



FORUM

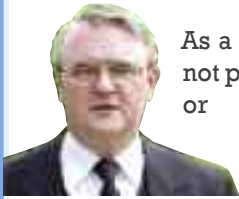
The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Summer 2011



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE 2011
FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

Editor's notes



As a rule, *Forum* does not publish obituaries or in memoriam notices not least because if we did so, they would fill most editions. However, the passing of RWBro Richard Tydeman has caused us to bend this rule. He was such an important figure in post-war English Freemasonry and so beloved in his native Suffolk that we felt some mark was needed. Every active member of a Suffolk Lodge, Chapter or other order will no doubt by now have been reminded of his achievements. From all that I have heard the common thread seems to have been his humanity and ability to build a rapport with everyone he met of whatever rank or distinction. He will be sorely missed.

Last year we published an article about the willingness of our Provincial Organist, WBro Graham Colthorpe, to help those wishing to try and play the organ during Lodge ceremonies. The offer is still open and he would be pleased to hear from anyone interested (Tel: 01394 275824) and he also asked me to repeat his plea for Tenors for the Provincial Choir - go along and be a Farmer's Boy.



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JOTTINGS FROM THE P.G. Secretary

Provincial Grand Lodge was held, as is our custom, at the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook. We were again very lucky with the weather, it was a glorious day. The Province has received very many letters of thanks from our guests who all recorded what an excellent day they had enjoyed and how hospitable they had found our Suffolk Brethren.

There was a variation this year with Graham Butland, the Chief Executive of EACH, being invited to receive a further cheque from the Provincial Grand Master which also provided an opportunity for him to thank us for our donations. He told me after the meeting that when he was welcomed into Provincial Grand Lodge, it was one of the most impressive sights he had witnessed and he felt quite overwhelmed. He was very appreciative of our efforts and most gracious in his reply.

The members of the Province can feel rightly proud of the sum we have raised for such a worthy cause and in such a short time.

I imagine that many Lodge Charity Accounts could be rather low on funds and perhaps it would be a good idea to have a period of consolidation. I suspect it will not be that long before we are asked to embark on another Festival Appeal and I am sure that Lodge Charity Stewards will be conscious of the amount of money that has recently been given away to good causes.

Some of our Masonic Centres have either recently carried out or are about to start on some major improvements to their facilities and I commend them for doing so. I would suggest that now is a good time for all of us to look at the state of our buildings and to put them on a sound financial footing.

As we start our summer break, I would like to thank all the Brethren who freely give of their time to work on behalf of the Province and in particular WBros Trevor White and Harvey Spindler for producing this excellent magazine.

IN MEMORIAM

RWBro Revd Canon Richard Tydeman, MA OSM PSGW(Eng)
1916 - 2011

Rising to eminence by merit he lived respected and died regretted

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE 2011



Once again the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting was held in glorious sunshine at the Royal Hospital School at Holbrook with a near capacity attendance.

Highlights included the presentation of the Suffolk Provincial Order of Merit to WBros

by the Provincial Mentor, WBro Keith Huxley.

Reporting on the Treehouse Appeal, he was delighted to note that over £140,000 had been raised by members of the Province.

thanks to the generosity of donors, had been opened six months earlier than originally planned.

The Provincial Grand Lodge meeting next year will be held on Friday 8th June 2012.

£140,000 RAISED BY MEMBERS

Kenneth Blake, David Pilgrim and Dennis Thomas. The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Barry Ross, congratulated them all for their contributions to Suffolk masonry and presented each of them with their framed Orders of Merit, a commemorative paperweight and the newly designed lapel badge. He went on to appoint and invest the officers of the Province including the new APGM, WBro Ian Yeldham, well known in the Province due to his service as Provincial DC in earlier years. He replaces WBro Barry Rackham as APGM whose hard work for the Province included chairing the Committee for the MSF Festival.

In his general address the PGM said how delighted he was to see so many in attendance and congratulated all the Provincial Officers he had appointed. He noted that, in spite of the current economic climate, membership in the Province had slightly increased.

