Provincial News

The newsletter for Hertfordshire Freemasons

No. 41  Autumn 2012

Service of thanksgiving at St Albans Abbey
See pages 6 and 7

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News from Prince Michael of Kent Court

A sound investment!

By Malcolm Andrews

With the average age of residents at PMKC now at 88 years old, it is difficult to transport them safely to venues for entertainment.

With this in mind, the Friends have had a new integrated sound system installed, with a new, upgraded hearing aid loop amplifier and aerial for a much clearer, improved sound.

Three wireless microphones plus two lapel microphones and a Blue-Ray/DVD player have also been provided. At the last minute we have had a new 60” plasma colour television bolted onto the wall which now gives all residents excellent vision wherever they sit in the lounge, especially on Film Night.

The lounge is now fully equipped for all events, the Friends and home activities staff arrange. This is a big leap into the 21st century and one that could not have been accomplished without generous donations from the Hertfordshire Benevolent Fund, the RMBI and Watford Lodge No. 404.

The television was funded by an anonymous donation.

Also, thanks to a very generous donation from the London Masonic Bowlers Association, we have bought a new Roland electric piano to replace the Baby Grand Piano that was in need of refurbishment.

We are extremely grateful for all this funding which will provide many years of entertainment and enjoyment for the residents. A truly sound investment!

July. Beverley has been given the overall responsibility for the home’s activity team among her many other duties and we look forward to working with her closely in the future. Elizabeth has made a huge difference to the home already and with Beverley, who has many fresh ideas and a lot of experience, the management team is now complete.

At long last, the roof restoration works are under way [at the time of the report they were due to begin on September 10] and will take about nine months. It is unlikely to interfere with our main programme of activities.

Some dates for you to note are the Christmas fayre on Sunday, November 18 and the regular quiz night/fish and chip supper on Friday, December 7. We will also be taking residents to the annual carol concert at Rickmansworth Masonic School for Girls on Sunday, December 2 (hosted by Rickmansworth Lodge No.2218) where guests will be able to join staff and residents for tea and mince pies in the school dining room afterwards. I always feel that this is the start of the Christmas festivities.

Once again a plea for those lodges, chapters and other orders which have a little money to spare each year. Please consider becoming a Supporting Lodge for the Association of Friends. It costs £110 for the first year and £50 per year thereafter; we hope this is not too much out of the average lodge or chapter’s annual budget. A lot giving a little, rather than a few giving a lot is our philosophy, so please give it some thought and, as you can see, all monies donated by whatever means are used for the benefit of residents.

If anyone has any questions or queries, please contact me.

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I have to say yet again that I never cease to be amazed at what simply turns up for the museum and library collections.

In the past two months we have had three widows of former members hand in quite large amounts of very useful additions. Lodges have been very helpful in passing items that are kept in the lodge locker and never used. One Chapter has given us a two-handled silver cup that the former lodge used, now erased, at which the Master drank wine with his Wardens. The cup is so large it takes nearly three bottles of wine to fill it!

The small display we have regarding the Masonic Million Memorial Fund and Festival has at last been completed. We managed to obtain a very rare first issue of the Hallstone Breast Jewel. But the most notable item is that the Grand Lodge General Board has allowed the Province to retain the Gaddesdon Lodge Hallstone jewel on permanent loan. This particular jewel is still complete with original box and collarette.

You will know that the main boardroom and museum is named after Roger Hodge in recognition of his legacy to Herts Master’s Lodge which donated the fund to the Province to furnish the Hodge Room. A few weeks ago a quantity of items were left at Fleet House, amongst which was Roger’s PZ jewel from Abbotts Langley Chapter. The Secretary of Roger’s craft lodge was asked if they had a PM’s jewel to spare. One had just been handed back, at which the Master used, now erased, at which the Master drank wine with his Wardens. The cup is so large it takes nearly three bottles of wine to fill it!

The small display we have regarding the Masonic Million Memorial Fund and Festival has at last been completed. We managed to obtain a very rare first issue of the Hallstone Breast Jewel. It was incredible, in that the gold jewel was engraved when presented to Roger in 1935 when Master of The Grove Park Lodge. Both jewels are now prominently displayed. Rather a strange artefact was recently received. It is an original poster dated 1835 for a charity concert to provide funds for ‘An Asylum for Aged Freemasons’. Our appeal for unused collection columns or boxes proved very successful, but there is still room for more. Still needed are larger items of china, glass, brass and wood. One particular item that so far eludes my searches is a Ladies Royal Masonic Hospital Jewel suspended on three chains rather than just one. Any help in locating one would be much appreciated.

The Masonic Museum Group, of which we are members, continues to provide exchanges of both artefacts and information between curators. They meet formally twice a year, once in London and once in a Provincial museum, but we are all regularly in contact with each other.

It is opportune to repeat again, that all Lodge and Chapter official archive records, particularly the minutes and signature sheets, must be kept on certified quality paper. Distributed minutes can be on cheap paper. Please ask if any advice is needed. Records from recently closed Lodges show that minutes of 100 years ago are still perfect, whilst those of just 20 and 30 years ago are almost unreadable. Visitors to the museum are most welcome, especially small groups, including ladies, by prior arrangement. Visitors are often quite surprised that we also keep general paper archives to enable later research. This would include literally anything except Lodge or Chapter official records. An individual archive file is kept for every Craft, Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodge and every Royal Arch Chapter in the Province. However we do rely on members to pass on items for the files such as brochures, special summons, orations, photographs, histories, etc.
Wayfarers’ Lodge - Part one

By Michael Imeson

As our minds perhaps wander when the minutes of the last meeting are read (if they still are!) it is worth reflecting how in a century or more from now what seems mundane might actually be a fascinating history of the lodge.

