



# FORUM



124 years of continuous membership in Doric Lodge

# FORUM

## The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Welcome to the largest ever issue of Forum!

With the 'Masonic Season' in full swing you will find plenty of articles in this issue, in particular I hope you will find the story about the last lodge in Suffolk to surrender its warrant especially interesting.

Also advertised is a four course meal and talk entitled 'For Valour' being held at Ashlar House on the 21st April which will feature the Wattisham Military Wives Choir and a talk by Mark Smith of the Royal Artillery Museum on the story of the Victoria Cross. I was lucky enough to hear Mark's talk in deepest Essex on a visit, it is superb, please don't miss it, you will NOT be disappointed!

I do not hear from all lodges and chapters about their activities, please remember if you want your social events or fundraising activities to be successful there is no better place to promote it than in your provincial magazine. I can easily be contacted using the details below.

Forum magazine is funded in part by the advertisers within it, without them this magazine would simply not exist, please support them whenever possible. Of course if you have a business or service you wish to advertise to every freemason in Suffolk, why not get in touch, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

**Editor: Kelvin Avis**

68 High Street, Hadleigh, Ipswich IP7 5EF  
Tel: 07771 644716 Email: kelvin@keithavis.co.uk

**Communications Officer: Roger Nash**

Tel: 07712 873675 Email: nash.family2@btopenworld.com

**Advertising: Les Howard**

Tel: 07775 921814 Email: les.jan@hotmail.co.uk

**Deadline for next issue is 30th June 2016**



# Jottings

from The Provincial Grand Secretary



Welcome to the Winter edition of Forum.

The Province has been through a very busy period in the months leading up to the New Year and looks set for an equally busy period in the months to come leading up to the Summer Break. WBros Mike Jones, and John Sharp retired as Group Representatives on 1st January and I am sure you will join me in thanking them for their commitment to these roles and their dedicated service to the Province during their periods in Office. The newly appointed Group Representatives being WBro Nigel Gregory (Group 3), and WBro Jamie Gwatkin (Group 5).

Many of you will have received early in the New Year offers of Provincial Appointments and Promotions from the Provincial Grand Master and in accepting these brethren should be mindful that it is an expectation that they will attend the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting in June to receive their Appointment or Promotion from the Provincial Grand Master. WBro. Rod Hellowell continues to promote Suffolk Regalia Services, the PGL regalia outlet and I trust you will continue to support him in his efforts on behalf of the Province, in particular those requiring regalia relating to recent Appointments and Promotions. His contact details are as follows:-  
Bro Rod Hellowell, Tel 01473 623533, Mob 07768 837874  
E-mail: regaliaservices@dpsconnect.com.

The 2016 Annual Provincial Meeting is to be held at the Trinity Rooms, Suffolk Showground on Friday 10 June 2016. The Meeting will be in the morning followed by a Luncheon. Due to possible restrictions on numbers attending, admission to both the Meeting and Luncheon will again be by named tickets only. The booking form can be found in this copy of Forum. I urge all brethren, particularly those receiving Appointments and Promotions and wishing to attend the Meeting only or both the Meeting and Luncheon to complete and send in the form by return with a SAE as places for the Meeting and Luncheon may be over-subscribed.

There have been numerous White and Blue Table evenings throughout the Province in the last twelve months and I am advised that the feedback has been good with considerable interest from those who attended resulting in new members for many of the Lodges in the Province. The Provincial Grand Mentor held Membership Focus Group Meetings in Lowestoft and Felixstowe in September, attended by the PGM, myself and Roger Nash with a view to promoting United Grand Lodge's initiative to find ways of stemming the loss of members from the Craft and to recommend proposals designed to secure the future of Freemasonry. Both meetings were well attended giving the Provincial Grand Mentor the opportunity to introduce the Provincial Exit Forms and Annual Mentor's Return.

The Race Night held at Yarmouth in September was a very successful evening raising £2,408.00 for the 2019 Festival, the 120 members, friends and families who attended enjoying an evening of fun and fellowship. The Provincial Grand Master's Reception for Ruling Masters, Acting Provincial Officers and their partners was held at Lowestoft on Sunday 22nd November. It was a most successful and enjoyable occasion attracting a record attendance and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robert and Karen at the Lowestoft Masonic Centre for their warm welcome and the excellent Buffet and Bar Service.

The Suffolk Provincial Clay Pigeon Shoot is to be held at High Lodge Shooting School on 25th June 2016. This has now become a very popular and successful event and is open to masons and non-masons.

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

David Clarke, January 2015

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## 124 Years of Masonry in Woodbridge

For a Brother to receive a 50 year Certificate acknowledging his time in Masonry is an achievement. For him to receive a 60 year Certificate is an even greater achievement. To have two Brethren from the same Lodge receive their 60 year Certificate's on the same evening is a remarkable achievement.

That remarkable achievement was recognised at the September Meeting of Doric Lodge No 81 in Woodbridge with W.Bro John Potter and W.Bro Mike Taylor both receiving 60 year Certificates. Between them these two remarkable Brethren have notched up 124 years of continuous membership in Doric Lodge. John Potter was initiated on the 8th October 1952 and Worshipful Master in 1964. He was later exalted in to Royal York Chapter No 81 in 1957.

Mike Taylor was initiated in 1954 and Worshipful Master in in 1966. He too was exalted in to Royal York Chapter in 1958. In their Masonic careers they have served under no fewer than two Grand Masters, five Provincial Grand Masters and as Royal Arch Masons' eight Provincial Grand Superintendents'.

The September Meeting was well attended to bear witness to the remarkable event. John Potter also retains his membership in the Lodge of Fidelity No 555 which was well represented among the visitors. Their Certificates were presented, on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master, by W.Bro. Ralph Robertson, also a member of Doric Lodge and the current Provincial Senior Grand Warden.



*The photograph shows WBro. John Potter & W.Bro. Taylor together with the Master of Doric Lodge, WBro. Chris Seston and the Provincial Senior Grand Warden, WBro. Ralph Robertson*

## George receives honour at Victoria Rose Croix

On Tuesday 5th January at a meeting of Victoria Chapter Rose Croix No 22, for E&PP George Pipe, it was almost 'This is your Life'. Most Illustrious Bro. Guy Elgood 33° who is the Grand Treasurer General of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Excerpted Rite, presented George with the Meritorious Service Jewel 180 and a citation. He drew everyone's attention to the fact that in our midst we had a man who is very quiet and gentle in his demeanour and yet had given exceptional service to the order in spite of serious health problems. George Pipe was perfected in Victoria Chapter on the 5th June 2001. He became prelate and remained as prelate for 11 years.



He became Most Wise Sovereign of Laconic Rose Croix Chapter 1186 but due to serious bad health was unable to show his excellent ability in delivering the Ritual. His outstanding work in organising the Combined Church services for the Suffolk District Rose Croix, Cambridge and Norfolk, over many years, and his long tenure as Provincial Chaplain were just a few examples of George's ability to simply get on with the job in hand.



*Left to right, the Most Wise Sovereign of Victoria Chapter, John Studd with Guy Elgood and George Pipe*

Most Illustrious Bro Guy Elgood said the award was seldom given and indicates the high importance Supreme Council has when making such an award. The recipient of such an award will always remain in the Ancient and Accepted Year Book.

*Raymond Pascoe*

*Ian Yeldham has now been our PGM for a couple of years. We wondered what was on his mind so sent Alex Workman along to ask him...*

*A couple of years into the role now, are you still enjoying yourself?*

Very much so. My office is of course a tremendous privilege and during that time I have met more and more of the brethren in their own Lodges, which gives me a much clearer insight into our Province.

*Is the role living up to expectations?*

All I can say is, that the support and welcomes that I receive is astonishing, so it is for me to live up to the role.

*There were some interesting aspects in the 'Strategy for 2020' from UGLE. Any comments?*

UGLE have collected many statistics over the last few years and converted them into a strategy, something Masonry has never had before. It is however something that the majority of businesses have as well as major organisations like ours. We must remember that the information has come from all the Provinces and we are invited to look at the items within the strategy, that may help our Province.

*I also noted there was mention of buildings and the need for maintenance. That's new.*

This is very dear to us. Everyone in Suffolk knows the importance of our buildings as we have 20 of them. We are all acutely aware of their importance and we raise monies for our Charities within them. Most of the buildings are hundreds of years old and one is brand new, yet all need funding continuously, one way or another. Just as the homes we live in, they need our full commitment.

*You have appointed some new Provincial Representatives just recently.*

It is such an important task and takes a lot of time in visiting. They are the sounding board for all the members in their group and my eyes and ears as well. I also think that they can help in recruiting for the Royal Arch as well as "being there" for brethren both young and old.

*And there will be a new lodge?*

The continued success of our 67 lodges is paramount and indeed the priority. It is also not inspirational to create a hybrid Lodge and dilute another, so when the potential Founder suggested to me that he had 29 founders from more than a dozen lodges in 3 Provinces and that its theme was to be 'Sporting', I was delighted. Much thought has gone into this and if all the boxes are ticked, we may all be able to look forward to another consecration.

*We're nearly half way through the Festival. Big plans ahead?*

Yes, of course. Our Festival Chairman has all sorts lined up to take us to 2019 but the next major event on the calendar is the 'Party in the Park' on July 2nd 2016. It is a 'one off' staged behind my house, near Sudbury. It will start 3.00pm and there will be all manner of entertainment, all under canvas and non-masons and family all welcome. I will look forward to seeing you there.

*PGM thank you.*



## PGM's Reception for Ruling Masters

The Annual Reception for ruling masters hosted by PJK Lodge was again well supported on Sunday 22nd November with over 150 guests present at the Masonic Centre at Lowestoft. Once again it provided an opportunity for the Provincial Executive, Active Provincial Officers and senior lodge members to meet and enjoy each other's company in a convivial atmosphere.



The PGM Ian Yeldham thanked all the Masters of Suffolk Lodges for their continued commitment to maintaining the high standards of ritual witnessed by himself and the other two rulers during their visits around the Province. He also took the opportunity to thank their wives and partners for their support towards them.

The photograph shows Ian Yeldham in discussion with John Spencer, current Master of Perfect Amity Lodge who has recently achieved 54 years in Freemasonry.

## We are, first and foremost, in the entertainment industry!

When no ceremony or ritual awaits it is the Orators job to fill that role. Instead of a rehearsal or yet another tracing board presentation we hope to entertain by imparting knowledge, be it masonic, historic or whatever. But above all else we must be provocative and encourage debate and discussion. Our Craft is evolving and in the next few years many changes will have to be introduced to arrest the decline in membership and it is part of the Orators role to ensure that not only are brethren informed of such changes but have the opportunity of debating them.

During our tercentenary 2017 there is promised to be several changes to the way our Craft is governed, and that year of celebration will also give us great opportunities to arrest the decline in membership with a fresh impetus in the way we perceive, and may I dare say it, "market" our unique fraternity. Currently rumours abound, they are discussed at every festive board! However, as yet, Grand Lodge is still listening and debating as to the way forward. Obviously our PGM is part of this decision making and as your Orator I will be available to visit Lodges where a part of my role will be, together with our Provincial Representatives and rulers, to communicate on behalf of our PGM, to all brethren what those plans will be. Not just the celebrations of which you will all be informed of once finalised, but of greater import, any changes in our governance or constitutions that hopefully will propagate our Craft.

I have attempted, particularly in my paper "What Path Masonry" to explain to brethren that the decline and retention of membership is not a new phenomenon but that we should be constructive and optimistic and by encouraging a two way debate and throw the floor open to all in order to involve ALL brethren, not just the rulers, in addressing the problem. I have actively encouraged White and Blue table meetings to propagate the Craft, open our doors, and prove to the world the "benefits of our Ancient Institution". In the last year I have presented 27 orations and the most fun and beneficial meetings have been when non-masonic guests have been present. Blue tables work, just ask those lodges that have held them!

I, and my fellow Orators are there to entertain and inform. This we will continue to do, just contact us, and as promised, I will ensure that all members are kept informed of our future governance, both by presentations and our own Forum magazine.

**Peter Thorogood, Provincial Orator**



## Macmillan Coffee Morning a success!



*Back Row - Jacquie Nash, Cath Hellier, Katie Jones, Amanda Lewis, Alice Robertson, Karen Yeldham, Pam Simpson  
Front Row - Sue Rivett, Jenny Boswell.*

Amanda and Jenny would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the coffee morning held at Ashlar House, Bury St Edmunds in aid of Macmillan Nurses. Not in our wildest dreams could we have imagined the wonderful response we had.

Over 120 people joined us for cake and coffee, contributing with a vast array of fabulous cakes, brightly coloured and sparkly cupcakes, sumptuous chocolate and coffee cakes, some amazing breads and scones to mention just a few as well as raffle prizes and three auction prizes. An amazing total of £2000 has been raised.



