



FORUM



What a fabulous day at Holbrook!



FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Magazine



Welcome to an extremely full summer issue of Forum and thank you to everyone who has been in touch to let me know what you have been up to throughout the Province.

In this issue you will read an interesting article which gives an insight into the Provincial Archives which are tucked away in Soane Street and contain an enormous amount of information on masonic history in Suffolk, please keep them in mind if you come across anything interesting in your lodge records.

Suffolk Installed Masters held their Centenary Meeting earlier this year, the lodge has a most interesting history and I hope you will enjoy reading a brief summary of this in the magazine.

Simply give me a call, email or speak to me in person if you wish to put something in Forum or to use the Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk social media to promote an event you are holding or have held as we are very keen to publicise Suffolk Freemasonry to the wider public. Most events and meetings which I attend or am informed of are featured immediately on our Facebook and Instagram pages so look out for them and please feel free to share with your family and friends.

Thanks of course goes to all our advertisers for supporting Forum, it is very much appreciated. If you would like to promote your business in the magazine - contact myself or Les Howard, details below.

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Jottings

from The Provincial Grand Secretary

The second half of the Masonic season always seems to be quite hectic and this year was certainly no different.

The annual Provincial Grand Lodge meeting at Holbrook is always the natural conclusion to the year and what a fantastic day it was. With over 575 members at the meeting and after a bit of negotiation with the RHS, a record 402 dining it was a spectacular event. The highest turnout I can remember during my time involved with running this event. My congratulations go to the retiring Provincial DC David Barker and his processional team whose exemplary work would have made any Regimental Sergeant Major smile and who have attracted many congratulatory comments from our visiting brethren from other provinces. My personal thanks must also go to the Assistant Secretary Ralph Robertson, the secretary of the Stewards Lodge Charlie Neale and all the Stewards themselves who contributed to the smooth running of the day; thank you all.

Earlier in the year we saw the centenary meeting of Suffolk Installed Masters Lodge attended by well over a hundred brethren and at which, in addition to the usual celebratory procedures we were honoured to receive the President of the Board of General Purposes RWBro Geoffrey Dearing, who gave an overview of the responsibilities of the body who govern our organisation. Needless to say this was followed by a very enjoyable and enthusiastic Festive Board.

The weather was once again very kind to us at the PGM's annual Initiates BBQ, again attended by nearly 150 brethren and their partners which gave the provincial executive the opportunity to meet the newest members of the Craft and visa versa. The event was further enhanced by a visit from Simone Enefer-Doy, CEO of Lifelites charity who was on a tour around every province in the country by as many different forms of transport as possible. My thanks go to Brian Wilkes of Christchurch Lodge who provided Poppy, an 84 year old Rover 10 and who accompanied by Alan Page riding shotgun, and complete with Flat Cap and Goggles (giving a very passable impression of Mr Toad) transported Simone from Suffolk to Norfolk clasp a £500 cheque donated by the Province towards the work of the charity.

The Suffolk Masonic Clay Shooting Society hosted the National Competition at High Lodge on the 22nd June which was attended by our PGM and over 200 shooters from 18 different provinces. The weather was again ideal and the whole day ran according to the organisers' plans with many complimentary comments received following the event. The overall winner was Dan Bishop from Hampshire and Isle of Wight, team winners were West Lancs and I'm delighted that Suffolk won the Ladies Team prize. The £6000 raised for charity at the event was also a record amount.

There have been a number of personnel changes within the province recently. After eight years Trevor White, who has held a large number of key roles over many years has stood down as Group 8 Representative; my personal thanks go to Trevor whose depth of Masonic knowledge and wise council I have benefited from and much appreciated for a number of years, as has the Province in general. His role has now been filled by Mark Jepson who will no doubt prove to be a worthy successor.

Ralph Robertson, in addition to his work as Provincial Assistant Secretary is to be the next Inspector General Rose Croix and David Deal his District Recorder both of whom will prove great assets to this District.

We also welcome Richard Vickerstaff Jnr to the team in the Provincial Secretariat in an effort to spread the administrative work more evenly. I'm sure his IT knowledge will prove a great asset as we continue to modernise our administration procedures. As always my thanks go to the other members of the admin team, Ralph Robertson, Geoff Spencer, Trevor Tinley, David Cuthbert and Peter Thomas whose wholly unremunerated and largely unseen efforts contribute enormously to the efficient running of the province.

Roger Nash, Provincial Grand Secretary, August 2019



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From Brother to Brother...



St. Margaret's Lodge 1452 Ladies Festival was such a success this year they were able to hand over a cheque for £838 to a new local charity in Lowestoft. The Brainwave Independence Group's aim is to help people with brain injuries gain confidence, learn new skills and become more independent. They are in the process of building a day centre in North Lowestoft. Pictured is outgoing master Stephen King handing the donation over to his brother, Support Worker Tony King.

Bill Molloy

Suffolk Freemasons Campaign to save the Suffolk Punch

Now that the Province of Suffolk is about to come out of Festival, several Suffolk Freemasons wondered what they might do to "Help save the Suffolk Punch". Simply stated, the famous breed could be extinct in 20 years unless something is done soon. Once plentiful across much of England, the health of the



Suffolk Punch population was badly dented during World War One, when thousands died attempting to haul heavy artillery towards the trenches. While their numbers steadily recovered during the 1920s, the introduction of tractors saw another steep decline from the 1960s onwards with the breed now considered to be the rarest horse in Britain! And, as all Suffolk Masons will know, the Punch forms part of the Trinity which we have on our Provincial logo.

Suffolk Horses were sent and worked superbly well on farms around the world. Thousands enjoyed them and had great benefits. Therefore, everyone is invited to join us and to help because we are looking to attract support from across the country, throughout the Commonwealth and around the world.

The members of Suffolk Light Blues are well placed to help us. Please get in touch you younger Brethren for we need you! Of course, all Suffolk Masons are asked to help too and lend their weight to this Provincial campaign. Please come on board. If you would like to receive further details about our campaign please email paul.ruffles4@btinternet.com. How wonderful it would be if every Lodge in the Province would adopt a Suffolk Horse! We would also like to hear from any Suffolk Freemason who might be connected to and is interested in the Suffolk Punch.

Ruffy Ruffles

From the Provincial Grand Master

Dear All,

I wish to collectively thank you all for your stupendous efforts during the last year and for your input. If you are reading this magazine you have most likely been, or will be involved with Freemasonry in Suffolk. Across the Province reigned an air of enthusiasm and more especially, excellence. We have chased to reach our festival targets, continued to initiate the finest candidates, who understand what we are all about and overall, increased the numbers attending meetings. I would like to thank all those who joined us at our Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting, and all the acting officers. The enthusiasm over the year to join the Rulers during their official visits, as well as the casual ones and the reception from the individual Lodges was overwhelming. The natural way that everybody took part and engaged with brethren all over the Province, produces the links between the Lodges of Suffolk which is essential for our continued growth. I also extend the same sentiment to the Provincial meeting, where our guests were treated with the same importance. The performance on the day from everyone involved was exceptional and that will surely inspire those that follow you.

You are probably aware that I laid down an immensely difficult gauntlet at our annual meeting, to grow the membership of our Province exponentially. My belief is that because of the energy, enthusiasm and doggedness of our members to succeed, acting Officers and Stewards, Present and Past, quite frankly, I believe anything is achievable.

I am anticipating that in combination with all your experience, the raw keenness of our Light Blues and the desire to keep Suffolk at the very top of English Freemasonry, it's a plan that could easily come together!

Thank you all for the encouragement I have felt, for taking part the way that you have, the tremendous generosity you have engendered throughout your own Lodges for our Festival and most especially, the kindness you have shown me when I have been in your company.

I look forward to seeing you all in the new season and especially on October 23rd to celebrate the culmination of our Festival.

Thank you all so much.

R.W.Bro. Ian Yeldham
Provincial Grand Master



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St. Lukes Charity Golf Day

St. Lukes Lodge held its golf day at Stowmarket Golf Club on the 24th May 2019. This meeting was the 20th year that the day has been held and during that time it has raised over £30k for the Lodges Charity Association. The funds have not



only been distributed to two Festivals during that period, but many more local charities that would not otherwise have been able to fulfil a programme or supply a perceived need for their service users.

The day was run "at cost" as a way of thanking all the teams who have supported it and 84 golfers from Suffolk and Cambridgeshire played in glorious sunshine on a very well maintained course. St. Lukes Lodge was well represented and one of its teams ran out as winners on the day.

Although the fees for the day were kept to the minimum, £345.00 was raised from the draw. The feedback from the event has been great and swift notice will be forthcoming on next year's day. My thanks go to all those who supported this year by entering a team, by supporting the administration, donating a raffle prize or just turning up to witness a fantastic day. The picture shows Martyn Broughton presenting the cup to the winning team of Trevor Tinley, Roger Cawston, Ron Calthorpe and George Burley.

Trevor Tinley

Phoenix make multiple donations to local charities

Phoenix were delighted to be able to provide support to various local charities, all nominated because they helped young people or helped people who were suffering from a variety of illnesses.

The recipient charities were: AJ's Legacy, Bosmere Community Primary School,

Cancer Blossom Appeal, South Central and East Suffolk MS Society, Phoenix Counselling Practice, Stowmarket ATC, Bumblebee Children's Charity, Macmillan Nurses Home Visitors and Success after Stroke.



Flt Lt Paula Houghton of Stowmarket ATC with Roger Flory, WM Phoenix No. 516

Roger Flory

A Royal Garden Party invitation for Ken...

As a younger man Ken Hope used to run marathons, raising funds for various charities including Royal Ormond Street Hospital and Liver Disease in Children at Kings College Hospital in London.

Through this charitable work over many years Ken together with his wife Anna were delighted to receive an invitation to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday 29th May 2019 as a guest of Her Majesty The Queen.



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Isolated people gain new services thanks to grant of £15,000 from Suffolk Freemasons



Julie Stokes and Susannah Robirosa with Ian Yeldham and David Clarke at the ActivLives - ActivGardens Community Market and Cafe

Isolated older people from are to gain access to a whole host of activities thanks to a £15,000 grant from Suffolk Freemasons, made through the MCF.

Older people who live on their own with little or no family support around them are being supported by ActivLives – a charity which runs initiatives to combat the challenges they face across Ipswich and the wider Suffolk area. These can include those associated with disability, long-term health conditions, mental health, social isolation and loneliness. Their most popular activities include community gardening, “men in sheds” projects, beekeeping, various forms of inclusive exercise, and hubs to support people living with dementia and their carers. All of ActivLives’ activities are held in local, accessible venues, with particular attention paid to rural communities, transport links, and parking.

Over a third of older people in Suffolk live alone, and one in ten of those over 65 said they have started to feel lonely. Research has shown that 15,000 older people in the county go a month or more without having a conversation with friends or family. This situation is made even more worrying by the fact that there will be 16,000 people in Suffolk living with dementia in 15 years.



In the last year, more than 3,000 people benefited from ActivLives’ services, with over 13,000 attendances at various activities. The new grant provides crucial funding which will allow them to support a further 1,000 people through community engagement,

developing the activities available in Ipswich and Suffolk, and expand their reach. This means that more vulnerable older people will benefit from the initiative, reducing loneliness and social isolation across the county.

One beneficiary said “I don’t think you realise the impact that ActivLives is having on us. Attending the café has improved both the health of myself and my wife, and we both have fun.”

Julie Stokes, the Chief Executive Officer of ActivLives said: “We’re extremely grateful to Suffolk Freemasons for their generous grant, which has enabled us to improve our mental and physical health services and reach more vulnerable older people in Suffolk.” Our PGM, Ian Yeldham added: “I am very pleased we have been able to support ActivLives in their vital work. It’s truly shocking that 15,000 people go more than a month without talking to family or friends. An aging population combined with the dispersed nature of rural communities presents real problems when it comes to the issue of loneliness.”

www.activlives.org.uk

“Well, I haven’t seen it done like that before!”

St. Lukes Lodge No 225 is an Ancient or Atholl Lodge and is the only one in the Province of Suffolk. There are 124 Ancient or Atholl Lodges throughout the world and of course, that number can never increase. So what is the Atholl story?



On July 17th, 1751 about eighty mainly Irish Freemasons from six lodges met in Committee at the “Turks head” tavern at the corner of Greek and Compton Streets in Soho. They met to consider setting up a rival Grand Lodge and the meeting was soon followed by the founding of the “Grand Lodge of England According to the Old

Institutions “ The new body immediately began accusing the old Grand Lodge, formed in 1717 and dubbed the Moderns, of introducing innovations and claiming that only themselves preserved the Crafts ancient customs.

The significant impact on British freemasonry by the more progressive Grand Lodge of the Ancients was enhanced by the arrival in London during 1748 of Laurence Dermott a journeyman painter by trade. He had learned his freemasonry in Lodge No 26 of the Irish Constitution in which, apart from other offices, he had been secretary and he eventually became RWM in 1746. Dermott became secretary of the Ancients and was extremely successful. The inevitable improvement in his social status was largely due to his untiring energy. He never pretended to be a scholar but he cultivated his mind and acquired knowledge of language, literature and history. He soon realised that to give his Grand Lodge the needed status it was imperative to have a figurehead in much the same way as that enjoyed by the “moderns”. He persuaded a number of well known men to help. Among those were the 3rd and 4th Duke of Atholl who were to go on and serve the Ancients so long and so well.

