



# FORUM



**LAUGHTER & LEGENDS**

*...a fantastic night at The Regent!*



# FORUM

## The Suffolk Freemasons Magazine



In this issue of Forum we have a wide range of articles for you, including all the inside details from Graham Colthorpe who helped put together Laughter & Legends at The Regent, where a fantastic night was had by all.

The Consecration of Sportsmans Lodge was back in November and we have a full report from Peter Thorogood as well as a great photo and explanation of their rather unique gavels.

Each issue I try to feature one of our Masonic Centres and in this Forum you will learn all about Royal Clarence Lodge which meets at Clare, if you want your centre in a future Forum, please get in touch. Ever wanted to know about becoming a Provincial Grand Steward? Well simply turn to page 16 where their secretary, Mike Harris, reveals all.

In addition to all this the magazine contains all the reports I have received from you over the past six months bringing you up to date with what has been happening all over the Province. I am always being asked "How do you get an article into Forum?" Well it could not be easier, just email, post or give to me in person and it will appear in the next issue.

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.

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# Jottings

from The Provincial Grand Secretary



Welcome to the Winter edition of Forum.

The Province has been through another very busy period in the months leading up to the New Year and looks set for an equally busy period in 2017.

Many of you will have received early in the New Year offers of Provincial Appointments and Promotions from the Provincial Grand Master and in accepting these, brethren should be mindful that it is an expectation that they will attend the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting in June to receive their Appointment or Promotion from the Provincial Grand Master.

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](mailto:regaliaservices@dpsconnect.com)

The Annual Meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Chapter for the Tercentenary Year of Freemasonry are to take place on the same day this year at the Royal Hospital School on Friday 2nd June 2017. The Provincial Grand Chapter Meeting will be at 12.00 noon followed by the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting at 3.00pm with Dining at 5.30pm. Due to possible restrictions on numbers attending, admission to both the Meeting and Dinner will again be by named tickets only. The booking form can be found in this issue of Forum. I urge all brethren, particularly those receiving Appointments and Promotions and wishing to attend the Meetings only or the Meetings and Dinner to clearly complete all sections of the Attendance/Dining Return and send in the form by return with a SAE as places for the Meeting and Dining may be over-subscribed.

There have been numerous White and Blue Table evenings throughout the Province in the last twelve months and I am advised that the feedback has been good with considerable interest from those who attended resulting in new members for many of the Lodges in the Province.

Sportsman's Lodge No 9931 was Consecrated by the Provincial Grand Master on 12 November 2016 at Sudbury followed by the Installation of their Founding Master WBro Andy Gentle by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and a most enjoyable Festive Board.

The Provincial Grand Master's Reception for Ruling Masters, Acting Provincial Officers and their partners was held at Ashlar House, Bury St Edmunds on Sunday 20th November. It was a most successful and enjoyable occasion attracting a record attendance and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ashlar House for their warm welcome and the excellent Buffet and Bar Service.

On June 11th the Provincial Grand Master will be hosting a Garden Party at Ashlar House for new initiates together with their proposers or mentors. This will be an informal event, complete with BBQ and will give our newcomers a flavour of what freemasonry is all about.

The Province is looking forward to the Tercentenary of Freemasonry Celebrations in 2017 which will include Tercentenary Dinners at Bury St Edmunds on 24th June, Great Yarmouth on 1st July and Ipswich on 10th November.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Provincial Office Secretariat, Graham Saward Editor of the Year Book along with Kelvin Avis the Editor of Forum and Roger Nash the Communications Officer who do so much work voluntarily behind the scenes.

*David Clarke, January 2017*

Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting  
and Provincial Grand Chapter Meeting

**Friday 2nd June 2017**

Royal Hospital School, Holbrook

*Your Booking Forms are included in this magazine*

## Ladies lead second successful Masonic Macmillan Coffee Morning

For the second year, Ian Yeldham and David Boswell's partners Amanda and Jenny, and their team of ladies called on Suffolk Masons to support them in a Macmillan Coffee morning held at the Bury St Edmunds Masonic centre. In just over two hours, over £3,000 was raised, exceeding last year's total of £2,000.

Jenny Boswell thanked all those ladies who bought, brought, baked and ate cakes, without their contribution we would not have achieved this outstanding sum. 'To raise £3,000 in a morning was a magnificent response.

Amanda and I are so grateful to the Lodges, Chapters and individuals who donated so generously also to everyone that attended for both their time and support.' Another coffee morning is already planned for next year.



*Alex Workman*

## Exciting times...!

As we enter into a year of celebrations to mark the Tercentenary of Grand Lodge, attention has already been directed to celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk in 2021.

Whilst 2021 may seem a long way off, and we have our, no doubt highly successful, Festival in 2019 to look forward to, time passes very quickly, as every Installed Master can testify!

Among the celebrations being planned to mark this significant milestone of Freemasonry in Suffolk, a book is to be produced, which will not only record the history of the Province, but each of our 68 Lodges will have pages dedicated to their history. The book will be sent to each member of the Province, without charge, as an acknowledgement of their contribution to the success of the Province. The name of every member, as at 1st January 2021, will be recorded on their Lodge page.

I am now asking for information regarding your Lodge. Many Lodges will already have marked an anniversary, be it 25 years or 250 years, and therefore much information may be readily available, but individual members may also have information of interest.

I do not wish to add to the burden of your already hard-pressed Secretary by expecting him to write your history, merely to forward information to me, and I will do the rest. My details may be found at the front of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk Year Book.

*Graham Saward*

## 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

## A few words from our Provincial Grand Master

It has started, the Tercentenary is upon us, and we are about to enjoy celebrating 300 years of Freemasonry. UGLE has invested a great deal of effort over the last five years to bring everyone up to date on proceedings within the Fraternity and there is much for the members to consider. Deliberation was needed as to how we operate from within and much is for those not involved with our Fraternity. UGLE decided that using the media and specifically television would be the best and most complete approach.

'Inside Freemasonry' will be aired on Sky 1 in the spring when we are ever hopeful that it will dispel all the old fashioned myths that would sometime blight our organisation. This will of course renew peoples enthusiasm to look at our order in a different light and may well inspire more enquires to our Masonic centres. The utmost care in selecting gentlemen to join us will be as important as ever and I implore you all to point out the required commitment in terms of both time and personal circumstance to be able to enjoy Freemasonry to its fullest extent.

We have the events organised across the Province by Brian Simpson for us to enjoy and help celebrate 300 years, so when you book your tickets, remember to invite your friends as well. The spring is looming and it will warm our hearts and our enthusiasm and I urge you please to keep an eye on your Festival targets so that we can repay the enormous support that we receive every year from the RMBI.

Then it will be 'back to school'... The Royal Hospital School for Provincial Grand Lodge on Friday June 2nd and for the very first time, sharing the event with Chapter and David Boswell, the Grand Superintendent.

I will also look forward to welcoming our initiates to a garden party at Ashlar House on June 11th along with their proposers or mentors as well as their partners. The format this time will be a BBQ on Sunday afternoon with a chance to meet all the rulers. We will be entertained by homegrown Suffolk talent, to give our newcomers a full taste of what Suffolk Freemasonry is all about. So if you are in anyway connected to your newest members and can get hold of a £10 ticket, come along and join the fun.

As always, I thank you for all your support.

**R.W.Bro. Ian Yeldham**  
Provincial Grand Master



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## 'Lest we forget'



On Remembrance Sunday, 13th November 2016 a small delegation of Suffolk Masons, together with their wives, attended the Bury St. Edmunds Remembrance Commemorations and Parade.

Members of the armed forces marched to form a hollow square around the war memorial, a prayer was said, The Last Post was then sounded and as the bells struck 11.00 am, the crowd observed a moment of reflection, a two-minute silence in honour of the war dead. Different regiments, dignitaries, officers, councillors and charities laid wreaths on the war memorial, together with WBro Mike Helliar of Abbot Baldwin Lodge who laid a wreath on behalf of Bury St. Edmunds Freemasons.

British and American Armed Forces personnel were applauded by the gathered crowd as they paraded again in front of Angel square as they made their way to a service at St. Mary's Church.

Marc Deora



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## Suffolk Installed Masters' Lodge

Suffolk Installed Masters' Lodge meets just three times during the year, on the first Tuesday in March and the third Thursdays in May and September. The installation in March is open to members and their Masonic guests while our other two meetings, one or both of which will be held during the day, usually includes a talk or papers presented by the Master or guest speaker. These are also open to our members partners for whom a special programme is arranged whilst the Lodge attends to its business. After which we all meet to enjoy the festive board together.

To accommodate the needs of our members our meetings move around the Province. Of recent times we have met in Bury St Edmunds (Installation), Felixstowe, Hadleigh, Ipswich, Lowestoft and Sudbury. Offices in the Lodge, except those of SW and JW, are not progressive.

Although we may entertain our Masonic Brethren as guests, membership of the Lodge is exclusive to Masters and Past Masters who are subscribing members of and in Lodges within the Province of Suffolk. Membership of the Lodge will also help to keep you in touch with the Masters with whom you have recently served. As well as other rulers of the Craft both in Suffolk and neighbouring provinces (who are our guests from other Masters Lodges). You will be pleased to hear that we do not have a joining fee and our annual subscription is just £25.00. We will celebrate our centenary in 2019 and special meetings and events will be organised for that occasion.



In 2016 the May meeting was held at Hadleigh Town Hall, the venue of the mother Lodge of the Master. He gave a talk to the Ladies and Brethren about the life and times of W.Bro. Ray Dunningham, Farmer, Japanese PoW and Freemason, PJGD of the UGLE.

At the September meeting at Lowestoft the Brethren received a talk on "The Parables of Freemasonry" by W.Bro. Tony Baker, PAGDC of the UGLE, PM of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge and The Lodge of Living Stones. He led us through the lessons that can be learnt from the ritual. The Ladies meanwhile received a talk from W.Bro. Jonathan Lambert Prov.DGDC.Cambs, on jewellery.

In August W.Bro. Terry Lewis, Prov.GA. Suffolk, organised a coach trip to Blenheim Palace with lunch at a wonderful Italian Restaurant afterwards.

*If you would like to join or attend any of our meetings please contact:  
W.Bro. John Studd, PAGDC(Eng), Conifer Lodge, Aldringham,  
Leiston, IP16 4QJ. 01728 453446 studdycl@aol.com*

## Seafood on a summer's day

Bob Rider the Charity Steward of Solea Lodge No 9498 arranged, along with his wife Mary, a seafood luncheon at his home in Mildenhall.

It was held on Saturday 6th August, which turned out to be a perfect summer's day. Guests were treated to a vast selection of fresh seafood along with salads and home-made desserts all accompanied by some live musical entertainment from local singer Glynis.



A wonderful time was had by all and £300 was raised for the Festival.

*Bob Rider*

## Colneis Charity Race Night



*Pictured right to left – WM Derek Porter, SD Bro Darren Harris, JW Bro Jamie Read, Helen Glenholmes (Macmillan) and Nurse Helen Bunn (Ipswich Hospital Woolverstone Ward)*

Colneis Lodge, Felixstowe held its 3rd bi-annual Charity Race Night back in April 2016. As in previous years, the main beneficiary was Macmillan Cancer Support with other proceeds going to the RMBI and the St. Johns Hall Trust. Approximately 120 Masons together with their family and friends attended and much fun and betting was had by all. There were nine races on the 'Big Screen' with a splendid hog roast supplied by the very generous Bro. Steve Proctor.

