



FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Summer 2013



Our new PGM Right Worshipful Brother Ian Yeldham pictured with the Deputy Grand Master Right Worshipful Brother Jonathan Spence following the Installation meeting



JOTTINGS FROM THE P.G. Secretary

Welcome to the Summer edition of Forum.

The Province has been through a very busy few months.

The Annual Meeting at Holbrook on 31 May 2013, the last to be presided over by RWBro IJB Ross after nine very successful and dedicated years as Provincial Grand Master resulted in a tremendous send off from both the brethren of the Province and our invited guests from other Provinces with an excellent atmosphere for both the Meeting and the Festive Board.

RWBro Barry has asked me on his behalf to thank the brethren of the Province for his farewell gifts in a thank you letter which included the following wording. 'I have very much enjoyed my tenure of nine years as your Provincial Grand Master and have greatly appreciated your companionship. Suffolk is a very strong Province through your ever present commitment and enthusiasm and I am sure we will continue to go from strength to strength under my successor RWBro Ian John Yeldham'.

On 11 July 2013 at the Special Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge at the Trinity Rooms, Suffolk Showground. RWBro Ian John Yeldham was installed as the new Provincial Grand Master for the Masonic Province of Suffolk by the Deputy Grand Master, RWBro Jonathan Spence.

VWBro David Hugh Harries, PGSwdB was re-appointed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and WBro John Stuart Rice, PAGDC was appointed Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

The 360 brethren and distinguished guests attending the Installation followed by a most acceptable Luncheon enjoyed both the special day and the fine weather.

On behalf of the Province I would like to thank WBro David Deal the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro Ralph Robertson, Secretary of Provincial Grand Stewards and his team of Stewards for all of their hard work and attention to detail before and on the days of the meetings, ensuring the success of both of the above events and of course the brethren of the Province who attended and

supported these memorable occasions.

The Province has received many letters and e-mails commenting on the excellent organization and success of the meetings from our Provincial guests, many of whom travel a great distance to be with us.

WBro Andrew Sleath is retiring after 12 years as Editor of the Year Book and I am sure you will join me in thanking him for his diligent and dedicated service. The new Editor is to be WBro Graham Saward of Colneis Lodge No 8298.

The Suffolk Provincial Clay Pigeon Shoot was held at High Lodge Shooting School on 15 June 2013 and with 76 entries proved yet again a very successful event raising in the order of £2,000.00 for the East Anglian Children's Hospice.

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

I wish you all a very enjoyable Summer break.



Editor

Send your news items to:
H Spindler,
12 St Mary's Close, Bramford,
Ipswich IP8 4DL
spindler@globalnet.co.uk

Editor:

WBro H Spindler 01473 740882

Information Officer:

WBro T J White 01473 622580

Editorial news to:

WBro Harvey Spindler,
12 St Mary's Close,
Bramford,
Ipswich IP8 4DL

Layout Design:

WBro Colin Barber
Old Newton Graphics
01449 675548
codge@btinternet.com
www.codge.com

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Festival launched at PGM's Installation

OVER 350 BRETHREN ATTENDED THE INSTALLATION MEETING OF OUR NEW PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER, IAN YELDHAM, WHEN IT WAS HELD IN JULY AT THE TRINITY ROOMS AT THE SUFFOLK SHOWGROUND.

The Deputy Grand Master Right Worshipful Brother Jonathan Spence conducted the ceremony assisted by a team from Grand Lodge.

The PGM re-appointed David Harries as Deputy, and appointed John Rice as Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

In his speech our new PGM informed the Brethren of a new challenge which we would all need to embrace. He together with his new team would be officially launching the next Provincial Festival in September of this year, when the next five years will be spent raising funds for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, who are responsible for our care homes across the Country.

He went on to say: "I think that

Freemasonry offers so much to us all. We protect our Masonic centres as we protect our homes and we look after our Brethren as we do our families. The ultimate yield from our hobby was written down many years ago which is to bring satisfaction to yourself and advantage to your Lodge. Whilst every potential candidate sees us smile, enjoy and enthuse about our Freemasonry they will be proud and honoured to join us"

"Brethren, it's a great big chain and it's a great big office, but with your support we can strive to make sure that Suffolk has a great big future".