Certainly a cull of the 999 sets of minutes of Wayfarers’ Lodge No 1926 by secretary W Bro Les Butler proved that when he told the lodge’s story as it celebrated its 1,000th meeting.

How the lodge got from Malta in 1881 to Hertford in the 21st century is a mini-novel in itself.

In 1881 masonry on Malta consisted of three craft Lodges, one Royal Arch Chapter and one Mark Lodge, working under the English Constitution. There was also the Melita Preceptory of Knights Templar, a Rose Croix Chapter and a Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine.

In addition there was one Irish Lodge and Chapter, but no Scottish activity.

At that time three brethren called a meeting to consider the forming of a new lodge in Valletta, membership of which would be limited to the following classes:

- Commissioned, warrant and non-commissioned officers of Her Majesty’s Army.
- Civilians holding permanent appointments in the War Department, with positions higher than or equal to that of a staff sergeant.
- Individuals who have served in any of the above mentioned capacities and are now in receipt of half pay, pension or other retiring allowances in respect of such services.

It was agreed to form a lodge and call it The Wayfarers’ Lodge.

Dues for the year were set at 24 shillings and paid in advance. W Bro Roe was the first master.

And so begins the story of the Wayfarers’ Lodge.

The standard of working and efficiency of the lodge has always been high.

In February 1886, W Bro Pulley, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies of Surrey was present and said: “It gave him a vast amount of pleasure to be present and witness the excellent working of the Lodge, such working had never seen excelled in any of the many lodges he had visited.”

At the August 1893 meeting a letter was read from the District Grand Secretary asking under what paragraph of the bye-laws, the Lodge was intending to initiate Sergeant Lamport, a Royal Marine, since the District Grand Master had ruled that Royal Marines could not become members “as the Royal Marines did not belong to the Regular Army.”

A notice of motion was given that at the next meeting it would be proposed that the by-laws should be changed to allow Royal Marines to be admitted.

When at the next meeting the proposal was put it was not carried. Nevertheless, Sergeant Lamport was initiated. But it took 15 years before Royal Marines were included in the by-laws.

In November 1894 it was agreed that the tyler be allowed 1s 6d per ordinary meeting for help with the clearing up.

As the 20th century dawned the Lodge continued to meet and carry out many multi-ceremonies, up to five initiations, five passings and five raisings on the same night starting at 6.30pm.

It took a long while to work out how they managed to do so many in one evening, until the minutes revealed the opening of auxiliary Lodges in smaller rooms. They would start the meeting in the main Lodge room and open in the three degrees and then resume down to the first degree. Then PMs would be requested to go to smaller Lodge rooms and carry out the passings and raisings.

After carrying out the ceremonies they would return to the main Lodge and open in the above mentioned capacities and are now in receipt of half pay, pension or other retiring allowances in respect of such services.

The PGM inspected the lodge's warrant with the master, W Bro Peter Brill, at Wayfarer Lodge's 1,000th meeting

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Catching Smiles with the Pro Grand Master

The Pro Grand Master, M W Bro. Peter Lowndes, Patron of the Masonic Fishing Charity, joined in “the Biggy” – the major annual fishing event of the charity, which this year was organised by Hertfordshire members at Rib Valley Fishing Lakes near Ware.

The Pro Grand Master was welcomed by the Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Colin Harris, and was welcomed to the event by W Bro Adrian Page, Area Rep of the Hertfordshire branch of the charity and many others involved in the Branch activities.

May’s event gave 48 disabled and disadvantaged youngsters and others from local Special Needs schools and organisations the opportunity to do something completely different and they fished their hearts out, catching many rainbow trout and coarse fish (though in fairness to their volunteer casters, they did have a lot of help!)

During his day-long visit the guest of honour stopped at every fishing location, admiring the fish which had given so much pleasure to their captors. At one point he took a rod himself and showed his prowess at casting for a bite. However, the big one got away!

After joining the participants for a barbeque lunch the Pro Grand Master presented certificates to everyone – which is where the real smiles came in. The charity’s slogan is ‘Catch The Smile’ and along the way they certainly did that.

And later he said “The Smiles, were huge proof of the value of the charity which is spread throughout the country. The charity is a superb example of the good that Freemasonry can do in the community. I am full of admiration for all those who freely give their time to make sure that those less fortunate than us go home with some great memories.”

Why not invite the Masonic Fishing Charity Presentation Team (Herts Province) to enhance your next meeting? Their lighthearted talk and presentation can be tailored to suit a Lodge’s agenda.

Contact: Stew Willett at stewwillett@aol.com or Chris Noble at family.nobles@btinternet.com.

Alternatively you may like to get involved as a fisherman or helper and you can contact Chris or Stew on this as well or email info@mtsf.org.uk.
Nearly 800 Hertfordshire freemasons and their families and friends filled the nave at magnificent St Albans Abbey for a service of thanksgiving and the rededication of a pulpit which was a gift from the freemasons of England in 1883. The vast majority of the funding for the original came from the Province of Hertfordshire and three lodges in particular – Watford No 404, Gladsmuir No 1385 and Halsey No 1479. Its £6,000 restoration, under the guidance of Herfordshire Provincial Grand Orator and Cathedral Clerk of the Works W Bro George Laverick, was made possible by donations from many lodges, as well as three other orders – Hertfordshire Knights Templar, Rose Croix and Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia. While freemasons of the Province did not follow their forebears and parade through St Albans in their full regalia, full regalia was worn at the July service when the Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Colin Harris, and the Dean of St Albans, the Very Rev Jeffrey John, both referred to the relationships between the Abbey and Freemasonry in Hertfordshire, which are strengthened by mutual support, not least by members of the Provincial Stewards Lodge which regularly assists at major Abbey events. The restored pulpit is situated in the crossing of the cathedral, under the Great Norman Tower, and is full of symbolism. The Lodge shields of Watford, Gladsmuir and Halsey adorn the sides, along with depictions of the sun representing the master, the level and plumb rule the wardens, and a Bible and square. Two blank shields were carved in 2000 with the crests of the Knights Templar and Rose Croix. Visitors to the abbey will also find the restored tomb of Humphrey Duke of Gloucester (1391-1447) who was the youngest of the four sons of King Henry IV, and who lived with his wife in St Albans. The restoration was made possible by masonic contributions in millennium year.
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**Wii machine**

