



FORUM



“A big Thankyou to Suffolk Freemasons”



FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Magazine



Welcome to Forum,

Just as we were going to press I learnt of the passing of Bob Tile, so I asked Mike Leighton, Provincial Secretary 1993-1997, for his personal memories which you can read on page 4.

Mac Speake has written an excellent article on an ancient floorcloth, discovered when the history of The Lodge of Virtue & Silence was being researched and now kept at the Suffolk Record Office.

In the centre of the magazine you will learn of the history of Lodge Prince of Wales and their involvement in building the first Masonic Centre in Ipswich, it is a most interesting article, in particular the menu for its Opening Banquet, which I think you will find astounding.

As well as a 'round up' of all the events which took place as part of last year's Tercentenary Celebrations we have the personal reports from those who were lucky enough to attend The Grand Ball and Royal Albert Hall.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to write, email or phone with articles on what you have been up to since the last issue. If you want anything featured in Forum, simply get in touch.

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Jottings

from The Provincial Grand Secretary



The Province has been through a very busy Tercentenary Year leading up to the New Year and looks set for an equally busy period in 2018. 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 Hellawell 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. Details of regalia can be found on www.suffolkpgl.org.uk and clicking on the Regalia tab.

His contact details are as follows:

WBro Rod Hellawell, Tel 01473 623533, Mob 07768 837874
e-mail regaliaservices@dpsconnect.com

The Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge will take place at the Royal Hospital School on Friday 1st June 2018. Due to possible restrictions on numbers attending, admission to both the Meeting and Dinner will again be by named tickets only. The booking form can be found in this issue of Forum. I urge all brethren, particularly those receiving Appointments and Promotions and wishing to attend the Meetings only or the Meetings and Dinner to clearly complete all sections of the Attendance/Dining Return and send in the form by return with a SAE as places for the Meeting and Luncheon may be over-subscribed.

The 'Inside Freemasons' television programmes shown on Sky 1 having also generated further interest in membership. The Suffolk Light Blues go from strength to strength, now having a membership in excess of 500.

The RW Deputy Grand Master Jonathan Spence and Mrs Spence attended the Greshams Dinner in November at which RMBI Festival cheques from Lodges in the Province in excess of £100,000.00 were presented to the Deputy Grand Master.

During the year a trailer was presented to the Masonic Fishing Charity, a sailing dinghy to Wash Sailability and 20 Coaguchek blood monitoring units to the Somerville Trust from funds raised within the Province and matched by Tercentenary Grants from UGLE.

On Sunday 29th October we held our Tercentenary Choral Evensong at St Edmundsbury Cathedral conducted by the Right Reverend Graham Knowles. The service was well attended by members of the Province together with Rulers and Executive guests from the Districts of Ghana, Jamaica, Cayman Islands and Nigeria. The Evensong was followed by a Supper at Ashlar House attended by 150 members and guests.

On Tuesday 31 October 2017 the Province was well represented at the Tercentenary Celebration of the founding of the Premier Grand Lodge held at the Royal Albert Hall in London joining some 5,000 other Freemasons to celebrate the occasion followed by the Tercentenary Banquet for 2,500 at Battersea Evolution. A very special and exceptionally well organised day for all those who attended.

The Provincial Grand Master's Reception for Ruling Masters, Acting Provincial Officers and their partners was held at Ashlar House, Bury St Edmunds on Sunday 26th November. It was a most successful and enjoyable occasion attracting support from the Lodges in the Province and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ashlar House for their warm welcome and the excellent Buffet and Bar Service.

Finally, as this will be my last 'Secretaries Jottings' for Forum before I retire after 6 years as Provincial Grand Secretary in June I would like to thank all members of the Provincial Office Secretariat Past and Present for their support, WBro Graham Saward Editor of the Year Book along with Kelvin Avis the Editor of Forum and Roger Nash the Communications Officer all of whom do so much work voluntarily behind the scenes.

I would also like to thank the Rulers and Executive members for the encouragement and support during my term in Office

David Clarke, January 2018

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Suffolk Riding for the Disabled celebrated Christmas early



The Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Riding received a £25,000 Community Award from Freemasons following an unprecedented public vote. The charity was one of 6 to be nominated by Freemasons in Suffolk, with local people also voting to decide the level of their Award. They were part of almost 180,000 people who voted across England and Wales.

The Community Awards were a major part of Freemasonry's 300th anniversary celebrations. The Masonic Charitable Foundation is distributing three million pounds to 300 charities across the country, with the public vote deciding on the range of Awards from £4,000 to £25,000.

Jan Derbyshire, Chairman of The Shelley Centre said: "The grant of £25,000 which we have been awarded following the public vote is hugely important and we would like to express our heartfelt and grateful thanks to everybody who took the trouble to vote for us. This is an amazing amount of money which will make such a difference to our Charity and enable The Centre to get several much-needed maintenance projects underway so that we can continue to benefit the health of wellbeing of adults and children with disabilities through riding therapies. We are also very grateful to the Masonic Charitable Foundation for this opportunity and their generosity."

The Masonic Charitable Foundation obtains all of its funding from Freemasons, their families and friends. It is estimated that half of Freemasonry's total charitable expenditure of over £33m goes to charities that help people in communities across the country.

Neville Warnes, Provincial Grand Charity Steward for the Province of Suffolk said: "We are delighted so many people in our County took part in the vote, and I know that The Shelley Centre will use their £25,000 grant to continue with their outstanding work."

Honoured guest at The Lodge with no number...

Wednesday 17th January 2018 saw The Installation Meeting of The Grand Stewards Lodge, which uniquely in the English Constitution, has no number. It has been in this position since 18th April 1792 when it was placed at the Head of the List by order of the Grand Lodge, and given the name it now holds.



Today the Grand Stewards are chosen from nineteen Red Apron Lodges and appointed by the Grand Master. They are usually the Masters of those Lodges. During their year of service they rank as Grand Officers; thereafter, they are Past Grand Stewards but not past Grand Officers. The Grand Stewards' Lodge has no power to initiate, pass or raise Masons.

Three Provinces are invited each year to the Installation and this year, Phil Goodwin, WM of Suffolk Provincial Grand Stewards was honoured to be the principle guest sitting alongside the Pro Grand Master, Peter Geoffrey Lowndes.

From the Provincial Grand Master

Brethren, it is with immense sadness that I bring you a reflection on the life of our dear Brother and Past Ruler of our Province, 'Bob Tile' who passed away on January 27th. He has played an enormous part in this Province since 1976 when he was Junior Grand Warden under John, 4th Earl of Stradbroke. He then became DGDC followed by GDC under Phillip Jervis Kay and then Assistant, Deputy and Provincial Grand Master. Even up to January 17th this year at The Grand Stewards Installation in Gt Queen Street, he was still asking me searching questions about the future of our Province. No doubt many stories and fond memories will follow about how he shaped Suffolk Freemasonry over more than 42 years, 23 of those in acting office.

I hope you will all wear your Festival tie with pride in his memory, as it was out of respect for 'Bob', who was devoted to wearing a black tie and nothing else, that I decided that it should also, be black. Our thoughts remain with Pam, without whom, he told me many times, none of the above would have been possible.

Brethren, ladies and all our readers, what a fantastic 2017 we have had. We celebrated the Tercentenary with great aplomb and at the final function, several Lodges handed over a total of £100,000 to add to our Festival target.

Our numbers in the Province are swelling and our newest club, the Suffolk Light Blues has attracted over 500 members in little over a year. An absolutely fabulous effort by all those involved. I have met six new initiates in the last six weeks all of whom will, I am sure make enthusiastic Freemasons. It is so reassuring that you are all choosing our newest members with such care and long may it continue.

Just 15 months left to our Festival's conclusion and I imagine that we can all look forward to enjoying the fruits of our labour.

Our Provincial Almoner and his Visiting Volunteers have newly fashioned directives for all of us, to be able to keep an eye on the wellbeing of our fellow Masons. While our Provincial Mentor and his Light Blues will watch over our newer members. Our Brotherhood has been in gentle decline since World War 2 and that cannot be reversed in a heartbeat.

However, the particular progress in addressing this, in this Province, is quite remarkable. Thank you all for whatever part you play in this and I look forward to seeing many of you, on June 1st at Holbrook.

R.W.Bro. Ian Yeldham
Provincial Grand Master



Court Knoll help footballing youngsters in India

When Brian Dundon mentioned to the brethren of Court Knoll lodge the plight of some children in India they wanted to help and came to the rescue. The children had no access to football tops but are passionate about the game but play it in torn and tattered clothing. Court Knoll then went about collecting both new and used football strips, this amounted to literally hundreds of tops and Brian was shocked at the response. Brian Dundon who regularly visits India then distributed the shirts on his latest visit and the children were thrilled to have them and now are able to create teams and we must say they look very smart.



Jon Neill

Rt.WBro. Robert J. Tile

Provincial Grand Master for Suffolk 1993-2004
who passed to The Grand Lodge above
27th January 2018

“He was a gentleman and a gentle man”

I thought it would be nice if I gave a short personal account of times when I have been with Bob, as he liked to be called, in the hope they will show you the sort of man he was. He was a traditionalist but could cease from that on occasions.

On receiving Grand rank I drove with some speed with my two colleagues to Felixstowe to attend my lodge's Installation Meeting. We arrived as the members and guests were sitting down to dinner.

I was called to take wine with the Master and Bob was there representing the PGM. At that time it was the custom for Grand officers not to sing, I looked at Bob and he mouthed “sing”, so I did.

On returning to Ipswich from the north of the Province late one night, we stopped to get my car near his office. He needed some papers to take home and entered the building when the alarm sounded. It took some time to contact members of his staff as he did not know how to turn it off. By which time a crowd had gathered, fortunately, not the Police.

He took office in another degree which required him to wear headgear, the 33rd degree. I saw him soon after he had been promoted and I politely suggested to him that he wore it lower and not at the back of his head. Whenever we met after that he always came up and asked if he was wearing his headgear correctly. Then explained to those within earshot the reason for his question.

You will see in the Year Book the number of offices he held, not only in the Craft, simply too many to mention. In all his masonic career he was just one of the members. In his own lodge, Seckford, he always insisted in sitting with the brethren, not the top table. He remembered people by their names and always made a point of chatting with the junior brethren before a meal.

He was a good friend to many, had a great sense of humour and was an excellent ritualist. He was a gentleman and a gentle man. Our deepest sympathy goes to Pam, his wife, who supported him in all his masonic career. We shall miss him.

Mike Leighton



Bob at PJK Installation in 2015



Possibly one of the very last pictures of Bob, taken at the 17th January 2018 Installation Meeting of Grand Stewards at Gt. Queen Street.

The WM Phil Goodwin and his lady Lynn invite you to join them to celebrate
‘St Patricks Day’
at the **Stewards Annual Ball**
Dancing to ‘Stomp Happy’ Ceilidh Band
Saturday 17th March 2018 from 7 pm
at Ashlar House, Bury St. Edmunds
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St. Luke's pay a visit...to St. Luke's!

St. Luke's Lodge No. 225 received a fraternal visit from Bath based St. Luke's Lodge No. 6540 at their September meeting. Suffolk masons have travelled to Bath on two previous occasions and this return visit was very much welcomed. The WM of 6540 reported back indicating what a really good evening they all had. They witnessed a Second Degree Ceremony and noted the difference between their Lodge and our Antient or Atholl Lodge workings. Now the friendship has been cemented it is proposed by 225 brethren to go back to Bath in 2018 as part of the programme to visit all St. Luke's Lodges, it looks like Newcastle is next!



The WM and Wardens of 225 with the visiting Brethren

Trevor Tinley

Lodge of Prudence present a 'wet wheelchair' to Swimming Club



At a special presentation held at Leiston Leisure Centre, The Lodge of Prudence presented a 'Wet Wheelchair' to Pisces Swimming Club for Disabled People. From Prudence Lodge were Ollie, Dorian, Chris and Jim (also Chairman of the disabled swimming club), and representing the Club were Tim and Lynda Hilton, Terri, the carer for Deborah who is in the wet wheelchair, Geraldine, Aileen, Sue, Kathy, Joan, and seated in front, Ian.

