



FORUM



'Party in The Park' - a great success!



party in
the **park**





FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter



In this issue of Forum we have a number of articles for you to enjoy including a brief history of The Masonic Royal Assembly Rooms in Great Yarmouth, an article from Graham Saward, editor of The Yearbook, in which you will learn how its all put together over the course of a year, plus the story of a chance meeting with a dutch freemason. Together of course with all your reports, I hope you enjoy reading it.

If you have written or researched a piece for your lodge or perhaps have an idea which you think would make an interesting article in Forum please get in touch or speak to me in person as I am very keen that this magazine is an enjoyable read and I can only do that if you all make contributions to the content.

I have had many kind comments regarding Forum magazine, it is much appreciated, but I must tell you that putting this magazine together is a team effort and my job would not be possible without the great input of Roger Nash, together with Les Howard who obtains the advertising and Peter Thorogood who writes many of the articles.

Forum magazine is funded in part by the advertisers within it, most of whom are freemasons and without them this magazine would simply not exist, please support them whenever possible. Of course if you have a business or service you wish to advertise to every freemason in Suffolk, please get in touch..

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Jottings

from The Provincial Grand Secretary



Welcome to the Summer edition of Forum.

The Province has again been through a very busy period in the months leading up to the Summer Break. The Annual Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting was held at Trinity Park on Friday 10 June 2016, and was well received by our distinguished guests and members of the Province with an excellent atmosphere for both the Meeting and at the Luncheon. The good weather on the day enabling brethren to enjoy pre-lunch drinks on the Terrace. It was a pleasure to see WBro John Rice installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and WBro Keith Huxley Assistant Provincial Grand Master at the meeting. WBro John Rice takes over as Deputy Provincial Grand Master from VWBro David Harries. The Provincial Grand Master has asked me to record his appreciation of the sterling work undertaken by David and his much valued support whilst in office as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

On behalf of the Province I would like to thank WBro David Barker the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro Mike Harris, Secretary of Provincial Grand Stewards and his team of Stewards for all of their hard work before and on the day of the meeting, ensuring a most successful day. The Province has received many letters and e-mails commenting on the excellent organization and success of the meeting from our Provincial guests, many of whom travel a great distance to be with us. At the meeting WBro Roger Nash was appointed Senior Grand Warden retiring from his role as my Provincial Assistant Secretary. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Roger for all his hard work and attention to detail which I have been much appreciated taking a lot of the pressure off my shoulders as Provincial Grand Secretary. I am sure you will join me in wishing WBro Ralph Robertson success in his new role as Roger's successor as Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary.

The Party in the Park held at the PGM's home on 2nd July was a most enjoyable and successful event attended by over 300 and raising in excess of £14,000 for the Festival. On behalf of the Province I congratulate Andy Gentle and his team for organising the event and all of their hard work before and on the day.

I am advised by WBro Robert Clubb the Provincial Liaison Officer for The Masonic Fishing Charity that the second event for the Suffolk Branch held on 28 April was enjoyed by all who attended despite no fish being caught on the day. Robert advises me that hopefully the next event on 22 September at Hintlesham Fishing Lakes will see some fish caught.

WBro. Rod Hellowell continues to promote Suffolk Regalia Services, the PGL regalia outlet and I trust you will continue to support him in his efforts on behalf of the Province, in particular those requiring regalia relating to recent Appointments and Promotions. His contact details are as follows:- Bro Rod Hellowell, Tel 01473 623533, Mob 07768 837874 e-mail regaliaservices@dpsconnect.com

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

David Clarke, July 2016

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Suffolk Masonic Golf Society

Congratulations to WBro. Adrian Shave, as the winner of this year's Taylor Salver Competition, held at Waldringfield Golf Club on 23rd May. Fortunately we were blessed with good weather, a pleasing number of new competitors, and many laughs at the festive board. The race for the 2016 Vertigen Trophy is now in full swing, and Dr. John Elmore has built a healthy early lead after round two, with 6 rounds remaining at time of writing.

The society aims to provide a warm and friendly opportunity to meet brethren from across the province and neighbouring counties, and enjoy some of the finer golf courses within our county.

If you would like information on any of our events, or on the society itself, please do not hesitate to contact Ben Palmer, Society Secretary, at benjaminjamespalmer@gmail.com



Has the The Province of Suffolk lost its oldest and longest serving member?

WBro. Lionel Bell PJGW, passed to the Grand Lodge above in May, just short of his 99th year. Lionel followed his father into Stour Valley lodge and was initiated in 1943 as war raged. He attained the Chair of King Solomon in 1951. At that time Freemasonry was thriving and Lionel was to chair a joint meeting of Stour Valley and Priory to discuss founding a much needed third Lodge. I think none doubted the wisdom of such a step but with extreme masonic caution the new lodge, Babergh, was not consecrated until some 14 years later in May 1966. In order to get things off the ground Lionel agreed to serve as its founding Junior Warden but insisting that rather than progress, the Chair would later pass to a junior Brother, thus, as always, Lionel put service to masonry before self. Like his friends and contemporaries Cliff Watson and Cyril Hurr, Lionel was a master of the ritual. He had little choice for at Babergh's foundation it was agreed that all candidates had to learn the presentation of the Lodge Banner and both the First and Second Degree Tracing Boards in their entirety before they became Wardens!

As father of the Sudbury Hall much has been said of Lionel's longevity but to put his life into context our Hall historian, Peter Thorogood relates the following tale. Peter was researching the life of a well loved Brother, Edward Fitzgerald, who had served as Priory's Master in 1946. He commented to Lionel that when Fitzgerald served as mayor of the Borough in 1928 he had conferred the Freedom of the Town on the American Ambassador, General Dawes. To his amazement Lionel complained "Yes, I remember it well. As a member of the Grammar schools army cadet force I had to march in the parade wearing an old First World War uniform and it was bloody hot I can tell you!"

As living history Lionel was our last link with the founders of Stour Valley and the building of the Sudbury Temple. He could still recount the fact that how, as an initiate, he was blindfolded and led through that door by the builders son, Brother Frederick Jennings who at the time was totally blind himself and served as Tyler for just a few weeks short of 50 years up to the time of his death. But it is not only as a link to the past did we love and respect Lionel. As a Mason his time and life had been exemplary and a great example to us that have come after him. Master of Stour Valley in 1951, following his father who was Master in 1935, he was the last surviving founder of Babergh, and in 1959 attaining the Chair in Martyn Chapter, again following the example of his father who served in that Office in 1942.

Lionel received his certificate marking his 70 years in the Craft from the PGM in 2013, in fact when a 70th certificate was requested of Grand Lodge they were somewhat taken aback as the Grand Secretary had never before issued one! Lionel was an active mason up until his death and his wisdom, hand of friendship, and above all his historic knowledge will be a sad loss to the Craft.

Peter Thorogood



Lionel receiving his certificate marking his 70 years in the Craft from our PGM

A few words from our Provincial Grand Master

Following on from our most successful Provincial meeting on 10th June I would like to add a few words regarding our somewhat unique Province as time is much limited at such an event.

First, further thanks are in order. To the Secretariat, Stewards and the DC's team who worked tirelessly to ensure such a successful day. To those many other Officers and brethren without whom Suffolk masonry would founder. WBro. Graham Seward and his small band that ensure that our annual year book is not only correct but even up to date! Our Secretary WBro. David Clarke and Treasurer WBro. Sid Turner whose efficient guidance and firm hands keep us within due bounds etc. It is thanks to Sid that we now have funds available for a long overdue initiative, a proposed building fund to enable access to funding for the restoration of our wonderful premises. More details when all is finalised.

Other new initiatives included the imminent consecration of a new lodge, the Sportsman's Lodge of Sudbury. Our new Provincial Mentor WBro. Dean Willingham, Almoner WBro. Terry Lewis and Orator WBro Peter Thorogood are available to visit lodges as required and keen to be of guidance and assistance, just give them a call.

The 2017 tercentenary celebrations I have left in the remit of WBro. Brian Simpson who will be in contact with all lodges to further explain the programme so we can all enjoy and take part in these unique celebrations. Another new presentation, to be conducted by our Provincial Stewards Lodge is "The Ceremony of the Empty Chair". This is a very moving thirty minute tableau to commemorate the lives and achievements of those of our Brethren who put service before self in wartime. It is hoped that this beautiful piece will be performed not just here but in other provinces, thus furthering the reputation of our unique Province. For further details please contact your Provincial Orator, Peter.

Finally Brethren, our 2019 Provincial Festival. Our new Provincial Charity Steward WBro. Neville Warnes and his team have already, together with his predecessor, WBro Peter Gosling visited lodges, sold merchandise and organised functions. There have been countless other initiatives, from WBro. Andy Gentle's cycling visits, boxing events and dinners across our centres and of course 'Party in the Park' which I hosted on Saturday 2nd July. So please continue to support this Festival for the R.M.B.I. which does so much good for those brethren and their families in need.

So enjoy your summer Brethren, and I, and the entire executive look forward to meeting up with you again in the new season.

R.W.Bro. Ian Yeldham PGM



National Masonic Clay Shoot

A strong contingent from the Suffolk Masonic Clay Shooting Society (SMaCSS) attended the National Masonic competition in Warwickshire on 18th June. The course was considered by all the shooters present to be pretty tough but despite this the men acquitted themselves well, finishing just outside the prizes. The ladies however showed themselves to be more than equal to the task by taking first place in the ladies competition with Charlotte Brereton taking the Ladies High Gun prize for the second year in a row.



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‘For Valour’ The story of The Victoria Cross

On Thursday 21st April 2016, the function room at Ashlar House, Bury St Edmunds, was packed with Masons’ their family and friends to hear the amazing story of the Victoria Cross. The date coincided with the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen, a remarkable event in the history of our great nation.

Following a special ‘Grace’ from Canon Kevan McCormack, Chaplain to The Queen, 210 guests sat down to a traditional meal of roast beef with all the trimmings. We were then delighted to welcome on to the stage, the Wattisham Military Wives Choir. They were formed in January 2012 having been inspired by Gareth Malone’s TV series ‘The Choir’. The members are all wives and girlfriends of personnel serving at the Wattisham Flying Station. They sang beautifully and received an encore with a standing ovation.



We then welcomed our Guest Speaker, Mr Mark Smith MA, who is the Curator of the Royal Artillery Museum. He has written 4 books on the First World War and presented tours for the last 29 years to the battlefields of France and Belgium. He has appeared on many television and radio programmes worldwide. Mark is also the BBC’s “Antiques Roadshow” medal expert. Having spent the last 10 years studying its origins he gave us a fascinating and intriguing account of the history of the Victoria Cross. In so doing he dispelled a myth about the source of the bronze from which they were made. Many accounts of the bravery associated with those who had been awarded the medal were recalled and were made all the more poignant whilst a genuine Victoria Cross was shown to all those present. My special thanks go to Air Cadet Corporal, Christopher Gwatkin for assuming the responsibility of keeping such an historical and extremely valuable medal safe.



Mark’s knowledge on the subject is encyclopaedic and at the conclusion of his talk, he invited questions from the audience. I suspect that he could have gone on all night as his enthusiasm was infectious with very few of those present in a hurry to leave. Profits from the evening amounted to £1,400.00 and have been divided equally between Help for Heroes and our own RMBI 2019 Festival. My thanks to all those who attended and supported the evening. A very special thank you goes to my fellow ‘Brothers in Law’. At the previous meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge I was appointed Senior Grand Warden. The PGM took me entirely by surprise when he presented me with a heavy maul on behalf of the ‘Brothers in Law’ to mark my appointment. The item had been beautifully made by one of our members, WBro. Kevin Payne. I organised the event with this in mind, the profits being donated in their name.

Ralph Robertson

Congratulations to Fred Rynsard

Fred Rynsard has recently celebrated 40 years as a member of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom. On 7th May the Grand Superintendent, District No 7 East Anglia, Colin Birkbeck presented V.III.Kt. Pt. Fred Rynsard with a certificate to commemorate this very unusual feat. Colin was accompanied by Ill. Kt. Pt James Fry the recorder of Cardinal Wolsey Tabernacle.



Solea Lodge Mentor's Tea Party

On the afternoon of Sunday 5th June WBro Terry Lewis, his wife Harriet, and assisted greatly by Harriet's daughter Lucy, held an Afternoon Tea Party at his home in Hunston, for the members of Solea Lodge and close friends. WBro Frank Lovegrove along with his wife Margaret organised the alcoholic beverages, whereas WBro Gordon Townsend acted as admission and parking director. Gordon's wife Pam was also able to attend and support the occasion.



A total of 45 persons attended which included several children. Terry had ordered a fine day and this proved to be one of the best days of the summer so far. WBro Phil Mabbett and his wife June, had travelled from the Bordeaux region of France, and reckoned that they had brought the good weather with them. A fantastic supply of fresh sandwich's, cakes and scones with cream and jam, were provided by Harriet and Lucy. Teas and coffee were also in plentiful supply.

The children played ball games on the lawn whereas the grown-ups mostly sat, talked, ate and drank. Everyone who attended said that they had had a great time. A highlight of the day was the sight of a fantastic Barn Owl, hunting and hovering some 40 yards away, in the field behind the house. The most attractive of birds and one that several people present, had never seen in flight and hunting before.