He was delighted with the success of the Mentoring Scheme so ably managed

He thanked WBro David Boswell who was standing down as Provincial DC to concentrate on his role as Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch in Suffolk. WBro David Deal had been appointed as the new Provincial DC.

He also congratulated the members of the Province who had been appointed to, or promoted in, Grand Ranks, as well as all the other appointees.

The new initiative, Freemasonry Cares, was also mentioned and is reported in more detail elsewhere in Forum.

Once Provincial Grand Lodge was closed, the Provincial Grand Master asked for Graham Butland, the Chief Executive of East Anglia's Children's Hospices to be escorted into the Temple where the PGM presented him with a cheque for £40,000 for the Treehouse Appeal which is in addition to the £100,000 donated in March. Mr Butland then thanked the Province and delivered an update on the progress of the appeal and the new Hospice which,





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200th Meeting of Abbot Baldwin



The Abbot Baldwin Lodge, No 8656, which was consecrated in Bury St Edmunds on 25th October 1975, met on Monday 4th April 2011 to celebrate their 200th regular meeting.

The Worshipful Master, WBro Andrew Catton, was delighted to receive 36 visitors to his Lodge, chief amongst which was the Provincial Grand Master, the RWBro Barry Ross, accompanied by four Grand Officers, his Deputy Provincial

Director of Ceremonies and seven Masters of other Suffolk Lodges.

The ceremony performed during the evening saw Bro Daniel Plummer passed to the 2nd degree by, amongst others, his father WBro Jeremy Plummer. During the meeting the members voted unanimously to donate over £2,000 to local non-Masonic charities, beneficiaries included the East Anglia's Children's Hospices and the St Nicholas Hospice in Bury St Edmunds.

After a most enjoyable ceremony the members assembled for dinner, the dining room having been festooned with bunting and balloons. The Worshipful Master, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Master, were received into dinner to prolonged applause, crackers exploding, balloons and streamers flying and an ear-splitting fanfare of voovoozels. During the dinner a toast was proposed to the Abbot Baldwin Lodge on its 200th meeting and the Worshipful Master received, and cut, a celebration cake.

Who needs a Piper?

Pictured is Bro Peter Pryke of Corinthian Lodge, No. 3093, piping in the haggis at a Burns Supper.

Although he goes into the Chair in October this year he still intends to play in the haggis at his own Lodge's Burns Supper!

He has piped in the haggis at many meetings this January in Ipswich, Colchester, Wivenhoe and Hadleigh.

If you are looking for a Piper for your next Burns Night then give Peter a call on Ipswich 01473 625060.



It saved on postage!



Gippeswyk Lodge, No 4154, raised £290 towards the Grand Master of Queensland's Flood Appeal and Lodge Charity Steward Tony Leeson presented the cheque in person. On a recent cruise he stopped off at Brisbane and was able to present the cheque to the Grand Secretary, John Rawlinson, at the Ann Street Masonic Memorial centre.

Many Suffolk Brethren will recall the Travelling Gavel was presented to

Suffolk Masonry by Ipswich Endeavour Lodge, No 169, in Queensland. Unfortunately Endeavour Lodge is no longer, but Tony presented a copy of the Travelling Gavel Rules to John Rawlinson for their records. Following a tour of the building the presentation was made in the Grand Temple.

Picture shows the Grand Secretary (left) receiving the cheque from Tony Leeson

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Cornwallis Court coffee morning presentations

On the first Saturday of every month the Friends of Cornwallis Court hold a coffee morning for the residents at which all Masons and their families are welcome to attend. It is a chance to meet the residents and have a chat. There are cakes as well! The raffle raises money to provide little extras for the residents.

On Saturday 7th May two special presentations were made. The first was of an oak garden seat made and expertly carved by Bro Paul Smith, SW of the Lodge of Virtue and Silence, No.332, and donated by the Allied Masonic Degrees, District of East Anglia, by the District Grand Prefect RWBro Tom Auber and his deputy WBro Chris Bowles and other members of the District in recognition of the services rendered by RWBro Paul Norman to the District of East Anglia.