Ollie Fordham the Lodge's Worshipful Master has said "To mark the anniversary we wanted to donate something tangible not simply a cash amount, we reached out to local charities and asked them if there was something specific they wanted, so that each item could become a symbol of our Tercentenary and labelled as presented by the Freemasons of Suffolk. This will be our eighth such donation. For centuries the charitable work of Freemasons has been relatively understated, as we prefer to do it without publicising it too much. However, as it is the 300th Anniversary we wanted to do something to celebrate and show our predecessors how proud we are of them".

The Pisces Swimming Club for Disabled People in Leiston has just celebrated their 25th birthday. It is a charity run purely by volunteers for the benefit of anyone in need of regular exercise in a warmer, quieter and friendly environment. The wet wheelchair is for moving people from poolside to shower, which seemed the most useful and appropriate and indeed necessary piece of equipment, for which the club, and in particular, the wheelchair members are most grateful, and what a lovely birthday present!

Dorian Eady

Teddy Bears Picnic at Ashlar House



A 'Teddy Bears Picnic' took place on Sunday 6th August, organised by the PGA, WBro Terry Lewis assisted by his wife, Harriet, Oliver Coote and his wife Hayley, Darryl Griffiths, Steve Williams, Geoff Calver, Mike Helliar and Merv Jeffery. Phil Goodwin kindly provided the PA system. The event particularly benefitted from a host of presents, bears and bunting which was donated by Felixtowe Brethren after their picnic and all delivered by Dave Wilson. Nick Berry provided the 'Bears Shy' which was great for photos and water sponge throwing.

130 children, parents and grandparents attended and the weather was warm and sunny whilst they tucked into their food hampers. The Punch and Judy Show, bouncy castle and face painting were big hits and everyone took part in the Teddy Bingo and egg and spoon races. No one left without a prize and a big smile on their face.

Many commented on the professionally produced cups, plates and napkins from The Charity. Cuddles were given by mascots and balloon animals were abundant from Marcel The Magician. The day was designed as a free event to encourage family fun and to celebrate the Tercentenary and was a great success.

Terry Lewis

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Tercentenary Summary

I am sure that the year 2017 will forever be remembered by all Brethren throughout the country as being the 300th celebration of Grand Lodge. Hopefully, the Brethren of Suffolk will also remember just how we celebrated the occasion in this Province.

UGLE charged me with involving as many Brethren as possible and the PGM charged me with keeping our celebration costs to a minimum, resulting in all three Provincial events being charged at just £34.50. It was also stressed to me by UGLE not to raise any new charity money from the Brethren of the Province during the year but existing Provincial charity funds should be used for memorable projects and, if approved by UGLE, would result in "matched funding" from them i.e. every pound given from Provincial funds would result in another pound from Grand Lodge.

I'm sure you all remember our Provincial projects which were :-

1) The purchase of 25 Coagucheks to make the lives of those born with congenital heart problems easier. Each machine had a permanent label stating "Presented by the Freemasons of Suffolk".



2) The purchase of a trailer for the Suffolk branch of the Masonic Fishing Association which enables disabled and disadvantaged children to go fishing with a Mason supervising them. The trailer was sign-written stating that it was presented by Suffolk Freemasons.

3) The purchase of a sailing boat for the disabled based just outside Bury St. Edmunds, also sign-written as above. The cost of this project was offset by a contribution in excess of £1500 from Provincial Grand Chapter. The total cost of all 3 projects was around £14,000.

The Coagucheks were presented at Provincial Grand Lodge by representatives of most Lodges throughout the Province. The trailer was also presented at PGL by the PGM and the boat was officially presented by the PGM and MEGS and launched by the PGM's lady, Amanda.



I had visited many Lodges throughout the Province during the year or so running up to 2017 asking them to present tangible objects to charities under their normal charitable giving and, if possible, to avoid just giving cheques. I supplied non-removable stickers acknowledging that the object was presented by Suffolk Freemasons but, when one Lodge presented the Scouts with a tent, we overcame the tiny sticker problem by having a 12 inch square sign made to stick onto the tent. Another Lodge presented a 'wet wheelchair' to a swimming club for the disabled and many other Lodges took on similar projects during 2017.



The RW Deputy Grand Master Jonathan Spence honoured Suffolk by holding the Jonathan Spence Masonic clay shoot in our Province, at which he competed, as part of the Tercentenary celebrations.

There were several Teddy Bears for Loving Care picnics held throughout the Province, with the most prominent being in Bury and Felixstowe. Many Suffolk masons were on duty for the 'Walk for Parkinsons', all wearing day-glo vests announcing them as Suffolk Freemasons.



October 29th marked the Provincial Cathedral service at Bury Cathedral which was very well attended and followed by a meal at Ashlar House where about 150 were in attendance.



Two days later was the Royal Albert Hall Tercentenary celebration event at which over 4,000 masons from every corner of the world were in attendance. Over 40 of those were from our Province of Suffolk and we all witnessed a truly spectacular "show" which rivalled a West End production and starred people like Derek Jacobi sadly not a mason (but we're working on him) and other well-known stars. 20 of us then went on to the Battersea Evolution where we were served a delightful meal in very special surroundings.



We held three Tercentenary functions with our ladies during 2017, June 24th at Ashlar House, July 1st at Gt. Yarmouth, both of which I wrote about in the last episode of Forum, and the final event in Ipswich on November 10th. This event was made extra special by the attendance of the

RW Dep. GM, Jonathan Spence and his wife, Almudena and the attendance of exactly 300 at the event. There was no dancing at this

Steve and Kate at The Grand Ball

event but we were entertained by some "Singing Waiters" and the evening seems to have been enjoyed by most who attended. Lodges were given the opportunity to present Festival cheques jointly to the PGM and DepGM and a total of £102,119 was presented.

2017 was the year when Grand Lodge was 300, numerous charities benefitted from tangible gifts from Lodges and Province, the image of Freemasonry by the general public has now, hopefully, been changed for the better and as a result the number of applicants for Freemasonry has increased.

To help mark the year forever in our minds, I gathered together a number of Brethren with the intention of forming a Tercentenary Chapter of Suffolk which, eventually, was agreed by Grand Lodge and Supreme Grand Chapter and is being consecrated at Ashlar House on March 9th but most importantly, the Warrant is dated 2017.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who attended the various events and all those who helped me so much during the year, particularly the Provincial Stewards at all events, Ron Hanton and Bill Bowman in Yarmouth, Terry Lewis and Will McColl in Bury and Les Howard and Paul Taylor in Ipswich.

Brian Simpson

The Tercentenary Celebration at The Royal Albert Hall

Having been very fortunate to obtain a priceless ticket I set off on the morning of Tuesday 31st October from Felixstowe to attend The Tercentenary Celebration at The Royal Albert Hall not knowing quite what to expect! But on arriving at the Royal Albert Hall it was soon apparent that with all the pomp and ceremony and everyone with their special black bags what a wonderful day it was going to be.



On entering the RAH I went through security and was greeted by the many stewards selling the souvenir brochures and showing the Brethren to the many bars and to their seats. I was soon to meet up with our WM Steve Lamb and we made our way to one of the many bars and to our surprise we were greeted by our Provincial Grand Master Ian Yeldham.



We then made our way to our places and watched the colourful procession take place followed by the theatrical and musical celebration of three hundred years of organised Freemasonry.

We went on to sing three rousing Hymns 'I vow to thee my country', 'Guide me o thou great Jehovah' and 'Jerusalem' and with over four thousand masons in good voice it made the hair on the back of my neck stand up. It was truly a remarkable day for Freemasonry and a proud day for myself and one I will never forget.

Kenny Hope



Kate and myself were very fortunate to be able to obtain tickets for The United Grand Lodge Grand Ball held at Great Queen Street on the 30th September 2017, as when I tried to get tickets on the day they went on sale a year previous they were sold out within 2 minutes past nine! I must say my excitement soon turned to disappointment, I had the date all set in my diary ready to hit the 'buy tickets button' and my excitement was over that quick. Luck would have it I went onto the waiting list and forgot all about our

once in a life time night out celebrating 300 years of our great order. To my surprise a few months later I received an email from UGLE informing me they were releasing more tickets, I duly clicked the link and bought two quick and thought about the price later!

We set off from Felixstowe around midday on the Saturday as the Ball started at 8.30 pm so we had plenty of time to get there and get ready. We arrived at our hotel which was only about a mile away and went out for a bite to eat before the night started. We joined the queue outside Grand Lodge around 7.30 pm and got chatting to a group of people from Birmingham. It so happened we got on really well, bumping into each other throughout the night, so we have exchanged lodges and plan to each have a visit. The weather gave us a slight wetting so the stewards promptly came out and provided us with umbrellas, look out for one as a prize in a future raffle! The doors opened on time at 8.30 pm and we were greeted with champagne and canapés on entry.

We were given a program of events with a map which was certainly needed as there were so many things to see over three floors we felt like kids in a sweet shop. The first thing I had to do before anything else was to show my wife the list of names of every Freemason that lost their life in The Great War. I turned the scroll to the only member of the Felixstowe lodges to pay that sacrifice - Capt. Herbert. J. West of Felixstowe United Service Lodge 3833. We then entered the Grand Temple which had been turned into a ballroom and it looked fantastic with the organ lit up and playing familiar songs, it certainly got us in the mood for a great evening.

We went on to The Gallery Suite where Charlie and The Bubbly Boys were playing 1920s music cabaret featuring The Gatsby Girls with all their white feathers in full display. After that assault on the senses refreshment was needed and The Goose & Gridiron Ale House, where it all started 300 years ago beckoned, but now relocated in The Past Grand Officers Robing Room! A bit of gambling was then called for in Lodge Room No 10 which had been turned into a Casino & Seafood Bar.



The list of things we had to fit in and see before 3 am was quite long, The Gin Bar, Dessert Bar, Foot & Shoulder Massage, Great Queen Street Tea Rooms, Virtual Reality Installation & Games Room, Wine Tasting & Pasta Making, Whiskey Bar, Crazy Golf and various bands and orchestras throughout the evening, needless to say time ran out and it was time to go.

We had a fantastic night and you could clearly see everybody else had a great evening. Grand Lodge catered for all tastes and ages and we were pleasantly surprised how many young couples there were, it just goes to show Freemasonry still has a place in today's world and is going forward in a positive way into the future.

Here's to the next 300 years.

Steve and Kate Bloomfield

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Suffolk Masonic Fishing Charity

2017 saw the Suffolk branch of the Masonic Fishing Charity have another successful year. In 2018 two events are planned, the first on 24th May which has been very kindly sponsored by Brett Valley Lodge 9479 and will be taking place at Hintlesham Trout Lake. This day will be catering for a mixture of troubled, autistic and disabled children so should be a great event for all involved. The second will be held on 27th September, the location and school is to be confirmed.



If any brethren are aware of any schools or groups that would like to attend an event, especially in the north of the Province, please contact us on the details below. These events are free of charge to the participants and they provide an outside experience like no other, some feedback from our events during 2017 include one young disadvantaged teenager stating "It was the best day of my life" another told a masonic casting tutor "I wish you were my dad". It is just as satisfying for the casters as the children and shows that we really are making a difference to our communities.

The group will be fund raising during 2018 for a new outdoor gazebo or large tent in which to hold their events. All of the Suffolk masonic fishing days are funded through donations from Suffolk Masons, the events are often in need of casters to assist the children and you simply need to be a competent fisherman either coarse or fly and have a DBS check undertaken, which we can organise free of charge.

The Suffolk branch is led by a group from Court Knoll Lodge and can be contacted via Jon Neil - jon@sportsafeuk.com www.mtsfc.org.uk

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‘Talking about Foundations’

A piece of Masonic History was made on the 28th September 2017, when St. Mary’s Lodge 3828, meeting at the Masonic Royal Assembly Rooms, Great Yarmouth, was honoured by the presence of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Ian J. Yeldham and Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Keith W. Huxley. Both were ably assisted by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Worshipful Brother David Barker.