A special thank you to Bill McColl, Nick and Judy, who all worked so hard to make the hall look so fantastic and the kind provision by Bill of tea, coffee, napkins, cake stands etc. means that every penny we raised went to Macmillan Nurses. There were a few cakes left at the end of proceedings, these were taken to Cornwallis Court where they provided afternoon tea for the residents and staff.

A big heartfelt thank you to you all for making this not only very successful but also so very enjoyable.

## Magna Carta On Two Wheels

Members of Magna Carta Lodge have raised £1000 for the 2019 Festival by organising a raffle for a child's off road motorcycle. Bro Stuart Bowers who runs a Yamaha motorcycle dealership in Bury St Edmunds had the idea and enlisted WBro Paul Wreathall to assist.

The two then set about sorting out the necessary paperwork needed from the local council and selling the tickets. Stuart made sure that any sales rep who called into his shop looking for an order had to buy some tickets. While Paul who works in the motorcycle industry as an area manager sold tickets to his customers around the country. The raffle was drawn at the Magna Carta Christmas lunch in early December and the lucky winner was David Jacob, a local insurance agent. Mr Jacob has already collected his prize and while doing so has expressed an interest in finding out more about Freemasonry and so we may gain a new member as well as raising money for the Festival. Brothers Bowers and Wreathall would like to thank those who helped sell some tickets, particularly WBros Steve Bye and Barry Whymark, and also all those who bought tickets. With the Festival getting towards the halfway point there are more things planned to raise money and have fun along the way. Watch this space !



## 600th Meeting at Christchurch

December at Christchurch lodge is always a thoroughly enjoyable evening as following a brief meeting the brethren are joined by their ladies at the Festive Board for a traditional Christmas meal, followed by a light hearted quiz, a little entertainment and the singing of Christmas songs and carols, concluding with the now legendary Twelve Days of Christmas.

This year's event was even more of a celebration than usual as in addition to a visit from the PGM it coincided with the 600th meeting of the lodge and to mark this a special cake was baked and beautifully iced by Jean Barker, wife of the Provincial DC David Barker; it "almost seemed a shame to cut it" said the WM Lincoln Pratt whilst being assisted by Ian Yeldham.



The evening was further added too by the presentation of a photograph of the PGM by David Clarke to hang above the staircase in the Soane Street Masonic Hall, mirroring a similar event in October 2004 when a photo of the then PGM Barry Ross was presented to mark the 500th meeting of the Lodge.

## National Masonic Bowls Competition

The Province of Suffolk is very proud to be asked to host the National M.A.C.E. bowls competition for 2016, which will take place on Friday the 12th August at the Ipswich & District Bowls Club, Rushmere Road, Ipswich. Last year 17 Provinces entered 24 teams. Spectators, particularly Masons and friends based in and around Ipswich, are most welcome at no charge but booking is required for lunch (£12) and dinner (£20). Team Entries are well advanced and we have already received just short of half our maximum capacity of 24 teams, so you are strongly advised to get your entries in soon.

The Festive Board following the competition will feature an after dinner talk by Charlie Haylock, one of East Anglia's leading entertainers. His informative and hilarious one-man shows are legendary in the county and his books have all been best sellers. Charlie can reduce audiences to tears of laughter with his story telling as anyone who has seen his show 'A Celebratory Look At Suffolk' will tell you. But he has a serious side and also gives highly informative talks about the history of the English language and has a unique understanding of why Australians talk the way they do!

Although the primary objective of M.A.C.E. is to spend an enjoyable day in convivial company, the opportunity to spread a little happiness further afield cannot be ignored. All profits, donations and sponsorships will go to help "Hope for Tomorrow" continue their task to provide mobile cancer treatment units throughout the UK. We would welcome any donations, raffle prizes, advertising and sponsorship to help us in our aim. We have advertising space available on the event programme and on the tall hedge bordering the bowls green. Email [nickberry@icloud.com](mailto:nickberry@icloud.com) to discuss further. The Bank Account we are using for all donations and transactions is "Suffolk Masonic Bowls Association" Please mark cheques accordingly.

**Organiser: Nick Berry, 28 Kingsway, Mildenhall, Suffolk IP28 7HW**  
[nickberry6292@icloud.com](mailto:nickberry6292@icloud.com) Tel: 01638 714180

[www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk](http://www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk)

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

**Webmaster: John Pitcher [john@uniquewebsites.co.uk](mailto:john@uniquewebsites.co.uk)**

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# Catching the Smile

September 10th saw the first event of the Suffolk branch of the the Masonic fishing charity (MTSFC) which was held at the Hintlesham Fly Fishing Club lake. The Suffolk branch, set up by Court Knoll Lodge, "Aims to bring an interactive fishing and

countryside experience to people with Special Needs". It achieves this by running fishing events, both coarse and fly, at various fisheries and inviting participants from special needs schools and centres and people who have suffered trauma to come and join in.



This is far more than just a days fishing though! It enables mentally disabled people to gain in confidence, meet new challenges and achieve tangible results to take away.

It helps disadvantaged people and those from harsh backgrounds to renew their confidence in meeting people and interacting with adults from outside their spheres; it helps physically disabled people (including war heroes and stroke victims) to participate and experience something that may otherwise be unavailable to them and it enables our volunteers to give back to the community and have some fun along the way. The Masonic Fishing Charity which has been running in the UK since 2000 is run by volunteers and is a

non profit making enterprise. Twenty seven provinces throughout the country each arrange one or two events such as this throughout the year.

The group benefitting from this first Suffolk event was 'Julian Support' from East Anglia, the group works with people with mental health issues and helps to facilitate and support recovery, more information on the group can be found at [www.juliansupport.org](http://www.juliansupport.org).



A total of 42 people arrived at Hintlesham in bright sunshine to start the day and a hearty breakfast of bacon and sausage baps, tea and coffee was immediately served. After a comprehensive health and safety talk was issued all the nine participants from Julian Support were given a quality rucksack 'welcome bag' containing a cap, waterproof poncho, wristband, antiseptic hand wipes, water bottle holder, a fish bag to hold their catch and a leaflet explaining the work of the MTSFC. They were then introduced to their experienced fishing partner for the day and made their way to the waters edge to begin fishing.



With trout rising all over the lakes it was only a short time before the first fish of the day was landed by Ian with a little help and encouragement from caster Mick Austin of Holland on Sea. Ian commented "I have been fishing at Needham Lakes before but this is my first go at fly fishing and is a good break from my normal daily routine, I'm really enjoying myself".

In the following few hours around 40 trout were landed in total, the participants were allowed to keep two fish each to take home, the remainder being unhooked and returned unharmed back to the lake.

A horn sounded at 1 pm to mark the end of the mornings fishing and everyone walked from the lake to enjoy a hearty BBQ lunch of burgers, sausages, fresh salad and rolls followed by strawberries and cream.



Certificates were awarded by the PGM and APGM to Agnesse for the heaviest fish caught at 2lb 8oz, to Ian for best brown trout at 2lb and to Phil for most fish caught, ten landed. All competitors received a framed certificate and lapel badge. Ian Yeldham thanked everyone involved for organising such a successful event and commented that "he hoped that everyone who had been invited along to fish had enjoyed themselves as much as we had enjoyed having them". A raffle was held during the day and raised £170 which will go into the Suffolk Branch MTSFC funds.



James Gant, recovery co-ordinator for Julian Support remarked "I really can't speak highly enough of the Suffolk and Essex Freemasons and helpers who made this event happen, you all thoroughly spoil us throughout the whole day. There isn't anything you could of done to make the day any better. To be able to offer such an opportunity for our Service User's to participate in has been amazing, you only had to look at the smiles on the participants faces at the end of the day to see what a positive impact the event has had on them. It is event's like this that enable individuals to gain confidence and recover in the community."



Court Knoll lodge are the organising team for these events and would welcome any support from other masons across Suffolk, the next event will be a coarse fishing day in Hadleigh. If anyone has a school or group that would like to attend please contact Jonathan Neill on 01206 795265 or [jon@sportsafeuk.com](mailto:jon@sportsafeuk.com).

The event was a fantastic success and Court Knoll have done all Suffolk Freemasons proud, a great day, very much enjoyed by all, everyone present certainly 'Caught the Smile'.

*Kelvin Avis*

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## Grand Lodge make donation to East Anglian Air Ambulance

A cheque for £4000 from Grand Lodge was presented to The East Anglian Air Ambulance by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, John Rice and the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Peter Gosling to the EAAA fund raising team based in Hanger 3 at Norwich Airport in August 2015.

This Grand Lodge donation of £4000 has over the past few years been an annual event with similar cheques being

given to all the various Air Ambulance Teams situated throughout England and Wales by all the various Provinces.

During the cheque presentation we were very surprised to see a fly past of the Red Arrows who then proceeded to land at the airport, both the Assistant PGM and Provincial Charity Steward were not quite sure if this was organised by Grand Lodge...!

*Peter Gosling*



## Suffolk Masonic Clay Shooting Society



The Suffolk Masonic Charity Clay Shoot is now well established and has become a very successful annual event donating many thousands of pounds to the East Anglian Children's Hospice and more recently the 2019 Festival. There have been a number of the spin-offs from this in that it has introduced several members of the Province and their friends and families to the sport of Clay Shooting, neighbouring Provinces

have invited Suffolk members to attend their shoots and it has raised the profile of the Province of Suffolk which has been invited to become a founding member of the National Association of Masonic Clay Shooting Societies. For these reasons we have decided to establish a Suffolk Masonic Clay Shooting Society with membership open to all subscribing Suffolk masons who have an interest in clay shooting and associate membership open to their families or subscribing masons from other Provinces. The objects of the society will be to promote friendship amongst its members, to arrange friendly competitions between its members and other Masonic Clay Shooting Societies, to encourage newcomers and provide an introduction to the sport in a safe environment and to maintain our support for Masonic and non Masonic charities.

If you have an interest in or would like to try your hand at clay shooting in the company of other Masons and would like to become a member of the society please contact me for details. Membership is £10 per year with all surpluses and event proceeds going to charitable causes.

**Bob Rudd (Secretary)**

07813 732277, email: [robert.rudd@btopenworld.com](mailto:robert.rudd@btopenworld.com)

## Tripartite meeting a great success

On October 25th the Tripartite meeting of Waveney Lodge No.929, Lodge of Marksmen No. 9755 and Faithful Lodge No. 85 took place. This has been a regular occurrence for the past 10 years and has proved to be a great success in forming a common bond between the three Lodges and Brethren. All three Lodges meet along the Waveney valley at Bungay and Harleston and also are in two differing Provinces.

The meeting was hosted this time by the Lodge of Marksmen at Harleston, it was a Third degree and the lucky candidate was Bro. Ian Stockham, the ceremony was performed by no less than 28 Past Masters and Brethren all changing positions seamlessly to make a most enjoyable evening for all who attended. There was a mix of the old and new with extended parts of the ritual and ceremony included such as the extended investiture of the Master Masons apron and the third degree charge, this all added to a most memorable meeting, The evening was rounded off by a fine festive board and proceedings ended at 10:15 pm.



# party in the park

Join our  
**Provincial Grand Master Ian and Amanda**  
at their home:

## TUCKLANDS

GESTINGTHORPE, HALSTEAD, ESSEX, CO9 3BW

**Saturday 2nd July 2016**  
**3pm to 8pm**

Party in the Park is an afternoon of fun and entertainment for all to enjoy. Although the event is in support of Festival 2019 for the RMBI it is also an afternoon for Suffolk Freemasons, their families and friends to get together and enjoy a great afternoon, all are welcome!

Starting at 3 pm and finishing at 8 pm we aim to have something of interest for you all. There will be entertainers, you can have your caricature done, watch the unicyclist cycling around while juggling plus many other amusing things....!

You will not go away hungry as the ticket price includes your food. There will be a choice, a Hog Roast, Hotdogs and more. But more importantly this will be fantastic setting giving everyone an opportunity to mix with Brothers, friends and family.

There will be live music as well in a large marquee, an exciting raffle, plus an auction with some very tempting lots you may wish to bid for!

For the children there will be a bouncy castle and other entertainment. The more families booking to come along with their younger members then the more entertainment to keep them amused will be provided.