John the 3rd Duke was elected Grand Master Mason of Scotland on 30th November 1773 and, as he had already been installed as Grand Master of the Ancients in 1771, was in the unique position of holding two Grand Masterships in the same year. His death in 1774 caused much concern as it was not easy to find someone of eminence to give his name and time to a voluntary Order.

Fortunately, he left a son who inherited his title. Being only nineteen and not a freemason he immediately applied to Grand Masters Lodge No 1 and was Initiated on the 25th. February 1775 when, as a matter of urgency, the whole three degrees were conferred on him at the same meeting. At the same time he was installed as master of the Lodge. At the next meeting of Grand Lodge he was proposed as Grand Master and was installed as such on the 25th March 1775.

Over the coming years many freemasons from both Grand Lodges worked hard to remove any misunderstanding between them but none more so than the 3rd and 4th Duke of Atholl and their diligence was rewarded with the Union of the Grand Lodges in 1813.

As indicated before there are only 124 Atholl or Ancient Lodges throughout the world spread from Bermuda to Bristol - from Gibraltar to Guernsey - from Cardiff to Chichester- from Jersey to Jamaica and from London to Liverpool. In the USA there are seven Grand Lodges which originate from the Grand Lodge of Ancients. The Association of Atholl Lodges keeps the origin of the Grand Lodge at the forefront of their work; they encourage all Lodges to continue with their own traditions, providing they meet with the approval of the United Grand Lodge, that is why, when visitors leave a St. Lukes meeting they remark “Well, I haven’t seen it done like that before!”

Compiled by Trevor Tinley - with thanks to W.D. Hall for information

The Centenary Meeting of Suffolk Installed Masters Lodge was held at Ashlar House, Bury St Edmunds on Friday 26th April with two hundred members and guests in attendance.

The original Lodge Warrant is dated 9th December 1918, the same as that of Norfolk Installed Masters, but for some unknown reason, the consecration dates for the two Lodges were eighteen days apart, Norfolk being in February 1919 and Suffolk in March 1919. Despite the Consecration being nearly twenty years into the new century our Founders were still Victorians by nature and outlook. They were serious and sincere, both in belief and conduct. There were no war heroes among them, just good solid citizens, four were to go on to become Mayors of Ipswich, with two more becoming Mayors of Bury St Edmunds. The Lodge was founded by the encouragement of the Provincial Grand Master, George 3rd Earl of Stradbroke and other members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk.



Owen Aly Clark
Worshipful Master 1919

It must have caught the imagination of many ordinary Masons as there were 153 founders on the list, and the Consecration Meeting at the County Hall Ipswich, attracted a further 130 guests representing 62 differing Lodges. At the Consecration meeting the Founders Jewels and the Consecrating vessels were not available due to the restrictions on the use of metals following the end of the Great War. These items eventually became available, and the Consecration vessels were donated for the use of the Province. An explanation of the symbolism of the Jewels was printed in the first book of Lodge Transactions and illustrates the unification of the two counties, East and West Suffolk and one Province. Transaction Books were fairly common for all Installed Masters Lodges, and were intended to build a background of information about a Lodge and its members, as well as preserving a record of the lectures given throughout the year. Our series of booklets ceased in 1957 since then much of the content of the Lodges' activities seems to have been lost. Installed Masters Lodges such as ours, enable Senior Members of the Craft to gather together to exchange knowledge and ideas through the medium of talks and lectures. Suffolk Installed Masters is not unique in its operation, but it does have some special features, one of these being the inclusion of our Ladies at one or more meetings in the year. This procedure started very early in the life of the Lodge at our sixth meeting in 1920 at Bury St Edmunds. This was also the first time since the end of the Great War that the Provincial Grand Master, the Earl of Stradbroke was able to attend. Here he was proclaimed the first Worshipful Master Designate and presented with his Past Masters collar and Founders jewel. At the conclusion of the meeting he praised the Lodge for its foresight in including the Ladies and his thanks were recorded to them for enhancing the day.



The transport arranged for the visit to Jersey

From the beginning the Lodge has spread its influence across the Province and beyond. It has welcomed invitations from members to hold meetings in various Masonic Halls and public buildings across Suffolk, even on occasion venturing into Norfolk, to Great Yarmouth in particular, and to Leicester in 1926, but most famously to the Channel Islands. The first visit to Jersey in 1925 is well documented in the history by a verbatim report from a member. The East Anglian Daily Times reported: "this unique occasion and the first known example of an English Lodge of Freemasons holding a regular meeting outside its own Province".

Suffolk Installed Masters Lodge No 3913

*"If we can't appreciate our history,
we will never understand our present,
or anticipate our future"*



suspended again in May 1944 with the re-imposition of the Coastal Travel Ban caused by the impending Operation Overlord (D Day).

The Provincial Grand Master died in 1947, and his son the 4th Earl of Stradbroke became Provincial Grand Master in his stead. The fifties saw more changes. At the 90th meeting some provocative views were expressed in relation to the total number of Past Masters in the Province and those attending the Lodge. In 1957 the Transaction books suddenly ceased with no explanation and membership began to fall.

During the next twenty years, whilst we have a record of the papers delivered by lecturers, their talks and demonstrations, very little actual printed matter survives. Better news came in 1979 with the proposal to found Suffolk Installed 1st Principals Chapter No 3913. The Consecration meeting took place on 5th May 1980 at Felixstowe.

The 4th Earl of Stradbroke died in 1983 thus ending an eighty year dynasty of Provincial Grand Masters from a single family.

Since the millennium our fortunes have improved with Initiatives to attract new members bearing fruit. We have benefitted from the enthusiastic support of our recent and current Provincial Grand Masters, and our numbers and interest has grown accordingly. Our Installation meetings now seem popular events with plenty of visitors attending.

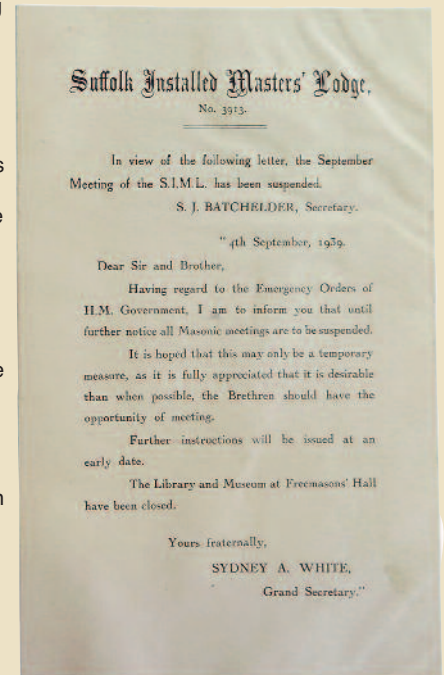
Recently three Founders Jewels have been located and refurbished and are worn at each meeting by the Worshipful Master and his Wardens. We still meet at as many varied locations across the Province as possible and have introduced a fourth meeting into our calendar alongside our very successful annual Mentoring outings. A feeling of inclusiveness permeates the Lodge.

Brethren, today we reap the benefit of those seeds sown in 1919, hopefully we will replant some of these ideas to enable a future generation to gather in another harvest one hundred years from now.

Gordon Spindler

In 1922 we were represented at the laying of the foundation stone at Southwold Masonic Hall and a year later, held a meeting there following the Consecration ceremony. 1935 saw the Silver Jubilee of King George the Fifth, this coinciding with our own jubilee. On the day a telegram of congratulation was sent to the Palace and a suitable reply was received the same afternoon.

The Lodge met right up until September 1939. It resumed working again in March 1941 although being restricted to meeting in Ipswich. It was briefly



SIM Centenary Officers at the Installation Meeting 2019

Have you ever wondered what Freemasons really get up to?



Over recent years Freemasonry has become much more open with TV shows, open days, websites and facebook pages, this has resulted in the membership locally increasing.

Four years ago a group of Suffolk Freemasons set up the Masonic Fishing Charity in Suffolk, it is a charity that takes disadvantaged and disabled groups or people with trauma fishing for the day which gives them a countryside experience. The freemasons provide all this free of charge and many Suffolk schools and groups such as Julian Support and Ferriers Barn have benefited from the fishing events. In total across the UK over 1200 people each year attend these fishing events, each event costs in excess of £500 which is raised by the Freemasons.



The event at Hintlesham Coarse fisheries which had been donated for the day free of charge by its owner, started with a hearty breakfast followed by the arrival of 28 people from the Ferriers Barn Day Centre and were each allocated to a caster. They spent the day fishing and everyone caught plenty of fish, the winner being Beth with 28 caught. At 1pm they returned for a BBQ provided by our chefs, Robert and Brian. This was followed by the awards ceremony where they all receive a certificate and medal and a goody bag. Over the years comments from the children

taking part have included "That was the best day of my life" another from youngster who was in care said "I wish you were my dad!"

The goal and logo of the charity is to create a smile and we certainly did that for Ferriers Barn as following the event we received this quote from them "The group of guys you have volunteering for this event are angels, they dedicate their time to make sure other people, like our members have a wonderful day and get to experience something which would otherwise be unavailable to them" The joy on our members face was clear and this event was the highlight of our year, our staff had a pretty good time too!"
Nikki Goodman.



We are always looking for Suffolk groups who could benefit from this day out and we always need fishing casters both fly and coarse, you do not have to be a mason to help or join this charity. If you wish to help or take part please contact us on Jon Neill on jneill20@gmail.com or Robert Clubb on robert@dunwellpmc.com.

Jon Neill

An interview with our Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies

Chris Warnes



I am a Suffolk Boy born and raised. I went to school in Ipswich and then headed to Loughborough University to study Manufacturing Engineering and graduated with a Master's Degree in Casting Technology. During my time there I ran my own successful security business but eventually returned to the family business back in 1997 and have been here ever since. Hadleigh Castings is tucked away in the countryside but we are well known for manufacturing very high precision Aluminium components for a huge cross section of global industries. Over the last 20 years I have worked my way through every department in the company and became Managing Director in 2009. I have always been a keen sportsman, playing Hockey, Rugby and American Football at a decent level mixed with weightlifting and more recently Stand Up Paddle boarding. Being almost as wide as I am tall I have earned several nicknames over the years but Rhino has always stuck and is probably most apt. I have two children, Jake (11) and Callum (10) who are both at my old school and doing me proud, although I now seem to spend a lot more time on the side-lines watching them both play Rugby, Hockey and Cricket.

Most of you will know my Father, Neville who has been Provincial Charity Steward and 2019 Festival Chairman for the past few years. He always regretted joining Masonry at a later age having concentrated on Round Table and Rotary so he was keen for me to join although not his lodge (I like to think this was to broaden my horizons rather than out of any embarrassment!) so I was initiated into Lodge of Virtue & Silence in Hadleigh in April 2001 and went through the offices to reach the chair in 2009/10. I was then fortunate enough to be made a Provincial Steward in 2012 and Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2016. I am also a member of Suffolk Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge, Suffolk Installed Masters, Philip Jervis Kay and was founding Senior Warden of The Sportsman's Lodge of Suffolk in 2017. I was exalted into Triune Chapter in 2004 and again fortunate enough to be made a Provincial Steward in 2015. Also currently a member of Martyn Preceptory and Provincial First Herald. Helping Dad I have been heavily involved with the Festival, running the 500 Club and compiling all of the data and donation figures so I am thoroughly looking forward to the Final Event in October. I am also very proud to have been involved with the Ceremony of the Empty Chair as WM, a role that has been humbling and emotional as we have visited lodges across the country remembering our fallen Brethren from the First World War.

I was extremely honoured to be appointed Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, if you had asked me from day one which Provincial role would have been my aspiration it was always DC and I haven't stopped smiling since I received the letter. David Barker has been an inspiration and I have an extremely tough act to follow but I have worked closely with him for some time with helping to plan out the Provincial meeting so whilst there is a huge amount of background work it isn't too daunting (easy to say this in July!) but his ongoing support since I was one of his ADC's has and will continue to be invaluable. I have an excellent team of Deputies and Assistants and we are already getting prepared for the coming Masonic Season, the welcome we receive is always exceptional so I am looking forward to seeing you all over the coming season.

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Regalia Services

As many are already aware Rod Hellawell has recently retired as your Provincial Regalia Representative due to ill health and I am sure you would join me in extending our heartfelt thanks for his sterling work and dedication since arranging and running the service since its inception. I estimate the amount raised for the province is approximately £10,000 to date and I hope to maintain the high standard set by Rod.

To the newly initiated and Brethren that have not used or are unaware of the service we offer I will briefly outline how the Province Benefits from Regalia Sales. Firstly by purchasing new regalia from the Provincial Shop the Province receives a commission on sales made. To access the shop go to the Provincial Website, www.suffolkpogl.org.uk and click on the banner at the top right of the page 'REGALIA' - you can then order direct by creating an account, or if you prefer simply telephone me and I will order on your behalf.

