerity that I say “thank you” on behalf of all the members of Doric Lodge to the “Doric Ladies” for all they have done in the past, present and will continue to do in the future. They are the strength that supports Doric Lodge.



## HARTISMERE BANNER DEDICATION

At its meeting on the 8th April Hartismere Lodge dedicated its new banner in a ceremony carried out by the Provincial Grand Chaplain WBro George Pipe. The new banner replaced the one originally presented to the Lodge in 1881 by the wife of one of its founder members, and is an exact copy. The arms are those of Lord Henniker, the first Master of the Lodge, who was Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Suffolk from 1886 to 1902.

*Photo: WM, WBro Chris McIntyre, WBro George Pipe, SW, Bro Andy Vernon, and JW, WBro Ron Walters.*



## 93-YEAR-OLD INITIATE

Just showing that it's never too late to start is 93-year-old Bro Donald Mackie who was initiated into Good Neighbour Lodge at Cornwallis Court on 24th April. Distinguished company included (back row, left to right) WBro Brian Barton, APGM (Norfolk), VWBro Stephen Allen, DPGM (Norfolk), the WM, VWBro Brian Vickers, and VWBro Robert Mayhew, DPGM (Suffolk). Bro Mackie (right) shares the front row with RWBro Rev Canon Richard Tydeman OSM.



## ERIC HALL 50TH

WBro Eric Hall, a 92-year-old member of St Luke's Lodge in Ipswich, was presented with his 50-year Certificate by WBro Dr John Elmore, Provincial Representative, at the meeting on 10th June. Eric's connection with the centre go back a long way having attended primary school in the Soane Street Hall under a Miss Tracey. Initiated into St Luke's in 1959 he progressed through the offices and chair and continues to actively support the Lodge with guidance for the members, especially the more junior ones. Eric was also presented with a pair of engraved whiskey glasses from the Lodge by the WM, WBro Adrian Watts. Eric thanked the Lodge and hoped that one day he might become a centenarian member.



## GIPPESWYK WHITEWASH


In April WBro Trevor White (centre) had the pleasure of installing his son Clive (left) into the Chair of Gippeswyk lodge No 4254. His other son Jamie (right) was invested as the Senior Deacon by his brother.

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*Richard's father-in-law is Brian Riley – Brett Valley Lodge*




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## FACES OF CHARITY

Some people give a lot of their time and energy to charity organisations and causes. Such a person is Bro Kimble Reynolds, the Almoner of Orient Lodge, and presenter for Hospital Radio Yare.

Kimble gets involved in doing charitable deeds in creative and original ways. For example, take his efforts to make last Christmas a little more pleasant for the patients on the Children's Ward at the James Paget University Hospital. Through a friend he got to know of a little eight year old girl who thought she had too many toys no longer needed and, on Kimble's suggestion, passed them on to others rather than throw them away.

One of the beneficiaries of this generosity was Caitlin Coleman, an eight year old girl from Lowestoft, admitted to the children's ward over the Christmas period.

*Pictures show Kimble Reynolds and Caitlin Coleman is pictured cuddling a fluffy bunny - the toy she selected from the sackful donated by eight-year-old Amy Mullen. She was really perked up by the toy which helped to brighten her stay.*



## BOTWRIGHT 65th

Earlier this year, WBro John Botwright celebrated sixty-five years in Masonry. WBro John, a founder member of Brett Valley Lodge and a long time member of Lodge of Virtue & Silence, enjoyed a convivial celebratory lunch with his brethren at the George in Hadleigh, and was presented with a slate plaque displaying ears of corn by a fall of water and the letters LXV signifying his 65 years in Masonry.

The plaque was presented by WBro Traver Scarff on behalf of Brett Valley. The plaque was executed by Richard Brown, artist, sculptor and son-in-law of WBro Brian Riley (almoner of Brett Valley Lodge). WBro John entertained the gathering with tales of his masonic youth and demonstrated to all that laughter and an interest in life is what keeps us young.

