



FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Winter 2014



RMBI Festival Team 2019

Editor's notes



Firstly, I would like to express my sincerest thanks to WBros Trevor White and Colin Barber who did

most of the work to get our last edition published when I was in hospital or recovering. I wonder if many noticed any differences in style?

Secondly, while we are grateful to receive articles for publication there are many Lodges that still have to submit their first pieces. We look forward to hearing from them in future editions.

Thirdly, we would like to see wider representation from the different age groups (in Masonic terms) among Suffolk masons. If you have only recently joined as an Initiate or Joining member we would like to include your ideas and opinions more than we have previously been able to do, especially on the letters page. Alternatively, you might ask the Lodge Secretary if you could put together a report on a Lodge event, news or celebration for submission to Forum.

Fourthly, please remember that almost all social events to which we take our wives and partners are also open to non-masons. The more non-masons you bring along will not only help spread the message about our order but, hopefully, lead to greater membership.

And finally, please accept the best wishes of the Editorial and publishing team for a happy and successful New Year.



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JOTTINGS FROM THE P.G. Secretary

WELCOME TO THE WINTER EDITION OF FORUM.

After a busy 2013 there is much to look forward to in the New Year, in particular the Launch of the 2019 Provincial Festival for RMBI which is to be a St Valentine's Ball on Saturday, 15th February at Trinity Park, Ipswich (Suffolk Showground).

WBro Neville Warnes has been appointed Festival Chairman and I am sure he and his Events, Publicity and Merchandising Teams will keep you advised of opportunities to fully support the Festival.

The Annual Provincial Meeting is to be held at the Trinity Rooms, Suffolk Showground on Wednesday, 4th June 2014. The Meeting will be in the morning followed by a Luncheon. Due to possible restrictions on numbers attending, admission to both the Meeting and Luncheon will be by named tickets only.

The booking form can be found in this copy of Forum. I urge all brethren, particularly those receiving Appointments and Promotions and wishing to attend the Meeting only, or both the Meeting and Luncheon, to complete and send in the form by return with a SAE as places for Meeting and Luncheon may be over-subscribed.

The Provincial Grand Almoner, WBro Dr M D Speake will be hosting a Seminar for Lodge Almoners at Stowmarket on Sunday, 9th March with speakers from Age UK,

Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

The Provincial Mentor, WBro K W Huxley, has recently appointed Provincial Group Mentors to assist him in promoting the role of the Lodge Mentor and Personal Mentor. Their role will be to liaise with all Lodge Mentors to assist, in re-emphasising by discussion good Mentoring practices, initiatives and resolving any problems that will inevitably arise from time to time in respect of recruitment, retention and retrieval.

This year's Provincial Group Meetings will be held with Lodge Almoners as last year, with invitations extended to the Secretary and Director of Ceremonies of each Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Master's Reception for Ruling Masters, Acting Provincial Officers and their partners was held at Sudbury on Sunday 24th November. It was a most successful and enjoyable occasion attracting a record attendance.

Finally I would like to thank all members of the Provincial Office Secretariat, WBro Graham Saward, who has recently joined as Editor of the Year Book along with the Editor of Forum and the Communications Officer who do so much work voluntarily behind the scenes.

David Clarke

Provincial Grand Secretary

January 2014

RMBI FESTIVAL REPORT



from WBro Neville Warnes, Chairman Festival 2019

DURING THE CURRENCY OF THIS ISSUE OF FORUM WE WILL BE LAUNCHING THE RMBI FESTIVAL 2019 at the Valentines Ball to be held at the Suffolk Showground on 15th February and we look forward to seeing as many of you there including, it should be noted, non Masonic friends who are welcome to any Provincial festival event., This is an exciting time and there is much to do and a lot going on.

There are undoubtedly many relatively new masons and companions in the Province who have never experienced a festival. Every year a few selected Provinces in England and Wales hold a festival in support of one of the four main Masonic charities. This festival system is designed to spread the load evenly over the 47 Provinces in the two countries, and ensures a regular flow of income to each of those charities. It also allows those Provinces not in festival to donate to other charities of their choice. The monies raised by the festival system means a significant contribution can be made to help that charity achieve its aims. Our festival will culminate in 2019 after 5 years of fundraising, and investment of a considerable amount of time and effort by Lodges and individuals.