Secondly, and most beneficial to the Brethren and Province is the money raised from the sale of used donated Regalia. All the money from these sales goes back to the Province. Brethren also benefit by being able to purchase second hand and so recycling some of that unused Regalia we all have at home or carry around in our cases. I hope to arrange collection points at the three main areas of the Province in the near future as due to the recent promotions and subsequent sales my used stock is low.

Finally, if you just need advice regarding Regalia issues, please do not hesitate to call me. While I am no expert, I am on a very steep learning curve and what I don't know I will endeavour to find out for you.

Burt Royal: Tel 07971 919358, regaliaservices@virginmedia.com

Magna Carta Lodge pleased to support the My Wish Charity

Roger and Rosina Young enjoyed a successful Ladies Festival with the draw raising £600 and Magna Carta members raising a further £100. This has been used to provide a much needed 'Play station' for the ENT Outpatients Department at West Suffolk Hospital. ENT staff were buying the odd toy out of their own pockets and are over the moon with these new facilities which will amuse and occupy children who are either patients or visiting the Department with their parents.



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Graham Saward *Senior Warden*

I was born in Felixstowe and lived there until I was in my early 20's, when I moved to Ipswich as a requirement of my new employment as a whole-time Firefighter with the Suffolk and Ipswich Fire Service, having joined the part-time service some years earlier.

Being young and ambitious I moved out of the county to gain promotion, first to Peterborough and then to West Sussex, where I served for fifteen years. I later returned to Suffolk, firstly to Ipswich, then Felixstowe, Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich again, before moving to my final posting at Lowestoft.

As an operational officer I attended every conceivable type of incident, including major fires and road traffic collisions, an aircraft accident at Gatwick Airport, ship fires in the North Sea and I was on duty the night of the Brighton hotel bombing. During my career I served in Operations, Fire Safety, Planning and Review and Training departments.

On retiring from the fire service I was invited to become a trainer for a commercial fire investigation company before starting my own consultancy business. In addition to conducting fire investigations for insurance companies I delivered training at national training establishments for fire, police and forensic scientists in Europe, North America and the Middle East. I continue to be a visiting lecturer at the University of Leeds.

I was appointed as the fire safety fleet manager for the UK's largest nuclear electricity generation company to manage the transition in legislation from prescriptive to risk assessed fire safety. This work resulted in becoming Vice-chairman of the UK Nuclear Industry Fire Safety Coordinating Committee and a member of the US Technical Standards Committee for new-build nuclear power plants. I was invited to undertake a review of the fire and rescue service in one of the Emirates in the UAE, an eighteen-month project to specify the measures needed to deliver a service to international best practice. My work in emergency preparedness, and being awarded a Master's degree in Civil Protection, led to being appointed as a consultant and associate trainer at the Cabinet Office's Emergency Planning College.

My Masonic career began in February 1999 when I was initiated into Colneis Lodge No. 8298 in Felixstowe, becoming Master in 2009. I was exalted into the Holy Royal Arch in 2002, becoming First Principal in 2016, and Perfected into Rose Croix in 2012. I have been the Editor of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk Year Book since 2013 and I am currently compiling a book to record the history of Provincial Grand Lodge, and its 68 Craft Lodges, to commemorate our 250th Anniversary in 2021.

I recently gave a presentation to a national conference at Great Queen Street relating to Disaster Recovery and I am contributing to the *Masonic Halls – Centres of Excellence* document and undertaking a review of the emergency arrangements at Freemasons' Hall.

I am looking forward to my year as Senior Warden and travelling around the Province, being re-united with old friends, and making many new ones.

Andy Gentle *Junior Warden*

Quite a few of you may have already heard of me, I'm that mad freemason that decided it would be a good idea to cycle to visit every Lodge in Suffolk! A mad idea it may have been but what a wonderful opportunity to see each Lodge and meet so many interesting, friendly and supportive Brethren. Along the way and thanks to wonderful support we also managed to raise over £21,000 towards the 2019 Festival.

Born in Nairobi, then moving to Cape Town, growing up in Kent and then North Wales you could say I'd moved around a bit before I finally settled in Suffolk after leaving home at the age of 17. I worked in various trades for a few years before finally starting up my own business as a Tree Surgeon in 1988. It's something that I'd got a taste for growing up in Wales and from humble beginnings here I am still running my business 30 years later.

Suffolk is now my home and I feel so privileged to live in such a wonderful County. I met my wife, Julie late 1995 and in 1996 we were married. We have two daughters, both now young ladies who we are immensely proud of. We are a very close family and both Julie and I also come from close knit families.

We both work together in our business and in the early years it was tough, coming through a few hard-economic periods, leaving little time for anything other than work. In 2001 I was initiated into Priory Lodge and

Freemasonry gave me something to focus on outside of my work. I enjoyed the ritual and we both enjoyed the social side of

masonry and have made many great friends. In 2009 I was installed as master of Priory Lodge having worked through all of the offices, I am currently DC.

In 2011 I was both pleased and honoured to be offered the office of Provincial Grand Steward and have enjoyed my time in Stewards Lodge, making yet more friends. In 2015 I was appointed to Senior Deacon of the Province. A proud moment in Freemasonry came in November 2016 when I was the founding Master of Sportsman's Lodge of Suffolk.

In 2014 I had the idea of cycling to all of the Lodges to help raise some money and the profile of our 2019 Festival. Myself and my good friend and Brother, Nick Moulton then proceeded to cycle 2260 miles visiting each one. Looking back, I really don't know how we made the time...Although very challenging and at times hard it's been one of the highlights of my time as a Freemason, we have a stunningly beautiful county and such a strong friendly Province with some wonderful Lodges and Brethren.

My appointment as PGJW is not only a great honour but now gives me the opportunity to once again visit some of the Lodges I have enjoyed visiting. But this time I won't be cycling!



Meet the Wardens



FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Magazine

Editor: WBro. Kelvin Avis

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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.

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

Have you researched your lodge or masonic hall history?

Why not get in touch and share it with us all?

Introducing...

Rick Orme

Provincial Charity Steward



Firstly, may I introduce myself to those of you who do not yet already know me? I much prefer to be called Rick rather than my proper name of Richard - although that does get used occasionally - especially when Chris (my wife) is a bit annoyed with me for some totally inexplicable reason!

Anyway, I've been a Mason for around 25 years now and my Masonic journey started when I was initiated into Apollo Lodge No. 305 at Beccles - many of you may know it as the Salt Beef and Pickles Lodge? I was WM there in 2004 and I'm also a Past Master (2007) and Founder Member of East Point Millennium Lodge No. 9704 in Lowestoft. I'm also in Chapter at Beccles and a staunch supporter of the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner orders, again in Lowestoft.

My business has mainly been in the print trade having started up and run our company for around 35 years now, although our son is mainly at the helm these days as I am pretty much semi-retired, but called upon every now and then, if and when required.

In my spare time (if there is such a thing) I am a life-long Spurs fan and a regular attendee at their games when I can get there with a lot of my family members. As I'm writing this before the Champions League Final, I may subsequently be a bit upset depending on the result or hopefully be smiling from ear-to-ear! I also enjoy spending time with our two grand children who are 3 and 8 years old and very time demanding too, but my wife and I love every minute of the challenge.

I'm also a lover of real ale (if I'm not driving, of course!) and my personal favourite is from the west of the region - Abbot Ale from Greene King - but I can be persuaded to change to a pint of Broadside if there's no Abbot!

The first part of my new role as Provincial Charity Steward, I'm sure, will be to support WBro Neville Warnes, as and when requested, to complete the fantastic job he has done with the Festival, and to ensure that the Festival Final Event in October goes according to plan. WBro Neville has been a great credit to our Province with the way that he has gone about managing the Festival throughout his tenure, but I will take over his role for at least the first year without the responsibility of it. This will give me time to settle in and allow our Lodges to have some "breathing space" for the interim period.

I am also looking forward to meeting and getting to know the Charity Stewards of each Lodge that I don't already know around the Province, and I hope to gain their continuing support most especially during the steep learning curve that I will be going through in the coming months.

Finally, I would also like to thank our PGM for the trust he has placed in me by appointing me to this position and I hope that I can justify his choice in the months to come - I shall certainly be trying my best!

Martyn Lodge 1983 and the 17th Battalion Hampshire Regiment



On the 8th of November 1918 Bro. Capt. Edwin Tims of the 17th Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment presented to the newly installed Worshipful Master, Andrew James Critton, and the Brethren of Martyn Lodge 1983 a very handsome clock in an oak case. This was followed by an excellent speech from Brother Tims thanking the Lodge for their hospitality and friendship to the members of the 17th Hampshire Regiment, to which W.Bro Critton made a suitable reply.



The Inscription on the clock reads:
*Presented to the Martyn Lodge 1983
By the Brethren of the 17th Hampshire Regiment
In appreciation of the Masonic Friendship
extended to them during their stay in Southwold
February 1918 to November 1918.*

As the war came to an end and those Brethren returned to their homes each one was bidden to return as circumstances would permit. They were assured that on the sixth day of the week in the second week of the month at the hour of 9.30 they would be held in remembrance. To this day at the November meeting at the hour of 9.30, Brethren of Martyn Lodge and their guests drink a toast to the Hampshire Regiment.

On the 9th of November 2018 Martyn held a special meeting, at which medals were worn, to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the 1st World War and the presentation of the clock to the Lodge. The Lodge was opened and closed and non-Masonic guests were then invited into the Temple. Cadets and staff from the 1379 (Leiston) Squadron of the RAFAC paraded their Standard into the Temple and took their seats. W.Bro. Doug Chambers of Sir Francis Drake Lodge 7668 and a former Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment gave a very comprehensive presentation on the history of the 17th Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment, its formation, locations where it served, its duties and finally its move to Southwold in February of 1918. Steve Bignell then gave an explanation of the presentation of the clock and some background information on some of the Brethren of Martyn Lodge from that era and their connections to the armed services. The Provincial Orator then delivered a paper entitled 'The End of Innocence'. W.Bro. J. Mayhew then introduced the Cadets and Staff from the 1379 Squadron RAFAC and explained their connections to Martyn Lodge.

Names of the present Brethren of Martyn who had served in the Armed Forces were called out and were invited to stand, they were then joined by the remainder of the Brethren and guests whilst a roll of honour of past Brethren from Martyn who had served with the Armed Services was read out. The Brethren and guests remained standing whilst 'Ode for Remembrance' was read by W.Bro. D. Garwood, and the Last Post was then played by Cdt Sgt T. Marshall followed by a two minute silence. The Standard was then paraded out. All then retired to the Constitutional Club for an excellent Festive Board.

My thanks for help in producing this article go to: Jason Mayhew, Martyn Lodge Secretary, Doug Chambers of Sir Francis Drake Lodge, Lt.Col. Colin Bullied, Secretary to the Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum, who was a great help with information and in finding a Brother to represent the Regiment at this meeting.

Brian Coleman

Round Table Lodge helps The Eye Appeal at Ipswich Hospital



Round Table Lodge of Suffolk No. 9276 represented by WM James McElhinney, Charity Steward Rodger Oatley together with Ophthalmic Staff Nurse Margaret Oatley were pleased to present a cheque for £500 to Head Orthoptist, Dawn Elwell at Ipswich Hospital for The Eye Appeal. In September 2018, Colchester & Ipswich Hospitals Charity launched The Eye Appeal to raise £55,000 to purchase a portable Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) Scanner. The Scanner is an imaging tool, used primarily in Ophthalmology, to diagnose and stage retinal diseases. This portable machine will mean infants, children, wheelchair users and those who are bed bound will be able to benefit from its sight saving abilities when they couldn't before.

Rodger Oatley said "I have had eye treatment in the past so I'm very aware of how valuable my sight is. I am thrilled that our Lodge has been able to help bring The Eye Appeal a step closer to its target. During our visit to Ipswich Hospital we were shown how a static OCT machine works and the wealth of information it provides the Ophthalmologists. It's truly remarkable. By having a portable version within the department they will be able to help so many more people."

Head Orthoptist, Dawn Elwell continues "A portable OCT is going to have such a big impact on who we can treat and it really can help save a person's sight as we can diagnose problems much sooner. "I would like to say a really big thank you to James, Rodger and the rest of the Lodge for supporting us. The Eye Appeal has now raised £8,250 which is fantastic." The local community are encouraged to get behind the appeal by holding a fundraising event or donating to the appeal online: www.colchesteripswichcharity.org.uk/eyeappeal.

