



FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Summer 2012



SEE PAGE 3

Editor's notes



Another summer has arrived - at least that's what the calendar tells us. For the first time for many years both PG Lodge and Chapter meetings were held in damp weather. We are lucky to have the warmth of our Freemasonry to sustain us and what for many will be a period for barbecues, golf competitions, cricket matches and so on. I offer my best wishes to all organisers for successful events and for the members attending to come back refreshed in the autumn for another cracking Masonic year.



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JOTTINGS FROM THE P.G. Secretary

Writing my first Jottings as Provincial Grand Secretary less than a week after our Provincial Meeting, I am just recovering from a rather tense but thoroughly exhilarating day at Holbrook.

Our Annual Meeting this year was as usual well attended and I am sure was enjoyed by all present. There was an excellent atmosphere both before the meeting and afterwards in the bars and at the Festive Board. The caterers at the Royal Hospital School must be congratulated on serving us a very fine meal.

The Province has received many letters of thanks from our Provincial guests, many of whom travel a great distance to be with us.

It was a particular pleasure for me to see my predecessor WBro David Harries installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He takes over from WBro Robert Mayhew who has had a very successful six years in office.

With an element of breathing space before we need to draw our attentions to fund raising efforts for the next Masonic Festival it is encouraging to see that members are taking the opportunity to focus their attentions on the Masonic Centres in the Province which are in need of on-going maintenance and refurbishment.

As you are no doubt aware, Grand Lodge has now extended an opportunity for Master Masons to attend Quarterly Communications in June, September and December each year. Admission is by ticket only and those wishing to attend should contact their Lodge Secretary who will submit an application on their behalf to the Provincial Office for submission to Grand Lodge with a view to tickets being secured for admission. I am pleased to report that Master Masons from the Province recently successfully applied and attended the June Quarterly Communications Meeting.

Finally I would like to thank all members of the Provincial Office including the Editor of Forum and the Information Officer who do so much work behind the scenes.

I wish you all a very enjoyable Summer break.

David Clarke, Provincial Grand Secretary

Thanks from the Past Deputy PGM

Robert Mayhew, who retired as our Deputy PGM at the Holbrook meeting in June, has asked that his grateful thanks be passed to all the Brethren and Lodges who so generously contributed towards his retirement gift. He tells us that he will be following many leisure pursuits which previously he did not have time to pursue, and plans to join a health club, swim regularly and invest in golfing equipment and lessons.



Members of the Provincial Choir



Members of the Provincial Choir, enjoying a last minute rehearsal under the direction of Provincial Organist Graham Colthorpe (seated at the front) before performing during the collection of Alms at Provincial Grand Lodge.

British Union's 250th Anniversary

British Union Lodge No 114, which meets in Ipswich, has celebrated its 250th Anniversary with a special emergency meeting held in the Trinity rooms at the Suffolk Showground.

Members, guests and special visitors numbering 188, including the Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy and Assistant who were all present to help celebrate this special occasion.

WBro J Bristol who was WM in 1982 read the Warrant of the Lodge which is dated 21st January 1762.

WBro John Horton, WM 1983, then presented a short talk entitled *British Union Lodge - Its Life and Times 1762-2012* which had been researched and compiled by the Lodge Director of Ceremonies, WBro Andrew Sleath.

This was followed by a demonstration of an Initiation Ceremony in accordance with procedures used circa 1762 by the Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire Provincial Demonstration Team, who were all dressed in period costume. The re-enactment took place in an Inn which was very appropriate to British Union who first met in the Sign of the

Green Man Inn in the Parish of St Mary Key, Ipswich.

At the celebration banquet the WM requested that all members and honorary members of the lodge stand so that the Stewards could present them each with a gift of a set of cuff links and a pin, all enamelled in British Union Colours, and showing the dates 1762-2012.

The front cover picture shows the Provincial Grand Master congratulating the Worshipful Master, Nick LeGrys, of British Union Lodge No 114, on reaching their 250th Anniversary together with WBro John Horton.

From the Archives

THE WEST CHAPEL AT THE IPSWICH CREMATORIUM

From the Provincial Archivist, WBro John Jarman.

The next time that you exit from the West Chapel at the Ipswich Crematorium glance down to your immediate right and there you will see a foundation stone of the building laid by WBro Massy Lloyd on 18th April 1928. The following is taken from the Minute Book of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk.

Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Ipswich Crematorium by WBro Brig.-Gen. S.E. Massy Lloyd CBE DL PGD, Deputy Prov G. Master for Suffolk.

An Especial Meeting of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk was held this afternoon at Ipswich, in a marquee erected near the North entrance of the Cemetery.

The WDeputy Provincial Master, Brig.-Gen. S.E. Massy Lloyd CBE DL in the Chair assisted by WBro Kerry Rix PAGDC as Acting Deputy Prov G Master opened the Provincial Grand Lodge in Form at 2.15pm.

There was an attendance of 164 Brethren whose names are recorded in the Presence Books, including 62 Provincial Grand Officers, present and past.

The WDeputy Provincial Grand Master having addressed the Brethren upon the object of the special occasion, the Provincial Grand Lodge was adjourned and the brethren moved in procession to the site of the Crematorium, where his Worship the Mayor, and Corporation of the Borough of Ipswich, had previously assembled, supported by a large audience of the general public.

The proceedings opened with the singing of the hymn "O God, our help in ages past" by the entire assembly, followed by an invocation from the Provincial Grand Chaplain; and the Ceremony of Laying the Foundation Stone was performed in a most dignified and impressive manner by the Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk Freemasons, WBro Brig.-Gen. S.E. Massy Lloyd CBE DL PGD with full Masonic Rites and Ceremonies.

After the Benediction had been pronounced, which terminated the Masonic Service, another Corner Stone was laid by his Worship The Mayor, Alderman Rowley Elliston, and after which, the entire audience joined in the singing of the National Anthem.

The procession was then re-formed, and the Brethren returned to the Marquee, where the WDeputy Provincial Grand Master thanked his Officers for their assistance, and all the Brethren assembled, for their support: at the same time expressing his appreciation and satisfaction upon the arrangements made, and the praiseworthy manner in which they had been carried out.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed in Form.

This whole event was published in the 'Evening Star and Daily Herald' with the description as above together with photographs of the procession showing the Members of Provincial Grand Lodge in full Masonic regalia. The names of the members in the procession were printed together with their lodges.

To quote a section of the newspaper report the following day, 19th April 1928:

"The Provincial Grand Secretary and the Assistant Secretary carried the Books of Constitutions; and the phials containing coins and documents to be deposited in the stone were respectively borne by the acting Provincial Grand Treasurer and the acting Provincial Grand Registrar. W.Bro G.W Senton PPGW the secretary of the Corinthian lodge carried the Corinthian Light, and the Doric Light and the Ionic Light were respectively borne by the WMaster of Doric Lodge WBro E.S. Lock and WBro. F.H. Warner, Lodge 959. The Plumb Rule was carried by the Provincial Grand Warden, the Level by the Senior Grand Warden, the Square by the Acting Deputy Provincial Grand Master (WBro Kerry Rix PAGDC) and the Heavy Maul by WBro Canon S.W. Goldsmith (PAGDC)".

McCarthy Slatcher Lecture



The PGM expressed his thanks to Professor Charles Lawrence following his presentation of the McCarthy Slatcher annual lecture at the Silver Jubilee Lodge earlier in the year. The WM, Paul Mason (pictured centre), welcomed a large gathering at the Lowestoft Masonic Centre to an extremely interesting lecture which outlined Professor Lawrence's theories of the important part that 'rank' plays within the craft.

Apollo Lodge Widows



On 4th February, the WM of Apollo Lodge, WBro Reg Sampson, presented broken column broaches to the Lodge widows at the Waveney Ladies Fellowship meeting at Lowestoft Masonic Centre.

Ionic appoint and invest mentor



Following the Quarterly Communication meeting of Grand Lodge on 14th March 2012 when the role of Lodge Mentor was confirmed as an official office in the Lodge, Ionic Lodge No 5922, are believed to be the first Lodge in our Province to appoint and invest WBro John Mabb with his collar and jewel.

Having been in the meat industry for almost 40 years, John became a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Butchers in 1990 and was initiated into that Company's private Lodge, Taurus Lodge No 3981, in 1995. He became WM in 2005 and has been Secretary since 2010.

John joined Ionic Lodge in May 2010. He soon became an active member of the mentoring team and, having previously acquired and gifted to Ionic the Mentor's collar and jewel before they became readily available, was formally appointed and invested by the new Master, WBro Tony Wooderson, at their installation meeting on 10th April.