The Deputy Grand Master reminded the Brethren that the Province was not a one-man act and to succeed it needed enthusiasm from all it's members.

At the Festive Board the PGM paid a special tribute to his Father John Yeldham and thanked him for his many years of guidance and help.



REPORT ON SUFFOLK PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE MEETING - 31st MAY

THE ANNUAL PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE MEETING AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL AT HOLBROOK WAS HELD ON 31ST MAY on what was reported to be the hottest day of the year so far continuing the fine weather tradition. It was a meeting, however, tinged with some sadness as it marked the final meeting to be presided over by RWBro Barry Ross retiring after nine years as Provincial Grand Master.



The PGM making final preparations for his last meeting as head of Freemasonry in Suffolk.

After welcoming the distinguished visitors and the initial business of the meeting the PGM presented the Suffolk Provincial Order of Merit to WBros WP Clayton and GA Dixon. The third recipient, WBro WJ Curtis, was not able to attend and the PGM announced his intention to make the presentation at a later date.

Later in the afternoon, in his address after appointing the new active and past Provincial officers, the PGM congratulated all those he had invested. He said: "I have always very much enjoyed this privilege in celebrating their advancement. They have already given very significant contributions to their lodges and, in turn to our Province, and I am equally confident, in the years ahead, their contributions will become even more evident"

He went on to say: "Suffolk continues to be a very strong Province with a network of 66 lodges, total memberships of more than 3,300 - an average membership of 51 - and a total of more than 2,800 members. Whilst our numbers are slightly down on last year, this I

believe purely reflects the general economic downturn. On the resignations front, we have seen the total number reduce by 9% - a positive improvement."

He reported that Mentoring and Almoner initiatives under, respectively, WBros Keith Huxley and Mac Speake, continue to make solid contributions to the well being of the members. Mentoring is now well established across the Province, providing a far more positive approach in maintaining the interest and enthusiasm of our members, particularly those who have just recently joined. The Provincial Almoner has just concluded a series of Workshops for Almoners focussed on the recent changes in State benefits affecting us all particularly those in greatest need and ensuring our Lodge Almoners are in a far better position to offer helpful advice and support.

Following the outstanding success of our last Festival in 2009 for the Masonic Samaritan Fund followed in 2011 by the raising of £175,000 towards the new EACH Hospice in Ipswich he recommended that we endeavour to step up our support for maintaining and improving the 20 Masonic Centres across the Province - 'the essential fabric for our Masonry.' He was delighted to report some very real advances and said: "Earlier this month, I saw, first hand, the emergence of a new Centre in Bury St Edmunds. The previous commercial premises are dramatically changing with the construction of two new Temples -one seating an audience of 100, the other 200 - with ancillary support rooms for receptions and dining. Felixstowe's new Dining Hall is becoming more and more popular with both lodges and outside organisations. Coupling these with significant developments at both Lowestoft and Framlingham Centres I am confident we are making inroads into this important challenge."

He went on to list the Suffolk Brethren who received Grand Honours: WBros Phillip Covell (Provincial Group Representative for Group 7) and David Deal (Provincial GDC) both appointed Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. Promotions were VWBro David Harries (Deputy PGM) Past Grand Sword Bearer and WBro John Frew (Past Provincial GDC and Group Representative) Past Junior Grand Deacon. For services outside Suffolk, WBro James Thom, QC was re-appointed Deputy Grand Registrar. On behalf of everyone present, I congratulate you all.

He thanked WBros Ron Hanton and Nigel Gregory, Provincial Senior and Junior Grand Wardens respectively for 2012/13, who have just retired. Over the last twelve months they had given, he said: "unstinting service throughout the Province, by representing myself at the vast majority of Lodge Installation Ceremonies. May I also ask them to convey my thanks to their wives for their solid support."

He added: "There have also been the following changes within the Executive. WBro



The Deputy Provincial Grand Master presents a cheque to the PGM on behalf of all the Suffolk Lodges.

