



FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Winter 2013



AIR AMBULANCE

SEE PAGE 3

Editor's notes



A new year beckons and we all hope for a drier and more prosperous one.

As well as the Team's best wishes to all for the year ahead we would like to thank all our advertisers for their support in the last twelve months and all those who have contributed stories for the magazine. To those who did not send anything in, I am sure that you do have a story or two which would interest the rest of the Province. This could be an innovative charity drive, a successful event, an opinion we can include as a letter, a special celebration, and so on. If you need advice, please contact me or others on the editorial team but whatever you do please let us have a report. If it's something you talked about with others in the Lodge, Chapter or whatever, then it might interest others. Let's make it a bumper year for Forum contributions!

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

Printed by:

Boswells Printers, Ipswich

Website:

www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk



JOTTINGS FROM THE P.G. Secretary

WELCOME TO THE WINTER EDITION OF FORUM.

There has been much happening in the last six months and much to look forward to in the next.

The Provincial Grand Almoner, WBro Dr M D Speake has appointed nine Group Almoners who will attend Grand Charity to be briefed on the great changes to take place in State Benefits in 2013. These will be followed by Lodge Almoners Meetings in Feb/Mar 2013.

The Provincial Mentor, WBro K W Huxley, continues to promote the role of the Lodge Mentor and Personal Mentor at meetings he is holding with each of the nine Provincial Groups in the Province. Invitations to these meetings, which will conclude in the New Year, extend to Lodge Secretaries, Director of Ceremonies and Preceptors of each Lodge of Instruction with a view to promoting Recruitment, Retention and Retrieval as key awareness initiatives.

The Provincial Grand Master's Reception for Ruling Masters, Acting Provincial Officers and their partners was held at St John's Masonic Hall Felixstowe on 25th November. It was a most successful and enjoyable occasion attracting a record attendance.

The Annual Provincial Meeting will again be at Royal Hospital School at Holbrook on 31st May 2013. The

booking form can be found in this copy of Forum. I urge brethren wishing to dine to complete and send in the form by return as places for dinner are always over-subscribed.

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro I B J Ross is to retire after a very successful nine years in Office following the Provincial Meeting at Holbrook. His successor is to be WBro I J Yeldham, SGD (Eng.), APGM who is to be installed as Provincial Grand Master on 11th July 2013 at Trinity Park, Suffolk Showground, Ipswich. Details of the Installation Meeting will be advised once arrangements are confirmed with Grand Lodge.

I would like to thank all members of the Provincial Office Secretariat including WBro Geoff Spencer who has recently joined the team along with the Editor of Forum and the Information Officer who do so much work voluntarily behind the scenes.

Pictured is Bill Hagger who is retiring from his duties in the Provincial Office after 15 years loyal service. WBro Bill's commitment to the Province has been exemplary and he will be much missed.



David Clarke - Provincial Grand Secretary

Our Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies'



OUR PROVINCIAL GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES,

David Deal, spent his working career on board ship progressing from Catering Boy to Senior Purser when he retired. These skills have been usefully transferred to the Masonic Hall at Felixstowe where he assists in running the Bar and also acts as Treasurer.

David joined Freemasonry when he was initiated into his Father's Lodge, St Margarets, No 5168, in Essex in 1977. He later joined Felix United Service Lodge and was WM in 1992.

He was appointed Acting Assistant DC in 1999, Deputy DC in 2004/5, Senior Grand Warden in 2008 and Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2011.

David has been married to Patricia for 42 years. They have two sons and four grandchildren.

Hobbies include supporting Tottenham Hotspurs and "plane spotting"

Dates for your Diary

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

Annual Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting

Friday, 31st May 2013 - RHS, Holbrook

Installation of

WBro IJ Yeldham, SGD(Eng.), APGM, as Provincial Grand Master

Thursday 11th July 2013 at Trinity Park, Suffolk Showground.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER

Annual Provincial Grand Chapter meeting

Thursday, 9th May 2013 - Gresham's Social Club, Ipswich

Bicentenary Ball

Saturday 26th October 2013 - Gresham's Social Club, Ipswich

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 8th December 2013

PRESENTATION TO AIR AMBULANCE

ON THE 17TH OF JULY, Suffolk Freemasons presented East Anglian Air Ambulance with a grant of £4000 from the Grand Charity. This is part of a total of over £1,000,000 that has been donated to these services since 2007. Every Air Ambulance charity in England and Wales has received funding.

Air Ambulances fly over 19,000 missions every year and are without doubt one of the busiest of voluntary services. Their costs are met almost entirely from donations.

This will be a very special year for the East Anglian Air Ambulance as they will

be the first in England and Wales to undertake night flying. This will involve very special training for the crews in order to gain experience in the use of the special night flying equipment.

Speaking about the donation, the Provincial Grand Master, 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, especially as the East Anglian Air Service will now be undertaking night flying operations."