Pre Race Night takings of Horse Owners, Trainers and Race Sponsors added to takings on the night allowing us to write cheques to Woolverstone Macmillan Centre for £1629.50, RMBI £250.00 and St. Johns Masonic Hall Trust £250.00. A fantastic show of generosity and support we are sure you will agree. The Lodge was invited for a guided tour of the new Woolverstone Macmillan Centre at Ipswich Hospital by Helen Glenholmes their Fund Raising Manager so our WM Derek Porter went along accompanied by Bro's Jamie Read and Darren Harris. In addition to the cheque from the race night Derek Porter also handed over a futher £500.00 cheque from his Masters list to Macmillan.

*Jamie Read*



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# 300 years of Freemasonry

**Next year we will be celebrating 300 years of Freemasonry in England. Here in Suffolk we will be celebrating this landmark occasion in a number of ways.**

**With charity being at the very heart of our order, there will be tangible donations to three charities here in Suffolk.**

**The first charity is The Somerville Foundation**, which provides support for adolescent and adult congenital heart patients. Our donation will be funding around 25 CoaguChek machines which will each be labelled 'Presented by the Freemasons of Suffolk' on the front and 'Commemorating 300 years of Freemasonry' on the back. Patients suffering these conditions must attend anti-coagulation clinics at their local hospital on a weekly basis.



This involves having to leave work, travel to the hospital, park, wait at the clinic to be seen and then travel back again. All of which involves time and funds from the patient. Our donation of the CoaguChek machines

will mean that patients no longer have to attend hospital on a weekly basis because these machines can perform the same test wherever the patient is without disrupting their day. These machines will be at a cost of £6000.

**The second charity is WASH Sailability**, this charity provides sailing facilities for people with disabilities of any kind.

Our donation will fund a new sailing boat which will be called 'Tercentenary', have 'Presented by the Freemasons of Suffolk' written on the bottom of the sail and have GL and HRA logos on the sail.



The boats that WASH Sailability uses are specially designed to be more stable and easier to operate than normal boats, they also have accessible boats for disabled people. Our donation of a new sailing boat will enable the charity to offer its sailing facilities to more people. The boat will be at a cost of £8000. This charitable donation has had a substantial contribution from Provincial Grand Chapter.



**The third charity is MTSFC (the Masonic Fishing Charity)** which offers interactive fishing and countryside experiences to people with special needs. The Suffolk branch of MTSFC offer fishing days



which aim to build confidence, set new challenges and encourage achievement in their participants. Our donation to this charity will fund a mobile trailer for MTSFC Suffolk to use for transportation and storage of their equipment; this trailer will have the tercentenary logo and 'Presented by the Freemasons of Suffolk' displayed on each side. Our donation of this trailer will help the volunteers to move and store their equipment in a safer and more efficient manner. The trailer will be at a cost of £4000 and will also be available throughout the Province for other Masonic activities.

The total cost of our charitable donations to celebrate our tercentenary is £18000, 50% of this total has been paid by Grand Lodge and the other 50% has been paid from existing funds. This means that all of these projects are self-funding and therefore Lodges will not be asked to contribute in any way.

It is hoped that local television coverage can be encouraged to attend the presentation of these donations during our celebrations. It is probable that the handover will involve the PGM and WM's of as many Lodges as possible. These official presentations are also a photo opportunity and copies of the photos will be sent to local papers, Forum magazine and W.Bro Simpson.

Within our 2017 tercentenary celebrations it is suggested that Masonic Halls in the Province should have at least one open day, with Brethren in Full Regalia. During these open days the Province will arrange for the WM's of the local lodges to make a joint official presentation of donations to recipients. Again this is a photo opportunity and copies of the photos will be distributed as above. W.Bro Simpson will also make arrangements to have all of these photos stitched into a video of the Royal Albert Hall proceedings with a copy of the video being shown at the November celebration event in Ipswich.

Lastly, to celebrate our landmark occasion there will three dinners throughout the Province of Suffolk. The first will be held in Bury St Edmunds on 24th June 2017, this will be a dinner dance. The second will be held at Great Yarmouth on 1st July 2017, this will also be a dinner dance. The final dinner will be held in Ipswich on 10th November 2016, this is a dinner with musical entertainment throughout. It is suggested that a potential initiate and partner will be invited on each table, so that we can take these opportunities for recruitment. Another option is to invite some of the Lodge widows. Tickets for all three dinner events will be £34.50 each but it is stressed that there will be no raffle or collection during these events. Application forms will be made available in January/February 2017.

As well as these dinner celebrations there will be a Provincial Cathedral Service at the St Edmundsbury Cathedral on 29th October 2017.

**If you would like any further information on anything covered in this article please refer to your Tercentenary Leaflet or contact W.Bro Brian Simpson. (email: [brian@physioclinic.net](mailto:brian@physioclinic.net)).**

**Brian will be visiting all Lodges in the Province to distribute the leaflets and talk to you about these upcoming celebrations for our once in a lifetime occasion.**

## Charitable Donation by The Countryside Lodge of Suffolk No. 9830



*Pictured L-R are WBro. Jamie Gwatkin, Dr. Mike Moore of Addenbrookes Hospital Charitable Trust, Kerry Gwatkin, Sandy Mears, Mrs. Kathy Sargeant and WBro. Cliff Sargeant*

In November 2016 the Lodge made a donation of £500 to the Addenbrookes Charitable Trust in recognition of an outstanding act by the Worshipful Master's wife. In 2015 Sandy lost the use of both her kidneys and was on dialysis 3 days a week for many months while waiting for a kidney transplant. With there being no sign of one becoming available Kathy made the decision to become a living donor and to donate one of her kidneys to her sister. A selfless act for anyone to undertake but made even more so as Kathy has been suffering from Crohn's disease for the last 30 years. The operation was a great success for both donor and recipient, resulting in a total transformation of Sandy's life.

The Lodge was invited to attend a Charitable Trust Supporters afternoon, which a number of groups and individuals attended, to present cheques to the Trust. Permission was granted for the Lodge representatives to attend in regalia, which caused much interest and comments from those attending. With one lady asking the Worshipful Master, "Are you the Mayor of Cambridge?" To be given the reply, "No I'm someone far more important than that, I'm a Freemason!"

*Cliff Sargeant*

## Solea Lodge Christmas Party Lunch

On Sunday 11th December, Solea Lodge again held their Christmas lunch party. It was attended by 59 people, which included 10 children. Roff caterers again supplied a



wonderful full Christmas menu. After the starter course the huge roast turkey was presented to the Master and the guests, before carving and serving up. It looked and tasted fantastic, proper Christmas fare. Noisy balloons, crackers, paper hats and other festive items kept all the children and parents occupied.

Santa Clause arrived with a sack full of presents for all the children. He was still in his sunglasses, being freshly returned from giving out presents in the West Indies. A great xmas draw took place with many prizes on offer. The fresh coconut was not the first to go, but eventually WBro Ben Bullen took it, hoping to transplant some of its hair no doubt! The raffle raised the sum of £180.00, and the day overall realised a total of £239.31.

The usual singing of carols was then undertaken, with the highlight being the 12 days of Christmas. Before departing, all the specially made table decorations were given to selected people on each table.

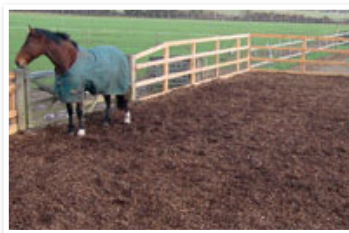
*Peter Smith*



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## 300 years of Freemasonry



In order that the Brethren of the Province of Suffolk may be enabled to join with their friends, partners and other Brethren in the 300th Birthday celebrations of organised Freemasonry in this country, celebratory dinners have been organised in

**Bury St. Edmunds on June 24th  
Gt. Yarmouth on July 1st  
and Ipswich on November 10th**

**as well as a Cathedral service  
at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral on October 29th**

It would be a real shame to miss out on joining with friends, wives, Brethren, Lodge widows and potential initiates to celebrate this "Once in a lifetime" occasion. Tickets are already selling at a very fast rate and you will need to apply for tickets sooner rather than later in order to ensure a place. Flyers and application/menu forms have been sent to all Lodge Secretaries and should have been forwarded to you all.

No raffles. No collections. No envelopes on the tables. No auction. These events are organised for the benefit of the Brethren of the Province of Suffolk with as little claim on your finances as possible, so come and join in the fun and enjoyment.

**Information on all Tercentary Celebrations available from:  
Brian Simpson P.Prov.S.G.W, Prov. Rep. to UGLE Tercentenary  
email: [brian@physioclinic.net](mailto:brian@physioclinic.net)**

# LAUGHTER & LEGENDS



It was February last year when I received a call from John Yeldham, "Graham, we're putting on a Show and I think you could help us". So a few days later I went over for a coffee and it all began. John had put on a number of shows some years ago and it turned out another one was being organised. I had discussions with all the Theatre's in the region and the best deal regarding capacity and cost was The Regent - and they were willing to give us a reduction as it was a Charity event.



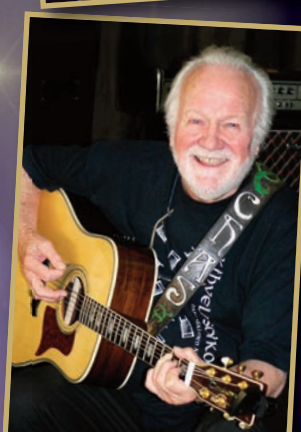
In the early 80's until the late 90's, I spent many nights performing at christmas events with my band at a hotel near Heathrow Airport and each night there was always a comedian, which is where I first met a young Ian Richards who over the years became a good friend and associate. Ian is also in Chelsea Lodge and a member of 'The Grand Order of Water Rats'.



Through discussions with Ian we provisionally put a plan together regarding possible acts and personalities we jointly knew, through Masonry and the Water Rats, of which Ian was currently 'King Rat'. Following a meeting of myself, Ian Richards, John and Ian Yeldham together with David Clarke and Les Howard, it was all agreed to move the event forward. The Regent was formally booked and a provisional line up was presented, with Ian Richards suggesting 'Laughter & Legends' as the title of the Show.



Over the following months things were put together with Les Howard putting in a lot of time and effort arranging all the publicity and advertising. I had a provisional list of acts and a running order, but with star names it is not easy. Television and foreign events can often be booked at short notice and with Rick Wakeman being very much in the news, with an album release, touring the USA, a possible tour of china plus the breaking news of 'Yes' being admitted into the 'Rock Hall of fame' in the USA. Rick was also on the TV and Radio a great deal leading up to the event. We had big names that were possible but nearer the time it was not to be, due to other TV or recording commitments. We did however have a great line up coming together, Rick Wakeman, Roger De Courcey, Chas McDevitt, Peter Donegan (son of Lonnie) backed up by the very best cabaret acts from the region. With everyone performing for Charity, no-one would have been able to afford such a line-up of the size or content.



Show day began with a bit of a jolt! I received a call and a number of texts early that morning, "Have you seen who's on the telly in Manchester, on the breakfast sofa?" - Rick hadn't mentioned a thing, but there he was sat in Manchester on 'Good morning Britain'. I called Ian Richards who had arranged to pick Rick up from his home near Scole, he had no idea either, hadn't been told. Apparently Rick arrived home just after 4pm, he's a great guy, an incredible talent, but very laid back!

I arrived at the theatre around 1 pm to find the stage was being cleared from the rock concert the night before, the acts started arriving at 2 pm, sound checks started after road crew arrived around 3 pm. It was all very organised and everything began to fall into place. Standing on the stage with a mic in your hand, staring at 1500 seats can be very intimidating for any performer, but everyone was great, especially Tim McCormick's youth group, 'The Young Nomads'.



Time flew by and before we knew it 7 pm had arrived and the doors were open. There had been no break, everyone was in their dressing rooms preparing and suddenly the lights were up and we were go. It was remarkably stress free back stage and everything fell into place. The night ran according to plan and everyone received a great response from the audience and came off with a big smile on their face. There was a magnificent atmosphere back stage, it was a great place to be, with some real characters and was enjoyed by all. It was a great experience, not something I'd like to do every week, but something I shall always remember. On behalf of all the team I would like thank everyone for their help and support and of course a massive 'thankyou' to the acts that gave their time and talent in a lineup that I'm sure could never be matched again.