Rodger Oatley

£9,200 Grant to 'Our Special Friends'

Suffolk Freemasons have made a grant, through the MCF, to 'Our Special Friends' a charity based in Bury St. Edmunds that reaches vulnerable elderly people in Suffolk through their love of animals. This easily accessible and non confrontational



approach creates a unique opportunity to identify health and social care needs that may have been concealed from others, and to ensure that these needs are addressed through referral to health and social care providers. The charity reduces isolation and helps to sign post the beneficiary to relevant and necessary health services, as well as providing companionship, animal therapeutic benefits and emotional support. In addition the charity also works in local hospices and care homes, providing weekly visits to residents. Rick Orme, Provincial Charity Steward commented "We are very pleased to support 'Our Special Friends' to assist in ensuring that vulnerable people will continue to benefit from the companionship of animals through difficult times in their lives".

www.ourspecialfriends.org

SLB's Question Time



On a lovely early summer's evening in late May, the second Provincial 'Question Time' was held at Ashlar House, primarily directed at and attended by Suffolk Light Blues. The audience of about 40 Masons was treated to a sometimes humorous but always informative evening with a panel comprising R.W. Bro Ian Yeldham, PGM, V.W. Bro David Clarke, DPGM and W. Bro K. Huxley, APGM. The questions were put to the panel through the ever debonair Ollie Fordham.

Questions ranged from matters of etiquette within and outside of the Lodge to who and when can you invite a friend to become a Freemason. One of the more unusual ones was extracted from part of the Opening Ceremony – 'If the Senior Deacon is waiting for the return of the Junior Deacon, where has the Junior Deacon been?' If you want to know the answer to that interesting question, you should have been in Bury St Edmunds on the evening on May 21st 2019!

Another question, and one that remains unanswered was 'Will there be another "Question Time" somewhere in the Province in the future?' Perhaps this will be turn out to be another one of those Secrets we hear about in Masonry.

Paul Taylor

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Suffolk Light Blues descend on Grand Lodge



On 2nd March a 60-strong flock of Suffolk Light Blues, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Master, descended on Freemasons Hall, in Great Queen Street, for one of this year's biggest masonic events; the consecration of the Essex Cornerstone Lodge. The Lodge is the first of its kind, consecrated purely for the benefit of young masons. It was an extremely well supported event; with over 700 Freemasons in the Grand Temple and in excess of 600 dining, including the Assistant Grand Master and a selection of Provincial Grand Masters. The SLB's were the single largest group of New and Young Masons attending outside of the Cornerstone Club itself, and were one of eleven NYMC's attending the consecration.

Unfortunately, National Rail had cancelled the usual Norwich to Liverpool Street train service, which meant that from the off the SLB's faced the challenge of actually getting to London. Luckily brethren from across the Province, and most notably from Ipswich, bravely offered to drive or even arrange coaches. A special mention should go out to Paul Goodridge-Hobson for organising the coach from Ipswich train station, which carried at least a third of all those who attended! However, one way or another all 60 SLB's made it to Philomena's bar for a meet up before going into Freemasons Hall.

Those of us who had not been to Grand Lodge before were left dumbstruck by the magnificence of the building itself; I am aware that the bathrooms were a particular favourite as they "were like being in Hogwarts!" In the Grand Temple, Master Masons and Past Masters were

treated to an exceptional ceremony, the likes of which very few of us had seen before, whilst the Fellow Crafts and Entered Apprentices were given a tour of Freemasons Hall. There is very little for myself, or many of the brethren there, to compare the consecration ceremony too. Having not seen one before, and it being so far removed from any of our usual ceremonies, we were simply left a little confused, very much intrigued, and absolutely certain that we were watching an exceptionally rare and poignant event. One of the most shocking moments of the day was when the Master Masons were asked to retire so that a Board of Installed Masters could be formed, and over half of the Grand Temple emptied. Later, the AGM said he had never seen such an exodus from the Grand Temple. Following the installation of the Primus Master, all those below the rank of a Past Master were invited back into the temple for the investiture of the officers. Subsequently the brethren present were treated to the Provincial Wardens and AGM delivering the addresses to the Master, Wardens, and Brethren. Undoubtedly, they demonstrated the importance of delivery in our ritual; they captivated the room and kept the brethren engaged with the way in which they delivered the addresses.

That was certainly a theme that continued in the Festive Board which was held in the Connaught Rooms. I doubt many of us had been to a Festive Board where the Master entered to a fanfare - I know, I couldn't believe it either. Following a dinner of beef wellington, we were amazed when our waiters began drumming on the pots they were carrying and, after some bemusement, it became apparent that they were the Drumming Waiters. They even dared to give the 600 brethren dining their own 'drum sticks', which consisted of variously shaped hollow tubes, and managed to co-ordinate us into some kind of rhythm! The entertainment was topped off by a rendition of the Masters' Song performed by a professional performer, which was certainly different to the usual Lodge choir performance.

To top off what had been an incredible day in the city, I was given the honour of giving the reply on behalf of the visitors. It was a nerve-wracking and incredible experience in equal measure; certainly, those on my table will attest to the nerve-wracking part! It was a privilege to be able to give that reply, and to represent the Suffolk Light Blues, and an immeasurable number of thanks must be given to Paul Rackham, for helping to make that happen.

This whole day and experience came from one 'tweet' that was found on Twitter, advertising the consecration, and the SLB visit was organised entirely on Facebook. Undoubtedly, the event showed the positive impact that social media can have on freemasonry, both internally and externally. The day itself was, unquestionably, an exceptional one; it was a day full of firsts for everyone involved and will live long in the memories of those who were there.

Will Lambarth East Point Millennium Lodge 9704



The Ashlar of Cornerstone Lodge

I was first contacted by Jack Saunders, the proposed Chaplain of Cornerstone Lodge on Christmas Day after he had seen a photograph of the perfect ashlar I had made for the 25th Anniversary of Brett Valley Lodge, where I am currently Inner Guard, on the Suffolk Light Blues facebook page. With some discussion and pictures of other stones I had previously produced sent by email, Jack said it would be discussed with the Founders and I waited to hear back from him. Some time passed and Jack got in contact with me again on the 13th of February and asked if there was still time to make the stone for the Consecration of the Lodge and sent me a drawing of their proposed design. After agreeing on the drawing I made a start on their Ashlar.

The stone I used is Portland Limestone which is the same stone used in the construction of Grand Lodge in Gt Queen Street and other historical buildings around London. The first thing to do was to cut the rough stone using a specialist saw to make a 5.5 inch perfect cube. The next step was then to polish the cube using various different carbon sanding discs ranging from 36 grit to 1000 grit giving it its final finish. I then applied the stencils and using a fine grit sand blaster engraved the lodge number, square and compasses and the Essex badge. After completion I sent Jack pictures of the finished ashlar and he asked me to deliver it direct to Grand Lodge on the day of the Consecration. The Ashlar will now sit on the Secretary's table at each and every meeting of Cornerstone and I am very pleased that I had the opportunity to take part in a fabulous day in London, not only for the Consecration of Cornerstone Lodge but to be part of the Suffolk Light Blues.

Corey Williams Brett Valley Lodge 9479



Court Knoll donation to CHAPS



At the meeting of Court Knoll Lodge No 9194 on the 21st May I received a cheque for £2k. This was made up of £1k from Jon Neill's Masters Charity Fund and a private donation from a Lodge Member of the other £1k. The Province has received the Lodge donation and will forward it to the charity CHAPS. It has also been advised that there is a possibility of "match funding" for that amount being made available from UGLE, bringing the total to £3k.

The reason the cheque was presented was the Lodge wished to support the "Prostate Testing Days" which have been organised for the past 2 years and have a programme running during 2019. The first date for this year was on the 29th June at The Bury Masonic Centre with further dates arranged for Ipswich and Lowestoft later in the year.

The donation will mean that the cost to the individual will come down from £20.00 to £5.00. A great incentive to attend and get yourself checked. 11,800 men die each year from this cancer and yet with a simple blood test that number could be halved. Don't hesitate to book in, or turn up on the day, it could save your life! The feedback from the charity CHAPS has indicated that a number of Brethren, their friends or relatives have been found to require further investigation a very positive outcome because, caught early, Prostate Cancer can be successfully treated.

Thanks go to Court Knoll, the reduction in costs will undoubtedly increase the number attending the testing days. Don't forget the days, although organised by the Province, are open to all males, encourage your friends and family members to attend.

Trevor Tinley

Easter treat at Cornwallis Court



The members, families and friends of Solea Lodge 9498 enjoyed a splendid Easter Lunch in bright sunshine on Sunday 14th April at Ashlar House. As always, the underlying purpose of the lunch was to gather chocolate Easter Eggs for the residents of Cornwallis Court, a Solea tradition which was started some sixteen years ago by the present Lodge Treasurer, WBro David Thomas when he was Master of Solea.

This year's delivery was in the hands of WM and all-round good egg WBro Peter Davis, seen here with Cornwallis residents Delphine and Geoff and Deputy Manager Amanda Curtis. Peter handed over a whopping clutch of seventy five chocolate Easter Eggs in a range of flavours, colours and sizes, is this a record clutch? Solea members think it could be but what really matters that they are able to bring a little Easter treat to the residents of Cornwallis Court.

Peter Ansbro



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Wonderful Suffolk celebration

The usual God Given weather and our greatest attendance in memory. Holbrook is, without a doubt, our spiritual home. With a packed Temple and the largest possible festive board surely no other Province can match our presentation. The Royal Hospital School alone must rank as one of the most picturesque masonic venues in England. And to complement such an iconic setting the subsequent meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge was perfect in its presentation, uniform, beautiful and at times somewhat moving. The scene was set when our RW Provincial Grand Master descended his 'dais' not only to confer Honours but to thank personally his retiring Director of Ceremonies W.Bro. David Barker for his brilliant guidance and the way he has filled (in all ways!) that Office.

David's calm and smiling manner endeared him to the Lodges on his countless official visits, not forgetting the lovely Jean who tirelessly suffered long nights often driving our PGM and many an escorting Officer home. Mention must be made of course of our retiring Provincial Charity Steward for his ceaseless work for the 2019 Festival. Gently goading the Lodges on his many visits around our Province and encouraging the Brethren to not only meet, but in the majority of cases, exceeding their targets. His organisational and diplomatic skills and dedication to the task set him has been exemplary, and like David we wish him and Bridget a happy retirement. And in the words of Neville "We did it together". Mention must be made of the very generous donation from our Provincial Grand Chapter, presented by their Grand Superintendent VW Bro. David Boswell.

With over 140 appointments and promotions the team of DCs and Stewards gently and efficiently firmly guided their charges to our PGM and all were greeted with a word and smile, a memorable occasion for all recipients. Our PGM also took time to thank many other retiring Officers who had served our Province with dedication in recent years. As the charity collection commenced our choir entertained, finishing with Suffolk's own anthem, "To Be a Farmer's Boy", so fitting for our lovely county!

Again, our Provincial Grand Master spoke to us on the level and whilst walking amongst us, threw out a challenge. "Our Province has the most active and strongest band of "light blues" in the country. Let us build on that. Actively recruit amongst your friends younger men of the same ilk and in Suffolk reverse that fall in national membership. We have set an example by not one lodge handing in its warrant in over 150 years, and by the consecration of new lodges to suit all interests. So together inspire and recruit and increase our membership by 15%. This is a realistic target and will prove to the English Craft that here, in God's little acre, our wonderful fraternity thrives for the good of all. Over to you Brethren!"

To follow a superb repast, served by the catering staff and pupils of the Royal Hospital School. The day, I believe, mirrored our Province. Sunny, joyful, full of camaraderie, successful and above all, a day that could not be bettered.



Suffolk Freemasons Social Media

Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk now has a presence on both Facebook and Instagram which are open to public viewing and run by your Communications Team. They will give you exclusive up to date information on what is happening around the Province as well as having topical posts from United Grand Lodge, the Masonic Charitable Foundation, Supreme Grand Charity and many others.

We invite you, your friends, family and colleagues to follow and enjoy the content. If you have anything to you want to share, simply get in touch - kelvinavis@me.com.



Introducing...

Mark Jepson

Group 8 Provincial Representative

When asked what my profession is I say I am semi-retired but seem to have very little spare time! I spent 30 years with the Suffolk Constabulary retiring as a Chief Inspector, my career was split between uniform and CID roles and I am in a fortunate position to say I enjoyed them all. I retired in 2011 and spent 7 years at Havebury Housing managing the Neighbourhood Team. In April 2018 I had a shoulder operation which required a considerable period of recuperation so took the opportunity to retire once again!



I am a member of the Felixstowe Town Council and have recently been elected as a District Councillor for Eastern Felixstowe and whilst I am not particularly 'political' I do enjoy working with the community to make the best of our lovely town.

I moved to Felixstowe in 2010 and I am married to Julie who works for Suffolk Constabulary and has done so for nearly 40 years. We have three children between us, my eldest son Ross works for the Border Force, my other son Harry is a Chef in BSE, my step daughter Millie is currently travelling Thailand having worked in Japan for the winter and is due to travel to Australia for a year in July, that has sorted out this year's holiday!

I started my masonic career with Culford Lodge 8482 in September 1999 where I served as Master and then Secretary. In 2010 I relocated to Felixstowe where I joined Colneis Lodge 8298. Subsequently I became a member of The Provincial Stewards Lodge, Felix Chapter and most recently PJK Lodge. As a Steward I have had the privilege and honour to be a member of the team that performed the Ceremony of the Empty Chair commemorating Brethren who died in the First World War. This has enabled us to visit some wonderful temples across the country whilst delivering a poignant and emotional demonstration.