*The picture shows Traver Scarff, Albert Geater, Jack Clarke, Brian Riley, Barrie Robinson, Kelvin Avis, Peter King with the seated John Botwright.*



## SUMMA PETENS

On June 5th the Ipswich Masonic Centre hosted a most unusual meeting. Summa Petens, a London Lodge, held its Installation meeting at Soane Street in the presence of the Metropolitan Grand Master, RWBro Russell Race and the Suffolk Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Barry Ross.

Because of falling numbers, Summa Petens Lodge, 50 years old this year, was on the point of handing in its Warrant. At the same time, old-boys of the Royal Hospital School approached Metropolitan Grand Lodge about forming an old-boy's lodge for the school. They suggested that they join the members of Summa Petens to ensure its future membership and health and, in effect, to make it the Old Boys Lodge they wanted. This happy arrangement is now in place and the Lodge hopes, in future, to hold one meeting a year at Holbrook School and the rest of its meetings in London. On this occasion the Suffolk meeting was held in Soane Street. Holbrook School is, of course, well known to Suffolk Lodges being the venue for the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting reported elsewhere.

A highlight of an excellent ceremony were the addresses by RWBro Barry Ross to the WM, by WVBro Brian Vickers to the Wardens and to the Brethren by RWBro Russell Race – big guns indeed and something which the WM will long remember.

*The photograph shows the master of Summa Petens, WBro Paul Wetherfield, with RWBros Russell Race and Barry Ross*



## MAUNDY MONEY

Last Maundy Thursday, Bro Rev Henry Lunney of St Luke's Lodge was honoured to receive Maundy Money from the Queen at a ceremony at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Henry was accompanied by his wife, Claire, who is herself no stranger to masonry as she is a Past Master of Lodge Rushmere of the Order of Women Freemasons.

Each year, the Queen presents specially minted Maundy Money to recipients, as many elderly men and women as there are years in the sovereign's age, who are chosen because of the Christian service they have given to the Church and community. At the ceremony, rotated annually around the 43 diocese of the Church of England, the sovereign hands to each recipient two small leather string purses. One, a red purse, contains money in lieu of food and clothing; the other, a white purse, contains silver Maundy coins consisting of the same number of pence, in 1, 2, 3, and 4 pence silver coins, as the years of the sovereign's age.

Henry said he was moved by the mixture of state and church ceremonial and the presentation itself made it "a fabulous day and a truly unforgettable experience"

Henry is the retired Rector of Westerfield, Tuddenham and Winesham, a member of Ipswich Rotary Club, was for many years the chairman of the governors of Winesham School, chaired the Diocesan Property Committee, is County Chaplain for the Boy Scouts and is Canon Emeritus of St Edmundsbury Cathedral.





## SUDBURY FREEMASONRY ON SHOW

Every two years, the town of Sudbury sponsors presentations of the town's numerous clubs, societies, and community organisations. This began in 2005 at the instigation of Lord Andrew Philips and has subsequently proved a valuable platform for promoting the diversity of activities within the local community.

The 2009 event was the third to have been organised and members of Babergh Lodge felt it time that Sudbury masons were represented. With the assistance of display material from the provincial archives, promotional literature from Grand Lodge and display boards from the Sudbury temple, a display was produced for the event on 14th February. This provided an excellent representation of both, Sudbury masonry in particular, and Freemasonry in general.

The six-hour event was well supported by Babergh Lodge members and a number of unattached ex- London brethren made themselves known. Although the occasion had not been planned with any recruiting intentions, interest, particularly from lady visitors, proved stimulating.