At the close John Norris, a close friend, thanked Terry and his family, on behalf of those present, for the effort, the work and the hospitality shown to all who attended. It was a great day.

The Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord



New Dawn Consistory No. 78, held a meeting on 4th April at Framlingham, the Companion President Distinguished Companion Fred Steed was very pleased to welcome a team visit from the Provincial Officers of the Scarlet Cord. In the absence of the Provincial Grand Summus, due to an important Church commitment, the Provincial team was headed by the Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, Distinguished Companion Brian Vickers. He was accompanied by the Assistant Provincial Grand Summus, Clifford Arndt-Snelling and a number of active Provincial Officers.

This Ancient Order is open to Brethren who have passed through the second or Princes Degree in the Order of the Secret Monitor. It was re-launched in the British Isles in 1889 and based upon ancient 18th century documents from the Amsterdam Masonic Archives. The rituals and ceremonies are a continuation of the Secret Monitor's Prince's degree. The rituals are based on incidents in the Wars of the Maccabees; Chapter 2 of the Old Testament Book of Joshua relates, in detail, to the events on which the Order is based. Masonic tradition informs us that some of the substance of the Scarlet Cord rituals, originally formed part of the Secret Monitor Princes Degree.

The Order builds further on the warmth, companionship and support demonstrated with the Order of the Secret Monitor. Apart from finding great friendship and companionship, you will also discover rituals that are colourful, interesting and informative, further enhancing your Masonic experience and enabling you to grow in Masonic knowledge.

Please visit www.scarlet-cord-suffolk.com for more information

Suffolk Stewards Big Night Out

Suffolk Provincial Stewards Gala Night was held at Greshams function suite in Ipswich. The event, hosted on Saturday April 9th by the Worshipful Master David Lillis along with his wife Sally and organised by the newly created Board of Stewards was a roaring success, with all tickets sold out with a week to go. 180 guests including many non Masons enjoyed a three course meal, washed down with copious bottles of wine. Professional magician Gavin Davey entertained the guests during the meal after which the band 'Urban Myth' fronted by Provincial Steward John Masters kicked off with a montage of songs old and new. The brief for the band was to keep the guests dancing and this they achieved with a great collection of dance floor fillers.



David Lillis, WM of Suffolk Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge together with his wife Sally present a cheque to Patsy Johnson Cisse of EACH.

The raffle was very well supported with many of the prizes being donated for free. The total raised for The East Anglian Children's Hospice was £1000. The Organisers would like to thank all those who attended for making the evening such a success.

Paul Wreathall

For the newer Mason

"Freemasonry... Veiled in allegory..."

The word Allegory – you've all said the word – but what does it mean. Well one of the best known pieces of Allegory is George Orwell's book 'Animal Farm' which is an Allegory on the Russian Revolution, so simplistically, an Allegory is a piece of work, whereby one subject is described under the guise of another, thus George Orwell wrote about animals rebelling on the Farm as a parallel to events in Russia. In the end, just as in the Russian Revolution, matters turned through 360 degrees, but that as they say, is another story.

So where is the Allegory in Freemasonry? In his book 'The Freemasons', Jeremy Harwood has this to say: Masonic Scholars differ widely in their views about the origins of Masonry, some of the view that our roots were set in Ancient Egypt and Biblical Israel, others are convinced that it evolved more from the Stonemasons Guilds – or perhaps both. Just assuming the latter to be correct for the moment, The Masons' Guilds had additional specific responsibilities – the induction of suitable trainees as apprentices and the preservation of the secrets of their trade. Because the medieval world was steeped in religion, spiritual and ethical instruction was part and parcel of the apprentices' training, giving rise to the lessons that are incorporated in the Masonic degrees.

The tools of stonemasonry: plumb line, square, compasses, level, chisel, mallet, trowel and gauge, also had an important role to play. In freemasonry, they came to hold important symbolic meanings, epitomizing various moral and ethical virtues. So there is a link to Allegory, in that Allegories drawn from building, play an extremely important part of the rites and rituals of Freemasonry. As initiate Masons progress through the various ceremonies, for instance, they learn that at the building of King Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, the Masons who worked on the great project were divided into two classes – Apprentices and Fellows – and that they were presided over by three Grand Masters, one of whom was Solomon himself. The others were Hiram King of Tyre and Hiram Abif, the temple's architect. The Masters were the guardians of the ultimate secrets of what Masons term the Great Craft. The implication is that Freemasonry was already established in King Solomon's time and has continued unchanged ever since. However, perhaps the reality

is that the rites and rituals associated with Freemasonry are not based on historical fact at all. Rather it is a dramatic allegory, through which important principles and tenets of Freemasonry are passed on from one generation to the next.

Is it correct? – is it true? – who knows, it is a well thought out view, but of course there are various others equally well thought out!

25th Anniversary Celebration

On the 1st May 2016 the Division of East Anglia, of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St. John the Evangelist, celebrated its 25th anniversary by joining the Vicar, choir and congregation of Wymondham Abbey for their Sung Evensong. It was a very memorable occasion with members of the Order from the Division of East Anglia and other Divisions, and their partners, joining the Intendant-General, R.Ill.Kt. Dr. John Elmore, and the Deputy Intendant-General, Ill.Kt. Richard Hawes, for what proved to be a very special opportunity to worship together in this wonderful Abbey.



Father Christopher, the Rev. Canon Christopher Davies, clearly made a special effort to recognise the anniversary by focussing on the foundations of the Order (the conversion of the Roman Emperor Constantine to Christianity) and the precepts of this Christian Order in his sermon and prayers, and the Abbey Director of Music graciously included the hymn used at the closing of the Conclaves within the Division.

True to the Abbey's reputation, the beautiful music and the singing of the choir ensured that the 25th Anniversary of the Division will be remembered for many years to come.

Unfortunately, not all of the attendees were able to stay after the service, but approximately 80 members and partners remained to enjoy an excellent buffet in the Abbey refectory.

www.eastangliarcc.org.uk

Notes from a cluttered desk...



I will make my apology before I start as once engaged I get carried away and wander through various subjects with gay abandon but please read to the end, I will try not to bore. The Treasurers roll in any lodge is not usually fought over; it is often seen as the short straw, being on the face of it a purely an administrative office, something to do in the lodge. How wrong most brethren are to misinterpret the roll of Treasurer. The Treasurer holds the lodge together and quite rightly most of the work is done in the background. The Treasurer must be patient and understanding, as getting money in from a wide variety of brethren with different backgrounds varying ages and most important of all different levels of income and obligations is not a task for the feint hearted. The Treasurer is often thrown in the deep end without any formal training other than a gratuitous handshake from the outgoing incumbent, don't worry; it is a total fallacy that you need to be financially trained, lodge accounts are a lot easier to manage than housekeeping and we all have to do that one way or another.

The vast majority of brethren pay their dues on time without recourse to additional prodding, but the Treasurer comes into his own when the odd occasion arises that payment is not forthcoming. The first course of action is often seen as the reminder letter followed up by the 'threatening' letter and then the exclusion. This is totally wrong, the first course of action is to pick up the telephone speak to the brother and try not to hector, find out by patient enquiry if his subscription is causing him financial embarrassment, has he lost his job? Is he under family financial pressure? There is always a reason and if it is genuine and they mostly are, that is up to your judgement to discern then offer to help. He is a member of your lodge and a Brother.

Remember charity always begins at home, help a brother when he is down on his luck and you will have a member for life, kick him once and he will be lost forever. I have been Treasurer of four lodges over my many years as a Mason and I have never excluded anyone nor had to explain a financial shortfall.

There are occasions when you have to elicit the help of both the Lodge Almoner and Charity Steward, but that is why they are there, not just to assist in sickness and bereavement but to help the members through all types of crisis including financial. I am fully aware that there are occasions when your inexhaustible supply of patience and goodwill hits the buffers and the inevitable exclusion follows, but at least you tried all the former before resorting to the later. I am probably starting to bore now and as Provincial Grand Treasurer I know nothing brings on a long yawn faster than accounts and their associated subjects. I am not in any way financially trained, but like all of you I can count and that's all it takes to be a Treasurer. As I have previously stated Treasurers are thrown in the deep end without help or advice, in this respect I am on the end of the phone, please do not think I am unapproachable just because I am called Grand Treasurer. If you think there is something wrong or the question seems silly, that is just the time to call me.

I know many Treasurers misinterpret which end of the cart to put the horse, when is money due to whom and where. Well it is simple, most lodge financial years commences the month following Installation and some at the 1st January, it is from the start of the financial year that lodge subs are due, which you collect from your members, at the end of that year you have to pay your Grand Lodge Dues and Provincial Grand Lodge Dues, so in effect you collect the money well before you have to pay it out. If you have to wait for your members to pay before you can meet your obligations then something has gone wrong. Members pay in advance, Lodges pay in arrears.

It is sadly a common problem, often inherited from years of misinterpretation of how lodge finances are supposed to function, when Treasurers often think they have more money to help in the lodge, with say a Ladies Festival loss etc. Some of you may feel uncomfortable with this information, remember your lodge has been going for years, in some cases hundreds of years, you are not insolvent, but it is worth keeping in mind when doing your budget, make sure it's really spare revenue before you spend it. Have Fun, that's why we do it!

Sid Turner, Provincial Grand Treasurer

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The Provincial website would warmly welcome contributions from Lodges of articles, letters, reports, events and photographs, simply email to:-

Webmaster: John Pitcher john@uniquewebsites.co.uk

Suffolk 'masonic raid' on a Worcestershire Lodge



On 14th April, five Suffolk Masons, VWBro Robert Mayhew, VWBro David Boswell, Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch, WBro Stephen Bayfield, WBro Chris Norman and WBro Nick Le-Grys accompanied WBro Mike Manly, to his Mother Lodge in Worcestershire, to receive his 50th Years' Loyal and Distinguished Service Certificate from VWBro Michael Cole, DepPGM of Worcestershire on the very date when he was Initiated at Abbot Lichfield Lodge, No. 3308 in Evesham.

A subsequent move from Evesham to Suffolk where Mike's Masonic career led him to become WM of the Lodge of Fidelity, No. 555 in 1987 and Deputy Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch in 2006. Mike returned to his Mother Lodge at his own request and attended a demonstration as a Candidate for Initiation. Was this the first time there has been a 50th Year's Certificate, for loyal and distinguished service, awarded on the same date as the Initiation into Freemasonry as a Candidate, exactly 50 years later?

A very memorable and enjoyable evening was had by one and all, including the candidate!



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A special St. George's meeting at Perfect Friendship

The Lodge of Perfect Friendship 376, in Ipswich had a hugely successful April meeting when they traditionally celebrate St George and all things 'English'. However, this year was a little special for two additional reasons.

On 16th February this year, nonagenarian WBro. Colin Mayes, P.Prov. J.G.W., Order of Merit, reached the milestone of having been Initiated into our Lodge 50 years previously. Unfortunately, health issues have prevented his attendance since before Christmas but he made a special effort in April and to his total surprise was presented with his 50 year certificate by the D.P.G.M., V.W. Bro David Harries. Once the shock had worn off Colin expressed his surprise and thanked everyone there for helping him celebrate 50 wonderful years in Masonry. He added that he was looking forward to the next 50!

Shortly after the presentation, the Lodge was treated to an enthralling re-enactment of "The Founding of Australia and the First Australian Lodge", by Maids Head Lodge 8558 Demonstration Team, who came across the border from Norfolk to educate and entertain us.



Eight players supported by a number of stage props and lighting, put on a very professionally produced and acted playlet. The entire cast convincingly relayed the very early days of Australia and the depravations its first migrating inhabitants faced, whilst also depicting two possible scenarios of how and when the first Australian Lodge was formed; 1803 or 1820. The performance lasted approximately 1 hour and was extremely well received. At the end of the play, the audience was asked to cast a vote on which of the two dates have been officially accepted as the actual date when the first Australian Lodge was founded. For the answer, you will have to book the team and find out for yourselves! I assure you, they come very well recommended. (Booking Secretary WBro. Tom Hatchett – Tel 01493 842679)

The evening was rounded off by our traditional St George's dinner and sing along – much like the Last Night of the Proms but without an orchestra, opera singers, T.V. cameras and an audience of several thousand – but you get the picture. A packed dining hall at Ipswich got down and with it led by WBro. Graham Colthorpe and tucked in to a Festive Board that will be remembered for a long time to come.

Paul Taylor

party in the park



What a great day it was... for all the family!

A shower to start us off then lovely weather to follow. Well, our wonderful Queen has been famed for always being unlucky with the weather but our province of Suffolk yet again was certainly fortunate in that respect. With an excess of 300 attending all were regally fed and entertained with plentiful food and a choice to please all, from hog roasts, Verrier's barbeque and a fish and vegetarian repast, none could complain.

The bar was busy with Phil Goodwin and his team at full stretch, the entertainment was of top quality and somewhat different. Local band 'Topless Barmaids' with their great vocalist headlining, a 'Bollywood' presentation and Provincial Organist Graham Colthorpe holding it all together. Welly throwing, bowling for the pig, face painting and so much more to entertain the numerous children present, including some of an advanced age who should have known better, as they sought to emulate the more agile children in certain dance moves during the 'Bollywood' show.