**More information and how to book can be found at**  
**[www.festival2019.co.uk/pgms-summer-party](http://www.festival2019.co.uk/pgms-summer-party)**

**Tickets: Adults £35.00**  
**Children under 15 £10.00**  
**Children under 4 free of charge**

**Let's make a great day of it,**  
**so don't delay book your**  
**tickets to-day!**

**In aid of Festival 2019**

# FOR VALOUR

The story of the Victoria Cross

**21st April 2016**

**Masonic Hall Bury St. Edmunds  
Doors open from 6.30pm**

**A sit down four course meal**

**Musical entertainment during  
the meal featuring the  
Military Wives Choir from Wattisham**

**A talk by Mr Mark Smith  
Curator of the  
Royal Artillery Museum  
and medal expert  
appearing on the BBC TV series  
'Antiques Road Show'**

A raffle will be held and all proceeds will be divided equally between the Help for Heroes Charity and our own RMBI 2019 Festival.



**Cost: £25.00 per head.**

The event is open to all Masons', their families and non-masonic friends. Dress is lounge suit for men and equivalent for ladies. Round tables of 10.

Cheques payable to the MP DINNER FUND.

**RSVP to: Ralph Robertson**

**3 Church Lane, HENLEY, Ipswich IP6 0RN  
Email [ralphj.robertson@btopenworld.com](mailto:ralphj.robertson@btopenworld.com)**



## A meal and talk entitled 'For Valour' The story of the Victoria Cross

'For Valour' - A sit down four course meal at Ashlar House, Bury St. Edmunds where our principal guest and speaker is Mr Mark Smith MA who is Curator of the Royal Artillery Museum. Mark has written four books on the First World War and led tours for the last 29 years to the battlefields of France and Belgium. He has appeared on many television and radio programmes worldwide. Mark is also the BBC TV's 'Antiques Roadshow' medal expert. Mark has spent the last 10 years studying the history and origins of the Victoria Cross. He is also an avid collector of medals with over 5,000 in his collection! Mark gives a fascinating talk about the origins of his hobby, which turned into a career. You will hear an intriguing account of the origin and history of the VC and in so doing dispelled a myth about the source of the bronze from which they were made! He may also bring along his most prized possession – an actual Victoria Cross.

We are also delighted to welcome the Military Wives Choir. They were formed in January 2012 having been inspired by Gareth Malone's TV series 'The Choir'. The members are all wives and girlfriends of personnel serving at the Wattisham Flying Station.

Any offers of sponsorship, raffle prizes and help will be most appreciated.

*Ralph Robertson, [ralphj.robertson@btopenworld.com](mailto:ralphj.robertson@btopenworld.com)*

## Suffolk Masonic Bowls Association (S.M.B.A.)

Following an excellent couple of years since its reformation, the S.M.B.A offers both new and experienced bowlers the opportunity to play friendly and enjoyable green bowls throughout the summer season. We play a mixture of bowls drives and matches against other local clubs and provinces. This year we have been selected to host the national one-day competition drawing provincial teams from throughout the UK. So if you would enjoy a pleasant game of bowls, with the sun on your back, in congenial company get in touch.

*Free membership is open to all Suffolk masons and their families;  
just contact Nick Berry at [nickberry@talktalk.net](mailto:nickberry@talktalk.net) for further details*



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## Doric Lodge Armistice Meeting

Wednesday 11th November saw the Nation mark Armistice Day, an event remembered by the Brethren of Doric Lodge No 81 at their meeting in Woodbridge. For many years, Doric Lodge has had a close association with members of Her Majesty's Forces and other visiting service personnel based in the Woodbridge area. Men from the USAF and latterly 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment have all had their connections with Doric Lodge. The Meeting held on the 11th of November was commemorated by receiving a highly informative talk from WBro Paul Masters titled the "Masonic Great War Project". The Project seeks to remember Brethren that were killed in the Great War and provide a proper commemoration to their memory. The talk was very poignant in parts and in particular, WBro. Paul referenced three Doric members, Captain John Myers, 2nd Lieutenant John Prentice and Private Francis Wicks, all of whom were killed in action.

The Meeting was attended by the PGM, the Deputy & Assistant Provincial Grand Master's, many Grand Officers and Active Provincial Grand Officers. As usual at this meeting, the Worshipful Master gave permission for those so entitled to wear Medals. The Meeting concluded with WM Chris Seston, presenting a cheque on behalf of Doric Lodge to the PGM in the sum of £5,000.00 for the 2019 Festival.

At a packed Festive Board, the Brethren enjoyed a wartime inspired menu, sang topical songs from both conflicts and after remembering absent brethren, stood silently while the Last Post was sounded. It was a fitting tribute to the memory of all those who had made the supreme sacrifice.



*R.W. Bro Ian Yeldham receiving from W. Bro Chris Seston, a cheque for the 2019 Festival*

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## Now hanging in Soane Street...The Banner of St. Luke's Lodge

St. Luke's has had a number of banners, as you would expect in its 200+ years of history. The information relating to them is scarce and it is only the current one in use where we have any details at all. The earliest

mention of a banner in the minutes is of one being hung above the Masters Chair on September 14th 1842. A replacement was purchased for £3.3.6d in February 1855 and despite several changes of venue it apparently lasted for 79 years until a proposal was made to replace it in 1934. The new banner was not successful and it again needed to be replaced, this time in October 1976. The Master of the Lodge at the time was WBro. Jack Earwaker. This is the banner we use today.

The banner made in 1855 is the one that the Lodge has had restored. It was found in the Temple at the bottom of one of the side bench cupboards and had been there for a considerable length of time. WBro. Alan Lines and WBro Trevor Clark were charged with ascertaining if the banner could be restored and at what cost. The answer was that it could be brought back to its original glory and at a cost of up to £3000. The Lodge Committee decided that it was a vital piece of the Lodge history and gave the go ahead for the work to be done under the supervision of the two WBro's. Various reports followed about the progress being made and the occasional visit was instigated to ensure satisfaction with the work being undertaken.

The professional restorer had given a good account of the work needed. The banner was extremely fragile, in very poor condition and in several places the silk was shredded and split and in some parts turning to dust. The banner had suffered damage because of excessive exposure to light and probably poor storage and handling. Attempts had been made in the past to stick the banner back together where it had split but this had only been done with small localised patches, this had the effect

of moving the stressed area to an unsupported area which subsequently became weak. The conservation treatment carried out was very detailed because of the loose silk fibres, these had to be held in place whilst a one piece backing was applied. More support was given, reinforced and repaired where possible. All this was carried out with conservation stitching with the final part being a very fine dyed net stitched over the front of the fragile silk between two layers of fabric to act as a barrier layer to protect the face of the banner. The final result look very impressive but that was not the end of the story.

The Hall Company was contacted with a view to gaining permission to hang the restored banner in Soane Street and the reply was favourable. It was then time to recruit the framer who visited the Lodge to gain information regarding the staining of the frame, its size and where it was to be hung. The Lodge Committee agreed to the restoration because it had funds that were bequeathed by Nellie Cooper the wife of Bro Cooper who had previously passed to the Grand Lodge above. This was in November 1987. It has always been said that the sum was "for the benefit of the Members of the Lodge" and not to be used for general purposes. This restoration definitely falls within those parameters.

The WM "called off" the Lodge at the October meeting and with all the Brethren and guests

holding a glass of port, stated; "I unveil this restored banner with thanks to all those who have had a part in securing it for the future generations of Freemasons not only in St. Luke's Lodge No 225 but for every visitor to this Freemasons Hall. Especial thanks to Nellie Cooper who thought of the Lodge in her will and who made it all possible. The Banner is 160 years old and will be a symbolic reminder of this Lodge for many years to come."



*WM David Waters and the SW Jeremy Farinos-Taylor in front of the restored and the newly hung Lodge Banner*

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## Following the Travelling Gavel...

**Court Knoll claim the Gavel for the first time**

On 27th November, thirteen members of Court Knoll visited Brett Valley in Hadleigh along with a further seventeen guests to witness the Passing of Bro. Dale Avis in the presence of the Deputy PGM David Harries. The packed temple enjoyed a superb ceremony, in particular Mac Speake the Senior Deacon who guided Bro. Avis and WBro Howarth who treated everyone to a stirring explanation of the Second Degree Tracing Board deserve a special mention.



The festive board was in the usual entertaining manner expected at Brett Valley and eventually their WM Tim Warner asked if anyone present wished to claim the gavel, immediately the WM of Court Knoll, Brian Dundon, leapt to his feet and made his claim. Court Knoll members were invited to line up, handed song sheets and with great gusto sang the Beatles classic 'We all live in a Yellow Submarine', accompanied by clouds of party bubbles blown over them by the Brett Valley brethren. A lovely evening punctuated by the sound of laughter, the chink of the wine glass, and very much enjoyed by all those present.

*The Travelling Gavel is an enjoyable and great fun way to visit other lodges throughout the Province in the company of friends - why dont you arrange a raid with your lodge, you can follow the progress of the Gavel at [www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk/about/travelling-gavel/](http://www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk/about/travelling-gavel/)*

## What a surprise to start the year!



WBro. Charles Bartholomew PPJGW received a letter from the Provincial Grand Master informing him that he wished to award him with the Suffolk Provincial Order of Merit for loyal and devoted service to masonry over the years. Charles (85) was born in London and experienced the Blitz during WWII. His education from 9-12 years old consisted of school once a fortnight owing to the bombings. The rest was spent studying at friend's houses where possible. He was a motor engineer apprentice until 22 year old when he was called up for National Service in the REME where he rose to Lance Corporal over the two years.

He married Madge in 1955 and moved with her family to Felixstowe in 1961 to take on Branton's Garage and Taxi business with Henry, his father-in-law. They sold up in 1981 and he semi-retired. At this time he was proposed by his bank manager, John Grant of the Nat West to join Colneis Lodge. His wait to be initiated lasted 4 years!

Since that time Charles has not missed many LOI nights or PC meetings and was Master in 1992. He has held the role of Treasurer for 20 years and is a stalwart at FUSL where, although not a member, has been elected Tyler for the past 15 years!

Charles and Madge have two sons, whose achievements they are extremely proud of; Steven, who was a Company Sergeant Major in the Coldstream Guards and is now a prison officer and Adam, a Major in the Light Dragoons. They are also blessed with 5 great grandchildren. Charles says that Freemasonry has brought him friendship, taught him how to look after others and appreciate what is done by others to him. He applauds the openness of modern Freemasonry and agrees that joining was probably one of the best things he ever did. Congratulations Charles.

## Cheque presentation from Abiff

On Thursday 14th January 2016, WBro. Barry Spall of Abiff Lodge 2810, accompanied by his wife Margaret and Alan Spindler, the lodge Charity Steward visited the offices of the Alzheimer's Society at Epsilon House Business Centre in Ipswich to present a cheque for £748 which was raised during Barry's year as Worshipful Master of Abiff.



## How often do you get two Kelvins to grin at the camera?



It all happened after the Fire Alarm was triggered scarcely before entering the Temple for Frank Rush's Installation as Master of the Caduceus Lodge, No.9536. The PJGW Kelvin Larcombe, 2nd from left and the Installing Master Kelvin Middleton, 6th from Left were all crudely assembled on the footpath outside Soane Street, to the amusement of all and some passers by. Naturally, no-one re-entered the building to retrieve paraphernalia; however, the treasurer did grab and hold onto the working briefcase. Dedication or what?

Following the Installation all present were very pleased to witness RW Bro. Barry Ross present a 50 Year Certificate to WBro. John Hodgson.



## A Unique Commemoration

Chilton, on the edge of Sudbury, is home to a small historic church, St. Mary's, built around the 13th century. Now, only occasionally used for worship and set away from habitation, it was the scene of a simple service to remember the six men of that parish who were to make the supreme sacrifice in the First World War. Among those to fall was W.Bro. William Morris Armes, Colonel of the 5th Suffolk's, and Past Master of Stour Valley Lodge 1224. Armes was to die leading his Battalion at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli on 12th August 1915 and has no known grave but is remembered on the Helles War Memorial in Turkey. In 1919 his sisters suitably engraved his sword and presented it to Stour Valley Lodge where it is used today by the Tylers of all the Lodges meeting at Sudbury's iconic Temple.



Brother Armes's life and achievements has been well chronicled by myself and with the kind permission of the Clergy and the Royal British Legion we, as Sudbury Masons were honoured to take part in the ceremony. Our Assistant P.G.M. John Rice and myself, as Provincial Orator, were in attendance and the sword was borne by myself and laid upon the altar during a short but very moving service to commemorate all of Chilton's fallen. The setting, a small simple parish church, with but a hand pumped organ, a choir of less than a dozen, yet this most poignant of tributes was, in its simplicity, a fitting and moving tribute to Brother Armes and his comrades. It may be noted that both Brother Armes and another PM of Stour Valley Lodge, Lt. Colonel Charles Tippett, who was also to die at Suvla leading his men of the 7th Royal Dublin Fusiliers, were both far too old for active service but had lied about their age in order to put duty before self.

