



FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Winter 2011



THE HADLEIGH APRON

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

Editor's notes



There is a slightly different tone to this edition of Forum. We seem to have fewer reports of Lodge's charity initiatives and more feature articles than usual. However, it is particularly gratifying to report the continued progress of the PGMs Treehouse Appeal.

If you have any views on the content of Forum, please let me know. The magazine is yours and should reflect what you want to hear about as well as keeping everyone informed about what is going on around the Province. Whatever your Lodge is doing that seems noteworthy and of possible interest to a wider audience then please send in a report.

It has been a bitterly miserable few cold weeks and many businesses and individuals are feeling the effects of the economic downturn. Let us hope that the New Year brings a bit of warmth in the weather, improvements in our personal situations and that next year is a bumper one for Suffolk masonry. Our best seasonal wishes to all.

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COVER:

THE HADLEIGH

Researched and Presented by WBro Gordon Spindler

Many visitors to the Lodge of Virtue & Silence in Hadleigh are struck by the old apron hanging on the wall at each Lodge meeting. It was found under the floorboards of No 8, the Market Place, whilst restoration work was being carried out in 1992. The museum at Grand Lodge has many similar aprons but none like this.

The apron is 13 x 18 inches, with royal blue silk ties. The border is also royal blue silk with a gold stripe and fringe, similar to a present day Provincial dress apron.

The flap and centre panel are white doeskin overprinted with masonic symbols of the Craft and Royal Arch. Along the bottom border is the name of the printer or blockmaker, Mr Isaac Martin, of Colchester, together with the date, 1805.

Working upwards, and from left to right, the baseline is the square pavement, with a man dressed in 18th century style clothing, and wearing a WM or SW collar.

Next, an ionic column with the figures of Justice and Mercy depicted on the pedestal. At the top of the column are the words 'be virtuous be silent'. (presumably, the origin of the Lodge name). On top of the column is a figure representing Faith holding a book, presumably the VSL. Adjacent is Jacobs ladder and a cross, and beneath the foot of the robe covering the figure of Faith, is a globe.

Across the base between the columns are depictions of the working tools - the plumb rule, heavy maul, the VSL with the square and compasses, the 24 inch gauge and the level.

Slightly forward of these, are two intertwined triangles with three lit candlesticks.

At the right hand side is a Corinthian column with the words 'Wisdom Strength and Beauty', engraved on the pedestal, and at the top, the figure of Hope with an anchor, and again as before, the clothing reveals another globe pointing out Masonry universal. Next to the column is another ancient figure wearing a SW collar.

On the ascending steps between the columns are depictions of the emblems of mortality, the skull and crossed bones surrounded by fire.

Next is a family tableau, of a mother with babe in arms, a father with a child and a book. The woman's cloak rises, and connects cordlike to a heraldic shield. There is also a sprig of accacia and a scroll.

In the far background is a seascape, with a depiction of Noah's Ark and mount Arrarat, a king together with a beehive and bees, and behind them the temple at Jerusalem. Four columns support the portico of the Temple, with the square and compasses shown in the triangle formed above the door. The Temple is however incomplete, showing a hoist and the figures of operative masons working on the building.

In the centre, behind the family group, is the pillar of fire and cloud which rises toward and behind the shield, and then upward towards a triangle with the All Seeing Eye. The pillar of fire and cloud is further pierced by a shaft of light.

The shield depicts a man, a lion, an ox and an eagle and is supported by an angel holding a trumpet, a plaque and a ribbon. On the ribbon are the words 'Holiness to the Lord'. On either side, the shield is supported by cloven hoofed angels with, above them, two cherubs, and above them, a radiant sun, and a waning moon in its last quarter, surrounded by seven stars. Surrounding the triangle and All Seeing Eye are the words 'Let there be Light, and there was Light'.

Finally whether the apron flap is up or down, the same picture is shown.

In summary, it would appear that the Apron is an Antient design as they placed great importance on the Royal Arch as an integral part of the Craft and its procedures.

We must ask who commissioned the Apron? What were the circumstances which led to its concealment? Why did it remain hidden for nearly 200 years?

To answer these we must consider the history and the confused state of Masonry prior to the birth of Virtue and Silence in 1811.

Speculative Masonry evolved slowly throughout the 1600's, and more rapidly during the 1700's, culminating in the

Provincial GM's Reception

The Worshipful Masters (or a Warden), accompanied by their ladies of all the Suffolk Lodges were invited to a reception hosted by the PGM and his wife at the Masonic Hall in Felixstowe. This annual event is organised by the Philip Jervis Kay Lodge, No 9300, of which our PGM is currently Master



APRON

formation of the first or premier Grand Lodge in London in 1717. Their first assembly was convened on 24th June, St John the Baptists day. They became known as the Moderns.

During the next 100 years, six other Grand Lodges were formed in England and Wales, none of which had any lasting influence over the direction of Craft Masonry, with the exception of one, The Atholl Grand Lodge. This was established in 1751, as the Most Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons according to the Old Institutions, and was formed primarily to combat perceived alterations in the established ritual and landmarks. They were termed the Antients, and were mainly formed from the military, artisans, small businessmen and the working classes.

Both Grand Lodges flourished. However from 1809 strenuous efforts were made to unite them, with little success until 1813, when the 4th Duke of Atholl, who was GM of the Antients, was succeeded by the Duke of Kent, Queen Victoria's father, and his brother, the Duke of Sussex, succeeded the Earl of Moira, to become GM of the Premier Grand Lodge.