RWBro Paul retired as DGP in 2010 after 5 years when he was appointed the PGM

for Mark Master Masons in East Anglia. The bench bears a representation of the Grid Iron, the symbol of the AMD, and there is a brass plaque on the back of the bench denoting the dedication and also the maker's 'Mark'.

Unfortunately due to his congested diary RWBro Paul was unable to attend the May presentation, but a date in June was arranged when he could attend with RWBro Tom, WBro Chris and WBro Geoff Keer, District Secretary, for the photograph shown. On the bench are RWBro Paul Norman, PGM for Mark Master Masons of East Anglia and Past District Grand Prefect the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees for East Anglia, and Lynda Whittle Cornwallis Court House Manager. Behind the bench are, from left to right, WBro Chris Bowles, Deputy District Grand Prefect, RWBro Tom Auber, District Grand Prefect, and WBro Geoff Keer, District Grand Secretary, all of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees for East Anglia.



The second presentation was of an honours board shown in the photograph, also made by Bro Paul Smith, from the Lodge of Virtue and Silence by the WM, WBro Mike Heath, to mark the Bicentenary of the Lodge on 1st March. Many members of the Lodge attended.

Lodges, organisations and individuals will qualify as Gold, Silver and Bronze Patrons by donating £1,000, £500, and £250 respectively. The Lodge of Virtue and Silence also donated £1,000 to become the first gold patron.

Heartbeat Donation



A cheque for £250 was presented to Heartbeat East Suffolk by Ray Olding of Gippeswyk Lodge, No 4254. Chairman Tony Hawes is pictured right and

receiving the cheque is Treasurer Mike Farthing. Ray Olding encouraged the Lodge to support this cause following their support to him over many years.

Letters...

Dear Sir,

Subject: TLC at West Suffolk Hospital

May I give my thanks to those brethren in Suffolk who contributed to the TLC appeal and provided teddies at the West Suffolk Hospital.

I only recently became aware of the TLC Appeal whilst trying to research lodges in Nottinghamshire, and thought what an excellent idea. I did not realise how close to home it would come!

My 3 year old grandson suffered an accident at home and was taken to A & E in a very distressed state, the staff there gave him one of your teddies and he (now named Frankie) has helped him through his ordeal, not only at the hospital but also on his return home.

He required a change of dressing to his wound and it was only through Frankie having had a bandage applied to his foot by the staff in A & E that we were able to persuade Aaron to allow his 'nanny' to look at and change his dressing.

Thanks again. As a member of a London lodge I will be asking why I have not heard of the appeal in the MET GL area.

Best regards, WBro John Shrewsbury LGR

Dear Sir,

I write to you on behalf of Selig Lodge, No 9459, meeting in Southwold, which was founded in 1992 as a 'daylight lodge' with the particular object of providing a focus for retired or retiring Masons who wanted to resume or continue their Masonic activities. Because our main body of members has tended to be older than average, our numbers and attendance have diminished through death or ailment. We now want to make a more positive appeal to recruit new members, especially those, of whatever age and seniority, who would prefer to attend a daytime lodge rather than go out at night. Anyone interested in coming along as a visitor and seeing how we operate should contact the Lodge Secretary, WBro E H Thompson, whose details are in the Provincial Yearbook.

Fraternal Regards, John Edmonds, WM, Selig Lodge



Out of

The June meeting of St Luke's Lodge was graced by the presence of an unusual guest - RWBro Michael Gwynn, Provincial Grand Master of Natal in South Africa under the Irish Constitution. Over here on holiday he was introduced to the Lodge by WBro Paul Ketteringham. Addressing the Lodge and bringing fraternal greetings from all Irish Freemasons in the Province of Natal, he congratulated all who had taken part in the business of the evening, the raising of Bro Richard Head, and thanked all the Brethren for a warm welcome and most enjoyable evening. Later the Brethren were also delighted to hear that the Lodge Golf Day had raised £1,000 which was to be donated to the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The picture shows, left to right, RWBro Michael Gwynn, WBro 'Den' Drillot (WM) and WBro Paul Ketteringham

On 19 January 2011, WBro Grenville Clive Burton PAGDC, PGStwd was installed by the MW Pro Grand Master as the 276th Master of Grand Stewards' Lodge. This is a great honour for Clive as well as for the Province. There have now been five Suffolk masons in just over twenty years who have become Worshipful Master of Grand Stewards' Lodge and four of them are in Laconic Lodge, No 9771. Jervis Kay and his father Pip Kay were both WMs of Grand Stewards' Lodge and Clive's father-in-law was also WM, so it is beginning to become a family business.