Incidentally, with the kind permission of our PGM, both John Rice and myself were in full masonic regalia, the first time since the early 1930's that such a public exhibition of our Craft has occurred. From the days when Lodges would parade as such to give thanks to their God at annual Church services maybe this small step will hopefully again show our fellow townspeople of our pride and love of our Craft and that, as Freemasons, we openly give proof of our commitment to both our communities and to our faith.

*W.Bro. Peter Thorogood*

## The Order of The Secret Monitor

The Order of the Secret Monitor or Brotherhood of David and Jonathan takes its scriptural base from the story of the enduring friendship, which is told in the Old Testament Book of Samuel, between Jonathan, son of King Saul, and David who became the father of King Solomon. This degree originates from the 16th Century persecution of Protestants in Northern Holland who, to protect themselves, formed a secret brotherhood with modes of recognition suited to the hours of darkness as well as daylight – they chose the signs and symbols in the David and Jonathan story in the Bible. The Masonic Order as we know it today was founded in England in 1887 and to quote the late RWBro Neville Cryer "it is an Order with ceremonies and practices that unmistakably convey the principles of self-sacrifice, of mutual trust, of watchful brotherly care, of compulsory warning in time of danger, official solace in time of sorrow and skilful and effective if unostentatious advice in every circumstance of life".



This most caring Order is formed into Conclaves, each of which is headed by a Supreme Ruler, and the cornerstone of every Conclave is the office of Visiting Deacon. There are four of them, and between them it is their responsibility to keep in contact with all the Brethren of the Conclave enquiring as to the well-being of themselves and their families. The Visiting Deacons report on the welfare of each brother at every meeting before any other business is conducted.

In Suffolk, the Visiting Deacons' reports are communicated to the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler so that he is made aware of any brother who may be experiencing difficulties. The Province of Suffolk has six Conclaves which meet in Newmarket, Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Woodbridge and Lowestoft and the Province is currently headed by RWyBro Dr John Elmore. The requirement for membership is that you only have to be a subscribing Master Mason, and it is possible to go through the Chair of a Conclave without having previously been a Master in a Craft Lodge.

*Andrew Sleath, Deputy Provincial GSR*

**All you ever wanted know about...**

### David J. Barker ProvGDC

I am a Solicitor, training in Leeds and Cambridge, eventually setting up business in partnership with another in 1979, starting with a total head count of three, now thirty two. Married to Jean, a qualified Speech Therapist but now running her own business - Amazing Cakes by Jean, from stables converted into a cake studio behind our home in Elmswell, near Bury St Edmunds.



We have two children - son Jonathan, who married three years ago to Steph, an American girl who came to England for a year to teach Lacrosse and who has remained here ever since! Jonathan is currently Head of Geography at St Mary's School, Ascot, a girls' boarding school, but they are about to go to Malaysia for two years, to help to set up a new school there. Daughter Lauren, also a Geography Teacher and currently working at Queen Margaret's School, York, as Assistant Housemistress /Geography Teacher, again a girls' boarding school.

I was Initiated into Abbey Lodge 1592 in Bury St Edmunds in 1991 and served as Master 2000-2001. I became ADC of the lodge in 2002 and DC in 2004. My first Provincial Appointment was ProvAGDC in 2008 and promoted to ProvDGDC in 2013. I am also, a member of White Rose Chapter 1008 in Bury St Edmunds, becoming ADC and now DC of the Chapter. I received Provincial Appointment to ProvAGDC in 2011. Also currently a member of Tancred Preceptory 102 and St Edmunds Chapter Rose Croix 162.

I am now looking forward immensely, but with not inconsiderable trepidation, to the challenge presented by my recent promotion to ProvGDC!



# Festival 2019

*...together we can do it*

Since the last issue of Forum, there have been two successful Events, the Race Night at Gt Yarmouth, which was well attended and raised over £2000 for the Festival, and the provincial Quiz which also raised in excess of £2000. I hope W.Bros Mark Jepson and Jerry Plummer can be persuaded to run a similar quiz this year. Currently, several Lodges are creating their own events, and the RW Prov GM has a large Summer Party in July this year, with WBro Andy Gentle having the lead role. For 2017 WBro Brian Simpson is dealing with matters relating to the Tercentenary.

We will be holding the Fun Run in 2018, with any other items we can blend into the day which is being organised by WBro Mac Speake. I am also conscious that we only have one group of Members, and it can become unreasonable if we try to make too many financial demands upon individuals.

We are promoting Merchandise sales, and our 500 Club, which achieved over 500 Members last year, with many Lodges purchasing either 5 or 10 tickets. When Lodges buy tickets, it supports the Festival, without directly looking to individuals for payment. Part of the amounts paid are credited to either the Individual and the Lodge, so again it helps towards targets. Details of both are on the Festival website or for the 500 Club, by e mail to WBro Chris Warnes cpw@hadleighcastings.com, or to myself.

Financially, during 2015, our province received over £365,000 to benefit 64 individuals, making us the 13th largest recipient out of 48 Provinces, and will return us far more than we will donate before the next festival arrives.

I am pleased to congratulate the Members of Apollo Lodge 305, being the first Lodge to achieve Grand Patronage during Festival 2019.

Finally my thanks to you all for your contributions and effort to make Festival 2019 successful.

*WBro Neville Warnes, Chairman Festival 2019*

## Apollo become first Lodge to achieve Grand Patronage during Festival 2019

At the beginning of the Festival, all Lodges were sent a proposal of what could be their lower and upper targets over the 5 year period, and further advised that this was nothing more than a suggestion, and each Lodge was requested to create its own target which could be higher or lower than the proposed range. The suggested range had been calculated using the figures achieved by the respective Lodge, during the previous Festival, but then adjusted for the shorter time period and change in the Lodge's number of members. However, in addition to the target range, each lodge was also given a distinct figure to achieve, and in return for which, it would be awarded Grand Patronage. Benefits of obtaining Grand Patronage, mean that the lodge would receive a usable gift, and this would be presented by one of the Provincial Rulers. This is also detailed on the Festival Website, [www.festival2019.co.uk](http://www.festival2019.co.uk).



Accordingly, we are pleased to congratulate Apollo 305, for becoming the first Lodge to achieve Grand Patronage during Festival 2019. As a result, after discussion with the Lodge Festival Representative W.Bro Rick Orme, regarding a suitable item, the PGM attended their meeting on November 5th, which also happened to be their installation, and Presented the Incoming WM with 2 embroidered Alms bags. These had also been sourced through Regalia Services, so an overall benefit was achieved for the Festival, and we look forward to the next Lodge to achieve Grand Patronage, which may not take too long as one or two are getting quite close to their targets.

## Suffolk Province Cycling Challenge ...and then there were two, but the challenge goes on!



**12th December 2015  
Culford Lodge  
Bury St Edmunds**

Well not an awful lot to report on the progress front I'm afraid, only another four Lodges visited. But then the last time I updated the status of our challenge was at the end of the summer and we had just visited Philip Jervis Kay Lodge. That proved more eventful than we wanted...as it was such a nice day we then decided we would cycle back from that meeting, taking in some of the wonderful Suffolk scenery and stopping at the occasional pub for some liquid refreshment. However half way home at the bottom of Kersey Gareth came off his bike in the notorious Kersey Ford, injuring his arm badly. Although the injury was not in itself that serious it became infected

putting Gareth in hospital for a week with the recovery period running into months. This coupled with a completely written off bike is enough for Gareth to not be cycling with us any more but you will still be seeing him at some of the meetings helping with transport.

So we entered the new masonic season slowly on the cycling front as both Nick and I were away enjoying another form of two wheeled transport in September, travelling down through Europe to Croatia and back again, this time on motorbikes! So after a long break from cycling we both hauled ourselves over to Felixstowe to visit Landguard Lodge on what was the wettest cycle ride to date.

Our visit to Stour Valley on 18th December was a little different. It was the first time we were to visit the Sudbury Masonic Centre, the shortest mileage yet and the first time that I didn't cycle. To cover the 3.7 miles to Sudbury should have been an easy ride but wanting to make it a little more challenging I carried a large rucksack of approx 35kg and the journey was made on foot. I was accompanied by Bro Nick on his bike. After just over 4 miles we arrived, I, very much hunched over and in a somewhat sweaty state we entered the Masonic Hall just as John Yeldham and two other well known brothers got there. The raised eyebrows and looks of surprise that a Brother should arrive for a meeting in such a state would have been worth a picture had it not been dark!



**18th December 2015  
Stour Valley, Sudbury**

When we originally set out on this challenge we had a target of trying to raise the sum of £100 from each Lodge that we visited. The warm welcome and support that we have had thus far from all the Lodges that we have visited has been fantastic and after taking into account the individual donations we have raised just over £5000!! So Nick and I, not wanting to be complacent feel the bar needs to be raised, we have therefore set ourselves a target of £10000 by the end of the Festival. The short term aim for now is to try to get to the half way mark, both in term of Lodges visited and miles covered by the end of this season.

Once again I would like to express my gratitude for the way in which we have been welcomed at all of the Lodges we have visited and to those that turn out to support us and get us and our bikes back home after the meetings. The interest, the offers of help and the support just goes to show the camaraderie and strength of Suffolk Freemasonry.

*WBro Andy Gentle*

**The latest status of the challenge is now:  
Miles to date: 708, Lodges visited: 24, Lodges to go: 43  
Progress and details of all the visits can be viewed on the website at  
<http://www.festival2019.co.uk/andy-on-her-bike/>**

# Great Yarmouth Race Night

Racing at Yarmouth wasn't fixtured at Jellicoe Road, for Saturday September 26th, but it was under Starter's orders at the Masonic Centre, courtesy of 'Off Course Racing,' for the benefit of Festival 2019. Over 120 members, friends and family were poised in front of the screen, in this wonderful Grade 2 listed building. Even before the Racing began, it was very worthwhile to have a very quick look around The Royal Assembly Rooms. A fabulous imposing building standing on the Seafront, opposite the Wellington Pier.



Prior to the Evening, The Festival 2019 Events Team had achieved a number of Sponsors, who supported either the Race itself, The Horses, or both. Our Thanks go to Suffolk Regalia, Branded Teamwear, Hadleigh Castings, Toye Kenning, Cornwallis Court, (Andrew Catton) Sportsafe, Roff Caterers, The Yarmouth Market Traders Federation, and to all the Members who purchased Horses either before the Evening, or on the Night. In particular a very large thank you to those who bid, under the relentless Gavel of the RW Prov Grand Master, significant sums for the Horses in race 8, and to the Winning owner of that Race, Clare Lock, who donated £100 of her winnings back into the evening's receipts. Additional income was also gained from the Tricast board, where £1 allows you to predict the first 3 horses in Race 7, in return for £100 prize to the winner. The entire board was sold, and sincere thanks to all those who both sold the tickets, and to those who bought them.



At 6.30 pm the first race was on, and excitement and cheering soon available in abundance. An excellent Fish and Chips meal was provided by the in-house Caterers, who complied exactly with our requirements for it to be served, and cleared away as quickly as possible. All too soon, the event came to a close but it seemed clear that everyone had enjoyed a good evening, at modest expense, and contributed in whatever way to a profit on the night of £2408.00 for Festival 2019.



For such a splendid result, many thanks are of course due, in addition to those listed above. It isn't practical to name every individual, for which I hope they will excuse me, but I must make mention of the Festival Representatives, Provincial Group Representatives, and individuals who worked hard to ensure that we sold sufficient tickets for the evening to make certain that it went ahead. Further to those who made a significant effort to travel a long way to the event. As always, our Stewards, gave their customary unstinting help in many ways on the evening, but especially in manning the Tote, and in particular W.Bro Ralph Robertson our Provincial Senior Grand

Warden, who also managed all the ticket sales for me, and liaised with the caterers. Additionally, our PGM, together with Amanda, and other Senior Provincial officers, who gave out prizes to winning horse owners.

To them all, and especially to all of you who attended, please accept my sincere thanks for making this a good night, and a profitable one for the benefit of RMBI and ultimately for Freemasons in need.

# 'Quizzers' - A Right Royal Result



The grand final of the provincial quiz held in Ipswich had 11 teams competing for the trophy of Mastermasonics Champions 2015.

In all a total of 18 teams took part in the preliminary rounds, with regional heats in Bury, Felixstowe and Framlingham, there were entrants from every area. However on the night it was a hotly contested competition, with the lead changing hands several times, the evening was managed very adroitly by WBro Jeremy Plummer, and as always there was a draw. Great applause was given to the organiser WBro Mark Jepson, as he announced that a total of £2045 had been raised for the festival, a notable sum considering it came from about 108 people's entrance fee.



*The Winners*



*The Wooden Spoonists!*

Why a Royal result? Well, the winners were a team of 4 called the '4 Men Just' otherwise known as 'Royal Clarence' and the wooden spoonists were 'Royal St Edmunds'. Most people left well pleased and looking forward to doing it all again next year.

