

Provincial News

The newsletter for Hertfordshire Freemasons



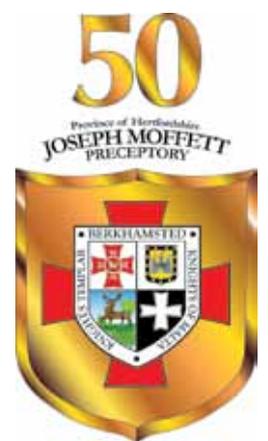
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50 years and growing

SPECIAL FEATURE

The 2019 Festival for the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys is up and running

See pages 12-15

Feeling 'at home' rather than 'in a home'

We are all aware that with the ageing population and the emphasis on the Government's Care in the Community scheme, people are now moving into care homes at a greater age than 10 years ago.

It is with this in mind that the RMBI is working towards having a dementia unit in all its 17 care homes. With age comes not only the problem of care, but the difficulty of helping those with dementia.

Prince Michael of Kent Court, in Watford, is one of the RMBI Homes that has a dementia unit, (called Jersey Wing) and it has undergone a number of changes and improvements

over the last two-and-a-half years to make a calmer and more mentally stimulating environment for those residents.

Redecoration of the lounge, moving the dining room into the conservatory overlooking the garden, using brick

wallpaper for the corridors and making the doors to each room look like the front door of a house all make the residents feel 'at home' instead of 'in a home'.

Back in September last year, Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt announced that dementia had replaced cancer as the biggest challenge facing the NHS. £50m had been put aside to help provide

practical changes to improve the quality of life for people with dementia.

Manager Elizabeth Corbett and her deputy Beverley Roberts, put in a bid for £10,000 to change an office in Jersey Wing and convert it to a café

so that the residents with dementia, their family and friends would have an alternative area to stimulate conversation not only between themselves, but with other residents and their families while taking a break in the cafe. The bid was successful and work

started just before Christmas.

By the time that you read this, the Jersey Café will be fully open.

It will play a huge part in providing a more relaxed and homely atmosphere in this dedicated dementia support unit and help the residents join in daily life activities.

The Province of Bedfordshire has always had close ties with PMKC and it provided the home with substantial funds to change the old clinical style bathroom in Jersey Wing into a sensory bathroom. This will have a 'state of the art' bath with soft lights and music to calm and relax the residents. Work on this project should be starting soon and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those concerned in Bedfordshire for making these funds available.

The Association of Friends of PMKC are all volunteers. We raise not only funds, but perhaps just as importantly, awareness of the home within the masonic community. Without your help and support we would not be able to make the lives of our frail and elderly Masons and their close family members more comfortable and enjoyable.



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■ Small Lounge

So, a very big thank you to you all for your support, and to end a date for your diaries. On Sunday, May 18, is the Almoner's/Charity Steward's Open Day. Other Freemasons welcome and your ladies are included.

Lorna and Malcolm Andrews,
(chairman, Association of Friends of PMKC).
Tel: 01494 433 851
Email: chairman@pmkcfriends.co.uk



■ Front Door on the street where I live

Museum newsletter

By Brian Tierney,
Museum Curator

Undoubtedly, the highlight of recent acquisitions for the Provincial Museum has been the purchase of The Hemingford Cup.

Fortunately the Great Queen Street Museum director notified us that the cup had been placed in a fine art auction in Newmarket by the present Lord Hemingford. The cup was presented by The Hertfordshire Installed Masters Lodge No.4090 to the first Lord Hemingford following his year as Master in 1944-45. Lord Hemingford was the MP for Watford for 25 years, became the Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons for 11 years, was knighted and then created a Baron. He was initiated in Watford Lodge No. 404 and became its Master in 1923 remaining an active member until his death. He was an active Provincial Senior Grand Warden and an



active Senior Grand Warden. The cup was displayed at the recent meeting of The Installed Masters Lodge and is now on prominent display in the Hodge Room Museum.

The collection of Founders' Jewels of Hertfordshire Lodges and Chapters continues to grow, but there are still some more needed.

Visits and interest in the museum have recently increased greatly, as have archive enquiries, some from as far as Canada and Australia. But these enquiries can only be successful if items are placed in the individual Lodge and Chapter files.

Brochures, special summons, histories, photographs and items of interest are always needed.

A member recently made a small wooded set of working tools and three gavels for use at the Lodge of Instruction. But members thought they were so well made and far too good to use, they have placed them in the

museum for display.

A fine china plate has been donated. It commemorates

the 275th anniversary of Grand Lodge and is one of a limited edition of only 275.

The panel of George Harvey's Royal Arch regalia of 1803 has been reframed and placed behind special protective museum glass. I am still looking for a Royal Masonic Hospital Governors' Jewel suspended on three chains.

If you have any artefacts, jewels, photographs, or papers, please do not throw them away before letting me see them. They may have a useful connection with something else.

Finally I make no apology for repeating again, the need for security, protection and conservation. Lodge property should be catalogued, checked after every meeting and kept secure until the next. If you need any assistance or advice, please do ask.



50 year anniversaries



■ W.Bro Reg Cook and W.Bro Dick Knifton

One of "the old guard" at Lodge of Grand Design has celebrated his 50th anniversary in masonry.

W.Bro Reg Cook, 87, has been married to Olive, for 65 years and his eldest son Stephen is a member of the Lodge.

He and his twin brother served in the Royal Navy during the war, despite being under age.

He started his own building firm in Enfield and then, after retiring, opened up his own riding stables which were regularly used by disabled children as well as teaching many local children how to ride horses.

Lodge secretary Iain Dunning told Provincial News: "Reg is one of the old guard, our elder statesman."

He received his first Provincial Honours in 1998 PPAGDC and in 2012 received promotion to PPDepGReg.

Iain added: "His ritual is second to none. At very short notice (on arrival for a meeting) Reg can step into any office"

"Reg has always shown encouragement not only to myself but to all the younger brethren as they progressed through their Masonic careers. "Even today after 20 years a member of the Lodge, Master twice, you know Reg is there for you and is always the first to pass on words of encouragement and praise."