Suffolk Masons and the Grand Charity are delighted to, once again, be contributing to the continued provision of this excellent service and we Suffolk Masons would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the East Anglian Air Ambulance team for all that they undertake on our behalf.

The front cover picture shows the PGM presenting the Grand Lodge cheque to Dr Tom Moore, who is one of the medical team currently with the Air Ambulance.

Dr Tom Moore is one of the first to be trained for the night flying service.

Ipswich Heritage Open Day

ON SATURDAY, 8th SEPTEMBER 2012, Masonic Hall Ipswich Ltd, the company responsible for the administration and management of Ipswich's Freemasons Hall, once again opened up Freemasons' Hall in Soane Street to the public from 10.30am to 4.00pm. This was done as our contribution to Ipswich's Heritage Open Day when local buildings of historical and architectural interest are opened for the public to informally visit and see what lies behind doors that are normally closed to them. This is the very positive contribution that the directors of Masonic Hall Ipswich Ltd feel that they are making to enlighten the public at large to the truth about Freemasonry and the very positive contribution that Freemasonry and Freemasons make to society at large.

Once again the venture proved to be a great success and certainly did a great deal to blow away the misconceptions that many people still harbour regarding the part that Freemasonry plays in our society. Some 230 individuals, mostly members of the population of Ipswich, were given a conducted tour of the main rooms of the building. The Temple, in particular, was much admired and the overwhelming opinion was that we have custody of a beautiful building. Our visitors, by and large, were extremely grateful for the opportunity to be shown round and were amazed to find that our Grand Charity was the second largest donor

organisation in the country after the National Lottery. They were similarly surprised at the extent of our charity with regard to non-masonic organisations. They were likewise delighted to have their questions about the nature of Freemasonry answered in a frank and open manner.

WBro Arthur Tydeman, who organised the Open Day, and provided an information sheet for the visitors, had set up an exhibition in the Robing Room which laid great emphasis on the charitable aspects of Freemasonry. This included detail of the contribution (more than £170,000) by Suffolk Freemasons to the Treehouse Appeal with pictures of the Provincial Grand Master handing over cheques to the CEO of East Anglian Childrens Hospices. The example of the masonic Teddies that we provide for children admitted to the A & E Dept of Heath Road Hospital was much admired. Details of our national support for causes like Air Ambulance - over £1,000,000 since 2007; Parkinsons Research - £250,000; the Hospice movement - £9.3million since 1984; Emergency Relief Grants, eg Pakistan Flood Relief, Haiti Hurricane Relief, etc, altogether totalling some £2.657million in 2011 made considerable impact. Especially when it was pointed out, using items from Forum, that these national contributions were being backed up by local initiatives providing assistance to good causes at local level.

A number of visitors were very pleased to be able to make enquiries

via our archives and obtain information about relatives and ancestors who had been local Freemasons and their role in the organisation.

The opportunity was also taken to emphasise that the facilities of Freemasons Hall were not solely for the enjoyment of Ipswich Freemasons. Freemasons Hall was available for hire for appropriate use and was meant to be seen as part of Ipswich's wider architectural heritage. The population of Ipswich were certainly welcome to share it with us. For our part, we recognise the need to make Freemasons Hall more commercially successful in order to safeguard its future and the future of Ipswich Freemasonry.

The success of the Open Day would not have been possible without the enthusiastic and willing assistance of the following Brethren who gave of their time and acted as Stewards. WBros Jim Spence, Kelvin Larcombe, Forbes Powrie, Peter Bridle, Paul Ketteringham, Maurice Thick, Harry Watson, Bruce Davies, John Jarman and Bros David Mullett and Mark Berry. Our thanks are also due to W/Bro Harry Watson, the Managing Director of Masonic Hall Ipswich for photocopying the visitor information sheets.

Harry Watson said after the last visitor had gone: "It has undoubtedly been a very tiring day for all us who took part, but there is absolutely no doubt that all our visitors have gone away very much better informed about Freemasonry and this can only be for the good of Freemasonry."

PHOTOGRAPHER

PETER GREEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Capture the fun at your Ladies Night with quality photography, delivered instantly.
No fee for attendance, and donation to charity if a charitable event.

ADD to the entertainment on the night
Contact Peter Green on

01449 736910 or 07850 756168

E mail petegreen.900@btinternet.com



East Anglia Regalia

FOR YOUR EVERY MASONIC REQUIREMENT

Tel/Fax: 01449 741171 Mobile: 07515033125

www.eastangliaregalia.co.uk

BEST QUALITY AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

Regalia, Banners, Jewels, Books,
Furniture, Gifts and Alterations



"Make Your Ladies Night A Special One"

Book Il Tenore to Perform Your
Ladies Song

Il Tenore

"You made our Ladies Night truly unforgettable, everyone was talking about your performance on the night and I am still getting brilliant responses, all of which say how they thought you were fabulous"
David Lodge

Contact : www.iltenore.net
Email: iltenore@btinternet.com

Il Tenore is a Member of Operative Lodge No 2122 and a Member of
The "The Guild of Master Craftsmen"

unionstgarage.com

MERCEDES BENZ & SMART car specialist

Union St Garage is based in Stowmarket, Suffolk, situated a few minutes walk from the railway station. We are trusted by individuals and professionals to care for their cars at a competitive price.