The meeting comprised of a Third-Degree Ceremony, which was ably conducted by the Lodge Officers. The uniqueness of the occasion involved the Provincial Grand Master, who kindly agreed to present Grand Lodge Certificates to two members of the same family, namely, Bro. Ian Burnett (grandfather) and Brother Elliot Burnett (grandson). This occasion was further complimented by the attendance of a further member of the Elliot family, Bro. Keith Burnett (father).



The Loveland family



The Elliott family

If that was not enough, also present that same evening were four members of the Loveland family, namely, W.Bro. Malcolm Loveland (father), W.Bro. Philip Loveland (son), Bro. Nicholas Loveland (son) and Brother Richard Loveland (son). A further member of the Loveland family, Bro. Sebastian Waters (grandson), was unavoidably absent.

All the brethren are members of St. Mary’s Lodge and the evening

really proved to be a historical family affair. It certainly exemplifies and reinforces the sentiment of raising a ‘superstructure’ from a ‘foundation’ laid in the north-east part of the Lodge.

Ron Hanton

Phoenix Lodge BBQ

Phoenix Lodge held a BBQ at the home of WBro Traver Scarff, for members, friends and families. The weather was kind and everyone enjoyed a super lunch enhanced by the exotic flavours from our members from the Phillipines. Drinks flowed freely and the children had a splendid time on the bouncy castle as well as in the swimming pool, so did some fully clothed adults! With a 50/50 charity bucket a total of nearly £800 was raised for local Stowmarket charities which I am sure will be put to good use.



Peter Green

Mark Benevolent Fund presentation to SERV Norfolk Blood Bikes



A very impressive contingent of East Anglian Mark Masons, together with their wives and partners gathered at Great Yarmouth to see Provincial Grand Master RW Bro. Paul Norman hand over the keys of a new Ford Focus Estate car, named ‘Mark Mason’ to SERV Norfolk Blood Bikes. Supplied as the result of a generous grant from the Mark Benevolent Fund of just under £17,000, the car will be used to transport essential medical supplies such as blood, plasma, vaccines and breast milk for premature babies across Norfolk. While most of their work is carried out on motorbikes, in low temperatures cars must be used and this new vehicle replaces an older less reliable one, plus volunteers regularly have to use their own vehicles.

The keys were presented to WBro. Colin Farrington, Chairman and Operations Manager of SERV Norfolk. Colin is a well known Mark Mason and other members are part of the volunteer SERV Norfolk team. It was both wonderful and humbling to see the hard earned donations of all our brethren being turned into something that will have such a positive impact on so many lives. The MBF was represented by Trustee RW Bro Peter Rollin who said, “We thought this was a particularly worthwhile scheme to support and it was a good idea to get them a new car for East Anglia.”

Richard Pryor

The Library and Museum of Freemasonry

The Museum contains an extensive collection of objects with Masonic decoration including pottery and porcelain, glassware, silver, furniture and clocks, jewels and regalia. Items belonging to famous and Royal Freemasons including Winston Churchill and Edward VII are on display together with examples from the Museum’s extensive collection of prints and engravings, photographs and ephemera.

The collection explores the different ranks, offices and branches of freemasonry. It explains some of the symbolism used, the charities set up, masonic dining habits as well as freemasonry abroad and during wartime. There is also a large collection of items relating to non-Masonic fraternal societies such as the Oddfellows and the Sons of the Phoenix.

Monday to Friday: When the Grand Temple is not in use there are up to 5 tours per day at 11am, 12noon, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm.

Saturday: When the Grand Temple is not in use there are 2 tours – at 10:30am and 2pm.

There is no charge. There is no need to book a place unless you are part of a large group.

Each tour starts in the Library and Museum. Visitors are asked to note that photographic ID may be required to be shown before the tour commences.

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www.freemasonry.london.museum



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Social gathering a great success!

On Sunday 3rd December the four Felixstowe Lodges met for an informal social gathering at the Copas Bar with the intention being to encourage younger members to meet each other in a more relaxed environment. Forty four people from all the four lodges braved the elements and came along. Everyone who attended said it had been a very successful event and would be keen to attend another one next year. It was also a very good opportunity for all our ladies to meet the wives from other Lodges.



Mark Jepson

Teddies for Loving Care



Buster Bear pictured with his friend and organiser Stephen Bayfield and wife Barbara.

In August we held a teddy bears picnic at Glemham Hall to promote the Teddies for Loving Care charity (TLC) a wonderful organisation set up through Freemasonry to provide Teddy Bears and soft toys to A&E units for the medical staff to give to Children often admitted in a distressed condition. The event was very well attended by Freemasons and their families, the general public and of course lots of children. A real bonus was to have the originator of the scheme, Ian Simpson, his wife and Ian's travelling accomplice 'Big Ted' all with us on the day. The Children were kept entertained all afternoon with much laughter and fun from Potty Harry, Punch and Judy, Buster Bear together with competition time, bouncy castle, kiddies tombola and wonderful singing from Kelly Pritchard as 'Vocally Vintage'.

The magnificent sum of £1229.33 has been handed to our Provincial Grand Lodge account to help provide funding for the continuing supply of Teddies to our local Hospitals.

Many thanks must go to our wonderful entertainers, Kelly Pritchard, Wayne Burns and Peter Holloway who all provided their services free of charge. Thanks to Glemham Hall, Barry Dye (bouncy castle), The Ice Cream Man who all gave generous discounts and the many donations including Friday Street Farm Shop and Clarke and Simpson of Framlingham.



And that Boys and Girls isMagic!

A very special thanks must go to our Main sponsor Samuel David Construction of Woodbridge who provided the event funding and advertising. Finally I would like to thank my incredible small team of stewards, friends, freemasons and their wives for their fantastic help in making the afternoon such a success.

Stephen Bayfield

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ALA Lodge 5043 celebrating 300 Years of Freemasonry



With no original freemasons from the very first meeting in 1717 available to attend and with two hours of persistent rain which measured a quarter of a wine glass trying to spoil our event, we were warmly welcomed by our hosts Graham and Susan Mason who had everything well planned to make sure our celebration was a great success.

Fifty guests, many in shorts and tee shirts despite the rain, enjoyed good BBQ food cooked by two great chefs in Robert Mullins and Dave Edgley coupled with a dessert table of various goodies. Sue and Graham would like to thank everyone for their support, to all who helped on the day and especially those who contributed a dessert and a raffle prize. The event raised a total of £782.50 for the 2019 Festival.

Grand Officers Investiture Meeting



Pictured with the PGM are the recipients of Grand Officer Promotions and Appointments awarded at the Investiture Meeting held at Grand Lodge on the 26th April, John Rice, promoted to PGSwdB; Keith Huxley, promoted to PSGD; David Barker, appointed PAGDC and Graham Colthorpe, appointed PAGDC.

Worshipful Master's and Active Provincial Officers' Reception



This annual event, held in 2017 on 25th November and hosted by the PGM and Members of the Philip Jervis Kay Lodge, was well attended by Worshipful Master's, Active Officer's and their Ladies and Partners from across the Province. The event was formally opened by Ian Yeldham who thanked the Ladies and Partners for their unstinting support towards the Brethren. Such support is invaluable and greatly enhances the Provinces' endeavours in achieving its aims and objectives.

From the level of noise and chat in the main function room, it was apparent that the event was well received by all those present, made even more convivial by an enjoyable buffet lunch and a glass or two of wine. The hard working members from the Provincial Grand Steward's Lodge ensured that the glasses were kept topped up to an acceptable level. Ashlar House had been decorated for the festive season and provided a lovely atmosphere to start the Christmas Celebrations. The time passed all too quickly but I am sure that it was due to it being a friendly and happy afternoon, enjoyed by all those present.

Ralph Robertson



FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Magazine

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

Have you got an idea for an article?

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

Have you researched your lodge or masonic hall history?

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Andy & Nick's Cycling Progress

Andy left this part of the story at our 51st visit and news that we had raised our target to £15,000.

In the first half of this Masonic season we have been to a further seven Lodges and after organising the necessary carnets, visas and inoculations this included venturing over the border to Norfolk. With only two of us cycling now our personal and work commitments have required a constant juggling act and the weather is always a factor. The cold being more of an issue than rain.

Our first trip of the season to Felix was a fantastic start, the weather was unusually warm and welcoming for a Felixstowe run and throughout the evening donation after donation was forthcoming. We came away with a very generous total of £505!

Relatively short trips to Orwell and Babergh followed and on 8th November we went to Hartismere lodge who were meeting in Diss at its cunningly disguised Lodge building, fortunately the nearby Cock Inn with its roaring fire and reasonably priced Scotch was much easier to find and difficult to leave.



November 24th saw the cyclists saddling up to head out to Hadleigh on what should have been one of the easier journeys in the challenge. However, Brother Andy had just travelled 6,000 miles overnight with very little sleep... And coming from a 28° climate into a 4° climate and jumping on a bicycle was challenging to say the least. However, Brett Valley DC Kelvin Avis had kindly offered the hospitality of his home so the cyclists had somewhere to change and

warm up with a wee Dram provided for internal warmth!

The weather turned cold in December and owing to my work schedule Andy cycled solo to Phoenix in Stowmarket and I was support driver. Then an unexpected icy snap meant we drove rather than cycled to Doric in Woodbridge in December, but having seen so many of the brethren on previous trips it did not dampen their enthusiasm to see us sing for our suppers, which having been provided by the master we were happy to do. That was the first time a trip was postponed owing to weather. In the true spirit of cycling to each Lodge in Suffolk we will still have to make this journey and visit again.

We are now 10 trips from completion, and £13,034 raised, so just under £2,000 to reach our revised target.

We would be very pleased to see any of the friends we've made on this quest at a future visit and especially to No. 64 which is a trip to Ipswich to my installation as Master of Round Table Lodge of Suffolk.

Lastly, a continuing thanks to those Brothers that turn out to support us and get us and our bikes back home after the meetings. Without your help this challenge would be impossible.

In addition to visiting the 68 Craft Lodges in Suffolk, Andy & Nick will be cycling to Provincial Grand Lodge on the 1st June this year. The final cycle and visit number 70 will be to Grand Lodge, Queen Street, London on 12th September 2018. If there are any Brothers within Suffolk that would like to join them on this final ride then please do get in touch with Andy or Nick. Places will be limited.

	Total	Completed	To Go
Miles Covered	2185	1776	409
Lodges	68	58	10

Progress and details of all the visits can be viewed on the website at <http://www.festival2019.co.uk/andy-on-ye-bike/>

Nick Moulton

Family Double at Copperfield



On Monday 25th September 2017 Copperfield Lodge 9581 created a first for the Lodge at its meeting at the Cliff Hotel, Gorleston. Past Master of the Lodge WBro David Mills was invited by WM Karl Hodgins to take the Chair of King Solomon. The occasion was to mark the Initiation of David's son Mark David Mills and also David's brother John George Mills into Copperfield Lodge. The family initiation extended further into the ceremony when David's other brother WBro Nick Penegar-Mills a member of Mid Surrey Lodge 3109 delivered the charge in a most interesting manner. Also present was David's brother-in-law Bro Malcolm Nichol of Precision Lodge 5855 in Surrey.

The Lodge Mentor Brian Hole congratulated the Initiates and presented them with a copy of the First Degree Ritual. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master John Rice who congratulated the new members. There were 71 members and guests present, which made for a most enjoyable and successful evening, rounded off with an excellent festive board, washed down with fine wine. At the festive board the toast to the candidates was proposed by W Bro David Mills along with the usual riposte of a son becoming a Brother to his Father.

Des Millward

Ross raises £3000 for hospice by cycling London to Paris

Ross Howard, Chief Steward of Rotary lodge No 9306 recently cycled from London to Paris in aid of the St Elizabeth Hospice. He raised a total of £3000 for this very good cause. This was part of an organised fund raising event for the hospice where 30 plus cyclists took part. Ross commented "This was a great challenge and involved cycling 100 miles a day for three days. The camaraderie among the riders was superb and there was a great feeling of elation when we reached the Eiffel Tower. I would like to thank the many masons that assisted me to reach my target of £3000 for the hospice". He added "I took this very seriously and put in a lot of training including attending some cycling events that involved 100 mile circuits. This certainly boosted my confidence and prepared me for this very worthwhile fund raising event".