During the Autumn of 1813, the Articles of Union were prepared and signed, and joint Boards of General Purposes were convened to bring about the union of the two Grand Lodges and to regulate such matters as the constitution, finances, regalia, and the re-numbering of the Lodges all leading to the creation of the United Grand Lodge of England as we know it today.

It is a matter of record that the Lodge of Virtue and Silence, or the Hadleigh Lodge as it is named in the original letters of petition, held its first meeting on 1st March 1811, and operated under a dispensation without a Warrant until the consecration on 27th November 1814.

The first letter of petition, dated January 1810, was written by WBro William Catchpole of Perfect Friendship Lodge, meeting at the Bell Inn Ipswich, on behalf of Bro William Golding and other Masons in the Hadleigh area. This was sent to the Grand Secretary in London, Gilbert White, who in turn put it before the Grand Master, the Earl of Moira. He authorised the Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk, Sir William Muddleton, to grant a dispensation and to sanction the Lodge.

The Lodge was opened by WBro Catchpole, who installed Bro William Golding, a Tanner and Fellmonger of High Street, Hadleigh, a well qualified and experienced mason from Angel Lodge Colchester as master. The Senior Warden was Bro Bickmore, a schoolmaster at Hadleigh, as was the Junior Warden, Bro Grimwade. Both were also members of Perfect Friendship Lodge.

Bro Grimwade appears to be the person with whom we are most concerned in connection with the Apron, both from his association



with Hadleigh as a schoolmaster, and with Isaac Marsden the printer and bookseller of Colchester. The Marsden family are traceable through various trade directories in the Colchester Records Office as having been prominent in trade in the town from about 1784 to 1874. Isaac Marsden is listed as a printer and bookseller from 1800 to 1815. Having found a book of poetry published by Isaac Marsden, J Grimwade is listed on the flyleaf as his distributor for Hadleigh. Given this connection it seems reasonable to assume that both these men were active masons. It also seems probable that in his early days as a teacher, John Grimwade, who was only 23 years of age when he joined Virtue and Silence, had a lodging at No 8, the Market Place.

But why did he hide the Apron? The device on the Heraldic Shield on the Apron are the arms of the Antients Grand Lodge. Another clue is that throughout the 18th century the official aprons for private Lodges were of the simplest description, being of white leather and unlined. The old operative apron cut down in size and shape. They increasingly became more elaborate and embroidered aprons were in use up to the union in 1813.

At the union in 1813 one of the first matters to be reconciled was regalia. A universal pattern for aprons and collars was submitted for approval in 1814 and described the patterns for EA, FC, and MM, as well as those for Masters and Past Masters.

Given the state of confusion just prior to 1813 and for sometime afterwards, it seems probable that differing forms of regalia may have been briefly used but there is little doubt that Virtue and Silence quickly conformed to the requirements of the United Grand Lodge and adopted a form of Emulation working and dress codes.

On this evidence it seems unlikely that Bro Grimwade ever used the apron. More likely he took heed of the regulations, concealed his apron and eventually moved from his lodging and in so doing has unwittingly given us the subject of much interest and speculation.

JOTTINGS FROM THE P.G. Secretary



Last Winter I mentioned Mentoring and how WBro Keith Huxley was soon to be appointed Provincial Mentor. Since then nearly all the Lodges in the

Province have appointed a Mentoring Co-ordinator and the scheme has been embraced with great enthusiasm. The word Mentor means an adviser or guide and with so many candidates coming into our Lodges, it must surely be the time when we should all try this new approach to maintain and enhance our membership. Although Grand Lodge has yet to approve an official Lapel Jewel, we will shortly have a lapel badge for every Lodge Mentoring Co-ordinator to acknowledge the important part they play in our affairs. It would also be useful if Secretaries could include their name on the summons and arrange for them to be officially recognised at Ceremonies of Installation.

Holder's of the Provincial Grand Master's Order of Merit will also be presented with a lapel badge to mark the esteem in which they are held in receiving so high an honour. I believe they should be recognised as such in Lodge and I would ask that when retiring from the Lodge, the Director Ceremonies invites them to follow immediately after the Grand Officers.

The Provincial Grand Master's reception for Ruling Masters and their partners was again held at St. John's Masonic Hall at Felixstowe. It was a very convivial occasion with a record attendance of 135, as pictured elsewhere in this edition.

Provincial Grand Lodge will be held at the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook on Friday 3rd June, 2011. The booking form for dining can be found in this copy of Forum, I urge Brethren wishing to dine to send in the form by return as seats for dinner are always over-subscribed.

The Provincial Grand Master has invited the Chief Executive of EACH, Graham Butland to be our guest at the Provincial meeting. It is his intention to make a presentation to him of the money we have raised so far. I would ask therefore that those Lodges who have yet to pass on the money they have collected to the Provincial Charity Steward, WBro Peter Gosling to do so as soon as possible.

Also in this copy of Forum is the booking form for the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter which will be combined with the installation of WBro David Boswell as Grand Superintendent. Bro David has our heartiest congratulations and I am sure that many members of the Holy Royal Arch will be there for what promises to be a great occasion.

Finally I would like to thank all the Brethren who voluntarily give their time to work on behalf of the Province including the Information Officer and Editor of Forum for producing this excellent magazine.