When a member of Royston Lodge 4304 had a severe stroke and was admitted to the local hospital, the Lodge LOI responded by buying a Wii machine, complete with large screen TV, for the physiotherapy department. This proved to be an outstanding success, so much so that hospital staff reported having difficulties getting patients off the machine.

However, due to NHS cost-cutting, it has now been decided Royston Hospital must close. But before all the equipment could be lost in the bowels of the NHS, staff at the physio unit rescued the Wii and TV and returned them to the Lodge. Both have since been delivered to a new home, Prince Michael of Kent Court, by Worshipful Brothers Bernie Wilson, Neil Evans and Adrian Insall.

Elizabeth Corbett, manager at the Masonic care home in Watford, said the equipment was doing a great service, especially as some of the residents were also stroke victims. And due to the height of the screen on its stand, the TV is used in the main lounge on Thursdays for regular film nights.

**Charity cricket match**

A charity cricket match organised by the ever-active Park Street Lodge No 8556 and the United Arts Rifles Lodge No 1487 raised £2,150 for four charities – Help for Heroes, Macmillan, Chums and Keech Cottage.

Much of the organisation of the event was done by Mark Page of Park Street Lodge, helped by members of other Lodges and supported by the committee and members of Caddington sports and social club.

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**Another chance to sing**

The ever popular Christmas service of Nine Lessons and Carols organised by the Hertfordshire Lodge of the Legion will once again take place this year at Christ Church, Waltham Cross, on Monday, December 3.

Starting at 7pm, the service will be conducted by the Rev Jane Dicker and will feature the Choristers of Christ Church with plenty of participation by the congregation; so you can sing your hearts out by joining in with some of the most well-known and popular carols.

The service is a charitable event which is in support of local charities and is always very well supported – especially by the Provincial Executive.

There is a large free public car park opposite the church, located next to Theobalds Grove Station, and following the service why not join us for refreshments at the Halsey Masonic Centre, Cheshunt.

For more information please contact the Lodge Secretary – W Bro Terry Reid terry@terryreid.co.uk
From the Charity Steward

As we move from summer towards autumn and the start of a new Masonic year, it is perhaps a time for Lodge committees to take a prudent look at their Lodge’s finances, to ensure they are as healthy as possible.

We are now less than two years away from the start of a five year Festival Appeal in support of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys. The RMTGGB helps beneficiaries overcome the barriers of poverty and complete the education and training needed to achieve and succeed in life.

In our Province, this charity has provided over £750,000 of support in the last five years, to children and dependants of our members and is currently supporting 40 families with grants of £105,000, awarded in the last twelve months. The Festival Appeal will concentrate the direction of fundraising across our Province, which inevitably may divert funds away from each Lodge’s more regular choices for support.

There are three main streams in most Lodges into which monies are placed and need careful consideration. Most brethren will, of course, already have a good working knowledge of the functions of these accounts, but I feel it bears repetition, and may be especially helpful for the newer members.

The General Fund is normally financed by members’ subscriptions, dining fees and sundry payments and is really there to cover the day-to-day running of the Lodge itself. Generating a small surplus in this fund is always useful as this can be used as “emergency” money should a crisis occur in the Lodge or for example, if a Masonic centre makes a specific charge on their users. As this money is raised without a mention of charity, it can be used for any purpose as decided by the Lodge members.

The Benevolent Fund, which may have different titles in many Lodges, i.e. Almoners account and suchlike, is normally funded from collections in Lodge, from raffles, social events or even one-off donations, and in all cases these funds are not raised in the name of charity, and Gift Aid is NOT reclaimable on them. These Benevolent Funds can be used for supporting Lodge widows and dependants, gifts as directed by the members, flowers, wreaths and Christmas boxes. This money is unencumbered by Gift Aid and can be used at the members’ discretion.

The Charity Fund is normally funded by monies raised in the name of charity, from in-Lodge collections, specifically nominated before the collection takes place, by all monies raised in Gift Aid envelopes and by single or regular Payment Promises, to a registered charity or to a Lodge Relief Chest. Where appropriate, and depending on individual members’ taxable status, 25p in the pound is reclaimable from the Exchequer, greatly enhancing the value of this type of giving.

It can ONLY be disbursed for charitable purposes by donation to a registered charity or as a donation to individuals in cases of demonstrable need or hardship.

It is important to remember that Gift Aid is NEVER reclaimable from monies raised in raffles. Charitable funds cannot be used for flowers, widows’ gifts and Christmas boxes.

When the next Festival period begins in 2014, the brethren of our Province will be asked to prioritise their giving in the direction of the RMTGGB and, as a consequence, two of these three funds may suffer a drop in liquidity. As both of these funds are very important for each Lodge’s ability to support others, now is the right time to ensure their balances are as you would wish them to be.