John Rice, Provincial Group Representative for Sudbury, retired this month after a very successful 7 years in Office and I am delighted he has recently accepted becoming APGM and will be installed and invested in July. WBro John Sharp, Past Provincial Grand Treasurer, has succeeded him. WBro Andrew Sleath, Editor of the Suffolk Annual Year Book, is also retiring following the publication of the 2013/14 edition. He has served in this Office for some 12 years - and has given tremendous service and achieved such a high standard of accuracy in this invaluable publication. His successor will be announced shortly."

Concluding, he thanked the Deputy and Assistant PGMs for their invaluable support and commitment over the year, the Provincial Grand Secretary and Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and their respective teams for organising today's meeting not forgetting the very significant contribution given by the members of the Suffolk Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge, in the detailed arrangements for the Meeting.

Finally, he thanked the Brethren for the support they had given him over the last nine years as Provincial Grand Master. He added: "I have enjoyed every moment of it and have made so many good friends. They say: 'small is beautiful' - a sentiment I totally endorse. We may only be relatively small in number compared to some other Provinces but our achievements over the years have been outstanding. I have every confidence this will continue under the leadership of the PGM Designate, WBro Ian Yeldham, and I wish him and yourselves every success for the future."

The Brethren of the Province showed their appreciation of the PGM, not only in their applause, but more tangibly by the presentation by VWBro David Harries Deputy PGM of a cheque and a new apron while WBro Mac Speake presented him with an engraved decanter on behalf of the Almoners of the Province.

The Brethren then retired to a Festive Board which fully met the standards of the event.

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LODGE PRINCE OF WALES

LODGE 'PRINCE OF WALES' No 959 CELEBRATED IT'S 150th OR SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY with a special meeting at which we were honoured by the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, David Harries. *(reports Lodge Secretary David Lewis).*

In an address written and presented by WBro Les. Miller, the full history of the Lodge was explained, including the building of the first Masonic Hall in Ipswich, entirely funded by the Lodges' Founding Fathers.

Although the venture shortly ended in bankruptcy with the building being taken over by the Ipswich Conservative Association, who still occupy it to this day, the current Masonic Hall in Soane Street

is still furnished by many of the artefacts provided by those early Lodge members and which benefit all lodges meeting in Ipswich. We were pleased to welcome representatives from our Mother Lodge, Perfect Friendship No 376, our Daughter Lodges, Stour Valley No 1224, Arnold No 1799, Christchurch No 6829, attached Chapter Royal Alexandra No 959 and two other Prince of Wales Lodges with whom special friendships have built up, No 951 from Stow-on-the-Wold and No 1705 in Gosport.

Presentation booklets were given to all those in attendance followed by a sumptuous six course meal prepared by our Caterers, including the well received 'Prince of Wales Pudding'.



WBros Bob Good (Royal Alexandra Chapter 959) Alan Howarth (Christchurch No6829) John Adams (Arnold 1799) Bob Harvey (Perfect Friendship 376) David Harries (Deputy PGM) Simon Copley (Prince of Wales 959) Trevor Conduit (Prince of Wales 1705 Gosport) Ian Chase (Prince of Wales 1705 Gosport) Simon Moore (Prince of Wales 951 Stow) Robert Dewbery (Prince of Wales 951 Stow).

TREADAWAY BOOKMARKS

When WBro Eric Treadaway was installed as Master of Composite Lodge 9480, his step daughter Lyn offered to do something for him to raise money for his chosen charity, Icanho Brain Rehabilitation Centre based at Stowmarket. Eric and wife Jan came up with the idea of cross stitching bookmarks for a ladies lunch, so the fingers started working.

After spending 10 hours, doing 2,225 stitches on each bookmark, making 60,075 stitches altogether, they were able to present the 27 Ladies with their bookmarks at the lunch, which the ladies were pleased to receive, with many commenting on the quality of work. She is now starting a clock for the raffle for Ladies Night.



APOLLO LODGE 305



THE MASONIC LODGE WHICH MEETS AT BECCLES. Apollo No 305 has recently presented donations to Prostate Cancer UK for £500 and to The Starlight Children's Foundation for £1,500.

The Lodge, which was founded over 200 years ago, regularly donates sums to worthy causes and this year is no exception. The photograph shows Worshipful Brother Reg Sampson handing over a cheque to John Snell on behalf of Prostate Cancer UK who commended the Lodge's fundraising efforts.