By the launch date it is planned to have a dedicated web site www.festival2019.co.uk it will communicate everything necessary to help you understand what the festival is doing, what the RMBI does for us and what we, as the Province of Suffolk, will be doing over the next five years, in order to offer it our support. I will not dwell too much upon the RMBI details here, because everything can be found through its own website, www.rmbi.org.uk Additionally, information about its work in our Province can be supplemented by speaking to our Provincial Almoner or Charity Steward who can also tell you about RMBI's Cornwallis Court, a facility we are so lucky to have within our Province.

The Festival will be managed by three Teams, dealing with Events, Information and Publicity, and Merchandising. The names of those Members running these Teams, and their remits, may be one of the early matters you will find on the site, and road-shows about the Charity and the Festival, can also be arranged within Lodges through our Information and Publicity Team Manager.

The Web pages will also inform you of anything you can do in supporting RMBI and keep you up to date with all details related to forthcoming Provincial Events. It will equally advise you about the results of previous ones, and let you know how our overall fund-raising is being achieved. It will also offer you, and your families and friends an opportunity to provide articles about anything you have in progress, whether it is the individual Lodge, Groups, Holy Royal Arch, Social, cheque handovers, whatever. Please, just submit it. The WebMaster info@ansta.co.uk will endeavour to include whatever he can at an appropriate time, because we will be looking to provide pages which offer good practical advice mixed with details about your fund raising ideas and financial achievement. Our Publicity and Information Team will provide this through a high quality site, easy to navigate, regularly updated, incorporating photographs, and combining more serious details of the Festival with articles showing that we are also gaining a great sense of fun and enjoyment in working towards a goal which can only be achieved through Team effort.

Brethren, this is your site, please make use of it and return to it as frequently as you are able, because there will be several additions in the future, such as honorific qualifications, details regarding the Jewel, messages from Provincial Officers, and a great deal more.

When I was invited to organise Festival 2019 I accepted without hesitation, because I know

that the members of the Province of Suffolk make a formidable team, and when supported by families and friends, frankly, we are unstoppable.

In closing, I will revert to the RMBI, now almost 170 years old, and dedicated to the care of older Freemasons, their wives, widows and other dependants through its 17 Homes having 1,000 Residents, and with a further 2,000 Beneficiaries in the Community, receiving pastoral care, respite care, visits from the Care Advice Team, expenses-paid holidays-high quality care and support and home loans available to those suffering from advancement in age - dementia - nursing care - and ensuring they all have the benefit of choice - dignity - respect and control over their own lives, at a cost above income of between 4 and 5 Million pounds per annum, met largely by the Festival system.

Brethren, the RWProv Grand Master is very keen for this Festival to be a team effort bringing together the whole of the Province, over the next five years. We must unfailingly be sensitive to a Brother's personal financial circumstances, so we are targeting an average of £2 to £3 per week from a percentage of Members, i.e. the cost of a drink (and not a very large drink at that!) ...but let's not consider our contribution of a drink as a donation, ...having regard for the benefits provided by the RMBI - let us think of it as an investment, because we never know what is round the corner of Life... What better motivation can there be for supporting our Provincial Grand Master's ideal, to the benefit of one of our Great and most noteworthy Charities.

The front cover picture shows TEAM 2019. Back row (left to right): Bros Peter Green, Chris Warnes, Ralph Robertson, William McColl. Seated: Neville Warnes (Festival Chairman). Inset (left to right): David Dunhill, Peter Gosling, Kelvin Avis.

Other team members are Bros Andy Gentle, Nigel Gregory, Ruffy Ruffles, Len Howard, Rick Orme and Roger Cawston.

Seckford Bequest

THE LATE WBRO FOCH HARRIS OF SECKFORD LODGE No.6411 bequeathed a sum of money to be used for Masonic purposes for the benefit of the members of Seckford Lodge. Bro John Wilson put forward a suggestion that a silver salver be



purchased for use during Initiations and the purchase of alms purses. The committee agreed and WBro Archie Groom, a member of Seckford Lodge and a silversmith, agreed to make the salver with a suitable inscription in memory of WBro Foch. Three alms purses were also purchased which were embroidered with the words Seckford Lodge, No 611, and a small memorial on the back in memory of WBro Foch. On the 24th of September WBro Roy Bilby, Master of Seckford Lodge and accompanied by WBros John Selby, Group 8 Almoner, and John Tubbs, Seckford Lodge Almoner, visited Mrs Betty Harris, widow of WBro Foch to show what had been done with the bequest.