Festival of the Federation of Police Lodges

The 10th Annual Festival of the Federation of Police Lodges was this year hosted by the Blue Lamp Lodge No. 9840 at Chepstow Masonic Hall, in the Province of Monmouthshire.

Several members of Lodge Trust and Fear Not 9698, which meets at Ashwell House Masonic Centre, St Albans, together with their wives attended the two day event.

The meeting on the Saturday was attended by the Provincial Grand Master for Monmouthshire, RW Bro, The Rev. C G Lane.

A most informative talk was given by Sir Trefor Morris, CBE, QPM, a former Chief Constable of Hertfordshire. W Bro Godfrey “Geoff” Gale, secretary of Lodge Trust and Fear Not, was elected President of the federation.

The federation now consists of 19 Police Lodges and Chapters throughout the country, including one in Northern Ireland.

Next year’s festival will take place in Liverpool, the following year Durham and plans are in hand for Lodge Trust and Fear Not to host the 2015 festival at Ashwell House.

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From the Charity Steward
Cryptic Crossword

Across
1. Angst ringer ends line-up after anger vanishes. (6)
5. Reverse town re-route for non-Samaritan act. (4, 2)
8. Palindromic decking to exhaust you. (4)
9. Theological play part is in fact good... unsettlingly. (3, 2, 3)
10. Dishy Chinese proves a noodle. (4, 4)
11. Moor swaps ends for space. (4)
12. Indictment to fill glass. (6)
14. He rats around for suit. (6)
16. Mosquito tang reversal. (4)
18. Not conjecture, that's for sure. (3, 1, 4)
20. Lois! A man? What a crazy, enigmatic picture that makes. (4, 4)
21. Creased ceremonial wrap-around is a bore. (4)
22. To spin around and not pass out. (4, 2)
23. Re-tine in total confusion. (6)

Down
2. Gear projection for a nipper. (5)
3. Wipe Ron into shape for commanding position. (2, 5)
4. Serious choice of plot ending. (5, 8)
5. Position leaving one eclipsed. (3, 2, 3, 5)
6. As for jumping... it's such a long way to go. (2, 3)
7. Low bout of pneumatic ruin for flaming extinction. (4, 3)
13. Extreme arm distribution. (4, 3)
15. Position degree for a start. (2, 5)
17. Derelict ramp ends heavy going. (5)
19. Brace thrown up in Scottish plays. (5)

General Knowledge Crossword

Across
1. Popular British charity launched in 1985. (5, 6)
7. Grinding tooth. (5)
8. Beau________. 1924 novel by P.C. Wren. (5)
10. Name by which the East German State Security Service was known. (5)
12. Musical composition for nine performers. (5)
14. Fleeting interest. (3)
15. Main character in the best-known (?) work of Swiss literature. (5)
17. _______rule. Pre-electronic calculator. (5)
20. See 9-Across
21. Last letter of the Greek alphabet. (5)
22. Projecting room with a polygonal window. (5)
23. Temporarily unemployed. (7, 4)

Down
1. Albert______. French philosopher and author of The Plague. (5)
2. Central Mediterranean republic. (5)
3. Printed statement of qualification. (11)
4. Race requiring a steady hand. (3-3-5)
5. Henrik______. 19th century Norwegian playwright. (5)
6. London underground river that was, and is, a sewer. (5)
13. See 11-Down.
15. Nuclear weapon. (1-4)
16. General term for the noble gases. (5)
18. _______Jones. British architect (1573 – 1652) (5)
19. Alice Thomas______. Pen name of the novelist
Anna Haycraft (1932 – 2005) Works include The 27th Kingdom (5)
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Alan Tyler’s garden party

A popular fundraising event celebrated its 21st jubilee in style, raising thousands of pounds for five Hertfordshire charities.

The occasion was the annual garden party staged jointly by WGC and Knebworth Lodges. The venue was Alan Tyler’s Burnham Green garden and it attracted 450 guests. As usual it was Alan and Simon Cooper, spearheading things.

The sun shone brightly and guests, many of who were not connected to freemasonry, enjoyed a host of attractions including a barbecue, extensive bar with real ales, casino, raffles and music from a steel band and local group Little Red Roosters. In total £16,000 was raised which will be split between Garden House Hospice, Alzheimer’s Society, Jubilee House, in Welwyn Garden City, Riding for the Disabled and the Mixed Group.

Alan said: “This was the 21st garden party and we’re very proud of this event. ‘We’d especially like to thank everyone who helped, many of them not connected with any Lodges. “It’s never a problem selling tickets as it’s such good value. “I am very pleased with the amount raised for the charities.”
Old Albanian and Old Verulamian Lodges’ garden party

The now traditional Old Albanian and Old Verulamian Lodges’ garden party and barbeque took place on July 1, hosted in the grounds of the ‘White House’ (Bentley Heath not Washington DC) by Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Dick Knifton and his wife Gill.

It was a very relaxed informal afternoon, open to all, and despite the intermittent sunshine, enjoyed by all who attended. There was plenty of delicious food and drink and although the OV’s drank the beer barrel dry before the afternoon’s end, there remained plenty of the canned variety, not to mention wine!

A total of £1,566 was raised, to be split between the scouts in St Albans and the Hospice of St Francis, Northchurch, Berkhamsted, where OA Lodge member David Pitcher recently received such excellent treatment before being able to return home.
Royal Arch Masons

From the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent

Companions, a warm welcome to the Royal Arch section of Hertfordshire Provincial News. I trust that you all had a good summer and enjoyed the Olympics as much as I did. Now, we can turn our attention to the start of a new Royal Arch season. The Royal Arch continues strongly in this Province. Together with my Executive team we visit extensively and I am always impressed and heartened by the warmth and friendship that exists in the Chapters.