The Starlight Children's Foundation aim is to brighten the lives of seriously and terminally ill children by granting their wishes and providing entertainment in hospitals and hospices throughout the UK.

Apollo Lodge has also previously supported the East Anglian Children's Hospice in Ipswich together with other more local worthy causes.

FIFTY YEAR CERTIFICATE



WBro. Jack Earwaker being presented with his 50 year certificate by the Pro. Grand Master on the 13th February 2013 exactly 50 years to the day he joined St Lukes Lodge. Jack has been a master and a secretary of his lodge, a warden of the Province, a trustee of the Ipswich Masonic Hall, a founder and a master of Rotary Lodge of Suffolk, and a past First Principal of St. Lukes Chapter.

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SESQUICENTENNIAL



WAVENEY LODGE 929 CELEBRATED ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL MEETING ON JANUARY 4th 2013.

The RWPGM was in attendance along with 90 other Brethren to join in the celebrations on this very special occasion. A ceremony of initiation was the business of the day and it was performed to the usual high standard to a very full Temple. The candidate Bro. Ian Gregory said he was truly honoured and impressed to become a member of such an old Lodge. After the meeting the Brethren retired to Broome village hall where a fine festive board was held. A special anniversary cake had been made for the occasion and all who attended received an anniversary gift of the Lodge crest cufflinks or an engraved pen. When proceedings ended the RWPGM and WM were piped out of the festive board by WBro. A. Nicholls on his bagpipes.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WAVENEY LODGE.

It was Consecrated on December 29th 1862. The sponsoring mother Lodge being Faithful Lodge 85 which meets at Harleston Norfolk. The following Brethren were the first officers of the Lodge

- WM W. Leedes Fox. (Past Master of Faithful Lodge) then to become D.P.G.M. (Norfolk)
 - SW E.B.Adams. (Surgeon)
 - JW WM Swann. (Bank Clerk)
 - SD G. Capon. (Farmer)
 - JD P. Bedingfield. (Army Officer)
 - IG John Taylor. (Perfumier)
- Bro. Swann was also appointed. **Secretary and Treasurer.**

The Provincial Grand Master, the RW Bro. Colonel Robert Alexander Shafto Adair, assisted by the Provincial Grand Officers performed the ceremony of Consecration. WBro. Leedes Fox was then installed as the first Master of Lodge Waveney1231, (the number was changed in 1865 to 929). The RW PGM became Lord Waveney in 1869. He was great-uncle to the RW Bro. Major General Sir Allan Shafto Adair, DGM, who was made Master of Waveney Lodge in 1940.

The Volume of the Sacred Law is perhaps

Waveney's most valuable possession. It is a "Geneva" Bible, or more familiarly a "Breeches" Bible, dated 1597; the seventh verse of Genesis Chapter Three reads, "They sewed leaves together and made themselves breeches."

Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Corn Hall, Bungay, in July 1869. This must have been an auspicious occasion for Waveney Lodge, for the hall was decorated with banners, bunting, and ribbons, the Church bells were rung and the Band of the Fourth Suffolk's was hired to play at the banquet. Seven members of the Lodge were presented with Provincial honours and 200 dined. Waveney Lodge was host to Provincial Grand Lodge again in 1921. The meeting was held in the Congregational Sunday School Rooms.

Waveney Lodge celebrated its Centenary in 1962. The meeting presided over by WBro. Dr JCH Maidment. Among the one hundred and sixty eight diners there were fifteen Grand Officers including: the RW Assistant Grand Master, Major General Sir Allan Adair, Bt., the RW Provincial Grand Master, the Rt.Hon. the Earl of Stradbroke, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro. CE Grimwood, the Provincial Grand Secretary WBro. G.B. Riddell.

There have been long serving Officers in Waveney Lodge, Bro. J. Norman was the first Initiate into Waveney Lodge No. 1231 and became Tyler in 1864 until Feb 1906 when Bro. W. Norman took over until Feb 1926.

The long serving secretaries have been: WBro. HS Hall PGP 1938-1950, WBro. CC Rumsby PAGDC 1950-1966, WBro. AH Ambrose PPGW 1966-1985, WBro. EWhitlam PPJGW 1986-2008.