*Picture: WBro Stuart Andrews with the Babergh Lodge display*



## GIPPESWYK LOCAL CHARITIES DONATIONS

On 6th May, WBro Gordon Carless, presented cheques totalling nearly £2,500 from funds raised during his year as the Master of Gippeswyk Lodge. These funds had been raised from a garden party, a hog roast, a fish & chip supper and a quiz evening, together with monies raised at the annual Ladies Festival. The four local charities to benefit were the Alzheimers Society, the East Anglian Children's Hospice, the Colitis & Crohn's Society (South Suffolk) and the St Elizabeth Hospice, Ipswich

The picture shows, left to right, Brian Ward of the Alzheimers Society who stated that the donation would help patient carers and would assist with training people to cope with dementia, Don Berry, the Colitis & Crohn's representative, who said that his association needed over £300,000 per annum and he much appreciated the donation for research to continue to support suffers with bowel problems; WBro Gordon Carless; Laura Backhouse, who acted as host for the presentation at St Elizabeth's Hospice and greatly appreciated the donation to their annual expenses of £5.2 million and Mark Fox from the Children's Hospice explained that EACH needed an annual income of £5.5 million to run its three homes.



## SURPRISE VISIT

A surprise visitor to the Provincial Office recently was WBro Bert Cornwall (*pictured right*) accompanied by his son Brian. WBro Bert had called into Soane Street on the off chance, hoping to be able to look round. WBro Peter Peck duly obliged.

During the visit it was learned that WBro Cornwall was on a visit to Suffolk from his home in Victoria, Australia. He is the IPM of Commonwealth Lodge No 186, Mirboo North. His visit was arranged to try to trace the relatives of his wife Gloria. Her mother was Dulcie Potter, and her father Arthur Potter and they originally came from Wortham, near Diss. Arthur emigrated to Australia in the late 1890's.

If anyone has any information which could help we would be pleased to pass it on.

## SUFFOLK MASONIC BOWLS ASSOCIATION

The Hon Sec of the association has asked us to notify members of the remaining fixtures for the summer. These are:

- 15th July** v. Felixstowe Bowls Club
- 23rd July** Presidents Day (PGM, RWBro Barry Ross);
- 6th August** v. Ipswich Ladies. BC
- 27th August** v. Essex Masonic Bowling Fellowship
- 3rd September** Bert Doggett Trophy (internal competition)

It is proposed that this year's President's Day, afternoon session, be open to all Masonic bowlers in the anticipation that bowlers in lodges might get together and form a triple(s) to compete for the President's Trophy which will be held on the green of Felixstowe and Suffolk Bowling club.

The Association would like to invite enquiries from Masons of Suffolk and from Masons on our borders of Essex and Norfolk, with the possibility of joining us in our matches and competitions.

*Those interested should contact the secretary:* G. Williamson  
268 High Road, Trimley St. Martin, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 ORG  
Telephone: 01394 284551 Email: geowill33@yahoo.co.uk



## CATHEDRAL FUND

Suffolk Freemasons, assisted by the Grand Charity, have made a donation of £15,000 to the St Edmundsbury Cathedral fund which has been used to complete the furnishings of the Chapel of Transfiguration. The Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy and Assistant together with the Provincial Chaplain attended the special Consecration Service, held on Friday 5th June at the Cathedral, by His Grace The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams.

# PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER

Over 200 members of Provincial Grand Chapter, and distinguished visitors met at Gresham's on 11 June.

A highlight of the day was the address by the ME Second Grand Principal, George Pipon Francis, first welcoming the recovery of the ME Third Grand Principal, The Very Reverend Neil Collings at St Edmundsbury. He congratulated the Province on maintaining membership numbers, hoping that the situation would improve further with the appointment of Chapter representatives in Lodges. He, however, recognised that the biggest problem was that of retention and maintaining the interest of members.



He stated his belief that Royal Arch is an integral part of masonry and felt that the term 'Craft' should be applied to both 'red and blue'. In a related matter he reported that change to the relative position of the various degree made in 2003, i.e., that Royal Arch is 'an extension to, but neither a superior nor a subordinate part of the Degrees which precede it' in the Book of Constitutions was no longer regarded as useful and that the section would now revert to the traditional wording without the recent qualifications.

Finally, he reminded everyone that November 2013 would be the 200th anniversary of the Royal Arch in its current form and would be appropriately celebrated.