The raffle and auction, superbly compered by our PGM, raised a sum in excess of £8000 and together with the profits from ticket sales and franchises etc. a total of £14,025 was realised for our 2019 Festival. How many Provinces could match that? The generosity of the donors is worthy of mention with many iconic and unusual items going under the hammer. But one moving and unique event helped to make this festive day so special. Sudbury mason Mick Dutch and his wife Tracey decided to celebrate their 30 years of marriage by confirming their vows. I wondered if this was the right setting for what is, after all a meaningful and solemn ceremony. No problem, our Provincial Chaplain, Canon Kevin McCormack ensured that all was kept within the due bounds of propriety. It was a truly beautiful and moving ceremony conducted with such sincerity that all present, not just their family and friends were deeply moved by the occasion. And, to make it all complete, our PGM, presented his own rendition of Kipling's 'If' in true theatrical fashion, to his godson and Mick and Tracey's son, William.

Many thanks are due for all the work and organising that made the day such a resounding success. From our PGM and Amanda for providing such a setting, to Andy Gentle and his team for the logistical graft, all the Stewards for as usual serving and organising, Provincial Officers such as our Chaplain, Charity Steward, Brian Simpson and all those, too many to mention, for all their help. And the best memory, the numerous happy and laughing children at what was, after all, a true family day out.



The Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holly Sepulchre and of St. John the Evangelist



The Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Appendant Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and St. John the Evangelist provide a thought provoking Christian masonic journey explaining the allegories of Craft and Royal Arch Masonry in their Christian context.

The Order of the Red Cross of Constantine contains three separate masonic degrees. The first degree, Knight-Mason, is a unique masonic ritual wherein a companion of the Royal Arch is duly received as a pilgrim and elevated to the sublime rank of a Perfect Knight-Mason. The ceremony is short and simple based upon the story of the conversion of the Roman Emperor Constantine to Christianity prior to the Battle of Milvian Bridge in 312AD.

In the second degree, performed in a College of Priests-Mason, the Knight-Mason is consecrated as a Venerable Priest-Mason and an Eusebius (representing Constantine's chief Bishop). The ceremony is very spiritual in nature and incorporates more overtly religious symbolism and ritual. Having received this degree the Venerable Priest-Mason is qualified to serve as a Viceroy of a Conclave. In the third degree the Sovereign-elect completes his Christian journey, the title of Perfect Prince-Mason is conferred upon him and he is installed as the Most Puissant Sovereign of the Conclave. This degree completes the Rite of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine.

Prior to a Knight Mason taking the second degree he must have had conferred upon him the degrees of Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and Knight of St. John the Evangelist. The original Knights of the Holy Sepulchre are alleged to have been founded as a Chivalric Order in 326AD following the discovery of the True Cross by (St.) Helena, Constantine's mother. The symbolic ritual of the Masonic Order of the Holy Sepulchre is based upon the devotion of a select body of Knights designated to guard the Holy Place.

The ritual of the Masonic Order of the Knights of St. John the Evangelist refers to the events that took place during the brief reign of Emperor Julian (the Apostate). It relates how he failed in his endeavours to rebuild the Temple at Jerusalem, and how a remarkable discovery was made amongst the ruins. This ritual successfully encompasses the legends of the Craft and the Holy Royal Arch ceremonies from a purely Christian standpoint.

Within the Division of East Anglia we currently have eight Conclaves meeting in Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge, Dereham, Great Yarmouth, Ipswich, Lowestoft and Sheringham. Candidates for these very interesting and beautiful Orders of Freemasonry must be members of the Holy Royal Arch and profess a belief in the Trinitarian Christian faith.

Dr. J. A. Elmore, Intendant-General, Division of East Anglia
www.eastangliarcc.org.uk

Phoenix Lodge Medieval Banquet nets £250 for Cornwallis Court



L-R: John Riches, Treasurer of The Friends Association, Phoenix representative Roger Florey, Dorothy Crane and Jean Wood

Phoenix Lodge in Stowmarket recently held a very successful medieval banquet at their Masonic Hall with a nearly 100% turnout in period costume, which caused much hilarity! Ticket money profits went to Cornwallis Court and Raffle Profit to Macmillan Nurses.

Lodge of Dawn No 8799 2016 Installation



Pictured from left to right. WBro Ralph Robertson, Bro Andrew Orves, WM Colin Browne, WBro Mike Orves and WBro Bill Bowman Provincial Representative

On Friday 5th February 2016 the Lodge of Dawn 8799 held its annual installation meeting at the Masonic Hall, Lowestoft. It was a bit of a family occasion as the Worshipful Master WBro Mike Orves installed his son in law Bro Colin Browne into the chair of King Solomon, who in turn appointed and invested his brother in law Bro Andrew Orves as his Junior Deacon.

The evening was a great success the working tools being presented in an exemplary manner, third degree Bro Matthew Johnson, second degree Bro Kevin Slade, and first degree by Bro Ray Pull. The meeting was attended by the Provincial Senior Grand Warden, WBro Ralph Robertson, along with fifty members and guests, which made for a most enjoyable and successful evening, rounded off with an excellent meal of roast beef, washed down with wine and a glass of Port.

WBro Mike Orves

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Lodge 'La Vertu'

- meaning 'The Virtue'

I received an invitation from my good friend WBro Peter Beal to visit Orwell Lodge at Soane Street and as I sat down in the temple I noticed

the mason I was sitting with had a very unusual apron, his name was Chris Beresford, he had come from Leiden in Holland and was visiting Ipswich to see his mother.

At 16 years old Chris had originally come to Ipswich to do an apprenticeship at Ransomes & Rapiers. In 1974 he decided to leave and see what it was like on the continent and never came back. Chris did a scholarship at the Royal Academy of Arts in The Hague, finished at the age of 27 with a bachelors certificate, started his own business in graphic design in 1984 and is still doing the same today. Chris told me "I've become a Dutchman really, people cannot tell I'm English when I speak at home, but when I'm in the UK people think I'm a foreigner who speaks damn good English"!

By chance Chris and I were also sitting together at the festive board and he told me the story of his lodge, which I found really interesting and hope you do too...

Lodge La Vertu was established in 1757 in Leiden and received its constitution letter of the newly founded Grand Lodge of the Netherlands in August 1757 being allotted the rank of No. 7. The members of the Lodge were at that time French speaking students from Leiden University, mainly from the Netherlands, but about 40% of the members came from countries such as Belgium, France, Germany, Austria, Russia, South Africa, Indonesia and South America.

The Lodge met once a month in a Leiden tavern provided there was a candidate and they worked in different degrees after which a Table Lodge (Festive Board) followed. The ritual with which they worked was called. 'Le Franc Maçon Trahi' ritual. At the end of the 18th century, the student's interest in the Lodge declined and membership dropped very strongly.



The Temple in Leiden, Holland where Lodge La Vertu meet

left 152 people dead, and another 2,000 injured, toppling over 200 buildings in the surrounding neighborhoods. Because of this explosion two garrisons of soldiers came to Leiden, among them were Freemasons and they became members of Lodge La Vertu allowing it to be continued.

What did change in the 19th century was that the Lodge La Vertu no longer worked in the 'Le Franc Maçon Trahi' ritual, but took on the official rituals of the Dutch Grand Lodge.

The Lodge was increasingly confronted with great poverty in Leiden in the 19th century and discussed many times on the Lodge's programme was "What can we do to help these poor Leiden folk", but no solution was found. That changed around 1865 when the National Grand Master, Prince Frederick, brother of the Dutch King, set up a foundation called the Philanthropic Society where poor people could, under very favourable conditions, borrow money to start their own business and so were able to earn money



La Vertu original constitution book dating from 1757

During the French occupation of Leiden, a ship full of gunpowder was sitting in the so-called Steenschuur (Stone Barn) canal in the heart of the city. The ship was heading to the town of Delft, carrying the munitions from the city of Haarlem, holding over 37,000 pounds of explosive powder. No one is sure exactly what set the conflagration off, but in the afternoon, the ship exploded. The ensuing blast



La Vertu brethren inside their temple

and repay the received start-up capital. This Benevolent Society was popularly called the Mason's Bank, because the loans were paid from the Lodge building. The Mason's Bank remained active until 1972.

The 20th century found that the Lodge also neglected much of its original spiritual task because of the strong orientation to the problems in the Leiden society. The members then started a programme with lectures and talks on spiritual subjects to restore original values within Freemasonry.

The imminent coming of World War II quickly jeopardized this process. This happened after Dutch troops were mobilised in 1938. La Vertu took the initiative of the Lodges and started to provide support (including financial) for the families whose spouses and their brethren were called up for Army duty. The threat in 1940, after the bombing of Rotterdam, caused a mutiny in the Leiden barracks. This was because the troops had no information about the damage and the sufferings of their families in Rotterdam. Some members of the Lodge then went, in the middle the night, to Rotterdam and obtained an accurate picture of which areas may or may not have been bombed. After returning to the Leiden, the soldiers were then informed by the Lodge members of everything they had witnessed and the troops returned quietly back to the Leiden barracks.

During the second world war Freemasonry was banned and the Germans confiscated the building and assets of La Vertu Lodge. It was not until 1948 that our building once again came back into the possession of the Lodge. Everything had to be rebuilt, because the Germans demolished everything that had anything to do with Freemasonry. Since 1950 the building has been completely renovated, partly by the very generous donations from its members and from Jan Neissing, also a member of the Lodge, a well-known architect, who designed all the interior of the temple including the furniture.

In addition to the funding of the reconstruction of the Lodge Building the members also saved up for the celebration of the Lodge's 200th Anniversary, which took place in 1957. The highlight of this anniversary was a performance of the reconstructed 18th century ritual 'Le Franc Maçon Trahi' done in 18th century costume in the Snouck Hurgronje Huis in Leiden (www.visitors.leiden.edu/buildings/hurgronjehuis.html). This place is an 18th century house completely intact with 18th century décor. This performance was, by request, repeated dozens of times at various Lodges in the Netherlands; the last performance being at the Grand Lodge in The Hague.

Much of the quality of this 18th century ritual was taken on by a committee of La Vertu members and adapted into the current initiation ritual for Lodge La Vertu.

Even nowadays after finishing 'Open Lodge' the laws of the table are still read out as part of lodge tradition, so that all participants know how they are required to behave during the Table Lodge. These table laws are based on the original table laws dating from around 1770.

Now Lodge La Vertu is thriving with 60 members and resides every Tuesday evening at 20.00 hours from September until the end of June.

...At the festive board Chris presented a history book and some La Vertu cufflinks to Trevor Dale the WM of Orwell Lodge to thank them for allowing him to attend their meeting.

A great evening and a new friend made. I hope to be visiting Chris at Lodge 'La Vertu' in Holland next season, if you would like to join me just get in touch.

Kelvin Avis



Original Square & Compasses given to the lodge in 1948 after the war had ended and still used to this day.

Walk 42 miles in one day? He's either mad or Dick Beechener!

Dick Beechener, newly installed Master of Brett Valley Lodge in Hadleigh had wanted to contribute to the Lodge's fundraising towards Festival 2019 by doing something a little different. So on Saturday 6th August, Dick, together with his daughter Alison, will walk 42.2 miles from Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge back to Hadleigh Town Hall where Brett Valley hold their meetings. They will commence the walk at around 6 am in the morning and hope to be back in Hadleigh around 15 hours later. By the time you receive Forum the walk will hopefully have been completed and we wish them well for what is certainly going to be a very tough and substantial feat.



If you would like to sponsor Dick and Alison they would be very pleased to hear from you - richard.beechener@yahoo.co.uk

Brian keeps on collecting...



Congratulations to all Suffolk Freemasons, you have finally achieved the target of 500 old mobile phones. These were presented to Sophie Mathew, Manager of the East Anglian Air Ambulance by W.Bro Brian Locksmith JP, Charity Steward of Felix United Service Lodge No 3833.

Brian would like to thank all those who contributed old phones to the total, it was a magnificent achievement by Suffolk Freemasons, family and friends. Sophie Mathew said that this was the highest number

of phones ever to be donated at any one time to the EAAA. Brian was given more phones just after he presented the 500 and he stated that he would keep the appeal going for the next year.

So keep on collecting and pass them on to Brian Locksmith, brian3833@btinternet.com, tel. 01449 721134

14th Annual Easter Eggstravaganza for Solea!

For the fourteenth year in succession Solea Lodge 9498 held their regular Annual Easter Egg Lunch. This year 49 people sat down to a superb four course meal in Ashlar House, Bury St Edmunds with Roff Caterers serving food to their usual high standard. The event was hosted by the WM Paul Jarman and his wife Clair, along with their children.



Each adult brought along an Easter Egg which in turn, much to their delight, was then presented to every child at the lunch. All the other Eggs collected were taken along to Cornwallis Court on Thursday the 24th March and with the help of 'The friends of Cornwallis Court' they were formally presented to each of the forty-six residents. WBro Paul Jarman along with WBro Rider, Lodge Charity Steward and WBro Peter Smith, Lodge Secretary attended in order to support the Master. A 'thank you' response was given on behalf of the Residents by WBro Peter Black, himself a long standing resident.