From a diary history they were very busy in that first year.

3rd Sept 1862 Issue of Warrant. Waveney Lodge 1231

4th Nov 1862 Emergency Meeting 2 Initiates.

1st Dec 1862 3 Initiates.

22nd Dec 1862 Initiates, 1 joining member.

29th Dec 1862 Consecration 1 joining member.

5th Jan 1863 Passings, 1 Initiate, 1 joining member.

3rd Feb 1863 3 Raisings, 1 Initiate, 1 joining member.

3rd Mar 1863 Passings, guests acting as WM and SW.

6th Apr 1863 Raisings, 1 Joining member.

5th May 1863 Last meeting as 1231, 1 Raising, 1 Passing

2nd Jun 1863 1 Raising, 1 Initiate.

6th Oct 1863 First meeting as No. 929, 1 Passing.

2nd Nov 1863 Installation of WM Swann, 2 Initiations.



600 MEETING

WM Tony Wooderson reports that...

IONIC LODGE 5922 CELEBRATED IT'S 600th MEETING ON 11th DECEMBER (CONSECRATED 8th MARCH 1944), WITH A WHITE TABLE EVENING FOR OUR LADIES WITH MUSIC FROM THE IPSWICH HOSPITAL BRASS ENSEMBLE.

Also we had a couple of cakes provided by our Chief Steward's sister - made by Anita and decorated by her husband David.



GOLF DAY

THE PROV. GRAND MASTERS GOLF DAY was held at Hintlesham Golf Club on Thursday 9th July.

A presentation was made to WBro. Barry Lloyd, Phoenix Lodge 516 who received the trophy from our Prov. Grand Master.

BOOTS AND BLUE JEANS

EARLIER THIS YEAR KEN HOPE, OF FELIX UNITED SERVICE LODGE 3833 together with his wife Anna, were on holiday visiting a friend, WBro Terry Owens, who is Worshipful Master of The Brookshire Lodge 1066 which is celebrating its centenary this year.

As part of the celebrations, a "Boots and Blue Jeans" night was held in Katy, Texas, when Ken (pictured left) was pleased to be able to present an engraved gavel to The Most Worshipful, Walter W. Rogers, the Grand Master of Texas.



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THE MASONIC CENTRE AT SUDBURY

THE SUDBURY MASONIC HALL STANDS IN A PROMINENT POSITION ON ONE OF THE MAIN ROADS ENTERING THE BUSY MARKET TOWN OF SUDBURY. The fact that it is still standing there at all and in ownership of Sudbury Freemasons, is in no small measure down to the hard work and dedication of W.Bro. Peter Clayton PPSGW.

Peter has been a member of Stour Valley Lodge no. 1224 since 1963, of which the last 30 years or so have been spent in supervising and ensuring that the Masonic Hall is maintained to the highest levels of safety and comfort and as a first class meeting place for Sudbury Masons.

He has served in many positions within the various groups with responsibility for the Hall, but most significantly and, indeed for most of those years, as both the executive Vice Chairman of the Management Committee and as the Secretary to the Hall Trustees.

As such he has provided leadership and vision in planning, re-investment and

carrying through refurbishments to ensure that the Hall is maintained to the highest standards, even within the strictly limited budgets and rising costs that are such a feature of life today.

Having recently announced his retirement, he was presented with a magnificent cut-glass decanter with 6 matching glasses and tray, at a recent meeting of his Stour Valley Lodge. Each of the glasses was individually engraved with the names and crest of each of the Lodges that meet at Sudbury, the members of whom had generously contributed to the gift.

The APMG, WBro Ian Yeldham, who made the presentation, spoke of the dedication, experience, and sheer bloody mindedness that Bro Peter had brought to the often onerous task of keeping the Hall not only up to standard, but as an emblem of Masonry in Sudbury.

In response, Peter thanked the Brethren for the gift, and said that he was mindful that nothing at all could have been achieved without the very many other Brethren who had both assisted and

worked with him at some time or another during all those years. For although the road had been long, the journey had been most enjoyable and he was sure that the destination had been fully worth the effort. He then offered his best wishes to those Brethren who were continuing in the work.