*Graham Colthorpe*





## The Suffolk Branch of the Masonic Fishing Charity



On Thursday 22nd September nine students from Westbourne Academy in Ipswich attended Hintlesham Fly Fishery as guests of The Suffolk Branch of The Masonic Fishing Charity whose aim "is to bring an interactive fishing and countryside experience to people with special needs". The charity endeavours to do this by running fishing events, both coarse and fly, at various fisheries and inviting participants from special needs schools and centres as well as other disadvantaged people to participate and experience something that may otherwise be unavailable to them.



This was the third fishing event in eighteen months run by Court Knoll Lodge and once again proved to be a great success. The students arrived mid morning accompanied by adult helpers to be immediately welcomed and given a quality rucksack containing all they needed to ensure a safe and enjoyable time fishing, including waterproofs, eyewear, cap, a drink and even some antiseptic hand wipes!

The students were then introduced to their experienced fishing partner, whose sole aim is to involve their charges in all aspects of fishing, to let them have a go at casting, retrieving, hooking and landing the fish. All the fisherman are members of local Masonic lodges and give up their time freely for the charity. A fantastic day ensued, with all the participants catching fish, the look on their faces reward enough for all the hard work involved in organising an event such as this.



The students fished until 1 pm when a whistle sounded to mark the end of the day and a welcome barbecue lunch was served followed by strawberries and cream. A total of 42 trout were landed, each student was allowed to take two fish home the remainder returned unharmed back to the lake.



Garry Trott, principal of Westbourne Academy said "he was extremely impressed by the way everyone involved engaged with the young people, showing them a sense of calmness and great interest in them as individuals. The highlight was seeing them with trout in their nets and proud smiles upon their faces". Danny Payne, Head of Year at the Academy commented "For a group of children that included physical disability, learning difficulties and social and emotional problems, a more inclusive day could not have been organised" and Kirsty, one of the children's mums wrote afterwards "a proud son and a proud mother! Thank you all so much. He said it was his best day ever!"

*For further information regarding the work of The Masonic Fishing Charity or if you wish to offer your assistance in any way, please contact Chairman Jon Neill on 01206 795265*

## Ala donation to Stowmarket ATC



Joe Naughton, accompanied by the Treasurer, Graham Mason, and JW Graham Fielding presented a cheque for £400 to the Stowmarket Air Cadet Squadron No. 1331 on Wednesday 25th Jan 2017, the cheque was accepted by Squadron Leader Flight Lieutenant Paula Houghton on behalf of the squadron. This was one of the charity presentations made by the Ala Lodge IPM to commemorate his previous year in office.

The ATC are a registered charity and the Stowmarket squadron are trying to raise funds to replace their ageing minibus, which is so important to attending various adventure exercises that help the cadets in their development. They are a uniformed youth organisation affiliated to the RAF with aims to encourage leadership, team-working and an adventurous outlook on life for young people aged between 13 and 20. There is no requirement to join the armed forces but joining is an excellent way to see if the forces life would suit a youngster. They take part in a huge range of activities - flying, gliding, shooting, adventure training, sport, camps in the UK and overseas, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and many others. It is also possible to obtain BTEC qualifications through the ATC, many of which are provided free of charge.

*Graham Fielding*

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# Another milestone in the Province of Suffolk as a new lodge is Consecrated

Suffolk is one of the few Provinces under the auspices of Grand Lodge to show a slight increase in membership last year and as we so often proudly boast, has not lost a Lodge since 1865, an enviable record.

However, in order, not just to survive, but also to thrive, new initiatives must be considered. With that in mind a group of 26 brethren from 14 different lodges and 4 provinces met to found (with the approbation of our PGM) a new lodge with a definite aim in view; to enjoy and practice our freemasonry within a sporting context. Hence the Sportsman's Lodge of Suffolk No. 9931.

The Consecration and first Installation on Saturday 12th November was an amazing celebration of the Craft. The ceremony, under the direction of W.Bro. David Barker PG Director of Ceremonies had been well and oft rehearsed and if there were errors none noticed, as for the majority (including David) a Consecration was a rarely observed event! The ceremony conducted in faultless style by the PGM, RWBro. Ian Yeldham was, particularly to the Founders, unique and inspiring. The subsequent Installation of W.Bro. Andy Gentle conducted by our DPGM, W.Bro. John Rice equally slick and yet moving. The beautiful crowded Sudbury temple finally echoed to the closing ode of "Jerusalem" as the Founders finally realised that their dream had come to fruition. A sumptuous festive board followed with our PGM kindly extolling the virtues and purpose of his new Lodge. Truly a memorable day for all, members and visitors alike, which, in some cases, continued until the early hours.



**The Founders of Sportsmans Lodge of Suffolk No. 9931**



**Our Provincial Grand Master pictured with the Master and Wardens of Sportsmans Lodge, WM Andy Gentle, SW Chris Warnes and JW Steve Horne**

The Founders besides being active masons, have a united interest in sport and have but one purpose in mind, to not only perfect our masonry, but above all to have fun and spend our Saturdays together in active harmony. With that in mind it is the intent to perform ceremonies in a brief but well conducted manner. Then to enjoy a drink together before sitting to a goodly festive board with speeches, toasts etc. kept to a brief although amusing format. Then hopefully on to a local sporting event at say the rugby or cricket club with a convivial jar with players and supporters alike. Incidentally such clubs are the ideal recruiting ground, as we have learnt, for those to whom the team spirit and ethos of freemasonry is alike to the sporting world.

Activities will not be confined to Sudbury. With dispensation meetings will be held elsewhere, a Dublin hotel followed by a visit to a match, Henley, Lords, or any other suitable venue. To be concise, a lodge with but one view in mind, to have fun!

*Peter Thorogood, Secretary,  
Sportsmans Lodge of Suffolk No. 9931*

Dudley Mason presented Sportsmans Lodge with some rather unusual gavels...

**The gavels all have a sporting theme.**

First the Masters Gavel - All made from Brown Oak, the handle turned into the base of an old brass 1.25" shell, the head turned to represent a shotgun shell. With a gun dogs basket turned for it to sit within.

Next the Senior Wardens Gavel - Fashioned from Yew, a half Rugby ball, Sportsman's Lodge would not be properly represented with out some symbol of this iconic game.

Finally the Junior Wardens Gavel - Made from Spalted Beech with a Cricket Ball set into the top, yet another representation of a classic English sport.



## Worshipful Masters' and Active Provincial Officers' Reception



Following the very cold weather in the wake of 'Storm Angus', Ashlar House gave a very warm welcome to all those who came to the Provincial Grand Master's Reception held on Sunday 20th November 2016 at Bury St. Edmunds. This annual event, hosted by the PGM and Members of the Philip Jarvis Kay Lodge, was well attended by Worshipful Master's, Active Officer's and their Ladies from across the Province.

The event was formally opened by R.W.Bro Ian Yeldham who thanked the Ladies for their unstinting support towards the Brethren during their year in office. In approaching the Tercentenary Celebrations of United Grand Lodge, such support would be invaluable to the Province if it is to achieve its objectives and make 2017 a memorable year.

From the level of noise and chat in the main function room, it was apparent that the event was well received by all those present, made even more convivial by an enjoyable buffet lunch and a glass or two of wine.



The hard working members from the Provincial Grand Steward's Lodge ensured that the glasses were kept topped up to an acceptable level.

One surprise was given to W.Bro Phil Dunnett, Master of Adair Lodge No. 936 at Saxmundham. W.Bro Phil was also celebrating his birthday and like all the best kept secrets, it had become common knowledge. This resulted in a resounding rendition of "Happy Birthday" led by our APM, W.Bro Keith Huxley.

The time passed all too quickly but I am sure that it was due to it being a friendly and happy afternoon, enjoyed by all those present.

*Ralph Robertson*

## FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Magazine

We are very pleased to receive all your reports, particularly if accompanied by a photo or two, on what you have been up to, what you are organising, your thoughts, letters and indeed anything you feel might be of interest.

*Have you got an idea for an article?*

*Have you something or someone you would like us to feature?*

*Have you researched your lodge or masonic hall history?*

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## *The Royal Clarence Lodge No. 1823 is the only Craft Lodge that meets in the Masonic Hall in Cavendish Road at Clare...*

**The Lodge was consecrated in 1879 and having initially met at The Half Moon Hotel in Clare (which has long since closed down) within two years the Lodge took a lease at our Cavendish Road premises and they have been the home of the Lodge ever since.**

The premises were originally a barn called St Mary's Barn but suffered substantial damage in a fire in 1826 and were eventually rebuilt as a school in 1839 when it is believed they were used as a grammar school until 1870. At this time the building was smaller than it is now consisting of two floors but did not include the room which is now used as our Temple. Having been occupied by various tenants over the next 10 years the Lodge completed its lease and after making the necessary adjustments were able to assume possession of the building for its meeting place.

The Lodge continued as tenants for the next 50 years until in 1930 they were able to purchase the freehold for a cost of £200. By the way if anyone knows the whereabouts of our title deeds would they please let us know as we have not been able to trace them! The purchase included a garden area to the front of the original building up to the highway and the decision was then taken to build out to the front of the original building a room sufficiently big enough to use as the new Temple at a cost of £400. The ground preparation began in 1935 and the Foundation Stone of the extension itself is shown as having been laid on the 29th December 1937. The building work being completed in 1938.

During the war the premises were used occasionally by the military and in March 1946 a payment was received of £80 5s 3d to cover dilapidations caused by military use.

In 1975 the Isaac Newton Lodge No. 859 based in Cambridge was obliged, due to being demolished, to vacate their old premises in Lion Yard in Cambridge where they had a most beautiful ceiling. One of our Lodge members at the time was involved in the demolition and seeing that the ceiling was going to be lost began discussions to acquire it. Isaac Newton Lodge agreed to this offering to present it whole or in parts. The acquisition initially consisted of a centrepiece showing symbols of the signs of the Zodiac and later six further panels were added showing symbols of various Masonic degrees. The ceiling is now a cause of admiration to all our visitors and of course

we never fail to mention it when visiting any of the Cambridge Lodges! There is also a framed photograph of the whole of the ceiling displayed in our Lodge as the Temple was not long enough to accommodate all the panels of the original ceiling from Cambridge.

Although the Temple itself was in good order, in 1991 it was apparent that the rest of the building was no longer fit for purpose

and major renovation work was proposed at a cost of £60,000, raised from the members by donations and loans. The upstairs store room, hardly ever entered because of dust and dry rot, was converted into a bar. Downstairs new toilets, a staircase and a small kitchen were put in and the old ante room was made available for a dining room for up to about 35 diners, ideal for side degrees meeting in the Hall. Prior to this there were no dining facilities in the building at all and the Lodge still dines in the Town Hall on the Market Square at Clare. The refurbished premises were officially opened by the then Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Philip Jervis Kay, in September 1992.

In 2006 an unusual problem arose. For many years the Lodge assumed that we were connected to the mains drainage in Cavendish Road and had been paying water and sewage charges to Anglian Water in the usual way. However in that year an adjoining property was being redeveloped and complained of an

escape of underground water from the Lodge premises. On investigation it became apparent that the Lodge had never been connected to mains drainage and had relied on a brick built septic tank which had deteriorated over the passage of time. We then had to pay to connect to the mains involving the digging up of the main road but we were able to recover 6 years of sewage charges. The water authority refused to go back more than 6 years but it was better than nothing as a contribution to the costs incurred.