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Holbrook Presentation to EACH - Treetop Appeal Update

from WBro Peter Gosling, Provincial Grand Charity Steward.



On the 27th of September I was invited to visit the existing East Anglian Children's Hospice in Ipswich to meet with the staff to have a guided tour of the Hospice. At the end of the tour I was really amazed at the support and commitment the staff have achieved over the past few years in such crowded and cramped conditions, but through all of this the staff have managed to provide a very tranquil stimulating environment for children who have been in need of the facilities within the Hospice.

I was then taken to have a look at the New Hospice building, and was introduced to the site manager who confirmed that the construction work was going very well and that they expected to finish all the building work by the end of December this year. This

has since been confirmed and the builders hope to hand over the keys to the Chief Executive Officer after the Christmas or New Year holidays.

The new Children's Hospice is quite exceptional, standing in its own woodland grounds of several acres. It is a place of natural beauty that I am sure will be both a calming and stimulating setting for the children and their families.

Once the building contractors have officially handed over the building then it will be another three or four months before all the various equipment and related services are installed, which means that the hospice will start to receive the first of those children who are in need of care and support some time during next May or June.

In December, the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Barry Ross, met the Fundraising Director, Melanie Chew,

and her team to discuss the proposal by the PGM to present a cheque to the Chief Executive Officer and Melanie Chew at the Suffolk Provincial Meeting at Holbrook next year. The Provincial Grand Master would like to present the cheque immediately after closing the Provincial Meeting in the Temple, and to invite the CEO and Melanie Chew to dine with us.

The Provincial Grand Master's EACH. Treehouse Appeal is going very well with more and more Lodges making their various contributions which have been gratefully received. However, the PGM and I would like to request that Masonic Lodges who have not yet donated to this very worthy appeal, to do so before the Provincial Meeting in June 2011 so that the Province of Suffolk is able to present a substantial cheque to the Fundraising Officers of the East Anglian Children's Hospice.

Grand Secretary Visit



Gainsborough Lodge, No 9332, was honoured by the presence of the Grand Secretary, WBro Nigel Brown, at the Installation meeting when, following the ceremony he gave a presentation outlining his duties and plans at Grand Lodge. WBro John W Yeldham pictured (right) with the Grand Secretary was installed as Worshipful Master.



having an elaborate decorated ceiling panel. The entire ceiling was installed in the old Temple of Isaac Newton Lodge, No 859, in Cambridge and was offered, in whole or part, to Royal Clarence in 1975. The then Lodge Committee decided to accept the centre panel plus two further panels which were sufficient to fill the whole centre rectangle in the Clare temple. During the summer recess, the ceiling was cleaned, probably, for the first time since it was installed. It has cleaned up extremely well as the photographs show.



Two from Royal Clarence

At the October meeting of Royal Clarence Lodge, WBro Peter Thorogood, the Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works, presented WBro Gordon Gardner with a 50-year certificate on behalf of the Province. The presentation is shown in the photograph.

The Lodge's temple at Clare is fortunate in

Presentation to Air Ambulance



Received too late for inclusion in our last edition, on 29th June, Suffolk Freemasons presented East Anglian Air Ambulance with a grant of £4,000 from the Grand Charity. This is part of a total of over £500,000 donated to Air Ambulance services in England and Wales during the past four years.

Air Ambulances fly over 19,000 missions every year and are one of the busiest of voluntary services. Their costs are met almost entirely from donations.

Speaking about the donation, the PGM, RWBro Barry Ross, said: "Air Ambulances play an important role in ensuring people get the medical help they need as quickly as possible. For those in life-threatening situations this can dramatically improve their chance of survival. Suffolk Masons and the Grand Charity are delighted to, once again, be supporting East Anglian Air Ambulance and contributing to the continued provision of this excellent service."

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Hadleigh Battle for Ashes



When the Virtue and Silence and Brett Valley Lodges in Hadleigh had new chairs made for the WM and Wardens of the Lodge as reported in Forum of January 2010, a gift was also made of three new pedestals. The old ones, by then beyond recovery, were burned to ashes and preserved in a suitable challenge trophy to go alongside the Kemball Cup, to be competed for annually by Virtue and Silence and Brett Valley Lodges.

The match took place on 19th August at Hadleigh Cricket Ground. Both Lodges took full advantage of club players in their membership to stage a highly competitive and entertaining match of 20 overs a side. Virtue and Silence batted first, scoring 125 runs, with Brett Valley replying with one run less. Virtue and Silence therefore retained the trophy for another year and the Captain and WM of Virtue and Silence, Jason Rickards, received the Kemball cup and the Ashes on behalf of his team.

Second Sojourn in City of Lights

A group of West Suffolk Masons had a very successful visit to a French Lodge Meeting in Paris – and even assisted in the ceremony!

Following an inaugural trip last year, WBro Marc Deora of Magna Carta Lodge, offered to arrange another Masonic visit to his home city. Twenty brethren, representing all of Bury St Edmunds Lodges, took Marc up on his offer. "The original intention was to renew our links to the Entente Cordiale Lodge that we visited last year," said Marc. "Unfortunately, a mix-up over dates meant that we could not visit them, but, thanks to the efforts of WWBro Guy Walt, PGDC, we were still able to see the Paris Grand Temple and then visit the St George's Lodge No 3, WWBro Guy's Lodge, to see a Raising."