WBro Peter Clayton was awarded the Order of Merit by the PGM, and was invested at the Provincial Grand Lodge's Meeting on 31st May.



WBro. Peter Clayton PPSGW receiving presentation from the APMG, WBro. Ian Yeldham PSGD (Eng)

Dear Sir,
Teddy Bears

I recently had some surgery in the Ipswich Hospital. Whilst in the recovery ward and awaiting transfer to an overnight ward, a young boy of 5-6 years old was brought in, still under the influence of the anaesthetic. Sitting on the bottom of his bed was a Teddy Bear wearing a bright red coat. Questioning the nurses about it, they said it was given by Freemasons and that they have proved very useful for the younger patients. I asked to see it and sure enough there was a label attached saying "Given by local Freemasons.."

It was good to see one of our Teddy Bears in "action" and to know that they are appreciated both by patients and hospital staff.

Yours S & F, WBro Forbes Powrie,
Lodge of Perfect Friendship 376

FUN RUN

BABERGH LODGE JUNIOR WARDEN, ROBERT WADE, a veteran sailor who was aboard HMS Antrim during the Falklands conflict, completed the 5 miles Sudbury 'Good Friday Fun Run' in his record time of 58 min. 19 sec. The presentation was given to the Local Royal British Legion (RBL) Chairman, Mr Stuart Hume. It was for £515.00 and for the RLB 'Battle Back Centre' at Lilleshall.



ST MARGARETS FAMILY BUSINESS

THE WM OF ST MARGARETS LODGE 1452 AT LOWESTOFT, WBro BRUCE SOUTER KINDLY ALLOWED PHIL FARNELL TO INSTALL HIS SON, WILL, INTO THE CHAIR OF THE LODGE.

The new WM later invested his father as Treasurer and his brother Steve as Director of Ceremonies.



The WM of St Margarets Lodge No 1452 Will Farnell with his father Phil (left) and his brother Steve (right) following his Installation.

ANOTHER RECORD ATTENDANCE FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHOOT

The sixth annual Suffolk Provincial Charity Clay Shoot was again held at the John Bidwell International Shooting School at Hinton.

The event attracted sportsmen and women from several other Provinces and 76 signed in on the day, the highest ever figure achieved by the organisers and 43 of the shooters were Masons.

The guests were split into two groups of either experienced shooters or novices. The novice group totalled 15 people and they were coached by Matt Cutting.

Everyone was soon out at the various stands and blasting away in the 50 bird Individual Sporting Event for the experienced chaps and the novices enjoyed some training before participating in a 30 bird Novice Competition.



Our PGM agreed once again to present the prizes and he thanked The Two Rs for organising the successful event. Our picture shows Ian Yeldham performing at the Duck Flush with his own personal loader John Rice

A date for 2014 will soon be arranged and it will be communicated to all who have expressed interest.

BABERGH LODGE HAS KNEES UP!

It resembled the finals of a 'Butlins' Knobbly knees competition at the Babergh Lodge Burns Night in January.



This now regular event was yet again a full house for Hall Steward, W Bro. Thorogood, and his Sudbury Masonic Hall team, as they attempted to deal with the 140 brethren, wives friends and partners that thronged this popular 'White Table' Festive Board Burns Night.

Babergh Lodge had persuaded many to attend rigged out in the appropriate attire for a 'Burns Night' and the results can be seen here. For some though the thought of even more public exposure, tempted a few to avoid the flash of the camera, and head for the Scotch dispensing area. Next year's event will be on the 22nd Jan. and bookings will be taken now.

BILL RETIRES AFTER 15 YEARS



Bill Hagger who has recently retired from his 15 years of voluntary work in the Provincial Office pictured with all the Secretaries who he assisted during that time. From l to r Barry Rackham, David Clarke, Bill Hagger, Barry Ross, and David Harries.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER 9th May

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER WAS HELD IN THE "BEDOUIN" STYLE SURROUNDINGS OF GRESHAM'S IN IPSWICH. Among the guests welcomed by the Provincial Grand Superintendent, EComp David Boswell, was the Third Grand Principal, MEComp David Kenneth Williamson. Later in the afternoon, the Third Grand Principal delivered an address to the Companions which was warmly received. (The full text can be found on the PGC website www.suffolkpgc.co.uk).