Clive was initiated in 1970 into Shakespear Lodge, No 99, where his father-in-law was

a PM and where his own son is now a MM. He became a Grand Steward in 1978, has been WM of his school lodge twice and is presently SW of Laconic of which he was the founder treasurer.



Outside masonry, Clive is married with two children and four grandchildren, is the owner of a Daimler Dart and a Bristol 410 and enjoys fishing, gardening and reading. As a youngster he lived in Great Chesterford, near Saffron Walden, but for the last twelve years was in Felsham and is now in Bildeston whilst looking for a house in Lavenham.

ST MARGARET'S KEEP SEA CADETS AFLOAT



WBro Colin Dixon, IPM, and Bro Mitch Mackay, Charity Steward, are shown presenting Lt Cdr (SCC) RNR Wendy Theobald, Commanding Officer, of Lowestoft Sea Cadets, £1,000 from Saint Margaret's Lodge, No 1452, "50 Club" hoping to keep them afloat after government cuts threatened to scupper their activities.

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Virtue and Silence...

...BICENTENARY

The first day of March marked two hundred years of Freemasonry in Hadleigh and the Bicentenary of the Lodge of Virtue and Silence. The members of the Lodge, their guests and a glittering array of representatives from Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge met at the Town Hall in Hadleigh to celebrate the event.

After receiving the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Barry Ross, and the Provincial delegation, the WM, WBro Mike Heath, received the Deputy Grand Master RWBro Jonathan Spence and the Grand Lodge party. Among the Lodge guests were representatives of all the Lodges whose members had played a role in the foundation of the Lodge in 1811- Angel Lodge, No 71, from Colchester and British Union, Perfect Friendship and Phoenix Lodges from Suffolk.

WBro Gordon Spindler, who had prepared a new full Lodge history, read out a brief history for the purposes of the meeting. The Bicentenary Warrant was read in his own inimitable style by VWBro Graham Redman, the Grand



Assistant Secretary, followed by a most thoughtful and moving oration by our Provincial Chaplain, WBro George Pipe.

Bicentenary jewels were presented to the DGM and PGM as personal mementos with extra ones for the Library and Museum at Grand Lodge and for the Provincial Archives. Cased jewels were presented to the Masters of Court Knoll and Brett Valley Lodges, daughter lodges of Virtue and Silence.

The WM then presented cheques, each for £1,000, to the DGM for the Samaritan Fund and the RMTGB and the DGM thanked the Lodge for its generosity. A cheque for £5,000 was presented to the PGM for the Children's Hospice Tree House appeal. The PGM informed the Brethren that the appeal he made in January 2010 to Suffolk Freemasons on behalf of the Hospice

had raised in excess of £100,000, and he thanked the Lodge for their generosity. WBro Peter Gosling, the Provincial Charity Steward and Chairman of the Friends of Cornwallis Court, then accepted a cheque for £1,000 on behalf of Cornwallis Court, and also a board to be hung in the Court to show donating Patrons to the Court.

Finally, the Lodge presented its own gift to itself. This was a full sized reproduction of a third degree oil-on-canvas floor cloth found in the Lodge memorabilia in the Suffolk Records Office, which had been painted in 1815.

The formal meeting was followed by a sumptuous banquet to mark this unique event and followed the Lodges normal propensity for singing – the Deputy Grand Master even sang his response to the WM when taking wine with him!

...WHITE TABLE AND COMMEMORATIVE CHURCH SERVICE

After the effort which went into the Bicentenary Meeting of Virtue and Silence the previous week everyone felt reluctant to revert to the normal Lodge agenda. Accordingly, and as there was still outstanding business, not least saying a thank you to our wives and partners, the Lodge decided to hold a White Table meeting in March.



