The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Summer 2015

Suffolk Provincial Grand Lodge 2015



The Suffolk Freemasons Newsletter

Welcome to this edition of Forum, we hope you will approve of the 'new look' and more importantly that you enjoy reading it.

Thank you to Harvey and his team for all their excellent work in producing Forum in the past, we will of course endeavour to build on their success.



Please remember that this is your magazine and we are very pleased to receive reports from your

lodge, chapter or other degree, particularly if they are accompanied by a photo or two, on what you have been up to, what you are organising, how your festival fundraising is going, your thoughts, letters and indeed anything you feel might be of interest to the Province in general.

We urge you to support all the advertisers within the magazine because without them Forum would simply not exist. If you would like to advertise your business or service with us and reach 3000 Freemasons across Suffolk just contact us by post, phone or email, our contact details are below, or why not say hello in person.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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Jottings from The Provincial Grand Secretary

Welcome to the Summer edition of Forum.

The Province has been through a very busy period in the months leading up to the Summer Break.

The Annual Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting was held at Trinity Park on Friday 05 June 2015, adopting again the morning Meeting and Lunch format which was well received by our distinguished guests and members of the Province with an excellent atmosphere for both the Meeting and at the Luncheon. After a dull and wet start to the day the weather improved by lunchtime enabling brethren to enjoy pre-lunch drinks on the Terrace. On behalf of the Province I would like to thank WBro David Deal the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro Mike Harris, Secretary of Provincial Grand Stewards and his team of Stewards for all of their hard work before and on the day of the meeting, ensuring a most successful day. The Province has received many letters and e-mails commenting on the excellent organization and success of the meeting from our Provincial guests, many of whom travel a great distance to be with us.

WBro David Deal has retired after 4 years as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies; I would like to extend my personal thanks to David whom it has been a pleasure to work with in our respective Provincial duties. David's hard work and attention to detail have been much appreciated taking a lot of the pressure off my shoulders at Provincial functions. I am sure you will join me in wishing his successor WBro David Barker well in his new role.

WBros Peter Kemp, John Lambert and Dr. John Elmore retired as Group Representatives at the end of April 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 Bill Bowman (Group 1), WBro Bob Lee (Group 2) and WBro Brian Simpson (Group 6).

The Provincial Grand Master's Reception for Initiates was held at Ashlar House on Sunday 14th June 2015. The BBQ event was well attended giving an opportunity for 2014 Initiates to meet each other and the Provincial Executive. Thanks to Provincial Grand Stewards for organising the event and in particular WBro Tim McCormick for his part in dealing with the booking in and administration.

The Suffolk Masonic Charity Clay Shoot was held at High Lodge Shooting School on 20th June 2015 with a record entry. Started in 2008 and organised by WBros Roger Nash and Paul Ruffles it proved yet again a very popular and successful event.

I am advised by WBro Robert Clubb the Provincial Liaison Officer for The Masonic Fishing Charity that the first event for the Suffolk Branch is to be held on 10 September at Hintlesham Fishing Lakes.

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

I wish you all a very enjoyable Summer break.

David Clarke, July 2015

Gordon celebrates 50 Years in freemasonry

Lodge Prince of Wales No 959 was able to celebrate with Bro Gordon Richardson his 50 years in Freemasonry when he was presented with his 50 year Certificate by Dr John Elmore, our Provincial Representative and our Worshipful Master Adrian Glasgow. Several other brethren also attended at his home as Gordon is no longer able



to attend the Lodge due to poor health, but continues to take a great interest in all masonic matters.

Phoenix gives to charity



Master of Phoenix, Rupert Koci-Edwards, giving out the cheques to Stowmarket Scouts and Guides

Phoenix Lodge has recently been given a legacy from a brother who died in the 1950's. This was a substantial sum and the lodge has been given free rein over who it donates it too - with the only proviso that it must be to a bona fide charity, so the members have been busy deciding who should receive this years tranche. £5000 went to St Elizabeth Hospice and another £5000 to Suffolk Rescue Service. These were the two biggest donations but others included CAB, Scouts, Guides, the Mix Youth Centre, Elmswell Library of Friends, Street Forge Workshop for Vulnerable Adults and Went First Responders. A total of £21,000 was given out.

Band of Brothers at Babergh Lodge

During a journey to a Lodge meeting in Great Queen Street, two fellow brothers, when deep in chat, suddenly discovered they had both lived in the same road in Woodford many many years ago. On further discussion it was further found that a third member of the old 'street gang' was also a brother mason. Following more telephone conversations it turned out the last time all three could remember being in each others company had been at an eighth birthday party!

After this party one of them had moved down to Sussex never to be seen again. As a consequence arrangements were quickly made for all three to meet up for a reunion. What better place for three, now rather older brethren,



L-R: W Bro. Stuart Andrews, W Bro. David Derby W Bro. David Hicks

to reunite but at a Lodge meeting. Thus it was that Stuart Andrews, the one who moved south, invited David Hicks and David Derby, after 64 years, to join him at the Babergh Installation evening. The decision on 'Toast to the Visitors' and the response was an easy choice for such a night.

> Saint Margaret's Lodge No 1452 We are holding our annual

Masonic Church Service

at St Margaret's Church, Lowestoft We need your support for this very special occasion On November 29th 2015 at 3.00 pm We have a gathering afterwards in the adjacent Church Hall A very generous layout of sandwiches, sausage rolls, mince pies, savoury things and cakes to die for! Tea, coffee and soft drinks all available All FREE - THIS A FAMILY OCCASION

A few words from our Provincial Grand Master

Yet another successful year for our unique Province. Bucking the national trend we have shown a small gain in membership and still the majority of our lodges thrive. Historically not one warrant has been handed in since 1865, an enviable record! However there is no room for complacency. We have recently consecrated a new day time lodge in Southwold and hopefully in the next year a further lodge in the south of our Province. As to our existing lodges, it is only by meeting the challenge that all fraternal societies face that we can continue to thrive. We must adapt and if necessary modify. Please note, modify not modernise. One of the great assets of our brotherhood is our traditions and standards and when talking to new candidates it is apparent that often the attractions that the Craft still has to offer, as well as comradeship and charity, is the fact that we still hold true to those values which are today being eroded from our society.

Brethren, we have a strong Provincial team, from the secretariat, area representatives, Mentor, Almoner and Orator. It is their duty to assist wherever possible, whether presenting papers, communicating any structural changes by Grand Lodge, or most importantly, by aiding recruitment particularly with increasingly popular blue table meetings. To lodge secretaries I advise, use them, it is what they are for! We have challenging times ahead but I have no doubt that with your efforts the Province of Suffolk will remain the jewel in the Masonic Crown. Just enjoy and embrace your masonry.

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Phoenix ran a very successful concert in aid of Festival 2019 raising £677 as a result. I can only say what a wonderful array of musical talent we have in Suffolk, we should make more use of it!

...An interview with Keith Huxley

Provincial Mentor

I well remember being proposed into Freemasonry by my late father and joining St. Andrew's Lodge No. 1631 in March 1989.

I was involved in music and in particular

singing from about the age of 12 in the local church choir. I sang in many groups and latterly with a dance band who had a 10 year residency at the Ocean Room Ballroom, Gorleston. When hanging up my microphone I had time on my hands and my Dad suggested I join Freemasonry. Following my initiation, like many young men, I distinctly remember wondering what on earth I had let myself in for - a question I would regularly ask myself in the years that followed. In fact, I can truthfully say that if I had not felt that I would be letting my father down, it would have been quite likely that, in those early years, I would have taken the view that Freemasonry was not for me.

How pleased I am now that it was a decision I did not take. I became Master of my Lodge in 2001, my only regret being that my father, who had continually encouraged and cajoled me over the years, passed away just four months before my installation. Two years later, our Past Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Bob Tile appointed me Provincial Group 1 Representative - a position I held for seven years.

My appointment in 2010 as the first Provincial Grand Mentor of our Province coincided with my choice to take early retirement. Having worked in the legal profession for all of my working life and for the last 25 years before retirement having opened and managed a Branch Office, I have found that Mentoring in the work place and Masonic Mentoring have many parallels. It is a Provincial office I have thoroughly enjoyed and have been honoured to undertake.

Despite being exclusively a Suffolk Freemason, my leaning is to the County of my birth when it comes to footballing matters. Both myself and my Wife Pat are Norwich City season ticket holders and enjoy our regular visits to Carrow Road and the odd successful trip to Wembley! I am also a keen golfer and a member of Gorleston Golf Club and the Suffolk Masonic Golf Society.