St George's Lodge meets at Grand Temple and is one of the first consecrated by the Grand Lodge Nationale Francaise after its formation in 1914. It is an

Emulation Lodge but, unusually for a French Lodge, works exclusively in English. Transport issues meant that some Lodge officers were missing so the WM of the Lodge invited WBro Nick Hayward and Bro James Utting, both of Abbey Lodge, to act as Deacons for the evening, a task they accomplished flawlessly. Bro James was particularly impressive as he has not progressed to Deacon in any of his Lodges. Both were warmly thanked after the meeting at the Festive Board held at the nearby Racing Club de Paris. The evening ended, after typical French hospitality, at midnight.

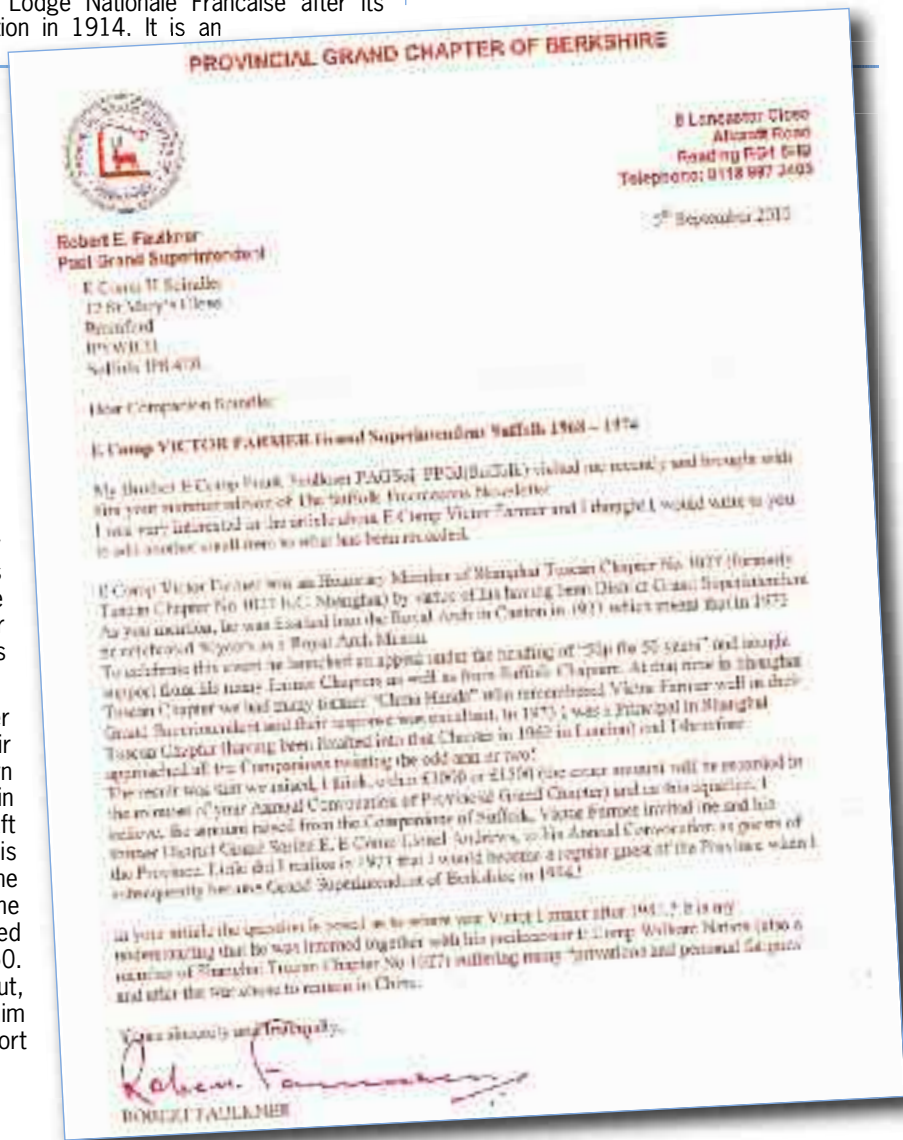
Marc arranged the weekend to include sightseeing – there was a boat trip on the Seine and a small group ascended the Dome of the Sacre Coeur Basilica – but the overwhelming memory of the trip was for superb food, excellent camaraderie and a desire to visit again soon.

The picture is taken in the French Grand Temple with WBro Brian Fenn, WM of Abbey Lodge, in the GM's chair.

Follow-up on Victor Farmer

The article in the last edition on Victor Farmer and his life in Chinese and Suffolk masonry raised some interesting responses. The letter from a former Grand Superintendent of Berkshire, EComp Robert Faulkner, is self explanatory. However, we have also received fascinating correspondence from Jamie Clements, of Solea Lodge, No 9498, on masonry in China. As a Hong Kong mason (Eastern Scotia Lodge, No 923, SC), Jamie was interested to see Victor Farmer's regalia on display at Bury St Edmunds and started to research its history. The article in the last edition of Forum further stimulated his interest and he sent a copy of the article to another researcher in Hong Kong who is studying masonic history in Hong Kong and China. He added to his own researches from reading Victor Farmer's 1956 address to Suffolk Installed Masters Lodge sent to him by WBro Brian Pearce.