The meeting followed the agenda of Provincial business and the Appointment and Investment of Provincial Officers, present and past. In his subsequent address, the Provincial Grand Superintendent congratulated all those honoured both as a reward for their past services and achievements and also for their future commitment to take forward and to promote the Royal Arch. He particularly congratulated EComp Nick Berry, formerly Provincial Scribe E and now appointed Provincial Second Grand Principal. He also thanked the outgoing Second Grand Principal, EComp Mike

Richards for his support during his time in office and wished him continuing success as Master of Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge and Graft Representative for Group 9.

He was pleased to note the slight increase in membership for the Province, which he described as the final step in the Craft journey. He said that membership should be enjoyed rather than endured and that it was only through enjoying it ourselves that we could convince Craft members to join us. He noted that 40% of Craft members in Suffolk were members of the Royal Arch – a figure which some other Provinces would see as an enviable target!

He urged all to view the new Provincial RA web site which he planned would become a prime source of information for all Suffolk RA masons.

He thanked all who had been involved in promoting the SGC 2013 Appeal, particularly mentioning the work of the Deputy Grand Superintendent, EComp Mike Caddock, EComp Richard Strutt and the outgoing Charity Steward, EComp John Laverock. He also encouraged all to attend our celebration of the Bicentenary at Gresham's on 26th October 2013.



EComp Nick Berry, Provincial Second Grand Principal

He also thanked EComp Terry Lewis and the team from First Principals' Chapter for the demonstrations of the Passing of the Veils Ceremony. All superbly presented and well worth viewing.

He noted the retirement of RWBro Barry Ross as Provincial Grand Master and thanked him for his personal support and for his support of the Royal Arch in Suffolk, and welcomed his successor, WBro Ian Yeldham, as the new Provincial Grand Master designate.

He congratulated those who had received or been promoted in Grand Rank – EComp Colin Birbeck who has been appointed PGStdB as well as becoming Provincial Scribe E, EComps Gil Corbett and John Yeldham, both promoted to PAGSoj. He warmly congratulated EComps John Edmonds and Val Overett who has achieved 50 years in the Royal Arch and EComp Michael Belcher who has attained 60 years – an accomplishment few achieve.

The Chapter was closed, the Companions retired only to gather once more for a most enjoyable meal.



Third Grand Principal David Williamson (right) with the Grand Superintendent for Suffolk David Boswell



ST LUKE'S SPECIAL DAY

IN RECENT YEARS THE MEMBERSHIP OF ST LUKE'S CHAPTER HAS DECLINED STEADILY due to its older members resigning for health, travel and the inevitable passing to the Grand Lodge above. In order to halt this decline they invited a selected group of Master Masons to come along after the formal business of the day to presentations on the history of the RA, the Chapter's history and what we are all about. This was covered by a number of members finally ending with a resounding presentation from EComp Jeremy Ferinos-Taylor, our Third Principal, and a relatively young and very keen RA mason on what the RA meant to him and how he had found it to be.

The meeting was honoured by the presence of 13 members of the Provincial Executive including EComps David Boswell and Michael Caddock, Provincial Grand Superintendent and Deputy Provincial Grand Superintendent respectively.

During the business of the Chapter, EComp Boswell asked EComp Neville Warnes, First Principal of Triune Chapter, to present the First Principal of St Luke's Chapter, with the Goblets that the PGS had given to the Province to promote visiting. The photograph shows the Grand Superintendent taking wine with the Principals of St Luke's Chapter at the buffet that completed the evening. They were then invited to attend the meeting of Priory Chapter one week later to in turn present the goblets to the First Principal of that Chapter.

How successful the initiative finally proves is a matter of time but initially five MMs decided to apply for membership.



LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE



THE PROVINCIAL GRAND SUPERINTENDENT, ECOMP DAVID BOSWELL, SURPRISED MANY AT THE INSTALLATION MEETING OF THE CHAPTER OF WISDOM IN IPSWICH IN FEBRUARY when, having been offered the conduct of the Chapter by the outgoing First Principal, EComp Peter Peck, not only took the chair but, with the support of other senior provincial officers, proceeded to install the new First and Second Principals, EComps Nick Le-Grys and James Fry.