The photograph shows Mrs Harris with the salver and one of the alms purses. The box in which the salver is housed was made by WBro Ray Anderson, Seckford Lodge Mentor.

Brief Encounter



RICK WAKEMAN, former keyboard player with the progressive rock group 'YES' and current Senior Warden of Chelsea Lodge, exchanging masonic experiences with Barry Ross, Past Provincial Grand Master, during a chance meeting on a train home from London.

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Seventy years for Lionel Bell



AT THE OCTOBER MEETING OF BABERGH LODGE No 8122, in the Masonic hall in Sudbury, Suffolk, WBro Lionel Bell celebrated the 70th year since his father had initiated him into Stour Valley Lodge, No 1224. The Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk, RWBro Ian Yeldham, delivered a fitting tribute to Lionel as well as a

certificate recognising such an outstanding achievement. However, the members of Babergh Lodge, of which Lionel is the last surviving Founder, thought a more apt reward was deserved for such service.

Now, as at the same meeting a Mr Graham Pearce had been initiated into the lodge and as seventy years now separated the Entered Apprentice and the Founder Member, it was thought most appropriate that Bro Graham deliver into the WBro's hands the Babergh lodge tribute, a selection of one-third bottles of fine red wine, WBro Lionel's favourite tippie. WBro Lionel was most effusive in his thanks and assured the assembled brethren of both Babergh and Stour Valley that the wine would be 'Most Thankfully Applied.'

The picture shows Bro Pearce presenting the wine to WBro Bell under the watchful eye of WBro Keane, the Master of Babergh Lodge.

In his Master's Steps



RECENTLY AT THE ARMY NAVY LODGE IN FARNBOROUGH a blind brother asked if Grand Lodge would make his guide dog an apron to match his own and how expensive would it cost? We are told that Grand Lodge said it would be free providing they could use it in an advertisement.

Babergh Presentation



FOLLOWING THE INSTALLATION OF HIS SUCCESSOR, THE NOW IPM OF BABERGH LODGE, WBro David Thomas, was presented with his own personal Gavel as a memento of his year 'In The Chair.'

Unbeknown to WBro David, WBro Hill, an expert in wood turning, had offered the Lodge Secretary his expertise to make the gavel at the start of David's Mastership. This was eagerly accepted and seemed a very fitting tribute for the support given to the Lodge by WBro David throughout his Masonic life.

WBro Hill had made many a gavel for Past Masters during his time as D of C in lodges situated in Colchester, Tenerife, & France and the same skills will doubtless find many an outlet in Sudbury. The wood for this exquisite piece of work was sourced by the Lodge Secretary, WBro Andrews, from his son's furnishing company in Norfolk, who also being a Master Mason in Swaffham, was only too pleased to oblige.

The picture shows WBro David Thomas with WBros Stuart Andrews and Paul Hill.

Fidelity Curry and Folk Night



THE LODGE OF FIDELITY SOCIAL SEASON GOT UNDERWAY IN FINE STYLE when the Worshipful Master, WBro John Downie, hosted a Curry and Folk evening at the Masonic Hall in Framlingham on the 14th September.

A large audience crammed in to listen to some great music, enjoy outstanding food and, most importantly, raise money for the Addenbrooke Hospital Radiotherapy Unit in Cambridge which has done so much in recent months for a cause very close to the hearts of all lodge members.

The entertainment was provided by 'The Broadside Boys,' a well-known Suffolk duo, featuring lodge member Bro Matthew Bayfield and Eric Sedge; with WBro Stephen Bayfield, providing the introductions, laughs and fancy dress. The money received from ticket sales and a raffle was very gratefully received and will be faithfully applied. Copies of the band's CDs, 'Suffolk Punch' and 'Albion Street', are available from www.thebroadsideboys.com, price £8.00 (incl. p&p), to anyone wanting to add their support to a wonderful cause.

The photograph features (l to r) WM John, Stephen, Mat and Eric.

Christchurch LOI Lecture



AT THEIR OCTOBER MEETING members of the Lodge of Instruction of Christchurch Lodge No 6829 in Ipswich, presented the second degree lectures.