"If you live in Suffolk and drive a Mercedes or SMART car, then we are the garage for you."

Call us today for friendly, expert advice on
01449 675 617
or visit our website at www.unionstgarage.com

FREE collection & delivery service
within approximately 25 miles of Stowmarket, Suffolk.

30 years of experience



SMART car specialists

SERVICE PRICES START FROM £117 including VAT
Courtesy car available if required. Telephone 01449 675 617 or
CHECK OUT OUR HIGHLY COMPETITIVE SERVICE PRICES at www.unionstgarage.com

CRIMESTOPPERS VOLUNTEER GOES THE EXTRA MILE AND RAISES £900 FOR THE CHARITY



A PROACTIVE Crimestoppers volunteer from Haverhill, Suffolk, has driven from Lands End to John O'Groats in a Crimestoppers branded car to raise much needed funds for the independent crime-fighting charity.

Eldon Mackridge, Secretary of Royal Clarence Lodge, No 1823, meeting in Clare, was the fundraiser and Suffolk Crimestoppers volunteer. He turned 75 in September and took on the drive for his birthday. The 850 mile journey from Cornwall to the Scottish Highlands kicked off on 8th September from Lands End and took 3 days to complete.

Prior to the expedition Eldon stayed in a bed and breakfast the night before just 12 miles from the starting point. In an act of utter coincidence the venue, which Eldon chose at random, was owned by someone who used to be chair of an East Midlands Volunteer Committee some years ago. Eldon remarked: "Crimestoppers is such a small charity with only six-hundred volunteers UK wide, so it really was amazing to stumble across another supporter."

The first night was spent in Gloucester and the second night was spent in Perth, with a race to the finish at John O'Groats the next day at 2.30pm.

Crimestoppers Eastern Regional Manager, Ann Scott, said: "This was a great initiative thought up by Eldon. We are so grateful for the lengths our volunteers go to in order to raise our profile. Eldon is raising money for Crimestoppers so that we can continue to fight crime and make a difference in

our community. Many people do not realise that we are an independent charity, but think we are part of the police or the TV programme. We need to raise funds in order to promote the vital anonymous service that we provide and pay the rewards available for information given to us."

She added: "With 23 arrests being made every day from information given to Crimestoppers the charity plays a significant part in getting criminals off the street. The charity has many active and passionate volunteers, like Eldon, who give up their own time to promote the charity. If you would like to support Crimestoppers by volunteering you can find more information by visiting www.crimestoppers-uk.org."

Eldon commented: "I am very pleased with the amount of money raised - you always worry that you won't raise a penny! There is still time to donate and help fight crime in Suffolk. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and I'm already planning my next fundraising adventure."

As a result of this fundraising event The Lands End to John O'Groats Association will be awarding Eldon with a prestigious award for 'Oldest Fundraiser' at their AGM in January.

Suffolk Crimestoppers would like to thank all that donated money via the Just Giving page, the text number and by cash/cheque donations to Eldon. In particular they would like to thank Royal Clarence Charity Association, East & Central Africa Lodge, Pat Hall, David Cousins, Neville Gay, David Cousins and a few anonymous donors. Paragon Signs also kindly branded Eldon's car free of charge. In total Eldon raised over £900.

If you wish to support Eldon's efforts and donate any amount you can spare, please go to www.justgiving.com/SuffolkCrimestoppersDrive.

Letters...

Dear Sir, - New Dawn Scarlet Cord Consistory No. 78.

I wish to bring to you and your readers attention, that the New Dawn Consistory No. 78 of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas was recently consecrated by Very Distinguished Companion Dr John Elmore, District Grand Inspector, and assisted by Officers of Grand Senatus and the Inspectorate of Suffolk. This was held at Freemasons Hall in Soane Street, Ipswich, on 19th June.

permanent meeting place at the Masonic in Framlingham and had our second meeting at which we initiated two new members in the order.

We meet three times a year in the evenings and our details are in the Suffolk Year Book.

Our intention is to service Mid-Suffolk and its Suffolk Coastal towards the north of our area and to give the opportunity to like-minded companions the chance to join with us, in this new and exciting venture in making this new lodge successful.

For your readers information the only requirement is that you must hold the Prince s degree in the Order of The Secret Monitor. If any assistance is required

Donation to EACH
Increasing Children's Hospice Care for Suffolk & North Essex

A SPRING BALL was held at Stoke by Nayland Golf Club arranged by members of Suffolk and Essex Lodges. As well as having a good time themselves they managed to raise £740 for the East Anglia's Children's Hospices.

The photograph shows the cheque presentation with (from left to right) Jo Colbert (EACH), WBro David Dumbrell of Stour Valley Lodge, No 1224, and WBro Graham Poultern of Tollesbury Lodge, No. 4738.