The picture shows John Mabb and Tony Wooderson with Keith Huxley, Provincial Mentor.

A Decade of Solea Easter Eggs



For the 10th year running Solea Lodge held an Easter Lunch, which required that all adults attending had to bring along an Easter Egg. This Easter lunch event was started by WBro David Thomas (WM 2002/3) and this year was hosted by the current WM Anthony Allgood. A good number assembled in the Masonic Hall dining room in Bury St Edmunds on Sunday 1st April, and all enjoyed a delicious lunch.

A total of 52 Easter Eggs were collected and then in turn presented to the residents of Cornwallis Court in Bury St Edmunds on Good Friday, 6th April. These eggs were gratefully received by the residents. Solea Lodge Charity Steward, WBro Derek Barnard and his wife, also attended and assisted with the presentation.

The picture shows Anthony Allgood, second from the left, with residents of Cornwallis Court.

Fifty-up for Norman Rowland Gray



Norman was introduced into masonry by a work colleague and initiated into Wandle Lodge in London in 1962. He became WM in 1975 later joining Walworth Emulation Lodge of Improvement, in which he was installed as WM in 1978, later becoming Director of Ceremonies.

After retirement he moved to Sudbury in 1980 where he joined Stour Valley Lodge. After a period of visiting Babergh Lodge he eventually transferred his allegiance to the daughter Lodge where he became WM in 1994. He later became Director of Ceremonies and Preceptor for 7 years.

It is worth noting that Norman's wife Stella made, painted, decorated and presented the four main chapter banners for the Hall.

Norman's long held interest in the more spiritual side of masonry led to him joining the Society Rosicruciana in Anglia, eventually reaching 7th degree in that Order.

Being a founder member of Gainsborough Lodge, Norman designed, made and presented its banner. He went on to be founding Director of Ceremonies and WM in 2004.

He was appointed PPJGW in 2003 and awarded the Provincial Order of Merit in 2006. Made an honorary member of Babergh in 2011, he is still a member of Gainsborough Lodge and Martyn Chapter.

The picture shows Norman with the APGM, WBro Ian Yeldham, and his Fifty-year certificate.

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Letters... Letters... Letters... Letters...

Dear Sir,

Every year at the appropriate meeting, and at a separate ladies' evening soon after, the Lodge of Fidelity holds a 'Burns supper' to commemorate the great vernacular poet, Robert Burns. This will be replicated in other lodges and will usually include the reciting of some examples of his work; always the 'Toast to the Haggis' and often others considered suitable because of their apparent comic stance.

What is less understood, and is sometimes questioned, is the absence of Masonic content in much of Burns' poetry. However, references are often woven into his poems, shrouded as they tend to be in obscure dialect, and there is no better example of this than 'Lament to Culloden'.

For those who regard Burns as a priapic ne'er do well, after all he managed to cram twelve children into his thirty seven years, and a purveyor of impenetrable doggerel, 'Lament to Culloden' is a sharp reminder of his stature as a social commentator for his time. It is a war poem similar in impact to Sassoon or Wilfred Owen and indeed Sassoon's lines:

*I see them in foul dug-outs, gnawed
by rats*

*And in the ruined trenches, lashed
with rain*

Contrasts well with Burns':

*Their winding-sheet the bludy clay
Their graves are growing green to see.*

It is written in the first person, but this is not to say that Burns was at Culloden because the battle took place thirteen years before he was born, and it would be wrong to assume that it is vicarious either. He speaks of his brothers, of which he had three, and his father, but none of them were there, although his father was a sympathiser of the Jacobite cause, and the family would have been imbued with residual resentment. He refers, in fact, not to the demise of 'his' brothers (although two died at an even younger age than Robert within five years of each other and mourning can assume mercurial forms) but to the loss of freemasons in the battle and such evidence would have been very apparent when he was initiated into St. David Tarbolt lodge in 1781 (thirty five years after the conflict)

Burns was a wonderful poet and we do well to remember him. The first verse of the poem *Lament For Culloden* follows:

*The lovely lass o' Inverness
Nae joy nor pleasure can she see
For e'en and morn she cries, Alas!
And ay the saut tear blin's her e'e:
Drumossie moor – Drumossie day
A waefu' day it was for me
For there I lost my father dear
My father dear, and brethren three.
Yours S&F, Richard Wiggins, Lodge
of Fidelity*

Dear Sir,

Laconic Lodge 9771

It may be of interest to your reader to note that last year (2011) you reported in Forum that WBro Clive Burton, PAGDC (Eng.), had been installed as WM of Grand Stewards Lodge and was the fourth member of this Lodge to be so honoured. The first three were WBro David Cain, PGTreas (Eng), VWBro Jervis Kay, PGSwdB (Eng) and RW Bro Bob Tile, PPGM.