Pictured are those who took part (from left to right) were Bros. N Branch, C Clements, S Firman, C Sheiber, E Crowhurst, E Girdler, D

Watt, A Page, WBro Alan Howarth, Bros C Starmer, L Pratt, A Peachey, C Harrall, WBro B Raby, WBro R Plummer, Bro R Carpenter, WBro P Wilson and Bro J Harvey.

Worshipful Master, Alan Howarth, said how proud he was of the Brethren who took part, with barely a prompt needed for the entire presentation.

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Order of Merit presentation to Bill Curtis

ALTHOUGH AWARDED THE SUFFOLK ORDER OF MERIT AT THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE MEETING IN MAY, WBro Bill Curtis was unable to attend. On 19th July the PGM, RWBro Barry Ross, together with the WM of Corinthian Lodge made the presentation at his home. Ninety-six years old WBro Curtis has a long and distinguished record in Suffolk Masonry.



Lodge of Dawn Donations



THE LODGE OF DAWN No 8799 was honoured to receive a visit to the Lodge from the Provincial Charity Steward, WBro Peter Gosling, at its May meeting. Following on from the main business of the evening Peter presented a cheque for £1,000 to Bro Graham King, on behalf of the Sam Buxton Sunflower Healing Trust. The trust was set up in 2006 with the aim of providing

funds to the NHS to employ healers working alongside conventional medicine, offering support to patients, carers and staff in their work in dealing with the long term suffering endured by cancer patients, and to offer help to the staff that have to deal with that suffering on a daily basis. Details of their work can be found on www.cancertherapies.org.uk

The money was made up of two £500.00 cheques donated by WBros John Sarbutt and Mark Astle to mark their respective years in the chair.

During the evening the proceeds of the raffle and sponsorship to the value of £400 was pledged to the Lodge Secretary, Bro Paul Smith, who on 21st July undertook a parachute jump in aid of the Lea Wilby Foundation, a charity aimed to provide after-care for cancer sufferers. We are pleased to report that he landed safely and his efforts raised a total of £600 for his charity

Dear Sir and Brother

It has been my privilege this year to be the captain of the Suffolk Masonic Golf Society during its 60th year. The Society was formed in 1952 and has been very active since its inception. I follow a number of very distinguished brethren who have had the honour of being elected as Captain – a role which is far from being onerous and is a lot of fun.

The Society organises eight golfing events each year (April – October) played on some of the finest courses in Suffolk. These events include the Provincial Grand Master's Trophy and an annual inter-county competition. All events are highly contested, but enjoyment is the order of the day. Although, I am sure that we all approach the first tee with every hope of winning the competition and getting our name on the trophy. The society also arranges a Christmas lunch for members and their guests which has been held for several years now at Seckford Hall. This has proved a very successful event which is enjoyed particularly by our wives and partners.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all of our members to thank RWBro Bob Tile for his services as he retires as our President, and to welcome RWBro Barry Ross the incoming President. We wish him many happy years in the post.

The Society is open to all Suffolk Freemasons (we do also have a number non-Suffolk Freemasons who are enthusiastic members) and it provides an ideal opportunity to get to know brethren across the county. Subscriptions are just £5 per annum and the all inclusive cost of the events is kept to approx. £35 which includes a round of golf and a meal (and occasionally a bacon roll to start the day).

If you have not yet joined and would like to join us then please do so – you will be made very welcome. The membership subscription is a minimal charge and you only pay for those events you enter. Membership provides an excellent opportunity to play at golf clubs across Suffolk which provide high quality courses and dining facilities. For further information contact the Secretary, WBro Colin Calver (email: colincalver@sky.com)

S & F, John Elmore, Captain Suffolk Masonic Golf Society

Fraternal Visit for St Luke's Lodge

ON THE 18th OCTOBER TEN MEMBERS OF ST. LUKE'S LODGE, No 225 visited Bath for the Installation meeting of St. Luke's Lodge, No 6540. Arriving in Bath in the afternoon there was time to book into the hotel and take in the sights of the City. The hotel was in walking distance of the Masonic Hall. The Temple was a Masonic inspiration, very well presented with a large amount of history from the Lodges that meet there. In the basement was a museum that could have kept us occupied for a number of hours, not just the short time we had before the meeting.