Gift for Relief Grants Director

ON 12TH DECEMBER, after the Quarterly Communications meeting, WBro Roger Freeman, PJGD, Masonic Relief Grants Director at the Grand Charity for the last six years, was presented with an engraved decanter on his retirement by the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Barry Ross, and the Provincial Almoner, WBro Mac Speake, at a lunch at Woolfs Restaurant in Great Queens Street.



MOBILE M.I.G Ltd.

Specialists in

M.I.G, T.I.G & ARC welding

Fabrication in most metals

Wrought Ironwork

Roller Shutters, Security Grilles,

Gates & Railings

Cast iron refurbishment a speciality

For prompt friendly service contact Bob
sales@mobilemig.co.uk www.mobilemig.co.uk

Tel. 01502 512970

Fax. 01502 512971 Mob. 07714 702800

VAT No.777219887
Registered Office
Unit 4 Arnold Street
Lowestoft Suffolk
NR32 1PU
Company Registration
No.04703846
U.T.R No 9142318365



LOW interest rates.

Stockmarkets UNPREDICTABLE.

Portfolios OUT OF BALANCE?



*I can help you get your life
back on track.*

*Call me now for an exploratory meeting
at No Cost and No Obligation.*

*You have nothing to lose and everything
to gain.*

Independent Advice You Can Trust.

Roger Young

Independent Financial Adviser

Guildhall Financial Services

Tel: 01284 723422 Mobile: 07702 686176

email: rogeryoung.ifa@me.com

Considering selling your house?



Give me a call (James Girling)

I shall be only too pleased to help

**We offer an
efficient and
friendly service.**

in Ipswich & Villages (15 Miles)



Colin Girling
& Company Limited

Members of National
Association of Estate Agents,
Also Domestic Energy
Assessors preparing EPC's

Colin Girling and Co Ltd,

19a/21 Gt Colman Street,

Ipswich. IP4 2AN

Tel 01473 252555

email: james@colingirling.co.uk

Hadleigh Freemasons tour Harwich

(from Bro Kelvin Avis of Brett Valley Lodge)



IN SEPTEMBER, members of Brett Valley Lodge, together with their wives spent a very enjoyable day on a 'Guided Walking Tour of Historic Harwich' organised by their WM Bro Robert Barham. After a morning coffee on 'The Halfpenny Pier' we set off around Harwich lead by Tour Guides David and Jackie White, where we learnt that the brewer 'Tolly Cobbold' was originally 'The Harwich Brewery Company', founded by Thomas Cobbold in 1723, but finding a problem with the local water supply moved to its home in Ipswich in 1746. We were also shown the home of Christopher Jones, born in Harwich, who eventually became the master of the 'Mayflower' - the famous ship which in 1620 took settlers to Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Other places visited included the Electric Palace Cinema, the site of the old shipyard, and the Redoubt, an impressive circular fort built to defend the port against a Napoleonic invasion.

All in all the tour by the 'Harwich Society' really is excellent and if like me, you have not been to Harwich lately it is highly recommended!

For more information on these guided walking tours visit www.harwich-society.co.uk/
Photo shows members inside the 'Redoubt' - the Napoleonic Fort at Harwich

Babergh Lodge starts new tradition?

BROTHER DAVID FRIPP and his partner Peggy have started a new tradition in Babergh Lodge with the birth of their son Spencer. This happy event was announced by the Almoner at the September Installation meeting of Babergh Lodge.

Why a new tradition? Well at the 2011 Installation it had been the very pleasant duty of the Lodge Almoner to announce the arrival of Spencer's elder brother Dexter.



The picture shows the happy family unit with the now obligatory Nappy Cake from Babergh Lodge.

It is to be hoped that other lodge members will see this double event as a direct challenge and attempt to continue this fine new Tradition for all future Installations!

Understanding your Horse's Emotions



UNDERSTANDING the emotions of a horse is not a requirement of becoming a good mason but it was a subject that Larry Bensusan of Gainsborough Lodge, No 9332, in Sudbury decided to embark on.

Larry has for nearly 20 years treated horses in the racing industry, police horses, international three-day eventers, dressage horses, show jumpers, driving horses, the famous and the not so famous. He has often wondered what these magnificent beasts were thinking and it was this notion that started his quest for understanding the horse's emotions. He started by looking at the scientific research that recorded how a horse responded to its environment and to us humans, and found some startling characteristics of the horse that are often overlooked by owners and riders.

Larry went on to write a book on the subject *Understanding your Horse's Emotions*, which is published by J A Allen. Larry said, "the book helps the reader take the first steps on a journey of discovery. If we understand the way horses see the world - in every sense of the world - we can unlock the key to their emotions and understand what prompts them to do certain things".

In his next book he suggests that he tackle understanding the emotions of that elite group - the Grand Officers.