■ W.Bro George Nye receiving his certificate from W.Bro James Young

We are sorry to announce the death of W.Bro George Nye, who died peacefully at his nursing home in Wymondley on the 28th March, aged 93.

War veteran W.Bro George, whose Mother Lodge was Stevenage No.7748, was also well known in the Royal Arch and had

recently celebrated his 50th anniversary where APGM W.Bro James Young was on hand to do the honours and present him with his certificate.

W.Bro James Young told Provincial News: "George was a navigator during the war in the Italian and Far East Theatres.

"He became a navigator on flying boats with BOAC after the war and was eventually re-trained as a pilot on 707s with BOAC.

"During my early days I was rostered with him as his co-pilot.

"We subsequently got re-acquainted in the Goat Pub, Codicote and I became his assistant when he was editor of the yearbook.

"He was Third Provincial Grand Principal in the years 1990 to 1992.

"George was a very good golfer (two or three handicap)"



■ W.Bro Mike Roff with W.Bro Richard Knifton

60 year anniversary

It was an extra special occasion for members of Layston Lodge 6699 in January.

For long-serving member W.Bro Mike Roff, PJGD, PProvJGW, marked his 60th anniversary.

Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro Richard Knifton, did the honours and presented him with his 'Sixty Year Certificate of Service to the Craft'.

W.Bro Roff was initiated into the Lodge, which meets at the Masonic Hall, Jepps Lane, Royston, on November 28, 1953.

Ashwell House goes green!

During December last year 40 solar panels were installed at Ashwell House and as a result it is probably the first Masonic centre in Hertfordshire to generate its own electricity from the rays of the sun.

According to Geoff Bedford – Deputy Chairman of Ashwell House Ltd. it will be capable of generating nearly 10KWH and at a cost of £13,000 is likely to pay for itself after six years.

Geoff says that the key thing with any such installation is to use the optimum amount of the electricity generated. The projected payback period is based on using 50% of what is generated and that could well be a conservative estimate.

The Board of Directors are pleased that this installation will make a significant contribution towards lowering the cost of energy at Ashwell House.



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Something for a rainy day



■ W.Bros Bernie Wilson and Peter Chamberlain with Jenny Lupton

Members of Royston Masonic Centre and Letchworth Garden City Lodge No 5109 joined together and raised £1,400 to enable Garden House Hospice, in Letchworth, buy a defibrillator. W.Bro Bernie Wilson, of Royston Lodge No 4304, and W.Bros Peter Chamberlain and Steve Woodward of Godfrey Kent

Lodge No 9375, went along on a very wet Friday to present the defibrillator to hospice general manager Jenny Lupton. Jenny said: "It is a very important piece of equipment, which hopefully we will never have to use."

Redbourn Lodge visit to RAF Coningsby

There was another special thank-you to members of Redbourn Lodge for its support of the Make a Wish Appeal.

Following the presentation of a signed print, as reported in last autumn's Provincial News, lodge members were invited by 11 Squadron to spend a day at RAF Coningsby.

The group was given full VIP treatment throughout the visit.

The day began with 'a behind the scenes' tour of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight to view work being carried out on a Dakota, Hurricane and Spitfires among other WW2 aircraft and vehicles. "Much was learned of the particular aircraft, the pilots who flew them and highlighted the bravery of such young men, against all odds, during those difficult times," current Master W.Bro Michael Harvey told Provincial News.

After lunch in the officers' mess, where original pencil drawings are exhibited depicting details that inspired the film 'The Great Escape', the members were shown around the facilities of 11 Squadron including viewing a Eurofighter Typhoon with some of its operational capabilities explained by the pilot, Flt. Lt. Alex Thorne.

A presentation then took place with W.Bro Harvey handing a cheque for £1,576.75 to Wg. Cdr. Richard Wells, the squadron commander, towards the squadron's appeal for the cause. Each member of the group was then given the opportunity to sit in the Eurofighter.

Some were then invited to test their skills on a current Eurofighter simulator.



■ W.Bro Michael Harvey handing the cheque to Wg. Cdr. Richard Wells

W.Bro Harvey said: "The results were interesting but I think that we have to concede these Lodge members are not natural pilots, with [myself] the WM crashing at Mach2 and another member demolishing half of East Anglia."

Members were then taken to the dispersal point to view the arrival of a Hurricane, Spitfire and Lancaster.

"To see them in flight, then landing and experiencing the roar of the mighty Merlin engines was awesome," he added. "The group then chatted with pilots and crew, all of whom were or are operational flying crew from other Squadrons, who invited the 'Redbourn Boys' to look around these magnificent aircraft."

On departing, the group watched as 29 Squadron, operating Eurofighters, took off to conduct a night sortie.

Finally, lodge members visited the Petworth Hotel in Woodhall Spa, the wartime officers mess of 617 Squadron of 'Dambusters' fame. The bar retains an array of memorabilia of the exploits of that famous squadron; and where a pint of 'Lancaster Bomber' was enjoyed before returning home.

W.Bro Harvey concluded: "It was a marvellous day enjoyed by all. It was very well planned and conducted by Flt. Lt Thorne enabling the group to appreciate the aircraft and men of a bygone age and their contemporaries of the modern era."



■ John Ilott is pictured with his Provincial Executive colleagues, Ian Clift, beside him, and David Hampton and Tim Coles, behind them

Most excellent Grand Superintendant retires

At a packed meeting of Herts First Principals Chapter, 4090, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendant John Ilott announced that, after much deliberation, he had decided to retire from the post which he has held for the past 8 years.

E Comp John has had major surgery on his left ankle which has caused him a great deal of pain and it will take another year to fully recover, during which time he felt that he would not be able to carry out his duties to the fullest extent and it was time that a younger man took over. In an emotional speech, John thanked all the Companions for their magnificent support during his time in office, during which time he has had fun and encouraged fun in the Royal Arch in Hertfordshire and he sincerely hopes that will continue for many years to come. His successor will be announced later in the year.

Tudor Lodge 7280 Diamond Jubilee and Banner Dedication

It was a Tudor dynasty with a difference last summer. For members of Tudor Lodge No 7280 marked its 60th anniversary with a banner dedication and diamond jubilee celebration.