The last 12 months have certainly been memorable for me; two new grandsons, the honour of being Captain of Suffolk Masonic Golf Society, promotion back to the Premiership for the Canaries and of course the enjoyment of being part of our wonderful Province.

St. Margaret's help Daisy just in time...

Daisy Newman, 6 year old daughter of Jo and Wayne Newman of Carlton Colville was born with Severe Cerebral Palsy, being unable to swallow necessitates a mechanical pump to remove all fluids from her mouth. This hopefully will prevent



infection in her lungs; this is an exercise which could be needed up to 20 times an hour. St Margaret's Lodge 1452 of Lowestoft got to hear about this sad case and learnt that there are very few Suction Machines available in Suffolk so it was decided to purchase this appliance and present it to the family for Daisy's use, which proved to be fortuitous as theirs broke down over the Christmas period.

Suffolk Masonic Bowls Association



Suffolk verses Cambridge Masonic Bowls Match

Last June saw a challenge bowls match between Suffolk Masonic Bowls Association and their counterparts in the Province of Cambridgeshire. Thirty freemasons and invited guest bowlers faced each other across the immaculate bowls green of Mildenhall Social Club, watched by a retinue of supporters who observed from the safety of the club bar. Braving gales, rain and brilliant sunshine, typical English weather, the battle commenced in the early afternoon and continued until each rink of players had completed eighteen ends. Much camaraderie, story telling and good humour was indulged in, interspersed with the game of bowls and at the end Suffolk were declared the winner, three rinks to two. Stephen Bayfield, Nick Berry and guest player Anne Twigg (our secret weapon) achieved the best score winning by eleven shots.

The day was concluded when everyone withdrew to the club function room to enjoy a splendid meal prepared by some of Mildenhall Lodge ladies. There was unanimous agreement at the dinner that the whole day had been a most enjoyable and successful event and the challenge should be repeated again next year.



President's Cup day

Following on from our very successful game recently against Cambridgeshire Masonic Bowls Association, which incidentally gave Suffolk a three rink to two victory over Cambridgeshire, we held our President's Cup

game at Ipswich Bowls Club on what turned out to be the warmest day of the year. Eighteen members and guests battled against each other on an excellent green, enjoying the demands of the game and the companionship of all those present. Bernie Millard, himself a past president of the English Bowls Association, presented the trophy on behalf of our president David Boswell, to the winning team; Trevor Lord, Roy Clark and Rod Burrows. The runners up were Anne Berry, Stephen Bayfield and Bernie Millard.



The Eighth Annual Suffolk Masonic Charity Clay Shoot

Once again the highly successful Suffolk Masonic Charity Clay Shoot attracted shooters and spectators from several parts of East Anglia when 104 shooters and their spectator friends arrived at High Lodge Shooting School for the Eighth Annual Shoot. The event has grown considerably since Roger and Ruffy organised the first event in 2008 and now the shooters are split into two groups of experienced shots and a novices section where instruction is provided by highly qualified coaches.



Charlotte Brereton Ladies High Gun, 30 out of 50

attending and these were very much appreciated as they make a valuable contribution to the fund raising. Registration was completed by 10 am when Roger started the welcome and briefing chat.

Shooters in their two groups shot the clay competition stands and, for the first time this year, the duck flush on rotation. This proved to be an excellent new idea and one which considerably reduced delays so that the whole day went along much more smoothly. During the



The APGM receives some coaching!

Saturday 25th June 2016.

69 out of 100.

STOP PRESS: Charlotte, daughter of Bro Shane Brereton, who won

our Suffolk ladies shoot with a score of 30 out of 50 went on to win the Ladies High Gun at the National Masonic Clay Shoot with a score of

excellent barbecue lunch, raffle tickets were sold which raised a further \$500.00 for the charities and after lunch groups shot their remaining stands and then returned for tea and cake during which time winners were announced and the raffle was drawn. Roger was able to announce that the proceeds raised exceeded \$1750.00.

Good feedback has been received.....comments like "Excellent day again; Great that you raised a notable figure for charity; I thought things went really well; Thank you Roger, had a great day."

Now R&R Promotions are working on plans for further new ideas to increase enjoyment for all and we look forward to seeing our worthy and wonderful supporters again on





If you would like to see more photographs taken by David Tombs at the shoot meeting see www.davidtombsphotography.co.uk



Herbie Grout the winner and youngest experienced shot, scored 44 out of 50.

The day started just after 8 am when a brand new administration team headed up by previous winner Bro. Bob Rudd and his lovely wife Sharon set up the reception desk. The majority of the participants had been booked in by Ruffy over the previous four months but several late entries were welcomed on the day and were dealt with effectively and efficiently by the team. Many prizes were brought along by those appreciated as they make a valuable

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Ralph Robertson

Senior Warden

I was born in Ipswich. Schooling included Copleston Boys where I found an early interest in Brass & Military Band Music. As well as the Copleston School Band, I played with the Woodbridge Excelsior Band and the Suffolk Military Band. In pursuit of this interest, I joined the Regular Army as a Bandsman at the age of 16. I remained with the Royal Anglian Regiment from 1973 until 1986. After initial training at Bassingbourn Barracks, I served in West Germany as part of the British Army of the Rhine.

Following a return to the UK and short Op Banner Tours of Northern Ireland I was posted to Berlin for two years. Rudolph Hess was still a prisoner in



Meet your Wardens!

Spandau at that time and the Wall was certainly intact.

The Regiment then had a two year posting to Londonderry in 1981 where I met my wife, Alice. We married in 1983. Following a tour with the United Nations Force to Cyprus and visits to the United States, we arrived back in Colchester. I completed my service with the Army as a Senior NCO and joined the Suffolk Constabulary in 1986, finally retiring from their employ in 2013.

A good friend and colleague, Geoff Spencer, introduced me to freemasonry. I was initiated into Doric Lodge in 1991 and became Worshipful Master in 2001. In 2003 I was appointed a Provincial Grand Steward and was Secretary of the Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge for five years. I received promotion to Provincial Senior Grand Deacon in 2007 & Past Provincial Grand Registrar in 2014. In 2008 I was MEZ of Royal York Chapter No 81, appointed a Provincial ADC in 2010 and I am currently the Provincial Grand Chapter Charity Steward.

In other Orders I am a Provincial Officer in the Mark Degree, a Past Sovereign & 30° in Rose Croix, a very new member of the Knights Templar and the current Provincial Junior Grand Warden in the Royal Order of Scotland.

Kelvin J Larcombe

Junior Warden

I was born on June 22nd 1949 at Cullompton, Devon. My childhood was pretty

uneventful until in 1957 I contracted Polio. I ended up in an isolation hospital and missed nearly 2 years of schooling. Fortunately the illness left me with no lasting problems, but in order to try and get back my lost education, my parents decided to send me to a private school. Some would say to little or no effect!! My working career began in Local Government with Exeter Borough Council in the Surveyor's Department.

As my career progressed, it became evident if I wanted to 'climb the ladder', I needed to take a BSc Degree in Civil Engineering, to enable me to become a Chartered Civil Engineer.

This I did, and the latter was achieved in 1976. I ended up spending 22 years in the Public Sector culminating in me being appointed as Assistant County Surveyor with Suffolk County Council in 1986. I then decided to leave Local Government and start my own Civil Engineering Company specialising in Highway Maintenance.

I was Initiated into Round Table Lodge in 1997, and became Master in 2006. I became involved in other Craft Lodges as a member, Lodge of Perfect Friendship (Master in 2009), Lodge Faith and Suffolk Installed Masters. I joined Royal Sussex Chapter of Perfect Friendship (MEZ 2010 & 2011) followed by Chapter Faith. I am also a founder member of the Order of Athelstan. More recently I became a member of The Order of the Secret Monitor.

From a family point of view, my Partner, Trish and I, have two sons and a son and daughter respectively – and between them five grandchildren. Finally, I love my Freemasonry, and always try and do it with a smile on my face - by being happy and communicating happiness - hopefully my appointment as Provincial Junior Grand Warden, will enable me to spread that philosophy just a little bit further.

The Initiate and The Festive Board

There is no doubt that we all celebrate the initiation of a new Freemason by ensuring that he is given the warmest of welcomes from the time he arrives at the Masonic building, feeling rather apprehensive and a little nervous, to the time he returns home.



He will no doubt have heard on several occasions those familiar words "don't worry, we've all been through this" but, nevertheless, after the ceremonial part of the evening has been completed, he will welcome the company of his Mentor, who is usually his Proposer, and other members of the Lodge with whom he will no doubt share a glass of his favourite refreshment.