That same good feeling extends to the Provincial events, all of which are well supported and many of which have become annual fixtures. The increasingly popular Soiree in April, a Sunday afternoon of dinner, disco and dancing, was followed by the Golf Day in May. Both were fun events, allowing the Companions to socialise and relax, enjoying each other's company and friendship in a convivial setting.

Both of these events also saw large sums being raised for the 2013 Royal Arch Bi-Centenary Appeal for the Royal College of Surgeons Research Fellowship Scheme, which continues to be supported by you all. The next major event in the calendar is the Provincial Annual Convocation at Freemason's Hall, London in November. Please make every effort to attend, supporting those Companions being appointed, invested and promoted within the Province. I will be updating you all on the progress of the 2013 Bi-Centenary Appeal. There is a lot going on within the Province and I am particularly keen that we share our good news stories. Neil Phillips has served as our Provincial Information Officer for over nine years, providing an excellent service for both the newsletter and the website. On behalf of the Province I would like to thank him for all his efforts. He has now handed over the job to Martin Crago who is keen to maintain the flow of information.

Provincial Information Officer
Martin Crago Tel: 01923 234574
Please don't hesitate to contact Martin with news from any Chapter.

Bengeo Chapter

At the Installation meeting of Bengeo Chapter on May 19, Deputy Grand Superintendent Ian Clift had the honour and privilege of presenting a 50-year Certificate to E Comp Dennis Yates, who was MEZ of the Chapter in 1973. This was a special pleasure for the Deputy Grand Superintendent as he and E Comp Dennis are members of the same Mother Lodge, and it was Dennis who Installed the Deputy Grand Superintendent's father as master in April 1971. Then in October of that year Ian's father initiated him into Knebworth Lodge, so you can see why this was so special to our Deputy Grand Superintendent. At the same meeting the Chapter made a very generous donation of £1,000 to the 2013 Bi-Centenary appeal which was gratefully received by the Deputy Grand Superintendent.

Royal Arch golf day

Thursday, May 31, at Redbourn Golf Club saw 56 players turn out for the annual Royal Arch Golf Day. This included Companions from our neighbouring Province of Bedfordshire and we also had four guests from Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, including their Deputy Grand Superintendent David Jackson. After a lovely day of golf we were joined in the evening by a number of wives, partners and guests, which meant that over 70 of us had a very entertaining evening, which included the prize giving.

Concord Chapter

At the meeting of Concord Chapter No 767 on Saturday, July 7, our Deputy Grand Superintendent had the honour and privilege of presenting a 60-year Certificate to E Comp John Dye. John was exalted in 1952 in the District of The Punjab, and he has pursued his Royal Arch career both there and here in England for the past 60 years. The Chapter was consecrated on April 13, 1908, in Karachi in the District of Bombay. John is and always has been, a stalwart supporter of the Chapter and even now in his senior years is Second Principal of the Chapter.

In 1989 when John was Provincial Junior Grand Warden and our Deputy Grand Superintendent was a Provincial ADC they would spend many an evening together with John representing the RW Provincial Grand Master and our Deputy Grand Superintendent acting as his escort.
A visit to Denmark

Three Hertfordshire Royal Arch companions, together with two wives, travelled to Copenhagen for a fraternal visit in the spring. They were Second Provincial Grand Principal E. Comp. Roger Pells with his wife Marion, Past Provincial Grand Almoner E. Comp. Keith Townsend and Second Assistant Provincial Grand Sojourner E. Comp. Michael Thorpe, who organised the trip, with his wife Valerie.

While in the Danish capital they attended three Masonic meetings, two of which were under the auspices of the Swedish Grand Lodge, and at the Swedish Grand Lodge Centre. The first was an Initiation, similar to our own ceremony, but quite different! The second was to Sankt Andreaslogen (St Andreas Lodge), where an IV/V degree ceremony was worked, roughly equivalent to our own Exaltation. The structure of the Swedish system is not quite the same as ours, being built upon eleven degrees, corresponding to the three Craft degrees, and proceeding through Royal Ark Mariner, Mark Master Mason, the Royal Arch, Red Cross of Constantine, Knights Templar and Knights of Malta, culminating with the XIº, on a par with our 33º.

De rigour is the formal dress – Brethren wear white tie, top hat and tails, but with an interesting selection of aprons, and the Temple is laid out quite differently. Music plays an important part in the meeting, usually with instrumentalists rather than just an organ. A tour of parts of the Grand Lodge building revealed magnificent assembly rooms and temples, as well as special areas designed for particular parts of the ceremonies to test the suitability or otherwise of the candidate. The third evening saw the Hertfordshire guests at one of the local Masonic Halls, visiting a Lodge under the English Constitution, De Tre Sojler (The Three Pillars) No. 816, the Worshipful Master being Bjarne Rojbæk. Here the temple is identical to our own, Brethren wear the same regalia, and the ritual is the same – except all in Danish! Following the meeting the ladies joined the men for an excellent White Table. The arrangements for visiting the various meetings had been made by W Brother Curt Kunz, Søren Lundsfryd, a member of Prince Hamlet Lodge No. 9864 and Bjeane, to whom guests were most grateful.

It wasn’t all Masonry though. They had time to indulge in sightseeing and shopping. The week was rounded off with a sumptuous traditional Danish meal in the oldest restaurant in Copenhagen, generously hosted by W Brother Alexander Stave.

Roger said: “At all times the Danish hospitality was most generous and it did not matter we could not speak Danish. Everybody speaks fluent English!”

West Watford Chapter – A Family Affair

Members and guests witnessed a very special occasion when a son exalted his father into the Royal Arch - with the exaltees grandson being PS.