The Lodge was consecrated in July 1953 by the then PGM, the R.W. the Rev. Joseph Moffett and his team.

Sixty years on, the then PGM, R.W. Bro Colin Harris, accepted Tudor's invitation to attend the celebrations and dedicate the banner with his team. Lodge secretary David Ellis takes up the tale.

He said: "After the opening, with the PGM in the chair there was a knock.

"Who on earth would dare be late that day?

"No, not lateness, but, unknown to Colin Harris, it was a planned surprise entrance by the rest of the Provincial team led by R.W. Bro Paul Gower [now our PGM].

"Tudor was especially fortunate not only that the whole of the Provincial team had decided to be present on this, Colin Harris' last official engagement as PGM in one of his lodges, but also because 10 years ago, at the very start of his tenure as PGM, he had attended Tudor's golden jubilee meeting." More than 100 brethren attended and dined.

The menu was almost exactly the same as in 1953.

Alms were collected and a raffle held, raising £1,000



which will go towards the Hertfordshire Festival. As a mark of respect and admiration for Colin Harris as our PGM, Tudor Lodge presented him with a boxed bottle of vintage Champagne which members hoped he would enjoy "while reflecting on his distinguished days at the head of Happy Hertfordshire".



■ Above, Provincial Lodge team and members with the new banner. Right, W. Bro Colin Harris with Wally Instrall

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Cecil Lodge 175 years old!



■ Left To right; R.W. Bro Colin Harris, Cecil Lodge WM, W. Bro Simon Clifford and W. Bro Keith Gilbert, Assistant Provincial Grand Master

It was a special and almost unique occasion for members of Cecil Lodge at its May meeting last year.

For the lodge celebrated being 175 years old!

Members marked the occasion by re-dedicating its banner, which had originally been presented 25 years before at its Sesquicentennial (150 years) meeting.

Cecil Lodge was consecrated on May 12, 1838, at the Sun Hotel, and continued to meet at the Sun for 121 years until it moved to The Cloisters, Letchworth, in 1959.

R.W. Bro Colin Harris was in attendance at one of his last attendances as PGM, along many members of the Provincial Executive. The banner rededication was carried out by W. Bro Keith Gilbert and a wonderful and memorable evening was enjoyed by all those attending.

Masonic clay shoot



The first steps have been taken in a bid to set up a Provincial clay pigeon shooting club.

Back in November a masonic clay shoot was held at Codicote Bottom Farm, near Codicote. A dozen shooters, seven masons from various lodges and five non-masonic guests, gathered for the event on November 10, and were made welcome by members of the club which meets there. Organiser Chris Lynch, of Cheshunt Lodge 2921, said: "After tea and bacon roll, score cards were shuffled and drawn randomly, creating two teams of six. "The ground consists of six stands, each with 10 clay targets per stand.

"All shot to a high standard. The banter was equally enjoyable, complimented by a crisp, bright Sunday morning. "Out of respect we stopped shooting at 11am for five minutes' silence to honour those lost in The [Great] War. "The reason for our gathering was to try and create a masonic clay pigeon team, able to represent Herts in friendly competitions against other masonic districts/ lodges, plus raising a few bob for worthy causes." Anyone interested in shooting should contact Chris on 07836 711336 or via email at christhecar@btinternet.com

Riding for the Disabled



■ *W.Bro Geoff Gale, the lodge Secretary, presenting a cheque for £500 to Cathy Bolshaw, one of the Gaddesden Place RDA Trustees*

When W.Bro Harry Parsons, Charity Steward of the Trust and Fear Lodge No.9698 asked members for nominations for local charities the lodge could support, one of those chosen was the Riding for the Disabled branch at Gaddesden Place, near Hemel Hempstead.

The group is dedicated to providing therapeutic riding for people with a wide range of disabilities. It has riders from the age of four upwards. It has an indoor arena and is run entirely by volunteers.

A Scottish adventure

The Worshipful Master of Mimmine Lodge 4932 Mick Harverson, his wardens, five other members and some of their wives visited Lodge Wemyss 777 in Kirkcaldy, Fife & Kinross last autumn and carried out a demonstration of the Third Degree according to the Emulation working.

Local lodge members, W.Bro George Wood, PM, and W.Bro. Gerry Sutton, PM, assisted by acting as candidate and Tyler respectively.

Mimmine secretary Richard Ouston moved home from Hemel Hempstead to East Wemyss three years ago and became a regular visitor to Lodge Wemyss. This resulted in a friendly exchange between the two lodges and in 2012, nine Lodge Wemyss members visited Mimmine for the Installation of W.Bro Stirling Beer.

The return visit to Scotland proved to be a resounding success and 78 members of Lodge Wemyss, and other local lodges, witnessed an excellent demonstration.

Also there was RW Bro Rev. Andrew Paterson, Provincial Grand Master for Fife & Kinross, who expressed his delight, not only with the demonstration, but also with the diction and annunciation portrayed by Mimmine visitors. He did however, amidst some mirth, call them to task for the incorrect pronunciation of the word Loch – which should be pronounced as 'Lochchchch' and not 'Lock'!

The Provincial Grand Piper, Bro Bob Ross piped Mimmine visitors into and out of the lodge, thereby adding a wonderful local flavour to the evening.

Before the Lodge evening ended, and much to his "great surprise and delight", W.Bro Richard Ouston was made an honorary member of Lodge Wemyss by the Right Worshipful Master Bill Mathers, who also presented Richard with a lodge tie – with the strict warning that failure to wear the tie at any future meeting would carry the penalty of buying the RWM a pint. It is hoped brethren from north of the border will again visit Mimmine Lodge in the near future.





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Party fit for a King



More than 40 children and grandchildren of brethren and friends of the King Henry VIIIth Lodge were treated to a bumper festive party at Ashwell House just days before Christmas.

They were treated to a Punch & Judy show, face-painting, a disco, party games and food and finally met Father Christmas, alias Bro Steve Day, who gave them each a personalised present.

W.Bro Gary Norman, of Dacorum Lodge who helped run the event, said: "The children had a fabulous time. The entertainers really were outstanding."

The event also raised £500 for the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, an ideal charity for this masonic children's party.