So to the final part of the evening, the Festive Board where, traditionally, he will sit at the top table with the Worshipful Master on his left and perhaps a Grand Officer or visiting Master on his right. Understandably, the Worshipful Master will at times be in conversation with his Immediate Past Master regarding the ceremony, the timing of toasts and wine taking and the Grand Officer or visiting Master will become engaged in general conversation with the Brother who is sitting on his right who will probably be well known to him. The result, however, is that unwittingly the Initiate, who is already out of his comfort zone, can be made to feel isolated for long periods.

That feeling of isolation is of course wholly unacceptable and I am delighted to see that more and more of our Lodges are now adopting the practice of ensuring that the Initiate's Mentor/Proposer is sitting next to him at the top table.

This practice has two main benefits. Firstly, the Initiate will be sitting next to the person who introduced him to Freemasonry in the first place, who will be well known to him and who will find it easy to converse with and advise him throughout the remainder of the evening and, secondly, the Mentor/Proposer will have the opportunity of sitting at the top table – something he has probably not experienced for many years and possibly since his own initiation.

Craft Annual Investiture



On the 29th of April the Craft Annual Investiture was held at Great Queen Street and our congratulations must go to John Studd on his first appointment to P.A.G.D.C. and to both John Jarmin and Traver Scarff on their promotions to P.J.G.D. and to Barry Ross who was invested as acting Grand Steward.



I'm sure all those who attended will agree we were witness to an immaculate ceremony in the Grand Temple under the direction of MW Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes which was followed immediately afterwards by a champagne reception and a very enjoyable meal.

Spotted in Woolfe's Bar & Grill before the Investiture was John Studd who appeared to be thoroughly enjoying the atmosphere of the day.

Abiff Garden Party a great success

On Sunday 21st June 2015 a garden party was hosted by Worshipful Master of Abiff Lodge, Billy Hall and his wife Pam at their farm in Rings Field, near Beccles.

A good turnout of guests and brethren accompanied by their wives attended this function and a number of traditional games such as bowling skittles borseshoes ar

bowling, skittles, horseshoes and the air rifle shooting were very well supported.

A well stocked bar as well as a superb array of dishes and some fantastic sweets had been prepared by members of the lodge, enough even for those who had room for seconds!





A variety of raffle prizes had been donated and the grand total of over £800 was raised for charity.

The Worshipful Master and Mrs Pam Hall received thank you gifts for the use of their premises. The picture shows Brother Alan Spindler, Charity Steward and Worshipful Brother Gerry Wright, Mentor for Abiff Lodge.

Edward Back raises money for Lupus UK by running the London Marathon

Edward Back a member of St Margaret's Lodge managed to complete the London Marathon on 26th April 2015, in a time of 6:24:07, which included loo stops and a leg massage by St John's Ambulance. He has to date raised just over £5,500.00 including Gift Aid with donations still being made, in memory of his wife Susie who was diagnosed with Lupus in 2007 and sadly died in December 2013. Ed said "Just to let you know that I managed to complete the London Marathon, I feel happy with that! A massive "Thank You" to Colin White and



everyone who has supported me so generously in my attempt to raise funds for Lupus UK. I've been completely overwhelmed by such kindness and the fact that through you so much money has been raised for such a good cause has made the pain of the last ten miles worth it. Extremely generous donations from Doric Lodge and the Lodge of Prudence as well as many individual brothers, some of whom I have never met, are all down to your kindness in promoting my run. My JustGiving page will remain open for a bit longer yet, so if anyone still wishes to donate they can do. Once again thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your help and support."

Can you help?

I am trying to collect old, broken and unwanted mobile phones (chargers not required), for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. If any brother has a mobile phone and wishes it to go to a good cause, please get in touch with me and I can arrange collection. If any of our brethren work with other people, please ask work colleagues.

My details are:- brian3833@btinternet.com T 01449 721134

W.Bro Brian Locksmith JP PPSGD Charity Steward, Felix United Service Lodge 3833

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Getting dirty in the name of charity!



Bro. Antony Doveton of Court Knoll Lodge 9194, Boxford completed the Tough Mudder challenge on the 30th May 2015 in Kettering as part of Festival 2019 in aid of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Tough Mudder is an eleven mile assault course which has obstacles including climbing muddy pyramids, vertical walls, iced water pools, mud slide with flames and finally running through a maze of live electric cable giving you real shocks as you go through them. The "Electric Shock Therapy" was one of Antony's personal favourites, he said "It was a gruelling course, much harder than I had anticipated and when I had to crawl through the electric wires, I thought – what am I doing - but all in aid of a good cause!" Antony raised over £300 which has been donated to Court Knoll as part of the lodge's RMBI Festival 2019 contributions. Robert Clubb, Director of Ceremonies at Court Knoll added "The

Electric Shock Therapy obstacle could make a valued addition to the lodge of instruction. I will be putting this to the officers for vote at the next meeting."



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Suffolk Province Cycling Challenge Priory continue to pedal...

As many of you are probably now aware WBro Andy Gentle of Priory Lodge 4618 has set himself the arduous task of cycling to each and every Lodge to attend a meeting within the Province of Suffolk during the festival period.



Why? Well to raise money for the 2019 Festival for the RMBI of course!

To complete the challenge will involve cycling over 2000 miles to visit all of the 67 Lodges. He is accompanied and supported by two friends and Brothers from Priory, Gareth Evans and Nick Moulton who have decided to cycle and visit with him. At the outset of the challenge none of them were experienced cyclists and indeed the first long trip to Lowestoft on mountain bikes quickly saw the purchase of three racing bikes!

To date the trio have visited 20 of the Lodges, not quite a third of the way through. However they have raised just over $\pounds4000$ which is well over half of the target that they set themselves.

Andy commented "I would just like to say a big thank you to all of those brethren who have taken the time and effort to provide logistical support and transport to get us, our bikes and gear back from each meeting when we visit. Without this help the challenge would be even more of a challenge!



Thanks also to all of the Lodges that we have visited so far, for your warm welcome and camaraderie, for the meals and generous donations towards the 2019 festival."

"Visiting various Lodges in the Province in the execution of this challenge has proved extremely pleasurable. Should any brothers

Andy, Gareth and Nick pictured at Philip Jervis Kay Lodge on 12th June

from other Lodges wish to take part then please do get in contact and we will be happy to have your company. If you live on route to Ipswich, Felixstowe, Bury St Edmunds or Lowestoft then please do get in contact and visit with us."

The latest status of the challenge is now: Miles to date: 641, Lodges visited: 20, Lodges to go: 47 You can follow their progress at - www.festival2019.co.uk



Mildenhall Members Lend a Helping Hand

Members of Mildenhall Lodge and Chapter have been lending a hand to WBro John Strong who has recently suffered a disabling stroke. John, who is currently a resident in Cornwallis Court in Bury St. Edmunds, is hoping to go home as soon as modifications can be made to allow him easy access to his home and garden. Bros McFetridge, Wharton and Berry laid paving slabs in place of shingle and made adjustments to the back door to make wheelchair access much easier for John and his wife Jeanette.

Brethren of the Silent Cities The Province of Suffolk

The first 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 1 - Members of Doric Lodge No. 81, Woodbridge

Capt. John Coupar Myers, Household Cavalry Killed in action, Saturday 4th May 1918. Age 43. Commemorated: Loos Memorial. Ref: Panel 3.

He was initiated on 8th April 1914, aged 39. His occupation given as "Male Nurse". His death was recorded in the Minutes for June 1918. He was born in the 4th quarter of 1874, in Fortingall, Perthshire, Scotland, to John D Myers, a Quarryman, born 1819 and Christina, born 1839. In the 1891 Census he is shown as a Farm Servant to William Sandison and his family at Borlick, Logierait, Perthshire, not a great distance from his birthplace. The 1911 census shows him as Domestic Valet to Arthur Heywood, a 76 year old Widower living with three other members of his family at Glevering Park, Wickham Market. John Coupar Myers joined the 2/2nd Scottish Horse on the outbreak of war and was appointed RQMS (Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant). On 15th September 1914 he was appointed Hon Lieut. and Quartermaster of the Unit. At the end of September 1916 he wrote to his Commanding Officer requesting a transfer to the combatant branch of the service in order that he could serve in France. In forwarding the request, with his recommendation, Lt. Col. Agnew stated "Lt. Myers is quite exceptionally able, talented and zealous. He has rendered invaluable services to this unit as quartermaster since it was raised. He is of active habits, fond of field sports, a good horseman, and one of the best shots in England, frequently competing with success at Bisley. He has long been desirous of being transferred to the combatant branch of the service, but I persuaded him in the interests of the regiment to remain as quartermaster until the regiment was fully equipped, which is now the case." In forwarding the request to H.Q. Northern Command, York, with his recommendation, the Brigadier General stated "I concur with the remarks of Col. Agnew. From personal knowledge of this officer I am of opinion that he would make a good combatant officer." John was promoted to Acting Captain on 18th January 1918 and attached to The Royal Scots Regiment to command a company.