TRIANGLE GARAGE



Whapload Road, Lowestoft

"Best Prices in Town"

For all your needs

Servicing
Batteries
Exhausts
Electrical Repairs

M.O.T. Repairs
Clutches
Brakes
Tyres

01502 568860

Advertisement
AtlantisOffice.com
Specialist in Orthopaedic Seating & Office Furniture
FREE DELIVERY ON EVERYTHING. 100's of Products!



**From
£229
+ VAT**

Chiro Plus Executive
Orthopaedic Posture Chair.
Heavy Duty 24/7
Chiropractor Approved Chair
In Black, Blue or Wine
Without Headrest: £229
With Headrest: £249

**£42.90
+ VAT**

**HEAVY DUTY FABRIC OPERATOR
CHAIR - WITH ARMS**

- Contoured Seat with waterfall front
- Height Adjustable seat
- EN1335 Certification
- LK 685852 Tilt retardant
- Available in Blue, Black or Wine
Fabric



Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:30pm: **0844 854 8730**
24/7 E-Mail: sales@atlantisoffice.com

July 2012 R & G E

www.atlantisoffice.com



SUFFOLK TREE SERVICES LTD

FOR A COMPLETE TREE SURGERY SERVICE

Established since 1988

Council Approved
Free Estimates
Fully insured
24 hr storm damage cover
Precision Felling
Tree Reports and Consultancy
Woodchips for your garden for sale

For all aspects of tree surgery work call

01787 319200

info@suffolktreeservices.co.uk www.suffolktreeservices.co.uk



Provincial Shoot

THE DAY DAWNED BRIGHT AND CLEAR with light winds for the 5th Annual Clay Shoot and this year was the first time the event had carried Provincial status. The first ever Suffolk Provincial Clay Shoot, having received approval from our Provincial Grand Master, was held on Saturday 26th May 2012 again at the John Bidwell Shooting School at Hinton near Saxmundham.

The joint organisers, Roger Nash and Ruffy Ruffles, had launched this fund raising event in 2008 but this year was the first to carry the Provincial accolade and, on this occasion, all of the organisation had been dealt with very effectively by Roger and his wife Jackie as Ruffy had suffered a heart attack earlier in the year.

A record number of 67 shooters including a number of novices took part and several guests attended. Together they helped us raise the sum of £1063.70 for the East Anglia's Children's Hospices. More ladies than ever, and Masons from six other Provinces, joined those from Suffolk together with several non-Masons who came together for another 50 bird individual sporting event with the usual "Nash Special" duck flush after lunch. As always, the duck flush was thoroughly enjoyed by all and new faces featured in



the prizes which were presented by our Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Barry Ross, who attended, for the first time, with his son Simon.

Just to show how successful the shoot is in creating friendships consider this comment from someone who had never been before 2012: "I arrived not knowing anybody and I was quickly made to feel at home and very welcome. I much enjoyed the day." So why not come along next year? If you have never shot before that's not a problem – simply say NOVICE on your entry form and you will be given very special attention by experts in the art.

The date for 2013 is Saturday, 15th June and you are asked to book this date in your diaries now. Further improvements are currently being considered and, for example, the organisers hope to provide novice shooters with their own 30 bird sporting shoot plus tuition from a CPSA coach. We especially wish to see more ladies join us and they too will be given coaching if they have not shot previously. The provision of a barbeque is also currently being considered.

Solea Lodge 100th Meeting



SOLEA LODGE celebrated their 100th meeting at the Bury St Edmunds Masonic Hall on Tuesday 27th November. There was a full house with 77 members and guests present.

The Master WBro Ron Stamp and the Lodge were pleased to have in attendance the following Honorary Members: Robert Tile, John Yeldham, Michael Leighton and Brian Woodall. Also in attendance was WBro M Pettit (a Founder) and several Masters from other Lodges.

The programme for the evening included the Initiation of Bro Oliver Coote, and he was treated to an excellent example of that ceremony. Afterwards he was presented with a Slipper badge by WBro W McColl his seconder into the Lodge. It was emphasised that the original "Slipper Club" founders, WBro's Bullen and Rider were still members of the Lodge and they had produced a booklet which was given to all those present, that evening. Solea Lodge was originally intended to be named the Slipper Lodge, and a pair of slippers appears predominately on the Lodge Banner.

The Festive Board that evening replicated the original menu and was enjoyed by all those attending. Unfortunately, the evening ended on a low point, when WBro Rev Peter Hemingway collapsed at the dining table. He was attended by Paramedics, spent a night in hospital, and has subsequently returned home to rest further.

Hadleigh Masons Cricket Match



ON A BEAUTIFUL AUGUST EVENING Hadleigh Cricket ground was the venue for the annual cricket match between the Lodge of Virtue and Silence and Brett Valley Lodge.

After some initial "toing and froing" with equipment and team selection, the match started with Virtue and Silence batting. Things were going along very smoothly with some smart bowling and quick fielding from Brett Valley and athletic shots from the batsman. At one stage the V & S skipper thought the ball had been swept to the boundary but the BV wicket keeper was indicating that it had gone in the opposite direction.