Darren Bending, of West Watford Chapter No 6492, exalted his father, Bert Bending with Darren’s son Adam Bending as principal sojourner. Darren acted as First Principal for the whole meeting due to the unfortunate absence through illness of the MEZ, and the evening was an enjoyable and memorable one. The Ceremony of Exaltation, on Friday, May 11 at Halsey Hall, Watford, was performed in a most sincere and informative manner by all the officers present.

Cloisters Banner

In June the ME Grand Superintendent, John Ilott and members of the Provincial team officiated at a special ceremony to dedicate a new banner and honours board for Cloister Chapter No. 7100 at Letchworth.

The Chapter is closely associated with Prince Hamlet Lodge, which meets at the same venue and which has a large Danish membership, seven of whom are also current officers of the Chapter. The Craft and Chapter meetings are held on the same day to cater for those travelling from Denmark; there were 16 at the Chapter Dedication Ceremony. The Chapter was opened and closed in regular fashion by the members, following which the Letchworth centre was packed to capacity as wives and guests, including non-Chapter masons and non-masons, joined for the ceremony.

The ME Grand Superintendent welcomed all those present, commenting that it was a pleasure to see so many Danish brethren present. He then gave a short address in Danish! E Comp John then went on to explain to the assembled gathering the layout and meaning of the Chapter room, and the brief background to the Holy Royal Arch Chapter.

The ME Grand Superintendent told guests he had conducted many banner dedications, but this was unusual as it was being conducted in front of wives and friends.

It was pleasing that some of the Provincial Executive there that day were also present at the dedication of the Chapter in 2004. The audience then saw the banner ceremony and were treated to an excellent oration by the Third Provincial Grand Principal, Gerry Greenland.

£500 was raised towards the Royal Arch 2013 appeal, funding research fellowships for the Royal College Surgeons.
Mark Masons

Provincial Information Officer
To be confirmed - see website

Dates for the diary
November 18, 2012
Winter Mark Luncheon to be held at Chessfield Downs Golf Club
May 10, 2013
The Mark Golf Day to be held at Chessfield Downs Golf Club

Annual meeting

An impressive 367 attended the annual Mark meeting held at the girl’s school in Rickmansworth in.
A total of 319 dined and the collection raised £1,973.02.
Colin Hellyer, the retiring Assistant Provincial Grand Master, was presented with a silver Quaich by the Provincial Grand Master in appreciation of the work he had done over the years for the Province.
Neil Phillips was invested as the new APGM.
A copy of the PGM’s address at the meeting is included in our Mark Masons’ roundup.

Berkhampstead

The Berkhamstead Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 1172 held its banner dedication ceremony in May at Ashwell House, in St Albans.
The Provincial Grand Master, Chris Radmore, performed the banner dedication ceremony at which ladies and non-Mark Masons were in attendance and later dined at a white table event at the centre.

Debenham

Debenham Lodge No 636 celebrated its centenary on a Thursday in April.
At that meeting there was also a banner re-dedication service conducted by the Provincial Grand Master, Chris Radmore. The Assistant Grand Master, Keith Emmerson, was also in attendance.
Annual golf day

Friday June 15 was a great day for a game of golf. The rain threatened before the game, but then held off. Chesfield Downs Golf Club was the venue for our annual tournament and they treated us very well. The course was in excellent condition. A glorious afternoon’s golf was had, with good scores being made by all. Winner of the Keith Emmerson Trophy was David Williams who, playing off a handicap of 24, scored 31 points. Three ladies also took part. The leading lady was Annie Dennison, who, playing off 36, scored 20 points. Nearest the pin winner was Murray Sale on the nineth, who was also within 18 inches of a hole in one on the 264 yard, par 4, seventh. The Longest Drive was, one again, won by Adrian Wilson. The winning Team was: Murray Sale, Rob Sale, Colin Taylor and Roger Saunders. Our Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Chris Radmore and his wife Brenda, always loyal supporters of this event, joined us for an evening meal afterwards, along with 40 other people. After a very good meal Brenda presented the prizes to the winners. This was followed by the raffle and at the end of the evening Colin Taylor presented a cheque for £317 to the Provincial Grand Master for the Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund and a bouquet of flowers to Brenda. There is a lot to be said for having a great day’s golf and helping others at the same time.

Latimer Lodge

The Latimer Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 962 held a banner dedication ceremony at Ashwell House, St Albans in June. The Banner was dedicated by the Provincial Grand Master, Chris Radmore. Ladies and non-Mark Masons were invited to the ceremony and to a white table dinner afterwards.

Tolmers Scout Park

The Mark Degree in Hertfordshire made a donation of £10,000 to Tolmers Scout Park. This will help with the renovation of its buildings so that they could be let out to provide rental income. A further donation is being made during the course of this year.

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**Keeping in touch**
Keep in touch with what's going on in the Province by visiting the Provincial Priory of Hertfordshire website: [www.ktherts.com](http://www.ktherts.com)

If you have any information requirements or you have information that you may want circulated, please drop the Provincial Information Officer, Darren Bending, a line at prov-info@ktherts.com

**Dates for your diary**
- **Tuesday, November 20**
  - Great Priory of Malta at Birmingham
- **Sunday, April 28, 2013**
  - St George’s Dinner at Cheshunt
- **Sunday, May 12, 2013**
  - Service of Praise at Waltham Abbey
- **Wednesday, May 15, 2013**
  - Great Priory at Birmingham

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**Provincial Priory of Hertfordshire 2012**

On Wednesday, June 27 200 Knights met in the morning at The Cambridge Motel, Shepreth, to witness the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Timothy Lewis GCT, install E Kt Tony Lapsley as the new Provincial Prior for Hertfordshire.