So here we are. The premises appear to be in good condition (touch wood) and are enjoyed not only by the Royal Clarence Lodge but by a Royal Arch Chapter consecrated in 1959, a Knight Templar Priests Tabernacle consecrated in 1979, a Thomas of Acon Chapel consecrated in 2003 and most recently by a Mark Masons Lodge consecrated just 12 months ago. We also welcome visits from other Lodges and Side Degrees who wish to participate of our facilities.

**Paul Cammiss, David Crowley**



*“...the ceiling is now a cause of admiration to all our visitors”*



## The McCarthy Slatcher Lecture



Once again Brethren were wowed by WBro. Mike Neville at the annual McCarthy Slatcher lecture held on January 28th which was hosted by Silver Jubilee Lodge No. 8811. Over 100 Brethren packed into the Lowestoft Masonic Centre to enjoy his Presentation "Masons & the Evolution of Crime Detection & Forensic Science", this was followed by a superb buffet style lunch afterwards. The Lodge presented him with a cheque for a Charity of his choice, which was The Hope for Tomorrow appeal. 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 27th 2018 and back again by request will be WBro. Mike Neville with a new presentation entitled 'Jack the Ripper and the 60 Masons involvement'. It is best to book in as soon as the application forms are circulated, as next year it will be again fully booked before the event.

*If you feel you would like to extend your Masonic knowledge or become a member of this fine Lodge then contact the Secretary WBro. Mike Hall for further information.*

## An L.O.I. looks to the future



This year East Point Millennium Lodge has been very fortunate to have had a number of younger people showing interest in freemasonry with many going on to join us or are in the process of doing so. In order to assist in their development and indeed the maturity of the Lodge itself we decided to establish bye-laws for our Lodge of Instruction.

At the first AGM on Friday 11th November 2016 the younger members balloted for their choice of a Preceptor, Assistant Preceptor and Secretary. We hope these new bye-laws will foster the general "bon accord" of the Lodge in an informal atmosphere of mutual and individual learning and enlightenment. It is hoped that the new way of working at the Lodge of Instruction will prove valuable to all new members and assist them in both enjoying their Masonry and learning the principles as well as the practices of it.

*Mike Smith*

[www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk](http://www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk)  
 The Provincial website would warmly welcome contributions from Lodges of articles, letters, reports, events and photographs, simply email to:-  
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# Festival 2019

...together we can do it



*I am often asked about the Festival, usually from two perspectives,*

- what is it? and
- where does the money go?

Generally I think that most Brethren now know the answers to both these points, but I thought it may be useful to outline them here, especially for the benefit of any new Brethren, so dealing with the first point;

Every year thousands of Freemasons, receive help through the festival system, for their financial, healthcare and family needs. Countless others also have their lives improved through grants given to Community causes. This year, in particular, our Province is receiving an additional £58,000 to be donated amongst 6 Charities, to celebrate the Tercentenary of Freemasonry. More news of this will be available soon. Festival fund raising takes place by individuals, lodges, and the Province, with a good examples of the latter being, the 2016 Party in the Park, and in January this year, Laughter and Legends. Simply by supporting such events, Members contribute to our overall financial success.

Festival timescales are arranged by the Masonic Charities and the Provincial Grand Masters' Forum, and the President of our Festival 2019 for the RMBI is our R.W.Provincial Grand Master. Festivals are a means of distributing Fund raising for our main Masonic Charities (now combined into the Masonic Charitable Foundation) amongst 44 of the 47 Provinces, and usually now run for 5 years. Although we haven't yet received the exact date of commencement of the next one, there should be a period of perhaps 5 years or so, after 2019, before it starts, and during that interim period Lodges tend to support other charitable causes of their choosing. That is not to say that these are excluded during a Festival, it is just that our main donations during the Festival period should focus upon the nominated charity, which is currently the RMBI, but for the future will be the Masonic Charitable Foundation. In other words, at present, we should try to think 'Festival First.'

For further information, please also refer to our Website [www.festival2019.co.uk](http://www.festival2019.co.uk)

#### *Turning now to the use of our donations;*

Clearly the money supports the existence of the Charitable Foundation, but this in turn, through RMBI, operates the care homes we have throughout the Country, e.g. Cornwallis Court in Bury St Edmunds, and similar initiatives such as Home Counselling, but generally looking after ageing freemasons and their dependants.

However, on the wider front, the MCF Community Support grants for charities help people experiencing poverty and disadvantage, sickness and disability or barriers to education and employment. The charities the MCF support make a significant and lasting difference to thousands of people in need and further those causes about which Freemasons and their families are most concerned. For example, in 2015, around £4.5m was awarded to support charities across England and Wales.

During the 12 month period of 2016, our Province received £381,000 back from the MCF, supporting 69 Beneficiaries. We were 10th out of the 47 participating Provinces, but for Residential care, (through Cornwallis Court), we were 6th out of 47. Overall, If there remains about 10 or 11 years from the start of 1 festival to the start of the next, Our Province of Suffolk will receive approximately £4,000,000 back from the MCF through the various types of funding mentioned earlier. Our last festival which ended in 2009 raised £2,471,526.00 and our current one will last for approximately only half the length of time. It isn't difficult to work out that we will receive back some 4 times the amount we donate. This is a result of the donations made by our forefathers, and which we need to

continue, for both our own, and our younger Brethren's benefits. Frankly, I cannot therefore think of any better investment or motivation. However, the key to our success in 2019, will be a continued collaborated effort by everyone in, and associated with our province, because brethren, only Together, we can do it.

*WBro Neville Warnes, Prov Grand Charity Steward*

## Festival 2019 500 Club

2016 saw the 500 club grow to 585 members and we have almost finished chasing payments for 2017 but it looks like we will grow again to 625 members. During 2016 we made 36 draws and gave away over £5808 to 25 individuals and 7 lodges. The 500 club is a great way to support the 2019 Festival either individually or as a lodge, £20 buys you a number in the draw and you have 36 chances to win a prize ranging from £260 to £65 over the course of the year and it also contributes towards your lodge festival total. The monthly draw results are available on the Festival 2019 website ([www.festival2019.co.uk/500-club-draws](http://www.festival2019.co.uk/500-club-draws)) and if you are a lucky winner you will be notified by email directly after the draw. Should you wish to take part simply send me an email [kf@hadleighcastings.com](mailto:kf@hadleighcastings.com) and we will send out an entry form by return. Finally, I would like to thank all the members who have taken out standing orders which have automatically renewed as this saves us a lot of time!



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

*WBro. Chris Warnes*



*Andy Gentle & Nick Moulton*

## Andy & Nick's Cycling Progress...

Since mid 2015 there have only been two of us, in the traditional Masonic way I've gradually taken on more responsibility. So now here I am reporting on our 2016 visits.

It was busy year for us, we visited 15 Lodges and cycled 509 miles. It was a nicer year for cycling generally, neither of us fell off and although there were some punctures the residents of Stowmarket seemed to have had some driving tuition as no-one there tried to kill Andy with any real enthusiasm or ingenuity. Some highlights were a May mini break spent in Beccles. We needed to be in Bungay for the Saturday morning tiling of Silver Jubilee's meeting there. So we set off on Friday lunchtime and stayed in the Wetherspoons Hotel in Beccles that night. We dined in fine style on steak at The Wine Vaults coupled with a few well deserved beers, it's a nice place to visit.

The trip to Lodge of Prudence in Halesworth was the best ride out, a beautiful summers day on picturesque country roads, with minimal traffic. We were fast too, not a bad time for a 49 mile ride out. However, our trip to Abiff in Saxmundham came close because that also involved a pit stop at the Crown in Framlingham and then on our arrival at the Lodge our support driver Steve greeted us with iced beers, water and snacks which was followed by Chinese Banquet Festive Board. I'd thoroughly recommend a visit there. Typically it rained heavily on the way to Felixstowe, which was our last visit of the year but that's the British seaside for you!! A good meeting and very generous donation made it worthwhile though.

As ever with visiting the main pleasure is seeing the diversity of the ceremony's and receiving the warmth of the welcome. Even after visiting over half the lodges in Suffolk, we can still go into a meeting having never met anyone there before. That just shows how many friends you have in the craft that you just haven't encountered yet. All of which means that we have reached the 50% goal we set ourselves for the end of 2016. Of the 68 Suffolk Lodges, 39 visits have now been completed.

### In 2017 we plan to undertake the following visits:

Fidelity 555 - Framlingham on 1st March  
Stradbroke Lodge 3291 - Lowestoft on 15th March  
Lodge of Unity 71 - Lowestoft on 30th March  
Apollo 305 - Beccles on 6th April  
St Andrews 1631 - Gt Yarmouth on 19th April  
Prince of Wales 959 - Ipswich on 2nd May  
Adair Lodge 936 - Saxmundham on 4th May  
Seckford 6411 - Woodbridge on 17th May  
Solea 9498 - Bury St Edmunds on 23rd May  
Felix Lodge 2371 - Felixstowe on 11th October  
Orwell 6637 - Ipswich on 19th October

If anyone would like to join us for even part of a journey we'd be glad for the change in company, but be warned Andy does moan a lot, usually its saddle issues, but sometimes other things. Apart from eating different Masonic dinners some of the challenge is to encourage donations to the Festival, so far the total is £8,000, at this time last year we had raised our overall target from £6,000 to £10,000, so perhaps another revision is on the cards??

Lastly, we have to thank those that turn out to support us and get us and our bikes back home after the meetings. Without their help it just would not be possible.

*Nick Moulton*

## To all Treasurers and Secretaries

Brethren, Due to a clamp down by the banks on cheque fraud they will no longer accept any abbreviation or alteration to the name of the payee. We have recently had a substantial number of cheques rejected due to this new and rather harsh rule. If you are making cheques payable to the Province the correct and only acceptable title is '**Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk**' not PGL Suffolk or Provincial Grand Lodge.

Please remember this applies to Teddies for loving care donations, Forum advertising or Appointments & Promotion payments. By your attention to this detail we hope to avoid unnecessary administration and postage costs.

*Sid Turner, Provincial Grand Treasurer*

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- £2.4 million was given to households in financial distress, who were unable to afford everyday living costs.
- £2.9 million helped people access the medical treatment, mobility aids, home adaptations, respite care and counselling they need to live healthy and independent lives.
- £3.8 million helped parents afford IT equipment, course materials, school uniforms and extracurricular activities for their children in full-time education.
- £5 million was provided to support the RMBI in funding a range of nursing, residential and dementia care to meet the needs of older people.

In the Province of Suffolk, 69 Freemasons or their family members benefited from our wide-range of support and services with grants amounting to £380,906.

Visit our website to learn more about the range of support available to Freemasons and their family members

### LOOKING FOR HELP OR ADVICE?

If you or someone you know is in need of help, please call our confidential enquiry line on: 0800 035 60 90 or [info@mcf.org.uk](mailto:info@mcf.org.uk)

**Read more about our grants for Masonic families at:**  
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# What is a Suffolk Provincial Grand Steward?

At the Annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, the Provincial Grand Master had the pleasure of investing six new active Provincial Grand Stewards. Provincial Grand Stewards, for the benefit of our non-masonic readers, are normally Master of their lodge or have recently installed their successor into the Master's chair.

The rank of Provincial Grand Steward was instituted in the last century. It was the most junior and least regarded of Provincial Grand Ranks, and it was generally assumed that the red Steward's apron was inferior to that of the dark blue. However, in 1982 a new Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk, R.W.Bro. Phillip Jervis Kay was installed. Known as PJK, he rejected this assumption. As a member of Grand Stewards' Lodge, the lodge with no number, PJK understood how vital the lodge was to the running of Grand Lodge. He knew what an important role Grand Stewards could play in the life of the Province. He also broke with the established norm and personally appointed brethren to the active rank of Provincial Grand Steward who were either still occupying the chair of King Solomon or were hardly out of it. Thus ensuring that in future, the rank be awarded as a mark of distinction, a custom that continues to this day.