Peter J Smith, Secretary, Solea Lodge 9498

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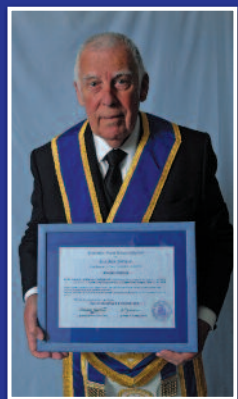


Suffolk Provincial Grand Lodge

Writing this report as the rain hammers down outside there can be no doubt that TGAOTU has his own little acre (Suffolk that is) close to his heart. No rain, a beautiful day mirrored by the smiles of those attending. At last a goodly array of local cask ales to further brighten the countenance (The Adnams Ghost Ship superb) and excellent service all round. Both the Showground staff and Roff's first class repast and service were highly praised, particularly by our visitors from other Provinces. We must surely be fortunate that in moving from the iconic Holbrook School we were to have our Showground and own masonic caterers to host us.

Under the direction of our new PGDC David Barker all seemed to fall into place, not bad for the big fella's first effort! The opening and roll of Lodges attending followed by the Installation of both a new Deputy and Assistant PGM, W.Bros. John Rice and Keith Huxley. Both already well known to all having visited virtually every lodge in the Province. Our PGM then smoothly moved on to the Installation of his Officers and the conferring of Past Ranks and Promotions all of whom were personally congratulated for their dedication to the Craft.

Then that very special part of our ceremony when the Suffolk Order of Merit was conferred on three members of our Province who have dedicated so much to our unique Fraternity, W.Bros. John Potter, Ken Canter and Charles Bartholomew. Our PGM recounted, with humour, of their exemplary lives and achievements with mention not only of their masonic service but their dedication to their communities.



And then a new initiative, The PGM's Certificate of Commendation. A moving and very public way of giving recognition to those who have also given great service, often in quiet and unquestioning resolve, to our Province. The first two recipients of this new honour, W.Bros. Peter Mathews and Ron Sheppard both fully deserving for the unstinting dedication to their duties.

Mention must be made of our provincial Choir, again but two numbers culminating in our own "To be a Farmers Boy", so very apt!

Our PGM's report was one of justified optimism. For a Fraternity that has known a slow decline in membership, Suffolk has bucked the trend. A small increase in numbers and a new lodge the Sportsman's Lodge of Suffolk soon to be consecrated. This thanks not only to those hardworking and dedicated Provincial Officers who never fail to visit and keep up moral, but to those Lodge Officers who continue to ensure the smooth workings of their Lodges. However, it is the open hand of friendship that is so apparent when we, the executive, visit. The smiling faces, that firm grasp, but above all the pride and optimism shown by all the brethren, whatever the rank. From the newly initiated to the grizzled old past DC on the back bench, there now seems to be a great atmosphere of openness and happiness in our best of Provinces.

The retiring Provincial Officers were thanked for their unstinting efforts, giving a firm example to the 'new boys' who are to take up the reins.

Our retiring Deputy PGM VWBro. David Harries whose knowledge has proved invaluable, particularly during his term as Provincial Secretary was presented with a collaret to mark those 21 years of continuous service. Our Charity Steward, W.Bro. Peter Gosling who has guided us to date into our current Festival, W.Bro. Keith Huxley our first Provincial Mentor who set the guidelines and excellent standards, W.Bro. Roger Nash, the tireless Provincial Assistant Secretary whose work behind the scenes is often un-noticed and is now our Senior Warden.

There were many other achievements to mark. Thanks to those who have cemented the social part of our fraternity from shoots, fishing days, cricket matches, garden parties and much more. Our commitment to the 2019 Festival, the 2017 Tercentenary celebrations and new initiatives such as a Provincial Masonic Building Fund. But this is but an account of a very happy day to celebrate Suffolk Freemasonry among brothers and friends in our own fashion.

A great, fully attended Festive Board, and to close, from R.W.Bro. Ian Yeldham, a few moving words to honour the long involvement of his father, Past APMG W.Bro. John, "can we continue his work and great principal in applying fresh layers to achieve maximum growth? Of course we can!"



McCarthy Slatcher Lecture goes from Strength to Strength 12 years on!



Once again Brethren were wowed by WBro. Mike Neville at the annual McCarthy Slatcher lecture held on January 23rd which is hosted by Silver Jubilee Lodge No. 8811. His Presentation Crime & The Craft 2! With more tales of skulduggery, scandal and crime was well received by 105 Brethren who packed into the Lowestoft Masonic Centre, this was followed by a superb buffet style lunch afterwards. This annual event always attracts Brethren from Norfolk, Suffolk and further afield, as they always leave having made a daily advancement in Freemasonry.

The next lecture is on January 28th 2017 and back by popular demand will be WBro. Mike Neville with a new presentation entitled 'Masons & the Evolution of Crime Detection & Forensic Science'.

Initiated into Freemasonry in 1995, and subsequently becoming a member of other Masonic Orders, WBro. Mike became engrossed, not only in performing the rituals, but also in researching the Historical and biblical background of the Ceremonies, Characters and Expressions within our rituals. To further his research he has climbed Mount Sinai & visited various biblical locations featured in the Masonic ritual, including Jerusalem, the Dead Sea and Ephesus. A man of many parts, WBro. Mike conducts Masonic Walking Tours throughout London; he is very much involved in charity work, not only in raising funds but also in organising Outreach Programmes to work with young offenders, particularly from inner city areas. He is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Cadet Force and is their National Training Officer for music.

His Walking tours are a must do for anyone visiting London his dates for 2016 are: 3.9.16 British Museum Tour; 5.11.16 City of London Tour; 17.12.16 Crime & Craft walk.

'The Calm before the Enjoyment'

On Sunday 19th June the Inspector General, Dr David Woodings and his Wife Ann, hosted the Annual Rose Croix Sunday Luncheon at St Johns Hall Felixstowe, which once again proved to be another wonderful occasion where a



combination of Rose Croix Masons, wives, partners and friends, including Bob Tile, our Past Inspector General, and his wife Pam along with Gerald Tedder, who is the Past Sovereign Grand Commander for England and Wales and its Districts and Chapters over seas, with his wife Ruth and supporters from Cambridge, Essex and Norfolk enjoyed a Champagne reception before sitting down to a splendid relaxing lunch provided by Greshams Caterers and copious amounts of wine and soft drinks.



This event provides an ideal opportunity for members to meet and greet David and his wife Ann in a very informal and relaxing setting and to catch up with each other in our Chapters. The weather was delightful, this venue is quite fitting and ideal in that it provides a pre luncheon stroll along the coast and the refreshing after lunch walk in radiant sunshine and a cool breeze is a lovely way to end a beautiful day.

Thanks must go to David Deal and Geoff Harvey who looked after the guests by serving the Champagne before the lunch and the drinks during lunch.

If anyone is interested in this lovely order please contact Raymond Pascoe (District Recorder) on 01728 663 699, email raykpascoe@hotmail.com

Masonic Charitable Foundation proud to support Britain's Got Talent finalist

14-year-old Jasmine Elcock, the daughter of a London Freemason and a beneficiary of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, received a standing ovation from the Britain's Got Talent judges recently with her rendition of 'Wings' by Birdy after expressing her wish to "make her family proud". Jasmine won Ant and Dec's Golden Buzzer at her first audition and was put straight through to the live shows after moving Ant to tears with her performance of Cher's 'Believe'. The judges described Jasmine's performance as 'fantastic', 'incredible and 'beautiful', with David Walliams saying: "You looked like an angel and you sounded like one too. I closed my eyes and I thought I was listening to a record by a world famous artist, it was that good."



Jasmine's father is a member of Fortis Green Lodge No. 5145 and has been a Freemason for over eight years. The family is currently supported by the Masonic Charitable Foundation and Jasmine has received grants towards the cost of music lessons to nurture her exceptional talent. Jasmine has performed at a number of Masonic events over the past few years including the Nottinghamshire 2018 Festival launch and, more recently, the launch of Durham's 2021 Festival Appeal at the Sage Gateshead.

For further information about the grants provided to Masonic families, please contact the Masonic Charitable Foundation, Freemasons' Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ Email: info@mcf.org.uk. Phone: 020 3146 3333 www.mcf.org.uk

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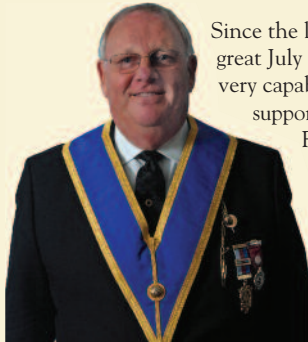
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Festival 2019

...together we can do it



Since the last edition of Forum, we have enjoyed a great July afternoon at Party in the Park, under the very capable leadership of WBro Andy Gentle, supported by a small team of very hardworking Freemasons, including Provincial Stewards, but additionally, their families and friends also pitched in to make the event the enormous success that it was. At present, there is a future event, advanced in its planning, and I hope that by the time this publication reaches you, everything will be public.

We have also seen the passing of the 2016 Provincial Grand Lodge meeting, and from a Festival aspect, the most significant item was that we launched the Festival neck tie. Not only did we launch it, but on the day, we also sold virtually the entire stock, so again significant thanks to WBro Andy Gentle, and his team of Stewards who did so well in that regard. The design not only represents the Festival, but also the 'Suffolk Trinity' is ghosted into the weave, so that perhaps it may also pass as a plain Black tie, for those Lodges where that is preferred.

For the future, 2017 will see the celebration of our Tercentenary with WBro Brian Simpson, organising our events during the year. These will have a beneficial effect on the Festival, but at this stage, I will leave it to W.Bro Brian to furnish you with information about his planned itinerary.

In 2018 we plan to hold a Fun Run, including other items and this will be spearheaded by W.Bro Dr Mac Speake. At present details remain in the embryo stage, whilst other events have been closer to hand, but I expect that by the next edition, W.Bro Mac will be moving our promotion capability into top gear.

Turning to Finances; I regret that, at the time of writing, my figures are only current to the end of April, as Grand Charity are a little slower than usual in updating the reports, I suspect that the amalgamation of the Charities has had some bearing in that direction, but; 25 Lodges have now donated over £5000; a further 12 Lodges have contributed over £10,000 and a further 2 have contributed over £20,000, one of these having achieved its Lodge Grand Patronage, and the other, not so far off doing the same. Bearing in mind that these figures are not fully up to date, I do take the opportunity to thank every Member for the generous attitudes being displayed towards the Festival, when it is apparent that there are many other calls upon our disposable income...you are all to be congratulated.

I am often asked, "what do we get in return?" - Well, in the 12 month period to the end of March this year, all Masonic Charities had contributed £396,000

into Suffolk, and benefitted 69 People. These are lifetime benefits, i.e. they remain in place regardless of increases in care fees to the recipient.

Further, if this sum is escalated to the entire period from the start of one Festival, until the start of the next one, I think it can be seen that we will receive much more than we are likely to have paid in. I can also advise that in that 12 months, out of 46 receiving Provinces, there are only 10 which received more than Suffolk. Brethren, can we have any better motivation than this?

It is very pleasing to note that there are now an increasing number of Festival Jewels displayed in the Province, and currently, we have sold 637, comprising 535 Stewards and 102 Patrons. Most of these have been attributed to those who have signed a direct debit. This is a significant way for Festival Representatives and Charity Stewards to raise Festival donations, and adds a certain amount of reliability to the Lodge's forecast in respect of anticipated targets. I think that everyone knows that direct debit forms can be downloaded from the Festival website, but as a further measure of convenience I have enclosed a copy with this edition of Forum. All direct debits come with the normal guarantee about cancellation, and so on, so I do please ask that you give this method of payment, serious consideration. The enclosed forms are the current version, and have the correct relief chest number already provided. Completed forms should be passed to your Festival Representative or Charity Steward for onward transmission to WBro Peter Gosling, who will provide Jewels if appropriate.

Finally, can I leave you with a date for your diary - I can confirm that the Trinity Showground Marquee has been booked for 23rd May 2019, for our Final Festival Event and presentation. If you have never attended such an occasion previously, I can advise that this is a very significant part of the 2019 programme, when we can expect representation from Grand Lodge, other Provinces and RMBI as a minimum. Please note the date, and do your best to be there. Full details in respect of table availability and tickets will be provided well in advance.

In closing, I continue to express my sincere thanks to the Rulers, Wardens and Provincial Representatives who have worked very hard to spread the word and encourage support for the Festival at every opportunity, and to promote our ideal that "Together we can do it".

WBro Neville Warnes, Chairman Festival 2019

Festival 2019 500 Club

We are halfway into the 2016 draws with a total of 580 members. To date we have had 20 lucky winners and have given away £3148.89 in prize money. You can still buy shares in the draw and you will have 16 chances to make your money back and with 4 prizes each draw ranging from £260, £195, £130 to £65 you could make a

handsome return. I have been asked several times where the draw results can be found - they are now available on both the Festival 2019 website (www.festival2019.co.uk/500-club-draws) and the Provincial website (www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk/500-club-results) but if you have won a prize we will notify you by email directly after the draw.

The 500 club is a great way to contribute to the festival and it is open to Friends, Family, Lodges and Companies, should you wish to take part you can download an entry form from the Festival 2019 website or send me an email cpw@hadleighcastings.com and I will send one out to you.

Good luck, remember you've got to be in it to win it!

WBro. Chris Warnes



At their March meeting the WM of Gippeswyk Lodge No 4254, WBro Bob Good presented the Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £5000 towards the 2019 Festival.