After the necessary business of the Lodge had taken place and the Lodge closed, the guests were invited into the Temple to hear something of the respective roles of the Lodge officers. Having arranged a talk from a Beefeater after dinner, the only possible menu included roast beef and Yorkshire pudding and on this occasion WBro Trevor White, the Provincial Orator, agreed to deliver his Ode to the Yorkshire Pudding after it had been 'sung in' to the strains of Rule Britannia.

As well as having the talk on the work of a London Beefeater from Bro David Chenier the opportunity was taken to present outstanding cheques totalling £7,000 to local charities as part of the Lodge's Bicentenary Celebrations. Accordingly, the WM, WBro Mike Heath presented donations to the East Anglian Air Ambulance, The Shelley Centre for

Therapeutic Riding, The Hadleigh Mayor's Charity, St Mary's Church Trust, Hadleigh First Responders, the Friends of Angel Court and the Ipswich Blind Society.

Later in the month, on 26th March, the Lodge arranged to join with the congregation of St Mary's Church in Hadleigh for a Parish Thanksgiving Evensong service marking the Lodge Bicentenary and 200 years of Freemasonry in the town. The service was organised by the Provincial Chaplain, WBro George Pipe and the Dean of Hadleigh and Bocking, the V Revd Martin Thrower. A most thoughtful and interesting address was delivered by WBro the Revd Canon Kevan McCormack, Rector of St Mary's Parish Church in Woodbridge. This address is published elsewhere in this magazine as it was felt it should have a wider audience among members of the Province.



Address given at the Parish Thanksgiving Evensong for the Bicentenary of the Lodge of Virtue and Silence on 27th March by WBro the Revd Canon Kevan McCormack

I want to suggest that virtue, and silence, only have value in a religious sense, if they are underwritten by truth.

I believe in God. Strange you might think that I should begin by saying that! I believe in Jesus Christ too and I believe in the Holy Spirit.

At a luncheon party a few months ago a committed non-churchgoer decided she would take the opportunity to make it clear to me that she wasn't a churchgoer. 'I don't believe what you believe' she said. So I said, 'What is it that I believe that you don't believe?' 'You know perfectly well' she said. 'Yes, I know', I said, 'but how do you know what I believe?', 'I just do' she said. I was exasperated. I couldn't win. I gave in. So, faced with a group of people here this afternoon whom I do not know, I feel safer if I can lay the foundation of what I believe to be true, so that everything I grow into saying has the right context.

I do not believe in an old man sitting quizzically above the roof of the sky, who looks down from time to time, patting the good on the back, while the devil stokes up the fires underneath for those of us who are not so good. It goes without saying that I do not believe the world is flat, as Jesus probably did, so I do not believe that heaven is a place high up above the dome of the sky, and hell, be it hot or cold, a place down there, beneath us. I believe in a mind or consciousness, an energy that is at the heart of all things, with whom, as Jesus tried to convince his generation, it is possible to relate to and engage with. I believe that it is possible and even desirable to have a personal relationship with him or her even. I believe firmly that the Christian church does not have the monopoly of relationship and that all religions point towards a central being of goodness and light, and all have to be respected for the age and culture they address. It follows by extension that I believe all peoples have to be respected, even if culture, lifestyle and purpose in living are far removed from my own.

I want to divide you into three groups. Anecdotally, Bishop Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln until he died in 1910, once asked one of his archdeacons what the clergy in Lincoln diocese were like. 'You can divide them into three groups' he said to the bishop. 'One group are

going out of their minds, one group have gone out of their minds and one group have no minds to go out of!' I could invite you to tick one of those boxes, but there is a strong possibility you might tick the wrong one!

There will be, more or less, three groups of you here this afternoon. There are those of you who represent the Lodge of Virtue and Silence, and freemasonry in general. There are those of you who are here to officially or unofficially represent this fabulous community of Hadleigh, and those of you who are here because you are here, worshipping, supporting and just being part of the community. I want you to tick one of those boxes in your mind. When you've ticked the box into which you fit, I want you to tick one of another three boxes. Either you believe in God, and not everyone who does will believe the same thing necessarily, or you don't, and that's fine, or you're not very sure what you believe in, or what to believe in. So, the I believe box, the not sure box, and the don't believe box. It doesn't matter really, but by ticking the box in your head you will be identifying yourself in relation to all that this service is about. Clearly, it is important to find a common thread amongst us all; commonality it is the buzz word, so that when we leave here we can honestly say that this service has been of value.