After twenty overs Virtue and Silence finished on 107 for eight.

Brett Valley came in to bat and made a solid start unfortunately losing an early wicket in the first over. They recovered from this setback and added runs at a steady pace throughout the innings. The last two overs were very tense as their score got nearer the V and S total but the final result was 97 for four.

After the match about seventy players, supporters and families enjoyed an excellent barbeque supper.

Ionic have a busy summer

MEMBERS OF IONIC LODGE had a busy Summer. Included in their schedule was a trip with family and friends to the Tower of London. In September John Adams, Jeff Errington and Simon Glinos joined Worshipful Master, Tony Wooderson, to help with an exhibition stand at the Suffolk Poilce family day.

Gippeswyk Donation to Hallco

JAMIE WHITE, pictured right, WM of Gippeswyk Lodge, No 4254, presents a cheque for over £3,000 to Harry Watson, Chairman of the Ipswich Masonic Hall Ltd. This magnificent donation was received from Brother Scott Hartless, as a donation in memory of his mother, with the money to be used for Hall improvements. Scott was a full member of Gippeswyk Lodge for many years, when he was based at RAF Bentwaters, and continued his membership on his return home to Texas. He has since been made an Honorary member of the Lodge.



ADVENT SERVICE FOR St Margaret's Lodge

ON ADVENT SUNDAY, 2nd December, St Margaret's Lodge, No 1452, held the fortieth Anniversary of their annual Church Service in Saint Margaret's Church at Lowestoft.

The congregation was a mixture of Masons with their wives, partners, families and friends. A special visitor was the PGM and his wife.

Some wonderful sounds to accompany the hymns were conjured from the Church organ by the Lodge Organist WBro John Robbens who will be 90 years young in January.

The readings were given by the WM, WBro Bruce Souter, and the Senior Warden, WBro Will Farnell.

The Revd Michael Asquith, Rector of Saint Margaret's, conducted the service and gave a very interesting and thought provoking sermon.

Following the Service, tea, coffee and cakes created by the Lodge ladies were consumed in the adjacent Church Hall accompanied by a warm hum of conversation.

BARRY'S JOURNEY

ASTORY OF ENDURANCE as related to WBro Mac Speake, Provincial Almoner, and published with the full consent of WBro Barry Cutler, his Daughter and Son.

The journey through which Barry and his family have travelled over the last few years has been, to say the least, difficult.

Because masonic charitable giving is a private matter it rarely comes to the notice of Brethren generally and there are complaints that we give a lot but seem to receive nothing in return. I hope this article will go some way to remedy this.

Barry was a fit young man married to Carol with two children, Diane, now aged 12, and William, now aged 8. They lived in Hadleigh and everything was going well. Barry was employed as a driver and mechanic and Carol was a nurse working at Angelsea Heights in Ipswich. Barry lost his Father at 54, when Barry was 17, from heart trouble. His mother suffered a hereditary condition called polycystic kidneys which resulted in kidney failure necessitating a transplant in 1998 which was successful, but she contracted an infection whilst in hospital and died from it. A few years later Barry was found to have high blood pressure and it was discovered that he had polycystic kidneys as well. Over the next couple of years he went into kidney failure requiring peritoneal dialysis then haemodialysis. During his time on peritoneal dialysis he had an attack of peritonitis and was admitted to hospital on Christmas Eve. He was allowed home on Boxing Day and WBro Jack Clarke, Prov.DGDC happened to be in the hospital visiting someone else, so he brought Barry home. Serendipity? Barry's maternal uncle also has had a kidney transplant for this condition; one of the first performed.

In 2005 Carol developed a mole on her right leg which was extensively removed. All was well for a few of years but in 2010 she developed a swelling in her right groin which proved to be lymphatic spread from the melanoma. This was removed and she had chemotherapy. A subsequent scan showed all was well but a couple of months later she became breathless and scans revealed the tumour had spread extensively. From Carol being Barry's carer he became hers but they really cared for each other.

Carol wanted to go on a last holiday with the children so after Easter 2011 they all went to Butlins and had a wonderful time. Chemotherapy and a trial



drug at Addenbrooks were not successful and she died on 5th August 2011. The Red Cross 'Home from Hospital Scheme' was a great help at this time with the children. Also Carol's Brother died a few months later from Cancer.

Barry had a kidney transplant on 11th December 2011 which has been successful.

In his younger days he was asked to become a trainee golf professional but the pay was poor. He played off 4 and hopes to start again soon. He takes the children match fishing and assists with Speedworth Racing.

He tells me that he has had wonderful support from Freemasonry. WBro Robert Clubb and Bro Paul Smith, DC and Almoner of Court Knoll Lodge, and after the transplant from WBro David Merrygold, Tyler and Mentor of the Lodge. The Treasurer of Brixton Lodge, WBro Bob Lloyd was also a great support and read a lesson at Carol's funeral.