Les Howard



DID YOU KNOW?

Lux in Tenebris Lodge No. 3856 in London is for blind Masons. The Latin words mean "Light in Darkness."

Suffolk Wildlife Trust receive support from The Grand Charity

Melvyn Eke presented a cheque for £250 from the Grand Charity, as part of £1000 allocated to Christchurch Lodge, to Julian Roughton Chairman of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Melvyn has been very active with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust since the early 1980s as warden of Spring Wood nature reserve in Ipswich, completing annual bird, butterfly and toad surveys and running conservation work parties. Plus in his Volvo days chauffeuring Sir Richard Branson and Sir David Attenborough around Suffolk on their wildlife visits with the then director Derek Moore. The cheque will form part of their fundraising effort for Lackford Lakes reserve near Bury St Edmunds.



Tercentenary celebrated by Halesworth Freemasons with a quintet of charitable donations



At a special presentation held at Halesworth Day Centre the Lodge of Prudence presented donations to five organisations, as it marked the Tercentenary of the Freemasons. Both Worshipful Master Ollie Fordham and Charity Steward Dorian Eady were on hand, along with three of their brothers, to show their support for five different organisations.

Halesworth Community Nursing Care Fund, Halesworth Royal British Legion, Halesworth Day Centre, All Hallows Healthcare Trust and Halesworth Volunteer Centre were each presented with a requested item. Ollie commented "We wanted each group to get something tangible, not simply a cash amount. We were keen to do something for the Halesworth community." The first presentation saw Dinah Morley, of the Halesworth Community Nursing Care Fund presented with a cheque for £200, as no specific item was requested. A bespoke table cloth was then presented to Derek Draper, of the Halesworth branch of the Royal British Legion. Next, the Halesworth Day Centre was presented with a hearing loop device, which was presented to Jean Macheath. An airflow patient sling was then presented to Donna Oakins, of All Hallows Healthcare Trust, before, finally, the Halesworth Volunteer Centre received a laptop computer, collected by Emma Healey.

Ollie added "For centuries, the charitable work of the Freemasons has been relatively understated, as we prefer to do it without publicising it too much. However, as it is the 300th anniversary we wanted to do something to celebrate the community and show our predecessors how proud we are of them. We reached out to each of these organisations and asked them if there was something specific they wanted, so that each item could become a symbol of the Tercentenary and labelled as presented by Freemasons of Suffolk. It fills me and all of my lodge with tremendous pride to be able to get involved in the local community and celebrate 300 years of Freemasonry."

Dorian Eady

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A brief history of Lodge Prince of Wales No. 1261

It would appear that from the date of its inception, the Founders intended the Lodge to be designated as Lodge Prince of Wales, and it is by this title that the Lodge has been generally known. When the United Grand Lodge of England issued Warrant No. 1261 dated the 4th April, 1863, The 'Prince of Wales' Lodge became the fourth Masonic Lodge to be formed in the town of Ipswich and the thirteenth in the county of Suffolk. Whilst the reasons for what were obviously considered necessary at that time for the formation of a new Lodge in the town are now unknown, it is documented that such action was due to serious differences which had arisen amongst the members of Perfect Friendship Lodge No. 376 (date of Warrant 13th March, 1824). In an extract from the records of the Senior Ipswich Lodge, British Union Lodge No. 114 (date of Warrant 21st January, 1762), there occurs a reference to 'Lodge Prince of Wales' which reads that on February the 27th, 1863:

"Bro. E. Dorling, P. G. Secretary, having informed the Lodge that a schism had occurred amongst members of the 'Perfect Friendship Lodge' in this town that he thought unlikely ever again to be united, he had presented a petition to the M. W. Grand Master, soliciting a Warrant for a fresh Lodge in Ipswich, and he requested the recommendation of the British Union Lodge on the subject".

The formation of the new Lodge having been granted, a Founders' Meeting to establish Lodge Prince of Wales was held at the Golden Lion Hotel, Ipswich, on the 27th April, 1863. At this meeting it was resolved that the first meeting of the new Lodge should be held at the Golden Lion on the first Monday in May at eight o'clock in the evening. The W.M. proposed that the first act of the new Lodge should be to subscribe One Pound to each of the Benevolent Funds, which proposal was seconded by Bro. J. Alloway and agreed to by all those present.



Lodge Prince of Wales No. 1261 was thus formally consecrated on St. John's Day, the 24th June, 1863, at the Golden Lion Hotel, Ipswich. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master then Constituted and Consecrated the Lodge according to ancient custom, after which W. Bro. John Head was regularly inducted into the chair of King Solomon.

Following the Consecration of the Lodge, it was renumbered to 959 the next month when the 'closings-up' of all the Lodges in the Register of the Grand Lodge of

England took place, and the relative order of seniority of all Craft Lodges in the Register was indisputably established.

There were 15 Initiations and 37 Joining Members within the first twelve months of the foundation of the Lodge, and by January 1865 serious consideration was being given by members of Lodge Prince of Wales to the creation of a purpose-made building to accommodate the four Craft Lodges which were at that time meeting in various hotels and public houses within the town. One of Lodge Prince of Wales's Founder Members, Bro. Francis Jennings, purchased, and was prepared to gift for this purpose, a plot of land adjoining St. Stephen's church and running through to Upper Brook Street.

This resulted in a Masonic Company being set up to develop a Masonic Hall at the back part of the premises nearest St. Stephen's Church and also suitable shops in that part facing Brook Street. The land having been purchased a scheme was proposed by him to raise £1200 by subscriptions of £1 each. This sum was offered in proportions of £300 each to the four Lodges in the town, British Union, St. Luke's, Perfect Friendship and Lodge Prince of Wales. The three former Lodges, however, having declined to accept the proposition, members of Lodge Prince of Wales determined not to let such an opportunity pass by and set about raising the necessary amount themselves.

The Architects of the proposed Hall were Messrs. Bacon & Bell, of Arthur Street West, London Bridge...

"The Hall and Masonic Buildings would comprise an Entrance Hall and Vestibule, Robing, Committee Room, Ante Rooms and Banqueting Room. The Hall will be elegantly decorated, fitted with sofa-cushioned seats and lighted from the roof by the newly invented "sun light". There will be a gallery at the Western end (where it is proposed to erect an organ) supported by two granite columns of appropriate design.

The buildings will be heated by hot water apparatus. All suitable offices, such as Kitchens, Lavatories, Regalia and Store Rooms, will be included in the internal arrangements. At the Western end of the building and facing the Churchyard, will be erected a dwelling house for the Tyler or Hall Keeper. The exterior of the building will be plain but of a substantial character. The approach to the Hall will be by an ornamental doorway in St. Stephens Church Lane."



The first purpose-built Masonic Hall to be erected in Ipswich - financed and built entirely by the Brethren of 'Lodge Prince of Wales' and completed in 1866



FORUM

Have you got an idea for an article?
Have you something or someone you would like us to feature?
Have you researched your lodge or masonic hall history?

Editor: WBro. Kelvin Avis Tel 07771 644716 kelvinavis@me.com

No. 959 and the first Ipswich Masonic Centre

The new Company had very great confidence in their capabilities as they did not put the work out to contract but arranged to carry it out themselves. Most of the furniture was given by the Brethren of the Lodge and in addition, several Brethren made gifts in money, including the Provincial Grand Master, who donated the sum of £25. The opening date was fixed for 22nd January 1866, and the P.G.M. authorised a special meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge for the Opening and Consecration Ceremony, in addition to offering the services of his Regimental Band for the occasion.

The Banquet afterwards took place at 4 o'clock in the Lodge Room when about 120 brethren sat down to "an elegantly served repast, the tables presented a very beautiful appearance, the massive silver epergnes and candelabra and vases of choice flowers having a very beautiful effect".

The 'Chef de Cuisine' was a Mr. Farrar of 2, Woodville Place, Mildmay Park, London, who performed his task admirably. The following was the Bill of Fare:-

Soup:

Oxtail. Chesterfield. Mock Turtle and Julien.

Fish:

Turbot. Soles. Boiled & Fried Cod. Stewed Eels.

Main Course:

Stewed Kidneys. Oyster Patties. Curried Fowls. Mutton Cutlets. Sweet Breads. Vol-au-vents. Boiled Leg of Mutton. Haunches and Saddles of Mutton. Roast Beef. Pea Fowls. Roast & Boiled Turkeys. Roast & Boiled Chickens. Pigeon Pies. Hams & Tongues. Pheasants. Partridges. Hares. Wild Fowl.

Dessert:

Puddings. Mince Pies. Tarts & Jellies. Creams and Blancmanges.

Wines:

Champagne. Moselle. Hock. Port. Sherry. Chablis. Bucellas.

The Dinner Service was made expressly for the new Hall by Bro. Copeland of the celebrated firm of Copeland & Son of Bond Street. It is of blue and white with a hexagonal chain of blue round the rim. In the centre is a blue garter with corded edges bearing the words "Masonic Hall Ipswich"; in the centre, within the circle, is the square and compasses.

After such an auspicious creation, it is rather disconcerting to find that differences soon occurred between the management of the Hall and their tenants, which resulted in the company finding itself in rapidly worsening financial difficulties. Endeavours were made in 1877, without success, to float it as a limited liability company at a capital of £2000 with the shareholders not being restricted to Masons, but finally the bailiffs were put in charge and the enterprise went into bankruptcy, the building being sold to the Central Conservative Association who both own and use it to the present day.



Foundation stones laid by W. Bro. Edward Dorling, Chairman of the Building Committee

Some relics, however, survive. For example, the bricks laid by one of our Founders, W. Bro. Edward Dorling, Chairman of the Building Committee of the Masonic Hall and Master of the Lodge at the date of its completion, are still clearly visible in the wall facing the passage leading from Upper Brook Street to



The Dedication Tablet relating to the first Masonic Hall in St. Stephen's Lane, Ipswich can now be seen at Soane Street in the Bar area

St. Stephen's Church, whilst the 'Lodge Prince of Wales' Memorial Stone was rescued by Bro. Edward George Jeckell and presented to the Lodge when the Conservative Association carried out extensions to the premises in later years.

Following the collapse of this enterprise, attempts were made by the Ipswich Lodges to find a suitable site for a new building and in January 1879 the site on which the present building stands was purchased from Mr. T. M. Fonnereau and the 'New Masonic Hall' in Soane Street was erected, managed by a Trust elected from the Ipswich Lodges.

We can but wonder at the generosity of the Founders and early members of Lodge Prince of Wales. The quality and craftsmanship of the various items of furniture and artefacts which were provided by those early Brethren have truly stood the test of time and which, since the Lodge moved to the present Masonic Hall in Soane Street, have been used by members of all those Craft Lodges and other Degrees which meet there..

With thanks to members of Lodge Prince of Wales 959 for assisting Forum with this article



Although not now in general use in the Temple, the magnificent set of three gavels pictured above was presented to the Lodge P.O.W. by Mrs. E. L. Dorling in 1863. They are priceless insofar as being irreplaceable, due both to their having been made from the teeth of a sperm whale and having ivory handles.

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Cornwallis Court residents celebrate Apple Day with Aspalls

Each year, the 21st October marks Apple Day, a national celebration of apples and orchards - and residents at Cornwallis Court in Bury St Edmunds received a special visit from local cider company Aspall.

Residents enjoyed tasting a range of apple juices and ciders, provided by Aspall staff members Rebecca and Charlotte. A presentation about the history of Aspall sparked conversations about different tastes of cider and juices among residents.

Activities Co-ordinator Alex Winter said: "The connection with Aspall is now in its third year and we are very thankful to the company for joining our residents in their celebrations of Apple Day. Events like these help residents to socialise and connect with the local community and everyone had an informative and enjoyable day learning about cider, juice and vinegar making."