Lodge Almoner, W. Bro Rob Gurney, said: "We wanted to do something special for our children and grandchildren and the party was a fitting opportunity for us to give something back to our families in recognition of the time we give to freemasonry.

"I would especially like to thank all of the many generous benefactors and volunteers who made the party possible." Worshipful Master Matt Large added: "It was great fun for the kids and parents alike and raising money for the RMTGB was a real bonus."



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Masonic bikers happy to fork out charity cash



■ Icenis members and Friends of PMKC looking on while president W.Bro Gary Murton, presents a cheque for £600 to the manager of PMKC, Elizabeth Corbett.

Masonic bikers in Hertfordshire and Essex have been busily raising money for various charities.

The Icenis Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association released 1,000 balloons as part of their fundraising endeavours to support RMBI care homes for the elderly.

This year the Essex motorcyclists have been supported by an increasing number of members from Hertfordshire. Once again the bikers have been raising money for the Prince Edward Duke of Kent home at Stisted Hall, Essex, but for the first time money raised is being shared equally with the Prince Michael of Kent Court care home in Watford.

Icenis members had been selling tickets for their balloon race since March. The culmination of the fundraising was on Sunday, July 21 at the Stisted Hall Fete, when the Right Worshipful PGM of Essex John Webb, assisted by his wife, released the balloons to the elements.

It has been a busy year for the Masonic bikers, for as well as finding time for the very agreeable Sunday morning ride-outs, nearly £5,000 was raised for the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA) by undertaking a sponsored ride from the United Grand Lodge of England HQ in Great Queen Street, London, to Land's End in Cornwall.

This took place last June when 12 brethren braved showery weather to complete 'Hiram's Hike'. By the time Land's End was in sight the skies were blue and good humour was the order of the day.

Trust and Fear Not. 9698

Having no ceremonial work at its December meeting in Ashwell House, members of Trust and Fear Not Lodge, 9698, held a white table meeting instead.

A total of 67 sat down for a traditional Christmas meal, followed by carols.

Seven members of the Hertfordshire Provincial Choir, lead by W.Bro Ken Burgess, attended. This was the first engagement for the choir since it was launched.

A total of £512 was raised and donated to the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys 2019 Festival.

Message from our Provincial Grand Almoner

Firstly I ought to introduce myself. My name is Simon Cooper and I took over the role as PGA in September last when my predecessor, George Taylor, stood down.

I would like to thank him for the dedication and devotion he spent during his time in this role. It will be hard to fill George's boots. The role of an Almoner is a very important one as he is the link between lodge brethren and their widows who sometimes disappear off the radar. He is also there to be the link between myself and his members who may require assistance. This role can be a very fulfilling and rewarding one and at times also frustrating. In my short time as PGA, I have dealt with a variety of different cases and each week is a learning curve for me. These are still hard economic times and just before I took over the role the Grand Charity changed some of its criteria and we are finding grants are being reduced or even declined. But

please, if you do feel that a brother is in need of support, do not let this deter you from contacting me.

With regard to the MSF, I have had several applications and have advised potential applicants if they are not too sure if they meet the criteria, to use the eligibility calculator using this link, <http://www.msfund.org.uk/eligibility-calculator.php#> By doing this, and putting in the details, it will provide potential recipients an idea if they meet the charity's criteria, so they do not have to disclose personal details unnecessarily. As you all know a festival is upon us [see our Provincial News centre-page spread] and the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys is the recipient of this festival. The work carried out by this charity is varied and supports children and grandchildren of freemasons in many ways. I have been involved in quite a few petitions with pleasing success and I urge the membership to get behind this festival to give us the financial support

needed to carry out this rewarding work.

Finally, an appeal for help

I need assistance in various areas of the county for brethren to visit families to complete forms when required by the various charities. I particularly need people for the RMTGB. This would involve visiting the family once a year and making contact on other appropriate occasions. The volunteer needs to be discreet and compassionate and be able to communicate and empathise with the families and their individual needs.

You do not have to be an Almoner of your lodge to become a visiting brother. If anyone is interested and would like to know more about the role please email me at hertsprovgalmoner@gmail.com I also want to thank current Almoners and visiting brothers who have helped me over the last few months with their invaluable contribution.

Lest We Forget



■ Left to right, Amber Walker, RW Provincial Grand Master Paul Gower, the Mayor of Broxbourne Cllr Bren Perryman, Charles Walker MP and David Parnell

Members of the Hertfordshire Lodge of the Legion, along with Brethren from

other Lodges, are known throughout the Province for laying Poppy Wreaths every year on Remembrance Sunday at war memorials throughout the county. In all more than 60 wreaths were laid by Brethren, including some overseas. Last November however was particularly special because a service and ceremony was organised in Cheshunt at the Liberator Memorial by the Lodge. The memorial commemorates 10 crew members of a USAF Liberator bomber killed when the aircraft crashed outside the town in 1944. The autumn edition of Provincial News carried an article giving details about how the memorial was established. The service and ceremony was held on Saturday, November 2 and was attended by Lodge members as well as members of the public. The Mayor of Broxbourne Cllr Bren Perryman, MP Charles Walker and Provincial Grand Master Paul Gower attended and laid wreaths. David Parnell laid a wreath on behalf of the 392 Bomb Group Memorial Association and Amber Walker laid a wreath on behalf of Goffs School. A Colour Guard, Honour Guard and Detachment of personnel from the USAF 100th Force Support Squadron based at RAF Mildenhall were also on duty. At a reception afterwards, held at the Halsey Masonic Centre in Cheshunt, USAF personnel were presented with a plaque by the Provincial Grand Master bearing the Provincial Coat of Arms. Master of the Lodge, W.Bro Vic Brockwell, presented them all with Lodge lapel badges.

Book review



■ Yasha Beresiner '200 Years of Royal Arch Freemasonry in England 1813-2013', Lewis Masonic, Surrey, 2013. Hardback 192 pages, 16 colour plate illustrations. £19.99 from the publishers or from InterCol, 43 Templars Crescent, London, N3 3QR UK. Email: sales@intercol.co.uk (copies signed by the author available on request).