I am not here to convert you, certainly not in any conventional sense. But I want you instead, to consider the possibility that there may be more to life than meets the eye; that physics suggests another possible world, unseen but mathematically proposed, that indicates that a proper intellectual enquiry is not lacking in sense, and that perhaps, theology and science are more contiguous than had previously been thought. In other words it is not stupid to suppose that there may be some underlying truth which underwrites our existence and one to which, by nature, we are drawn. For the Christian this is quest and journey and longing. It is a reaching out to the other in order to find contentment for that which is within us. Perhaps this is axiomatic for some and paradox for others. But for me it is the reason why I value so much the Masonic tradition which I feel highlights and enhances significant aspects of my faith. Freemasonry is not a religion. It is not a faith. Neither is it a peculiar institution of half secret symbol and dress, but rather a drama of values that reinforce my commitment to the

God I believe to be true, and a reminder of the commitment I have in Jesus, to care for my brother; whatever sex, age or condition in life, and to do so, regardless of the cost.

By the same token, those of you here who may be unsure about the God stuff, and the curiosities of funny aproned men, yet who are committed to town, council, community, welfare and social cohesion, the needs of the marginalised and excluded, are acting out, in a different but just as valid a way, a desire to find within yourself an expression of integrity that finds its truth in the well being of community, and this community in particular.

Of course, it is only in relation to the other, be it God, or man, or both that we recognise the truth about ourselves and each other. I would argue that virtue is doing what you believe to be right in any given situation; guarding a moral standard based on sound ethics, yet flexible enough to breed compassion, tolerance and understanding. It is the agent of love. Silence is the place of love: embedded in the internal deep down space where we find the inner resource, and discover the truth about ourselves. This can be a lonely place, and a dark place, as also a place of profound loving and peace. I believe that God lurks in that place, quietly and unassumingly. So it is truth therefore, in my view, which underwrites the value of virtue and silence, and gives substance to both. Interesting, isn't it? that it is the truth that Pilate was searching for yet couldn't recognise standing in front of his face.

Whatever the box you ticked earlier, never let it be the last word, the last tick. Always be open to the quest for new way of thinking, a new way of understanding, a new way of expressing the truth as you variously and from time to time perceive it, so that the truth becomes a living dynamic, changing shape and colour as it responds to your recognition of the value of the moment.

The Lodge Virtue and Silence Lodge No. 332, A History 1811 - 2011 written and compiled by Worshipful Brother Gordon Spindler is a testimony to the integration of lodge into local community, not least because the lodge seems to have made a home in every single public house in the locality! I pray you will continue the work that is begun in you; that you will continually direct your mind towards the truth, and in so doing find that it underwrites the value of virtue, and silence.

Babergh Double

The March meeting for Sudbury's Babergh Lodge was one full of surprises, and not just for the brother who was raised!

Suffolk's PGM had recently decided to award lapel badges to recipients of 'The Order of Merit' for Suffolk Masonry. Such an insignia would thus distinguish the unique honour afforded such brethren and would indicate their right to process out behind Grand Lodge Officers.

Babergh Lodge was particularly honoured by having two such recipients,

WBros Lionel Bell and Norman Gray. Their combined service to the order total some 116 years!

The awards were presented by WBro John Rice, Group 5 Representative, and WBro John Sharp Provincial Treasurer.

So special was this particular meeting that Talbot (a black Labrador guide dog) escorted his master Bro Ian Parkin from Mildenhall Lodge to bear witness to such a memorable occasion. Talbot's 3rd degree collar had been made and presented by Baberghs DC some years back in Mildenhall.