I am delighted with my appointment as Group 8 Rep, I have made many friends in Felixstowe and now look forward to extending that to Woodbridge and Countryside Lodge. Friendship beyond the Lodge is something I have been encouraging for a while and will look to promote that across the Group, yes it does include a glass of red! These social events particularly give the younger Brethren the opportunity to mix with other Lodges in a more relaxed environment which I hope leads to an increase in visits to different Lodges.

In finishing I would like to thank Trevor White who I take over from, not only for the way he performed the role but for the way he has offered help and guidance during the transition period.

A Jewel returns to India

In 2013 I purchased a vintage Past Masters Jewel issued by the Leslie Wilson Lodge No 4880. On research I found that the Leslie Wilson Lodge was named after Leslie Wilson who served with the Foreign Office and was District Governor in India. He was so influential and important in India that he even had a steam train named after him. He then went on to be Governor of Queensland, Australia. I was fortunate enough to make contact with the Leslie Wilson Lodge No 4880 and exchanged emails with the secretary, W.Bro Devesh Hingorani, who said that his Lodge would appreciate the return of the Jewel.

A price was agreed, but how to get the Jewel to India was the problem. Devesh suggested that W.Bro Michael Holland, President of the Board of General Purposes for the Grand District of Bombay who lived in the UK was due to inspect Lodges in the near future and probably he would be willing to help. I was able to contact Michael Holland, who duly turned up at my door to collect the Jewel. Pleasantries were exchanged and in due course the Jewel was safely delivered to the Lodge.



In India there was a special ceremony where the Jewel was presented to the present Past Master and a decision made that this Jewel would be worn by every Past Master in the future. The Lodge was kind enough to send me a letter of thanks together with photographs of the dignitaries at the ceremony and the Past Master actually receiving the Jewel. I have since been able to reunite other Lodges in this country, and within the Province of Suffolk, with lost Past Masters and Founder Members Jewels.

Brian Locksmith

The Bridge School Easter Egg Hunt

When staff at The Bridge School, Ipswich, decided to celebrate with their pupils the end of the Spring term they organised a musical Easter Parade and Brett Valley Lodge were approached for help and immediately responded with a donation to purchase the Easter eggs.



As a result, lodge members were invited to attend the event during the last week of term. The poor weather brought the fun indoors and the parade was led through the school by Jack, their music therapist, with each class joining in as the parade progressed through the school. Pupils collected their egg tokens and their excitement increased when they reached the school hall where they were each able to exchange their token for a chocolate egg. The smiles said it all!

The Bridge School is a specialist school providing education, therapy, medical support, and independence training for young people aged 3 to 16 with a range of disabilities in a caring and supportive environment. The school aims to meet the needs of young people who have an Education, Health and Care Plan who are unable to access a mainstream provision. Some years ago the school benefitted the donation of a minibus from Suffolk freemasons and this continues to be used daily.

Roger Howlett

The Craft goes Underground...



There's a good chance you've heard the myth, this spring, about 'Masons Riding the London Underground'. Teams of them, jumping out of trains, taking a photo in front of the station sign and then jumping back on board only to disappear into the darkness on their way to the next stop and to do it all again. The event was born out of a need to make a last push for the end of our festival in Suffolk, but in no time at all the seed of an idea was sown for how to start an annual event to involve all of our eastern provinces. With a small contingent from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire and no idea how this would pan out, we took to the rails at Redbridge on a Sunday morning in Early May. Would we enjoy it or would it just be a boring and extended 'Commute'? We were laughing so much we could hardly get on and off the train, who'd have guessed this would be so much fun.

Pushing ahead and ready to follow our meticulously planned routes, we hit our first hurdle "Planned Engineering Works"! The Central, Hammersmith & City, Circle and a good deal of the District were all closed. The game was on, last minute corrections and keeping an eye on Facebook to see where the other teams had been, gave an extra buzz to the whole morning. At one o'clock and with startlingly organisation and planning, Essex were the first to arrive at the finishing line between the main entrance pillars of Grand Lodge. When the last team arrived and everyone was accounted for, we marched down to The Freemasons Arms where a well earned pint and a Pie & Mash lunch was waiting for us in the function room upstairs.

At the bar there were tall tails told of our exploits during the morning and whilst lunch was taken and the scores were calculated we were all entertained with an excellent "Underground" quiz set by Patrick Currie and his wife Pauline. The winners were announced and by only one point Essex were pipped to the post by "The Festival Men" of Suffolk who received a very nice shield, kindly donated by the province of Essex. Although the success of any masonic event is not only measured by how much money is raised, it is important to acknowledge the sterling efforts of the teams:

Essex raised £1,800 between two teams

Suffolk team raised a total of £1,236

Norfolk raised £400 for Water Aid

Cambridge are still raising funds even after the event

This event has been created in the hope of further cementing the warm and fraternal relationship between all of the eastern provinces. Whilst offering a shared fund raising vehicle for lodges and individuals, the event is not restricted to masons alone but open to friends and family. For some, the idea of the London Underground may be quite daunting but where possible next year we will be pleased to provide novice teams with an event founder to act as a steward, coaching and escorting you throughout the day. We expect next year, to have a such a turnout as to exclude us from luncheon at the Freemasons Arms, so we are looking at the possibility of finishing in Hyde Park or another, as yet undisclosed venue, for an organised family picnic.

As a show of support for our province next year we are hoping that every Suffolk lodge will consider fielding at least one team of five to make this an annual event worthy of you keeping a Sunday clear in your diary.

Anyone in doubt of just how much fun we had should take a look at the Facebook page (thecraftgoesunderground) for a glimpse of how the day went and to register your interest in joining us next year as once again "The Craft Goes Underground".

Bill Dotesio-Eyers

SMaCSS make special donation to Woolverstone Macmillan Centre

In the early part of 2019, when he was also acting as a Deacon in Round Table Lodge of Suffolk, Phil Ramsey could be found working quietly and efficiently towards delivering the National Masonic Clay Shooting Championships. As with every big event Phil's involvement was huge. That was until he received the earth shattering news that his son had been diagnosed with a life

threatening condition at which time everything stopped except that of attending to and following the treatment plan which had been suggested. Phil, totally understandably, pulled out of the Championships which was another blow because he was forecast to do well having come third in the 2018 event.

His colleagues on the SMaCSS committee continued with their support for Phil and the Ramsey family and were very happy to agree to a request for a donation to be made to the Ipswich Hospital Woolverstone Centre who were looking after son Joel.

Brian Taylor of the Colchester & Ipswich Hospitals Charity said "Many thanks to Roger Nash and Phil Ramsey who attended our Woolverstone Centre today. Suffolk Masonic Clay Shooting Society recently held a national charity Clay Shooting event in Suffolk and, after the success of the event, Phil Ramsey was pleased to make a charitable donation of £2,000 to the Ipswich Hospital Woolverstone Centre following the superb care for his son in dealing with his brain cancer treatment."



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Back in 1991, I was approached by the then Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary, Mike Leighton, who asked if I would help John Wood to sort out various books and Provincial records held at Soane Street, Ipswich, in order to form an Suffolk archive of these various Masonic papers, books and records.

A couple of days later, together with Peter Peck we descended to the cellar under the kitchen at Soane Street. There beside the new gas boiler, past the Lodge Stewards locker room was a doorway leading to what can only be described as a broom cupboard about 12 ft. long by 6ft wide. Crude shelving was down each side leaving about 4ft in the centre; enough for a chair and a very narrow desk, leaving just room for two people to pass each other. To get past this 'desk' someone had to leave the room. There sat John Wood in charge of the remaining records of Suffolk Provincial Freemasonry.

The knowledge of books and archives known by Peter and myself could be written on the back of a postage stamp; but under the tutelage of John Wood, Classics graduate, ex tank commander, ex Headmaster of Tower Ramparts School and experienced Freemason, we were set to work to put the various books and records in some semblance of order, ranging under the broad headings of Craft, Chapter, Mark, Provincial records and minutes of meetings etc. etc.

It soon became very clear that only the briefest look at these volumes, in order to assess their category, should take place, for if one started to read any of the contents, the interest found therein stopped any further filing, and the morning's labour drew to a halt. Then someone had a bright idea - as the stewards lockers were now rarely used, what if we took them down, knocked down the partition wall separating the broom cupboard, to achieve an archive room some 14ft by 12ft.

These lockers had been used by various lodges to store their own lodge liquor and wines, and other articles used at their Festive Boards, as prior to this time a 'communal bar' was not in operation, with Stewards from each lodge being responsible for its own stock and bar service. With the blessing of these lodges the lockers were removed and some were re-positioned for continued occupation.

Now all we had to do was to remove the partition and supporting wall. Luckily, Cyril Munnings, builder and member of Orwell and Landguard Lodges volunteered his services. The wall came down and an RSJ was inserted. Brick by brick, bucket after bucket, the rubble was taken upstairs, through the kitchen, out into the back yard. I hate to think how many buckets and journeys were needed to transport some 2½ tons of brick rubble up those stairs.

A History of the Suffolk Provincial Archives



Trevor White and John Jarman in the Provincial Archive at Soane Street

Having taken the wall down, we were helped by builder Barry Bloomfield, who boxed in and rendered the RSJ. Before we could apply sealant and emulsion to the walls and ceiling, they had to be washed down to remove years of grime left by the old coke boiler. Now, newly decorated and carpet laid, new shelves were made and put up, others were purchased at an auction sale of the contents of Old Hall School, Kesgrave. All the books were replaced on the new shelves, and records were then re-arranged and catalogued.

John Wood had seen his wishes come true, and oversaw a completed archive room for Suffolk Masonic Records. It was at this time that Peter Peck moved on to assist in the Provincial Office.

Following the death of John Wood, Brian Woodall, took over the reins in 1995, and together with Ken Blake, made the journey from Bury St. Edmunds every Tuesday, when the three of us continued to re-arrange and manage

Archivist Trevor White told Forum how the Province owed a debt of gratitude to those who had made great efforts to protect our Suffolk Masonic history. Over the years Suffolk has perhaps neglected its history and many records and items had been lost. He urges that the item "lodge archives" is included on the agenda for General committee meetings. It's so easy for old records not to get transferred when secretaries change, and they then get thrown away as time and people pass on.

Trevor requests that all Lodges please ensure that copies of histories and other historical information are sent in to be kept in the Provincial Archives for future generations to study and enjoy.

the Archives for many years. We were the custodians of the history of the Province from 1772 onwards, available to those doing research into the many aspects of Freemasonry.

Then disaster struck. Over one weekend the kitchen above the archive room suffered a water leak, which led to the spoiling and loss of some of our records in the archives below. All the records had to be taken off the shelves to allow the shelving and some books to dry, hoping that we could save as many of the records as possible.

Before we could bring the archives back to normal, it was decided that the Provincial Office would be relocated downstairs by the side entrance, leaving the upstairs to be used as the archives room. Great news. From the cellar under the kitchen, through the Watson Room, we moved to the new archive room - with a window. Bliss!

All that remained to do now was to transport all the records and books from the cellar to the old Provincial Office. All the contents had to be put into boxes, and box by box carried up the stairs across the entrance hall, up the stairs again, through the Watson Room to their new home; then to be sorted into their various categories on the appropriate shelves to be ready for re-cataloguing.

One of the most important tasks Brian, Ken and I, undertook was in 2009 to respond to a Grand Lodge survey into the extant written records of all Lodges and Chapters under their jurisdiction. This, with help of nearly one hundred Lodge and Chapter Secretaries across Suffolk, was successfully completed, and so a record remains for future researchers.

Following the death of Ken Blake, in January 2013, Brian Woodall resigned his post, and thus his weekly journey from Bury St. Edmunds, leaving me as the sole archivist.

I have seen that it is all too easy to lose and see destroyed through no one's fault many records and publications of the past history of Suffolk Freemasonry, and I feel that it is overdue that this history should be protected by being digitalised in this age of computer and IT.

After twenty eight years, serving from the beginning of the Archives to the present day, I have now handed over to Trevor White, who I am sure will carry on the safe keeping of the records of Suffolk Freemasonry for the benefit of the Craft, the Province, Masonic researchers and scholars of the future. Freemasonry has always been an important element in British social history, and we play an important part in conserving that contribution.

John Jarman

Three lodges join together for donation to Ipswich Sea Cadets



WBro. John Downie, of Ipswich Sea Cadets and Chairman of the Ipswich Royal British Legion wrote to Suffolk Installed Masters Lodge to ask for help, so David Card as the then WM of Suffolk Installed Masters approached Ionic and Ala to think about joining SIM with a suitable donation. SIM donated £250, Ala £250 and Ionic £100.

David then asked if Dorothy Voyle, widow of the late WBro George Voyle, would like to present the cheque. George and Dorothy were both keen supporters of the Sea Cadets, they also volunteered with the Royal Naval Reserve and have supported the work of the Sea Cadets for many years. At the presentation were Michael Graham of Ionic, a keen sailor who has raced offshore yachts. John Adams of Ionic, ex Royal Navy and who piped George "aloft" at his funeral. Keen sailor David Card represented SIM and the WM of Ala Lodge, Brad Fuller, together with his IPM Graham Fielding and wife Kerri. All were warmly received and given copious amounts of the 'good' biscuits washed down with tea and coffee followed by a VIP tour including the armoury and it was great to see the Cadets on parade.