2/Lt. John Ridley Prentice, 3rd Bn. Suffolk Regt. Killed in action, 18th June 1915. Age 22. Commemorated: Menin Gate. Ref: Panel 21.

He was initiated on 10th March 1915, age 21. His occupation given as Army Officer, 2nd Lieutenant.

John Ridley Prentice was born on 11th May 1893, in Birdlip, Brimpsfield, Cirencester, to Thomas Ridley Prentice, Professor of Music, born 1843, and Esther Grove, born 1855. He had two brothers. His father died in the 3rd quarter of 1895 at age 53. It would appear that his father changed his name at some time before he married Esther in the 4th quarter of 1878 as, strangely, John's birth certificate shows the name of his father as Johann Wolfgang Goethe. John enlisted as a private soldier on 2nd September 1914 into the 19th (Ser.) Bn. Royal Fusiliers, but was discharged to Sandhurst on the 30th October 1914. His enlistment papers show him as a law student, 5ft 10 3/4 ins tall, 144 lbs with 36 chest and good physical development. He was commissioned 2nd Lieut. into the 3rd Bn. Suffolk Regiment and landed in France on 6th May 1915, and was killed less than six weeks later.

"We will remember them"

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

Felix United visit Wattisham Air Station



Felix United Service Lodge 3833 members and other Felixstowe masons together with their wives and partners paid a visit to Wattisham Air Station on Sunday 25th March. The visit was organised by WBro Brian Locksmith, Charity Steward for Felix United Service Lodge No 3833 and Bro Maj (Ret) Barry Humphreys of Bosmere Lodge No 9460. A collection was taken and £330 was raised for charity. It was agreed that half would go to the East Anglian Air Ambulance and half to a charity decided by the Wattisham Base Commanding Officer.

25th Anniversary of Landguard



The 25th Anniversary of the Consecration of Landguard Lodge 9346 was held at St. John's Masonic Hall in Felixstowe on the

Hall in Felixstowe on the 1st April 2015. In attendance were four of the surviving Founders, W.Bros. I. R. Knowles, G. C. Tonge, J. E. Hodgson and P. P. Peck together with the current Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Geoff Goodwin, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W.Bro. David Harries and the Consecrating Officer in 1990, W.Bro. R. J. R.Tile. Eighty brethren dined on Prawn Cocktail, Beef Chasseur and Black Forest Gateaux which incidently was a similar menu to that which was served at the then Orwell Moat House at the Consecration. Prior to the Celebratory Dinner Mr Andrew Ramos Vales was initiated into Freemasonry by the Regular Officers of the Lodge. Paul Filby, Secretary, Landguard Lodge 9346

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A unique Installation at PJK...!



A father installing his son into the chair of their lodge is an enjoyable but not unique event. When a son installs his father into the chair then that is a little more unusual. But when the father is a Past APGM and his son is the current PGM then that must be almost unique! Such was the case in June at the Installation meeting of Philip Jervis Kay

Lodge when Ian Yeldham installed his father John and created yet another record in John's illustrious Masonic career, making him only the fourth member of PJK to have served as its master for a second term. It also turned the table for both of them as it was John who had installed Ian as Master of Stour Valley Lodge in 1991.

Amongst the list of John's many achievements one of the most satisfying must have been the events surrounding Bertie Cammell. Bertie was a well known and much respected Suffolk Mason. He was a member of Suffolk Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge and had risen to the rank of PPJGD despite having never passed through the chair of any of the lodges of which he had been a member. John determined to rectify this and following the agreement of the lodge permanent committee John duly installed Bertie into the chair of 9215 in April 1990 at the grand old age of 93. The one and only occasion when the lodge has delivered the full Installation ceremony. This meeting was also notable because just two days before the meeting was to have taken place in Ipswich a catering problem occurred and the whole event had to be transfered to Sudbury; no small feat considering that eighty eight guests had to be informed about the change of venue; some of whom had to travel a considerable distance. For Bertie this was probably the highlight of his Masonic career and to hear the then PGM Philip Jervis Kay, after whom the lodge is named, deliver the Address to the Master apparently brought a twinkle to his eyes.

"I'm sure there will be many an adventure more..."

Being Installed into the chair of your mother lodge is a big occasion in any Mason's career; but when the Installing Master is the Deputy PGM and the ceremony is conducted in the presence of the PGM then the occasion rises to an even greater level. Bro. Clive Lavery of Felix United Service Lodge discovered just



Clive with his father Roger

this when the current master was taken unwell and David Harries stepped into the breach. Clive was Initiated in November 2007 following an invitation to attend a lodge BBQ and his father Roger, a member of Sons of Kendrick Lodge No. 1989 in Berkshire and PProvGSwdB, has been present and involved at every stage of his Masonic career; delivering the Charge after Initiation, the Traditional History and the Address to the Master, as well as being present at his Exaltation into Chapter 3833. At the end of the evening Clive said "I consider myself very lucky to have something I can share with my father, it has been brilliant up to now and going forward I'm sure there will be many an adventure more".

t the time of writing, we are already almost eighteen months into Festival 2019 and a great deal has been achieved. However, as with all such ventures, some things have been very successful, but others less so, but dealing firstly with the

positive side. The Launch was established at a successful Ball, on St Valentine's Night 2014, at the Trinity Rooms and attended by 360 Members, Partners and Guests contributed a modest profit for the Festival - and Brethren, I hope you have eaten the sweets and suitably refilled the tubes! We then held an equally successful Race Night on 31st October at Ashlar House, Bury St Edmunds, having around 150 Guests and raising £3000 for the Festival. A second Race Night is currently planned for Saturday 26th September this year at Great Yarmouth Masonic Centre and tickets have been on sale now for some time from Ralph Robertson (ralphj.robertson@btopenworld.com) but, as always, we need your support for this fun evening, which is also open to Family and Friends.

Our 500 Club currently has over 500 members and a number of draws have taken place. This venture will raise around £5000 for the Festival and will continue to provide this sum annually, with a similar amount returned in prize money, provided that we can maintain this number of Members. In this respect, at the start of the new masonic season, we will be looking for membership renewals, so that everyone has a chance at every draw next year, and as has a chance at every draw next year, and as membership can be from lodges as well as individuals, could we ask for?" it is a very good way of supporting the festival,

without having to necessarily look to members for direct financial support.

Festival related merchandise is now available for sale, under the authority of Peter Gosling, but will be sold at the Masonic Centres by members of his team. At present, it includes golf balls, umbrellas, pens, handbag holders, gloves and cuff links, but stocks will be distributed ready for the new season.



Peter Gosling and Roger Cawson manning the festival stall at Provincial Grand Lodge, Peter reported sales in excess of £300.

With regard to Festival Financial matters, I am pleased to confirm that the Honorifics of Steward and Patron have been well supported and during the first 12 months, 340 Stewards, and 61 Patrons Jewels were sold and distributed, and orders have continue to arrive on a weekly basis. A number of Lodges have recognised that early donations mean that both RMBI receive the finance sooner, and also the Festival has the benefit of a longer term of interest.

By the end of June, 46 Lodges had contributed in excess of £1500 and of that 46, 17 had contributed in excess of £5000, and a further 5 were in excess of £10,000. However, Apollo Lodge No 305, which was one of the earliest Lodges to make a large donation, has continued to be one of Festival 2019's significant supporters, and will have reached its Lodge Grand Patronage target by the time this Forum is published.

We also have Lodges devising their own fund raising events, and as an example, the three Stowmarket Lodges held a Soft Ball Tournament and Family Fun Day recently. A number of individuals are also creating their

Festival 2019 ...together we can do it

"20th out of 48

- Brethren, what

more incentive

own particular ways of raising money, to benefit the Festival and W.Bro Andy Gentle cycling to every lodge is an excellent example. He is well supported by members of his own Lodge and apart from the financial benefit

there is also an abundance of fellowship, goodwill and merriment taking place!

What are we getting in return? For their part in the 12 months to Dec 2014, the latest information available to me, the Masonic Charities have donated £329,000 back into our Province supporting 71 beneficiaries thereby making us the twentieth largest recipient from the forty-eight Provinces, which in total shared £17.1m for the benefit of 5,017 beneficiaries.