*Peter Green*



**St Margaret's Lodge 1452 recently presented a cheque for £10,000 to the PGM towards the 2019 Festival. Present in the photo are WBro C. White, The PGM, WBro Nik Aspden WM, WBro Jim Fallon & Bro Mitch Mackay**

## Brethren of the Silent Cities The Province of Suffolk

The second in a series of extracts from a booklet lodged in Provincial archives, researched and compiled by W.Bro. Rod Gibson detailing information on Suffolk brethren who fell during WW1.



Part 2 - Members of British Union 114

### Lt. Bertram Coleby Ransome 8th MT Auxiliary (Steam) Company, 366 RASC.

Died 30th June 1918. Age 47.

Commemorated: St Marie Cemetery, Le Havre, Seine-Maritime, France. Ref: Div. 62. III. L. 1.

Son of Robert Charles Ransome of Orwell Lodge, Ipswich, by his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of James Gibb, 1st Commissioner of Paper Currency in India. Born Ipswich 22nd October 1870, educated, Elstree, Harrow and completed a five year apprenticeship at Mirrless Watson and Garyan, Glasgow. Three years at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, USA. Was a Mechanical Engineer, being a Director of the firm Ransome Simms and Jeffries Ltd., on whose behalf he visited Russia, Australia, New Zealand and East Africa. Gazetted 2nd Lieut. in the Royal Defence Corps 26th March 1916, transferred to the Army Service Corps in January 1917, served with the Expeditionary Force France from 5th March 1917. He died of lobar pneumonia, contracted whilst on active service, at 2nd General Hospital, Havre. His Commanding Officer wrote "At Trouville he had a very big job to do and did it very well, so much so as to receive the approval of my chief, Major General Boyce."

### Capt. Norris Snell, 8th Bn. East Yorkshire Regt.

Killed in Action 14th July 1916. Age 41.

Commemorated: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Ref: Pier & Face 2C.

Eldest son of Joseph Snell, born Hornsey, Middlesex on 28th March 1875. He married at St Marylebone Church, London on 9th April 1904, Ethel May (36 Warrington Road, Ipswich) born 4th May 1878. His widow was awarded a pension of £100 per annum and his daughter a pension of £24 per annum, both from 15th July 1916. The 1911 census shows him living with his family and two servants at 63 Anglesea Road, Ipswich. He served with the expeditionary force in France and Flanders from August 1915 and was severely wounded in the chest, neck and arm at Loos in September 1915. He was admitted to the 3rd General Hospital at Le Treport on 18th October and evacuated to East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital on 14th November and discharged to convalescence leave. He rejoined his regiment in February 1916, returned to France in March and was killed in action at Longueval on 14th July 1916. His Commanding Officer wrote "He and I were always so friendly, and he used to work so hard and cheerfully, always getting his men to do the same, that he will ever be remembered in this battalion. I am glad to say that he met his end from a bullet instantaneously at the head of his men, leading them on."

### Field Marshall Lord Horatio Herbert Kitchener, Royal Engineers

Drowned 6th June 1916. Age 65.

HMS Hampshire sunk by a mine off the coast of Ireland.

Commemorated: Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton.

Honorary Member (1912). He was born on 24th June 1850 at Aspall Hall, Debenham, Suffolk, the 2nd son of Lieut.-Col. Henry Horatio Kitchener and his wife, Frances Chevallier. He was educated in Switzerland and at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.

## "We will remember them"

To provide or receive further information on fallen brethren please contact W.Bro. Rod Gibson email: [rodg419@btinternet.com](mailto:rodg419@btinternet.com)

## The Inaugural Provincial Almoners' Conference 18th October 2015

It is notoriously difficult to get Masons together for a meeting but, after my first year as PGA, I thought it was important to hold an annual gathering for all Lodge Almoners, their WMs and Secretaries. Accordingly, our first Provincial Almoners conference took place on Sunday morning 18th October and 35 out of 66 Lodges were represented.

There are several benefits from such a conference. For example, new Almoners can receive initial training in an experienced gathering. WMs can gain a greater understanding of the tasks confronting their Almoners, and Secretaries can re-evaluate the advice they give to incoming WMs about the qualities to look for in their choice of Almoner. One WM commented after the event, "This was so useful. All WMs should be made to attend!" I applaud his enthusiasm, although compulsion is not on the agenda!

There were four areas of focus:

- The need for the Almoners role to be proactive.
- The Work of Cornwallis Court and the Help and Advice Team.
- The Work of the Alzheimer's Society and guidance to Almoners in helping those with dementia.
- The role of the Almoner in dealing with Bereavement.

The inputs from the PGA, Judy Morrow, RMBI, and Becky Nicholson, Alzheimers Society were warmly applauded and discussion identified several topics for future conferences and the round of Group Meetings. Most importantly, nearly everyone who attended said they would attend again or recommend the event to their successors.

2016 will be an opportunity for me to update Almoners at the Group meetings about the new Masonic Charities Foundation, MCF, which is replacing the 4 existing charities from April 2016, and transition arrangements. One of the outcomes of the conference was that Group 4, led by W.Bro. Ken Hanham, has already visited Cornwallis Court with their wives, and The Cornwallis Court Manager, Helen Forsyth, is keen for other groups to follow suit.

The future will see a much greater emphasis for the Lodge Almoner on Pastoral Care as the bureaucratic burden of petitions for grant-aid is removed from Lodge Almoners as part of the new strategy for the MCF. In our province, we have increased the level of financial support for our Brethren and their dependents at a time when the overall funding available is reduced. This reflects the hard work of our Lodge Almoners and I look forward to their continued success in 2016.

Terry Lewis, Provincial Grand Almoner

## Hadleigh Freemasons remember Robert Burns

On January 22nd Hadleigh Freemasons together with their ladies and personal guests attended the Brett Valley Lodge Burns Supper held at The Town Hall. This now Annual Event proved as popular as ever with 120 people in attendance all enjoying a sumptuous five course meal served with a complimentary glass of finest Malt Whiskey. 'The Address to The Haggis' was carried out by W.Bro. John Adams in his usual exuberant style, accompanied on the bagpipes by his chaperone, that well known highlander, W.Bro. Peter Pryke.

A raffle was held during the evening and £715.00 was raised through the generosity of those present and which will be added to monies already held to be distributed to local charities in due course.

Also present were Barry Dallas and James Pitcher of the Hadleigh Sea Scouts Group who came along to receive a cheque from the 2015 Masters' Fund to the value of £2,694.00 from W.Bro. Kelvin Avis and W.Bro. Keith Marsland on behalf of the lodge which will be used to help fund a boat house and facilities on a piece of riverside land which the Scouts have recently acquired.



Hadleigh Sea Scouts receive a cheque for £2,694.00 from Brett Valley Lodge

## The Anglia Group of The London Grand Rank Association

A meeting of the LGRA Anglia Group was held at Diss Masonic Hall, Norfolk on Thursday 3rd December 2015 with 43 members and guests in attendance. We received a talk by Ben Potterton entitled *The Zoo In My Back Garden*. Ben runs a small garden nursery in Dickleburgh, Norfolk attached to which he has created a Conservation Garden where he has introduced rare species of plants and animals such as monkeys, lemurs and white cranes. Visitors to the nursery, café and shop are invited to wander through the Conservation Garden where they might or might not see these animals and birds as there are no cages. This venture raises around £10,000 p.a. towards conservation projects to which Ben travels all over the World. For his illustrated talk Ben focussed mainly on his experiences in Sri Lanka.



Apparently it is obligatory by custom for visitors to have an audience with the President and to meet the cricket team, but Ben has great admiration for the indigenous population that, because of their religious beliefs, make huge efforts to conserve the natural habitats and thereby the wildlife that relies upon it. The villagers are largely self-sufficient farmers and are delighted to feed him with a wide variety of different dishes prepared from relatively few local ingredients. The staple food source is bananas and they grow 35 very tasty hybrids varying in colour from red to yellow and green that bear no resemblance to the two standard varieties we see in our supermarkets. Their biggest problem is protecting their crops from roaming elephants that can cause tremendous damage. The elephants are tuskless and thereby immune from poaching: and consequently thrive. They are revered by the people, so night watchmen are stationed in trees and high towers to scare the elephants away from the crops by running towards them beating tin cans. Occasionally guards are armed with a shotgun to aim into the air so that the noise scares the elephants away. In one unfortunate instance a young guard, confronted with a herd of stampeding elephants, shot one of them that died from his wounds some days later and the young man was trampled to death. Such is the veneration accorded to elephants that its funeral attracted thousands of mourners, whilst the young man's funeral was attended by just three of his family who subsequently had to move to another village because of the bad karma they were thought to have brought to their village. This caring approach is ensuring that saving the elephants is, by default, helping to save the environment they share with so many other creatures such as the native Mouse-Deer which is about the size of a small dog and extremely rare.

Ben enjoyed trips in the cloud forest where cloud can rest on the ground to a depth of about 5 feet, so you could see somebody's head but nothing below their neck. On one occasion he was conversing with a friend in these conditions and when the cloud dispersed was alarmed to see fresh leopard footprints running between them! Ben photographed rare species such as the Torrent Duck and Zigzag Heron and these, together with accurate information he took, have been used to update and enhance reference books on the species. Ben also observed initiatives to save river turtles, whose population was declining due to the over-enthusiastic appetite of the local people. Encouragement to local farmers to create turtle farms by payment of \$1 per turtle released back into the river has seen a dramatic improvement in their numbers and provided more food for the local people.

After enthusiastic thanks to Ben and a donation to his Conservation Charity the members moved to the Dining Room where they thoroughly enjoyed an excellent three course lunch of spicy parsnip soup, turkey with trimmings, cream trifle and coffee before departing home happily before 2.30.

*Enquiries about membership and attending meetings should be directed to Roy Elliott (Chairman) on 01473 658542*



### Dear Suffolk Masons and Brethren

As I am now reaching the end of my appeal year for old unwanted mobile phones for the East Anglian Air Ambulance, I should like to thank all those who donated phones to this worthy cause. I have been able to collect 372 to date. If any brother has any old phones, I am still collecting until 1st March 2016, at which time I shall present all the phones to the EAAA.

**My details are:- brian3833@btinternet.com T 01449 721134**  
W.Bro Brian Locksmith, Felix United Service Lodge 3833

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# The Story of The South Suffolk Lodge No. 910

On 1st of May 1854 the small Suffolk town of Clare was treated to a spectacle of Masonic Pomp and Ceremony the like of which would so sadly not be seen today. I quote as follows from the Essex and South Suffolk Free Press;

*“On Thursday the little town of Clare assumed an aspect of unwonted gaiety, the moving cause of which was a very large muster of Masonic Brethren, not only of the Province of Suffolk, but of various Lodges in the neighbouring Province of Essex, to assist in the ceremony of constituting and consecrating a new Lodge in Clare to be called the South Suffolk Lodge no. 910”.*

The weather held good and Clare put on its gayest appearance for the sight of the procession was a novelty in the town. The sensation occasioned a great turnout of the inhabitants and a numerous influx from the surrounding neighbourhood and I again quote:

*“The streets passed through were lined with spectators, and, as in the spirit of one of their favourite ditties:*

*No mortal can more the ladies adore  
Than a free and accepted mason.*

*The ladies of Clare showed their appreciation of this gallant feeling by filling every balcony and window from which they could acknowledge it with the patronage of approving smiles”*

The first item was the consecration of the Lodge by the PGM, The Right Worshipful Sir Edward Sherlock Gooch. But what of the mode and manner of the ceremonial? Some of our readers may be disposed to ask. Upon such matters silence is the essence of masonry. As the ditty already quoted says:

*The world is in pain, our secrets to gain,  
And still let them wonder and gaze on,  
Till they're brought to the light they'll ne'er know  
the right  
Nor the sign of an accepted mason.*

At three o'clock the Brethren processed to the fine old parish church, in order as follows; Police Officers, Clare Brass Band, The Tyler, Members of Visiting Lodges, Visiting Provincial Grand Officers, Cornucopias with Corn, Wine, and Oil, The Rough and Perfect Ashlars, Columns, Squares and Book of Constitutions, The Volume of the Sacred Law, Consecrating and Provincial Grand Officers, The Provincial Sword Bearer, The Provincial Grand Master and The Provincial Tyler.

The litany was impressively read by the Provincial Grand Chaplain and the usual organist (a lady) presided with creditable ability. At the close of the service a collection for the Clare infants school raised the sum of £13 11s 2d.