The year 2013 has seen the publication of a number of new books both about the 1813 union of the two English grand lodges then in existence, as well as a similar anniversary of the last 200 years of the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.

Yasha Beresiner's book is a little different from the purely historical or ritual-based examination of this Masonic order. On the one hand it draws, in a critical way, on primary sources, including some newly-recovered documents. This is as it should be, coming from the research of a Past Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge.

On the other hand, it incorporates a more populist section, in devoting the central 22 pages of the book to a 'novella', which, although based on primary sources, has naturally resulted, to a large extent, from its author's imagination. Bro. Beresiner has successfully combined historical research with historical fiction within a single volume.

One appealing aspect of the third section of the book, which looks at the history of the Royal Arch chronologically almost in diary form, is the incorporation of an introductory sentence or two to each year from 1814 to 2013, summarizing the main social, political and economic events of that year, thus setting the Masonic history within its proper general historical context.

Yasha Beresiner has produced a very readable book which should appeal to a wide range of both Masonic and non-Masonic scholars.

Review by Dr John Wade, Past Master Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, Prestonian Lecturer, 2009.



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Ninth Arch Council of Royal & Select Masters 318



■ Left to right, Most Illustrious Companion Alan Wright, Grand Master, Thrice Illustrious Companion Paul Gower, Master of Ninth Arch Council, Companion James Sharpley and Right Illustrious Companion Colin Hellyer, District Grand Master.

All those who attended the meeting of Ninth Arch Council of Royal & Select Masters 318, at St Albans in November, were treated to a truly memorable event.

In the presence of the Grand Master, Most Illustrious Companion Alan Wright, Companion Paul Gower, Craft Provincial Grand Master of Hertfordshire, was installed in the Chair.

Illustrious Companion Paul then immediately proceeded to choose his Craft Deputy Provincial Grand Master as the newest candidate in the Order.

There was a strong supporting cast including the District Grand Master Right Illustrious Companion Colin Hellyer and his two predecessors, Right Illustrious Companions Peter Baikie and Colin Thurston.

In addition, the Grand Master announced at this meeting the degree of Excellent Master would be introduced into England and Wales under the auspices of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters. This ceremony, currently worked in Scotland, is more familiarly known as The Passing of the Veils.

The Degrees of Royal and Select Masters, also known as Cryptic Masonry, tell the story of the completion of King Solomon's Temple, the loss of the Sacred Word and the final destruction of the Temple and exile of the Jewish people in Babylon. Thus they bridge the gap between the Craft and Mark degrees and the Holy Royal Arch. For this reason candidates for Cryptic Masonry must already be members of those three orders.

There are four degrees in the Order and it is the second of these, the Degree of Royal Master, which is often quoted as containing one of the most beautiful pieces of Masonic ritual. This part of the ceremony is conducted by the Principal Conductor of the Work, Hiram Abif himself, in the Sanctuary over the Secret Vault which is beneath the Temple. Like all of the truly memorable ritual within Freemasonry it needs to be experienced to be appreciated. All who have had the pleasure of being the Principal Conductor of the Work (PCW) will testify to the power of the experience. Those who come to observe will discuss the merits of the PCW's performance as if they were tasting a fine wine!

Cryptic Masonry is active and thriving in Hertfordshire with seven Councils across the District and an eighth in gestation. For further information please contact the District Grand Recorder Colin Taylor at colin.taylor7@ntlworld.com or the District Information Officer Mark Saunders on mark.saunders@cix.co.uk.



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■ Members of Medburn Lodge dressed in tribute to W.Bro Spencer Bell, 1942 to 2014

Tribute to Spencer Bell

Members of Medburn Lodge No. 8841 paid tribute to a stalwart guest who lost his life while coming to the aid of another.

W.Bro Philip Hoy PAGSuptWks led the accolades and told Provincial News: "On January 30, a Good Samaritan was mown down and killed when he went to help a man who had leapt to his death from a motorway bridge.

"The driver stopped his car and went to check on the jumper but, moments later, he was killed when he was struck by another car.

"Witnesses reported seeing the suicidal man on the parapet of the bridge on the M1 in Hertfordshire that morning.

"The man killed was W.Bro Spencer Bell, a London Mason who was a regular visitor to Medburn Lodge and chairman of the Police Club at Bushey.

"In 15 years he had only missed four of our meetings."

His funeral was on February 14 at Garston Crematorium where it was standing room only.

As the coffin was carried from the hearse the police helicopter hovering nearby did a flypast.

"All of the words said about Spencer were full of fun and hope," said W.Bro Hoy.

At its March meeting, as a tribute to Spencer's sense of humour and his taste in gaudy shirts, lodge members wore the most colourful shirt they could find.

A donation of £250 was made to Spencer's favoured prostate cancer charity in his memory.

W.Bro Hoy said: "It was a very happy meeting and festive board just as Spencer would have wanted.

"He died trying to help someone in need and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

"He was a good man and a true Mason. RIP."

Inside Freemasons' Hall DVD

A new version of the popular Freemasons' Hall tour video is now available on DVD.

Now called Inside Freemasons' Hall, the content has been completely revised with much new material including a glimpse of the original Goose and Gridiron and an intriguing insight into what goes on behind the scenes at Freemasons' Hall.

The DVD costs £25 and is available from the shop at Freemasons' Hall or online at http://letchworthshop.co.uk/cat/product_catalog.php?c=38

MTSFC Herts Branch

The PGM and members of the executive will be on hand to hand out certificates at the Masonic fishing charity's final event of the year.

It will be at Rib Valley Ware on October 1.

A spokesman for the Herts Branch of the MTSFC said: "We are so pleased our invitation has been accepted to attend and present certificates and medals to the participants and join and witness first hand the work of our volunteers. We are sure it will be a fun and enjoyable day."

Boost for people with multiple sclerosis



■ Dick with Sarah Joiner, former Lady Mayoress of London and vice chairman of the MS Trust. She is an MS sufferer herself and attended a trust donors thank you evening in the House of Lords last year. The evening was held in this special venue by kind permission of the Lord Speaker, The Rt Hon Baroness Gardner of Parkes, Sarah Joiner's mother.