I am now pleased to tell you we have RWBro Gerald Tedder, PJGW (Eng.), in the chair of Grand Stewards Lodge in succession to WBro Clive Burton thus making him our fifth WM of Grand Stewards Lodge. I suspect this may be some sort of record as I cannot think of another Lodge who can boast five present or past Masters of Grand Stewards Lodge amongst their membership.

W Bro Clive was the first and founding Treasurer of this Lodge and is currently our WM while RWBro Gerald was our first WM.

*Yours S&F, T G W Heycock PGStwd
PPGSwdB*

Dear Sir,

On a recent visit to Needham Massachusetts. for the rededication of the Town Hall by the Masons of Massachusetts, I was given the special treat by the Grand Master of Massachusetts of touching the Washington Bible. This bible is the nearest thing the Americans have to our crown jewels. This Bible is normally covered with a glass cover and protected by two "minders". When I can I attend the Norfolk Lodge in Needham and am always well received. The photo shows me being congratulated by Richard Stewart, the Grand Master of Massachusetts, for my recent promotion in Suffolk with the bible. This bible has been used by several US Presidents on which they swear the oath of office. As a special reward for our service to Needham,

Christine and I were made Honorary Citizens of the Town.

*Yours S&F, Ian Mason, Bosmere Lodge,
No 9460*



Editor's footnote:

The George Washington Inaugural Bible is the book that was sworn upon by George Washington when he took office as the first President of the United States on 30th April 1789.

St. John's Lodge No.1, Ancient York Masons, is the owner of what is now known as the George Washington Inaugural Bible. It was upon this Bible that George Washington took his oath of office as the first President of the United States.

The Bible has since been used for the inaugurations of Warren G. Harding, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter, and George H. W. Bush (whose 1989 inauguration was in the bicentennial year of Washington's). The Bible was also intended to be used for the inauguration of George W. Bush, but inclement weather didn't allow it. In addition to these 'duties', the Bible has been used in the funeral processions of Presidents Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The Bible has also been used at the centre-stone laying of the U.S. Capitol, the addition of the Washington Monument, the centennials of the cornerstone laying of the White House, U.S. Capitol, and the Statue of Liberty, the 1964 World's Fair as well as the launching of the aircraft carrier USS George Washington.

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Letters... Letters... Letters... Letters...

Dear Sir

I write concerning mentoring in other than craft degrees and with a wish to promote discussion. The formalisation of mentoring is of course a recent innovation to reduce the number of Brethren lost to the Craft. The role of the mentor, quite rightly, is being left to a Masons Craft Lodge. That body must have the major responsibility of ensuring that the individual mason maintains the most important relationship in Freemasonry – with his craft lodge as, obviously, everything else follows from that membership.

Whilst there is no requirement on other orders to have mentors, indeed Supreme Grand Chapter have taken the view that there are to be no mentors in the Royal Arch, should we be considering approaching those members of those degrees that no longer attend? Should we, in similar fashion, start looking beyond the regular attenders?

At a time when austerity is hitting us all hard, candidates for all orders are getting harder to find and so keeping those

we have is more important than ever. I accept that there will always be limits to what we can do to accommodate the disenchanting and I also believe that Masonry is a personal journey and that different Brethren get different things from the same degree but nevertheless, comparing the number of members to those attending, might cause a surprise. I therefore ask the following questions:

Do we ask why persistent absentees do not attend? Should we? It might be that members have simply got out of the habit of attending and merely need a small prod to return.

Are we pushing new members too hard? Are we recognising that others may have greater time or financial constraints? It might seem easy to us to just 'stand in for Fred' but might not be so comfortable for others.

Are we giving new members enough to do? Will the ceremonies permit it?

If they don't want to remain members, are we putting too much pressure on them to stay? Are we better off with a slightly

smaller but more committed team?

Do we need to look to ourselves and see if there is a personality clash? Would a disenchanting member be better off with another Lodge? Should we encourage that?