PJK envisaged a band of enthusiastic and dedicated young Freemasons who would, by reason of their ability and Masonic track record, prove to be active servants of their Province. They would be brethren likely to progress further within our organisation and, in all probability, be those suited to active rank when the time came to consider them for higher Provincial office.

## The appointment to Provincial Grand Steward creates demands on time and the commitment is summarised as follows:

- Attend Provincial Grand Lodge in June to receive the appointment
- Commit to escorting the PGM, DPGM, APMG or other Provincial Officers on about four visits during the active year in office from June until May the following year.
- Commit to joining the Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge and for 2 years be a member of a committee within the Stewards' Lodge called a Board of Stewards. The Board organises social events for the Stewards' Lodge and this will involve regular meetings with the current Board of Stewards.
- Assist at Provincial Grand Lodge in the following June by escorting those Brethren receiving appointments or promotions and annually thereafter; assisting with the smooth running of Provincial Grand Lodge by manning cloakrooms/signing in, ushering, etc.
- The year's active Stewards take pride of place in leading the PGM's procession into and from the Temple. Whilst discharging these duties, Stewards work under the direction of the Provincial Grand Secretary and Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and their respective teams, whose task is to undertake the massive organisation required on these occasions.
- Assisting at other Provincial events each year; such as the PGMs reception for new Worshipful Masters which takes place in November.

In 1984, PJK confided to newly appointed steward W.Bro John Horton his desire that a Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge be formed. There followed several years of hard work, patience and perseverance by W. Bro John and the other founder members, resulting in the consecration of the Suffolk Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge No. 9215 on Friday 10th April 1987. The Lodge is not a Past Masters Lodge, for the Provincial Grand Master may appoint any brother whom he deems to be worthy of the honour. Indeed at the Installation Meeting in 1990, at the grand age of 93, Bro Bertie Cammell was installed as the fourth Master of the Lodge. For Stewards' Lodge this was the first, and probably the last, occasion when the full installation ceremony would be performed in its history.

Most of the work in Lodge, other than the usual Masonic proceedings, is to attend various lectures, often given by the most distinguished of Masonic speakers. Though subjects of a non-Masonic nature are sometimes included in the lecture programme. The 'Home' of Suffolk Stewards is Freemasons' Hall, Ipswich, but it is deemed to be a 'travelling' Lodge and therefore it may meet at any of the other Masonic Halls in the Province large enough to hold its active members and their guests. New members and visitors are often baffled by some of the Lodge proceedings. Unlike a Private Lodge where there is often a well-defined progression towards the Masters Chair, in this Lodge, the Cornucopia Committee of Past Masters (created by PJK after the procedure followed by the Grand Stewards Lodge) has the task of recommending to the brethren the name of a suitable Master Elect. The Lodge Secretary then selects officers from among those who regularly support and attend the Lodge and recommends those to the Lodge Permanent Committee for endorsement.

Because the Lodge has a large number of members, 105 as of 31 December 2016, voting procedures are somewhat different to those in Private Lodges. In this Lodge, only the Master and his Wardens take part in a ballot requiring the use of a ballot box. Should a member wish to exercise his right to vote, he is welcome to do so. This is a widespread practice in Past Masters and other Steward's Lodges. It arises from the large numbers attending meetings and the inordinate length of time it would take to ballot every member present.

Suffolk Stewards' Lodge is closely associated with other Stewards' Lodges in neighbouring Provinces. Usually there are some fourteen Lodges we invite, including the Grand Stewards' Lodge and the Z and Scribe E of the Suffolk Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter. They in turn reciprocate the invitations. It is by visiting that we keep in close contact and get to know our opposite numbers. It also provides



*The 2016 cohort of Active Provincial Grand Stewards with the Lodge Secretary, Mike Harris*

our Secretaries with a good source of speakers for future meetings and ideas on a whole range of matters of mutual interest and concern. Obviously neither their, nor our own W.Masters nor Secretaries are able to attend all meetings, but it is one of the more pleasant duties which are undertaken. Without these contacts, the Stewards lodges could become very introverted and isolated.

The status of Steward within both the Craft and the Royal Arch is a mark of distinction. Once a Steward, always a Steward – the implication being, that no matter how exalted a Brother eventually becomes, he is always entitled - and encouraged - to wear the red apron in the Stewards Lodge and the red collar when on duty as a Steward.

However, with this preferment comes responsibility and commitment. Stewards are expected to join the Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge during their year in office and maintain that membership for the foreseeable future - supporting the Lodge and the Province as required. The Stewards' Lodge meets three times a year – two regular meetings, the second Tuesday in April (Installation) and the first Tuesday in November, and an informal meeting, called a 'Mess' in late January or February.

*Mike Harris, Secretary  
Suffolk Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge 9215*

*With Thanks - This article could not have been written without reference to 'A history and some personal recollections' of the Suffolk Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge No. 9215 written by founding secretary W. Bro Hugh Jefferson, on the occasion of the Lodge's 25th anniversary, who sadly passed away in July 2016.*



## Gerry and Viv Capon visit Buckingham Palace



*Winston and Monty admiring Gerry's 1947 Rover 12 Sports Tourer at the Palace*

Being a member of Felix United Service Lodge I receive the Freemasonry Today magazine and within it I read there was a Masonic Classic Vehicle Club (MCVC) which I duly joined in 2012. Imagine my surprise to see my car on the very front cover of the club's calendar the following year.

As I am a member of the MCVC I was invited to take my Rover 12 to Buckingham Palace to be part of the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations in October this year. With the day approaching rapidly things had to be arranged, wife with her ever changing outfit, dog in the kennel for the weekend and of course, getting the car ready for the journey to the city and back. Anyone with an old vehicle will know you are very apprehensive about a journey such as this, but the car ran perfectly even through the city traffic.

Leaving at 8.00 am my wife and I set off for London with the hood down and we had a very chilly 3 hour drive. Arriving at Wellington Barracks around 11.30 am we were security checked by the police and then parked in our slot ready for the drive to the palace. At 1.00 pm we all proceeded to the palace forecourt and lined up behind the railings, just close enough for the hundreds of members of public to get good pictures.

HRH Prince Michael of Kent arrived at 1.30 pm to inspect the vehicles and was introduced to each car driver and passenger to have a chat about the cars and their history. Prince Michael asked Viv if she drove the car and she told him that she is not allowed! Having finished his inspection at 4.30 pm Prince Michael left and the cars drove from the palace in convoy for our journey back to Suffolk. After another 3 hour drive we were home at 8.00 pm very tired and pleased that the day was over. I feel very privileged to have got the invite and to be part of a once in a life time event.



The car itself is quite rare as there were only 200 built, the first 5 had the coachwork built by Rover with a fold down windscreen, the other 195 were built by APS of Coventry with a fixed screen. My car is number 4 and is believed to be the only survivor of the first 5 with approx. 80 of the original 200 surviving.

Gerry F. Capon

## The Excelsior Trust benefit from the Matched Funding Scheme

On the 26th of July 2016 the recently appointed Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro Keith Huxley and the past Provincial Grand Charity Steward Peter Gosling presented a cheque to the value of £2000.00 to Mr Jamie Campbell, Chairman of The Excelsior Trust and his Team at the Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club. This cheque presentation was a direct result of the Matched Funding Scheme organised by the United Grand Lodge of England and Wales that involved a donation of £1000.00 from Grand Lodge and £1000.00 from the Suffolk Provincial Grand Charity. The stipulation from Grand Lodge was that the focus of the matched Funding scheme should be focused on Medical Research and Youth Opportunities and support for Vulnerable People.



The Excelsior Trust was selected by Peter Gosling as in full compliance with Grand Lodge requirements and in addition to this the Suffolk Provincial Grand Charity received a donation of £1000.00 from the Estate of the late W. Bro. Gregory C. Phillips who was a member of Felix Lodge (2371), Suffolk Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge (9215) and Countryside Lodge (9830) until his death in August 2012. It was therefore decided that this kindly donation of £1000.00 should be included in the matched funding scheme and was duly approved by Grand Lodge.

The Excelsior Trust was formed in 1983 and the Trust has taken on the complete Restoration and Maintenance of the "Excelsior" the last of the Lowestoft sailing Trawlers and one of the 60 most important historic ships in Britain.



Lovingly restored over the years to her original condition it is the trust's responsibility to keep her maintained and operational so that she can fulfil her duties as hosts to countless number of young people wanting to go to sea. The Trust's aim is the challenge and development of young people, particularly the least advantaged, by providing life changing experiences and skills that create self-belief and motivation to re-define their self-image, attitude and horizons in order to inspire and maximise their long term potential. Over the next five years the Trust's work will focus on working with young people who at risk, socially excluded or disadvantaged. To this end the 'Excelsior' will travel over 35,000 nautical miles around the Western Seaboard of Europe with groups of young people from all walks of life.

What a wonderful epitaph it is to the late W. Bro Gregory C. Phillips.

Peter Gosling

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## The Harris Tracing Board at Felixstowe

The Tracing Board that can be seen at Felixstowe was presented to Felix Lodge by WBro Charles Cheston, the first master in 1890. It is referred to as a 'Harris' tracing board. The reason for this is that the pictorial illustrations were designed and first painted by Harris in or around that period. He was a contemporary of Joshua Reynolds the renowned portrait painter and also his wife was an accomplished artist. Prior to that period Tracing Boards, as we know them today, were not in existence, nothing as such was available as a permanent feature, the detail was chalked on the wooden floor or similar surface of a back room provided by a local hostelry and after the meeting washed or cleaned away. Indeed many of the bigger hotels especially in larger towns had elaborate lodge rooms available for meetings as the business gained by providing the food and refreshment after was very lucrative.

The Great Eastern Hotel at Liverpool Street and the Café Royal both had very ornate rooms available for Masonic meetings. In fact the Great Eastern Hotel room which is in the basement has a very ornate Winding Staircase. Sadly it is not used today for Masonic functions but is still intact and arrangements can be made to view it. As not many Lodges had permanent residence until the start of the 20th century, the lodge furniture was what was referred to as Travelling furniture. Our own Tracing board being part of an original set, the pedestals were given to Ladies Freemasonry in Ipswich and the pedestals we have in our Temple today together with the Columns were the original property of Felix United Service Lodge.

Harris tried to persuade Grand Lodge to adopt his designs and allow him and his team of helpers to start to produce these permanent designs for Tracing Boards. You might have guessed this was frowned upon by Grand Lodge as they were against anything that looked like a permanent record that could get into the hands of Non-Masons, as in those days Masonry was deemed very secret, and indeed great steps were taken to keep it that way. After much persuading and lobbying his designs were adopted and production started.



This brings us to our own 'Tracing Board' which is referred to as a Travelling Tracing Board as it folds up to form a size half that of a normal board. As most Lodges, even our own was a travelling Lodge, its first home being the Bath Hotel and our last hotel home being that of the Orwell Hotel which before its present owner had been owned by a former Master of Felix Lodge, WBro Don Gray.

It was not until 1988 that we arrived at our present Temple which was purchased from the Odd Fellows. Our tracing board was supplied by Tyne & Co and that model type was featured in their catalogue priced at £15.2.6d, today its value is around £5,000, so I call to all brethren of Felixstowe, be very careful with it as it cannot be replaced! Whilst it is not unique in design there is no other like it in the province of Suffolk as you will have noticed that all other boards are single boards and either stood up or laid flat on a storage table. Our tracing board has a piece missing in so far that it would, when new, have come with an oak cover for protection so perhaps we should purchase a canvas cover to protect it.

A book has been produced by Julian Rees for Grand Lodge on Tracing boards and our own features in this, it was during the time that Julian was researching for the publication that I got interested in the subject and especially the history of our own board. Another interesting feature is that if you look at it closely you will find that one of the boards has underneath the outline of a coffin which would suggest that the boards were painted in oils in halves before assembly and a mistake was made hence the cover up.