The ceremonies were conducted by the Grand Superintendent and the Deputy Grand Superintendent, EComp Michael Caddock. The new Third Principal was

unfortunately unwell and unable to attend so the Installing Officer, the Provincial Third Grand Principal, EComp Geoffrey Spencer, had an easy ceremony leaving James Fry to conduct the ceremony at the next meeting.

All present were impressed with the Installation ceremonies which were conducted to the very highest standards and included the Grand Superintendent delivering the address to the Principals, an innovation for this Chapter.

The meeting was followed by a most enjoyable Festive Board with David Boswell taking wine with the Principals using the travelling goblets which had been brought along by their previous holders.



Ancient & Accepted Rite for England and Wales and its Districts and Chapters Overseas District of Suffolk

The Rose Croix District of Suffolk has a new website which may be found at www.suffolkdistrictrc.com

The website contains details of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, the District of Suffolk and in addition each Chapter in the District has its own dedicated page. Also there is a page of images related to the Order which should prove interesting to all Freemasons. Information about District Functions can also be found on the site and those wishing further information about the District Sunday Lunch and the Annual Church Service can request further information through the contact page.

The District has also been very lucky to have been selected to fill a gap in the King Edward VII Chapter of Improvement diary, who will be travelling to Suffolk in June 2015 to give a demonstration of the 50 and 60 of the Ancient and Accepted Rite. This is a great honour for the District and further information will be available in the near future

COLONIAL POLICEMAN SETTLES FOR A FRESH 'POT'

MARCH THE 23RD 2013 WAS A MEMORABLE DATE FOR WBRO. KEVIN WILKINSON. He is the current Chaplain of Babergh Lodge 8122 in Sudbury. It marked exactly 50 years since his Initiation. This was an Initiation the more remarkable because it had taken place in the fiercely patriotic, St George Lodge. Not the one in Gillingham, or even the one in Warwick, but No. 7763 EC, the one in Blantyre Malawi (although the Directory of Lodges list it as being Zimbabwe).



One of Nyasaland Polices' Finest

It was as a very keen officer that young Wilkinson 'browned' his knees serving with the Nyasaland Police in his 'Empire Builder Shorts'.

A serving colleague correctly surmised that Kevin would make excellent fraternal material, and how right he was! WBro. Wilkinson remained with his mother



A Wewak Bobby

lodge for some 7 years, even though he spent a year as a member of Sepik Lodge No. 498 in Wewak in New Guinea and operates under the United Grand Lodge of Queensland. During this period he was serving with the Royal Papua & New Guinea Constabulary.

On the eventual return to the homeland Kevin joined his old school lodge of Old Tauntonian (London) No. 5735.

Having moved to Sudbury it was a great blessing for Babergh Lodge that a serving

lodge member, WBro. Arthur Brown, discovered Kevin during a mutual interest in choral work. His proposal into No. 8122 quickly following in September 1996.

Little persuasion was necessary to take office was deemed necessary as Bro. Wilkinson happily accepted the Chaplain's role and progressed onwards, finally becoming Master of Babergh Lodge in 2002. A move to Stroud in Gloucestershire in 2003, and the distances involved, has seen this resourceful brother happy to continue with the Chaplaincy post. Such continuous involvement at such inconvenience, and his ability to present lengthy pieces of ritual such as the 1st Degree Tracing Board, resulted in his promotion to PAGDC in 2009.

To celebrate these 50 years, Babergh Lodge orchestrated a double event for their March meeting. For not only did WBro Kevin take the WM's Gavel for the evening, but at the end of proceedings WBro. Thomas the Master of the Lodge presented an engraved tankard, or 'POT' from all the lodge members. Following this, the APGM, WBro. Ian Yeldham, rose to give an excellent resume of Kevin's Masonic history and culminated by presenting the Provincial 50 year Certificate.



APGM WBro. Yeldham, WBro. Wilkinson, W Bro. Thomas.

PHOTOGRAPHER

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