The Supreme Grand Master, assisted by his team from The Great Priory Installation team, carried out the ceremony in a very sincere and impressive manner, which was accordingly recognised and greatly appreciated not only by the new Provincial Prior, but by all those present. These included two Past Provincial Priors of Hertfordshire, 12 Provincial Priors and a Past Provincial Prior of Essex, plus one Provincial Prior Designate.

Other distinguished guests included Benjamin Addy, Michael Herbert and John Paternoster.

There were a total of 18 Right Eminent Knights which included seven Knight Commanders of the Temple – a very auspicious guest list indeed, and a reflection of the respect in which Tony is held.

Following the Installation of the Provincial Prior, R E Kt Tony Lapsley appointed and invested E Kt Michael Stanforth as Provincial Sub Prior for Hertfordshire.

A splendid lunch then followed, and in the afternoon, the new Provincial Prior presided over a Chapter of Provincial Priory, at which the Provincial Officers of the Year were appointed and invested and Knights receiving Past Appointments and Promotions were invested.

All in all, a splendid day, and a memorable event in the history of the Provincial Priory of Hertfordshire.
New Provincial Prior’s first official visit, Joseph Moffat Preceptory No.383

On Tuesday, July 3, the Provincial Prior R E Kt Tony Lapsley attended the Joseph Moffat Preceptory No.383, his first official visit since being invested as the new Provincial Prior for Hertfordshire. The Provincial Prior was escorted by acting officers of the Province and attended by his Body Guard; all under the capable direction of the Provincial Marshal E Kt Mike Beaty.

The 44 Knights attending the meeting were treated to a superb ceremony where Companion Imoh Thompson was duly installed as a Knight of the Order. The ceremony was performed in an outstanding fashion by E Kt Graham Pattenden, very ably assisted by Kt David Sody and E Kt Colin Nicholson – a truly enjoyable evening for all who attended.

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Preceptory of Improvement

At the request of the R E Provincial Prior, a Preceptory of Improvement has been formed to be held at the Masonic Hall, Rose Walk, Radlett, Hertfordshire, under the banner of the Macleod Preceptory No. 463 at 11am on the first Sundays in February, March, April, May, June, October, November and December.

All Knights are welcome and should bring their sword and belt with frog. Newer Knights and Preceptors are particularly encouraged to attend. Further details can be obtained from the Provincial Marshal, E Kt M D Beaty, PGtWorR

Looking forward to a promotion or a first appointment? Introducing a new candidate?

As well as some second hand items, most items of regalia can now be obtained new and at keen prices. Contact the Provincial Grand Warden of Regalia Iceboat (shyresec@tsalta.co.uk or mobile 0790 9983179) for a price list. You could save money as well as raising funds for the Province!

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60 years of service

APGM, W Bro Keith Gilbert, attended a meeting of High Stone Lodge 4498 to present a certificate marking 60 years of service to Freemasonry, from the Prov GM to lodge member W Bro Arthur Billing, PPGReg LGR.

W Bro Arthur, who is now in his 94th year, was initiated into High Stone Lodge on June 3, 1952. He was the lodge preceptor at its LOI for 35 years.

W Bro Keith, in making the presentation, said he deemed it an honour as while he had presented many certificates, this was the first time he had presented one marking a 60th anniversary.

Two senior Hertfordshire Freemasons celebrate 60 plus years

RW Bro Sir F Maurice Drake DFC PSGW PGSN and RW Bro John Whinney PJGW PGSN celebrated special events during the last few months. Sir Maurice a member and PZ of Harpenden RA Chapter No 4314 was Initiated in to Queensman Lodge No 2694, London, in March 1948 soon after his return from active service in the RAF during World War Two, when he flew many sorties in Europe and North Africa and was honoured with the Distinguished Flying Cross. As a High Court Judge for many years he officiated at several high-profile cases. His exceptional legal mind was called upon regularly by Grand Lodge and he was invested as PJGW in 1979 and PGSoj in 1991, being promoted to PGSN in 1999 and PSGW in 2010. Sir Maurice was also honoured with the Grand Master’s Order of Service to Masonry in 1998.

John Whinney was Initiated by his father into Castle Lodge of Harmony No 26 two weeks after his 21st birthday. He was Master of the lodge late in the 1950s and then joining White Star Lodge No 8727 was WM in 1993. As a member of a Red Apron Lodge he joined Grand Stewards’ Lodge (the Lodge with no number) and attained the very high office of Master in 1997. John’s accountancy skills were sought by Grand Lodge and he was appointed Junior Grand Warden in 1990 and Grand Scribe Nehemiah in 1993.

It was certainly a Knight to remember!

The presentation, at Halsey Hall, Cheshunt, was made by W Bro David Ferris, Asst Prov GM. Our pictures show W Bro Tommy Knight with W Bro David Ferris, and also with his little brother Arthur (left), who has only 60-odd years in masonry!
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As the picture shows, W Bro Gary went on to make a presentation of a plaque to the Eemland master W Bro Henk van Esch.

On the second day of the trip, two brethren had to leave early, but the others were driven to The Hague, where we were given a tour round the Grand Lodge and introduced to the Grand Master for the Netherlands.

An impressive £10,031.04 was raised during David King’s year as master of Park Street Lodge which was donated to 33 different charities.

The master’s nominated charities were Hertfordshire & District Mencap (for their Gateway Club, of which his special needs daughter Hannah is a member, 1st & 2nd Waltham Cross Scout Group, of which he is chairman) & the RMBl.