Bob Parker

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## Alistair receives his 60 Year Certificate



WBro Alistair Anderson PAGDC (Eng) of Seckford Lodge 6411 was presented with his 60 Year Certificate by our Provincial Grand Master Ian Yeldham at our meeting on 21st December 2016.

Alistair was initiated into Seckford Lodge on 19th December 1956. He was a founder member of the Seckford Lodge of Instruction and was the first Secretary/Treasurer and went on to be their Preceptor for twenty years.

Pictured with Alistair and the Provincial Grand Master is Worshipful Master of Seckford Lodge, T. W. Coomber.

John Tubbs

## Following the Travelling Gavel....

The Travelling Gavel harks back to its Aussie roots

In December 1992, a certain W/Bro Ronald E Adams visited British Union 114 at their Installation Meeting. Ronald represented Ipswich Endeavour Lodge appropriately based in Queensland Australia and in bringing fraternal greetings from down under also brought a special gift that was the 'Travelling Gavel'.



It was his personal gift and was given in the hope that it would encourage Suffolk brethren to visit with 'raiding parties' to win the Gavel from the Lodge that currently held it. The fact that the Travelling Gavel case now sports two oak panels filled with brass plaques of participating Suffolk Lodges proves just how popular it has been over the past twenty-four years.



In October this year, the Lodge of Perfect Friendship No. 376 formed a raiding party to relieve British Union of the Gavel. BU entered into the spirit of its home country provenance and the forfeit was to ask Perfect Friendship brethren to sing two Australian songs, 'Tie me Kangaroo Down Sport', complete with Didgeridoo having to be played, and the ubiquitous Waltzing Matilda – all to be sung complete with Australian bush hats with corks!

The evening really was a spectacular success, Perfect Friendship entered into the spirit brilliantly as can be seen from the photo.

*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/](http://www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk/about/travelling-gavel/)

## Fraternal Visit to St. Luke's Lodge No 6540 in Bath

On the 21st October 2016, 14 Members of St. Luke's Lodge No225 set off from Soane Street in a mini bus to pay a Fraternal visit to another lodge of the same name in Bath. We had made the trip 3 years ago and everyone who went thought we ought to renew old friendships and support the Lodge at their Installation meeting.



The trip down to Somerset was straight forward and so was finding the hotel accommodation, we actually had a few hours to spare. Proceeding to the Lodge in the centre of Bath proved more difficult with road works and various traffic layouts all causing confusion to the locals yet alone us. Arriving in good time the party had a chance to look round the excellent museum housed in the basement of the building. The meeting was opened and our Brethren were admitted and welcomed by the W.M. The Ceremony saw a Past Master take the Chair and with most of his Officers also having been in office before, the ceremony was fairly well contained in terms of time. The Festive Board went very well and with the speeches being short but meaningful it was time to head back to the hotel.

This Lodge visit was very important as it showed support for a "sister" Lodge who over the past few years has found it difficult to recruit new members. If you couple that with the natural decline in Membership due to age and so on the numbers have fallen quite sharply, although, I am pleased to say there was one EA and one FC at the meeting. An invitation was made for the Lodge to visit 225 in Ipswich, we hope that it is taken up and look forward to a confirmation of the acceptance.

The journey home went via Stonehenge and we were glad to be going eastwards because the traffic going in the opposite direction was queuing for miles. A very worthwhile trip and the Lodge is now thinking of going to St. Luke's Lodge No 5371 in Camborne, Cornwall.

Trevor Tinley

## Gil celebrates 50 years in Freemasonry

WBro Gil Corbett, PPSGW, celebrated 50 years in Freemasonry in November 2016. He was WM of Ionic Lodge 5922 in both 1980 and 2000, and the founding WM of Composite Lodge 9480 in 1992.

He was presented with his 50 years certificate in both Lodges, but unfortunately no one was on hand with a camera at Ionic Lodge in November, but his wife Delcie provided the camera at Composite Lodge in December when WBro Gil was again presented with his certificate by WBro Andrew Sleath, Group 7 Representative. He was made an Honorary Member of Composite Lodge at that meeting.



Andrew Sleath

## Ivan Kennell, the Man the Soldier and the Mason

A very special evening took place at a packed meeting of Colneis Lodge No: 8298 on Thursday the 2nd February when the Provincial Grand Master presented the Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur to Brother Ivan Kennell, on behalf of the French Ambassador.



The Légion d'honneur was established in 1802 by Napoléon Bonaparte. It is France's highest distinction and is awarded in recognition of both military and civilian merit.

On the 70th anniversary of D-Day in June 2014, the French President announced that the distinction would be awarded to all British veterans who fought for the liberation of France during the Second World War (veterans must have taken part in military operations in France between 1944 and 1945). Brother Ivan served in the Royal Engineers and was part of the Normandy Landings as the invasion force made their way across France, Belgium, Holland and into Germany. With the assistance of the Immediate Past Master, Worshipful Brother Derek Porter, Ivan made an application and has now been awarded that honour.

Ivan's military career began in 1941 when, as a boy, he joined the Home Guard. He signed up for the Territorial Army on his 17th birthday and was sent to Preston for training and passed-out as a Pioneer Royal Engineer. In May 1944, Ivan was sent to a holding unit on the Isle of White and had no idea that the D-Day invasion was imminent. Ivan arrived in France on the 7th June and spent the next two weeks encamped in an orchard before being moved to the Sein to build Bailey Bridges. Ivan then spent the next months constructing bridges at Arnhem, Nijmegen, and across Belgium and Holland for the supporting invasion forces, eventually entering Germany in April 1945, and on to Bremen where he was located on the 8th June – VE Day. Ivan and his comrades were extremely pleased that the RAF had left the local brewery unscathed, and celebrated VE Day in style!

On the 28th August Ivan was handed his release papers and returned to the UK on the 3rd September, to Halifax, where he was prepared for demobilisation. Ivan was formally 'demobbed' on the 23rd December, returning to his home on the 24th, the best

Christmas present ever for his family.

Following his military service Ivan became a bricklayer, having previously worked for Saunders Stonemasons, where he prepared the stone, truly an 'operative Mason', then working for Cubitt and Gotts at Westerfield before moving to Newmarket, where he took on a role with the Local Authority supervising the construction of schools. Ivan put his skills to good use by building his own home in the Newmarket area.

Ivan has a son still living at Newmarket, where he runs a racing stud, and a visit to his Mother Lodge usually includes a visit to his son to assess the current form!

Ivan became a Freemason in 1981, when he was initiated into Etheldreda Lodge No: 2107 in the Province of Cambridgeshire, who meet in Newmarket, so we like to think that he has always been a Suffolk Freemason! After moving to Felixstowe in 1999, Ivan joined Colneis Lodge, and soon became a valued member, attending every meeting and most Lodge of Instruction evenings, as well as supporting all the fund-raising and social events.

This dedication was rewarded in 2007 when he was awarded the rank of Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer, of which he is fiercely proud, as demonstrated by his insistence that he should form part of the Provincial Escort that evening.

Although having not yet passed through the Chair of King Solomon, Ivan is an extremely good ritualist, with the Charge After Initiation being his 'party piece', which he regularly delivers for not only Colneis Lodge, but also Landguard Lodge. Having now also joined the Lodge of Wisdom, it is hoped that, as a late developer, he may still become an Installed Master, for he is only 91 years young!

**Graham Seward**



### Suffolk Provincial Grand Stewards Gala Night

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## St. Luke's Lodge No 225 Armistice Day



*The photograph shows members and ex-members of the Armed Forces and those who had served in the 'Public Services'*

St. Luke's Lodge No 225 held their 9th November meeting at Soane Street and during the Ceremony the Junior Warden read out a poem by Lieutenant Colonel John McCroe, MD, Canadian Army 1872-1918. Entitled "In Flanders Fields". This was part of the recognition by Lodge Members for those who had given the ultimate sacrifice during the First World War and those conflicts subsequently.

It was of particular interest because our own Lodge Junior Warden, Gunner Snow, was killed in 1916 whilst on active service in France. A photograph of the WM, SW and JW taken just before Gunner Snow left for France is always on display in front of the JW's Pedestal at each November meeting. In 2014 an old St. Luke's Lodge Banner was found in Soane Street, the Lodge had it professionally restored and it is on display in the robing room. This banner takes pride of place in the photograph mentioned above and is a permanent reminder to Lodge Members of the sacrifice made by one of our Lodge Members.

There are a number of members who are serving in the Forces and they marked the occasion by presenting themselves in full mess kit. A colourful array of uniforms which brightened the Lodge tremendously. Other Brethren were proud to wear the Medals they had been awarded. Two minutes silence was observed in respect of departed merit. At the festive board a variety of Second World War songs were "sung", the whole evening a fitting tribute to those who had and those who continue to serve our country.

Coupled with all this activity was a Third Degree Ceremony, a full night and one that all those present will remember.

*Trevor Tinley*

## The Marathon Man...

Bro. Mark Ramsey of Colneis Lodge was one of 39 thousand successful entrants, out of a total of 250 thousand applicants for this year's London Marathon, which was run on the 24th April. A few memorable highlights being firstly to overtake a pantomime Dromedary at thirteen miles and secondly three people running a 'Three Legged Race' at 18 miles. Some of London's landmarks on the route being The Cutty Sark, Tower Bridge, The Mall and of course the finish line. The race conditions were ideal, being cool and dry. To prepare for the race Mark ran over 420 training miles. This enabled him to complete the 26 miles in 4 hours 18 minutes. For the mathematicians amongst us that is over 6 mph. Mark raised £3848.37 with gift aid.



*And yes Mark says he would do it again!*

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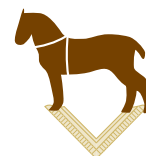


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## Suffolk Installed Masters Lodge No. 3913

Consecrated 13th March 1919  
Patron: Masonic Samaritan Fund

*We will be celebrating our Centenary in 2019 and special meetings and events will be organised for that occasion. So now could be the right time for past Worshipful Masters to join the Lodge that is especially for you.*

- Membership of the Lodge is exclusive to Masters and Past Masters of any Lodge who are subscribing members of and in Lodges within the Suffolk Province.
- The Lodge meets just three times during the year, with our meetings in May and September held during the day. To these meetings we welcome partners for whom a special programme is arranged whilst the Lodge attends to its business, after which we meet to enjoy the festive board together.

All membership enquires to:  
Peter Sutters, Membership Secretary 07876 493813  
[petersutters@hotmail.com](mailto:petersutters@hotmail.com)

*As Masters Lodges do not pay GL or PGL fees the Annual Subscription is just £25.00*

Our glance at freemasonry in the metropolis dates from (1666) when Sir Christopher Wren was nominated Deputy Grand Master under Earl Rivers and distinguished himself above all his predecessors in legislating for the body at large and promoting the interests of the lodges under his immediate care. He was master of the St Paul's Lodge, which during the rebuilding of the Cathedral after the great fire, assembled at The Goose and Gridiron, in St Paul's Churchyard. At a meeting held at the Apple Tree Tavern in 1716 it was resolved by all the masons there to meet the following year on 24th June (St John the Baptist's day) for the purpose of forming a Grand Lodge of Freemasons. That meeting took place at a tavern known as The Goose and Gridiron and was attended by representatives of London Lodges meeting at four taverns, The Goose & Gridiron Ale House, Crown Ale House, Apple Tree Tavern and The Rummer & Grapes Tavern. Lodges were often known by the name of their meeting place and it was not uncommon for lodges to change their names when they changed their venue. It is certain that representatives of several lodges were present but unfortunately no record of their names have been found.