Andy & Nick – on yer bike!

WBro Andy Gentle from Priory Lodge has set himself a challenge to raise money for the RMBI Festival. Bro Nick Moulton also from Priory Lodge will be accompanying Andy on the quest. Neither of them have cycled any real distance before this and whilst they fully expect to become a little more accomplished by the end of the quest it is safe to say that they could not be described as proper cyclists, although now with over 750 under their belts they are progressing well! This challenge is not without risk and there have been a couple of close calls now with Andy managing to make his acquaintance with the tarmac when he came off on black ice on the way to Stowmarket.



The Challenge: To visit every Lodge in Suffolk for a meeting, arriving there by cycle, for the lodges in Sudbury Andy will run there. There are 66 Lodges in Suffolk and going via Google maps the mileage to get to each one will be a total of 2130 miles.

The Aim: To raise money for the 2019 RMBI Festival and add a bit of fun and a challenge. The aim will be to ask for sponsorship from both individuals and lodges. Upon visiting each Lodge it would be nice if either a pint glass for a collection was made at the festive board or the proceeds of the raffle was donated to the visit.

Why: Obviously to raise money for the RMBI Festival. If Andy manages to get a £100 from each Lodge he visits this will be £6600. It will also be a personal challenge and a great test of his fitness and endurance.

Support: Andy will require the support of all the members of Suffolk Freemasonry but particularly the Brethren of his own Lodge Priory and friends and brothers from Stour Valley and Babergh who will be asked to follow on and attend with him to bring his suit and regalia and then get him and his bike home. Any brothers who are cyclists and would like to visit with the boys are most welcome, also, logistical support in the form of a lift back to Sudbury from any Lodge is always a help!

Lodges join forces in Festival 2019 fund raiser



120 Brethren, ladies and guests from the Lodge of Prudence 388 and the Lodge of Unity 71 came together recently at the Masonic Hall in Lowestoft for a spectacular James Bond themed Casino event. Using the fun money provided by the professional team from Fun Casino Events an evening of high-rolling hi-jinks was enjoyed by all on the Blackjack and Roulette tables.

Some fantastic spot prizes were on offer on the night including a holiday for six in Wales courtesy of the Bobby on a Bike charity and a luxury weekend break in a log cabin courtesy of High Lodge at Darsham, Suffolk. The event raised a total of £2000 and a cheque from each Lodge was presented to the RW Provincial Grand Master during his visit to The Lodge of Prudence 388 in March. Plans are in hand to repeat the event on Sat 18th February 2017 and tickets will be available soon.

Bro. Ollie Fordham



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St Luke's Annual Golf Day



St. Luke's Lodge No 225 held their Annual Golf Day at Hintlesham Golf Club on the 1st June. A total of 84 golfers took part and had a wet start with rain sheeting down for the first 20mins. However, it stopped and all the teams eventually dried out and continued to complete the round and bring in some good scores. The winning team won by one shot with others very close behind. The meal was much welcomed and the prize giving went smoothly. Feedback for the event was very positive and next year is already booked for the 31st May, which will be the 18th year the day has been run. A total of £1370.00 was raised for our charity bringing the accumulative amount to over £25k. WBro Colin Shearer is pictured with his winning team, together with Karen who does a fantastic job sorting out the admin for each event.

Trevor Tinley, Event Organiser

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Masonic friends and brotherly love across the Big Pond...

Nearly a decade ago I formed a friendship with WBro. Terry Owens from Katy in Texas, U.S.A. By sheer fate he was looking for an old Tolly Cobbold bottle and being a collector of Tolly Cobbold and brewery items. It started with a phone call from Terry and went on from there.

It was soon apparent we had lots in common, we were both the same age, had families and both freemasons. Terry joined masonry in Scotland when he was serving in the U.S. Navy which was about 45 years ago and had always paid his dues to the lodge, only being back to his lodge in Scotland once in all those years!

But as our friendship grew and not being active in masonry in the U.S.A. his wife Linda thought he should join a lodge in Texas, which he did joining, Katy Lodge and the Brookshire Lodge 1066 and became very active again. Things moved on and he came over to England for my Installation meeting going in the chair in 2006 and I promised him I would return the visit when he would go in the chair in Brookshire Lodge 1066 in their centennial year, June 29th 2012. It was a wonderful experience and occasion which I presented the Lodge with a set of 3 engraved gavels from myself and even took a small part in the ceremony, also attending that night was the Grand Master of Texas, Walt Rogers, and I also took wine in the normal singing manner of my lodge, Felix United Service Lodge, which went down very well.



The next evening we were invited to a celebration centennial Boots and Blue Jeans night for the lodge, dress being cowboy which my wife Anna and I took part. I also presented the Grand Master of Texas Walt Rogers with an England gavel which I gather he uses on his travels. The next day Brookshire Lodge attended a primary school to present children toothbrushes, toothpaste and a masonic goody bag, which I found very moving.

Terry and Linda came over to England for our Ladies' Night 2 years ago, and last year while on a cruise paid another visit to Felixstowe and to my surprise Terry had laid a brick in my memory at the Brookshire Lodge 1066 memorial patio, laid on July 18th 2015 in dedication to all brothers called from labour and to raise money for the lodge. It was a wonderful gesture on his part and our friendship with our wives also including visiting a lodge in Barbados while on holiday together on a cruise. I think it is fair to say Freemasonry is being universally spread over its surface.



Kenny Hope, Felix United Service

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Roger Nash Senior Warden

I was very lucky really. I was one of those people who enjoyed school life and all the activities that surrounded it, and left knowing what I wanted to do in life. Although perhaps not the most dedicated of students, (I found the work interrupted the Rugby, Cricket and Hockey a bit), I left Ipswich School to study Agriculture at Writtle and have spent all my working life in both practical farming and the associated supply trade, following in the steps of several generations of my family. The most enjoyable time being the many happy years spent working together with my dad running an Agricultural Merchandising business.

I carried on playing rugby until I was nearly thirty and squash until I was nearly forty when following a knee injury my doctor suggested that in future "I should drink squash, not play it"! Now I content myself with clay shooting, fishing, music and a little bit of Masonry.

I joined Christchurch Lodge in November 1995 following my Grandfather, Father and three Uncles and have since been joined by a cousin and two of my brothers in law. A bit of a family affair really. My Great Grandfather was also a Mason in Kings Lynn so I know that I'm at least the fourth generation in my family to join the Craft. I became WM in 2004 and after my year as IPM spent the next eight as either ADC or DC. I was Exalted into Royal Alexandra Chapter in 1999, became MEZ in 2007 and am currently DC. I have been very fortunate to have been offered Active Provincial Ranks in both orders. I would have been unable to have fulfilled any of these offices without the unwavering support of my wife Jacque and our two daughters.

I have always enjoyed my Masonry. With its many different aspects that combine history, religion, tradition, drama, ceremony, personal fulfilment and development it encompasses many of the subjects that I find interesting and believe to be important. I am very honoured to have been offered the rank of Senior Warden and look forward to meeting up with as many of you as possible during my year.



Mike Dobson Junior Warden

I was born in Norwich in 1946 my father was in the forces and my mother was in service to the Bishop of Norwich. Shortly after the end of the war my parents moved from farm to farm for work, so my early education was spent at various village schools, which taught me to mix with others at an early age.

My comprehensive education was Beccles Secondary School which gave me the opportunity to partake in my passion for sport as well as my general education.

On leaving school I made my way into the construction industry and being useful with my hands, I soon made my mark and became successful.

As national service had finished I volunteered for the 4th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment (Territorial Army) in Norwich and had many happy years in the service of Queen and Country, At that time I met my future wife Dot, a "Yorkshire Lass", we celebrated our Golden Wedding last year. We set up home in the Waveney Valley and whilst we have moved several times we have always stayed in our beloved Valley.

We have one Son and two Grandchildren all very dear to us.

My introduction into Masonry was by a very dear and long time friend WBro William (Billy) Hall, he has always been there for me. I was initiated into Apollo 305, I am also a founder member of Magi 9747 and a past Master in both, my Chapter is St Michael's 305.

I am privileged to have been Acting Standard Bearer, Acting Superintendent of Works and to be chosen as Junior Warden is an immense honour. As lodge and group Mentor, I hope to pass on to others how Masonry has helped to shape me not only as a Mason but also as a Man.

Meet the Wardens...



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Annual gathering of the Suffolk Hall Stone Lodges

Gippeswyk Lodge No 4254 from Ipswich was host this year to the Annual gathering of the Suffolk Hall Stone Lodges. The two others being Royal Clarence No 1823 from Clare and Priory No 4618 from Sudbury. As an addition to these Suffolk Lodges Brethren from the London and Scottish Rifles lodge No 2310, also a Hall Stone Lodge, were invited to attend. Their Worshipful Master being Jim Nicholson a long time friend of John Frew from the days when they travelled the Province together for Burns nights. Jim being the piper and John addressing the haggis.

Having attended the Installation of Jim Nicholson into the chair of No 2310 John Frew invited him together with some of their members to the meeting of Gippeswyk in Ipswich, these members are also residents of the Royal Hospital Chelsea and attended resplendent in their scarlet coats. To make the evening even more special the Lodge was honoured by the presence of the RWPGM who was accompanied by the Deputy PGM.

The ceremony for the evening was a presentation of the First lecture by the Gippeswyk Lodge of Instruction under the direction of their Preceptor Clive White. During the evening the WM requested the lodge Charity Steward Kevin Payne to present a cheque for £5000 to the PGM towards their target for the 2019 Festival appeal.

The WM of Royal Clarence, WBro Barry Williams, as part of his response to the visitors toast at the festive board recited a poem that he had prepared especially for the meeting.



The picture shows back row l to r WBro J Nicholson, WBro J Glewell, WBro M Shannon, Bro T Hunter, WBro R Catlin and Bro A Thubron. Front l to r RWBro I J Yeldham, WBro R Good WM of Gippeswyk Lodge, DPGM VWBro D H Harries and WBro J Frew.

I'm sure most of us had heard of 'Hall Stone Jewel' or maybe visited a 'Hall Stone Lodge', but perhaps were not fully aware of its significance, so Forum Magazine contacted the Museum of Freemasonry in London to find out...

In 1919, after the First World War Grand Lodge decided, in response to a suggestion from the M.W. The Grand Master, H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, to embark on the building of a new headquarters for the English Craft as a memorial to the many brethren who had given their lives during the War. For this purpose a special committee was set up in 1920 and an appeal made to every member of the Constitution for contributions to the fund which, from the target set, came to be known as the Masonic Million Memorial Fund. Contributions to this Fund were to be entirely voluntary and were to be recognised by special commemorative jewels. These were of three types for the three categories of subscribers, of the same basic design but of different sizes and precious metals.

Examples of all these jewels are on display in the museum at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street:

(i) A medal called the Masonic Million Memorial Fund Commemorative Jewel on a dark blue ribbon, to be worn as a personal breast jewel by any member of a lodge under the English Constitution subscribing to the Fund: ten guineas or more, a silver medal; one hundred guineas or more, a gold medal. Some 53,224 individual jewels were issued.



(ii) A medal in gold on a light blue collarette to be worn by successive Masters of lodges contributing an average of ten guineas per member, such lodges to be known as Hall Stone Lodges (thus giving the jewel its name).

1,321 lodges at home and abroad qualified as Hall Stone Lodges; their names and numbers are inscribed on commemorative marble panels in the main ceremonial entrance vestibule of Freemasons' Hall.

(iii) A medal in gold and coloured enamels, on a dark blue Collarette, to be worn by successive Provincial and District Grand Masters of Provinces or Districts contributing an average of five hundred guineas per lodge. Two Districts, Japan (now defunct) and Burma, and one Province, Buckinghamshire, qualified as Hall Stone Districts/Province. Certain lodge rooms in Freemasons' Hall were therefore named after them in recognition of their achievement, this being commemorated on a bronze plaque therein. Lodges Rooms 11, 12 and 17 were thus named respectively the Japan, the Burma and the Buckinghamshire Rooms.



They are the only lodge rooms in Freemasons' Hall distinguished in this way by a name, although only the Buckinghamshire Room is still so called.

The design of the medal, the outcome of a competition won by Bro. Cyril Saunders Spackman, R.B.A., R.M.S., was described at the time in these terms:

"The jewel is in the form of a cross, symbolising Sacrifice, with a perfect square at the four ends, on the left and right, squares being the dates 1914-1918, the years in which the supreme sacrifice was made. Between these is a winged figure of Peace presenting the representation of a Temple with special Masonic allusion in the Pillars, Porch and Steps. The medal is suspended by the Square and Compasses, attached to a ribbon, the whole thus symbolising the Craft's gift of a Temple in memory of those brethren who gave all for King and Country, Peace and Victory, Liberty and Brotherhood".

Three other jewels also need to be considered along with those already mentioned (usually referred to as the "Hallstone Jewels"). The Peace Jewel was awarded to masons who attended the Especial Meeting of Grand Lodge on the 27th of June 1919 when the decision to commence funding for a new hall was taken. Later the jewel was also made available for those who were eligible to attend but were unable to do so, this jewel omitted the "S" on the ribbon.