The MS Trust has received £40,000 from The Freemasons' Grand Charity to help fund the development of specialist information for people newly diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

The MS Trust provides health information for patients and professional development for nurses.

This is the fourth time The Freemasons' Grand Charity has donated to the trust since 2001, bringing the total to £220,000.

About 57 people are diagnosed in the UK each week and the charity aims to get an initial information resource about the condition to each person within two weeks of diagnosis.

Speaking about the donation Dick Knifton, who heads charity work among Hertfordshire Freemasons, said: "Anyone who has been recently diagnosed with MS may feel uncertain and worried, and one of the best ways to help them is by providing them with trusted information to allay their fears. "Hertfordshire Freemasons are, therefore, very happy to be supporting the MS Trust once again with this valuable initiative."

Pam Macfarlane, the trust's chief executive, said: "We are extremely grateful The Freemasons' Grand Charity has chosen to support this vital work. A diagnosis of multiple sclerosis can be terrifying, leaving a person feeling unsure about their future.

"Now, thanks to the generosity of The Freemasons' Grand Charity, they will be provided with an immediate source of information, help and support."

The Major Grants Scheme is just one of the initiatives driven by The Freemasons' Grand Charity which donates over £3 million to national charities every year.

Up, up and away!

The 2019 Festival for the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys is up and running!

A series of information events at centres around the Province saw charity stewards, and other senior lodge officers, comprehensively briefed on what is expected of them – and all of us – over the next five years.

Many of the events, which ended with useful question and answer sessions, followed by light refreshments, were sell-outs, reports Provincial Charity Steward Chris Noble.

All but two were attended by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Paul Gower, along with Assistant PGM Dick Knifton, and Chris Noble, to whom Dick handed over the duties of Provincial Charity Steward last autumn.

The 20 or so lodges which were unable to attend the launch event will be encouraged to enter into the spirit of the Festival when Provincial officers attend their meetings.

But the best news is that even before the last meeting, at Bushey, the Festival had already received, or been promised, more than £150,000.

"That is a great start," said Chris.

"But I am mindful this is not a 100 metres sprint, but rather a long, long marathon.

"The race will end in the summer of 2019 when I am confident we will have reached our target of £3million, "The level of interest and commitment from charity stewards has been phenomenal and has surpassed our wildest hopes."

But the marathon is still gathering pace with pacemakers – just like the real marathon!

At the time Provincial News went to bed more than 500 stewards had signed up for 2019; so had two grand patrons, nine patrons and four vice patrons. Several lodges had likewise each

achieved £10,000 donations to the RMTGB, and more than £10,000 had already been claimed in gift aid by the Trust on behalf of Hertfordshire lodges. The RMTGB is fully supporting the Province and its officers directly involved in the huge money-raising exercise, and is keen to help in any way it can. This will include literature, offers of short talks at lodge meetings or at festive boards. And Chris Noble who has vowed to answer personally each email and phone call!

£3million target: 'challenging but not impossible' says PGM

The Provincial Grand Master, RW. Bro Paul Gower, who is president of the 2019 Festival, spoke movingly as the province-wide launch got under way, marking the start of five years concerted fund raising.

He said: "The RMTGB is one of the four main Masonic charities; its aim is to relieve poverty and to advance the education of the children of a Masonic family and, when funds permit, to support other children and young people in need.

"Our task in Hertfordshire is to raise as much money as possible to support the work of the trust by achieving the challenging target I have set.

"We refer to this period of concerted fundraising as a Festival; a generic term which refers to the appeal itself and to the Festival event, or finale, which is usually

a large social gathering with a formal dinner attended by Freemasons and their wives, partners and families." He said money raised during a Festival Appeal produced almost three quarters of total income and this was supplemented by investment income and legacies.

"There is a misconception that money raised by the Festival system from a Province like ours, 'goes to a central pot and that is the last we see of it,'" he said.

"This is just not the case. In the past five years the families of Hertfordshire Freemasons have received around £700,000 of support from the charity.

"Our ladies and partners are important to the success of this Festival, for it is their support and understanding of what it is all about that is vital in



helping us raise as much money as possible.

"By explaining why we are focusing on the RMTGB and the valuable work it undertakes we hope you will gain significant insight into where your money is going and why it is so important we achieve our target.

"If this appeal and the ultimate Festival event are to be a success, the involvement of our wives and partners is absolutely critical. If we are able,



■ Dick Knifton (left) and Chris Noble answer questions at the one of the centre events

throughout the Festival, to garner the backing of our ladies, then I am sure our task will be much easier because there is greater satisfaction to be enjoyed by donating to a charity which is supported by the entire Masonic family.

"It is worth reminding ourselves that when we were starting out in life as younger Freemasons with families we were comforted by the knowledge that, should circumstances have turned against us, we would have had the support of the RMTGB. Fortunately, the vast majority of us did not require that support.

"But it is now our turn to ensure we put in place the funds necessary to support future generations."

Continued on page 13

Be proud and wear the jewel

A Festival like this requires a great deal of organisation, and much planning and preparation has been undertaken over the last 18 months.

Festival chairman, APMG Dick Knifton and Provincial Charity Steward Chris Noble, have been working closely together with their committees, and with the trust, to provide all of the information each member needs to understand what we were trying to achieve, and how that may best be done.

The PGM went on: "I am asking the Freemasons of Hertfordshire to raise £3 million.

"It is a challenging target particularly in the light of the last few years of economic difficulties in the UK which we have not entirely overcome.

"It is a challenging amount because Hertfordshire, like many other Provinces, has steadily diminishing membership numbers. We now have approximately 5,750 individual Craft members, and it is challenging because this appeal lasts for only five years as opposed to seven years for the last festival in 2009.

"Challenging it may be, but impossible it is not.

"Broken down it equates to around £500 per member over five years. That is £100 per year or £9 per member per month. Not much more than two pints of beer or one-and-a-half glasses of wine a month."

He said the further 25p in every £1 donated which can be claimed back from the Exchequer via the Gift Aid system meant it was like having 25 per cent more members and was not to be ignored!

He called on those at the launch meetings to impress on lodge members the importance of what he was asking to be done.