He now understands that Victor Farmer and his brother were both members of the Craft in China and that their father was one of the founding members of Eastern Scotia Lodge in the early 1900's. Of particular interest in Bro Farmer's presentation was reference to the Craft being known in China as "Kwei Chu T'ang". This is explained as "The Compass Square Society" and that the conjoined "Kwei Chu" also signifies "moral integrity". The lecture went on to suggest that this name was suggested by a non-mason British Consular Officer in about 1850. There is much more in his correspondence but, regrettably, too much to include here. Forum wishes him every success in his future researches and will report anything of interest to our readers.



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Bowls Associations

A SAD END

We have been notified by the Secretary, George Williamson, of the decision that, owing to dwindling numbers of members, the Association is being disbanded.

Remaining funds have been split between the Tree House Appeal, St Elizabeth Hospice and a small amount to the Bowls Club that hosted most of its matches over many years.

A small amount is being held in trust in the hope that, in the future, someone in the Province might be interested in reviving the Association, which could be in any area of the County of Suffolk.

Bicentenary Church Service

Next March, the Lodge of Virtue and Silence in Hadleigh will celebrate its bicentenary. To commemorate this the Lodge is holding an evensong service at 3.15 pm on Sunday, 27th March 2011 at St Mary's Church in Hadleigh to mark two hundred years of Freemasonry in Hadleigh. The service is open to all and support from Suffolk

Decade for East Point Millennium



Lodge

The tenth anniversary of East Point Millennium Lodge, No 9704, was celebrated on 4th September with a banquet arranged by its first Master, WBro Reg Rivett, PAPGM.

Following a champagne reception the WM, WBro John Cook, welcomed nearly 100 members and guests to the gourmet meal. The usual toasts for such an occasion followed, including that to the PGM to which RWBro Barry Ross replied and he, in turn, proposed a toast to the Lodge on its tenth anniversary replied to by WBro Rivett. WBro Barry Rackham, APGM, responded to the toast to the visitors.

SSAFA Donation

A new annual grant initiative has been announced by The Grand Charity - £250,000 to a major national charity. 'Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help' was the first to receive this grant. The money is to be divided and distributed to branches throughout the country, providing funding at a local level. Our picture shows the PGM presenting a cheque for £5,000 to members of the Suffolk branch. Receiving the cheque is Eddy Alcock, Chairman of Suffolk County Council, who has nominated SSAFA as one of his supported charities.



A Bann of 60 Years



December 2010 marked the 60th anniversary of the initiation of WBro Sam Banns into Apollo Lodge, No 305. In October, the Advisory Committee decided to mark the occasion at the December meeting of the Lodge with a presentation gift, an engraved cut glass tankard, together with a brief account of his masonic history.

In the week before the December meeting, the Lodge heard that Sam would not be well enough to attend and it was decided to make the presentation in Sam's home.

On the morning of 29th November, and as shown in the photograph, WBros Ashford, Hope, Parr, Catton, and Rowe, visited Sam and presented him the tankard and delivered the prepared history. Both were well received.

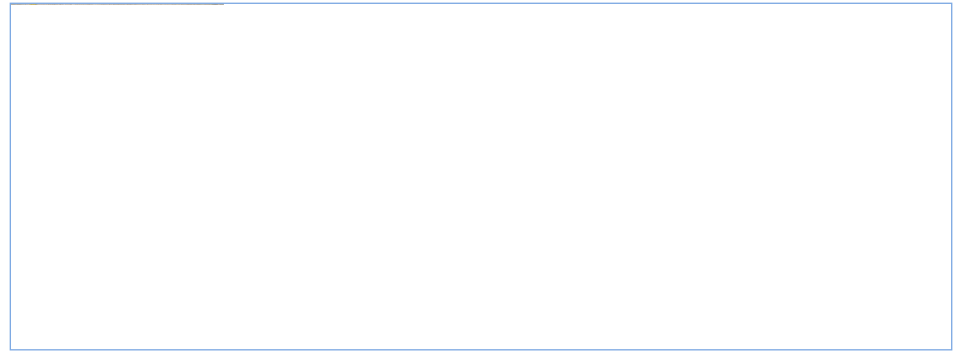
At the following meeting of the Lodge on 2nd December, WBro Hope read out the history of Sam's achievements in Freemasonry, which proved of interest to the Brethren.

Forum is sorry to report the death of WBro Banns while the magazine was in preparation. We have been asked to publish this article in his memory and we offer our condolences to his family and friends.

Waveney hold joint meeting

Waveney Lodge held their regular October meeting under dispensation at Harleston Masonic Hall as the Bungay Masonic Hall was undergoing building works. It was just as well as 66 Brethren attended the annual joint meeting of Waveney 929 (Suffolk), Faithful 85 (Norfolk) and Marksmen 9755 (Norfolk). This is the second meeting of this type held between the three Lodges to promote inter Lodge friendship. Between them they jointly opened and closed the Lodge and performed a ceremony of passing with the Master and other officers and members from each Lodge acting as Master, officers and performing parts of the ceremony. The highlight of the evening was the extended rendition of the Tracing board, tools and charge. Bro Peter Haward the candidate also played his part, by answering extra second degree questions put to him. The evening was rounded off by a fine roast pork festive board.

Bosmere at Wattisham



The Worshipful Master of Bosmere Lodge arranged a visit to Wattisham Airfield with Bro Maj Barry Humphreys on Saturday, 16th October. Fifty-five members and friends, supported by the presence of Phoenix and Ala members and wives, were present, meeting at 1.00pm in the Officers Mess where tea and coffee and a curry lunch were provided. After lunch a draw and auction raised £440 for the Afghan Appeal.