Masonry has once again heeded the call, and long may we continue to do so. The Cadet Force, whether on sea, land or in the air, do a wonderful job at forming young impressionable people into confident and upright future leaders and contributors to society, and we must praise and support those who volunteer to do this work. Well done one and all!

Graham Fielding

New Guide Dog for Lowestoft thanks to Rodney and Margaret



Mrs Jill Youngman, WBro. R. Kett, Mrs Georgina Chambers, Mrs Julie Hills and Mrs Margaret Kett pictured with Guide Dog Jacob.

It is the practice of Apollo Lodge to allocate a portion of charity funds raised in the Masonic year to the Worshipful Master, to donate to the Charities of his choice. Rodney Kett and his wife Margaret chose the Lowestoft Branch of the Guide Dogs for The Blind to benefit from the allocated fund, which amounted to £3080. Rodney and Margaret then decided to 'round up' the total to £4000, by adding £912 from their own pocket, money which they originally intended to use to celebrate their 80th birthdays. A donation of this amount qualifies for the 'Name a Puppy Scheme' so Rodney and Margaret chose the names Nigel or Nellie, depending on whether the puppy, is boy or girl.

Reg Sampson

'Ian's Boys' visit Bucks Motorcycle Lodge



The Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge No. 9926 is based in Beaconsfield, Bucks, they meet four times a year and have ride outs to other Masonic centres as often as possible. On 4th May 2019 this was a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas Staffordshire and, as bikers, they are expected, when possible, to ride there. In May 2018, Barry Whymark and Nick Moulton joined them at their Chipping Norton meeting, also not in Buckinghamshire, where they met the PGM for Bucks, RWBro John Clark who, as PGM's often do, approached these strangers with an inquisitive air. When he found out they were from Suffolk, he said 'Oh right you're Ian's boys'. Well this time, when Ian's Boys decided to revisit the Lodge, they took two other Sportmans Lodge bikers, Bill Dotesio-Eyers and Alex Workman. The journey up, if a little early starting was enlivened by Bill Dotesio-Eyers managing to lock all his keys, house, ignition, pannier etc, inside the pannier which, when you think of it is some trick. The stop at Corley had to include him breaking into his own bike.

Upon arrival at the Arboretum, efficient stewarding sorted parking and directed us to a small room at the back of the cafeteria where a full lodge room was set up. After photo's at the Masonic Memorial Garden, the meeting was entertaining, fun and amusing. Their director of music had a witty musical comment on all activities – from the initial procession to 'Master of the House' from Les Miserables to 'You've Got to Pick a Pocket or two' during the alms collection. The Lodge has its own peculiarities. Dress for the awayday is simple and motorcycle oriented. Keeping a suit neat is obviously a bit tricky on a bike so bike trousers and boots are expected, as is a white shirt and tie. The Lodge has its own waistcoats but no jackets are required unless you are cold and have a bike jacket. This led to the incongruous sight of the IPM, WBro Gary Brodie, APMG for Bucks wearing bike boots and blue jeans, leather waistcoat and Harley Davison Paddock Jacket topped with his chain of office.

The Lodge has its own fire, not described here but eminently suitable for the ideals of the Lodge and the meals are kept simple to reduce cost and encourage visiting. The Lodge is so obviously happy in its own skin, even if its protocols might be frowned upon by the more traditional Masons.

A splendid day out, even if it did get a bit breezy on the way back and the riders had to contend with rain, bright sunshine and hail. If we can get notice of their next awayday and it is geographically convenient, anyone wanting to go up on two wheels should get in contact with us as I am sure the PGM would want a large number of 'his boys' visiting.

Alex Workman





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Covering Essex and Suffolk Daily



**15th National Masonic
Clay Shooting Championships**

**Saturday 22 June
2019**

"I have to say that all of the officers of NAMCSS are in awe. The whole event was created, managed and run with such smoothness you have created a very hard act to follow"

*Roger Wilkes,
Secretary of the National
Association of Masonic
Clay Shooting Societies*

Another first for Suffolk...

Though the dawn on June 22nd was veiled in cloud, the wind was light, the forecasters were predicting wall to wall sunshine by mid-morning and so it proved as a helicopter dropped out of a cloudless sky to land at High Lodge Shooting School. The President of the Suffolk Masonic Clay Shooting Society and Suffolk's PGM Ian Yeldham had arrived to shoot in the 2019 National Masonic Clay Shooting Championships hosted by SMaCSS.

Many months of careful planning and hard work had resulted in 205 entrants - a new record high number. Suffolk Masons knew they had a challenge on their hands if everyone were to get around the 15 stands in a safe and timely manner so the Stewards, who were to accompany each of the 15 squads and who had all received previous training, were carefully briefed at 0745 hours. There followed a welcome from the PGM, then a safety briefing for all from Roger Nash, before the first shot was fired.

Back in 2017, when the four original members of the SMaCSS committee agreed to deliver the 15th National Masonic Clay Shooting Championships they had no idea then just how much work might be involved. So, they invented and implemented a project plan and they began to find out just how much was needed if they were to deliver a good event which ultimately satisfied all those involved.

Since 2008, SMaCSS, then as 'R&R Promotions', more than £20,000 has been distributed to our various Charities and this year we decided to support both the 2019 Suffolk Provincial Festival and the Suffolk Horse.

Having received their briefings and attached themselves to their appointed Steward, the shooters progressed in a smooth, orderly and enjoyable manner around the 15 stands. The occasional slight equipment malfunction was speedily dealt with by the High Lodge staff.



The Masonic High Gun and the Jonathan Spence Challenge Cup was won by Dan Bishop from the Province of Hampshire & Isle of Wight with a fantastic score of 93 out of a 100.

Due to the large number competing it was decided to shoot over fifteen stands instead of the usual twelve. This had the benefits of reducing the numbers in each squad and of presenting more varied targets. No time to get your 'eye in' with only three pairs on most stands, you had to be on the targets immediately which may have been the downfall of a number of cards. High Lodge had agreed to give us exclusive use of these stands so most were set up especially for the occasion.

Course designer and SMaCSS Chairman Roger Nash aim was "To ensure that everyone would hit a high proportion of the targets, with a few testers to sort the top men from the rest and most people going home happy with their score; I hope we achieved that".

Somewhat to the 'surprise' of the organisers, those who had completed the course started to arrive back in the Clubhouse right on time. An excellent luncheon was taken and enjoyed whilst the team checked and validated every score card.

As the various squads mingled, everyone was involved in swapping yarns about the day and new connections and contacts were made. As the entrants prepared to face, for some, their long journey home the PGM announced the proceeds to be in excess of £6000. He wrapped the day by warmly thanking all of the organisers for the great work in delivering "Another first for Suffolk" and he acknowledged that great work, ending by clearly stating "Others may do it as well but I doubt they will do it better".

The 'Ladies Team Prize' was won by Suffolk's Samantha Packer, Kirsten Noble and Lisa Brereton

'I was delighted when I heard that Suffolk had been selected to deliver this prestigious event and having now done so I'm even more delighted with the whole occasion; probably the largest Masonic competitor sporting event yet staged. My thanks go to everyone involved from the SMaCSS members and Suffolk Stewards Lodge to you, the Freemasons and guests from all over the country, representing eighteen different Provinces, who travelled hundreds of miles in some cases to contribute to a wonderfully competitive and yet friendly event. To raise in excess of £6000 for charity, one of the core principles of Freemasonry, really capped a truly magnificent day. My thanks to you all.'

Ian Yeldham



Festival 2019

...together we can do it



As I write, what is probably my last, if not penultimate article for Forum, about Festival 2019, it would be very easy to reiterate many things which have already been said so I am trying not to do that. However, My father, who was never one to try to tell me much about how to lead my life or run a business, always used to say “you can never thank people too many times” - and to be honest, that stuck.

Accordingly, I have no hesitation in devoting some of this article to again

saying thank you, to every member and every lodge, for the commitment and generosity which has been displayed over the last 5 years.

It is difficult to select individuals because there have been several, and there have been some good initiatives to help raise money, some of them a long time ago, and possibly, a little bit forgotten about. Remember, for example, Mark Jepson with his version of ‘Master Masonics’, The two Race nights, Andy Gentle organising the Party in the Park, and of course his tremendous cycle ride. Mac Speake for the Fun Day, with its fabulous weather. The brilliant success of the 500 Club, and to Chris Warnes who administers it, but to every one of you who has bought a ticket. These are of course, just examples and I rush to include all the others who have arranged anything at all, regardless of its scale, every little has helped. The organisers didn’t do it on their own, so I am also anxious to include thanks to every person who helped, freemason or not, Wives, Partners, Families and friends, to you all, I am extremely grateful.

Our Past Assistant Prov G Master, John Yeldham, created a team, obtained sponsors and raised a few thousand pounds by creating the tremendous Laughter and Legends show at the Regent. What a sizeable building to even consider for filling the seats. A most successful event from every aspect, and I can do no better than again, thank him and everyone associated with it.



What better support could a festival organiser have, than our own Holy Royal Arch. Our Grand Superintendent has been with us all the way from day one, with both donations and providing time within two of his Provincial Meetings to help with the Grand Draw and supporting it with ticket purchases on a

significant scale. His Charity Steward of the time, Kelvin Larcombe, has remained in touch constantly, and been of great help.

During our festival, we have also celebrated the Tercentenary, and thanks to Brian Simpson, for liaising with me to avoid duplication or over concentration of events, and of course, for the donation.

I wish to also acknowledge the significant support from our Provincial Secretariat, and in particular Ralph Robertson, who works so hard behind the scenes to ensure that everyone who has purchased a ticket is placed correctly, and their particular dietary and last minute ticket buying and changes are all catered for, both literally, and metaphorically.

Throughout the festival, there has been a huge need for publicity and I am particularly grateful to Kelvin Avis, for mailshots, presentation cheques, Forum and the like. To David Dunhill for

our website, Roger Nash for the Secretariat, Dean Willingham and Paul Rackham for the Light Blues. Thanks also, for the word being spread admirably, by all our Active Wardens, our Group Representatives and Lodge Charity Stewards or Festival Representatives, and for their continual support.

I am also particularly grateful to our RWPGM, his Deputy David Clarke and Assistant Keith Huxley as our Rulers, have all encouraged our Lodges and members to support the Festival at every opportunity from its commencement.

Too many to mention individually, but to you all, who have given financially, or through just ‘pitching in’ when needed, for buying a raffle ticket, paying for merchandise and giving your time - on behalf of our RW.Prov.G.Master and Rulers - I do take the opportunity to reiterate something - My thanks to each and every one of you.

I often see mention on the Suffolk Light Blues page on Facebook of the encouragement for members to go along to Cornwallis Court, to support their Afternoon Teas, or just to see our friends who reside there. I have spoken on numerous occasions about how we receive the return of our festival donations. I think it is fabulous that the Friends of Cornwallis Court put so much effort into supporting it. But here, I would just like to reiterate something else, whilst you think about the tremendous building and facility, right on our doorstep, and how it supports us and our dependants, please stop and also think where the money comes from. To actually own and maintain the building, employ and support the staff and residents who occupy it. Brethren, you do not have to look far to see the return from donations you have put into our Festival.

Turning now to tickets, we are coming towards our final Dinner for the Festival, I am not going to repeat the information here, that would be a reiteration too many, its all out there. Ralph Robertson is again doing his work, and if you don’t jump in soon, you will be on the waiting list. I have heard a few members say it is expensive, and I know it comes on top of the Provincial Meeting and the PGM’s Ball, but compare the price to the last Festival and how many years for inflation to have taken its toll. Please also note that drinks are going to cost very little and remember that this event will not happen again for another 11 years.

I can only say that I hope to see you there and to those who have already committed and purchased tickets, yet another thank you.

I am sure you will have got that message, “you can’t say thank you too many times” - but the Festival is not for me, nor for any individual in our Province - it is for us all and our dependants, it is our own money coming back to us, with an exceptional return, so my thanks are on their behalf, and whatever we achieve, we have done it together.

Neville Warnes
Chairman Festival 2019

Fundraising Race Nights
31st October 2014
ST EDMUND MASONIC CENTRE
Ashlar House, 23 Eastern Way, Bury St. Edmunds IP32 7AB
22nd November 2014
LOWESTOFT MASONIC HALL
The Avenue, Lowestoft NR33 7LH

Arrival 6.30 pm
First Race 7.00 pm

Tickets £10.00 per person
Including Fish and Chip Supper

Brethren, please invite family and friends to reserve the date.
A Booking Form will be available from early July.

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Join our Provincial Grand Master Ian and Amanda on their home:
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Let's make a great day of it, so don't delay book your tickets to-day!