"Support your Charity Steward in his task of raising money from the members and take advantage of all the tools we have made available to make this as easy as possible," he said. "Try to make any fundraising event you undertake as enjoyable as you can so as to ensure the involvement of

as many of your Lodge members and families as possible.

"Be proud to wear the Festival Jewel throughout the Province, and encourage those who are not wearing one to consider qualifying.

"For the next five years, unless there is a pressing case of real need within your Lodge, I am asking you to concentrate your charitable efforts on the 2019 Festival for the RMTGB.

"Consider holding fewer raffles: raffle collections can never attract Gift Aid but the use of the envelope system as much as possible will give a significant boost to your efforts. Yes, it takes a bit more work, but the returns from the tax man make it very worthwhile.

"Transfer those funds sitting in your Lodge charity accounts waiting for the right cause to appear. It has appeared! Money sitting in those accounts is not benefitting anybody. But it will benefit and relieve cases of genuine need if transferred to the Festival Appeal where it will also gain interest over and above that currently available from the normal deposit taking institutions."

He concluded by thanking those who had attended the launch events, saying: "I hope you will be inspired and become ambassadors for the noble cause on which we are about to embark."

And there is a ladies' jewel, too!



Brethren are encouraged to consider presenting their ladies with a festival jewel to thank them for their support in what we do, and to increase their lodge's total donation. More details can be obtained from your charity steward.



What your support could do

£400

Will provide a computer for a child of a Masonic family facing financial distress

£750

Will provide essential text books for five students from Masonic families during their time at university

£1,000

Will enable a severely disabled child to attend his or her local college

£2,000

Will provide a year of maintenance grants for a child following the death of their Freemason father

This is the new, attractive and modern Provincial tie!

It is available in polyester at £15 and silk at £25. Once the costs of producing the ties has been covered, the proceeds will then go towards the Festival.



Your Q&A session

Q: Can I wear my Festival tie to Chapter?

A: Yes. The Tie design decision was shared with RA and has been approved to be worn at all Hertfordshire RA meetings.

Whilst the new Provincial Tie is not a Festival tie, its introduction does coincide with the Launch of the 2019 Festival. The good news is that the PGM has decreed that once the cost of the tie has been recovered all proceeds will be donated to the Festival.

Q: Can I wear my Festival Jewel at RA meetings?

A: Yes. The design decision was shared with RA and the Jewel has been approved to be worn at all Hertfordshire RA meetings.

Q: If I belong to two Hertfordshire Lodges can I split my donation between them and still qualify?

A: Yes, providing your total donations qualify.

Q: I am on fixed income and am a little embarrassed to complete a gift aid envelope for my small donation at Lodge collections. Can the gift aid still be claimed?

Two answers:

A1: No, your specific gift aid can only be claimed if you complete an envelope. However, your donation level is known only to yourself and the Lodge Charity Steward. No donation is too small to make it worthwhile claiming gift aid currently 25p in the pound, so every £1 donated is worth £1.25.

A2: The Inland Revenue accepts that any "loose change" collection includes donations from Tax payers. Any organisation is allowed to claim gift aid on up to a grand annual £22,000. Therefore the Lodge Charity Steward is allowed to include "loose change" under gift aid by completing an envelope.

Q: Can we gift aid the raffle collections?

A: Absolutely No! It is against the law to do so and the Inland Revenue would take a dim view if they knew.

Q: Should the Lodge cease all donations to our local charities during the five years of Festival?

A: As Provincial Charity Steward I am tempted to say "Yes" but of course we are not suggesting any Lodge cease supporting local charities. We are simply asking for you to support the RMTGB

during the 2019 Festival. Why not switch emphases onto the RMTGB whilst still supporting local charities at a reduced level. One cannot imagine any local charity deeming any future donation unworthy.

Q: We do not currently use the envelope scheme. How easy is it to use?

A: It is very easy to use. The Lodge Charity Steward has a little work prior to and after the Lodge collection. He should complete the Lodge Name and number on every envelope issued. After the collection he should convert the cash to a cheque. He should then complete the very simple "envelope verification form" and send it with the cheque (make sure your Lodge name and number is on the reverse) with the envelopes to the RMTGB. The Trust will collect the gift aid and record individual and Lodge honorifics accordingly. When you consider the gain is an extra 25p in the £1 (like having an extra 25% attendance) it is well worth the small amount of work.

**See more at: <http://www.pglherts.org/charity/2019-festival-appeal/faq/#sthash.lqBWjUgl.dpuf>*



Sharing ideas

The Provincial Grand Master's plea that we should make raising money as much fun as possible will be helped dramatically if there is a bit of sharing of ideas among the Province's lodges.

Some lodges are much more inclusive when it comes to staging events; others are more traditional.

Park Street Lodge saw its RMTGB coffers increased by £1,100 when it gave half its share of money raised by its links with the Kimpton Players, who again generously donated one evening's takings from their legendary Olde Tyme Music Hall to the Lodge.

The Lodge undertook its own marketing of the special evening and rapidly sold out of tables and tickets – again. Dozens of masons and their families thoroughly

enjoyed the entertainment, and a great supper, and the RMTGB was the winner.

Festival chairman APGM Dick Knifton mentions specific Festival golf days; though he is clear they must not cut across the annual events already on the calendars of Craft, Royal Arch and Mark Masons.

An embryo clay pigeon shooting club is taking shape which again could introduce masons and their families and friends to the growing sport.

Other functions that can increase a lodge's social calendar might begin with an extra white table, a lodge outing to somewhere of interest - perhaps the Freemasonry Museum in Great Queen Street - or a day at the races.

So, please share your ideas with other lodges and we will all benefit.

HOW THE HONORIFICS WORK OUT

Steward:

£400

Vice-Patron:

£750

Patron:

£1,000

Grand Patron:

£2,000

An appeal to the heart

The trust provides assistance to children and grandchildren of Masonic families who have faced a tragedy: the death of a parent – sometimes both parents; the absence of a parent; or a financial distress such as redundancy or bankruptcy.

Others have an exceptional talent, yet no means to develop it into a career; and some need help to seize once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.

Our support normally takes the form of a regular grant to help the family, but no two cases are ever the same.