RMBI



Snowdon Bike Ride for Suffolk Accident Rescue Service



The weather was clear as we prepared the bikes and with cloud covering the summit we set off up the planned ascent. The route up was the popular Llanberis path where there is a voluntary code that cyclists will avoid May-September 10 to 5. Biking the already steep path to the start of the trail gave a good indication of what was to come. With the walkers, larger boulders and challenging terrain it was

a case of on and off the bike until the half-way house rest stop, after which carrying bikes on shoulders up very steep steps was required and we were all wishing they allowed bikes on the train at this point.

The final ascent was looming into the clouds and with the temperature dropping several degrees it was time to lift the bike back onto the shoulders and trudge up slowly. The final 100m and thoughts around biking back down started to come to the fore. Made it! What a great place to have a café serving hot Cornish pasties. Then with pictures completed, full face helmets and armour on we headed to the start of the steps to bike all the way back down. The route for the descent was to branch off onto the Ranger path and then Telegraph Valley to take us back to Llanberis.

Whilst less strenuous not having to peddle or walk the concentration needed to keep hanging on with speeds reaching 30mph on certain parts kept the focus to pick through rocks, over boulders and drops as they approached meant the cold wasn't a second thought. Back at the bottom with eyes wide open and smiles aplenty we had taken 3 hours to get up and 40mins to descend. I have so far raised £400 which will be matched by Barclays along with gift aid to be added on to the initial amount.

Peter Robinson, Martyn Lodge 1983

Make a New Will Your New Year's Resolution

Christmas is already a distant memory, and for many, the annual psychological battle to keep New Year's resolutions alive has begun in earnest. I have a suggestion for a resolution that should be easy to make and achievable. If you haven't got a will, make a belated resolution to write one. Contrary to popular belief, making a will is not akin to signing your own death warrant! It is sensible financial planning for the future. It's never fun to think about our own eventual mortal demise, and yet there is no getting away from the fact it is a club of which we are all going to become members. However, a club you definitely do not want to be a member of is the intestate club. To join, you need to be one of the third of adults in the UK that dies every year without having made a will – known as dying intestate.

If you die intestate, a set of inflexible rules dictate how your estate will be distributed and to whom. As you've worked so hard during your life to attain the savings, property, etc. that represents your personal wealth, why would you not want to decide for yourself who gets what after you're gone? Under intestacy rules, any unmarried partners are ignored, however loving and long their relationship may have been. Step-children are ignored under intestacy rules too.

Even if you plan to leave everything to your spouse, without a will, your loved one as beneficiary becomes responsible for attaining 'grants of letters of administration' via the probate registry which involves an interview and much bureaucratic form filling. It will delay the release of funds and place added strain on your loved one who is likely already fragile and grieving at this time. You can't leave a gift to Charity without a will. Did you know that if you leave at least 10% of your taxable estate to charity you could reduce any inheritance tax liability against your estate?

If you're still not sure it's time to make a new resolution and make your will, take a look at the Masonic Charitable Foundation website. We have lots of information about will-making and legacy giving, and a useful downloadable guide. We even have an online will making service in collaboration with Law Vault, which is available at www.mcf.org.uk/legacy

I nearly forgot. Did you know that on average people that have written a will live longer than those who haven't? And people who leave a gift to a charitable cause in their will live longer still. Make a resolution to look after yourself, those you love and the causes you support – make a will.

Duncan Washbrook, Legacy Manager, MCF

Macmillan Coffee Morning



Helen Glenholmes (Macmillan Cancer Care), Amanda Lewis, Alice Robertson, Cath Hellier, Jean Barker, Pam Simpson, Jenny Boswell, Jacquie Nash (not in photo).

On Saturday 7th October Suffolk Masonic Ladies held their annual Macmillan coffee morning. A huge selection of wonderful cakes were made, decorated and brought along to Ashlar House. The standard was so high I think we ought to start a Great Masonic Bake Off! As well as cake and coffee there was a fabulous raffle with many generously donated prizes. Jean Barker donated one of her stunning cakes that was auctioned and there was also a guess the name of the bear competition. An amazing £4,125 before gift aid was raised so a big thank you to all who attended.

Amanda Lewis

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Suffolk Installed Masters Lodge No. 3913

Consecrated 13th March 1919
Patron: Masonic Samaritan Fund

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

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

All membership enquires to:

**Peter Sutters, Membership Secretary 07876 493813
petersutters@hotmail.com**

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

Royal Clarence Service of Lessons and Carols

Royal Clarence Lodge No. 1823 held a Service of Lessons and Carols at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Clare on the evening of Saturday December 16th 2017, by kind permission of the Rev. Canon Stuart Mitchell. Before the service, the eight church bells were rung, led by the Tower Captain, Alan Mayle, a member of the Lodge. One of the bells is a tenor bell reputed to be the second heaviest in Suffolk.

The Rev. Canon Stuart Mitchell welcomed the Worshipful Master Alastair Sims, The Deputy Provincial Grand Master V. W. Bro. John Rice and approx. 90 Lodge members and friends with an opening prayer. The service consisted of eight carols with four lessons which were read by children of Lodge members. The assembly was also treated to two solos, "The Nativity Carol" by John Rutter and "There is no rose" by Philip W. J. Stopford, sung by Ava Lee, grand-daughter of Ray Cleaver, a Lodge member. The church organ was played by Mr. Peter Richards from Little Abington, a friend of the Worshipful Master. A collection taken during the service was donated to the Church Fabric Appeal to restore the "Three Virtues" window in the church. Following the service, a traditional Christmas Dinner was held in Clare Town Hall which was a very convivial occasion. Proceeds of a Raffle held during the evening were donated to Cancer Research UK.

Malcolm Smth

Brett Valley 25th Anniversary



Brett Valley Lodge celebrated their 25th Anniversary in October 2017 by holding an extraordinary meeting in the presence of APMG Keith Huxley, together with founders and consecration officer Mike Leighton. The Secretary then read the Minutes of the 1992 Consecration Meeting. A short history of the lodge was read followed by a roll call of Past Masters, of which many were present. As part of the evening Fellowcraft Bro. Corey Williams, an operative stone mason, then presented the lodge with two hand carved ashlars which will be used as cornerstones in future ceremonies. A very lively Festive Board followed where the lodge dined on the same menu as that originally enjoyed at the Consecration.

Kelvin Avis

Jimmy Mann's love of motorcycles goes back a very long way, in fact the best part of fifty plus years, here is his story...

I guess it all started when a friend of mine gave me a 250cc single cylinder BSA C11G which he could not start, well with a bit of luck I managed to get it running, and for my efforts he said I could keep it as he had just taken delivery of a brand new BSA 650. The year was 1958, I was fifteen at the time so I could not ride the C11G on the road but fortunately there was some land near my home and with the help of a few older friends I learnt how to ride a motorcycle. Come August 1959 I passed my riding test, luckily first time, the feeling of freedom is something that I will always remember.

From the day I passed my test I knew that one day I would be a racer, little did I know how soon that was to come, Quite by chance I met Dick Hawes in a motorcycle shop local to my home, we got chatting and he invited me to visit his motorcycle club the Mont Christie which met at High Beech in Epping Forest. Dick introduced me to this club and after a few months I joined them. This resulted in many escapades known as Coffee Bar Cowboys - in effect this was a dash between various cafe and coffee shops with the last club member to arrive buying the tea for all on the ride. My memories of this period tell me that neither Dick or myself ever bought any tea!

Another attraction of this period was going to watch racing at several circuits such as Brands Hatch, Snetterton, Mallory Park and many others. You can see from these outings Dick and I caught the racing bug and it wasn't long before we took our first step towards this goal. It came about by accident when one of our friends told us of a racing side car he had seen and asked us if we wanted to see it which of course we did. The year was 1965. This was our first big step to get into racing albeit we never thought it would be on three wheels, a decision was made and we bought the outfit for £100 with Dick as the driver and me the passenger.



At this point in time I should mention that during the period 1961 to 1965 we were frequent visitors to the IOM with the intent of learning the TT Mountain Course as well as being spectators in TT week. The knowledge we gained was invaluable to us and looking back on it gave us a considerable advantage when we entered our first TT in 1966. Our TT record shows us as being reasonably successful with four silver replicas being awarded us for a 10th place in 1968 a sixth place in 1969 and a seventh and ninth place in 1971. I rode in the 1967 TT with another close friend Roy Hanks and finished fifteenth and again with Roy in 1972 we won two silver replicas for finishing sixth in both races. In all I competed in excess of 170 races from Club to GP status between 1965 and 1972.

I could go on forever speaking about my racing career so if you are interested why not book me in to your Lodge for an evening talk for which I have a slide show and loads of original photos and press outings that I would like to show you.

A little now about my Masonic activities - I was initiated into Freemasonry in July 1984 in the Gresham Lodge No. 869 in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, when in 1995 I was proud to become Master. My first daughter Lodge is Bedford No. 157, meeting in Great Queen St which I joined in 1988, was Master in 1996 and 2002 and awarded LGR in 2002. I joined Royal St Edmunds Lodge 1008 in 2010 and was awarded the honour of PPJGD by our PGM Ian Yeldham in June 2016. I was proud to become the Master of Royal St Edmunds in October 2016 where I was given fantastic support by my officers and Brethren alike. I have enjoyed my Masonic career very much, particularly here in Suffolk where I have made many new friends and made many visits to Lodges in the Province and beyond.

Jimmy delivers a wonderful talk on his racing career, feel free to contact him on 07740 701343 / 01284 750214 or email: 19jpm26@gmail.com



The Classic 300 Car Run

To showcase three hundred years of English Freemasonry (1717-2017), the Masonic Classic Vehicle Club organised the Classic 300 - a series of individual classic car runs that took place in England and Wales during 2017. The official line is: The non-competitive classic car runs are for the enjoyment of the participants, and to be seen and enjoyed by members of the public.



A much respected Director of Ceremonies took charge of the navigation. Five of us followed obediently and shortly afterwards we were enjoying an animated discussion at a country crossroads, clearly not part of the intended route. It's every Mason for himself, suggested my co-pilot WBro Peter Matthews so we connected up the trusty satnav to pre-war auto-electrics. Fortunately the Fish and Chip Cafe at Dunwich beach anticipated our late arrival and an excellent lunch was enjoyed.

Cruising at her top speed of 38 mph on the way to Bressingham, Poppy, a 1935 Rover 10 was always going to struggle to keep pace when she encountered a regular series of dips in the road. With each dip the elliptical springs exercised more of their muscle until the sliding roof decided it preferred an alternative existence as an aerofoil and promptly detached itself from the runners. Like the villain in Goldfinger who was seat-ejected from James Bond's DB5, WBro Matthews rose to grasp its handle and thereby save Poppy from any damage and her owner from some embarrassment.



On arrival at Bressingham Steam Museum our cars were allowed into the central paddock and we became a proud exhibit for the general public to admire. And yes, Poppy did arrive last. Here she is pictured above, resting next to her rather quicker new best friend. Sandwiches from the wickerwork hamper, luke warm tea tasting of old thermos flask, a round trip of 160 miles. What a day!

With grateful thanks to Suffolk Co-ordinator James Hayward of Caduceus Lodge for kindly arranging such an enjoyable event, who commented "A superb event, the voiced opinion of the participants made organising the day well worth all the effort, perhaps we will repeat in the future".



DID YOU KNOW ?

The Third Degree is the final stage before becoming a fully-fledged Mason. The ceremony involves close questioning, which is where the expression "giving someone the third degree" originates...

VW Brother John Rice PGSwd.B.

Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Suffolk

John was initiated into Joshua Nunn 2154 Halstead Essex in 1971 and later became a joining member of Sudbury's Stour Valley Lodge 1224 serving as WM in 1992. He became a Provincial Grand Steward in 1997 later to serve as WM of that Lodge in 2012, Senior Grand Deacon in 2001, Senior Grand Warden in 2004, Founding WM of the Countryside Lodge of Suffolk 9830 in 2007, Provincial Rep. for Group 5 2006-2013, appointed PAGDC (Eng.) in 2008, Assistant PGM 2013-15, promoted to PSGD (Eng.) 2014 WM of Philip Jervis Kay Lodge in 2014, Deputy PGM 2015-2018, and was further promoted to the Rank of Past Grand Sword Bearer (Eng.) in 2017.