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Prostate Testing Days

The Province, CHAPS and the NHS ONE LIFE again teamed up to provide an opportunity for Suffolk Masons, their friends and neighbours and indeed any male who falls within the set parameter to attend the first of the three days planned for 2019 for health checks. The Masonic Centre at Bury St. Edmunds was made available for us and a vote of thanks is given to them for the space provided and the refreshments that were laid on. The event was well advertised in the town and on local radio to good effect because all of the bookable time slots were taken well before the event even took place and the 'walk-in' period was also well supported.

Advice was given by the NHS Team on various topics appertaining to each individual and a reading was carried out for blood pressure. Each person was given an individual pack containing relevant information about the more important illnesses that are common to males and the symptoms to be aware of.

The Prostate blood test (PSA) was taken and everyone, I know, will be awaiting the confidential results. Suffice it to say that the programme which, has been running for the past 2 years, has been more than worthwhile because a number of people have been referred to their local GPs to follow up the results thrown up by this simple test. This has saved lives and/or reduced the possible consequences of late diagnoses and major surgery. It is important to have the PSA test.

With that aim in view the Province are holding further days at Lowestoft and Ipswich this year:

Lowestoft Masonic Centre 2nd November 0900-1300hrs

Ipswich Masonic Centre 9th November 0900-1300hrs

Further information on booking will be forthcoming nearer the dates and will be advertised to the Brethren within the Province and to the wider male population of the County.

Trevor Tinley

Ionic Lodge support the EAAA



Ionic held a Ladies' Night at Ufford Park Hotel, which was attended by over 100 people, during which a raffle and an auction were held in aid of EAAA. These events raised £1,228 for the charity, a cheque in respect of which was passed to EAAA volunteers on the 24th March. Those from Ionic who attended the presentation were David Reeve, John Adams, Simon Glinos, Michael Oliver and David Bowden.

Michael Oliver

Lowestoft Mark Lodge 686 Centenary

What a fantastic evening we had at the centenary celebration of Lowestoft Lodge in early March. A full house of Mark Masons waiting patiently as we paraded into the lodge. It was a delight to see 26 Active Provincial Officers parading into the Lodge room. On this prestigious occasion the PGM accepted the gavel from the WM W.Bro Leon Crosson. The Provincial Grand Lodge Officers arrived at their seats, the Provincial Wardens were invited to occupy the lodge Wardens' chairs and battle commenced.



After an introduction by The Mark PGM. R.W. Bro Paul Norman, as to why we were all there, what the purpose of the evening was all about, we began the business of presenting the centenary warrant. Now you don't just hand it over, we Mark Masons have a charming ceremony for this, handed down from Grand Lodge.

It begins with an address by the PGM, who calls for the original warrant to be read by the Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro Richard Styles. Then after a short address he calls for the centenary warrant to be read. This is a document bearing the signature of the Grand Master and presented in his name at his command. The warrant was duly vested to the safe keeping of the WM, who then regained his rightful Chair.

There then followed an interesting history of the Lodge given by W.Bro Frank Wilmot. Considering he was allotted just 10 minutes maximum; he gave a very comprehensive overview of the past 100 years.

Then the members formed in the North and received from the PGM their centenary jewels, which they are authorised to wear by the grace of the Grand Master in his centenary warrant. As you can imagine, these evenings are carefully choreographed and detailed so there are never any surprises.

We next dedicated a new lodge board detailing the Masters and Commanders to date. This generous gift was given to the lodge by W.Bro Frank Wilmot, who had even secured a special place for it in the lodge room for all to view.

Richard Styles



CHAPS
THE MEN'S HEALTH CHARITY

Prostate Check

Suffolk Provincial Grand Lodge, CHAPS and One Life Suffolk have teamed up to provide a programme for all Suffolk Masons and the general male population to have a Prostate Cancer and NHS Health Check.

The Prostate Check is a simple blood test (PSA) that has achieved very good results in other programmes by highlighting a need to follow the result up with your GP. 12,000 men die each year from Prostate Cancer and the latest information shows that PSA based screening can cut the death rate by 50%.

2nd NOVEMBER

Lowestoft

101 The Avenue, Lowestoft NR33 7LJ 0900-1300hrs

9th November

Ipswich

Soane Street, Ipswich IP4 2BG 0900-1300hrs

Full booking details to follow

A dream comes true for Jean

While passing time Jean Wood a resident in RMBI Cornwallis Court care home was talking about what she had and hadn't done. One thing that her listener had done, that Jean had not, was ride on the back of a motorbike. Jean innocently said oh I've never done that and it sounds like fun.

Now Jean is 99 years young and her listener Samantha Wiseman, the events co-ordinator at Cornwallis Court Care Home in Bury St Edmunds Suffolk, has a very long memory and a year later mentioned it to Roger Florey of Phoenix Lodge and Friend of Cornwallis Court.

Challenge on! Roger put out the call and it was answered immediately by Graham Fielding, IPM of Ala Lodge. Now would the 99 year old Jean be up for the experience? Being a game girl, and very spritely for her age, the answer was a very definite yes "but don't tell my family" was the only condition! All was suitably arranged for Saturday 8th April to coincide with the monthly Cornwallis Court coffee morning on Saturday 6th April.

The people and vehicles duly arrived and were introduced to Jean and after coffee, cake and raffle, Jean made her way to the front car park to meet her 'Bucket List Tick Box'. After donning leathers, and therefore suitably patched up as member of the Fenlanders Harley Davidson Chapter for the day, Jean was eased onto a 2009 Harley Davidson Road King Classic - a classy bike for a very classy lady. Helmet on, many pictures taken, short ride down the road escorted by bikes, Bentleys and Jaguars brought a long-held aspiration to fruition and made memories that Jean will be able to take with her into her next century!

Well done Jean, the look on your face was the best thanks that any of us could have had and we wish you many more years of memory making – just be careful what you tell the staff!

Graham Fielding



Orient Lodge Chaplains Challenge



Orient Lodge member Ian Moir together with a team from the Lowestoft Lifeguard Corps completed the Chaplains Challenge, in aid of Action Medical research for Children on Saturday 29th June, supported by members of Orient Lodge who provided transport and backup. Ian organised the paddle from Felixstowe to Lowestoft Volunteer Lifeguard station in memory of Ian Patterson who was a well regarded member of the lodge and had a kayak donated by the lodge in his name.

On reaching the destination at the lifeguard station a reception was held with drinks a buffet donated by the lodge wives and friends for their return with a reception committee of members of other lodges and wives. The first day 27th June was very hard going and did not finish as planned due to high winds and rough seas, but they made it to the first stop. The second day 28th June went to plan and was slightly easier, finishing at the lifeguard station in sunshine and good order on the 29th June.

Lowestoft lodges have pledged donations, and with money already donated, a collection was instigated by workers in the Birdseye factory with a very generous donation of £1000 from Birdseye itself. Orient Lodge also arranged for Waveney Gymnastics Club, which caters for people with disabilities, to receive a large sum of money to complete the refurbishment of their disability changing room and portable hoist.

John Holland

Lift for Lifelites 2019

In 2018, Lifelites chief executive Simone Enefer-Doy embarked on a 2,500 mile challenge to visit 47 famous landmarks in England and Wales in just 14 days. Thanks to volunteers, she was given lifts to each landmark in a truly weird and wonderful variety of transport. Lifelites were completely blown away

by the response and raised a phenomenal £104,000. So this year they decided to do it all over again! On Friday 10 May Simone left London to embark on this year's challenge. Volunteers have been providing transport to get her around every county in England and Wales on an epic road trip to raise funds and awareness for our vital work providing life-changing technology to every children's hospice across the British Isles. 2019 will include the Isle of Man, taking the challenge to a total of 48 landmarks in 15 days.

Day three of the challenge took Simone through Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Norfolk and Lincolnshire. Simone and the team started the day punting in Cambridgeshire before making their way to Suffolk, where they were met by Suffolk Freemasons at Ashlar House. PGM Ian Yeldham presented Lifelites with a cheque for £500 and provided Simone with her next lift, a red 1935 Rover 10 affectionately known as Poppy, driven by Brian Wilks. Brian provided the full luxury chauffeur experience, complete with driving goggles and chauffeur's cap and drove Simone to her next stop at Castle Acre Priory in Norfolk.

Lifelites donates specialist assistive technology packages to over 10,000 children and young people with life-limiting, life-threatening and disabling conditions using every one of the 60 children's hospice services throughout the British Isles.



Brett Valley Ladies' Banquet supports The Brain Tumour Charity



Brett Valley Lodge were pleased to present a cheque for £1,126 to Matt Bayfield on behalf of the Brain Tumour Charity from the proceeds of a Ladies' Banquet held by the Lodge on 13th April at Hadleigh Town Hall. Our grateful thanks to Kelly and Stephen Bayfield for their wonderful entertainment and making our Ladies Banquet such a great success.

www.brettvalley.org.uk



The bond between the Craft and Royal Arch



The Book of Constitutions records that, in 1813, the United Grand Lodge of England's preliminary declaration was 'pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz., those of the entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch'.

This declaration still stands today over 200 years later as the first statement in the General Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Craft. It is the only other Order referred to in those regulations and cements the importance of the Royal Arch in every Mason's life. Look at the Declaration for the Companions in your Book of Constitutions to see this.

It is indeed fascinating to see how many times the bond between the Craft and the Royal Arch is recognised, some references are obvious and others more subtle, but if you look hard enough they are there, and they start very early in your Masonic career.

Cast your mind back to your journey through the three Degrees and you will see that the Tau became part of your journey right from the start. At the most vital part in each ceremony, when the secrets are entrusted to you, you are asked to take a step forward with your left foot and to bring the right into its hollow.

Now think about the first time you were told how to stand to order as a Mason by the Worshipful Master, when you stand perfectly erect with your feet formed in a square he says to you,

'You will now take a short pace towards me with your left foot bringing the right heel into its hollow'.

Then he continued, ***'That is the first regular step in Freemasonry, and it is in this position that the secrets of the Degree are communicated'.***

So, you can see in those vital parts of the Degree ceremonies where the secrets are communicated, your feet don't actually form a square but a 'T' or Tau. While that was not explained to you at the time, now, with the benefit of Royal Arch knowledge, you can see the subtle symbolism at play. You are asked to repeat this step for the Junior Warden, then for the Senior Warden, each time forming a Tau.

It becomes even more intriguing when you realise that you do this three-times in every Degree ceremony, therefore your feet describe a Triple Tau!

In your Third-Degree ceremony, you were Raised, and the Worshipful Master explained, ***'thus are all Master Masons Raised from a figurative Grave to a reunion with the former companions of their toils'.***

Which as a Master Mason, we accepted at face value, but now, with our knowledge of the Royal Arch, we can see that the word 'companions' is well-chosen. In fact, this is not the only reference to companions in the Third-Degree. You can have fun spotting where else the reference occurs.

Next, have a look at the coats of arms of the United Grand Lodge of England and the Supreme Grand Chapter, which are identical. On the left-hand side of the shield, viewed as if you were holding it, you will see that the UGLE shares the Royal Arch symbols of a man,

a lion an ox and an eagle, which allude to the tribes of the Israelites and their journey through the wilderness, acknowledging the constant and unique bond between both organisations to form your journey through Pure and Antient Freemasonry, dating right back to the Union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813.

Whilst we display and celebrate six lights in the Holy Royal Arch, the lesser three representing the Law and the Prophets and the greater three representing The True And Living God Most

High, it is vital to remember that we also acknowledge the great, though emblematic, lights in Craft Freemasonry, the Volume of Sacred Law, the Square and the Compasses.

Indeed, no Chapter would be properly formed without these great symbols in their rightful place, serving to remind us that the Craft is the very spring and fount of all that we do.

You carry in your regalia case a unique and important document which also bears witness to the connection between the Craft and the Royal Arch.

Your Supreme Grand Chapter Certificate has at its head the

initials In The Name Of The Great Architect Of The Universe and not The True And Living God Most High as you might expect, also at the foot of the certificate is the mosaic pavement of a Craft Lodge and the Seal shows that the coat of arms of the United Grand Lodge of England is also that of the Supreme Grand Chapter of England, as already mentioned.

Uniquely, the UGLE not only expects all Royal Arch Masons to wear their Royal Arch Jewel in Craft Lodges, it has also decreed that it should take precedence and be worn closest to the heart, which means it should be the first Jewel moving from the centre of your chest.

There are many more links that you can explore, but it is evident that the link between the Craft and the Royal Arch is undeniable and shows that your core journey in Masonry is not complete without having been through the Chairs of both Orders. Once you have completed that journey, you can build your Masonic career on the firmest of foundations.

solomon.ugle.org.uk

It is no secret that there is an unbreakable bond between the Craft and the Royal Arch and that the Craft recognises the Royal Arch as the climax and completion of every Mason's journey through Pure Antient Freemasonry.

What that means is that everything that you do in Freemasonry is built on the solid foundation of the Craft together with the Royal Arch.

Suffolk Light Blues take to the track



At the end of February, the Suffolk Light Blues took to the track for the inaugural Indoor Go Karting Cup, and we had a fantastic time. Open to Masons and non-Masons alike, the Suffolk Light Blues hosted this fast-paced event as something different for the Masonic calendar. Organised by Paul Rudland and Bro. Craig Sennett we all had a blast.