The Goose & Gridiron was to be found in an area known as St. Paul's Courtyard and originally known as the Mitre. It was a famous music house and home to the company of musicians. Its sign was a Swan and Lyre. After the great fire of 1666 it was rebuilt, but the sign maker made such a poor job of the sign that it was said to resemble - not a Swan & Lyre but a Goose and a pile of Gridiron - a name which stuck. At this historic meeting Anthony Sayer was elected and then installed as the first grand Master by "the Oldest Master Mason Present". It was agreed to revive the quarterly meetings which would be held in September (on Michaelmas) 27th December (St. John the Evangelist's Day) March (Lady Day) and of course June (St. John the Baptists Day) The quarterly meetings to this day still occur in the same months. Under Bro. Sayer's leadership it appears that very little progress was made, in fact he appears to have been as ineffective in his life as he was as Grand Master.

There are differing opinions and reports regarding Bro. Sayers, however the 2nd Grand Master was Bro George Payne who set about



# UNITED GRAND LODGE of ENGLAND

*Was it always Grand - and always United?  
It appears not...*

organising Freemasonry with great enthusiasm and is credited with introducing Freemasonry to the nobility. The 3rd Grand Master - Dr John Theophilus Desaguliers - is most certainly worthy of mention. He was a fellow of the Royal Society and personal friend of Sir Isaac Newton. He is credited with reviving the office of Steward to great effect, encouraging more of noble birth to participate in the craft, which

certainly paved the way for the Duke of Montagu to accept the office of Grand Master. The Scottish and Irish masons formed their own Grand Lodge which generally adhered to the original precepts, as the London lodges began slowly to make changes. The most contentious of these, in the eyes of the Irish & Scottish masons were

- a) The poor observance of the St Johns' feast day meetings
- b) Changing the first and second degree signs and passwords
- c) Virtually ignoring the existence and importance of the Royal Arch
- d) Abbreviating the ritual

The Scots and Irish artisan Masons were made increasingly unwelcome at London Lodges, partly because of their social background and partly no doubt by their strong criticism of changes which had begun in English Freemasonry.

On the 17th July 1751 five Lodges met at the Turk's Head Tavern for the purpose of forming the Most Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons and calling their Grand Lodge - The Ancients Grand Lodge, which would work, as they believed, to a purer form of freemasonry. The members of this new order referred to The Premier Grand Lodge and its members as The Moderns. Hence the titles of Ancients and Moderns came into unofficial but regular use. The Grand Lodges co-existed but not recognising each other. By the late 1790's it was becoming apparent that Freemasonry would be stronger if they could settle their differences and unite. A situation arose which clearly demonstrated this when the Unlawful Societies Act of 1799 banned meetings of groups which met in secret and required their members to take an obligation.

Representatives of each Grand Lodge, The Duke of Atholl for the Antients and Earl of Moira for the Moderns, petitioned William Pitt - the then Prime Minister, clearly and fully explaining the law abiding and charitable nature of the organisation. This petition was successful and Freemasonry was deemed outside the terms of the act, but required Lodge Secretaries to furnish the local Clerk of the Peace, a list of all members annually. Surprisingly that requirement remained in place until only 45 years ago. (I had personal knowledge of the effect of this ruling as a member of the Lodge I was Initiated into was a senior manager of the County Council and was told that he was to make the choice between his senior position in the County Council or Freemasonry. He rejoined the Lodge 10 years later on retiring).



From that mutual assistance momentum towards unification began to gather pace but it was not until 1809 direct and fruitful negotiations began and concluded with the official joining on St John the evangelist's day, December 27th 1813, becoming known as the United Grand Lodge of England.

Was that the end of it? Well almost, but not quite. There was the Grand Lodge at Wigan, however that's another story!

But what of today - As you are all aware The Headquarters are at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street. This building was completed in 1933 and formerly known as The Masonic Peace Memorial as it was built in memory of the 3225 masonic brethren killed in action during the first world war. The hall occupies a plot of some two and a half acres on the same site as the original hall but is a vastly different building from the original Grand Lodge Hall which was opened in 1776. At the time of writing, from this building 47 Provinces are administered in addition to 29 overseas districts with around 780 Lodges. The Hall employs around 150 staff

Now it is United and most definitely Grand.

**Trevor Tate**

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Further dates to be announced for Bury St. Edmunds & Lowestoff

## OSM makes donation to Macmillan

The Order of the Secret Monitor Province of Suffolk's Supreme Ruler Dr. John Elmore accompanied by the Provincial Grand Treasurer Bryan Short presented a cheque for £2800 to Helen Glenholmes, Charity Manager for East Anglia and Pauline Meadows, Sister of the Chemotherapy Unit at the Macmillan Nurses Woolverstone Centre at Ipswich Hospital on the 8th. December 2016. It was the wish of the Supreme Ruler that this year his chosen charity would be a local charity and that the Woolverstone Centre would be the recipient. The donation was the total received from the six Conclaves within the Province of Suffolk and increased by Match Funding from OSM Grand Conclave.



Peter J. Pryke

## Fathers and Sons visit Landguard



The PGM was present at an emergency meeting of Landguard Lodge at Felixstowe in January. The meeting, attended by a record 90 brethren, was called by the WM Michael Paper to enable him to initiate his son, Stuart. To make the evening special and memorable a call was circulated and resulted in the attendance of 10 other fathers and their sons, together with many other Brethren with family members.

The WM made a special presentation of a 'Lewis' lapel pin to all those present who qualified as a memento of a fantastic night.

## Ladies Lunch at Lowestoft

65 Masonic wives and friends enjoyed a beautiful Christmas Dinner and an enjoyable social evening, at the Lowestoft Lodge Rooms and at the same time raised a wonderful £550 for EACH (East Anglia Children's Hospice). Our thanks must be given to the caterers at the centre and to the waitresses, who as usual were efficient and cheerful. All raffle prizes were donated by the ladies themselves together with items donated by local businesses. Hopefully it is an event which can be repeated next year. EACH sent volunteer Tom Goulding who gave a short talk on the work of the hospices and told his personal story of his involvement. The event was organised by Dot Dobson ably assisted by Christina Orme. Thanks must also go to Mrs Bernie Broom and Mrs Ellen Cole for their assistance with the raffle.



Mrs Dot Dobson

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## 93 not out - a great evening for Tommy

On 7th November at Edmonsbury Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 105, WBro Tommy Nelson joined a very select group of brethren who have received a fifty-year certificate in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners.

This illuminated scroll comes by the command of HRH Prince Michael of Kent, the Grand Master and was presented to Tommy in the midst of over 35 brethren at Bury St Edmunds by RW Bro Paul Norman, Provincial Grand Master, who made much of the events which have occurred during the life and times of the ninety three year old. After the presentation Tommy spoke movingly about his time as a mason and remembered the ultimate sacrifice given by so many of his Canadian comrades.

I think, for WBro Thomas Nelson, the highlight was being granted, on the night, Honorary membership of the Lodge. It was a gesture which meant so much to Bro Nelson and the members of Edmonsbury RAM Lodge are to be very warmly congratulated on this and arranging a chauffeur to collect and return Tommy to his home, at 93 and over 50 years of loyal service he deserves our support and affection.

*David Cuthbert*



## A family Loveland ceremony!



It was a momentous occasion for Saint Mary's Lodge 3828 on the evening of Thursday 22nd September, 2016, when the fifth member of the Loveland family was initiated. All four other existing members of the family took an active part in the ceremony. WBro. Philip Loveland (Uncle to Sebastian Waters, the initiate) being kindly allowed by our Worshipful Master, WBro Kevin Maddeys to take the Chair for the ceremony, whilst WBro Malcolm Loveland (Grandfather to Sebastian) acting as IPM, Bro Nick Loveland (Uncle) Acting Junior Deacon and Bro Richard Loveland (Uncle ) presenting the Working Tools.

The Photograph shows, from left to right, our new Initiate Bro Sebastian Waters, Bro Richard Loveland (Working Tools), WBro Keith Huxley, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Kevin Maddeys Worshipful Master, WBro Malcolm Loveland (Acting IPM), WBro Philip Loveland (Acting WM) and Bro Nicholas Loveland (Acting Junior Deacon).

A most enjoyable evening was had by all!

*WBro Peter Burman*

## Dean Willingham

### Provincial Grand Mentor



I was encouraged into Freemasonry by my neighbour W.Bro Rod Hellawell having been kindly invited to his Ladies Night. I loved the formality, traditions and warmth of friendship, and the rest, as they say, is history. Unlike many, I have no known family members as Masons, but as you would expect, immediately welcomed in to the fraternal arms of Freemasonry.

I was initiated into Doric Lodge No: 81 in 2001, becoming

Master in 2011 and Lodge Mentor in 2013. Having been appointed a Provincial Grand Steward in 2014, I was then promoted to Provincial Grand Mentor in 2016.

Being born and bred in Suffolk, I am naturally an avid Ipswich Town supporter and season ticket holder, and was a ball boy at Portman Road (many years ago!). I am married to Michelle and we have one daughter, Jemma, and have lived in Kesgrave for the past twenty years.

As a day-job, I am the Managing Partner of an IT company which specialises in working with clients to get the most from technology. I am also a Non-executive director of a local Social Enterprise.

In my spare time I admit to actually like going to the gym! Also cooking, cars and driving, rock music, photography and plenty of socialising. As you can see in the photo I took part and completed a trek on the Great Wall of China in 2010, which raised over £4000 on behalf of a radio station for local charities and good causes.



## Friends of Cornwallis Court

On the first Saturday of each month a coffee morning is organised by the Friends of the residents. Members of the committee organise the event and Masons from Lodges in the Provinces of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk also attend. Any Mason is welcome to come and I would like to encourage Lodges perhaps to come in rotation. There is coffee, tea and cakes followed by a raffle.



We hold a Summer Fete for the benefit of the residents to enjoy and not as a fund raising event. Also we arrange a Christmas Party for the residents. On Friday mornings meetings are held for resident Masons with talks and discussions and also a meeting for the Ladies. Monies raised are for the benefit of the residents and in the past we have given minibuses and a "Pope mobile", provided all different sorts of equipment to improve the wellbeing of the residents and other services to make their last years more comfortable.

The photo shows Bro. John Winfield presenting a cheque on behalf of Brett Valley Lodge to W.Bro. Peter Gosling, Chairman of the Friends, in memory of his brother Charles who died in the home in 2016.

Lodges are requested to make annual donations and individuals and Lodges can become life patrons. For more information contact the membership secretary: W.Bro David Smith, 8, Stour Vale, Wixoe, Stoke-by-Clare, Sudbury. CO10 8UB davepamsmith@aol.com.

*W.Bro. Mac Speake, Friends Committee and Trustee*



## £1000 donation to EACH



As part of the celebrations to recognise the 150th anniversary of the Grand Imperial Conclave for England and Wales and its Divisions and Conclaves overseas of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, the Grand Sovereign of the Order, M.Ill.Kt. Graham Flight, G.C.C., decided that donations should be made from the Grand Sovereign's Care for Children's Fund to children's charities throughout the Divisions. To this end the Intendant-General for the Division of East Anglia, R.Ill.Kt. Dr. John Elmore, was given the opportunity to nominate a children's charity located in East Anglia.

His request for a donation to be made to the East Anglia Children's Hospice was granted and a cheque for £1000 was presented to the nursing staff at the EACH Treehouse Centre by the Intendant-General, the Deputy Intendant-General, Ill.Kt. Richard Hawes and the Divisional Recorder, Ill.Kt. Stephen Newman on the 6th December 2016. The 'delegation' were very warmly received by Natasha Brame the Volunteer & Fundraising Coordinator for Suffolk and given a very interesting, albeit emotional, tour of the facility.