I am not suggesting that I have all or indeed any of the answers to these questions. I am not sure that these are even the right questions to ask. I am pretty sure that every Lodge or Chapter has members that consistently do not attend. If they don't want to or are unable to and are happy to remain members then I am not advocating action. I am also not advocating a long dialogue with someone who wants to leave before he is 'allowed' to resign. I merely say that our most precious resource is always our members and ask if the side degrees should be using some of the ideas of mentoring to see that all the members of each order have the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship that Freemasonry can provide.

Yours S&F, Alex Workman, Magna Carta Lodge, White Rose Chapter, St Edmund Rose Croix and others

Welfare Update

from Dr Mac Speake, Provincial

Almoner

On Sunday March 11th over 80 Brethren and their partners attended two presentations, one from [redacted] and the other from the RMBI.

Natasha Treweek, Head of [redacted], presented the figures from the launch of the initiative in Suffolk last September. There had been a number of enquiries from this source and she emphasised that the initiative was not to replace the Lodge Almoner but to act as an enquiry service, especially for those who had dropped through the net.

Debra Keeling, Deputy Director of Care, RMBI, then gave a presentation on the different types of Dementia and the possible treatment options explaining that Dementia will be an increasing problem in the future due to an ageing population and the financial constraints from the recession.

Both presentations were well received and stimulated a lot of questions and comments.

40-up for Traver Scarff



Traver Scarff celebrating his 40th Anniversary with distinguished members of the Province at a meeting of Phoenix Lodge.

New Third Principal –

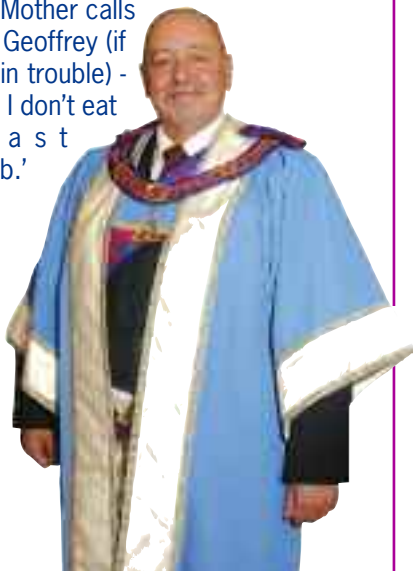
EComp Geoffrey (Geoff) Frederick Spencer

Born and bred in Suffolk, Geoff spent most of his working life serving under the blue lamp for Suffolk Constabulary, retiring as a Sergeant. He describes his career as 'mainly in uniform, mostly enjoyable, and very varied'. He continued working for the Police as a civilian but has recently happily retired.

Married to Irene for 37 years and father of Samantha and Daniel, much of his leisure time outside of Masonry is now spent playing golf, officiating as an ECB cricket umpire.

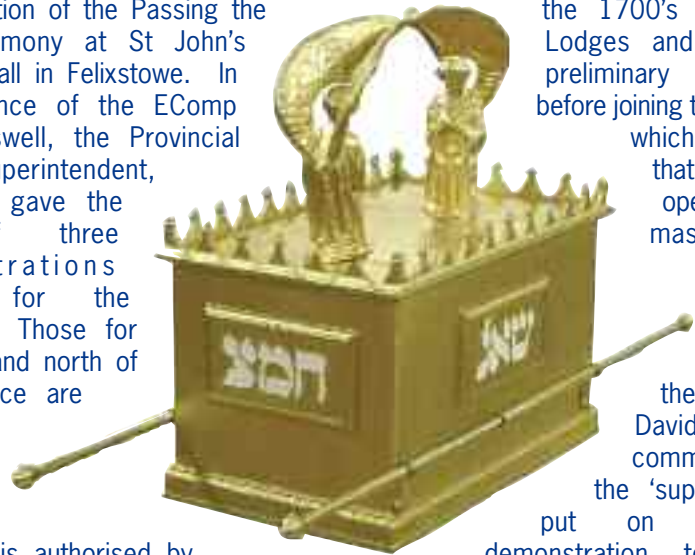
He was initiated into Doric Lodge in 1983 and Master in 1994. Exalted in Royal York Chapter in 1986, he is a PZ of Adair Chapter, a founder and PZ of Orwell Chapter and a member of Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter. He was appointed Provincial Grand Steward in 1998, Assistant Sojourner 2003, Deputy DC 2005, DC 2008 and appointed to Grand Chapter Rank in 2011. He is also active in the Mark, Royal Ark Mariner and Cryptic (Royal & Select Masters) degrees, in all of which he holds Grand Rank, and describes himself as a 'novice' member of the Allied Masonic Degrees and the Royal Order of Scotland.