The installation of a new Provincial Grand Superintendent is always something to see. A team from Supreme Grand Chapter travelled to Ipswich to install Excellent Companion David Boswell. The installation of the new Grand Superintendent was a delight to witness. It was an honour to welcome

are still attached to your legs and the ground will not open up under them. Keep your head up.'

The Province was also honoured by an exceptional number of visitors - 12 Grand Superintendents including those from Somerset and South Wales who

stop smiling. His comment at the end of a very successful meeting and dinner was that he hoped all the companions who attended had also enjoyed the day.

The Masonic Season starts to wind down in May – but not for David Boswell. Not only has he Craft responsibilities as the outgoing Director of Ceremonies running the annual Provincial Grand Lodge meeting at Holbrook, but also has been honoured by becoming the Master of Philip Jervis Kay Lodge. Whilst still attending our Chapters in Suffolk, David intends to be visible and to keep busy. He is already returning visits to those who attended his installation by visiting Provincial Grand Chapters around the country. He has also announced plans to hold a reception for First Principals of all Suffolk Chapters at Felixstowe on 11th September. He also asked us not to forget the Carol Service on 11th December at St Mary's Church in Woodbridge.

The Annual Convocation of Suffolk Provincial Grand



the installing team, led by the Most Excellent Pro First Grand Principal, Peter Geoffrey Lowndes, and consisting of three Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies, the Deputy Grand Scribe E and the Grand Janitor.

The Pro First Grand Principal was assisted by two current Grand Superintendents, in this case ME Comp Michael Bailey of East Kent and ME Comp Richard Neale from Buckinghamshire. The team of DGDC's headed by Sebastian Madden instructed the Provincial participants with both patience and persistence. There was a feeling that the ceremony would be done very well. The Grand Janitor, Malcolm Brooks, was particularly noticeable in giving advice to people. One phrase stood out 'Don't look down - your feet

had made the long journey at the personal invitation of David Boswell. We also had 12 Deputy Grand Superintendents and two past Grand Superintendents including Graham Bracewell, Grand Superintendent of Suffolk between 1987 and 1997.

One of his first duties after investing the Provincial Officers was to present a cheque for £10,000 to the Suffolk Provincial Grand Master for the EACH Treehouse Appeal. The money was donated by Suffolk Chapters and additionally by Strutt Chapter, No 1001 (Hampshire), Cyrus and Darius Council, No 157, Sovereign Lodge of Malta, Ipswich Masonic Club and Cardinal Wolsey Tabernacle, No 169.

All our visitors seemed to enjoy the day, but perhaps not as much as our new Grand Superintendent who could not



And finally, for the diaries, the next meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter will be held on 17th May 2012 at the same venue.

Alex Workman

Photos: Top left - Provincial Grand Principal, EComp Bill Hagger, the Deputy Grand Superintendent, EComp Michael Caddock and the Second Provincial Grand Principal, EComp Michael Richards.

Above - Provincial Grand Superintendent, EComp David Boswell.



Felix Twinning

A chance meeting in 2008 by WBro 'Ruffy' Ruffles of Felix Lodge, No 2371, and a business colleague from India who was also a member of a Lodge in Cochin, with the PGM of Suffolk, has led to a very happy and fraternal outcome.



During the discussions the PGM suggested that they should try and establish a 'twinning arrangement' between Felix Lodge and the Lodge in Cochin and so it came to pass that WBro Ruffles started a process which led to the twinning being finalised in December 2010. To start the ball rolling he discussed the matter with WBro Bill MacGregor, the Secretary of Felix Lodge, who suggested that he write to UGLE. Through the great and welcome help of Bro Peter Roberts, for the Grand Secretary, matters were gradually brought to a head and final confirmation that Grand Lodge India had no objection to the twinning was received on the 11th May 2010. WBro Ruffles' wife Noreen was born in Cochin and they had been travelling and touring in India since 1968. Having attended a Lodge in Vishakhapatnam he was keen to develop further Masonic contacts. He was pleased, on November 16th 2007, to attend Lodge Vembanad, No 319, which meets in Cochin (now Kochi) in the State of Kerala in southwest India. This Lodge was consecrated on 25th September 1998, and meets on the third Friday of each month of the year in the Sarvothama Masonic Temple, Mundamveli, Kochi. It has a large number of Round Tablers and 41 Club members amongst its ranks - there is not yet a Round Table Lodge in Kerala. A well known and highly respected member of