Barry was initiated into Court Knoll Lodge in May 2003 and became Master in 2009. He was subsequently Treasurer. He is the Master of Brixton Lodge meeting at Clerkenwell and has been asked to continue for another year. He is a member of Priory Chapter in Sudbury. In 2009 he helped Robert Baker put the signs out for the Festival celebration..

Barry says that Freemasonry has supported him and his family through renal failure, renal transplant and the death of his wife. He receives a grant from the Freemasons Grand Charity to help with day to day living expenses. The RMTGB assist Diane and William with schooling in Hadleigh by providing help with uniforms, IT and sports equipment, trips and musical instruments. Diane is now a boarder at the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook thanks to the RMTGB and William hopes to go to Orwell Park as a boarder in 2013 then onto RHS.

"All I can say is that I didn't realise the amount of support available from Freemasonry until I needed it. Don't be afraid to ask!"



Suffolk Provincial Grand Chapter Helps Local Heroes



ON TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER the Second Provincial Grand Principal, EComp Mike Richards, accompanied by Comp Peter Green had a meeting with Lt Col Kevin Hodgson OBE at the Royal Anglian Regimental Headquarters in Bury St Edmunds and were delighted to present a cheque for £1,750 on behalf of Provincial Grand Chapter of Suffolk.

The donation will be used by the Benevolent Fund to support bereaved families, severely injured service men and women.

Colonel Hodgson, in thanking Mike Richards said "The First Battalion (The Vikings) have returned from their fourth deployment in Afghanistan and have suffered casualties. Any service men or women injured during the campaign require immediate rehabilitation particularly those who have lost limbs or are blinded by those exploding road side bombs that we hear so much about through the media. Our Benevolent Fund must be able to respond immediately. This donation will go towards that essential work in supporting the troops."

Mike Richards commented: "It was very sobering, but satisfying to know that the Royal Arch Masons of Suffolk are able to relieve the suffering of those brave men & women and their families. The Royal Anglians are the local Regiment and we must not forget the contribution made by the soldiers of Suffolk."

The Masonic Order of Athelstan in England, Wales and its Provinces Overseas.

ON SATURDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER, at the Masonic Hall in Newmarket, the fifth annual meeting of The Provincial Grand Court of the Province of East Anglia took place during which the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Frank Barber GCSM, appointed and invested his Provincial Officers for the year in the presence of the Deputy Grand Master, RWBro David Buxton GHCh GCSM.

Pictured from left to right: WBro. R. Earey ProvSGW, WBro. Lt.Gen. J. Dunkerley PPrSGD, WBro. R. Riches PPrJGW, WBo. R. Emery ProvGTreas., WBro. G. Foulger PPrJGD, WBro. M. Bugge ProvGReg., WBro. N. Le-Grys ProvGSec., VWBro. Dr. C. Ansell GCSM GReg. DepProvGM, RWBro. David Buxton, RWBro. Frank Barber, W&Em.Bro. K. Debenham ProvEmGPrior, WBro. R. Curson PPrSGW, WBro. T.Lewis PPrSGD, WBro. A. Allan DepProvGMar., WBro. P. Cammis ProvJGW, WBro. T. Blackett ProvGMar.



Candlelit Supper

OVER 150 SUFFOLK ROYAL ARCH MASONS, wives and guests met at St John's Hall in Felixstowe to enjoy the candlelit dinner and cabaret



The cabaret was most ably provided by Cameo Opera with a series of popular songs from musicals, operetta and some more serious opera. They sung after each course and even managed to get several prominent members to act as the chorus for A Policeman's Lot from Gilbert and Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance.

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Barry Ross, presented a cheque to the Grand Superintendent, EComp David Boswell for £5,000 for the Supreme Grand Chapter 2013 Bicentenary Appeal for the Royal College of Surgeons. A further donation of over £1,000 was raised on the night mainly from the well-supported raffle.

Among other things, David Boswell thanked the PGM and Suffolk Masons for the generous donation to the 2013 Appeal, everyone present for the great support for the evening, the first of its kind, and EComp Len Howard who, ably supported by his wife, had organised the event.

Retiring after 12 years

ANDREW SLEATH is retiring from his role as Editor of the Suffolk Blue Book following a magnificent 12 years. Andrew tells us that he was pleased to take on the role, after some persuasion in the bar at Soane Street, when he was told that the Province were looking to find a replacement for Des Band who had done the job for the previous 10 years.



He said: "It has certainly proved an interesting and rewarding – though sometimes frustrating – job. I have tried very hard to make the Year Book as accurate as I can, and must thank in particular all the Lodge Secretaries, Scribes, Recorders etc throughout the Province for all their help and forbearance over the past 12 years."

Andrew became a joining member of British Union Lodge in 1982, completing 30 years as a member of a Suffolk Lodge. He was Master in 1997, Secretary for 7 years, DC for 5 and has now taken on the duties of Almoner.

Working on the Year Book encouraged an interest in many of the other Orders. He has received Provincial Honours in most of them, not least being appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler in the OSM in 2009.