The Lodge had a number of visitors including, the PGM for Somerset, a contingent from Athelstan Lodge, No 9033 from Weston-Super-Mare and St Luke's No 225. The guests were paraded into the Lodge where the WM gave a warm welcome. The new Master was installed with much pomp and the rest of the ceremony went well although fairly different from our own practices. WBro Trevor Clark, Master of St. Luke's in Ipswich, presented the new Master with an Athol Tie and a pair of cufflinks to mark the occasion.

The Festive Board was set up so that every guest was sitting next to a home Lodge Member and that made for some good conversation on the various merits of how we "do things" in our own Lodges. With the meal and speeches finished our contingent made its way back to the hotel for a night cap.

It was agreed that the trip was very worthwhile and the Lodge has made some new friends who are coming to Ipswich during 2014.

Next time the Ipswich Lodge plans to visit St. Luke's Lodge, No 6006, in Liverpool.

Felixstowe Remembrance



THE PICTURE SHOWS WBro LES SOUTH OF LANDGUARD LODGE when he collected the wreath to lay on behalf of the four Lodges in Felixstowe in memory of all our Brethren who made the supreme sacrifice.

Les had the honour of serving with the 1st Battalion Scots Guards in Northern Ireland and also served with the London Scottish TA. When he moved to Felixstowe ten years ago he met WBro Mike Leighton who had also served as a 'Cockney Jock,' the nick name given to the soldiers in the London Scottish TA by the Gordon Highlanders.

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

Dear Sir and Brother

It was my own fault. I had been standing at the bar when Nigel Gregory wandered by. I congratulated him on his recent appointment as a Provincial Junior Grand Warden, then made my first mistake. 'If you need a driver, just give me a shout.' As soon as I said it, I realised it was daft but by then it was too late. He gave me a thoughtful look. 'Good idea. I could do with a bit of company. I'll be in touch.'

Nigel has my home and office emails. He also has my home and mobile telephone numbers and as he was a policeman, I couldn't escape for long. The call came. 'Right,' he said, 'I've had a look and these are the dates.' There was a pause whilst I tried to remember what was going on. There was a second and longer pause whilst I found my diary. The negotiations commenced and we agreed a programme of dates. I wrote them in my diary. That was my second mistake.

I should explain that my wife has a love/hate relationship with Freemasonry. Hilary hates my love of it. Over many years of me disappearing with the merry cry 'It's in my diary - see you later' she has evolved a shrewd plan involving a mutual calendar that is deemed definitive. Nothing can be booked in local diaries until the central calendar has been consulted. None of these new dates would be on this calendar and I would have to employ cunning to ensure they appeared. The well tried procedure of adding it to the calendar and adopting an innocent face seemed to be best.

Anyone who knows me is aware that I am not good at cunning. Bull and china shop yes but

cunning, not so much. This was swiftly proved by me being caught sitting at the table, calendar in front of me, pen in hand attempting to forge her handwriting. A short but memorable lecture followed, the second most memorable I have ever heard. The Calendar System was explained to me. Again. I answered questions on this subject and declined to work through examples. Eventually a compromise was agreed involving a meal out.

Prior to the first Boys Outing (as Hilary dubbed it), I had a comprehensive briefing including the date, time, name of lodge, pick up time, parking arrangements, suitable route, name of secretary and places where there might be speed traps (as a former policeman, Nigel knows about such things). This was the best briefing I got. They deteriorated somewhat until all I got was a date and pick up time - I had to work out the rest myself.

I can honestly say that those visits were some of the most enjoyable I have had in some years. I don't know why, it might have been a new Lodge to visit or the distance but a large part was the company. I don't recall the conversations but I do remember a lot of laughter.

Above all, I shall treasure the sheer joy that everyone had in being together. The extraordinary happiness in seeing someone installed into the chair. The months of effort that people have taken in learning and putting the ceremony together. The feeling of bonhomie amongst everyone. And the laughter. Lots and lots of laughter.

Friends have asked me why I enjoy Masonry. This is why. The utter delight that people have in

each others' company. The sharing of a good ceremony. The sight of someone progressing.

So, to Nigel Gregory, thank you. I had a ball. To anyone else, if you get the chance to drive a Warden around, go. You too will meet people you never thought you would, make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge and, above all, will learn what a fabulous Province we have.