Of the total monies raised 34 per cent went to Masonic causes and 66 per cent to non-Masonic charities.

David King, PProvGSuptWks(Middx), said: “Thanks largely go to our excellent charity steward W Bro Chris Noble and, of course, our members supporting our social and fundraising events. “As a result of our donations to Hertford & District Mencap I was asked to attend and present the prizes at its annual prize ceremony of the Gateway Club at Turnford College.”

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Bulgarian link

The link between Hertfordshire the Bulgarian Lodge, Hiram No 37 remains strong.

In June, ten members of the Province went to Sofia to assist in the Installation meeting. The WM of Hiram Lodge, Bro Yordan Nikolov, faultlessly installed his successor, Bro Mike de Costa in English, a performance not in his mother-tongue, of which any Hertfordshire Lodge would have been proud.

Bro Yordan had worked tirelessly to achieve this degree of competency. The Provincial Grand Organist, W Bro Maurice Champ, added to the occasion and other brethren gave the addresses to the Master, Wardens and Brethren and assisted in supporting officers and other guests. The 50-plus members and guests then shared in a first-class festive board when the WM was toasted following the Master’s Song.

During the weekend the group visited the town of Koprivstitza where the uprising against the Turkish invaders began in April 1876. Bulgaria was recognised as an independent state in 1908.

Master’s pub event

Master of Chipping Barnet Lodge 5599 Ian Crossley and his wife Michelle are well on their way to raising £1,000 for a charity close to their hearts.

The couple’s latest fundraiser was a treasure hunt around Tring. This followed a previous lunch at the Roebuck in Stevenage which, together with the proceeds of one meeting’s raffle, has taken their total to over £500.

They are raising money for The Children’s Heart Federation, a charity which helped their son. Zak was born with a serious heart condition. Mrs Crossley said: “It has been a roller-coaster ride of emotions. He had his first major operation at just 14-months-old.

“Throughout this difficult period the Children’s Heart Federation was there for support and advice.

“They do great work in supporting families like ours and we felt that we wanted to give something back.”

Speaking of the treasure hunt, Mrs Crossley added: “The teams had to pick up clues along the way and we all ended up in the pub for lunch.

“It was a great day and all the families enjoyed it. It was a great way to have fun and raise some money for a really important cause”.

Rebecca Holt, family support officer for the charity, said: “This event was a great idea, a really fun day out and not like anything we have had before, so hats off to Ian and Michelle for organising it.

“Everyone at CHF would like to say a big thank you to them and everyone who took part in the day for helping raise vital money for the charity.

“Zak, who has been in the chair of his lodge, which meets at Radlett, since February, said: “Ideally we would like to donate £1,000. We hope to do that with our ladies night in October and another lunch, with carol singers, in December.”

Olympic volunteers

Discarding masonic blue for the pink and cerise of their Team London Olympics Ambassador polo shirts (and a choice of trilby or pink baseball cap) were Provincial Information Officer W Bro Michael Imeson (left) and W Bro Mike Lowe, who were on duty to help London’s visitors make the most of their time in the capital.

“Our duties were to be on hand at the busiest spots so that visitors never needed to feel a twinge of anxiety over anything ranging from the nearest tube station or bus stop to the loos (very important!) and restaurants – and of course, the way to the Olympic venues,” said W Bro Imeson.

He is a member of Harpenden Lodge No 4314 and W Bro Lowe of St Nicholas Lodge No 6558.
Grand Lodge has recently produced a new leaflet which will help give potential members, friends and family an insight into Freemasonry and what we are all about.

There is, in some quarters, a continuing anti-freemasonry feeling, though I have to admit that as the years pass by that any bias against us does seem to be diminishing.

For example, our own county council and other councils have now stopped asking whether potential employees are freemasons. When I managed to get an on-line debate going with the county council it came back to me clearly that the masonry question was on the applications forms simply “because it had always been there – and for no other logical reason!” It is to be hoped, therefore, that the latest move by Grand Lodge will speed up the acceptance that we don’t have two heads, that we are not dreadful people, are not the sons of Jack the Ripper, and indeed that we are.

Anything we can do to show our positive side (we know we don’t have a negative side anyway!) has to be for the good.

Freemasonry acted as a “constant” – in that it “provides members with a unique combination of friendship, belonging and structure with many masons saying they’ve made lifelong friendships.” That conclusion should be sufficient to encourage us to help others make lifelong friendships along the way, too. So please grab a copy of the leaflet, or download it from the UGLE website (www.ugle.org.uk) and spread the word.

Royal and Select Masters

At the beginning of the year a new picture started to appear in the “rogues’ gallery” of the Masonic halls in Hertfordshire – that of Colin Hellyer, who has succeeded Colin Thurston as District Grand Master for the Royal and Select Masters – otherwise known as the Cryptic Degree. Colin will be well known to many as the recently retired APGM of the Mark Degree in Hertfordshire.

Brethren of an enquiring mind may wonder what this apparently secretive degree is all about, particularly as it claims to contain the most enthralling and spiritually uplifting ritual to be found anywhere in Masonry. In essence, it completes the Hiramic Legend which begins with the loss of the Word in the third degree of the Craft and continues with the story of the building of King Solomon’s Temple in the Mark. Some 470 years later we are told in the Royal Arch Chapter of the discovery of the Word in the ruins of this temple, but what happened in that intervening 470 years? These are the stories told in the four degrees of which the Cryptic Ritual is composed.

Anyone who is interested in enquiring further about this fascinating Order should contact the District Grand Recorder, Tony Lapsley or Colin Hellyer direct. The relevant email addresses are alapsl@ntlworld.com and chellyer@btinternet.com.
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