Between 60 and 70 then dined together in the Half Moon assembly rooms. The first toast was to the Queen and Craft and the band played the national anthem. Numerous toasts followed including Prince Albert, Our Gallant Brethren - The Army and the Navy. There were many songs and then the Deputy PGM proposed the toast; The health of the most excellent, trusty, and well beloved ruler of the Suffolk Province Sir Edward Sherlock Gooch which was drunk with Masonic and musical honours.

So a very auspicious start with the founding Master Charles Devereux Hustler in the Chair. Within a few months, in November of the same year the Lodge decamped to Clare's Bear and Crown Inn. This move followed a complaint regarding the conduct towards Lodge members of the landlady of the Half Moon, a Mrs. Best. A Mr. Smoothy, cabinet maker of Clare was asked to move the Lodge furniture accordingly.

Now to the furniture. In January 1854 a Brother Dorling of Ipswich was contracted to supply the necessary Masonic furniture for the inclusive sum of £50. The same year Bro. Dorling was appointed Provincial Secretary. More of him and the furniture later.

Only three years later, on 27th August 1857, a ballot was held that having decided to move to Sudbury in order to attract more candidates

the choice of venues was either the Town Hall or the Rose and Crown Inn. The later was chosen by six votes to three. The Rose and Crown was undoubtedly Sudbury's premier Inn. It had earlier served as the meeting place of the True and Faithful Lodge until it ceased in about 1861. Stour Valley, formed in 1868 dined there until an unfortunate fire on New Years Day 1922 destroyed the building. It was truly a grand and beautiful edifice with a glass covered courtyard and a wonderful banqueting room. Today Winch and Blatch stands in its place. Incidentally the rent paid by the South Suffolk Lodge was £3 per annum.



*The Rose and Crown, Sudbury*

Enconced in Sudbury recruitment took a turn for the better and on 15th October 1857 six candidates were initiated in two sets of three. However the management of the Lodge left much to be desired. Much of the regalia went missing whilst Brother Dorling's account remained unpaid. The accounts were never finalised, furniture was borrowed from the North Essex Lodge, which met at Braintree's White Hart Hotel, and a Brother John Bridgman of Bury St. Edmunds kept asking for his chairs back.

On 22nd February 1859 the Secretary was instructed to inform Bro. Bridgman that either Brother Sams or Fitch would attend on him to finalise the matter of the chairs. Whether monies changed hands or a longer loan was agreed we will never know. I am inclined to believe that a cash settlement was agreed for after the Lodges demise the chairs were to remain at the Rose and Crown until purchased from the landlady by three Brethren of Stour Valley in 1874 for the sum of £21.

Again in 1857 Provincial Lodge conducted an inquiry into the affairs of the Lodge although no irregularities were proven. However the Provincial Secretary Bro. Dorling was still seeking final

payment of his account. Also the Lodge Secretary, the founding Master Bro. Hustler, was refusing to give a full account of certain Lodge funds. Following an internal inquiry it was found that the Lodge had funds of £30 but liabilities of £70. Amongst the creditors was Grand Lodge which was owed £14 15s, and Brother Dorling who was still owed £27 3s 6d.

The still absent Bro. Hustler would not account for this situation which was proved to be of his doing. Accordingly certain honourable Brethren paid the outstanding debts and Province was duly petitioned to strike off the appropriately named Bro. Charles Hustler from the annals of Freemasonry.

Then from April 1860 until the 17th April 1862 relative peace reigned. At that meeting Brother Stephen Webb was elected Master and the Installation summons was issued. But no such meeting took place and no further meetings were minuted. We know that the landlady of the Rose and Crown had impounded their Lodge furniture as security against monies owing and had probably evicted them due to non payment of accounts.

So ends a rather sad story of a Lodge that was consecrated in all due glory but was to end after only eight years due to mismanagement. Its legacy was a sad one. For many years Masonry in Sudbury suffered odium and suspicion with great mistrust by the townspeople. Stour Valley Lodge 1224 was subsequently Consecrated in 1868 and after certain birth pangs in 1870 that great luminary and churchman Charles Martyn became the shepherd to guide and lead us to a bright and honourable future to rightfully take our place at the forefront of a just society.

This, the short tale of the last lodge in Suffolk to relinquish it's warrant in 1865, left one lasting legacy, the wonderful Chippendale furniture which today adorns Sudbury's iconic Masonic Temple.

**W.Bro. Peter Thorogood**  
*Provincial Orator*



*“...the short tale  
of the last lodge  
in Suffolk to  
relinquish it's  
warrant”*



## Solea Annual Christmas Party

On Sunday the 13th December 2015, Solea Lodge 9498, held their 12th Annual Christmas Party at Ashlar House in Bury St Edmunds. The Master Paul Jarman hosted 82 members, family and friends. This included 14 children and one 10 month old babe in arms. Father Christmas also attended and parking places were reserved for his sleigh and all his reindeer, Rudolf had a named space of his own.

A fine traditional meal was enjoyed which included hay for the Reindeer and mince pies and sherry for Father Christmas. Individual presents were handed out to all children attending. After the meal carols were sung with the favorite 12 days of Christmas being the last one. An extensive raffle took place which raised the sum of £300. The Master is to pass this on to E.A.C.H. along with a hamper of children's chocolates. He also wishes to thank all those who did so much to make the day successful. Overall it was a very happy occasion which all who attended seemed to enjoy.



*George Jarman receiving his present from Santa*

## Festival 2019 500 Club

We had floated the idea for a month or two and a little research showed that 500 clubs had enjoyed success with other Masonic Festivals so in November 2014 the Suffolk Festival 500 club was born. With a first draw scheduled for January 2015 number selling began in earnest and although there were some hiccups on the way we managed to sell 240 shares before the first draw and Marc Deora was our first lucky winner.



By April we had sold the magical 500 tickets and the club was worthy of its name, with Brothers, Friends and Lodges all taking a share of the winnings. The Ninth and final draw in December closed the year out with over £5,000 given away in prize money to 34 lucky winners, but more importantly we raised over £5,000 towards Festival 2019.

Membership for 2016 starts now, if you were a member in 2015 you will have already received an email with a renewal form for this year which you need to return with your remittance (£20 per number) for the year. Some members took up the standing order option and renewed their numbers automatically for which I am very grateful as this saves a lot of administrative work and you will have received a confirmation email. If you wish to set up a standing order you can do this privately with your bank and just confirm to me via email or simply fill out the details on the membership form and return to me with your remittance for this year and your membership will automatically renew until the end of the festival.

If you haven't got a number and want to take part then forms can be downloaded from the festival website under the 500 club section or drop me an email and I will send one out to you – cpw@hadleighcastings.com

Finally, can I thank you all for your participation and wish everyone good luck for the next 36 draws. Don't forget the club is open to everyone - Masons, Masonic Friends, Family and Lodges can all take part – Has Tumbling Tom got your number?

*W.Bro. Chris Warnes*

## And then there were three...



Adair Lodge started their masonic season with a rather unique occasion, the initiation of a third generation member of the Clarke Family, followed by a presentation of a 50 year Certificate to Bro Ken Hamham.

Taking the Ceremony first, Mr Ben Clarke was initiated into Freemasonry in a very well performed Ceremony conducted

by the WM David Shade, who is also a close friend of the Clarke family, and was ably assisted by WBro Neal Clarke, Ben's father and also WBro Robin Clarke his Grandfather. The Working Tools were also presented by a member of the family, Bro Simon Francis - his uncle. The ceremony was witnessed by RW Bro Bob Tile, a Past Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk, who had come to present a 50 year Certificate to Bro Ken Hanham who he knew well from Aldeburgh Parish Church where they are both Sidesmen. Ken was initiated in Longsight Lodge No 2464 in the Province of East Lancashire and joined Adair just over 20 years ago where he has been Almoner for 13 years and was appointed Group Almoner for Group 4 in 2011.

*John Studd*

## St. Luke's Lodge No 225 Annual Golf Day

The Lodge held its annual golf day earlier this year at Hintlesham Golf Club. This was the sixteenth year that the event has been held and the money raised for our Charities was £1500, bringing the total for all events to over £20,000. Seventy Six "golfers" had a great day out with the winning team coming from Cambridge.

A big thank you to all those who played and supported the day.

The weather was great, the food was good but the company outstanding! The organisers have promised to run the event until 2019 which coincides with our Festival end and will mark 20 years of splendid golf days.

Next year's date for your diary is the 1st June 2016, at Hintlesham. Details will follow in the New Year but make a note to enter your Lodge team of four.



*From left to right:- Robert, James, Karen Tinley, wife of the event organiser, Duncan and Terry.*

*Trevor Tinley, Organiser*

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## Congratulations to Ivan and Isobel

Bro Ivan Cleveland and his wife Isobel recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Ivan is organist and one of the twenty founders of Copperfield Lodge 9581 and also Chairman of the Lowestoft Organ Society. Apart from being organist for many lodges he also plays at festive boards and a range of Ladies Nights. Although Ivan didn't go through the chair he was honoured with rank of PPGO for his services to many lodges and Copperfield honoured him by having a Ladies Night in 2015 which was attended by 83 people.



Ivan's wife Isobel has given much support which has enabled him to perform his Masonic duties, despite failing eyesight and constant medication being administered, Isobel is Ivan's rock. As a surprise, on the morning of their Diamond Anniversary, Ivan loaded a CD, which he had pre-recorded on his piano and played the Anniversary Waltz, to which they both danced their way around their lounge. After recovering from this they both went to the Hotel Victoria in Lowestoft to be joined by their family for a sumptuous meal. After their very busy and tiring day they both retired to the luxury suite at the hotel which Ivan had arranged for a good night's rest.

All the Lodges with which Ivan is involved wish them both a continued joyful, healthy and happy life together.

*Des Millward*

## Our thanks to Marlene & Tracey...



Marlene and Tracey are the two cleaners that work very hard at Soane Street to keep the building very clean and serviceable for the Brethren to use. Marlene has been with us for 34 years whilst Tracey, her daughter, is a mere beginner at 14 years! The Ipswich Lodges gave a donation to wish them 'A Happy Christmas' and to thank them for the work they do behind the scenes. They are rarely seen but that does not mean they are forgotten. Both Marlene and Tracey thanked all those who contributed and sent seasons greeting to all.

*Trevor Tinley*

## NEW AND USED REGALIA



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[www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk](http://www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk)

## Suffolk Provincial Regalia Services

We are now in our second year of trading and I would like to thank those brethren for supporting this new venture. We look forward to the next year and your support, we are trying to keep our prices competitive. Don't forget that by purchasing this way you are putting money back into the province, as reported by the Provincial Grand Master at the Provincial meeting in June. You the brethren have raised over £2,200 for the Province, I would therefore ask those brethren that have used us, to talk to their colleagues and spread the word on our excellent quality and service. We are now starting 2016 so let's see if we can better last year's figures So please bear us in mind when you next need anything.

If you have any old regalia that you no longer require please consider donating it so that it can be used by brethren who prefer to use this route for whatever reason. All proceeds going to the Province

If you are not sure about anything or need advice, please contact W/Bro Rod Hellawell who will do his utmost to help you. Thank you once again for supporting the Province. Don't forget Brethren we are the official supplier of regalia for the Province and we would like to wish you and your family a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year

*Rod Hellawell, Suffolk Provincial Regalia Services*



## Our Grand Superintendent is installed as Third Principal at Chapter of Probity

The 24th Regular Installation meeting of this very distinguished Chapter was held on Thursday 26 November which saw the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, E Comp Wayne Williams, Installed into the First Principal's Chair, the



*Pictured L-R: Bob Lovesey, Graham Redman, E Comp Wayne Williams and David Boswell*

Most Excellent Grand Superintendent of Bedfordshire, E Comp Bob Lovesey was installed as H and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent of Suffolk, E Comp. David Boswell was installed as J.

Membership of this prestigious Chapter is restricted to Grand Superintendents and their Deputies only. A most interesting and informative address was given by E Comp Graham Redman, Deputy Grand Scribe E, much to the delight of all present.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to these three newly Installed Principals and other Officers, for a happy and enjoyable term in office. Congratulations are due also to E Comp Mike Coleman, Deputy Grand Superintendent of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire on being one of three newly elected members of this fine Chapter.

## Quite a night at Priory Chapter!



It was always going to be a special occasion at the Priory Chapter Installation meeting on 13th January as the incoming MEZ was the craft Prov Grand Secretary David Clarke. An already full temple was further enhanced by the admission of the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent David Boswell and almost all of his provincial executive including Dept. Mike Caddock, 2nd and 3rd Provincial Grand Principles David Lillis and Ray Pascoe together with twelve other active Provincial Officers.

In keeping with the importance of the occasion the MEGS happily accepted the sceptre of the Chapter but to everyone's surprise then proceeded to conduct the entire installation ceremony in an exemplary manner. However he still had another surprise up his sleeve for following the appointment of all the Chapter officers for the year including ExComps Steve Horne as H and Tim McCormick as J the MEGS again took the sceptre, opened a Provincial Grand Chapter and invested the new MEZ as a Provincial Officer.