We visited the museum and various aircraft and saw a short film about the Army Air Corps. After a very busy afternoon, the group saw the amazing Apache helicopter and several of the more adventurous climbed inside for a pilots-eye view, finishing at about 6.30pm. A wonderful day had been made possible by Barry and his wife and others who helped and supported the visit.

The real surprise on the visit was a photo in the museum of a Sgt WRAF Dental

Technician dated 1942 who was the mother of one of the ladies in our party, Jenny France, who is a daughter of the late WBro Charlie Vincent.

On Friday, 22nd October, members of Bosmere, Ala and Phoenix Lodges met at Stowmarket British Legion where we presented them with a signed, framed and numbered print of an Apache helicopter over Helmand. This was framed at Wattisham and had the Masonic emblem and the words, 'Presented by Bosmere Lodge October 2010'. This was accepted by the Chairman to be displayed in their hall. A raffle and donations raised £172. A cheque was presented to Bro Barry Humphreys for £612.20 at the Bosmere Lodge meeting on 25th October.

A letter of thanks was received from Col Neale Moss OBE, Commander of 16 Air Assault Brigade.

The sound of Canons

When Canon Neil Collins became The Very Reverend Dean of the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds in 2006, he brought with him a drive and vision that saw through the completion of the Millennium Projects. Among those was the Chapel of the Transfiguration. One would suspect his impeccable Masonic connections would be useful in generating interest and support for these projects as Dean of our Mother Church, to which end, the Province of Suffolk more than played its part by making a very generous donation to fund the completion of the Chapel. In June 2009, the Provincial Grand Master and others from the Executive, were invited to the Cathedral to witness the dedication of the Chapel by His Grace, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams. Sadly, Neil passed to the Grand Lodge Above on the 26th June 2010 and, with that, a significant Masonic connection to the Cathedral. However, in the synchronicity of life, Cathedral links to the province are maintained through its Honorary Canons' and in particular, the seat of St Fursa, now occupied by Bro Revd Canon Kevan



McCormack. Bro Kevan was installed as Canon on Sunday 31st May 2009. On the 6th of August 2010, the date of the Feast day of the Transfiguration of Christ, Kevan presided at the 1 o'clock service held in the Chapel of the Transfiguration. A fitting tribute to RWBro Neil's endeavours, ensuring continuity in the life of the Cathedral and the Province. St Fursa was an Irish Monk who was instrumental in spreading Christianity in this area and is reported to have died in 650AD. His name remains today in various place names and also St Fursey Rose Croix Chapter meeting at Gt. Yarmouth. Bro Kevan is Master Elect of Lodge of Wisdom.

The photograph shows Bro Kevan in the Chapel of the Transfiguration.

Two New Provincial Heads in a Week



On Saturday 23 October 2010 members of the Allied Masonic degrees gathered to witness the Installation of RWBro Thomas Frederick Auber as the District Grand Prefect of the District of East Anglia. The Ceremony was performed by the Grand Master of the Allied Masonic Degrees MWBro Michael Herbert, assisted by Grand Officers. Tom has been the Deputy District Grand Prefect since 2005 and is known throughout his and many other AMD Provinces. He holds Grand Rank in many of the Orders of Freemasonry including Grand Treasurer of Royal and Select Masters. He then appointed WBro Christopher Bowles as his Deputy District Grand Prefect. After lunch the new District Grand Prefect presided over the District meeting where he invested the new District Officers.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of East Anglia



Following the appointment of RWBro Peter Hamilton Rollin as President of the General Board and his subsequent retirement as Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of East Anglia, the MW Grand Master, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, appointed WBro Paul Anthony Norman, PGJD, to succeed him.

Just three months after the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, the Installation of W Bro Paul Norman, PGJD, took place at Mildenhall College of Technology on Thursday 28th October 2010. The meeting was attended by over 200 members of the Province and they were joined by 19 RW Provincial Grand Masters of other Provinces together with over 40 other official visitors.

Provincial Grand Lodge was opened by the Presiding Officer, VWBro James Dunlop McKee.

The Pro Grand Master, MW Bro John Hale, together with a team of Grand Officers, was processed into Provincial Grand Lodge with the Pro Grand Master taking the chair. He then proceeded to Install WBro Paul Anthony Norman as Provincial Grand Master for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of East Anglia.

The Provincial Grand Master was then pleased to appoint, invest and install VW Bro Dr John Elmore, PGJO, as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and WBro Raymond Charles Clarke, PGJD, as Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

Following the Installation Meeting, over 240 Mark Masons attended a grand Festive Board in the College dining room. A presentation was made by the RW Provincial Grand Master to the Pro Grand Master, MWBro John Hale, as a token of thanks for the splendid way he conducted the Installation and as a memento of his visit the East Anglia.

East Anglian Mark Golf Day

Report by Geoff Spencer



For the third year running the Mark Master Masons of East Anglia were blessed with unexpectedly fine weather which enabled their golf tournament to raise the magnificent sum of over £2,300 for the East Anglia Mark Benevolent Association.