Yours S & F, WBro Alex Workman

Dear Sir and Brother

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of Cornwallis Court RMBI Care Home to appeal for volunteers to help facilitate outings for the residents.

The Friends Association organises a weekly shopping trip into Bury St Edmunds for the residents as well as one-off visits to places of interest. Help is urgently needed in two areas.

Firstly, we need drivers for the minibus. Volunteers should be under 70 years of age and be licenced to drive a Category D1 vehicle. There is no fixed time commitment; any time that people can offer will be welcomed.

The other area of need is for volunteers to help push the residents' wheelchairs on the outings. The requirement here is really just for people who are fit and able to manage the task.

This is really rewarding work that is very much appreciated by the residents so if there are any readers who would like to volunteer to join the team, they can get more information by telephoning either myself on 01359 221107 or Derek Barnard on 01284 703344.

Yours S & F, WBro Bob Lukes

Garden Party for Sudbury



JOHN MCMAHON AND HIS WIFE SYLVIA held a summer garden party at their home in Colchester on the 29th June in support of the Sudbury Masonic Hall Festival. This was supported by WBro Ian Yeldham, his wife Amanda together with WBro John Yeldham and fifty other guests.

The weather was kind, the beer and wine flowed freely and everyone had a good time. A copious buffet and bar were available followed, in the evening, by a barbecue and with games and a raffle in between. In all, the day was a great success, and a cheque for £1,450 was presented for the hall festival.

Grand Charity Presentation



THE PROVINCIAL GRAND SECRETARY, DAVID CLARKE, ACCOMPANIED BY THE PROVINCIAL GRAND CHARITY

STEWARD, PETER GOSLING, presented a Grand Lodge cheque for £5,000 to the Prince's Trust on 16th May regarding the Final Presentation of Get into Railways at the RT Training Solutions offices in Ipswich.

The cheque presentation was to celebrate the achievement of the Get into Railways course finalists who can be seen in the picture. The finalists will now go on to further training and placement within the rail industry, an excellent opportunity for all concerned.

Grand Lodge supports the Prince's Trust throughout England and Wales and is able to continue this worthy activity by the charitable donations of Freemasons in Suffolk and other Provinces.

Prudence 1500



LODGE PRUDENCE, No388, meeting at Halesworth and founded in 1827, has recently celebrated its 1,500th regular meeting. The photograph shows the Provincial

Grand Master, RWBro Ian Yeldham, with Grand Officers, Provincial Officers with the Master, WBro Ian Anell, and others who attended the meeting.

Movember at the Lodge of Perfect Friendship



WBRO JOHN PARRIS AND BROS FRASER MORAY AND WILL WHENT growing the upper lip for Movember, a very worthy cause. During November each year, Movember is responsible for the sprouting of millions of moustaches around the world. With their 'Mos' men raise vital funds and awareness for prostate and testicular cancer. As an independent global charity, Movember's vision is to have an everlasting impact on the face of men's health. The WM pledged 50% of the raffle from the festive board to boost monies raised by the trio.

Auction at Felixstowe



FELIXSTOWE MASONIC HALL TRUST has benefited from a donation of £2,500 from Felix Lodge, No 2371, as a result of a very successful Auction organised by Kostas Pavlides and Jim Cowan (shown left and right in the picture together with, receiving the cheque, the Treasurer of the Hall Trust, David Deal). In addition two local Charities, Hope Trust and Level Two each received £500. This was the first time that such an event has been held at Felixstowe and it was well supported and attended by many Brethren, friends and families from the Felixstowe area. Storage was provided by Steve Bloomfield and the Auctioneer was Richard Bannister.



Bicentenary Dinner and Cabaret



Following the Grand Superintendent's well supported reception on 6th October in Felixstowe, the next event, the Provincial Grand Chapter's Bicentenary Supper at Gresham's Social and Sports Club celebrating 200 years of the Royal Arch, was eagerly anticipated, not least because the same team who had organised last years' highly

successful Candlelit Supper also organised this one. In the event, no-one was disappointed and a full house enjoyed an excellent meal followed by a most enjoyable cabaret appealing to all tastes. Frank Sinatra tunes alternated with those of the Singing Postman and some excellent humour and dancing. There was something for everybody. Who will ever forget

the bravery of our most senior members who were inveigled into taking part in a sketch which ended up with the Grand Superintendent, EComp David Boswell, in a white wig acting a very coy maiden with our Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Ian Yeldham, doing an Elvis impression!