By 7 pm we had all arrived and booked in to race at Ipswich's Anglia Indoor Karting centre. The facilities were fantastic, and we were all very well looked after by the staff there who went out of their way to provide us with as much race time as they could. Once the initial health and safety briefing was completed off we went to change into the fetching racing attire provided by the venue. Then, we were ready to begin our first race. With 16 racers on the night, we raced in two groups of 8 ably cheered on by a number of spectators.



We were delighted to have our PGM in attendance who also raced hard on the night. The eventual winner though was Paul Turland of Colneis Lodge 8298 with some simply outstanding racing, having been the quickest

on the track. Paul was presented with the SLB's Karting trophy donated by our DPGM WBro David Clarke. We hope Paul comes back to defend it at our next karting night.

The feeling was that this purely social event was a great night with many laughs, a few crashes and some great driving by all. The new karts at Anglia Indoor Karting are quick and very large, however all of this racing and speed was surpassed by the fun of the night. Paul Rackham SLB Chairman said: 'We had a great night and it's an event we will be sure to do again. It was a fantastic start to an event which we hope we can run regularly.' We left the venue at 9pm having had some light refreshments and a thoroughly enjoyable time. Details on our next karting event will be provided in good time and we hope to see as many of you there as we can.

Craig Sennett

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Order of The Secret Monitor

Pictured are two new Inductees to the Order, Steve Girling and Richard Ockelton of Corinthian Lodge together with Kelvin Larcombe the Conclave's Supreme Ruler and Grand Officer Peter Pryke at the meeting of Ipswich Conclave No. 327 at Ipswich Masonic Hall on Tuesday 11th June.



In this Order, assemblies are termed Conclaves, each with a Supreme Ruler at its head. The Visiting Deacons, of which there are four, are Officers with a special function peculiar to this degree. It is laid down that they should afford assistance and support to a brother in time of sorrow and distress and they should also search out and warn him if he is exposed to danger, secret or apparent. This duty is not an onerous responsibility as each of the members of a Conclave has a number between 1 and 4 against his name in the Conclave list and the appropriate Deacon is required to contact his members prior to each meeting and is called upon to report on that Brother if he is not present at the Roll Call.

The only requirement for acceptance into the Order of the Secret Monitor is to be a Master Mason of good standing.

See the Web Site at www.osm-suffolk.com

Walk for Parkinson's at Glemham



At the third 'Walk for Parkinson's' held again at Glemham Hall on Sunday 9th June, 19 members, including two Raynet members from many Lodges volunteered as Marshalls to help direct the walkers on either the 1.5, 3.5 or 5.5 mile walks. Many thanks to Stephen Bayfield for his help and invaluable knowledge of Glemham Hall, showing the new Regional Fundraiser for Parkinson's UK around the estate and assistance in taking the Marshalls to their various points on the routes. Many members and their families from all over the Province walked around the beautiful grounds set in 300 acres of parkland to help raise money to find a cure for this progressive neurological disease, which fortunately was on a fine day.



Well done to Robert Mayhew and Di his wife for completing the 5.5 miles shown about to receive their medals from the 'temporary' Suffolk Freemason, Dot Norman wife of Chris Norman.

Unfortunately, due to the variable weather in early June there were less walkers than in the previous years and the funds raised may also be reduced.

Mike Manly, Parkinson's Volunteer Fundraiser

www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk | 25



On Thursday 9th May Provincial Grand Chapter of Suffolk held its Annual Meeting at Greshams, this was the second time at this venue and once again it proved to be very successful. This setting is a talking point with its star studded ceiling and it is quite spectacular.

There were in excess of 300 companions VIPs and guests in attendance to support our MEGS, David Boswell, and those companions getting their appointments and promotions. There was, as usual, the happy buzz you get when people are enjoying themselves but added to this was the heavy down pour of the rain which was unbelievable. On this particular occasion there were a number of changes to the executive offices and to senior active offices. One thing that appeals to me is the fact that the period of tenure in an office is not too long and enables other candidates who have the potential to excel and prove themselves as active officers the opportunity for appointment and promotion.



In his address the MEGS presented a cheque to the PGM, Ian Yeldham, to support his 2019 festival. To date we have given in excess of £40,000 to this festival and there are still small amounts trickling in. The festive board was a hit with an ideal early summer type meal which went down well on my table with shouts of, "more new hot potatoes please." The Stewards did their usual friendly duty looking after everyone with wine etc and certainly earned deservedly grateful thanks from everyone.

After the usual vocal wine taking and toasting, Ralph Robertson proposed the toast to the MEGS. During his speech he turned to the top table and said this looks rather familiar to the last supper David Boswell and 12 other Grand Superintendents enjoying their meal which caused rapturous laughter. I wonder how many other Provinces get that support from ruling heads of other provinces. I know what some of them say and I've heard it several times "Raymond you don't know how lucky you are to have BOZ as your MEGS he is always going walk about and talking to the Juniors, sharing a drink and keeping in touch". The Province does know how lucky we are because there isn't one Chapter who doesn't get a visit from him and he is known to pop in unexpectedly. All in all another successful annual convocation put together by Provincial Grand Chapter Stewards and many volunteers.



Felix and Families in Need



The members of Felix chapter decided to donate a sum of £100.00 to FIND (Families in Need), this sum was further enhanced by a matching donation from the discretionary fund administered by the Grand Superintendent on behalf of the Provincial Grand Charity.

Subsequently a cheque for £200 was presented by Jason Flower of Felix Chapter to Maureen Reynel MBE founder and Chair of FIND at their headquarters in Hinds Road Ipswich. FIND has been in existence for over 25 years and because of changing times and the every increasing need for food banks and other basic necessities of life FIND is now embarking on a new phase of expansion and will be moving to a new home currently owned by Ipswich Borough Council. Planning permission has now been granted and many local firms have given free their services to convert and fit out this new facility. To help meet the financial challenge they have launched "FIND 50" to encourage groups and individuals both small and large to each raise or donate £2,000 for the "FIND 50 £100,000 Lifeline appeal" and over £34k has been raised so far.

Further information of the work of FIND and how you can all help is available on www.findipswich.org.uk.

Triune support Suffolk Scouts

This summer The 24th World Scout Jamboree is being held in West Virginia USA and fifty four young people from Suffolk together with six leaders have been selected to attend. The cost for each individual is £3850 and with all those involved working hard to raise funds it was a pleasure for IPZ of Triune Chapter, Kelvin Avis, to present a cheque for £600 on behalf of the Chapter and the Provincial Grand Charity to Assistant Leader John Pitcher. The Suffolk Unit will be spending 12 days with 40,000 Scouts from around the globe taking part in a huge variety of activities and events which will aid their personal development whilst giving them a once in a lifetime experience.



Adair make £1000 donation



On Tuesday 11th June members of Adair Chapter visited the Aldeburgh Cottage Hospital to present the League of Friends with £1000. This was £700 from our own charity account and boosted by £300 from the MEGS David Boswell to make a sum of £1000. This will go towards the purchase of 6 chairs for

the Oncology Treatment room, where you go to have your Chemo treatment for cancer. These chairs are special in that they are designed to accommodate good posture and comfort for the patients. We met with Tony Bone President of the League of Friends (L.O.F.) and Miar Dawson who is very much involved in LOF and Tisha who is Matron of the hospital. We were given a tour of the hospital and the gardens and a detailed explanation of the purpose and significance of the hospital. I must say it's a very levelling experience, we just don't realise how lucky we are until we see others far less fortunate than ourselves.

Tony, Miar and Tisha said they were very grateful for our support which will go a long way to meet the total cost of 6 chairs which is £8092.80 there will be a plaque in the room recognising our contribution to this.

Supreme Grand Chapter Appointments

On Thursday 25th April, 26 Suffolk Royal Arch Companions went to Great Queen Street to support several Companions receive appointments to the Supreme Grand Chapter. Roger Nash and Nick Le-Grys were both appointed as Past Grand Standard Bearer. Roger has now been appointed and invested as Second Grand Principal and Nick has been reappointed as Scribe Ezra of our Suffolk Province.

These meetings at Supreme Grand Chapter are always interesting because, believe it or not, you always get a gem of something special, and on this occasion it came from none other than His Royal Highness, The Duke Of Kent, who is not only the Most Excellent the First Grand Principal but also the Grand Master and he carried out the Investitures, so how great is that to have his Royal Highness do the investitures!

During his address to the gathered companions he said something which I personally thought should have been said publicly many years ago by the rulers who are so high up in the Craft and Royal arch and this was it, "One aspect that I want to emphasise is that no Mason should be joining other orders without first completing their Journey in Pure Antient Masonry by becoming a member of The Holy Royal Arch". I can't repeat some of the comments by those sitting next to me and again whilst disrobing but they were all positive. One grand Officer said "It's a shame he didn't say that several years ago and told his Rulers to say likewise". I have no doubt there will be a few who are upset at the comments but completion of the journey does make the Craft ceremony come alive especially when the Exaltation ceremony is shared and done well.

After Supreme Grand Chapter was closed 22 companions and David Boswell the Grand Superintendent had a wonderful festive board at the Punjab curry restaurant. I hope that next time we can improve on that number and then we get mentioned in dispatches by the First Grand Principal himself who always mentions those Provinces who exceed 30 attending Supreme Grand Chapter.

Raymond Pascoe

Presentation to The Blossom Charity

Brian Simpson and Kelvin Larcombe recently presented the Blossom Charity with a projector from Tercentenary Chapter No: 9276 and Province. A brass plaque was attached saying "Presented by the Royal Arch Masons of Suffolk". The Charity commented "We launched more than 9 years ago and over that time have built deep



Brian Simpson and Kelvin Larcombe with the representatives of Blossom Charity

experience and have a strong track record in helping women be their best and have a life that works. We do this through workshops, coaching and setting team challenges. In 2019 we will be travelling across the country as a Community Partner for the OVO women's cycling tour from Eye in Suffolk to Eyton in Wales, working with 600 women over 6 days teaching them to understand their strengths and qualities and then working out how to use them best in their lives to achieve their dreams i.e. teaching them to Blossom". Mrs Bridget McIntyre, the Chief Executive of the Charity, has the honour of becoming High Sheriff of Suffolk in 2020.

The message for the next few years to Chapters is to try to look for LOCAL charities to support by buying a piece of equipment – even furniture- which can then be fitted with a plaque to acknowledge the gift from an individual Chapter or even a group of Chapters. E.Comp. Simpson would ask all Chapters thinking of making presentations to contact him to see if it would be possible to get Matched Funding from Province and to try to avoid, if possible, simply presenting cheques to the chosen charity.

Brian Simpson

Sparta Chapter Consecration



During 2018 Laconic Lodge No 9771 decided to sponsor a Holy Royal Arch Chapter. A total of 28 Founders signed the Petition and, after due deliberation by Supreme Grand Chapter, the new Chapter, with the name Sparta Chapter No 9771 was granted a warrant which was dated April 5th 2019. The basic precept of Laconic Lodge is, as the name suggests, brevity and so Sparta Chapter has continued in this vein with the motto "Per breviliquium" meaning "Through brevity of speech".

On Friday August 2nd at 11.00 am 140 Royal Arch Masons gathered at Ashlar House, Bury St. Edmunds to witness the Consecration of Sparta Chapter, the likes of which will probably never be seen again. There was a total of seven Grand Superintendents and eight Deputy Grand Superintendents along with numerous heads of orders attending.

The Consecrating "Team" of E.Comp. Tony Henderson (PGM/MEGS of Beds) as 1st Principal, E.Comp. James Sharpley (MEGS of Herts) as 2nd Principal, E.Comp. John Keeble (MEGS of Bucks) as 3rd Principal and E.Comp. Steve Allen (PGM/MEGS of Norfolk) as Sc.N Installed E.Comp. David Boswell (MEGS of Suffolk) as Founding Z, E.Comp. Ian Yeldham (PGM of Suffolk) as Founding H and E.Comp. Bill Dastur (PGM/MEGS of Cambs) as J and even at the Festive Board, E.Comp. David Wheeler (PGM/MEGS of Lincs) responded on behalf of the visitors to the Toast to the visitors which was proposed by the PGM of Suffolk, Ian Yeldham the newly-installed H of the Chapter. The ceremony was performed with a perfect mix of sincerity and humour and all those attending seemed to enjoy the ceremony and the Festive Board.

Immediately after the Grace, a "Candle of Remembrance" was lit to keep those dining mindful of friends and Companions unable to be with us or who we had lost. To hold the "Candle of Remembrance" was a solid silver candle-holder which had been purchased by the Laconic Lodge and was presented by the Scribe E on behalf of Laconic to the Chapter during the 3rd & 4th Rising. Immediately prior to the Janitor's Toast the Candle of Remembrance was extinguished by the Janitor.

The whole day proved to be a prime example of the unity in the Province of Suffolk between the Craft and Royal Arch as well as the friendliness shown by the Rulers of several Provinces and their willingness to help fellow Rulers in the Province of Suffolk in the Consecration of Sparta Chapter. All those who attended will remember the day for the rest of their lives.

Brian Simpson



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