On a July day on which the forecast had been less than encouraging, a full house of 80 Mark Masonic golfers and their guests had only to contend with a stiff breeze which, perhaps, kept the expected rain at bay, as they did battle at the splendidly presented Thetford Golf Club at what has become one of the highlights of the season. Winners of the 'better-ball' pairs competition were Adrian Wallace and Mike Richardson whilst in the team event the prestigious Peter Rollin Shield, held for the last two years by Kings Lynn's Philanthropic Lodge, was finally wrested from their grasp and claimed by the team representing Youell Lodge from Great Yarmouth (come on you Cambridgeshire & Suffolk lodges - time to get in on the act!).

The East Anglia Mark Province has been awarded a Festival in 2013 in aid of the Mark Benevolent Fund. Such festivals provide a significant way of helping to contribute to that fund which, in recent years, has made substantial grants for the benefit of local hospitals, lifeboats, St John ambulances and other similar organisations in this region. 2013 is a great opportunity to display our gratitude.

RWBro Peter Rollin, Provincial Grand Master who, despite being a non-golfer, has always been a staunch supporter of these occasions, was unfortunately prevented from attending this year due to other commitments so the prizes and trophies were presented by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro John Elmore (who this year, for once, graciously avoided winning too many of the major golfing accolades!). Since the tournament RWBro Rollin has retired as PGM to take up an even more demanding post at Mark Masons' Hall but it is hoped that he will back in future years to present the trophy, bearing his name, to subsequent champions.

Thanks are, of course, due to the management, staff & members of Thetford Golf Club for their continued hospitality and the many sponsors whose generous support contributes so much to the success of the event.

Next year's tournament is scheduled to take place on Thursday 21st July 2011 - make a note in your diary now to avoid disappointment. The picture shows WBro John Elmore making a presentation to prize winners.

All Change in the Royal Arch

It has been announced that following the retirement of EComp Dr David Watson, the ME The First Grand Principal has been pleased to appoint EComp David Boswell to the office of Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of Suffolk with effect from the 31st March.

On the same day, EComp Michael Manly, Deputy Grand Superintendent and David Deal, Provincial Third Grand Principal will step down. David Boswell has announced that EComp Michael Caddock will become Deputy Grand Superintendent, and that EComps Michael Richards, and Bill Hagger will be appointed Second and Third Grand Principals.

Following the Grand Chapter meeting last November a dinner was held in honour of EComp David Watson where the Second Provincial Grand Principal, paid tribute to the Grand Superintendent complimenting him on the way he managed the affairs of the Province. In presenting the Grand Superintendent and his wife Marion with an engraved decanter and glasses, David Boswell also thanked Marion Watson for her support of the Grand Superintendent during his time in office.

The Grand Superintendent thanked all those who had assisted him during his time in office and commented that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time as Grand Superintendent. David Watson announced that the new Grand Superintendent and his team would be installed in March 2011, commenting that he still had a busy schedule until then.

The Installation of EComp David Boswell as Grand Superintendent is expected to take place on 31st March 2011 at Gresham's Social Club in Ipswich and will be followed by the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter.

Our New Grand Superintendent

As Provincial Second Grand Principal, David Boswell has a high profile within Suffolk Royal Arch Masonry. We asked him for a brief Royal Arch profile.

David was born and educated in Ipswich and is the sixth generation of Boswell running Boswell Printers. Having started there as an apprentice in 1963, he took over in 1979 and, since then, has transformed the business from 'three people' to its current status. He is married to Jenny, who always supports David in his Freemasonry. They have a dance instructor daughter and son in film production. David is also a Freeman of the City of London and a member of a Livery Company.

Initiated into his Father and Grandfather's Lodge, Corinthian, in 1975, WM in 1990, David has also been Master of British Union and Countryside Lodges. David was exalted into Regent's Park Meridian Chapter then meeting in London, deliberately to meet new friends. A founder of Orwell Chapter in 1992, he was MEZ in 1996. As well as Provincial Rank, he was appointed Acting Grand Standard Bearer (Eng) in 2007, a job he describes as "escorting George Pippon Francis about the country installing Grand Superintendents".

David is fond of the Royal Arch. He said: "I like the fact that we call ourselves Companions, an excellent description of any Freemason". He did not expect the offer of Grand Superintendent stating that he was "very surprised. There are far better qualified Companions in Suffolk", but was honoured to accept. "Suffolk is a thriving and happy Province thanks to the current and previous Grand Superintendents and Provincial Grand Masters".

"Masonry will only be as good as its members, and my role is to represent and encourage the membership of the Craft and Royal Arch in Suffolk, for without new Craft members we will not recruit Royal Arch Companions."

I look forward to the company of as many Royal Arch Companions as possible at our Annual Meeting at Gresham's Social Club on 31st March, to thank them all for their friendship and support whilst I was Second Grand Principal and to request that it continues in my new responsibility.



Fifty for Tile



At a packed meeting on Wednesday 24th November, 2010 Royal York Chapter No 81 celebrated another of its members joining the '50 Club'. This time it was the turn of EComp Bob Tile, Past Provincial Grand Master for Suffolk.

The evening was rather unique for Royal York as the proceedings were initially opened by EComp Tom Horton, MEZ, and then the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Dr David Watson, took the Chair and opened up a special Provincial Grand Chapter with the assistance of the Second and Third Provincial Grand Principals, EComps David Boswell and David Deal. EComp Bob Tile was then, to much applause, presented with his 50 year Certificate along with an engraved cut glass and a fine malt. Provincial Grand Chapter was then closed and EComp John Selby, IPZ, continued the programme of work with a ceremony of Exaltation.