The Festive Board too was a very convivial affair with a number of humorous and yet sincere speeches, all thoroughly enjoyed by the Chapter members and their 37 guests. All together it was Quite a Night at Priory Chapter!

## Companions - it may be us there one day!

In response to an appeal by the Friends of Cornwallis Court, The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent David Boswell was pleased too present a cheque to the Secretary Paul Oldfield for £540.50 at the Christmas afternoon held for the residents on Saturday 19th December. This sum represented 50p for every member of the Holy Royal Arch Province of Suffolk, and it is hoped it will go a little way towards the excellent work that the Friends of Cornwallis Court provide for the residents, remember companions it may be us there one day!



## The Jewel of the Royal Arch

The Jewel of the Royal Arch deserves a longer explanation. It is, after all, the most visible jewel in Freemasonry today and is worn in Craft Lodges. It symbolises, in a condensed form, exactly what Masonry teaches. It is extraordinarily detailed and complex. The symbolism was largely mentioned in the Lectures delivered during the Exaltation ceremony, but it will take a long time before you will fully appreciate the significance of the explanations.



The basic features of the jewel are its interlaced triangles, the circles that surround them and the fact, often overlooked, that it is double sided. There are many explanations of the triangles and here they represent the two-fold nature of man, spiritual and material, and form a six pointed star. At the centre of this star is a sun sitting within another triangle. This sun is regarded as an emblem of the deity. The triangles are within two concentric circles representing, on the inside, the Omnipresence of the Deity and, the outer, Eternity.

At the bottom of the jewel, outside the two concentric circles is another small circle. This is an additional emblem of Eternity and contains another important emblem to Royal Arch Masons, the Triple Tau - every Royal Arch Mason has the Triple Tau on each part of their Royal Arch clothing: jewel, sash and apron. At the bottom of the jewel is a scroll. The Jewel is heavily inscribed. On the front, between the two circles is 'Si talia jungere possis sit tibi scire satis' which translates from the latin as 'If you can understand that which follows, you know enough'.

There are two sets of inscriptions on the interlaced triangles on the front of the jewel. The upward pointing triangle is considered the spiritual triangle and the inscription on the base is, in english, 'We Have Found' and this is repeated in Latin and Greek on the other two sides. The other triangle has a blank space for the engraving of the Companions name and on the other sides are 'Cultor Dei' and 'Civis Mundi' indicating that the wearer is a 'Worshipper of God' and a 'Citizen of the world'. The scroll beneath the circles has the words 'Nil nisi clavus deest' meaning 'Nothing is wanting but the key'.

On the reverse of the jewel, the scroll only has the word 'Exalted' on it, leaving a gap for the date of the Companion's Exaltation and the Chapter number to be inserted. When it was common for Companions to retain the same jewel throughout their chapter lifetime, there was a desire for this engraving. Nowadays, these spaces are rarely completed.

Between the two concentric circles on the reverse, there are two groups of three words, inscribed in Latin 'Deo, Regi, Fratribus' and 'Honor, Fidelitas, Benevolentia'. These should be read together as 'To God, Honour; To the King, Fidelity; To the Brethren, Love'. The remaining inscriptions can be found on the interleaved triangles. They have upon them 'Concord, Truth, Peace' and 'Wisdom, Strength, Beauty'. As well as their Craft Masonry links, these actually refer to the Omniscience, Omnipotence and Omnipresence of TTALGMH as stated at the opening of every Royal Arch Chapter.

**Certainly this small object can be the subject of much research for those interested in exploring the meanings and history of Royal Arch Masonry.**

# A History of Freemasonry in Hadleigh...



**The Lodges of Virtue and Silence No 332 and Brett Valley Lodge No 9479 both meet at the Guildhall/Town Hall Complex in Hadleigh.**

This collection of Grade 1 medieval and later buildings forms the southern boundary of the churchyard in Hadleigh. The timber-framed building facing the church was

constructed in the mid-15th century as the Market Hall with medieval shops on the ground floor and is now occupied by Hadleigh Town Council. Behind lies the original Guildhall; its upper chamber is now known as the Old Town Hall. Built in 1451, this originally formed the meeting place of the town's medieval religious gilds. Part of this block was demolished in 1851 to make way for the New Town Hall, which faces on to the Market Place. These two buildings originally had jetties on all floors and their interiors show the craft of medieval carpenters, from the heavily beamed Guild Room to the beautiful open crown-post roofs of the Old Town Hall and third floor of the Market Hall. This complex of buildings has been put to a multitude of uses over the centuries; during the 17th century when Hadleigh had borough status, this was a civic centre.

Also housed here were the parish workhouse from 1573 until 1834; Hadleigh Grammar School for Boys that ceased in 1776; the Victorian National School for Girls and Infants; as well as almshouses and an early 20th century corset factory. This Complex is held in trust for the town by the Market Feoffment Charity, the origins of which date back to 1438.

Today this lovely building is used by Hadleigh freemasons as their meeting place, the temple situated upstairs in The Old Town Hall being one of the most unique and atmospheric in the Province of Suffolk.

In every small community such as Hadleigh there existed numerous Commercial Inns and Hotels, which were essential in providing accommodation and services to travellers and horse drawn traffic. Such premises often became general meeting places. They provided a natural interface between every level of society, being able to provide stabling for horses and equipment, accommodation and food, for both travellers and residents alike. These premises naturally became the meeting places for a vast range of clubs and societies of all kinds and this is exactly what occurred at the Shoulder of Mutton Inn, Hadleigh.



On August 30th 1810 a petition to found a Lodge of Freemasons in Hadleigh was signed, approved and recommended by the Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk, Sir William Middleton, and the new Lodge of Virtue & Silence No. 332 met at The Shoulder of Mutton from 1810 until 1825. In January 1826 the Lodge moved to the White Lion Inn, when it was proposed that the regular meetings of the lodge should be changed to the Friday on or before the full moon. This was the

meeting place for Hadleigh freemasons until early 1975 when after discussion the Hadleigh Feoffment Charity Trustees were willing to let out the Old Town Hall, the Kitchen and Committee Room for use as a Temple and dining room.

In 1986 news was received from the Hadleigh Feoffment Charity Trustees that the Town Hall had failed to meet the required safety

standards. Consequently the building was considered unsuitable for use until after remedial work had been carried out to bring it up to the required standard. Virtue & Silence was now presented with three choices, either to move to Sudbury or Stowmarket Masonic Centres or to go to Raydon Village Hall, which had recently been converted from a village school for use as a community centre. Raydon was the unanimous choice. A three year contract was thought to be sufficient to allow for the Town Hall at Hadleigh to be fitted out to a satisfactory standard. However, ongoing disputes extended that period by a further three years and Virtue and Silence did not return to Hadleigh until 1993.



*The Lodge Virtue & Silence are incredibly fortunate to have this original floorcloth dating from 1815.*

During this period several exceptional meetings took place in Hadleigh with regard to securing a permanent home for the Lodge. These discussions were mainly concerned with the old Hadleigh Telephone Exchange which was obsolete, but was still being used as a GPO stores. Regrettably the negotiations fell through and with the Lodge eventually returning to the Town Hall in 1992, the impetus to find a permanent home for the Lodge faded away.

However, in January 1992 it was proposed to sponsor a second lodge for the town. The new Brett Valley Lodge was to meet in Hadleigh and have the use of the furniture and facilities of Virtue and Silence but would purchase their own Volume of the Sacred Law, Officers Collars and other personal items. Brett Valley Lodge No. 9479 was consecrated on 15th Oct 1992.



At the time of his death in 2008 W.Bro. Ray Dunningham left a sizeable legacy to each of the Hadleigh Lodges. Much time and discussion was spent in deciding the best use of the money. Finally it was decided that the amounts should be pooled for the benefit of both lodges and used to commission three Lodge Chairs for the Master and his Wardens. The Chairs were crafted from local oak, which by reference to dendrochronology proved to be two hundred years old and must have been acorns at the time of the founding of Virtue and Silence.

Who knows what the future may hold? Perhaps one day Hadleigh freemasons will achieve a permanent home and leave this lovely building with all its memories of happy times past. Of Masons and Merchants; School Masters and Scholars; Paupers and Prisoners; for history here goes back five hundred years. Of one thing we can be assured, Freemasonry has taken a solid root in the fabric of this Town of Hadleigh and it will be of no surprise to find that in another 100 years Masons will be celebrating the anniversary of a third century of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

*Extracts of this article have been kindly supplied by Gordon Spindler of Virtue & Silence and Jan Byrne of Hadleigh Market Feoffment Charity.*

***If you like to see your meeting place and lodges featured this way in a future Forum, please contact Kelvin Avis 07771 644716.***

# Felix Lodge 125th Celebration

To celebrate 125 years since its formation the Lodge arranged for its first meeting after the summer break to be of a special nature. This meeting is traditionally a "Past Masters Evening" in which the offices are filled by those who have acted as Masters of the Lodge over past years. A decision to make this a special occasion was taken some time ago and a number of fund raising events were held to support the venture – including a most successful barbeque organised by Bro. Steve Bloomfield.



As part of the celebration it was also arranged to restore two old near-derelict masonic chairs, discovered in storage premises by Bro. Bloomfield, to match existing furniture and to present them to the Masonic Hall Trust for use in the



Temple. The Summons for the meeting was produced in a style from the early days of the Lodge and even before the opening it became clear that the evening would be different. This was obvious when several Brethren arrived wearing white silk bow ties. The special nature of the evening became even more

obvious with the arrival of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Very Worshipful Bro. David Harries, accompanied by the Provincial Director of Ceremonies and by a larger number of visitors than usual.

The Lodge was opened slightly earlier than usual with music provided by the Provincial Organist, W.Bro. Graham Colthorpe. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master was then admitted and took the Minutes of the previous meeting. The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Rob. Smith invited a number of Past Masters, all wearing the white silk bow ties, to occupy the offices representing the original officers of the Lodge of 1890 and whose photograph appears in the Robing Room

The custom of singing the National Anthem in the Temple was renewed and the Minutes of the first Regular Meeting in 1890 were read. Work for the evening was a Second Degree with Bro. Bob Rudd being passed in a ceremony by the Past Masters. Hearty Greetings were given by a number of visiting Brethren - as was a custom of earlier days and before closing, the Treasurer, W. Bro. C. Pearson, related some of the important and more

unusual events from the 125 years history of the Lodge at the end of which, W.Bro. Pearson added, "May the Felix Lodge, during its next 125 years, play its part worthily and well in carrying out the plans and designs of the Great Architect of the Universe."

After the Lodge was closed, the Brethren retired to St. John's Hall for the Festive Board where drinks on arrival and wines at the table were provided. The Brethren enjoyed a meal of chicken goujons, steak pie with seasonable vegetables, trifle or cheese and biscuits, coffee and mints.

During the meal the Worshipful Master made a point of "taking wine" with one of the guests who was a member of the 4th Hussars, who provided music at that Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in 1892! The words spoken by the Chaplain for Grace and Return of Thanks were the original words spoken in the infancy of the Lodge.

A champagne raffle raised over £400 for the 2019 Festival.

## Presentation of 60 Year Certificate

What a great opening to the Masonic Year at The Lodge of Fidelity in Framlingham for all those who attended the October meeting, but none could have been more delighted than WBro Mike Spear PJGD (Eng) who was to receive his 60 year certificate. Mike was Initiated into Fidelity in October 1955 age 26 by his father who was WM at the time. Mike not only had the honour of being



presented with his 60 year certificate by the PGM, he was able to play a part in the ceremony where he proudly saw his Grandson Josh Major Initiated into the craft. The PGM delivered a most excellent charge to Josh, and afterwards at the festive board many tributes were paid to WBro Mikes illustrious Masonic career. A gavel and engraved block was presented on behalf of the members of Fidelity by WBro Stephen Bayfield as a recognition of their gratitude to Mike for his constant dedication and loyalty to the Lodge.

The evening formalities were concluded with a response from Bob Tile who has been a close friend of Mikes for many years, this provided an amusing insight into their sailing adventures together on the rivers and oceans of the world. As Mike Spear embarks on year 61 as a Freemason and seeing the beaming smile as he left for home, it would be difficult to believe he could have had any evenings more special at Fidelity than this one.

Chris Norman

## An interview with...

### Terry Lewis Provincial Grand Almoner

Terry came to live in Suffolk in 1987 when, at 37 years of age, he was appointed as the youngest Head Teacher of a Suffolk Secondary School. He remained as Head at Mildenhall College of Technology for 23 years until retiring as "Father of The House". Bets are being taken as to whether anyone will lead a school for such a long period in the future.