Lodge Vembanad is ex-Tabler WBro Jose Palathinkal who was Worshipful Master in 2006-7 and a strong bond of mutual friendship and respect was quickly built up with Jose by WBro Ruffles after they first met in November 2007. Another member of Lodge Vembanad was RWBrother Himatlal who was the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India and who, somewhat amazingly in a country with a population of more than one billion people, had known Noreen's late father over 50 years ago! Very sadly RWBro Himatlal was summoned to the Grand Lodge above, on the 24th January 2009 at Bangalore. He had travelled to Bangalore to attend the Regional Grand Lodge meeting and had attended briefly the morning session on the 24th when he was taken ill and thus did not see the twinning confirmed.

Meantime, WBro Jose made a couple of business trips to UK and was able to attend several Lodges of Instruction at Felix Lodge. His visits though never coincided with a regular Lodge meeting. Eventually, the Secretary of Felix Lodge received a letter from the Secretary of Lodge Vembanad dated 16th September 2010 saying: "Delighted as we are by the proposal to twin our two lodges as communicated by your Lodge through the Grand Lodge of India, the Brethren of Lodge Vembanad have resolved to accept this honour and declare ourselves to be so twinned with Felix Lodge, No 2371". The letter invited Brethren from Felix Lodge to go out to Cochin to take the twinning forward and so WBros David Earle and Ruffles travelled out for the meeting on January 21st 2011, and delivered greetings and tokens to mark the occasion. Some ladies of the Vembanad members attended the Festive Board and a very happy evening was had by all. Felix Lodge arranged a special extra meeting for May 2011 and WBro Jose Palathinkal arrived bearing gifts, tokens and greetings from Lodge Vembanad. He made an amusing and sincere reply to the Visitor's toast and the twinning relation was firmly 'cemented' by all concerned. The next visit to Lodge Vembanad is planned for January 2012 when Brethren from other Lodges, especially the Round Table Lodge of Suffolk, are cordially invited to come out to Cochin with the Brethren from Felix Lodge.

Freemasonry Cares

A major new initiative from the Masonic Charities

When the unexpected happens some of us may have the ability to cope. Others, less fortunate, will not. Some are fully aware of our Masonic Charities and how they can help in times of need. Equally a large number of our Brethren and their dependents are completely unaware.

You might ask why? Is it because they don't know how to enquire, or think they would never qualify?

It may be that they are reticent or too proud to approach a member of the lodge directly. This is why the Province has joined in with **FREEMASONRY CARES**.

Contact: Freephone 0800 0356090 and Website www.freemasonrycares.org

We all hope that we will never face financial hardship or major health problems, or need help in supporting our children or require extra care in our old age. In reality, thousands of people every year need a little extra assistance. As Freemasons we are fortunate to have that support to hand.

Freemasonry Cares is there to make sure that Freemasons and their dependents who need that support are able to get it.

This is a joint initiative involving all four Masonic charities and is a gateway to the help that they can provide. It aims to increase awareness of that help and to make it easier to access by a National Freephone number, and a new website.

This initiative provides a unique opportunity to make sure that those who have not been well-served in our Masonic Charities, especially wives, partners and widows of masons are brought up to date on the Masonic help available to them.

Our Provincial Grand Master, Barry Ross tells us: "I have always recognised the difficulty in reaching those who are outside our lines of communication. Please ensure that these details are passed on to your families so that they are available in times of need."

"Please remember that this will not replace the lodge Almoner, it will supplement his work. It is planned that this message will get to people not reached before so it is highly probable that his workload will increase."

Included in this Forum is a leaflet with full information and a card showing contact details. Please ensure that your wife, partner and family are aware and put it safely with your family papers so that it may be available in your time of need.

Remember: "Don't bin it - use it"

Dr Mac Speake, the Provincial Almoner, is always available to assist with enquiries if needed and he can be contacted by telephone on 01449 740635

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