He describes the pinnacle of his Masonic career as his appointment as Provincial Senior Grand Warden, for the Craft in Suffolk in 2011 – an honour which was totally unexpected but which he was extremely proud to accept.

If you are interested in the role of Editor of the Year Book, or helping in its production please contact the Provincial Grand Secretary.

Our Provincial Chaplain



PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPLAIN, WBro Revd Canon Kevan Sean McCormack was appointed our Provincial Grand Chaplain at the last meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge at Holbrook in June 2012.

WBro Kevan was introduced to Freemasonry in October 1984, when he was initiated into the Royal Edward Lodge, No 892, in the Province of Herefordshire. He had already been ordained in 1980, eventually holding the position as Team Vicar in the Leominster Team Ministry until 1987. He was raised a Master Mason in March 1985.

In 1987, Bro Kevan moved to Suffolk to take the post of Chaplain to the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook. He taught religious studies and became a senior manager. On leaving the school in 2000 he was appointed Rector of St Mary's Church in Woodbridge, a post he still holds. It was during 2001-2 he started to attend Lodges in Woodbridge, becoming a joining member of Doric, No81. 2009 saw Bro Kevan installed as an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral Church of St James & St Edmund, taking the seat of St Fursa.

Bro Kevan became a joining member of Lodge of Wisdom, No 9333, and was their Worshipful Master in 2011.

Bro Kevan is also Honorary Chaplain to Ipswich Town FC, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Woodbridge Royal British Legion, The Seckford Foundation (Seckford Chapel) and, in 2010, was appointed an Officiating Chaplain to the Military.

Our Provincial Chaplain is busy man but one who comes to us with a wealth of experience and pastoral care for those under his ministry.

Lowestoft Improvements

VISITORS TO THE LOWESTOFT MASONIC CENTRE will not have failed to notice the considerable improvements that have taken place over the last 18 months including a new entrance, Tyler's room and much improved toilet facilities. The work undertaken thus far represents the completion of Phases 1 and 2 of a four point plan to which the Board of the Lowestoft Masonic Hall Company are committed. Future plans include improvements to the kitchen and, possibly, enlarging the dining room to make it more desirable to attract non-masonic functions as well as providing better facilities for the members.

Funding for the works to date has been subscribed by the Lodges based at the venue, particularly a grant of £20,000 from Lodge of Unity, No.71. Additionally, the trustees of the George Setterfield trust have made the Company an interest free loan of £90,000 to be repaid over a period of 18 years or so which allows the Company to comfortably spread the costs. The monies for the remaining stages will have to be raised through the lodges and already this is beginning to happen under the leadership of the Company Chairman, WBro Colin Hall of Orient Lodge. Several of the social functions arranged by WBro Colin and held at the hall



over the last two or three years have been for the benefit of the fund including the popular St George's Night and Burns Night events.

The photo shows the PGM being introduced to (from left to right) Bro Rik Hall (Magi Lodge) the proprietor of the building contractors who carried out the works, WBro Mike Dobson (Magi Lodge) who effected much of the building arrangements and acted as Clerk of Works, WBro John Lambert (Lodge of Unity) & Mr William Slater, the Trustees of the Setterfield Trust and WBro Colin Hall (Orient Lodge), Chairman of the Board of Directors. WBro George Setterfield was a former secretary of both Lodge of Unity and the Board of Directors of the Company. Indeed, he was the original secretary of the Hall Company and played a major part in bringing about the Lowestoft Masonic Centre back in the mid-sixties. Prior to this the Lowestoft Lodges met in various venues around the town.

Mentoring update



HAVING HELD REGULAR MEETINGS with Lodge Mentors over the last two years at our Bury St Edmunds and Woodbridge Masonic centres, our Provincial Mentor WBro Keith Huxley, has changed the structure of current meetings by extending an invitation to the Lodge Secretary, Director of Ceremonies/Preceptor of Lodge of Instruction to attend, in addition to the Lodge Mentor.

These meetings, which are held on a Provincial Group basis, are intended to give each an overview of the

benefits of effective and properly structured Mentoring. They also provide an opportunity for each Lodge to discuss any difficulties that inevitably occur from time to time and to share experiences that have proved successful. Lodges have expressed their appreciation of this new format with requests that similar meetings are held next year.

One of the many matters discussed by the Ambassadors for Freemasonry in his Address to the Mentors Conference at Great Queen Street earlier this year, the Provincial Master said: As we are all very aware, many factors have resulted and continue to result, in a decline in our membership over the last thirty years or so, and the best way to show to the world what we stand for and that we have nothing to hide is through our members. Whilst we are not alone in having a declining membership, I believe that we have something special to offer and that there are many men, who if they joined, would enjoy and benefit from their membership, just as we have done. There is no better example of an Ambassador for Freemasonry than arguably the most famous modern Grand Master, the Composer, keyboard player and rock legend Rick Wakeman. Bro Rick is a member of the Leina Lodge 3098 and, in a recent interview, he talked frankly and