On the 8th of August 1925 a sit-down fundraising meal was held at the Kensington Olympia, where 7,250 masons joined the Grand Master in what is still the largest ever catered meal served in Europe. Attendees received a jewel to commemorate the occasion (Pictured above left), with an "S" on the ribbon denoting that the wearer had been a steward at the meal. At the end of the meal it was announced that over £825,000 had been raised for the building fund.



Finally a jewel was also created to be awarded to those individual masons who had donated the sum of 240 guineas or over, known as the Collector's Jewel.

Building work on the Masonic Peace Memorial, as it was at first called - later to become known as Freemasons' Hall - commenced in 1927 and was completed in 1933 when the Hall was dedicated. At the June 1938 Quarterly Communication of

Grand Lodge the Special Committee presented its final report recording that the building had been handed over to the Board of General Purposes free from debt and that well over one million pounds had been subscribed to the fund. The fund itself was closed on the 31st December 1938 and, although it is unlikely that there is any active mason still entitled to wear them, these jewels survive as a testament to the efforts made in raising that money.

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Order of The Secret Monitor



Once each year, usually in late January or early February, members of the Order of the Secret Monitor in Suffolk, otherwise known as the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, meet with their wives and partners for a most convivial Provincial Sunday luncheon. This year's event took place once again at the Copdock Cameo hotel on Sunday 7th February. All of the Suffolk Conclaves namely Etheldreda Conclave from Newmarket, St. Edmunds from Bury St Edmunds, Southwold Conclave which now meets in Lowestoft, Landguard Conclave from Woodbridge and Ipswich Conclave, together with the Suffolk Conclave, the past Supreme Rulers' Conclave of the Province were represented by brethren, their wives and partners who numbered just over seventy in total.

The Order of the Secret Monitor holds friendship at its very core and acquaintances old and new were remade and refreshed over a most enjoyable three course luncheon which was enjoyed in a large, bright and airy dining room. The event is usually blessed with fine weather, this year being no exception with such bright sunshine that the blinds had to be partly drawn. Some of us remember more seasonal weather in the form of driving snow which drastically affected attendance on what was possibly the last time the event was held in Felixstowe - not that the lovely seaside town can be held to blame for that year's weather!

The Provincial Luncheon isn't about fund-raising (look mum - no raffles!) nor is it about interminable speeches and toasts: our Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Dr. John Elmore is well drilled in keeping his one 'stand-up' succinct and to the point: welcoming all who have attended and thanking Ted and Lin Flack for their energies once again in making the event happen and run smoothly to the satisfaction of all. Notable guests this year included Mrs Jean Hack, the widow of the late Richard Hack, Dr. John Elmore's immediate predecessor as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler. Also seen to be enjoying themselves were ME Grand Superintendent David Boswell and Mrs Boswell: is he thinking of becoming a Secret Monitor? Who can say?

So what is the Order of the Secret Monitor all about? Well, it is without doubt the friendly Order. Each Conclave has four Visiting Deacons who share the responsibility of contacting every member of the Conclave prior to a meeting to enquire about their health and well-being and then reporting to the meeting on those who have not been able to attend. This isn't an optional extra dependent upon the inclination and diligence of the individual Visiting Deacons; it is central to the core values of the Order and because of which it is often said that Secret Monitor practices what the rest of Freemasonry preaches: brotherly love.

Does this sound good? Are you interested? Look us up in the yearbook and get in touch - you'll find a very warm welcome awaits you.

Pete Ansbro, Commander, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler's Arch of Steel

Masonic Organists Day

Thirty-seven Metropolitan, Provincial Craft and Chapter Grand Organists came together at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Saturday 6th February for a UGLE sponsored specialist 'Organ Day', concentrating on the refurbished Willis organ in the Grand Temple. Responding to an invitation from the Grand Organist WBro Paul Bowen, the attendees were given a detailed practical lecture-demonstration from Dr. Simon Lindley, PGOrg, which not only displayed the versatility of the instrument, but also gave tips on how best to accompany masonic meetings in the Grand Temple.

After lunch, those who wished to 'have a go', were given time to play the instrument. Attendees were also given the opportunity of finding out how best to use the new single manual organs which are in all the other Temples at Freemasons' Hall. Brethren very much appreciated the opportunity to play this fine instrument and had an excellent time.



The attendees at the recent masonic 'Organists Day' at Freemasons' Hall, Colin Shaw, Bob Shilson and Graham Colthorpe in attendance from Suffolk

Silver Jubilee Lodge was consecrated in the year of our Queen's Silver Jubilee, hence the name

The vision for the lodge is very simple - to create a meaningful climate for masonic education and learning and to do this through a membership having that inbuilt desire to further its knowledge and understanding of Freemasonry also to attract a membership prepared to use its talents to offer information, motivation, stimulation and inspiration to interested Brethren in other lodges and to work together, having fun and enjoying our Freemasonry.

We meet March, May and November and at each meeting will have a very informative paper or presentation on many differing subjects, some to provoke discussion, some to enlighten but all will provide the assembled Brethren with thought provoking memories.

At the meeting in Bungay on November 21st 2016, the presentation will be the SGC presentation on the Royal Arch entitled "Talking Heads - the next step: into the Royal Arch" Why is the Royal Arch a separate Order and what is the Master Mason of the 21st century missing by not being a member?

It is a short playlet that seeks to answer these questions. It depicts an encounter between an experienced Past Master, who is also a Royal Arch Companion, and a relatively new Master Mason eager to learn more. The opening scene of Talking Heads begins with two masons chatting in the anteroom as they don their regalia, after which they start engaging with the brethren present. The playlet covers the history of the Order and explains a little about the regalia - especially the jewel that is also worn in lodges - as well as discussing some of the links with the Craft. Talking Heads goes on to describe the way the journey of personal discovery continues beyond the Craft experience, as well as the likely time and financial commitments needed to reach completion of pure Antient Freemasonry.

The performance is delivered with a great deal of good humour between the players, and occasional off script asides make the event highly enjoyable as well as educational. The remit was that it should be presented in a theatrical way, be about half an hour long and be interesting for those masons already part of the Royal Arch, as well as to Master Masons who might consider joining.

*Contact the Secretary WBro. Mike Hall for further information:
mike@micro-tec.co.uk*

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2016 Clay Pigeon Shoot



The day dawned fine and clear for the 2016 Ninth Annual Charity Clay Shoot though the forecast promised heavy rain for the early afternoon.

Since the previous shoot a new organisation known as the Suffolk Masonic Clay Shooting Society had come into being and had taken over responsibility for the annual Charity Shoot. The new team had been working hard since the early new year building the entry lists for both experienced and novice shooters and the new secretary Bob Rudd met an early challenge when it was discovered that the Nationals had recently been booked to be staged very close to the date for the Suffolk shoot which date had been set twelve months previously! This challenge was met with distinction though and the numbers eventually held up.



Individual High Gun Daniel Wicker

The format for the day was also changed and the famous Roger Nash Duck Flush was combined with what had been the morning stands and the whole programme was shot prior to lunch. This worked well for all and favourable comments were received via the newly introduced and innovative feedback records from the participants.

109 shooters came along which the organisers were pleased to see there were 32 novices as a result of their policy and hard work involving new and younger shooters in this fabulous sport. We received the support of our PGM Ian Yeldham who kindly brought along a party of friends and the whole day went very well. Comments included "Had an awesome day"; "Cracking day"; "Well organised, good day out"; "Love our time here and we have great fun, it's fab"; "No bad holdups, very enjoyable"; "Price of food a bit much!". These comments and other suggestions for improvement will be considered at the debrief and you may rest assured we will take on board those that we think will contribute to your further enjoyment next year.

Apart from a delay in recovering one party of novices (which we will take note of for the future) all arrived back for the prize giving just before the heavens opened with heavy rain falling so the forecaster was right and the organisers were grateful about that!

The results proved interesting when it was found that the morning shoot had one clear winner (Daniel Wicker, with 43 points followed by 5 equal seconds on 41! They were Andre Minnis, Bob Rudd, Jack Sharman, John Carter and regular attender Keith Kilbourn. The winning flush team of Shaun Eccott, Phil Ramsey, Geoff Rich, Aaron Eccott, Des Scicluna and Tony Wingar scored a most creditable 91 out of 100 and the novice class was won by Robert Harwood with an excellent score of 19 out of 20. Well done all.



The winning team in the Duck Flush



Two drunks with the PGM

The PGM presented the prizes and Roger and Ruffy thanked all those attending for their continued support and invited everyone to come back in 2017. It can now be announced that the magnificent sum of £2560.00 was raised for charity. The combined total since the annual charity shoot started in 2008 is now more than £12500.00.

Pictures of the day, kindly provided once again by David Tombs, can be found by going via this link <http://clients.davidtombsphotography.co.uk/> and then choose the gallery masonic shoot 2016, simply view and choose your image and pay. If all else fails contact: David Tombs Photography, Tel: 01449 728646 Mob: 07523 374498

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Following the Travelling Gavel....

On Tuesday 19th April, Court Knoll in Boxford were visited by seventeen members of Christchurch Lodge led by their WM Dave Watt to raid the travelling gavel, a fantastic amount of visitors for any lodge to receive.

An initiation was scheduled but unfortunately it was announced that the candidate had to postpone to a future occasion due to a family bereavement.

However, faced with such a 'full house' Court Knoll rose to the challenge and an excellent first degree demonstration ensued with Past Master Tony Williams taking the chair. In particular the JD Bro. Anthony Doveton leading the 'candidate' and Bro. Graham Mayes who presented the working tools deserving a special mention for their work.



The unique Court Knoll festive board ensued until WM Steve Sleight stood to ask if anyone wished to claim the gavel. The Christchurch Brethren stood in unison and were immediately led off into the distance to prepare. A lot of laughter could be heard from behind the side curtains and eventually, accompanied by clapping, thumping on tables and the singing of 'Why Are We

Waiting' the Christchurch brethren re-appeared in all manner of hats, their WM particularly resplendent in the headress of Big Chief Sitting Bull. That old favourite 'YMCA' by the Village People, so beloved of 80's party goers rang out, complete with all the accompanying hand actions, in such a professional manner you'd swear they had rehearsed it. A great night, an entertaining forfeit and of course a fantastic turnout by Christchurch, who well deserve their success in claiming the Travelling Gavel.

The Travelling Gavel comes home to British Union!

The Travelling Gavel was originally presented to British Union Lodge no. 114 in December 1994 by WBro. Ronald E. Adams of Ipswich Endeavour Lodge No. 169 that meets in Ipswich, Queensland, Australia. On 13th May ten brethren from BU made the journey to Christchurch Lodge joining seventeen other visitors to witness and enjoy a first class evening that epitomised everything that is good about Masonry. A great welcome; excellent ceremony and a thoroughly enjoyable Festive Board ('Supper Table' in BU terms...) that saw brethren sitting down in numbers more often seen at Installation Meetings – some seventy brethren enjoyed an excellent meal together. We witnessed an excellent 1st Degree with a significant difference in that the candidate was able to make his oath on a Bible relevant to his own faith. What a clear example in demonstrating how Masonry is accepting and understanding of other faiths.

Yes, we had to perform the now customary forfeit (that for a non-singing Lodge tested us somewhat) and after an initial couple of WW1 songs sung by all ('Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit-Bag', and 'Smile, Smile, Smile' and 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary') The BU team then had to stand alone and give what was a surprisingly enthusiastic rendition of 'Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones'... the well-known spiritual song. BUT we did it; after a break of 5 years since British Union last regained it, the Travelling Gavel will be shown again at the Supper Table at our October meeting. A great evening, thoroughly enjoyable, thanks to James and Roger Girling for arranging it and to the other seven members of the team for giving up their time on a Friday night to achieve what had been enthusiastically planned.

The Travelling Gavel is an enjoyable and great fun way to visit other lodges throughout the Province in the company of friends - why don't you arrange a raid with your lodge, you can follow the progress of the Gavel at www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk/about/travelling-gavel/

Suffolk Provincial Grand Stewards Gala Night - A date for your diary!

The Worshipful Master of Suffolk Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge, WBro Robert Rider will be holding his Gala Night on March 4th 2017 at Ashlar House, Bury St Edmunds. All are invited to attend with their partners to 'Dine and Dance the Night Away'. Music by Kai McKenzie - the UK's premier Michael Buble tribute act.

Contact Paul Wreathall, paulwreathall@gmail.com, 07903 746283

An interview with...

Kevan McCormack Provincial Grand Chaplain for Suffolk



Bro. Kevan was introduced to Freemasonry on the 11th of 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 on the 14th of 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 Marys Church in Woodbridge, a post he still holds today. It was during 2001-2 he started to attend Lodges in Woodbridge, becoming a joining member of Doric No81.

Bro. Kevan became a joining member of Lodge of Wisdom No 9333 and was their Worshipful Master in 2011. He was appointed our Provincial Grand Chaplain at the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge at Holbrook in June 2012.

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

Further honours have been forthcoming and in March 2014 he was appointed a Chaplain to the Queen. Honorary duties of the appointment include preaching in the Chapel Royal at St. James Palace and attending the Queens Garden Parties. For his work within the community he was made one, of only twelve, Honorary Freemen of Woodbridge.



Bro. Kevan is a member of Lodge of Wisdom and Philip Jervis Kay Lodge; a Royal Arch Companion & member of Chapter of Wisdom and an 18° Rose Croix Mason in the Elizabeth Chapter.