Overall, financially our Festival is doing a good job and I am very grateful to those Festival Representatives who have encouraged a significant number of members to contribute using the Regular Payment Scheme by

> direct debit or by Gift Aid Envelopes and equally express my thanks to the members and Masters in Office for their regular financial support.

I would also extend my thanks to the Members of my various Teams, and to those other Provincial Officers, especially the Prov Grand Secretary, Prov Assistant Grand Secretary for Forum support, the Treasurer, Directors of Ceremony, Festival and Area Representatives and Provincial Stewards, who have

been unstinting in their help. In this context, I would also add the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, The Principals,

Provincial Scribes and Members of Suffolk Provincial Grand Chapter, who also hold the Festival close to their hearts. It is not possible to mention everyone in this article, but to all of you, I am very grateful for your considerable support by whichever means you have chosen to provide it.

However, some things have not gone so well, and to date, it has been quite difficult to attract members from most lodges to support a Provincial event, and by way of example, we were unable to run the Car Treasure Hunt. This is a shame, because we know that it would have been a most enjoyable and moderately priced day out for members, family and friends, but we could not gain sufficient entries yet at least 20 Lodges could be described as being in the geographical catchment area...but it obviously just didn't appeal.

There is still much to do, and many challenges to meet, during the remaining Festival years, and I have to continue to look to all the members of our Province to continue to assist me in this task.

Neville Warnes, Chairman Festival 2019

Derek takes the plunge for Festival 2019



WBro Derek Last took the plunge to raise money for the 2019 Festival in aid of the RMBI. Derek, from Mildenhall Lodge and Chapter and who admits to being well into his seventies, completed the mile swim, that is 64 lengths of the pool, following an intensive nine month training regime of

cycling, walking and swimming to build up to this mammoth task. He said: "It was painful and tiring and at the end I couldn't stand up for a while but at the end of the day it was worth all the effort." He is well aware of the importance of charity in the life of every mason having been the lodge almoner for five years and he hopes his actions will not only raise money directly for the Festival but also inspire others to take on similar endeavors. Derek also thinks we need to make more effort informing the general public about Freemason's contributions to nonmasonic charities. This year alone, his chapter has made significant donations to Prostate UK, Dementia UK and the Stroke ward at West Suffolk Hospital. What will he get up to next?

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Suffolk Provincial Grand Lodge



The wet start to our annual meeting dampened spirits in no way. As the weather brightened so did the smiles as Provincial Grand Lodge was opened. The usual efficient grand parade and spectacle under the direction of our retiring P.G.D.C. David Deal. All seated and business began. Officers were appointed and those retiring thanked for their tireless work. Congratulations too many to be mentioned here, but much could be said of the achievements of the two recipients of the Suffolk Masonic Order of Merit.

Our PGM departed the ruler's chair and, as is his custom, gave a masterly and moving account of "service before self".

Peter Peck, initiated into Doric Lodge in 1979 and W.M. in 1992. Founder of Landguard Lodge in 1990 and Master in 2000. Having joined Wisdom Lodge in 1994 served as D.C. for 9 years. However, it was his unsung work in the Provincial Office for 20 years, when with his crony Bill Hagger they were christened "The <u>Chuckle Brothers" for their infectious good humour. His life also</u>

was full of interest and service. Having completed his R.A.F. National Service he was then gainfully employed at the Atomics Weapons Research Station at Orfordness. Never without a smile a true masonic example of a fruitful and caring life.



Ted Nash, born in1925, also began his wartime service in the R.A.F. as an engineer working on Hurricanes and Mosquitoes, and to quote "Helping the King mend some of the planes he kept breaking". For 50 years he was employed by corn merchants D. Quinton and Sons retiring as M.D. and Chairman. Having joined

Christchurch Lodge in the early '60s he became W.M. in 1971, then serving as A.D.C and D.C. from 1976 to 1983. He became founding A.D.C. and Charity Steward (17 years in that Office) of Bosmere Lodge. It was noted by our P.G.M. that Ted's middle name (his French grandmother's maiden name) was De good natured" a worthy description of both

Bonnaire and translates as "good natured" a worthy description of both our honoured recipients.

Our choir entertained well, mastering an ambitious piece "Let there be Peace on Earth" then our own, very special anthem "To be a Farmers Boy". It was therefore in good heart all were to eventually repair to an excellent festive board with a choice of menu mirroring the perfect sunshine of a Suffolk Spring day. To finish, mindful of our bucolic comfort, our P.G.M. closed proceedings with that shortest of farewells "Brethren, YOU are Suffolk Freemasonry, Thank You"!



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Peter Thorogood







An Easter treat for Cornwallis Court

On Thursday 2nd April the Worshipful Master of Solea Lodge, Geoff Calver along with his wife Trish and assisted by WBro Derek Barnard presented a total of 77 Easter Eggs, one each, to the residents of Cornwallis Court for them to enjoy. This is the 12th year that



Solea Lodge has presented Easter Eggs to the residents and a lot of its members also support the monthly coffee and chat mornings held on the 1st Saturday of the month at 10.30am.

The majority of the Eggs, 54, were donated by the members of Solea Lodge at a Luncheon held on Sunday 22nd March at Ashlar House, St Edmund Masonic Centre in Bury St Edmunds with the remaining 23 being given by 'The Friends' of Cornwallis Court. A short response and vote of thanks was given by WBro Peter Black, who is a current resident.

Congratulations to Peter and Babs...



On the 5th March 2015, the RWBro Peter Hemingway and wife Babs, of Solea Lodge 9498, celebrated their Diamond Wedding. A happy 60 years with many memories and fond photos of their life together. On the 5th March Bro Oliver Coote, visited them and took a greetings card, signed by members of the Lodge along with a bouquet of flowers

to go with the many tributes they received that day. The photo shows Babs and Peter relaxing and holding a greetings card from the Queen. Babs and Peter were treated to a fine lunch prepared by their son, WBro G. P. Hemingway. Numerous cards and greetings came from friends and brothers in Freemasonry. Peter is a member of Solea Lodge 9498, which he joined in 1993 when he moved to Suffolk, and also Royal Alpha Lodge 16, which he joined in 1991. He is also an Honorary member of several other Lodges and side degree's.

Babs and Peter were keen amateur dramatic participants in their younger days, and visitors to them may be treated to a wide range of photos and memories. Failing health has greatly restricted their activities, but the smiles on their faces beam through when ever you meet them.

Following the Travelling Gavel....

Travelling Gavel gets knocked down to Brett Valley On 10th October, 13 brethren from Brett Valley and 9 from Priory came to Christchurch to launch their challenge for its ownership. The rules state that a minimum of seven brethren from the same lodge must be present to entitle them to throw down a challenge. In the event of two or more lodges making a claim on the same night, the lodge with the greater number of members present is deemed successful. On this occasion the rules gave Brett Valley the



edge. However, the rules also state that a forfeit must be paid. That evening at the Festive Board 71 brethren gave a rousing rendition of 'My Old Man Said Follow the Van' and 'Keep Right on to End of the Road'. Following this the forfeit for Brett Valley was to sing both songs simultaneously and in a cacophony of words and music they did brilliantly well to claim the Gavel. A senior Brett Valley member was quoted the next day saying "We had a brilliant night; a first class ceremony and we were looked after very well at the Festive Board; all in all a happy night".

Magna Carta raid the Travelling Gavel

On 27th April members of Magna Carta travelled to Brett Valley in Hadleigh to raid the Gavel. This visit organised by WBro. John Pitcher, who incidently is a member of both lodges, was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all those present. After watching a Ceremony of Raising in Brett Valley's lovely medieval temple all the brethren sat down to the usual lively Brett Valley festive board at which a total of 57 brethren dined. As a forfeit the WM of Brett Valley invited the Magna Carta members to stand and handed them all a song sheet with specific instructions on how he wanted the song to be sung together with a daffodil which they duly received without scruple or diffidence. To much laughter Magna Carta then proceeded to sing 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' and words really can't convey how well this went, but a fantastic night was had by all and more importantly the Travelling Gavel had done its job once again by forging new friendships between lodges. **Priory raid the Gavel at last!**

The Festive Board of Magna Carta's 400th meeting was enlivened by a competitive claiming of the Travelling Gavel by the members of Priory Lodge who just beat Solea Lodge in having 15 visitors to Solea's 14. Priory's rendition of Old McDonald's Farm was interesting and enlivened by an authentic impersonation of a chicken from Peter Thorogood. Priory meet at Sudbury Masonic Hall on the first Monday, October to April and second Monday in May and will look forward to your visit.....!

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/

A great surprise for Colin!