*Stephen Newman, RCC Divisional Recorder*

## Escort of Provincial Grand Stewards

It was a special night for Countryside Lodge when the Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro John Rice visited on Tuesday, 31 January at Felixstowe. Following a request from the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies WBro David Barker for a 'full escort of Stewards' to accompany the DPGM, eight Stewards turned out in their red aprons and proudly formed the escort. All were witness to an excellent Ceremony of Passing carried out by Countryside WM James Utting.



## Come on you Blues! Now Up and Running

**What is the Suffolk Light Blues Club?** This is a club which has been formed with newer members in mind, to help them get the most from their Freemasonry by engaging and interacting with likeminded Brethren who are in a similar stage of their Masonic journey.

**Who is eligible?** It is aimed at Brethren that wear either an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Light Blue Apron. There may be some Provincially Ranked Brethren helping out with the organisation, but it is specifically for those below Provincial Rank. All newly initiated Brethren are now automatically members of Suffolk Light Blues, but will need to go online and join the Facebook group.

**How does it work?** At the moment there are over 150 signed up members to a Private Group on Facebook, to join the Group go to [www.facebook.com/groups/suffolklighblues](http://www.facebook.com/groups/suffolklighblues) and request to join the group. Here is where we communicate in the virtual sense, but there are planned events for meeting face to face coming very soon. In time there will also be a section on the Provincial Website, articles in the Forum Magazine, Flyers for events and much more.....

**What do we do once we have joined?** Get on-line and start by saying who you are and where you are from. Find out what is going on in the Province and get involved with events relevant to you. Perhaps you have a spare seat in your car and can offer another Brother a lift to a meeting, and maybe the favour will be returned. Meet Brethren online, let them know what's going on in your Lodge and encourage visitors to attend your meetings. Promote something unusual you are doing that you think other Light Blues will be interested in. Above all get even more out of being a Mason.

**If you would like more details please contact  
WBro Dean Willingham, Provincial Grand Mentor  
[deanwillingham@doric81.com](mailto:deanwillingham@doric81.com)**

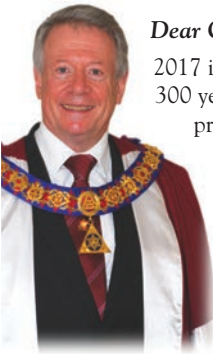
## Suffolk Light Blues Q&A Sunday April 12th 2017

Bury St Edmunds Masonic Centre Ashlar House will be the venue for an informative and entertaining evening for all Suffolk Light Blues. Hosted by Magna Carta Lodge of Instruction. The evening is aimed at any Brother yet to attain Provincial rank, from the newest Entered Apprentice, to those already making their way through the various offices.

The Provincial Orator, WBro Peter Thorogood will present a talk on many aspects of Freemasonry which will be followed by a question and answer session. This will be an opportunity for any Brother to ask any questions that they may have regarding all aspects of Freemasonry, in an informal and relaxed environment. Dress is casual and there will be a pizza supper for those who wish to stay and enjoy the warm hospitality of the Lodge. The event is free of charge to attend with a small charge of £5 for those wishing to stay for pizza.

The Suffolk Light Blues have a dedicated Facebook Group, find us at [www.facebook.com/groups/suffolklighblues](http://www.facebook.com/groups/suffolklighblues)

**Contact WBro Paul Wreathall for details  
Mobile 07903 746283 Email: [paulwreathall@gmail.com](mailto:paulwreathall@gmail.com)**



*Dear Companions & Brethren,*

2017 is an exciting year for Freemasonry as we celebrate 300 years of Craft Masonry. The Holy Royal Arch cannot prove, as of yet, their involvement from day one.

Records go back as far as 1740 and these prove that the Royal Arch Ceremony was performed in Craft Lodges at this time and probably even before that. To celebrate the Tercentenary, Provincial Grand Lodge is returning to The Royal Hospital School at Holbrook. This is a magnificent venue. To make the day an even more special occasion, the Holy Royal Arch will

be joining the Craft. The Royal Arch Convocation will open at 12 o'clock followed by the Craft meeting at 3pm. To complete the day, Craft and Royal Arch Masons will sit down together at the festive board to mark the intrinsic link between our two Orders.

This is the first time I can think of where a Province with two different heads has held their Provincial meetings on the same day and at the same venue. I do hope that you will all come and enjoy a very special day, one where you can support both members of the Craft and Royal Arch who will be receiving Appointments and Promotions. You can take the opportunity to relax whilst the PGM and I undertake the work!

May I take this opportunity of thanking all the Chapters in Suffolk for their sterling work. Not only the standard of your ceremonies but for the number of exaltees that continue to appear. Whilst many other Provinces are seeing a decline Suffolk is holding its own.

Unfortunately age and the Grand Chapter above constantly deplete our membership. I ask you Companions & Brethren to look amongst your Lodges for appropriate members who you think would enjoy completing their Master Masons Degree by joining the Holy Royal Arch. I am of course delighted when wine is taken at the Festive Board with members of the Holy Royal Arch and somewhat disappointed with those who don't. The excuse that those who remain seated or not members of The Royal Arch get embarrassed is not true. It is only our Craft Lodge's that we can turn to for our membership and only by joining the Royal Arch can a Brother complete his Masonic journey.

I look forward to seeing many of you during 2017.

*Very best wishes, David Boswell, Grand Superintendent*

## The Royal Arch presents New Vestments

On the Sunday 27th November 2016, the Rector of St Mary's parish church Woodbridge announced to the congregation that he had been presented with a new altar frontal cloth and a set of new vestments, being used for the first time to mark the start of Advent. The Altar frontal cloth had been skilfully made by one of the parishioners and the new vestments had been presented on behalf of the Royal Arch Masons of Suffolk. The Royal Arch Masons of Suffolk have enjoyed a close association with St. Mary's for many years and have held their Christmas carol service there on several occasions. The Rector is not exactly unknown to the Companions of Suffolk. He himself is a member of the Chapter of Wisdom and of course The Provincial Grand Chaplain. The photograph shows the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent with the Revd. Canon Kevan McCormack and the Third Provincial Grand Principal at St. Mary's Church. The colour purple is worn at Lent as well as at Advent and signifies a period of preparation.



*Ralph Robertson*

## Second Diamond Certificate for Ray

The ME Grand Superintendent David Boswell visited E Comp Ray Gibbs on the day of his 92nd Birthday to present him with his second Diamond Certificate, this time celebrating exactly 60 years as a Royal Arch Mason to go with his 60 years as a Freemason which Ray earned in January 2015. Ray was exalted into Socrates Chapter in Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire on his 32nd Birthday, became MEZ in 1967, but when his work as a bank manager moved him to Suffolk, he joined Royal Clarence Chapter in Clare, being MEZ in 1979. His work meant that he was soon tagged as Provincial Treasurer between 1988 and 1993, following which he was appointed PAGDC of Supreme Grand Chapter in 1993.



Ray is still as active as any 92 year old can be and remains sharp and with an extraordinary memory. He remains cheerful with a dry wit and thoroughly enjoys his Royal Arch Masonry. He is revered among Clare Masons and is both aspirational and inspirational. David Boswell commented "Ray is well known throughout the Province for being not just a happy man and an excellent ritualist, but a committed Freemason, especially towards the Royal Arch, and an example to us all. If I am as active as he is when I am 92, I shall think myself very lucky."

*Alex Workman*

## Mildenhall Chapter 6292 Charity Fund Presentation

Wishing to do something different for our Chapter summer get together my idea was to have a 'silent auction' so that people could give if they could and not be pushed. I have two interests outside masonry that of Art and Bowls and on asking for some help from my friends in my village of Elmswell I was overwhelmed with their response. Fund raising began in April. First off was a charity Bowls Match, an annual game between Elmswell and Mendelsham. The proceeds of which kicked off the fund raising to the tune of £125.00.



On Sunday 17th July 2016 with the kind permission of Anne and Nick Berry the Chapter held it's annual Garden Party in the grounds of their home. As usual we hoped to raise funds for those less fortunate than ourselves, in particular terminally sick children, whilst having fun and a social gathering of our nearest and dearest, friends and neighbours. Instead of the usual raffle we held a Silent Auction and items were put on display with a bidding sheet by each with some excellent items donated. The best however was to come from the Elmswell Art Group who donated 25 of their excellent works of art, 20 of which were sold raising a fantastic £750.00.

There are too many companions and villagers to thank personally, for their generous donations in cash all I can say is a very humble thank you. The total raised to date is £1595.00.

*Ken Beale*

## Masonic Annual Charity Event (M.A.C.E.)

Friday 12th August saw the sixth Masonic Annual Charity Event hosted by the Province of Suffolk and held at Ipswich & District Bowls Club. Over 120 competitors and supporters from fourteen different provinces entered 24 teams for a wonderful day of green bowls, camaraderie and charity.



The event was opened by the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Ian Yeldham, who wished everyone a warm welcome to Suffolk and to an enjoyable day in the company of brethren from so many different provinces. David Cable the host club president welcomed the M.A.C.E. tournament and hoped all would enjoy the facilities of Ipswich Bowls Club. The weather was absolutely fabulous being one of the sunniest and warmest days of the year. The eventual winners were Derbyshire who beat Cambridgeshire in the play-off to take the M.A.C.E. trophy for the year until the seventh M.A.C.E. tournament in 2017 to be hosted by Dorset at the Dorchester Bowls Club. Potters' Resort Holidays presented a short break holiday as a prize, which was won by W.Bro. Chris Whitebrook from Cambridgeshire. In all £1,650 was raised for 'Hope for Tomorrow', a National cancer charity dedicated to bringing cancer treatment closer to patients' homes.



The day was concluded with dinner and guest speaker, Charlie Haylock one of East Anglia's leading entertainers who treated all to tales of mischief between the inhabitants of Suffolk and Norfolk.

The final stage of this year's National Masonic Bowls tournament, held in August, was concluded with the presentation of a cheque to "Hope for Tomorrow", a charity dedicated to alleviate some of the stresses and strains associated with receiving treatment for Cancer via the provision of Mobile Chemotherapy Units to NHS Trusts.

A cheque for £1,650 was presented to Dawn Osko, regional fundraiser by W.Bro. Nick Berry, secretary of Suffolk Masonic Bowls Association and bowls association members W.Bros. Ian McFetridge and David Wharton. The presentation was assisted by the Mayor of St. Edmundsbury, Councillor Julia Wakelam.

Nick Berry

## Stradbroke Lodge donate to Parkinson's Support Group

Blundeston Prison has been opening the gates, not to let people out but to let people in as tourists. Having been declared obsolete and closed over two years ago the site was bought by local Blundeston building company Badger Building. Whilst plans were being finalised for future use of the site, Badger Building have allowed Stradbroke Lodge No. 3291 to organise guided tours so as to raise money for their charitable work. So, over a few weekends and some nice summer evenings, over 1,000 people were given guided tours of the prison site and the cell blocks. The tours were brought to life by having volunteer retired Prison Officers as tour guides who were able to explain the daily routine of the prison and the prisoners and to tell stories of some of the characters who resided there for a while.



One of the provisos that Badger Building placed on the tours was that 10% of the funds raised be donated to research into Parkinson's disease. Therefore some of the organising committee of Stradbroke Lodge: Victor Burton, Dave Carman, and Graham Horton along with Jason Oliver, the present Master of the Lodge, met with Mike Regis, the local Parkinson support group Co-ordinator along with Stephen George, Managing Director of Badger Building to present Mike with a further cheque making a total donation so far of £1,000.

Mike also received from Stephen some cheques totalling over £300 for donations from tours which he had organised.

Graham Horton



### Can you help Brian?

Since the hand over of 500 old phones (some of which were sold by the EAAA for £550) I have just handed over another 200 phones making a total in two years of 700 old phones.

I should like to get to the magical 1000 old phones if at all possible. If anybody still have old, unused, broken, or unwanted phones, please get in touch with me and I can arrange collection.

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