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.

For Bro. Kevan, Freemasonry is an important part of his personal spiritual journey. It enhances what he believes to be true and provides an additional framework within which to explore those truths. It does not attempt to subvert his Christian Faith nor does he feel it contradicts any particular religious belief, but rather provides another very powerful expression or our desire to discover the truth of that which is.

Ralph Robertson

A *year* in the life of an Editor...

When the Year Book landed on your door mat recently, you probably went straight to your Lodge's page to check that your name had been shown properly and that your rank was correct, especially if you have recently received a new appointment or promotion, but how, and why, does that all come about? The clue is in the title – Year Book – as for you to receive your copy in September, the process has to start in August of the previous year.

The Province is required by the United Grand Lodge of England to publish a Year Book for the information of its members; the first edition being published in 1885. The task is somewhat easier today with the widespread use of computers than when my predecessors undertook the role. The late Des Band was Editor for eleven years and had to do everything manually, but my predecessor, Andrew Sleath, had the advantage of information technology and extended the tenure to twelve years. When I took over from Andrew in 2013, I was informed that it didn't necessarily mean that I had to follow this pattern and give thirteen years' service!

The book is compiled on a publishing platform so that when it has been completed it can be transferred to the printers ready for final finishing. This also has the advantage that a proof page can be sent to your Secretary for approval or amendment. The majority of the information is sourced from two areas, the Annual Installation Return, submitted by your Secretary following your Installation Meeting, and the list of Provincial Appointments and Promotions published by the Provincial Grand Secretary each January (for Craft and Royal Arch).

When the Installation return form is received the new details of the officers, together with any changes to names, addresses or contact details are made and the Provincial Almoner, Charity Steward or Mentor informed if applicable. The reverse of the form contains details of Past Masters who have joined or left the Lodge since the last return was submitted. In the case of joining members, their details are added and if the information is not complete, their details are looked up on ADELPHI 2, the UGLE database. When a member is shown as having resigned, their details are again looked up on ADELPHI 2 to see if they are members of any other Lodge in the Province and, if they are not, their details have to

be removed from the alphabetical listing of Grand Officers, Provincial Grand Officers and the Suffolk Order of Merit (as appropriate) as well as the Lodge page. When a member is shown as having passed away the same procedure is followed, but also amendments made to any Royal Arch entries. It is therefore important that Lodge Secretaries submit their form immediately following the Installation Meeting, as it would be a great disappointment to the new Master and his officers if their details were not included.

Upon receipt of the list of Provincial Appointments and Promotions, the first task is to enter the entire list into the book, then amend or add to the alphabetical listing of Provincial Grand Officers, before amending the member's Lodge page. Once again, each recipient (typically around 140 for Craft and 60 for Royal Arch) has to be looked up on ADELPHI 2 to ascertain all the Lodges of which they are members so that each Lodge page can be updated.

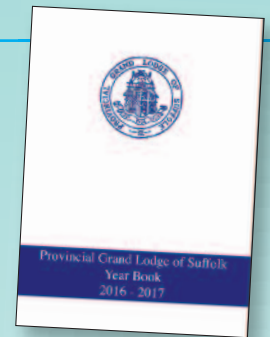
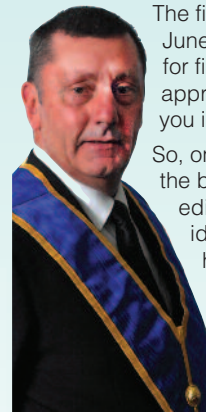
In March, the United Grand Lodge Appointments and Promotions are announced and the same procedure as that for Provincial Grand Lodge has to be undertaken. The fifteen other Orders listed in the Year Book do not have the same Provincial structure and, in their case, it is necessary to contact each Secretary to obtain the latest information for inclusion, as is the case for the various charities.

This process continues throughout the Masonic season of September to June with numerous amendments constantly being made as a result of resignations, bereavements, awarding of ranks from outside the Province, creating a page for a newly Consecrated Lodge, changes to Provincial Group Representatives or members of the Provincial Executive and finally preparing the page for 'In Memoriam'.

The final date for submission of information is the 30th June. The file is then handed to the printers in early July for final finishing; a proof is produced and submitted for approval before the print run in August, for delivery to you in September.

So, once the presses are running that is the end? No, it is the beginning. August sees the start of the next year's edition, with the formatting of the monthly calendars to identify meeting dates which clash with public holidays, especially around Easter, and then preparing for all the notifications of errors or omissions that you submit upon receipt of your copy and so into a new season.

Graham Seward Editor
Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk Year Book



NEW AND USED REGALIA



Suffolk Provincial Grand Lodge Regalia Services

On our site you will find over 600 pieces of regalia. So, whether you are an Entered Apprentice or a Grand Lodge Officer all of your Masonic and Side Order needs are here.

For example: Masonic publications and Ritual books. Personal Gifts, Clothing such as Morning Suits, Trousers, Waistcoats, Jewellery, including Lapel Pins, Cuff Links, Watches, Masonic Rings and even Lodge Furniture.

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Freemasons Hall, Soane Street, Ipswich IP4 2BG



www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk

The Phoenix rises...



Four Entered Apprentices at Phoenix Lodge with WM Alan Hall Gary Riches, Stuart Girdler, Raul Nitura and Arnel de Sola

Phoenix Lodge topped off a great season with the 4th of four initiations this year at its last May meeting, and possibly for the first time in its history. There are more in the pipeline too, so the lodge is quietly confident of a secure future, further contributing to the success of freemasonry in Suffolk.

The Suffolk Branch of the Masonic Fishing Charity



Hosted by Court Knoll Lodge in Boxford, the charity held its first event of 2016 on the 28th April. The event was held at Polstead near Hadleigh, Suffolk at a coarse fishery owned by the Hadleigh and District Angling Club. The group chosen to be our participants were from Hillside Special School in Sudbury who teach children from two and a half up to nineteen years of age who have profound learning and sensory difficulties. The school covers a wide geographical area in Suffolk and has an outstanding reputation.



Our participants were all from the teenage class and were supervised by Sharon Scott and her team from the school. As the children have a wide range of disabilities and had come from far and wide we agreed a slightly shorter day for the children to allow for their travel arrangements. The site itself was in a lovely rural setting and the lakes are easily accessible for disabled participants with some swims having provision for wheelchairs.

The morning began at around 8.00am when all the organisers along with helpers and casters arrived for breakfast. The hot bacon and sausage butties were greatly appreciated by all and we began our preparations for the day. With everyone signed in and the day's activities outlined we proceeded to give the children their participant packs which were met with smiles all round.

The days fishing began in earnest and proved to be quite challenging, but everyone got into the spirit of the day and the participants were thrilled with the fishing. The staff from the school were surprised at the level of concentration shown by the children, some of whom usually have very short attention spans.

Before we knew it the whistle had gone and it was time for lunch. Our chefs of the day Mike

Rumsey, Robert Clubb assisted by Jaci Neill and Lynn Fosker made sure that all were kept supplied with full plates with many of the participants going back for seconds.



And so finally to the awards and certificates for our participants given out by our secretary Robert Clubb. We were honoured to have been visited by the Suffolk Provincial Grand Master, Ian Yeldham who helped to see our guests depart at the end of a thoroughly enjoyable day.

The Suffolk branch has its next event at Hintlesham on the 22nd September, it will be a fly fishing event and we welcome casters and helpers on the day, the school is in Ipswich and is for disadvantaged teenagers.

If a Suffolk lodge would like to sponsor an event it is always welcomed. We would love to have masters of lodges from across Suffolk

to present the awards to the children. To fund each event costs around £300. We would like to operate across the province of Suffolk. These events give an awful lot back to the community and it is a great way to show the public the great work we as Masons do. It is very beneficial as a number of new members have made enquiries and joining masonry through seeing the work we do at these events.

So if you have a local school or group that would like to take part please do let us know on jon@sportsafeuk.com.

More information about the charity can be found out at www.mtsfc.org

New Members Meeting at Magna Carta



Magna Carta Lodge hosted a very successful Group 3 new members meeting. Twelve new brethren from Group 3 Lodges in Bury St Edmunds and Mildenhall as well as members from Sudbury and Stowmarket enjoyed a very memorable evening and a convivial Festive Board.

The event was co-ordinated by Group 3 Mentor Tim McCormick, with his particular thanks going to the secretary and members of Magna Carta for being so accommodating in arranging a ceremony that all could enjoy. There was bit of a flurry to find enough aprons for EAs and Fellowcrafts but, once seated, all were treated to a wonderful presentation of the Extended Workings of the 1st Degree Tracing Board by WBro Paul Wreathall. The Festive Board was upbeat and the new brethren proved they could all sing, as indeed did the Provincial Mentor, Keith Huxley. All in all a fine Masonic evening.

WBro Tim McCormick

Yes, the Orator's scheme is still alive and well in Suffolk

I have been fortunate to make over twenty presentations in the last year including a number of White Tables, very entertaining and light-hearted events. Please Secretaries and DCs, when at a loss to fill an evening why not contact me or any of my team to come out and both educate and entertain. A night off for you and the boys and an opportunity for that rarest of masonic happenings, debate and discussion! For further details contact me or visit the Provincial Website (Orators page).

Now for something new. A year ago I received a script for an American presentation, "The Ceremony of the Empty Chair". This beautiful piece is oft performed in American lodges to remember the dead of their wars and was first written to heal the wounds of their civil war. I heavily rewrote same with an emphasis of those British and Commonwealth brethren who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War and latter conflicts. It was first performed by Priory Lodge at Sudbury and then at Clare to mark Remembrance Day. It is now the remit of our Provincial Stewards Lodge (having little else to learn!) who will be presenting this unique ceremony at Lowestoft on 1st November and then at Doric Lodge Woodbridge on the 9th. With fame spreading our team will be travelling to Grand Lodge on 15th December to give a somewhat grander performance in Temple Ten to a bigger capacity audience of London military lodges. All from Suffolk will be welcome, our rulers are attending so if you want to support us and enjoy something both moving and unique to the Craft please come along. Priory Lodge will also be giving their annual performance at Sudbury on 7th November. You will be welcome at all these venues (numbers permitting) so please email me or the hosting lodges.

So again, lectures do not have to be that boring alternative to a ceremony. I and others are always available for something different, just drop us an email.

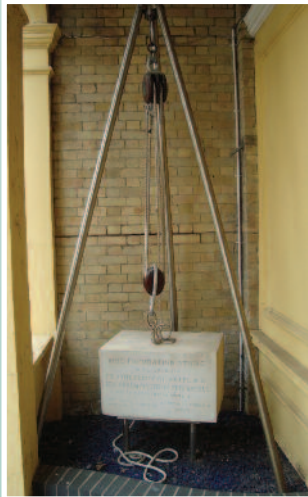
Peter Thorogood, Provincial Orator
mandpthorogood@gmail.com 01787 376431



The Masonic Royal Assembly Rooms Great Yarmouth

Standing imposingly and facing the Marine Parade in Great Yarmouth, the Masonic Royal Assembly Rooms is arguably one of the finest Masonic Centres in East Anglia. This historic Grade II listed building was built in 1863 and purchased for Freemasonry in 1919. This building currently hosts 10 Lodges and 15 Side Degrees, including two Suffolk Lodges and one Suffolk Chapter.

The history of the development of the surrounding area dates back to 1840 when the Victoria Building Company was formed. The intention of this company was to develop the seaside land at the south end of Yarmouth.



The Foundation Stone

In 1862 the Victoria Building Company leased a building plot to the Great Yarmouth Assembly and Reading Rooms Company who, in January 1863, obtained a mortgage of £1,300 to erect a building on the plot. The building was intended as an Assembly Room and included in the specifications was the provision for a refreshment room and kitchen, a separate gentleman's and ladies' room, a billiard room, a manager's room and bedroom and also servants' quarters. The front of the building was to be a swimming pool but, as the mortgage was insufficient to cover the cost, this was converted into a croquet lawn and is now the car park. In 1870 the building was severely damaged by fire but was then successfully rebuilt. In 1875 the building was sold for £2,050.

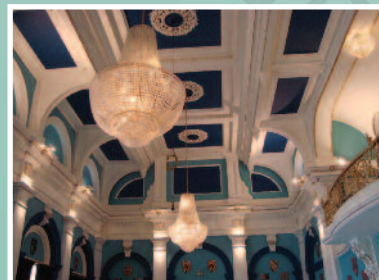
During the period of its existence, the Assembly Rooms had periodically been hired by the Norfolk Artillery and in 1871 the Prince of Wales became the Honorary Colonel of the Norfolk Artillery Militia. 1883 saw Lieutenant Colonel Lord Suffield (Provincial Grand Master of Norfolk 1876 – 1898) and Major E. S. Trafford, purchasing the building for £2,233 6s 8d on behalf of the Prince of Wales Own Norfolk Artillery Militia, with all fixtures and fittings included in the price. The Assembly Rooms became the Officers' Mess and it was the custom on joining the Regiment for the Officers to present their family coat of arms. Originally ninety-one in number, seventy-seven remain to this day and are displayed on the walls within the building. In 1909 the Norfolk Artillery Militia was disbanded and in 1910 the contents of the Officers' Mess were disposed of and the building sold to Mr. J. W. Nightingale. Unfortunately, Mr Nightingale passed away the following year.