At the April meeting of East Kent Provincial Grand Lodge a well known Suffolk mason was the recipient of the ultimate accoloade from the Province; much to the surprise of the Suffolk



executive members present. Colin Shaw, who originates from south of the Thames and this year will celebrate 63 years as a Mason moved to Suffolk in the early 1980s as an engineer during the construction of the Orwell Bridge. Like many before him he found the county much to his liking and has remained here ever since. Despite this he has contiued to play an active part in Kent masonry and this year was awarded the Provincial Grand Masters Order of Merit to Kent Masonry.

He is seen here being congratulated by Ian Yeldham and David Harries at the April Installation Meeting of Felix United Service Lodge.

"Three Colneis Masons... ...Two Past Masters...One Family"

Many lodges can say they have family connections: brothers, father and son, uncle and nephew, in-laws, etc., but Colneis Lodge must be one of the few Lodges that can claim to have three generations in their Lodge. On what was a very special evening, Bro David John Goode was Initiated into Colneis Lodge on Thursday the 5th March 2015, by his father, WBro



Stephen John Goode. The Ceremony was witnessed by his Grandfather John Frederick Goode and sixty members and visitors.

The evening was a huge success as various other parts of the ceremony were carried out by close friends and the Festive Board was enjoyed by all with the toast to the Initiate being given by another friend. Bro David replied he was very proud to have been initiated by his father and having Grandfather there as well, even though W.Bro John had been ill lately. He added he hoped that he would enjoy his masonic career as much as his father and grandfather seem to be enjoying theirs.

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Suffolk Provincial Regalia Services

It is now twelve months since Suffolk Provincial Regalia Services began supplying the Province. The response that I have received from the brethren has been excellent and I would like to thank them all for supporting us. 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. The prices on our web site are very competitive and are the same price as the manufacture on their own web site. Occasionally our prices may vary slightly, but you have to remember that you are supporting the Province. Your contributions so far have raised in excess of £2000 from new and pre-used regalia; for that brethren I thank you. 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.

If you are not sure about anything or need advice, please contact WBro Rod Hellawell who will do his utmost to help you. Thank you once again for supporting the Province.

Rod Hellawell, Suffolk Provincial Regalia Services

Court Knoll to hold its first Masonic Fishing Charity Event

Court Knoll 9194, based in Boxford took up the challenge to create a Suffolk based division for the invaluable works of the "Catching a Smile" charity earlier this year. Having created the Suffolk branch the work has started on organising its first fishing event.



It is planned for the 10th September at the Hintlesham Fly Fishing Club lakes in Hintlesham. The group benefitting from this event is Julian

Support from East Anglia, the group works with people with mental health issues and helps to facilitate and support recovery, more information can be found at www.juliansupport.org.

Chairman Jonathan Neill from Court Knoll said "We have had support from Masons across Suffolk to help at the event, but we do need a couple more castors to assist those attending to fly fish for the day. So if you are a competent fly fisher and can help, we would love to hear from you. A DBS check is needed and we can undertake that for you at no cost. We have planned a full schedule for the day including breakfast for the castors, lunch for the participants and then an awards ceremony to finish at 3.15pm" A number of the members of Court Knoll are on the organising team for these events and we would welcome any support from other masons across Suffolk. The next event will be a coarse fishing event. If anyone has a school or group that would like to attend please forward their details and we will contact them.

For further information or offers of assistance please contact Jonathan Neill on jon@sportsafeuk.com or 01206 795265

Masonic Samaritan Fund in action

Mrs Linda Cadman, widow of the late WBro Andrew Cadman of Abiff Lodge No 2810 has been awarded a grant from the MSF for the purchase of a mobility scooter.

Mrs Cadman commented "Since my husband's death in 2014 my health has deteriorated and I have found it increasingly difficult to walk into my village and keep my independence. My Envoy 4 mobility scooter means that I can enjoy life more as I can now attend meetings, church, the doctors and dentists and take my dog



for a walk. Thank you to the MSF for allowing me to achieve all of this with less pain".

The photograph shows Ralph Robertson handing over the keys to Mrs Cadman accompanied by Alan Hazelwood and Bob Hicks of Abiff.



On 14th May, Provincial Grand Chapter was held for the first time at Ashlar House in Bury St Edmunds. Nearly every seat was filled with over 200 attending, representing all the Chapters in the Province, with most staying for the Festive Board.



Unfortunately, David Lillis, Third Provincial Grand Principal, had a mild stroke the day before the Convocation and was unable to take his place in the ceremony. Geoff Spencer stood in for him as



Third Principal and Nick Berry remained as Second Principal for the whole ceremony while Ray Pascoe was appointed and invested as the new Third Provincial Grand Principal. We are pleased to report that, following his recovery, David Lillis was installed as Second Grand Principal at a Provincial Chapter meeting held during the meeting of Installed First Principals Chapter on 15th June.



As well as the various formal reports, among the highlights of the meeting were the introduction of the various representatives from other Provinces, including one from Western Australia and the presentation of the Order of Merit to Ken Canter, Mike Leighton and Colin Mayes for their long and distinguished service to the Royal Arch in Suffolk.

Following the appointment and investment of Provincial Officers, in his address, the Grand Superintendent welcomed everyone and congratulated all who had received appointments and promotions reminding them that this conveyed responsibilities as well as honour. He also thanked all those involved with the organisation of the Convocation, encouraged all to wear the Festival Jewel and presented a cheque for £500 to Mike Caddock as sponsorship of his family's involvement in the Race for Life for cancer research.



David thanks Nick Berry for his contribution to the Roval Arch

After dining, the toast to the Grand **Royal Arch** Superintendent was delivered by the Provincial Grand Master, Ian Yeldham, who emphasised the close ties between the orders and excellent personal working relationship between them both.

And finally, for your diary next year, the Annual Convocation will be held on Thursday 12th May 2016

Our Grand Superintendant's son Michael is Exalted into the Royal Arch



On Wednesday 10th June 2015, the executive of the Holy Royal Arch of Suffolk travelled to Caversham to witness Bro Michael Boswell, (the son our Grand Superintendent) being exalted into Caversham Chapter in the Province of Oxfordshire. Also in attendance were the PGM/Grand Superintendent of Oxfordshire James Hilditch, and the Grand Superintendents of Buckinghamshire John Keeble, Hertfordshire Jim Sharpley, and Berkshire Ian Hopgood plus numerous other dignitaries. After an excellent ceremony, the evening was completed with a superb festive board at Caversham Golf Club.

Mildenhall Chapter Charity Donations



L to R - Dr. Fajid Alam, Nick Berry, Sister Maria Bird, John Strong, Ian McFetridge, Ian Gray (MEZ) and Terry Lewis

At their last meeting in March the members of Mildenhall Chapter elected to donate £500 each to Parkinson's UK, Dementia UK and the Stroke Ward at West Suffolk Hospital. The money being raised over the year from the 'Broken Column', a summer barbecue and our ladies dinner, affectionately known as 'Widows' Night'

By a twist of fate one of our members, E.Comp. John Strong, acted as 'Super Sleuth' and spent a couple of months on the ward to spy out the land. Actually, he was recovering from his own stroke, so he was able to join in the presentation, which was made to the ward sister and doctor.



& What Path Freemasonry?

For the last eighteen months my most requested paper has been "What Path Freemasonry", a twenty minute presentation which has always provoked much debate and discussion. It questions the present government of our Craft and as to why, historically, we have progressed from a society of learning to one of ritual and rank. It also poses the question "where do we go from here?"

However I now believe that question must today be addressed with some urgency. Recent figures released by Grand Lodge prove that we can no longer be complacent as to the future of the Craft and that the answer can not lie with London alone but that we must now all take an active involvement in ensuring that Freemasonry has a viable future. Lets look at those figures. Today there are some 198,000 freemasons in England and Wales, a great decrease. We are in fact losing some 6,000 members a year and at the current wastage in ten years time we face a membership of only 125,000.

Here in Suffolk we have been one of the two more fortunate provinces in the UGLE. Our losses in recent years have been minimal and today we have 2,750 masons in 67 lodges. But before we become overtly smug let us look at individual lodge memberships. Before UGLE raised their dues some twelve years ago many brethren were members of a number of Lodges. Many resignations followed as members reigned in. In 1972, with multiple memberships, the average membership of the 42 Suffolk lodges was 88 and that was before the Grand Stewards Lodge. In 2004 (after the imposition of the increase) an average of 56 over



65 lodges and today 51 over 67 lodges. This has obviously led to a decline in the number of brethren attending and taking Office. Also to a resultant loss in Hall, catering and bar incomes. Again, in our East Anglian comfort zone not one lodge has handed in its warrant since 1865, an enviable statistic.