However it is John's commitment to Suffolk Freemasonry that has been exemplary. As a Group Rep. for Group Five he meticulously visited all of his lodges on a regular basis never failing to offer advice when needed and ensuring his lodges were recognised by Province. Then, as both Assistant and Deputy PGM, there was not a lodge in Suffolk that John did not visit and support. Often an eager Brother or DC would ask John if he would visit and invariably John would oblige, coercing an active DC or ADC to be in attendance. As a friend and neighbour I would oft get the call "Would the Orator like to accompany one, I've had an invitation!" and with a DC driving a convivial evening was enjoyed. John's knowledge of, and commitment to, masonic etiquette was unfailing, ensuring that we junior provincial officers kept 'mostly' within the bounds of propriety.

Suffolk, without a doubt, is the most successful province in English freemasonry. The facts speak for themselves. Not one Suffolk lodge has handed in its warrant since 1865, and with over 2800 brethren an enviable record. Here, in our rather rural idyll, we have bucked the trend, and all because of the happiness of our lodges and the true commitment of the members. A notable factor has, without a doubt, been the liberal and easy deportment of those that govern our province.



In the past thirty years the wise guidance given by our PGMs, Deputies and Assistants is proven by Suffolk's success and is personified by John and all our rulers.

Freemasons are all volunteers and as society has changed, so has the Craft. In Suffolk the need for change was noted and today our happiest of provinces is the envy of many, thanks to Brother John Rice and our rulers of a like mind.

Enjoy your masonic 'retirement' John and we look forward to sharing a goodly dram of Famous Grouse for many a year.

Peter Thorogood

The Ancient Floor Cloth

Frequently stated that, in Medieval times, because of the nature of the work Masons performed, they frequently moved from location to location to erect great stone buildings for in those days most dwellings were built of timber and mud. However, these edifices took many years to build, some over 100 years. I do not believe that Masons were as itinerant as was formerly thought. It is known that a shelter or small wooden building was attached on or near to the main building where the Masons would meet for refreshment, relaxation and instruction. The apprentices would receive instruction from the senior Masons and the Master Mason would communicate the layout and design of the building to the other Masons.

Initially it is thought this was scratched on the floor in the earth or sand or possibly chalked on the floor. There are plans carved in stone in York Minster. Later, when speculative Lodges came into existence, the repeated drawing and erasing of symbols became too labour-intensive for the Tyler so the plans were drawn onto cloth or skin or onto a board which was much more permanent. They might have been laid upon the table in the middle of the Lodge. These drawings would have been quite valuable so that eventually they were framed for protection. Hence "modern" tracing boards.

However, prior to the union, some of the symbols were placed on the floor in the centre including an altar around which stood the brethren with their swords and only the Master sat. There are still some Lodges which have a grave into which the candidate can be lowered in the centre of the floor for the third degree and a real winding staircase for the second degree.

Floor cloths are recorded on the continent as far back as 1742 and many lodges there still use carpets with symbols interwoven. Before the union many lodges produced aprons for the Brethren which were richly embroidered or painted with the symbols not only of the Craft but of Chapter and Mark as these degrees were worked by Antient Lodges. Those of you that have visited the Lodge of Virtue and Silence in Hadleigh may have seen the ancient apron discovered under floorboards during the renovation of a local property.

The Virtue & Silence floor cloth, pictured, is in the fashion of primitive painters. They would have been painters of pub signs and carriages and you can see the similarity between them which points out that they might have been by the same artist. This floor cloth was discovered, with a box of cut-out symbols, when we were photographing the archives to write the history of the Lodge for the bi-centenary in 2011. The thing that first struck me was the fact that there is no coffin on this floor cloth. Hiram Abif was buried directly in the ground before his re-interment. The skull and cross bones appear but not together and for some reason there are two skulls. The skull is thought to represent Golgotha or Calvary, the Hill on which Jesus was crucified. It is thought that the cross was erected exactly over the skull of Adam who was believed to have been buried there. Golgotha in Hebrew means the place of the skull. The skull and cross bones are also a warning not to betray secrets or as a

penalty for failure to keep an oath. They are known as the emblems of mortality in that the skull and the two femurs when separated from the rest of the skeleton still represent the whole of the individual. The skull and cross bones have become a symbol of Pirates and the flag is known as the Jolly Roger. Some pirates used a red flag as well and perhaps the term Jolly Roger is derived from the French "jolie rouge" or pretty red.

You will notice the date AL 5815 which also appears on some of the other tracing boards and floor cloths. This represents the latin Anno Lucis the year of light. Pronounced loosis or lookis not loosius. In the 16th century James Asher the Archbishop of Armagh and Bishop of all Ireland studied the old Testament and calculated that the Earth was created 4004 years before the birth of Christ, therefore if we deduct 4004 from 5815 we arrive at the date 1811 which was the year that the Lodge of Virtue and Silence was consecrated and they would have been looking to purchase various articles for its formation.

Also depicted are the rough and perfect ashlars with the initials MB and HA upon them. HA are the initials of Hiram Abiff and MB represents M.....e. Prior to the union the Moderns and Antients had different words for the third degree, M.....e and M.....h but at the union they could not agree on which word to use so we now use both. In Scotland and Ireland, they still have only one word.

You will notice with difficulty that there is a sprig of Acacia at the top, below the three steps, which was dislodged at the discovery of Hiram's grave. The three steps represent the three steps in Masonry. In some Lodges there are three steps to the Master on which the candidate stands when the secrets of the appropriate degree are communicated. At the side there is a rose which is the Rose of Sharon, also another name for Jesus. There is a pot at the top left-hand corner,

this is possibly a pot of incense. Incense is thought to deter evil spirits, please the gods, arouse a spiritual atmosphere and to mask smells, especially of dead bodies. It is still used at the consecration of a Lodge and in some Chapters at Installation. Alternatively, it is thought that the pot contains Manna from Heaven. This is food left by God at dawn to feed the children of Israel in the wilderness. It is a sugary substance which evaporated easily. We still use the word in modern chemistry to describe a sugar, mannose, and an alcohol, mannitol. It symbolically represents spiritual nourishment. It is also possible that this pot contained a mixture of wine and a gall which was given to Jesus on the cross at Golgotha.

In the top right-hand corner appears the Volume of the Sacred Law also known as the tracing board of the Great Architect of the Universe. The body itself exhibits the wounds sustained by Hiram Abiff before he died and could be a symbolic representation of the wounds of Christ.

These are purely my thoughts and interpretations and, like many other students of Freemasonry, I have tried to separate fact from fiction. I hope I have succeeded.

Mac Speake



Festival 2019

...together we can do it



In an earlier message, I mentioned how time flies, and here we are about to enter the last lap of our Festival. However, our 2014 launch with a St Valentine's Day Ball seems to have been a recent event. Our Tercentenary is over, and whilst it obviously couldn't be avoided, this significant event had an impact on our Festival, as it would have been impractical to try to organise many Festival functions during 2017 as the need to sell tickets for so many events would just have been too much of a strain on members' purses, and time. However, as you can see from the front cover of Forum, financially six

organisations in our Province were able to share in grants totalling £56,000 much of which is already being put to good use.

This year we plan to hold the larger Fun Day, and this is spearheaded by W.Bro Dr Mac Speake. At present details remain in the embryo stage, but Members have come forward to assist him. The date is Sunday 22nd July and the event will be at Nowton Park, Bury St Edmunds. W.Bro Mac will be dealing with its promotion separately.

Turning to Finances, Lodges have continued to work diligently towards achieving their targets with 3 having donated over £30,000.. a further 12 Lodges have contributed over £20,000 and a further 26 have contributed between £10,000 and £20,000. Several having taken the opportunity to present their cheques to the Deputy Grand Master, Jonathon Spence, and our RWProv Grand Master, on their attendance at the Tercentenary event at Greshams. There will be more presentations to Lodges which have achieved their Grand Patronage at Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting in June, by our RWPGM, so I do take the opportunity to continue to thank every Member for the generous attitudes being displayed towards the Festival, when it is apparent that financially, times are not easy. Congratulations and thanks to you all.

'What do we get in return?' is a frequent question, and I am pleased to reiterate the answer. In the last 12 months Masonic Charities have contributed approximately £400,000 into Suffolk, and these are lifetime benefits, i.e. they remain in place regardless of increases in care fees to the Recipient. Further, if this sum is escalated to the entire period from the start of one Festival, until the start of the next one, I think it can be seen that we will receive much more than we will be likely to have paid in. I can also advise that during that 12 months, out of 47 receiving Provinces, Suffolk sits very high on the list of benefit amounts and number of recipients. Brethren, we are benefitting from donations made by our Forefathers. If we are to fully play our part we have to now consider ourselves the Forefathers, to help prepare for our future generations of Freemasons, and their Dependants. With such a fantastic return on our donation investment what better motivation can we have than this?

It still remains easy to obtain a Festival Steward Jewel, simply complete a standing order for £10 per month, which must end on or after December 31st 2019 and pay a cheque into Festival 2019 for £15 and from that moment on, even before the Standing Order starts to pay any donations, you can be wearing a Jewel. So £10 per month, still less than an alcoholic drink a week, and possibly over a 3:1 return

on the investment for someone - has to be good value doesn't it?

Finally, I can confirm that plans for our Festival Final Event and presentation are now under consideration. If you have never attended such an occasion previously, I can advise that this is a very significant part of the 2019 programme, when we can expect representation from Grand Lodge, other Provinces and RMBI as a minimum. The exact date has not yet been finalised, as earlier indications have been changed, but once available full details in respect of table availability and tickets will be provided well in advance. When it is published, please note the date, and do your best to be there.

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

Together we can do it.

Neville Warnes, Chairman Festival 2019

Festival 2019 500 Club

2017 saw the 500 club grow to 691 members and we have almost finished chasing payments for 2018 but hopefully we can break the 700 mark which would be a fantastic achievement. During 2017 we made 36 draws and gave away over £6800 to 21 individuals and 15 lodges. The 500 club is a great way to support the 2019



Festival either individually or as a lodge, £20 buys you a number in the draw and you have 36 chances to win a prize ranging from £305 to £75 over the course of the year and it also contributes towards your lodge festival total.

To date the 500 club has contributed over £18,000 to the festival and if we can continue with same number of members for the next 2 years we will have raised over £30,000 towards the Provincial Target. The monthly draw results are available on the Festival 2019 website (www.festival2019.co.uk/500-club-draws) and if you are a lucky winner you will be notified by email directly after the draw. Should you wish to take part simply send me an email kf@hadleighcastings.com and we will send out an entry form by return. I have been asked about the remaining period of the festival and it is my intention that the club will continue for this year and 2019 but as yet I haven't worked out the closing arrangements as to whether we have a series of draws leading up to the festival finale or if we just run it as normal over the year.

Beyond 2019 I am happy to continue with running the club if members so desire it but I will send out a communication this time next year for your opinions. Please raise the 500 club profile at your meetings at this time of the year, the first draw takes place in February so there is still time to take part and it is a good way to not only raise money towards your lodge target but also 32 lodges have purchased shares as a lodge and won just under £2500 for their lodge coffers. Finally, I would like to thank all the members who have taken out standing orders which have automatically renewed as this saves us a lot of time!

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

Chris Warnes



FORUM

The Suffolk Freemasons Magazine

Editor: WBro. Kelvin Avis

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

Have you got an idea for an article?

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

Have you researched your lodge or masonic hall history?

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

Following the Travelling Gavel...

Peace shattered in Felixstowe on 12th April

In something resembling a scene from the Wild West a large raiding party from Felix United Service Lodge made an unprovoked attack on an unsuspecting Felix Lodge and "Claimed the Gavel". The Master of Felix, Richard Harvey, was unfortunately absent having been taken ill just a few days before but his stand-ins, at very short notice, WBro. Robert Smith and WBro. Steve McDade conducted a splendid ceremony of raising for Bro Graham Popple.