The Provincial Grand Superintendent, Dr David Watson thanked the Second Grand Principal for his news, views and overview of the Royal Arch and its place in Freemasonry.



He announced that the Lodge Representative scheme would soon be rolled-out with the support of Provincial Grand Lodge and that the Province is looking at development of a mentoring scheme to improve understanding of the order. He mentioned the sum of over £66,000 raised by the RA for the 2009 Festival for the Masonic Samaritan Fund which was additional to the main work of the Lodges in the Province.



After appointing the Provincial Officers, he especially thanked the retiring Third Provincial Grand Principal, EComp Michael Caddock, and the retiring Scribe E, EComp John Webster for their work in and for the Province. He awarded the Order of Merit to EComp Ronald Doy of St Margaret's Chapter.

The Provincial Grand Superintendent offered two dates for the diary: the Provincial Carol Service to take place at St Mary's Church in Woodbridge at 3.00 pm on Sunday 13th December and the next Provincial Meeting on 18th May 2010.



## MCCARTHY SLATCHER LECTURE

Robert Lomas, the celebrated masonic author, pictured with the Master of Silver Jubilee Lodge, WBro Colin White, following the annual McCarthy Slatcher Lecture held at Lowestoft. Record numbers attended the inspirational lecture entitled 'Will the real Knights Templar please stand up', followed by a traditional Lowestoft fish and chip supper. Plans are already advanced for next year with an equally high profile speaker.



## FIFTY UP FOR ECOMP SPEAR

On 22nd April EComp Mike Spear was presented with his 50-year Chapter Certificate by the Deputy Grand Superintendent, EComp Michael Manly. EComp Spear was First Principal of Royal York in 1972 and became Provincial Grand Treasurer in 1974. Shown in the photograph with EComps Manly and Spear is the First Principal of Royal York Chapter, EComp John Selby.

# Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting, 3rd April 2009

It may have been held eight weeks early to avoid clashing with the Festival celebrations but the Annual Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting at Holbrook took place in sunny weather befitting its usual date.

During the proceedings the Provincial Grand Master was delighted to present Orders of Merit to WBros SFW Bloomfield of Felix Lodge, Tommy Nelson of Mildenhall Lodge and Arthur Symonds of St Andrew's Lodge for their many decades of support for Freemasonry in the Province. Later, in congratulating those he had appointed or promoted to Provincial Ranks, he called on them for an equal commitment in future. He particularly congratulated the new Grand Rank appointees in the Province, WBros Stephen Bayfield, Bernard Horstead, Keith Huxley and Peter Coles, and those who had received Grand Lodge promotions, WBros Barry Rackham and Gerald Tedder. He also congratulated WBros David Harries and David Boswell for their success in their first year as Provincial Grand Secretary and Director of Ceremonies respectively and to WBro Phillip Covell in filling David Boswell's former role as Representative of Group 7.

He thanked everyone for their eight years of support for the 2009 Festival for the Masonic Samaritan Fund. Every Lodge in the Province has exceeded their targets and he looked forward to celebrating that achievement at the Festival Dinner on 21 May. Already, over 750 applications for places had been received.

He applauded the efforts made on retention and that the number of members of the Province had stabilised. A mentoring initiative to be launched later this year should also help by better care for newer members.

WBro Trevor White, the Provincial Grand Orator has now given over 20 orations and had one of his own orations added to the library established for use around the country. The PGM also mentioned the Master Mason Seminars organised by WBro John Jarman, David Boswell and Brian Horstead, and the continuing support given to Lodge Almoners by WBro Mac Speake's seminars and events.

The historical research project, in support of the Tercentenary of Grand Lodge, is some 80% complete under the able coordination of WBro Brian Woodall, the Provincial Archivist.

Lastly, the PGM thanked all those who had organised the Provincial meeting, especially the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge and the Provincial Choir who sang so enjoyably for everyone.

**The next Provincial Grand Lodge meeting will be held at Holbrook School on Friday, 4th June 2010.**