But here, in our rural idyll, we must not be insensitive to the dangers faced by the Craft. With say a further 10% loss in membership over ten years, and that's a conservative estimate, not only will some lodges fold but the resultant loss in charity income will have a detrimental effect on the future of our own homes. It is estimated that the average age of today's Mason is 61, in ten years it will be 71. In Suffolk alone 15% of our members are over 80. We must remember the care we will owe them in future. But of greatest concern are the jewels in our Crown, our Halls. Many across the country and even some in our own Province could be forced to close if deemed unviable due to the lack of business. Lets move to pubs and village halls I hear the reply! Our other fraternal societies did likewise, scorning to purchase their own premises. So where are the Shepherds, Oddfellows, Druids, Foresters, Buffaloes and countless associations today? Dependent on the whims of landlords and social change the majority no longer with us. Freemasonry existed, and until recent times prospered, because we were masters in our own homes. But without viable numbers prepared to spend and to manage our Masonic Halls could be a thing of the past.

So what is the answer? First Masons must be aware of the dangers facing the Craft with its declining recruitment and haemorrhaging of members, yes we lose 30% of our junior brethren within seven years of them joining. We have introduced a mentoring scheme with Keith Huxley and lodge mentors adroitly addressing the problem. But that's not enough, we should all be mentors, propagating the Craft and actively recruiting younger brethren, after all we have much to offer in our more cynical and fragmented society. We now have Provincial Orators whose first remit is to remember we are in the entertainment industry helping. to both educate and entertain members, instead of subjugating them to yet another degree demonstration or tracing board explanation for lack of a ceremony. But of absolute import is the need to communicate, to inform the brethren of the challenges facing the Craft, and to make certain that they have a say in its governance and ensuring it enjoys resurgence and a viable future.

However, not all is doom and gloom. It is not too late to repair our loss. UGLE have been increasingly aware that we cannot just meander along and ignore that there are issues that need to be addressed. Yes, the Craft needs modifying in order to attract, and more importantly, retain members. The word is modifying not modernising. We must be careful that in making the Craft more understandable and above all accessible, that we do not lose that aura of mystique and slight exclusivity that gives our brotherhood its attraction to the uninitiated. There is a sense of old fashioned values (even Victorian) attached to freemasonry and it is those

traditional values that we should "market". There is cause for cautious optimism and we are so fortunate that we have such sure foundations on which to rebuild. With our history, our ritual and above all, our beautiful Halls, if we work together our Craft could flourish as never before. We must learn from recent complacency and put our great fraternity at the forefront of British institutions.

W.Bro. Peter Thorogood Provincial Orator



Stowmarket Fun Day



The photo shows the team, who have already raised over £3500 since its formation

Sunday the 26th July unfortunately turned out to be an atrociously wet day for our Softball Tournament and Fun Day. However people did brave the weather to come along, though not in the promised numbers, so our soggy take of £936.27 was only a third of our target. But on the bright side we didn't lose overall and fortunately at least made some money for the Festival.



Sadly the ground was deemed too dangerous for the Softball Tournament to go ahead, so Brett Valley failed in their promised attempt to lift the trophy, though all credit to them as they turned out with a full complement. They did however get a trophy courtesy of their WM who won the Football Spot Kick

Competition. While the day was damp the organising committee's enthusiasm for fund raising is undiminished and plans are already being laid for next year.

Masonry Universal

On January 10th 2015 I had the honour and pleasure of being able to be present at the Installation of my younger son Robert Cocker into the Chair of his Mother Lodge - Lodge Elliot No. 3557 E.C. in Melaka, Malaysia. He was initiated on Saturday 5th July 2008, which again I had the pleasure of being able to attend.





The Lodge Building dates from 1858, in the time of British rule in what was Malaya and the Warrant for Lodge Elliot granted in October 1911 and consecrated on 7th December 1912, it is a protected historical building and is known locally as the 'Ghost House'. It was rebuilt in the early 1900s. The Lodge is conducted in English and the

membership is composed of a small number of English expatriates and the majority of Malaysians of Indian extraction mostly from the Medical Fraternity, so no shortage of Consultants. I have in total managed four visits to the Lodge and have always been greeted and treated with the hospitality that one expects from fellow members of the Craft. I have always brought my Fraternal Greetings from the Province and Seckford Lodge to Elliot Lodge.

The Installation Festive Board is held in the adjoining hotel where there is a separate entrance direct from the Lodge Groundsl, very useful and we dined from memory, I lost count, on a 10 course Chinese Meal. The first two toasts, to the King of Malaysia, and the Governor of the State are always taken in water out of respect to Islamic Religion of the Country.

My Son and I are now working on his elder brother (who lives in New Zealand) to see if he would like to complete the family tradition. My father was initiated into Lodge Pioneer No.1305 S.C. in Abadan in what was Persia and is now Iran in the early 1950s. Both Robert and I were raised (with permission of the Lodges) with my father's apron.

Cliff Cocker, Seckford lodge No 6411

BBQ for Initiates at Ashlar House

On Sunday 14th July the PGM held an inaugural BBQ reception for new members, their proposers and their partners at Ashlar House in Bury St Edmunds. The rainy weather had posed a few problems for the team setting up the marquees the day before but in the end the sun came out and over 260 people attended a very successful event.



The day was an opportunity for new members to meet with active officers from the province in a relaxed atmosphere and for wives and partners to find out a bit more about Masonry. Ashlar House was open for tours of the Temple, Library and the Regalia room. The Architect of the new Masonic Centre, Stuart Jones, provided an interesting display of the conversion plans and there was also a photographic treasure hunt of the building and grounds which proved popular with many. The tie break question produced some amusing comments about the PGM and his Teddies for Loving Care. The terraced lawns proved a fetching stage for Chris Warnes to entertain the guests with his wonderful swing singing. Queuing for a burger was never so entertaining!!

Tim Cook and Ron Edwards from Royal Clarence Lodge who edit a new on line Masonic news channel, 'Masonry Matters', were on hand to record the event and their interviews with the PGM and Keith Huxley, the Provincial Mentor, are available to view on line at rcl-1823.org

The event is one of a number of mentoring initiatives and it is hoped that the day helped some of the Province's new members feel welcome - it certainly was a pleasant way to finish the Masonic season.

Tim McCormick



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Order of Royal & Select Masters - End of an era



After over 11 years as District Grand Master of the Order of Royal and Select Masters, for the District of East Anglia, R. Ill. Comp. Peter Donald Miles resigned on the 12th September 2014. Peter was appointed Deputy District Grand Master "in charge" on 21st January 2003 and was Installed as DGM on 13th September 2003. Latterly Peter promoted the support of the Charity E.A.C.H. (East Anglia's Childrens' Hospices) amongst the Councils of the Order, and during this time all these Councils collected £8,000 for the Charity, and at the last meeting Peter attended, as DGM, he presented a cheque for this amount to their representative. All the Companions of the Order wish him well for his retirement.

Everything you wanted to Know about the Degree of Royal and Select Masters, but were afraid to ask!!

The Degree of Royal and Select Masters, also known as the Cryptic Degree – in this case not in the obscure meaning of the word – fits chronologically between the Master Mason's Degree in the Craft, and the Exaltation degree in Royal Arch Masonry.



There are 4 degrees within the degree itself – Select Master, Royal Master, Most Excellent Master and Super Excellent Master. Each degree within the Order has, of course, its own passwords and obligations, but the most important aspects are the historical lectures which append to each.

The Degree of Select Master explains how the decision was made to place the "genuine secrets of a Master Mason" or "lost word" where the sojourners finally found it.

The Degree of Royal Master covers the death of HAb and in my opinion has one of the most superb pieces of ritual to be found anywhere in our Masonic ceremonies.

The Degree of Most Excellent Master finishes with the completion of King Solomon's Temple.

The Degree of Super Excellent Master retells the story of the eventual sack and destruction of Jerusalem itself and of KST by Nebuchadnezzar, and the carrying off of the Jews to their Babylonian captivity, which of course ended as described in the Exaltation ceremony in the Holy Royal Arch.

There are 3 Councils in our Province of Suffolk – Icenian No 36 which meets at Ipswich, Sole Bay Council No 139 which meets at Southwold and Ethelbert the Martyr No 265 which meets at Bury St Edmunds. All meet 3 times a year.

To be a member, you have to be a subscribing Master Mason, Royal Arch Mason and Mark Mason. For those who wish to expand their knowledge of Masonic history, then this is the Degree for you!