Terry came from the Midlands, born and brought up in Birmingham, and therefore a long-suffering Villa fan. After University, he made his name first as a Head of History and then Deputy Head in three West Midlands schools. He achieved success as member of the Teaching History Research Group at Cambridge, was the published author of several research papers at the Georg Eckert Institut, Braunschweig, and gained an MA for a dissertation on national Identity in British & German School History textbooks. He has published several school textbooks.

Terry was initiated into the Craft in Mildenhall Lodge in 1989 and has since joined nearly all the other orders of Freemasonry. He loves to be involved in ritual and also has had a major role in bringing to

fruition the new St Edmund Masonic Centre in Bury St Edmunds, where he is a director and the Events Co-ordinator. After the death of his first wife, Penny, in 2001, Terry met his second wife Harriet at a Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge Dinner Dance in 2004. They married in 2007 and Harriet is a great supporter of Terry's Masonic Activities and work as PGA.

Besides Masonic Commitments, Terry is member of the Mildenhall Rotary Club and the Horners Livery Company, an ardent skier, grateful for recent snowfall, and enjoys family life and especially being a grandfather to seven grandchildren. Terry has found great support from Brethren during the long illness of his first wife and the years after and, of course, Masonry brought about his meeting with Harriet. He says, "I couldn't have a better opportunity to show my gratitude to the Masonic Family than to be able to work and serve as Provincial Almoner. I will never be able to do enough to repay our wonderful organisation".



## £25,000 donation to 'Youth at Risk'

The donation of £25,000 from The Grand Charity is the first of three annual cheques to be presented to Youth at Risk and was made on the 4th of January at the Head office of the charity in Royston by our PGM, Ian Yeldham accompanied by the Prov Grand Charity Steward Peter Gosling. The Grand Lodge cheque was presented to Mr Any Gaines who is the Bid Development Officer for Youth at Risk, a charity which provides the Transition to Independence programme for children leaving care in Suffolk. The programme will work with 75 young people providing intensive programmes of personal development and coaching in partnership with Suffolk County Council and Greater Ipswich City Deal. The Grand Charity will be giving the Youth at Risk a total donation of £85,000 over three years.



*Peter Gosling*

*An interview with...*

### Peter Gosling

Provincial Grand Charity Steward



I was born at Waltham Holy Cross Essex on the 22nd of April 1943 and then my family moved back to our home in Plaistow in London's East End. In 1948 I attended Upton Cross Primary School until 1954 and then onto Edmund Burke Secondary School, leaving in 1958 to commence work in the accounts office of the International Tea Stores Head Office in Central London. In 1962 I commenced my apprenticeship with G. N. Haden in Tavistock Square as a Plumbing and Heating Engineer qualifying in 1966. In 1970 I decided to pursue a career in Sales & Marketing with the Bowater Paper Corporation until 1976 when I was appointed Sales Director for one of the UK's largest industrial fan manufacturers. In 1983 my family and I moved to Thurston, Bury St Edmunds where I managed to purchase a plot of land where we built our own home. It was during this time that I became aware of an organisation called Freemasonry and following the inevitable questions I was initiated into Abbey Lodge No 1592 in Bury St Edmunds in October 1986 and raised one year later.

In 2002 whilst on business at the NEC Exhibition Centre I had the pleasure of meeting Dr Katsuyuki Kumano, President of Japan System Planning and following on from this meeting I was appointed MD of JSP UK in January 2004. It was during this time that I had the pleasure to introduce Dr Kumano to Freemasonry whilst he was here in the UK and following on from this introduction Dr Kumano was Initiated into the Grand Masters Lodge of Japan Lodge No11 and my wife Susan and I had the pleasure to visit Japan where I was privileged to see Dr Kumano raised to the 3rd Degree in the Grand Temple in Tokyo. Worshipful Brother Kumano has attended the Suffolk Provincial Meeting in June for the past few years and is well known to many of the Suffolk Brethren.

In February 1997 I became the WM of Abbey Lodge and in 2000 I was appointed the Lodge Charity Steward a position I held for twelve years. In 2004 I received my first active promotion as Provincial Junior Deacon, in 2009 I was appointed Provincial Senior Warden and in 2010 I was appointed Provincial Charity Steward.

I am currently a member of Gainsborough Lodge, Phillip Jervis Kay Lodge and Suffolk Installed Masters Lodge. In other orders, I am currently Provincial Grand Chaplin and PGBB and DC St Edmunds Conclave Order of Secret Monitor. DC of St Edmunds Rose Croix and 30th Degree. White Rose Chapter No 1008 Provincial Sojourner in 2014. Tancred Preceptory No 102 P.P.A.de C 1998. Mark Master Mason and Royal Ark Mariner, Past Master and a Member of Royal Order of Scotland.

I also have the privilege of being Chairman of the Association of Friends of Cornwallis Court, our very own RMBI Residential Home in Bury St Edmunds.

My Wife Susan and I have three sons and one daughter all happily married and between them we have ten wonderful grandsons and one beautiful grand daughter.

## Consecration of Royal Clarence Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 1967



Welcome to the newest lodge in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, and the 34th Mark Lodge in the Province of East Anglia. We had an early 10 am start, for a pre-rehearsal, rehearsal. It was important for me and my DCs to walk through the ceremony and decide on the nitty gritty. All too soon it was 1pm and we were to have a full rehearsal of the consecrating team. It went off almost like a dream, although there were bits of a nightmare sneaking in. I even got castigated for not saluting in the prescribed manner. That caused a few chuckles. Outside the door of the lodge Brethren were gathering for the founders' rehearsal, being sustained with a variety of foods for lunch prepared and cooked by Bro Barry and Bro Neill Williams the self-appointed catering officers.

All too soon we had opened, constituted, consecrated and dedicated the lodge to the service of the Great Overseer and it was time for me to relax and invite the Deputy PGM, V.W. Bro Ray Clarke to occupy the chair and install the Primus Master, W. Bro Barry Williams. He skilfully installed his officers and the addresses were given. It was a delight to us all that the PGM for Essex, R.W. Bro Terry Sheern delivered the concluding address, that to the Brethren.

I had a further surprise which was to promote W. Bro Harvey Lean to the office of Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer. That being done to warm applause, we retired under the direction of W. Bro Tim Ridley, the Provincial GDC and made our way to the Town Hall for pre-dinner drinks and a delightful meal. To the surprise of us all the Bros Lean had commissioned a 'Mark' token be struck to commemorate the event and all present received their own personal memory of the evening. The noise of 80+ brethren sitting down to enjoy the meal was one of a constant hubbub, full of happiness and gales of laughter. What a magical and special evening. Thank you all.

*David Cuthbert, Mark Provincial Grand Secretary*

## Ala Lodge - supporting youth activities in Stowmarket

Stephen Page of the Stowmarket Ala Lodge 5043 recently presented charity cheques of £400 each to both the 1st/3rd Stowmarket Scout Group and to the 1st Mid Suffolk Boys Brigade. Stephen said that many of the lodge members had been past members of either the Stowmarket Scouts or Boys Brigade in their youth. The lodge was very pleased to see that Stowmarket still has active Scout Groups and a Boys Brigade that offers such positive activities for the youth of the town and are pleased to support their work.

Martyn Bonner of the Scouts thanked Ala lodge for their support and said the £400 will help towards providing equipment for the youngsters. Martin Gray of the Boys Brigade said the donation will be used to purchase indoor Curling equipment.

*Richard T. Page*



## A Fifty Year Certificate presented to John



W. Bro Trevor White, Prov. Representative, presented Bro John Baker, known by everyone as Jumbo, with his Fifty Year Certificate, including a very entertaining and interesting summary of John the man, the father and the Mason. John was Initiated into his father's lodge, Thames Side By Tower Lodge Number 5423 on the 26th October 1965, The Lodges unofficial name being "The Dockers & Coppers Lodge"

On moving to Suffolk, Bro. John joined Colneis Lodge on the 17th March 1971. At our January meetings, John wears his father's apron, that being the month he went to the Grand Lodge

above. John is very proud of his unusual second name, which is based on Radley College, where a few distinguished old boys being the cricketers Ted Dexter and Andrew Strauss, Brough Scott the racing journalist and Peter Cook the comedian.

After receiving his Certificate, John recalled the days of dining at the Cavendish Hotel, with the highlight of the season being steak and kidney pudding, the Stewards served the table, including buying, then hopefully getting paid, for the drinks. John recalled the happy hours spent in his office with W. Bro. John Masters, where they would work on the "Blue Book". When John attends St Johns Hall, it brings back fond memories of donating blood. Where laying on the bed and looking up at the ceiling and counting the tennis balls and shuttlecocks caught in the rafters.

*Allen Snow, Secretary, Colneis Lodge*

## Mark meets the Craft

During 2015 the Province launched an initiative to enable Craft Masons to become more aware of the Mark Degree and at the same time to promote the Degree to a wider audience. The initial two meetings were a great success and will continue during 2016. The format adopted is for invited Craft Masons to attend on the occasion of a regular Mark meeting, where a reduced Agenda to carry out the business of the Lodge takes place and closed. The guests are then invited to enter to a presentation by the Provincial Executive and other members present. This is followed by a 'question & answer' session. All guests are invited to a festive board where open discussion is encouraged and a general fraternal atmosphere is experienced.

A forthcoming 'Mark Meets the Craft' evening is to take place at Thomas Beevor Lodge, Great Yarmouth Masonic Hall, on Monday 14th March 2016, followed by an informal buffet at an approx cost of £10 per person.

*For more info, contact the Mark Provincial Grand Secretary: [pgsec@eastangliamark.org.uk](mailto:pgsec@eastangliamark.org.uk)*



## 'Ooh La La!' and other musical tales...with Graham Colthorpe

I was born in the Castle Hill area of Ipswich, have always been musical and started formal piano lessons from the age of 6. In 1964 aged 8, I joined the Bucklesham Church Choir and the vicars wife, who was organist introduced me to playing the organ and gave me a harmonium for my bedroom. I became organist for the joint parish of Brightwell aged just 9.

At 15, a girl in my class at Kesgrave Secondary Modern asked me to join her brothers band, 'Grapevine' and we started playing in pubs, clubs and holiday camps. I left School and passed into Colchester Tech College on a Music Degree course.

By now I had joined another band 'Ooh La La'. We travelled further afield and were performing up to six nights a week. I had a hard decision to make, my degree or the band as I couldn't do both. I took the band route and left college. We took a weeks work in Newcastle in 1975 and ended up moving there, in fact I only had only three nights off in a year!

Around this time we passed an audition for 'New Faces' the TV Talent Program, but we were taken over by new management and told we couldn't go on it.

The new management re-named us 'Sky' and only a few months later they suddenly sold their company and flew out of the country after dropping off a cheque to us for £500 each. The band split up and returned to Ipswich where myself and the drummer took one gig in the Ipswich night club 'Lafayette's' - which was in the middle of a roundabout in Greyfriars and actually



knocked down only last year! We were resident band there six nights a week. This was June 1976 and 'Pea Green' were born. The next six years were spent as resident band at Berwick upon Tweed



Holiday Centre where David Boswell came to visit, hurt his ankle playing football with us and had to go to the hospital where he met his future wife Jenny!

Unlike today, no one could ever walk on stage or appear without musicians behind them, and Pea Green have had the pleasure of appearing, touring or backing many stars over the years, Joe Pasquale, Shane Richie, Lee Evans, Bobby Davro, Jim Davidson, The Marmalade, Bachelors, Searchers, Fortunes, Mud, Sweet, Marti Wild, George McCrae, also the late Bob Monkhouse, Bernard Manning, Mike Reid, Charlie Williams, and many more. We were also proud to tour various military bases throughout Europe, visited Ascension Island and the Falklands in 1987, and locally, clubs, functions and the like.

I Formed Anglia Artistes (UK) Ltd in the 90's and my days are now spent booking acts for all the leading holiday companies in the UK, whilst still performing most weekends. I am Co-owner of 'The Highcliffe Nursing Home' in Felixstowe where both of my daughters are employed, my son is in The Household Cavalry, my other half/partner who everyone knows is Rhoda, who works with me at Anglia Artistes.

Masonry is a big part of my life, I was introduced into my mother lodge, Corinthian 3093, by David Boswell, becoming Master in 2001. I am also a member of Felix United Service 3833, a founder of Countryside 9830, an Honorary Member of Southwold Lodge 9894 and was made a Provincial Steward in 2003.

I have been honoured to be the Prov Organist since 2004 and of course run the Provincial Choir, which incidentally is currently looking for new members, particularly if you are a Tenor, just email me on [provincialthug@btinternet.com](mailto:provincialthug@btinternet.com).



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