Geoff takes over from E.Comp Bill Hagger. 'Bill represented the Province extremely well and set me a tough act to follow.' He also points out that 'Only my Mother calls me Geoffrey (if I'm in trouble) - and I don't eat r o a s t lamb.'



Passing the Veils

Over sixty members of Suffolk Installed First Principals' Chapter, their guests and visitors were present in April for a demonstration of the Passing the Veils ceremony at St John's Masonic Hall in Felixstowe. In the presence of the EComp David Boswell, the Provincial Grand Superintendent, the team gave the first of three demonstrations planned for the Province. Those for the west and north of the Province are planned for later in the year. The ceremony is authorised by Supreme Grand Chapter and the Provincial Grand Superintendent asked



the Chapter to carry out the demonstration. The ceremony itself is based on that carried out in the 1700's in Antient Lodges and was the preliminary ceremony before joining the Chapter which was, at that time, only open to past masters of Lodges. At the dinner following the meeting, David Boswell commented on the 'superb show' put on by the demonstration team and thanked all concerned for the hard work that had gone into the event.

Surprise Visit by Grand Superintendent leaves Companion Honoured and Speechless

At their June meeting, Priory Chapter was settling down to an Exaltation ceremony when there came a report on the door. The Provincial Director of Ceremonies, EComp Des Bliss, who was a visitor that meeting, stood to make the surprise announcement that the Grand Superintendent, EComp David Boswell, was outside the door of the Chapter and that he demanded admission. EComp David was not expected to be present but, after some quick shuffling of companions to ensure he had somewhere to sit, he was admitted and accepted the Sceptre of the Chapter. The Assistant Scribe E, Len Howard, frantically started redoing his seating plan for the Festive Board. The Grand

Superintendent demanded that EComp Len was presented to him, congratulated him on his Masonic Service to the Province and to honour his past work and the work he was going to do in the future, appointed him a Past Provincial Grand Chapter Steward. After some moments to catch his thoughts, EComp Len thanked the Grand Superintendent for the considerable honour.

This is not the first time that the Grand Superintendent has made such appointments and, from the look on EComp David's face when making the appointment, it will not be the last. Companions should take note that Official Visits may have a small 'sting' in the tail.

Involvement and enjoyment the way forward for the Royal Arch



MEComp George Francis, Second Grand Principal, on a recent visit to Suffolk, affirmed the importance of the Royal Arch to Craft Masonry and that he looked to all companions for support in the continued promotion of the Royal Arch as Supreme Grand Chapter approaches its bicentenary.

Speaking as a guest of EComp John Yeldham of Priory Chapter, the Second Grand Principal, on addressing the companions, commented on the need for more than simply having a stream of exaltation candidates.

“Some people believe that attracting new members is the main thing we need to do

to secure our future, but I would say that enjoyment is even more important as firstly it will automatically boost exaltations and secondly it is to easy to lose members through boredom and a lack of attendance.”

He also commented on the correct approach to the Royal Arch: “It is my belief that the Third Degree is the serious and solemn moment in Freemasonry and, whilst the Royal Arch has its serious moments, it is about entertainment, enjoyment, involvement, colour and drama. We should aspire to build a special atmosphere to which Companions will want to return again and again.”