Andrew Sleath

Mark and Royal Ark Mariners in East Anglia 2015

The East Anglia Mark Province, consisting of the countie of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, has over 1,000 members. Most Masonic Centres in East Anglia have a Mark Lodge, and many Mark Lodges have a Royal Ark Mariner (Ark) Lodge associated with them. No one can become a Mark Mason unless he has received the three degrees of craft masonry. We have 32 Mark Lodges, and 22



degrees of craft masonry. We have 32 Mark Lodges, and 22 Ark Lodges, in our Province.

The organisation is very similar to that of Craft. We are governed from Mark Masons' Hall in St. James's, London. The Mark degree is an extension to the Fellow craft Degree. Indeed, in Scotland, Ireland and other constitutions, it is placed within Craft Masonry alongside the Holy Royal Arch.

A candidate is "Advanced" into the Mark. As in Craft Masonry, he is taught signs of recognition, and a number of invaluable lessons are presented to him during the ceremony.

In the Royal Ark, a Candidate must have previously been advanced in a regular Lodge of Mark Master Masons. Again he is entrusted with signs of recognition, and taught further lessons in life and morality. This degree revolves around the story Noah and the flood.

Most of us wish to undergo ceremonies without too much prior knowledge, so I will not elaborate on these two Orders; but please understand that any Freemason has a right to be advanced, after the usual proposition, and vote in a Mark Lodge.

East Anglia is a large Province, but despite its size it is a most cohesive organisation. We work both the Orders under our Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro Paul Norman, who is assisted by a deputy, V.W.Bro Ray Clarke PGJO, and an assistant, W. Bro. Nigel Williams PGJD. There is a full executive including Secretary, Director of Ceremonies, Treasurer, and others.

We consider Charity as an important part of our organisation. At the present we are raising funds for mobile chemotherapy units to be placed around the Country, to enable patients to receive their treatment nearer to home. This appeal is being coordinated by Mark Grand Lodge, to mark the 150th anniversary of the Mark Benevolent Association (MBF) in 2018, marked by a Festival being held in Lincoln. Each vehicle, with a small support car to carry the staff, costs nearly £300,000. A great deal of money needs to be raised for a superb cause.

The Province of East Anglia, under the leadership of our PGM, has launched a "Keystone" appeal to raise funds for this cause. 60% of what is raised will support the MBF, while 40% will go to charitable causes within the Province administered by the East Anglian Mark Benevolent Association (EAMBA). For example, over Christmas 2014, substantial donations were given to homeless charities in Norwich, Ipswich, and Cambridge. The Province of East Anglia has a very proud tradition of supporting Craft Festivals held within the three Craft Provinces; Masonry working together for a common cause. Recently, substantial donations have been made to the East Anglian Children's Hospices. We are not only at the heart of Masonry, we are also at the heart of the community.

Mark and Ark in East Anglia are proud supporters of Freemasonry. If you have not as yet "made your Mark", and would like to be considered to be Advanced into our lovely and most happy Order, please make contact with our Provincial Grand Secretary, whose details can be found on the East Anglia Mark website: eastangliamark.org.uk or by post to: D. Cuthbert, 40, Saddlers Place, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich IP5 3SS.

WBro. Nigel Williams PGJD, APGM.

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

Richard Bowdidge talks about The Tom Bowdidge Foundation and Masonic Support



Richard Bowdidge is Senior Steward of St Lukes No 225 in Ipswich and has been a member of the lodge for five years. In February 2014 he and his wife Nikki set up The Tom Bowdidge Foundation in memory of their Son Tom who passed away at just 19 years old.

Tom was the youngest child of Richard and Nikki and a younger brother to Emma. Academically he worked hard and went to the Colchester Royal

Grammar School. He was a keen sportsman and he loved life especially if it was time spent with his family or friends. In September 2013 at the age of 18, having just finished his A-levels, he was preparing to go to university to study Classical Civilisation.

However he started suffering stomach pains and became incredibly tired. He went to the doctors on several occasions and was told it may be Irritable Bowel Syndrome. They did blood tests and told him to return in a couple of weeks. Tom did not improve; in fact his symptoms worsened, doctors then thought he may have appendicitis and referred him to the Emergency Admissions Unit in Colchester General Hospital. After a thorough examination Tom was sent for an ultrasound which did indeed show an inflamed appendix. It did however also show something far more suspicious. This prompted an immediate CT scan – a few hours later the bombshell was dropped!

On September 4th 2012, Tom was diagnosed with a soft tissue sarcoma in his peritoneum and pelvis. This is an extremely rare and aggressive cancer that is mostly found in teenage boys. The family were told that it was incurable and inoperable!! Nobody could say if he had days, weeks or months left to live, nevertheless he was sent immediately to University College Hospital in London to a specialist teenage cancer unit. Tom underwent an intensive course of chemotherapy where he returned to London every 14 days for stays of up to 5/6 days. After the second dose of chemotherapy his hair started to fall out and he found it on his bed and in his dinner. Tom decided he wanted to take control of this and have it shaved off before it had all fallen out and raise a few pounds for Teenage Cancer Trust. In just 13 months Tom raised over £175,000.

Sometimes it was hard to believe that Tom had cancer. He adopted a phenomenal attitude, staying positive throughout and continually putting other people first before his own needs. Most of the messages he received talked of how he was an inspiration and of his incredible courage. His family saw this every day. He underwent very tough treatment and felt rough for most of the time. Yet his aim to raise awareness of teenage cancer and raise as much money as possible never faltered. Tom found the messages very hard to accept and was somewhat embarrassed by the admiration he earned. He never realised how many lives he changed; from the people getting fit to complete marathons, to others who learnt how to organise large events, to those who were now looking at working for charities as a career. Tom always considered himself lucky to have been treated by such an incredible team of people. This team was made up of consultants, specialist nurses, doctors, social workers, physiotherapists and psychologists to name but a few. In April 2013 he made the decision that he would like to start his own charity - this charity would support teenage cancer patients.

Tom became quite poorly in late September 2013 and was quite sick, he spiked a temperature and became seriously ill. His parents were told to get him to London as fast as possible. It was as if they all knew what was happening as they all broke down and for the first time ever really panicked as they packed bags as fast as they could.

On arrival Tom's team were all there and took immediate control. Tom's tumour had grown so big it was blocking his bowel. There was nothing that could be done now! Tom continued his fight for two more weeks. He knew what was happening and decided to stay in hospital – he always said that whilst he was there, there would always be hope. On Friday 18th October 2013, Tom fell asleep, at last free from pain. Shortly before his last breath he told his mum she would need to 'crack on' without him.

So that is exactly what Richard and Nikki have done by setting up The Tom Bowdidge Foundation. They knew exactly what Tom's wishes were and have followed them in the best way possible.

Tom knew that when you were diagnosed with cancer the support needed went far beyond the chemotherapy. Firstly a teenager needs practical support; a comfortable place to be treated with patients the same age in an environment that was as normal as possible. Secondly they and their family need emotional support with form filling, applying for grants, accommodation whilst staying in hospitals away from home, and even short holidays. Thirdly, more research. Teenage cancers are extremely rare and need specialist research. Tom had a very rare and aggressive sarcoma – 11% of teenage cancers are sarcomas! Tom wanted to raise as much money to fund further research so that one day there would be a cure for this wicked and evil disease.

During Tom's illness the brethren of St Lukes and the wider masonic community were unbelievably supportive and gave Richard and Nikki an incredible amount of comfort after Tom's death. Since its establishment the brethren have taken the Foundation to their hearts and have raised well over £3,000 as a lodge but also they have attended events and balls which have helped raise even more! St Lukes Worshipful Master nominated the Foundation as his charity of the year and just from Ladies Night handed over a cheque for over £500.

In its first year the Foundation has raised some £150,000 and has begun to work on funding what is believed to be the only research project into teenage cancer and the development of teenage rooms at Colchester General Hospital. The future of the Foundation is bright and

Richard and Nikki are so grateful for all the support that Masonry has given them.

Both Richard and Nikki cannot really express their gratitude to the brethren and the wider masonic community enough.

For more information on The Tom Bowdidge Foundation and Tom's story visit their website at www.tombowdidgefoundation.org

Masonry Matters

Created and managed by Tim Cook and Ron Edwards of Royal Clarence Lodge 1823 Masonry Matters is a dedicated news channel

created by Freemasons for Freemasons, who's objective is to raise the profile of the good work done by Freemasonry throughout the UK. We look forward to working with you to communicate your stories to a wider audience.



/ww.masonrymatters.org



Richard Bowdidge and the WM of St. Lukes, David (Muddy) Waters

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