The photograph shows left to right; The Deputy Grand Superintendent EComp E Michael Manly, EComp Bob Tile Past Deputy Grand Sword Bearer, The Second Provincial Grand Principal EComp David Boswell, The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Dr David H Watson, The Third Provincial Grand Principal EComp David Deal, EComp Tom Horton MEZ, EComp John Selby IPZ, Most EComp Peter Hemmingway Past Third Grand Principal and EComp Nick Berry Provincial Grand Scribe E.

There were so many Senior and acting Provincial Chapter Officers in attendance that a question was asked what an acceptable collective noun would be. The answer, from an active senior Provincial Officer was - a 'onfusion'. There was however no confusion on the night and a good time was had by all.

Frank's Fifty Years in Chapter



On 18th October at the meeting of Chapter of Wisdom, No. 9333, EComp Mike Manly, Deputy Grand Superintendent, presented EComp Frank Faulkner, PAGSoj (Eng.) Past Provincial Third Grand Principal, with his 50 year Royal Arch Certificate, accompanied by EComp David Boswell, Provincial Second Grand Principal, Grand Superintendent designate. Also in the photograph are the three Principals of Chapter of Wisdom, from left to right EComp. Trevor Greenow (2nd Principal), EComp Trevor Lord (1st Principal) and EComp Peter Peck (3rd Principal). EComp Faulkner was exalted into Pangbourne Chapter, No. 4381, on 21st July 1950 and is a founder member of Chapter of Wisdom.

Mentoring Workshops a Great Success



Mentoring is now really taking shape within all the Suffolk Lodges, reports Keith Huxley the Provincial Grand Mentor.

A series of workshops for Lodge Mentoring Co-ordinators have been held across the Province with almost all Lodges being represented. The most recent meetings have included "break out" groups who discussed topics in detail and reported back to the complete gathering. Keith told Forum: "It is most important to recognise that the Co-ordinator may not be a mentor himself – his role is to ensure that the mentoring process is working effectively within his Lodge and that the new member is being properly encouraged and made to feel welcome. First and foremost, it is essential that the Proposer, Secunder or Mentor, or a combination of them all, are ensuring that the new member is enjoying his Freemasonry".

Lodge Mentoring Co-ordinators agreed that, to take Mentoring forward, it should be recommended that Lodges should include the Co-ordinators name and details on the Lodge Summons and that he should be appointed on nights of Installation although as yet, this is not an official office in the Lodge and there is no collar or jewel.

It was agreed that the Suffolk Freemasons Guide, which is supplied to all new Initiates, was an excellent booklet and was being well received across the Province and that its use should be extended to other Brethren.

As not all Members were fully aware of the purpose and value of Mentoring, Co-ordinators were encouraged to make a presentation to their Lodge members. It was also suggested that those Lodges that did not currently adopt the widespread practice of encouraging new Members to attend Lodge of Instruction following their initiation should consider the merits of doing so. This would assist the new member to integrate into his Lodge as quickly as possible and give him the opportunity of learning about parts of the ritual and of getting to know other Lodge members.

The importance of the Festive Board and the role of the Dining Secretary was also discussed and it was agreed that procedures need to be carefully explained to the new Member and a sensitive approach adopted to seating plans. It was considered that nothing was worse than a new member being seated at the end of a sprig or next to Brethren who were not engaging him in conversation. It was also agreed that the role of Lodge Mentoring Co-ordinator should be visible and, to this end, the Province is currently considering the design and cost of a lapel badge which it is hoped will be available early in the new year.

Keith Huxley tells us that many more items were discussed at the workshops and he encourages all the Brethren to give their full support to their Lodge Mentoring Co-ordinator to help ensure a happy and successful Lodge.



An Interview with A Vaughan Price

A very special meeting of Silver Jubilee Lodge, No 8811, was held at the Masonic Hall in Lowestoft where the Provincial Orator, Trevor White, interviewed A Vaughan Pryce, Past Deputy PGM, and a founder of the lodge.

The TV style interview was most enthusiastically received by all the Brethren. They learned that the A Vaughan name was adopted to distinguish him from his father who had the same initials, we also learned that he was actually "demoted" when he was appointed as Acting Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, having been an active Sword Bearer some years earlier.

To mark the occasion the Lodge commissioned a photographic portrait which is to be displayed at the Lowestoft centre and was presented by Peter Boneham also a founder of the Lodge.

Orations Plug That Gap



The Provincial Grand Orator, Trevor White reports that he is available to all Suffolk Lodges to present an Oration, if they have a space in their Lodge calendar. He tells us that he can be available at very short notice should a planned ceremony have to be cancelled at short notice.

The Orations are planned to encourage the Brethren to think about all aspects of Freemasonry and to promote discussion and the sharing of Masonic experiences..

He can be contacted on 01473 622580 or by email at mrtjwhite@aol.com

For the Newer Mason

An evening which Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts or new Master Masons will find particularly useful has been arranged to be held at Felixstowe on Tuesday 1st February 2011, by John Jarman, at the request of the PGM.

A free buffet where there will be a chance for general discussion will follow three short presentations on Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge and our own Private Lodges. There will be an opportunity to discuss or question any aspect of Freemasonry. Your own Lodge Provincial representative has full details or contact John Jarman on 01394 278969.