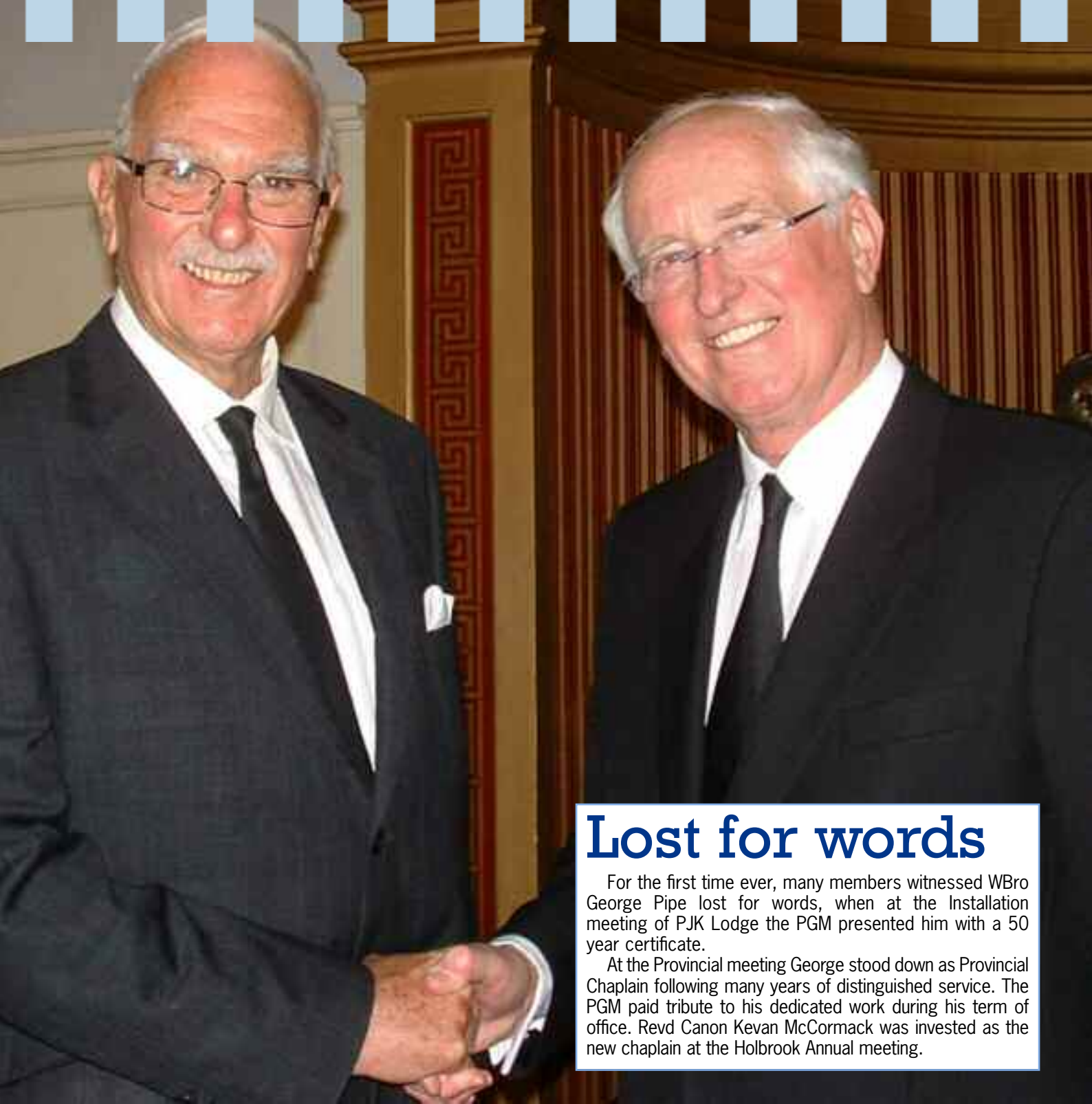
The ME Grand Superintendent, David Boswell, remarked “We are most fortunate that Suffolk is a very happy Royal Arch Province. Enjoyment is at the heart of my Masonry and I am always delighted to visit Chapters where the officers approach the ritual with a sense of the dramatic and remember that the candidate has never seen the ceremony before. Royal Arch has a super story to tell and an enthusiastic team of officers will encourage the members for some time. I believe that enjoyment is infectious and that if members are enjoying themselves, happiness and good attendance will naturally follow.”

Where are they now?

The Suffolk Provincial Grand Chapter Travelling Tools

These tools are intended to be mobile and visit many chapters in their continual journey around Suffolk and are to encourage inter chapter communication and visiting. They appear to have gone on a series of

long stays at particular chapters and their presence can be lost. The Provincial Grand Scribe E asks that he is informed when tools are passed on so he can monitor where they are.



Lost for words

For the first time ever, many members witnessed WBro George Pipe lost for words, when at the Installation meeting of PJK Lodge the PGM presented him with a 50 year certificate.

At the Provincial meeting George stood down as Provincial Chaplain following many years of distinguished service. The PGM paid tribute to his dedicated work during his term of office. Revd Canon Kevan McCormack was invested as the new chaplain at the Holbrook Annual meeting.

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