Priory Chapter 25 Years



MEMBERS OF PRIORY CHAPTER AT SUDBURY ARE PICTURED AT A SPECIAL CONVOCATION TO CELEBRATE THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY. Over 100 members and guests included the Second Grand Principal, George Francis, and our Grand Superintendent, David Boswell, together with many other distinguished Companions.

During the meeting the history of the Chapter was presented by Peter Thorogood,

and the Chapter Banner was dedicated by Revd Canon Kevan McCormack.

Members of the Chapter then gave an explanation of the Banners of a Royal Arch Chapter. During the evening special tributes were made to one of the Founders, Lionel Bell, and to the Director of Ceremonies, John Yeldham, who was described as the inspiration behind the Chapter and of the celebrations.

The evening concluded with some special musical entertainment.

Provincial Grand Chapter Carol Service

THE PROVINCIAL CAROL SERVICE was well supported by a near-full congregation of Suffolk masons, their families and friends at St Mary's Church in Woodbridge on 8th December. The service of popular carols and readings was led by the Revd Canon Kevan McCormack with the Provincial Grand Superintendent, EComp David Boswell, and the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Ian Yeldham, leading the readings ably supported by many other prominent members in the Province.

The most enjoyable afternoon was completed by the refreshments at the Masonic Centre.

Related Celebratory Matters

AMONG THE MANY MEETINGS, EXHIBITIONS, LECTURES AND PUBLICATIONS DURING THE 200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS are the special exhibition at Freemason's Hall and the publication of 200 Years of Royal Arch Freemasonry in England, 1813-2013 by Yasha Beresiner and published by Lewis Masonic.

If you are in London, an absolute must is a visit to the Excellent Companions exhibition in the Library and Museum at Freemasons' Hall. It should be worth taking a good half-hour to see this stunning celebration. Among the exhibits is the

Charter of Compact, released from its home in the safe. John Harris' miniature tracing boards have been brought from the RA display in the back long room. The Articles of Union are there too. Other star exhibits are Dermott's catenarian arch graphic from The Register of Excellent Masters considered to be the design example taken by Thomas Harper for the RA Certificate, and an edition of his Ahiman Rezon. The exhibition is open until 2nd May 2014.

This year has seen the publication of a number of new books both about the 1813 union of the two English Grand Lodges then in existence as well as a similar anniversary of the last two hundred years of the Royal Arch. Yasha Beresiner has produced a very readable book which should appeal to a wide range of both Masonic and non-Masonic scholars and should be a very well researched and presented history given Yasha's background as an eminent Masonic scholar and past master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge.

East Anglian Mark Master Masons raise £572k for charity



On 21st September over 600 East Anglian Mark Master Masons, their colleagues and their respective wives and partners, sat in the medieval splendour of The Halls in Norwich to celebrate the end of the 145th, five-year Festival of the Mark Benevolent Fund. Those present included the Mark Pro Grand Master, MWBro Benjamin Addy and the President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, RWBro Raymond Smith.

Although the organising committee were quietly confident that the target of £500k would be achieved, nobody within the Mark Province of East Anglia knew before the evening what the final total would be. When the figure of £572,197 was read out it was greeted with much satisfaction and sustained applause.

After the dinner the Provincial Grand Master for East Anglia, RWBro Paul Norman, declared: "I am both grateful and humbled by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the East Anglian Mark Master Masons in achieving this truly magnificent total. Their success is simply outstanding when you consider the economic conditions that have prevailed during the last few years. I would like to thank them, and their families, for their generosity and hard work over the last five years which has resulted in a wonderful sum for the Mark Benevolent Fund."

Athelstan Provincial Meeting



Dr Chris Ansell GCSM, installed VWBro Brian Coshall as his successor as Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province. The meeting was exceptionally well attended by over 70 brethren from around the UK provinces. The meeting also saw the dedication of a Provincial Sword Stand in memory of RWBro Frank Barber, our Athelstan PGM who passed away suddenly in March 2013. The regular installation meeting of the Court of Aelfred No 2, the primus Court of the Order, followed the Provincial Assembly, where WBro Ron Sankey was installed as WM for the coming year. The Brethren were joined at lunch afterwards by David Boswell, Grand Superintendent.

THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND COURT OF EAST ANGLIA OF THE MASONIC ORDER OF ATHELSTAN took place at Newmarket on 7th September 2013. The Assistant Grand Master in Charge, RWBro



Thank you

Barry Ross, *Past Provincial Grand Master*

Dear Brethren,

May I first thank you most sincerely for your most generous gift on my retirement as your Provincial Grand Master which ensured an outstanding holiday for Jinny and myself in New Zealand.

The four week sojourn in October was a tremendous success.

Starting with a few days in Singapore, where we sampled many of this Country's incredible attractions including, of course, their "Singapore Slings" - an amazing multi-flavoured fruit drink laced with alcohol of undisclosed origin! Our hotel, Raffles, could not have been better hosts and it was great to be spoilt so lavishly - Jinny's only complaint was that the bathroom scales were grossly inaccurate!

Our subsequent arrival in Auckland gave us the welcome opportunity of meeting many of my relatives after an absence of some thirty years. A great coming together, particularly with the younger ones who we had never met before. My 92 year "young" Uncle was a superb host throughout our Auckland visit and his remarkable memory brought alive so much of my early history. At one stage we drove up to the top of the North Island (Bay of Islands) and sailed out into the Southern Pacific to witness the "frolicking of wild dolphins" and the basking of seals - an incredible sight.

Our next port of call was Wellington - at the Southern end of the North Island and also my home city. Apart from catching up on the many physical changes in the capital, Jinny and I were entertained at Wellington Lodge (my Father's Mother Lodge and twinned with our Suffolk lodge - Caduceus 9536). Over 20 members and their wives

were present at the informal reception and their hospitality was so generous. A great evening and one we will remember for a long time to come. Christchurch was our last port of call and my cousin and her husband initially swept us around a horrifying sight. Christchurch, you may recall, was devastated some three years ago by a series of severe earthquakes, which ripped up roads and highways in the city, destroying many of the industrial and domestic properties (including damage to my cousin's) as well as a national treasure, their Cathedral. Despite this appalling disaster, the indomitable spirit of the people of Christchurch was still very evident and I am sure, in several years time, they will create a new modern bustling city, more than a match for their old one.

On a brighter side, we travelled to Tekapo, a small village in the foothills of the Southern Alps - an incredible range of mountains, many still snow capped despite summer looming.

We were escorted up to Mount John University Observatory of international repute. Through telescopes we were able to see a long way out into the night sky and saw clearly Mars, Pluto and Venus. An amazing evening, providing an outstanding view of the planetary system.

Our return journey to Gatwick was fairly uneventful and, at times seemed never ending - took a mere 27 hours of flying, only descending to refuel!

As you will have gathered, Jinny and I had a truly amazing holiday, thanks again to your overwhelming generosity.

I thought I would now briefly dwell on my nine years experience as your Provincial Grand Master.

There is no doubt, in my mind, we epitomise all that is good in being small with just 2800 masons and 66 lodges. Our

representative spread across Suffolk is very sound, with very few areas where we are 'thin on the ground'. Our commitment to Freemasonry is one of the strongest in the Constitution, so well demonstrated by our magnificent achievement of raising almost £2.5million in our last Festival - this result, per capita, being the envy of many other Provinces. Couple this with the subsequent £175,000 for the building of a new Children's Hospice in Ipswich - a major County community project of enormous local importance.

We are also very positive in accepting challenges to improve still further the enjoyment and interest of our members. Some recent examples being, the introduction of mentoring, higher profiling of the activities of Lodge Officers and the encouragement of greater masonic understanding through our Orations process. Couple this with extensive upgrading of many of our Masonic Centres, particularly the larger ones, like Bury St. Edmunds and Lowestoft - we clearly have much to be proud of.

Another significant highlight for myself, was the Consecration in 2007 of a new lodge in the Province, Countryside No.9830. Six years on and we have a strong and robust addition to our strengths - what a bonus.

In conclusion, Brethren, being your Provincial Grand Master has been a great honour and privilege. I believe Suffolk can only go from strength to strength, under the new leadership of RWBro Ian Yeldham to whom I would commend your total support.

I now very much look forward to continuing the enjoyment of my masonry and the great friendships amongst so many of you.

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
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