It is said that David Deal, the reported ring leader of this band of outlaws, observed that they had sufficient guns to claim the prize and the exploit was fulfilled in the Temple in full view of gasping onlookers. Without the time or the means to resist this intrusion, the calculated misdemeanor was brought to consummation and it was left to the shocked Deputy Rob Smith, on behalf of the folk present, to accept defeat and prepare to hand over the 'travelling gavel'.



The story could have ended there but for an enterprising young buck in the name of Steve Bloomfield, who rode back to his prairie homestead and returned laden with assorted props with which to combat the foe. To great applause from the gathered congregation at the local hostelry, the diminutive hero ensured that the desperadoes forfeit their pride and sing for the right to retain this 'holy grail'. In an act of consolidation the vexacious mob capitulated and together they ruined the pianist's melodious notes with a clamorous and turbulent rendition of some popular classics. A good evening was thereby had by all.

The Village People 'live' on 25th October



Fifteen brethren from Colneis Lodge claimed the Travelling Gavel from Felix United Services when they descended on the Lodge on 25th October and enjoyed an excellent ceremony and Festive Board. The challenge set by F.U.S. to claim the Travelling Gavel were to perform two songs from the Village People, both were sung with gusto albeit it out of key!

What was encouraging was that the representation from Colneis ranged from new to long standing members to new members. A great night was had by all!

The Travelling Gavel is an enjoyable and fun way to visit other lodges throughout the province in the company of friends - why not arrange a raid with your lodge?

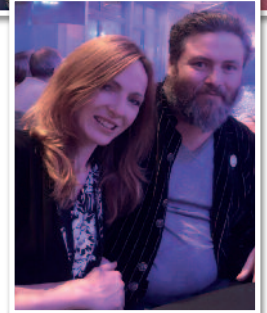
A double celebration for Mat

Mat Bayfield is a Member of The Lodge of Fidelity 555 at Framlingham. In 2012 he was dealt the devastating news that he had an inoperable brain tumour, but he has not let that define his life. He has used this experience to inspire others living with the illness and to encourage them to speak out about their worries. In January Mat with the help of girlfriend Kelly, started a 'Walk and Talk' event on a regular basis which over a short period raised an incredible £20,000 for the Brain Tumour Charity.

Mat's journey over the last five years since diagnosis has been very difficult but he is extremely grateful for the wonderful support he has received from not only the Masonic Charity but the Almoners of the Lodge of Fidelity, which is the position currently held by his dad, WBro Stephen Bayfield.

Mat was also delighted to receive 'Unsung Hero' at the Stars of Suffolk Awards held in November at Trinity Park where it was an immensely proud moment for Mat's family who were at the ceremony to see him not only collect the award but to announce to the audience that he had proposed to his partner, Kelly, just days before.

Stephen Bayfield



All aboard the train!



On the 30th July 2017 during the Tercentenary year, the Masonic Car Club visited the Bressingham Steam Museum near Diss. The PGM took the opportunity to try his driving skills on the steam locomotive 'Gwynedd' under the watchful eye of driver WBro Geoff Calver, DC of Solea Lodge 9498, who is a regular volunteer at the

Museum. Also pictured is Amanda, who thought it was the ideal opportunity to take a 'selfie' in the carriage behind.

Can you help Brian help the EAAA?

I am still collecting phones, just having received a further 31, so if anybody still have old, unused, broken, or unwanted phones, please get in touch with me and I can arrange collection. A full update will appear in the next issue of Forum when I shall reveal the total amount raised for the EAAA.



brian3833@btinternet.com
01449 721134

W. Bro Brian Locksmith
Felix United Service Lodge 3833

Soane Street Heritage Day

9th-10th September



Once again Freemasons Hall, Ipswich opened its doors to the public as part of the national Heritage Open Day programme. The public were admitted on the weekend of 9th/10th September when virtually all of the building was available to view. The attendance was spectacular with more than 400 visitors in attendance over the two days.

A team of volunteer Masons from several Ipswich Lodges acted as guides and provided an insight into the building, the history of Freemasonry and a little about what we do in the 21st Century. Without exception, the feedback was extremely positive and many myths were dispelled. Interestingly, we found that it was, in large part, the women who were most inquisitive; perhaps the men were frightened they may be whisked away into a back room somewhere!



Thanks must go out to the team who made the event possible and I hope I have not forgotten anyone in the line-up: Buster Todd, Danny Jay, David Mullett, Mark Webster, Chris Grant, Forbes Powrie, Harry Watson, Paul Ketteringham, Paul Taylor, Peter Bridle, Peter Matthews, Ray Green, Richard Pettit and Steve Hyland. We will undoubtedly open next year and will be looking for more volunteers.

Paul Taylor



DID YOU KNOW ?

Freemasons are responsible for Premier League team Manchester City playing in blue. In 1894 the club was in a financial crisis and was bailed out by Masons, who asked that in return the team wear Masonic colours...

“Just Serve - Not to Shine”

An interview with David Mullett Chaplain of Orwell Lodge for 25 years

I left Northgate Grammar School early aged 15 years to start an apprenticeship in the hardware trade. At just 19 years old I was promoted to Store Manager for the Mence Smith Group at their Woodbridge branch, before joining Edwin Underwood at Felixstowe. A promotion moved me to Letchworth but after 4 years I missed both family and friends so moved back to Ipswich. Staying in the hardware trade I joined Martin and Newby in Fore Street, Ipswich until my retirement completing 40 years service.

I have been happily married to Marge for 59 years, we have two children, Richard, a retired Police Dog Handler and a daughter Joanne, a Nursery Nurse. We have 6 wonderful grandchildren and recently became proud great Grandparents.

I joined Orwell Lodge 6637 in 1978 and am honoured to have been selected by successive Masters to be their Chaplain, having now served 25 years in the role. I still enjoy my Freemasonry and feel very privileged to continue to deliver the charge to our new Initiates.

Both wife Marge and I have completed 33 years as Lay Elders within the Church and have been licensed for a further 3 years. Although we have other duties our main role is pastoral care which we both very much enjoy. To keep myself fit I cycle for 2 or 3 miles every day on my rounds for the church and also enjoy riding solo on my son's Royal Enfield motorbike when I can, usually on 40 plus mile round trips which I always look forward to.

Now aged 80, as long as you enjoy it, keep going I say and when I look back, either within work, Church or Freemasonry, I can proudly say “well at least I did something useful and worthwhile”.



My motto has always been “Just serve, not to shine”

Ken honoured by the French Government for assisting liberation

Ken Oatley of Christchurch Lodge No. 6829, 95 years old and celebrating 59 years as a Mason, was recently presented with The Chevalier Légion d'Honneur which the French government has been awarding to D-Day veterans from many different countries for several years, as a way of honouring and thanking those who fought and risked their lives to secure France's liberation during the Second World War.

Ken first flew in 1941 in a Tiger Moth biplane and admits while training in Lancashire he got lost and was forced to land and ask for directions. From there he travelled to Canada training in Airspeed Oxford planes then to South Africa training as a navigator. By 1944 Kenneth had flown in Wellingtons, Sterling's and Lancaster bombers before being chosen to become a Navigator flying the Mosquito in a new elite low level marking Pathfinder Squadron formed by Group Captain Leonard Cheshire which he seconded from 8 Group to 5 Group Bomber Command. The main role of his group was to locate targets dropping 4 x 500lb magnesium bombs lighting up the target for the heavy bombers to aim on. The Mosquito plane was one of the fastest planes of its class being capable of speeds of 400mph, flying under the radar over roof tops and trees at high speeds and taking part in many dangerous and daring raids was a complete thrill for Ken when he was appointed but he admitted having butterflies as orders came in for bombing raids.

Ken was joined by friends and family to celebrate his honour which was organised by the Ipswich branch of the Royal British Legion, the presentation was made by The Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Lady Euston.

Rodger Oatley



SMaCSS deliver art materials to Macmillan Support Nurses

A cold January day saw seventy odd clay pigeon shooters raise the magnificent sum of £850 which has now been turned into art materials for young people.

The organising team from the Suffolk Masonic Clay Shooting Society, now well-known and promoted as SMaCSS, were responding to a call for assistance from Paul Beynon who was determined to raise a substantial amount of money for the Macmillan Nurses Cancer Care charity.

Helen Taggart, Senior Fundraising Manager for Macmillan Cancer Support East Suffolk and Waveney, said "I just wanted to get in touch to share a photo taken of Hilary, Angelika and myself at Ipswich Hospital. Hilary and Angelika are our Macmillan Family Support Workers, who you have recently supported through a donation of £850. This incredible gift is being used to fund the Art Therapy Course offered to children in Suffolk whose parents and loved ones have recently been diagnosed with cancer. The donation will be used to supply art materials for the next 30 weeks, to help the Macmillan Family Support Service offer this support free of charge. Thank you so much for enabling Macmillan to offer this support in the community, hundreds of families receive support from our local services every year, and we simply couldn't do this without local donations."

Roger Nash



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Sesquicentennial at Victoria Chapter

On Tuesday 3rd October, Victoria Chapter Rose Croix No. 22 celebrated its Sesquicentennial at Soane Street with 72 Rose Croix masons in attendance to witness Roger Nash Perfected into the Ancient and Accepted Rite. Most Illustrious Brother Guy Elgood 33° Grand Treasurer General H.E. was visiting in his official capacity along with his DC William Hale 32° an Officer of Supreme Council.

As well as David Woodings the Inspector General for the Suffolk District, there were five other Inspectors General from

Cambridge, Norfolk, Essex and London, Gerald Tedder who was once the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Order and an Honorary member of Victoria and Bob Tile who was the Past Inspector General of the Suffolk District. The PGM of Suffolk, Ian Yeldham, was in attendance along with his father John who are both members of Victoria together with chapter officer Ill Bro. David Boswell 30° and Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch.

We were also honoured by the presence of the PGM and Grand Superintendent for Cambridge, Bill Dastur who is a member of Simon of Sudbury Rose Croix Chapter. In fact we had a significant number of Masons who were heads of other orders who came to help us celebrate our 150th year. At the meeting our Most Wise Sovereign Mike George and the Past Sovereign Trevor White presented Ian Yeldham with a cheque for £1000 to support the 2019 Festival, who responded in very fine form thanking us for a very generous donation.

After the meeting the Chapter were treated to several glasses of bubbles and then sat down to the banquet which consisted of Vegetable soup with herb Croutons, Prawns wrapped in Plaice cooked in white wine, Lemon Sorbet, Fillet of Beef and fresh vegetables, Lemon Bavarois and cream followed by Cheese board with port, coffee, tea, mints and chocolates all superbly cooked by Christine of Roffs caterers.

*If anyone is interested in this Order then contact
Ray Pasco - raykpascoe@hotmail.com*



Suffolk Light Blues

At time of submission, we had already surpassed 500 members of the Facebook group. That's a wonderful achievement and incredible growth. To give you an indication of just how much the Facebook group is being used I have collated the following statistics:

- **2000+ posts, comments and reactions in January 2018 alone**
- **175 New Posts in December 2017/January 2018**
- **471 Members recording activity in the past 60 days**
- **Thursday is the most popular day and 8pm the most popular time for activity.**
- **Over 1050 photos submitted online.**

All these contributions are from you, the Suffolk Light Blues Members. Well done and thank you for making this such a great place to see what's going on in the Province.

With all this in mind, there are changes planned! W.Bro Tony Wooderson kindly kicked off the Facebook page, for which we are indebted. With this level of growth and engagement, we are now planning to have more Light Blues involved in the SLB Club direction, events and membership. There is now a great base of members to work with and an incredible enthusiasm to make even more of the Club.

A formal structure has been devised to make the running of the club more effective and efficient. There will still be Provincial involvement in this structure as this still need to be run for the good of the whole Province, but the emphasis will be on the Light Blue members having direct involvement on what the SLB Club offers now and in the future.

Depending on when you are reading this article you may well already have heard of the changes, this Club evolves very quickly and there is every likelihood announcements will already have been made.