The Main Temple

Thereafter, business was seriously affected by the outbreak of the First World War when the building, once again, was taken over by the Army as an Officer's Mess. J. W. Nightingale's son was appointed Receiver in 1918 and the Assembly Rooms was sold by way of Provisional Consent.

In September 1918 the Lodge of Friendship 100 resolved that their Lodge be moved to the Masonic



Temple Ceiling

Royal Assembly Rooms. At that time they were advised that W.Bro. A. W. Yallop and Bro. R. F. Ferrier had entered into a provisional contract to acquire the building for £2,300. In May 1919 the Limited Company of the Great Yarmouth Masonic Association was formed. On the 10th October 1919 Royal Plantaganet Preceptory held the first Masonic meeting in the premises. This was followed six days later by a meeting of the Lodge of



The Upper Temple

occasions. As a consequence of the war, 1941 saw the building being taken over by the Royal Navy and utilised as a Petty Officers' Mess. Further Masonic activity in the building ceased at that time. However, when the war ended the Lodges moved back in. In October 1946 St. Nicholas Lodge 6623 was formed.

Improvement works were carried out between 1963 and 1972 and included a new upper temple to accommodate Side Degrees, new dining room and new toilets. Since that major development the building has continued to be refurbished on an annual basis. On the 4th February 2009 the Association was proud to receive a visit from the Most Worshipful Grand Master H.R.H. The Duke of Kent.



Dining Room

Previously a private Masonic retreat, The Great Yarmouth Masonic Royal Assembly Rooms has now been hosting public functions for many years and the hospitality services extend to providing a unique wedding venue as well as providing meeting and conference facilities. As mentioned previously, two Suffolk Lodges meet in the building. St. Andrews Lodge 1631 was consecrated on the Monday 30th October 1876. Originally, they met in the Church Hall adjoining St. Andrews Hall Lecture Room, Priory Street, Gorleston. St. Mary's was sponsored by and is the Daughter Lodge of St. Andrews Lodge. It was consecrated on the 18th January 1918. They originally met at St. Mary's School Room, Southtown, Great Yarmouth. Both Lodges are Suffolk Lodges because the local area, Gorleston, had historically been in the Province of Suffolk, albeit in 1835 following a boundary change, it merged with Great Yarmouth and became a part of Norfolk. Both Lodges moved to different meeting places including shared usage of the Two Bears Hotel, Southtown and The Bridge Hotel, Southtown (thirty- four years).



Main Bar

Originally, members of St. Mary's Lodge who were intent on joining Chapter were invited to join St. Andrews Chapter. However, in 1924 St. Mary's formed their own Chapter. This sustained until 1959 when, due to failing membership, it surrendered its' warrant and the remaining 12 members transferred to St. Andrew Chapter.

In July 1965, Lacons, the owners of the Bridge Hotel, gave notice to both Lodges of its intention to cease trading and sell the hotel. In December 1965 both Lodges and Chapter took up permanent residence at the Masonic Royal Assembly Rooms where they have met successfully ever since.

Ron Hanton

50 Year certificate for Bert

Bert Keele was initiated into the Lodge of Virtue of Silence No. 332 in March 1964, becoming Worshipful Master in 1975. He was presented with a 50 Year Certificate by the PGM on 10th February following an excellent Ceremony of Raising. Bert is now 98 years old and still attends V&S on a fairly regularly basis and was honoured to be given Honorary Membership of the lodge in March 2016.

Bert was born at Weybridge in Surrey, he attended school in Cambridge and was apprenticed as an instrument maker to Pye Electronics. Here he worked on some of the early ideas for Radar, before being called for war service in the Royal Navy. When it was discovered that his skill was with instruments, he was immediately seconded to the Fleet Air Arm, for training at Newcastle under Lyme.

He then moved to Yeovilton where he was in charge of the instrument room for a long period of time. He then transferred to MOB No1 which was in Australia, and ended up on an airbase in the Admiralty Islands. On returning to England he started in partnership with a small company in Linton, Cambridgeshire. It was here that he was approached by Cambridgeshire County Council to design and make special climbing frames and equipment for physical education for children. So popular and effective were these, that units were supplied to the Royal Family. With an expanding business, Bert came to Hadleigh and took on the first unit in what was to become the Hadleigh Industrial Estate. Bert's wife Kitty had worked in the wages department at Pye in Cambridge, and this is where they met, and married. They have two daughters, five grand daughters, ten great grand daughters, and one grandson. In his younger days, Bert played hockey for Pye and also for Hadleigh, as well as tennis. Many years ago he was one of the instigators in forming a committee, and raising funds over a eight year period, to provide Hadleigh with its swimming pool.

Gordon Spindler



Lifelites delivers magical technology for children at Ipswich Children's Hospice



Lifelites spreads their magic delivering a brand new package of specialist technology for the children at East Anglia's Children's Hospice's (EACH) Treehouse hospice in Ipswich for the fourth time. Roger Nash from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk attended the special event. Lifelites, recently recognised for their good work with technology as a 2015 Nominet Trust 100 winner is the only charity to provide assistive and inclusive technology packages for terminally ill and disabled children in every baby and children's hospice across the British Isles. At the training day at The Treehouse, members of the care team were all amazed by the cutting edge equipment that will empower young people at the hospice, who have complex and life threatening healthcare needs, to communicate effectively and embrace their creativity. The technology is specially designed for disabled children and the package includes a number of magical items such as: four specialist adapted iPad packages with grip cases and lots of special apps, a portable touch screen computer, Beamz music making equipment with a laptop, a Go Pro mounting bracket and, for the first time, in Lifelites' history two Eyegaze packages.

The revolutionary Eyegaze makes a computer accessible for young people with disabilities. Through a sensor, Eyegaze tracks their eye movements enabling them to move the cursor around the screen. Children whose families and carers thought they were unable to communicate, can now do so with this magical technology – they can tell their carers what they would like to eat or drink and can even, maybe for the first time, tell their parents that they love them. The Treehouse will use one Eyegaze for the children using the hospice and during their work in the community.

Stephanie Graham, EACH Care Manager at The Treehouse, said: "We're delighted to have the continued support of Lifelites here at The Treehouse and we'd like to thank them for their support and expertise. The training session was very informative and a great tool to help our staff to use this technology with the families we work with. The Eyegaze technology will make the new Lifelites package even more accessible to the many children and young people EACH supports, and fits in with our ethos of ensuring they're able to reach their potential whatever their healthcare needs might be."

Roger Nash experienced the magical technology in its entirety. He was amazed as he tested out the new Eyegaze package and said: "To me the beauty of the equipment really is the fact that it is the most up to date technology available that is adaptable for children whatever their disabilities so there's something in there to suit every child."

There is a Lifelites project in every baby and children's hospices across the British Isles. The hospices do not pay anything towards their Lifelites project and all of Lifelites' work is funded by donations: the equipment, ongoing technical support and training at each hospice costs Lifelites around £50,000 over four years. Support for the package at East Anglia's Children's Hospice's Treehouse hospice came from Revere Charitable Trust, Music Sales Charitable Trust, Microsoft, Games Aid, Khoo Tech Puat UK Foundation.

Working together and looking after our own

One of our widows, Joan Godfrey, has in recent years formed a relationship with Jim Taylor a brother of The Lodge of Prudence 388. Jim was a regular visitor to Martyn Lodge until a serious medical condition restricted his social life. Joan has been nursing and looking after Jim who is now making a slow recovery.



Working closely with the Almoner and other members of Prudence, Jim has now been given a mobility scooter, funded equally by both lodges, and which can be put into a car. As you can see from Jim's smiling face, this will now enable both Joan and Jim to get away, to improve the quality of their lives by leaving the four walls of their rural home, to do other things and see more places.

It has been agreed that when Jim no longer requires the mobility scooter it will be returned to the Lodges for it to be used by someone else in need. This is just a small example of two lodges working together to look after their own and we hope it will not be too long before Jim is able to return to Prudence, and of course, to visit Martyn.

Brian Coleman, Almoner of Martyn Lodge 1983

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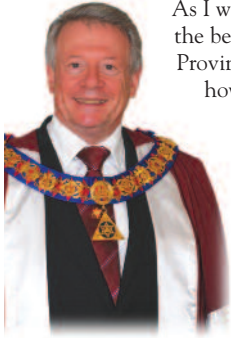
We mail 2800 copies direct to every Freemason in Suffolk.

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The Provincial Grand Chapter of Suffolk



As I write this, the weather is sunny and I am reminded of the beauty of a Suffolk summer. We have a very special Province, and in visiting other Provinces I am reminded of how lucky I am to represent the Holy Royal Arch Province of Suffolk.

It is also shortly after the Provincial Meetings and I am grateful that Suffolk holds their meetings at a glorious time of the year. I do hope you all enjoyed the day.

The Provincial Grand Chapter is always a special day for me to be able to congratulate those who have earned rewards by working hard either in their Chapters or for the Province and

this was no exception. It is also a time for the Province to show off a little.

I travel around the Country extensively and am proud to represent you in other Provinces. Wherever I go I am invariably greeted with comments on how happy and connected this Province is and requests for invitations to our Meeting. This is entirely down to you the members and your approach to the Royal Arch and I thank you for it.

Next year the Royal Arch will be assisting in the Tercentenary of Grand Lodge; whilst it is not a Royal Arch celebration we are all Craft Masons.

I know that you all give generously in your Craft Lodges and I am also very aware of the pressures on the finances of everyone these days and we are always asked for donations to good causes. I appreciate your support towards our Scribe E, John Kirk, who is trying to raise £8,000 towards a sailing dinghy for a disabled sailing club near Bury St Edmunds. John gives his time and effort for free and is passionate in explaining the joy that the participants show in taking part in the sailing. The sailing club desperately needs a new boat to enable more to experience the joys of sailing. Your Scribe E/Secretary has been sent details.

As you know, I am very keen for money raised within this Province to be kept locally and this could be a lasting example of a donation that will enhance Freemasonry in the Community.

In the meantime, have a great summer, enjoy the break and relax from Freemasonry. I look forward to seeing you all in the new season.

Very best wishes, David Boswell, Grand Superintendent

Suffolk Installed First Principals Chapter meeting is hosting a team from **Metropolitan Grand Chapter** who will perform a new playlet

“Royal Arch in Camera”

an entertaining and informative explanation of the Royal Arch with something new for everybody.

**Friday 2nd September at 6pm
Ashlar House Bury St. Edmunds**

Bookings should be made with
scribesifp@btinternet.com 01284 768478

Cost is £20 for the meeting and dinner
and £5 for meeting only.

This is a “must-do”!



Provincial Grand Chapter 2016



Thursday, 12th May, saw the members of Suffolk Royal Arch meet for the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter at Ashlar House in Bury St Edmunds. It was a fine day and the weather allowed many to gather in the garden to ‘Chatter about Chapter’.



The meeting went to its usual high standard under the Provincial Grand Superintendent, E Comp David Boswell, ably supported by a large number of VIP guests from all over southern England and representatives of all the Suffolk Chapters After the opening business, the Grand Superintendent went on to appoint and invest E Comps David Lillis as Deputy Grand Superintendent, Ray Pascoe as Second Provincial Grand Principal and Ralph Robertson as Third Provincial Grand Principal After a well received address from David Boswell, the Chapter was closed and all retired to a most enjoyable Festive Board.

Harvey Spindler



Caption Competition!

Just tell us what these two Companions are thinking, saying or doing and win a new Festival Tie!

Simply email kelvinavis@me.com with your caption and the one that Forum Magazine judges the most humorous wins. The winner will be notified by email and will receive the Festival Tie by post.

Good Luck!

Triune Chapter donate to MS Charity

E.Comp Paul Smith recently presented a cheque for £600 to Suffolk Help in Multiple Sclerosis (SHIMS) at Ipswich Hospital which was gratefully received by Andy Blacker, Chairman of the charity, together with the Treasurer, a representative from the MS Society and specialist nurses from Ipswich Hospital who volunteer to assist at their meetings.

Triune Chapter voted to donate £300 at their recent Installation and were delighted when the Grand Superintendent David Boswell, who was present, immediately offered a further donation of £300 on behalf of Suffolk Provincial Grand Chapter when he became aware that the charity is very dear to Paul, as his daughter Caroline, who suffers from MS, has attended SHIMS on a number of occasions.

SHIMS is a local Charity - a self-help support group for people who have Multiple Sclerosis living in and around the Ipswich area. Weekly meetings are held with Physiotherapy, Relaxation Classes and Therapy Sessions. The meetings are also an opportunity for people to meet and discuss issues with other sufferers of MS.

The donation from Triune and Provincial Grand Chapter was very well received and will make a big difference to a small charity. A personal phone call was received from the Chairman of SHIMS thanking us for our donation and explaining how the money will be used.

E.Comp Paul Smith, IPZ, Triune Chapter



Come and join
Amanda & Jenny
The Provincial Grand Masters Lady The Grand Superintendents Lady

Who are hosting a coffee morning
 in aid of Macmillans Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning

**Ashlar House
 Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AB
 Saturday 8th October
 10.30am-1.00pm
 Entrance £2.50**

DONATIONS OF CAKES GRATEFULLY RECEIVED
 If you wish to make a donation of cakes or raffle prizes please contact
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