This is indeed an exciting time for the Suffolk Light Blues, I know there is already events and gatherings in the pipeline. Planning and meetings are already underway to build on this great community. The SLB Lapel Pin was just the start. Watch this space for more news.

***If you would like more details please contact
WBro Dean Willingham, Provincial Grand Mentor
deanwillingham@doric81.com***

Suffolk Light Blues Lapel Badge

All Brethren below Provincial Rank are eligible to receive a SLB lapel badge, here's how it works...

They are presented in the main by one of the Rulers, the Provincial Grand Mentor or by your Group Rep.

There is no monetary cost for the Badge, but we are expecting you to join the Facebook Group, participate in the online posts or events that we run. Then when you are honoured with a Provincial Promotion you will pass your badge on to the newest member you know that doesn't have one.



Masonic Order of Athelstan



Worshipful Brother Peter Pryke, Provincial Grand Treasurer, Treasurer of the Court of King Raedwald, Ipswich and also Treasurer of the Court of St. Edmund, Diss is pictured here receiving Grand Honours from the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Grand Master Paul Johnston of the Masonic Order of Athelstan at the Annual Grand Court held in Leicester in October.

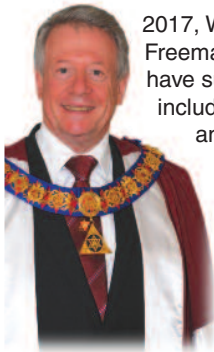
The Order is based on the historic records of the life and the legend of King Athelstan. The focus of the Order is to show how this early reference to the importance of Masonry in English history was significant for the development of speculative Freemasonry. The ceremonial of the Masonic Order of Athelstan portrays the story of a Master Mason being summoned to York in 926 AD to receive the Ancient Charges. The Order, in England and Wales, is structured so that its Provinces, wherever possible, reflect and represent ancient kingdoms of the Anglo-Saxon period.

The aim of the Masonic Order of Athelstan is to encourage and prompt its members into further study and research. Candidates are carefully chosen with regard to their interest in Masonic history and are said to be 'Instructed' into the Order.

Peter Pryke, Grand Burgh

www.facebook.com/groups/suffolklightblues

www.suffolkfreemason.org.uk | 25



2017, What an eventful year to remember, 300 years of Freemasonry, and how privileged the Royal Arch is to have such a close connection to the Craft. We were included in the Sky TV programme where both myself and the PGM were 'caught on camera' and many of us attended the Tercentenary Celebrations in London, as well as within this Province.

We must capitalise on the success of the Craft's Tercentenary by increasing the membership of the Craft following on with the Royal Arch, at the moment in Suffolk one in every three Craft Masons is a member of the Royal Arch, so we must promote recruitment and try to improve

the ratio of brethren becoming companions, perhaps by explaining that becoming a Companion will NOT immediately put them on the ladder to proceed through the J, H or Z chairs. Unfortunately many members have waited until their Craft obligations have completed before they join, which is a great pity as it can take quite a few years from Initiate to Master, then to start again in the Royal Arch is quite a task, perhaps after a period of time in the Craft the Royal Arch should be explained, rather than approaching Brethren of "four weeks and upwards". In my day, the Royal Arch was considered the completion of the Third Degree, which is now an area of debate, but it could also be said to be seen as a natural progression from the Craft.

Here is where the new "Royal Arch representatives" in the Craft Lodges may help, there will be those brethren who are extremely keen to progress quickly into the Royal Arch and those that may just wish to take their time, the hope is that with the assistance of the "RA Rep" advice and help will be given, of course all members of the RA are ambassadors, but plant the seed, leave the decision to the Brother rather than him feeling it to be an obligation to join.

Freemasonry is all about working with people, interacting with them and enjoying their company, for if a member of any order is not enjoying attending then they will soon leave. I am greatly impressed with the "Light Blues" within this Province as well as other Provinces – for there is the future of Freemasonry, alas I cannot join but am impressed by the camaraderie and encouragement of its membership.

It is with great delight that under the petition of members of both The Round Table Lodge and Rotary Lodge of Suffolk there is to be a Tercentenary Chapter of Suffolk, to be Consecrated at Bury St. Edmunds on Friday 9th March 2018. Quite a first, a Royal Arch Chapter named after a Craft Celebration!

If you would like to attend/dine please contact:

Robert Parker: bob.parker@parburchmedical.co.uk
or Brian Simpson: brian@physioclinic.net.

On behalf of myself, the Deputy and the Second and Third Principals, we do wish you and all your family a very Happy New Year, and may the coming year be a healthy, peaceful and enjoyable one for all of us.

David Boswell, Grand Superintendent

Presentation of Cheque for FACTS

Kostas Pavlides the Charity Steward and Almoner of Felix Chapter No 2371 together with David Boswell the Grand Superintendent for Suffolk presented a Cheque for £500 pounds to Bro.



Bryan Borehom

who was very pleased to received it on behalf of the charity who thanked Felix Chapter and the Province for their kind donation. This money was made up of a sum of £250 from Felix Chapter 2371 and a matched donation from The Grand Superintendent's own discretionary fund, funded from the Suffolk Provincial Grand Charity.

FACTS is a long established charity run and operated by voluntary drivers and does excellent work serving Felixstowe and the surrounding area providing a service for people who have no means of transport themselves or are disabled and require specialist help in getting around the local area.

Robert Parker

Donation to The Shelley Centre

On a fine crisp September morning, E.Comp Burt Royal, MEZ of Royal York Chapter No 81 at Woodbridge, accompanying the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal EComp Ralph Robertson visited the Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Riding. Tagging along to meet the horses was Burt's granddaughter Ruby. A warm welcome was extended by Margaret Fowler, the Centre Vice Chairman.



Margaret then gave us an informative talk and tour of the centre followed by a close up introduction to "Bob" & "Alfie". Bob on the left, ridden by Oliver and Alfie ridden by Angie posed very patiently for a photograph as a cheque for £1000.00 was presented to the centre on behalf of the Companions of Royal York Chapter. It was very apparent that those using the centre gain a great benefit from being with the horses, together with the kindness and dedication from all the volunteers who make it possible. Margaret expressed the centres thanks for the support and encouragement they had received from the Masons in Suffolk and were absolutely delighted to have been given a substantial grant of £25,000 from the MCF Community Awards.

The Centre said they were grateful for all such donations but I believe it should be the community in general that should be grateful to all those who give their time, dedication and kindness so freely and enhance the lives of those who derive great benefit and purpose from being with the horses.

Ralph Robertson

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For additional information or to make a booking contact:

John Kirk - scribesifp@btinternet.com



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When MEGS became MEZ...

On Thursday 23rd November the MEGS David John Boswell was installed as MEZ of Chapter of Probity No 7333. Now you may be thinking "what's this Chapter?" and "where does it meet? Well it's primarily a Chapter for Grand Superintendents and Deputy Grand Superintendents and it meets in Cambridge. It has a very relaxed atmosphere - friendliness and politeness is top priority. It is a Chapter that recognises that the sharing of good practice is a good idea for the well being and success of the Royal Arch. Michael Caddock, the former Deputy Grand Superintendent, is the Scribe E, Barry Ross is a member and of course David Boswell is now MEZ. Dave Lillis is a member and the PGM Ian Yeldham became a joining member so Suffolk is quite prominent in this Chapter.

The Invited guest speaker at the Installation was the Third Grand Principal Gareth Jones, OBE. He stressed that it is four steps and every candidate being interviewed who has shown an interest in becoming a freemason, should be told that it is four steps. However, taking the fourth step and being exalted into the Royal Arch should only take place when the individual is ready. Gareth Jones' personal view on when to join the Royal Arch, he said, would be when the person is Inner Guard or Junior Deacon. This tends to give the individual time to enjoy his Craft and then be enlightened with the Royal Arch and gain a greater understanding of Freemasonry.

Gareth Jones said that our exaltation ceremonies should not be done by just a few Companions but they should be shared if possible by up to 10 to 14 members of the Chapter; make it interesting; share the lectures; don't do all three lectures at the Exaltation ceremony. Leave the lectures for a time when the Chapter has no ceremony and share it out.

Gareth Jones mentioned Royal Arch Reps in Craft Lodges. Hmm, an interesting appointment! His personal view was that the MEGS should be involved; have a view and put forward individuals whom he thought would be suitable for the appointment; who would not only support the appropriate joining time but also keep members up-to-date with what is happening in the Royal Arch. In Suffolk I believe we have a very good joined up process and both the PGM and MEGS are in support of having the right person in place for the job and the rep should give a comprehensive output of what is taking place in the chapter, how to become a member and give data and information about the Royal Arch in general.

Gareth Jones concluded by saying that making our ceremonies interesting and enjoyable is paramount to a successful Chapter. It will also ensure that the attendance at convocations is high.

In my new role as Provincial Almoner/Mentor – of which mentoring is my real priority - I want to encourage Chapters who are suffering a lack of candidates; give support to chapters and encourage lapsed members to return and enjoy aspects of the Royal Arch which have been, to them, a foggy fuzz they don't want to see again. I can ensure you that I will do my utmost to enlighten your view of the Royal Arch and really make it enjoyable. Please do get in touch if you think I can help. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Raymond Pascoe raykpascoe@hotmail.com
01728 663699. Mob 07920 116861*

50 Year Certificate for Bob

At the December meeting of Triune Chapter 114 The Grand Superintendent, David Boswell was very pleased to present Bob Davey with a certificate marking his 50 years in The Royal Arch. Bob was Exalted into Triune on 11th December 1967 and in the following years held all the progressive offices culminating in his installation as MEZ in 1982. Still attending the Chapter on a regular basis Bob says he has enjoyed every meeting over the last 50 years and is now looking forward to the next 50.



Visit to Supreme Grand Chapter



On Wednesday 8th November two well known companions, Geoff Spencer and Graham Colthorpe, along with 36 Suffolk Royal Arch Companions, were summoned to a Regular Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter at Freemasons' Hall Great Queen Street, London. There, in front of over 750 Companions, Geoff Spencer was promoted to Past Assistant Grand Sojourner and Graham Colthorpe was appointed to Past Grand Standard Bearer. These were actually carried out by HRH the Duke Of Kent the ME First Grand Principal. Our two lucky Companions also had two of our own Suffolk Companions, Dave Lillis Deputy Grand Superintendent and Paul Norman Grand Standard Bearer, doing Escort duties. Suffolk really were in full presence that day.

What is also quite significant is that this year we celebrate HRH The Duke of Kent's 50 years as head of the Craft and the Royal Arch and I am sure both Geoff and Graham will have long lasting memories of this occasion. However it didn't all end there, 32 companions then went to our favourite Curry House just off Covent Garden to celebrate their appointment and promotion warmly toasted by our own MEGS David Boswell.

The Royal Arch Rep in the Craft Lodge

This initiative has been agreed between the PGM and the MEGS and it is something that many Provinces have undertaken these past years. It is envisaged that each Representative will act as a link between the Craft and the Royal Arch to provide information and guidance to the brethren. He is not there as a recruiting agent but to offer sensible advice about Chapters that are available to him and the best or most appropriate time when to join.

In the winter edition of Freemasonry today the Second Grand Principal, Russell Race, is interviewed and makes some very excellent suggestions about joining the Royal Arch. Imagine when somebody's interviewed for initiation and saying to them, 'you are beginning an exciting four stage journey', If you can get that across on day one, it's far easier than going to them after they've done their Third Degree and saying, 'Oh by the way there's another step and here's a leaflet.' This really is a very simple way of sowing the seed of the Royal Arch.

In the New Year it is my intention to have several meetings with the Lodge Chapter Reps at several centres where we can discuss what we feel is appropriate to promote the Royal Arch, have simple explanations of the ceremony and be proactive in dealing with the negative aspects, such as comments like 'don't join until you have been through the Masters Chair', Utter rubbish. I was given that advice and told that the ritual is too long, complicated and too rigid. It wasn't until I came to Suffolk and joined Adair Chapter that I realised I had missed out a very important part of Freemasonry and the Craft ceremony becomes fully explained. It is the completion of your journey through pure ancient Masonry.

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