We can therefore provide further grants for clothing, computers, accommodation and travel as well as scholarships for those attending university or college.

This wide range of assistance is vital because, if required, we can – and often do – support children all the way from pre-school through to university and beyond.



All of the children we support have a unique story: like Ellie, right, whose father died when she was just nine years old. She now receives a regular grant to provide her with the things she needs and we have also helped pay for school trips.

She's now set to receive excellent grades and secure a place at university.

We have ensured that Charlie, Daniel and Aidan – three brothers, left, who faced financial hardship following the collapse of their father's business in the recent recession – can continue to have happy and active childhoods.

We also help non-Masonic children in two principal ways: firstly, through our Stepping Stones scheme which awards grants to other charities; and secondly through Lifelites, which provides fun and educational technology like computers and games consoles to children's hospices.



Last year we improved the lives of around 2,000 children and young people from Masonic families and they now have a greater chance of a happy and fulfilling life.

In Hertfordshire we have supported over 170 Masonic children and young people over the past five years at a cost of £700,000.

It costs us around £10m each year to provide our life-changing support to these disadvantaged children – that's £30,000 every single day.

Your generosity over the next five years is going to be vital if we are to continue this important work. The best way you can support the 2019 Appeal is by making regular payments and by asking others in your Lodge to support us too. Thank you in advance for everything you will do to help the children that we support.

Fantastic festival donations

Members of Dyrham Park Lodge No.8906, which meets at the Dyrham Park Golf & Country Club, helped get the 2019 Festival off to a flying start at its March installation meeting.

For the official Provincial visitor W.Bro Jay Patel, PAGDC, ProvSGW, was on hand to witness a cheque for £10,000 being handed over.

APGM W.Bro James Young, who was also attending, told Provincial News: "This magnificent contribution to the Festival, which was only announced a couple of months ago, puts Dyrham Park Lodge firmly en route towards its target of Grand Patronage status and beyond."



■ The cheque being presented in Lodge by Charity Steward W.Bro Henry Freedman to W.Bro Jay Patel, watched by the new master W.Bro Joshua Farleigh, along with other lodge members

Bushey Hall Lodge No 2323 was consecrated in November 1889 and meets at the Masonic Hall in Watford.

Some time ago a member, J Corbitt, died and left a legacy of few thousand pounds to the Lodge.

It was put in Trust which is managed by four trustees, Paul Montague, Bill Ashford, Antony Bunce and Ronnie San.



■ Current WM Bill Ashford with PGM

The money was invested in shares, etc, and now stands at a market value of about £225,000.

It produces by way of dividends about £10,000 each year, which is distributed to various charities.

Ronnie told Provincial News: "At our last meeting in November, The RW

Provincial Grand Master, together with a retinue of Provincial Grand Officers, attended and we presented him with a cheque for £15,000 for the 2019 Festival.

"At the same time the Lodge also donated £2,000 to Keech Cottage Hospice, The Watford New Hope Trust, Friends of Prince Michael of Kent Court, Peace Hospice, The Salvation Army, RNLi and the sum of £1,500 to NHS Trust Charitable Trust Lister Hospital Midwifery department.

"In all we gave a total of £28,500 to charities at that meeting."

Provincial News will have regular pages in connection with the Festival, and lodges are urged to let Chris Noble know of any newsworthy events that might feature in future editions.

He can be contacted on 01582 769648 and his email is family.nobles@btinternet.com

Letter to the editor

Dear Sir - I have been a Mason since 1982 and have been part of the subtle changes to our lives and masonry during that time. After reading the autumn 2013 edition of Provincial News, I felt I had to put forward my views. When initiated, part of the ritual I remember is: "Above the external advantages of rank and fortune", implying all men are equal. The Provincial News contains page after page of men wearing symbolic badges of merit and all of a 'mature age' presenting each other with more badges. Where are the young men? No wonder Masonry is on the wane. What have we to offer the generation of 21-plus whose interest in Masonry secures our Masonic future? I am not a bah, humbug type, but I feel we have to re-invent, modernise our Fraternity if it is to survive the next 50 years.

It's not enough to reflect and answer with the old chestnut, "In my day we used to have this type of meeting, memorable ladies nights and weekends away, etc." That was then. We need to deal with now; look forward not backwards. In closing, I honestly would find it difficult to enthuse an individual showing interest in Masonry. What do I tell them we do? You can still buy a Mini, but this has been remodelled, increasing its appeal to a wider range of generations. Chris Lynch.
Editor's note: There is much good work happening throughout Happy Hertfordshire being carried out by our younger brethren. Provincial News is always pleased to feature articles of this nature, so please send them in. We are also pleased to receive letters from masons expressing their views on matters which interest or concern them.

Sherrards Lodge

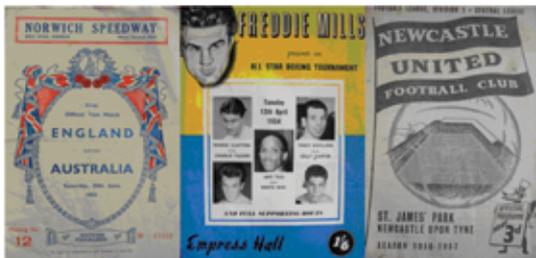


FUNDRAISING
Sherrards Lodge's John Gamble is well known for his fundraising efforts, many of which involve an element of danger. Our Provincial News photo shows him abseiling from a tower block. Other activities have involved long distance cycling and walking on hot coals. One of John's favourite charities is Peace Hospice for which he has raised several thousand pounds. He recently helped to raise £5,000 for Help for Heroes and was visited by some of the disabled servicemen who benefitted from his efforts. John is now planning his next charity adventure, a walk along the entire length of the Great Wall of China. There are, or have been, four other Gambles in Sherrards Lodge: father Jack (recently passed away), Uncle Bill

(retired to Cyprus), brother Stephen (Charity Steward) and son Brenden (Inner Guard).



HAPPY EVENTS
It's not often one hears of a child being born to a serving Master of a Lodge. However, this recently happened to Chris Johnson; currently Master of Sherrards Lodge. Chris had warned the Lodge that his wife Lisa's due date was very close to the February meeting at which he was to perform an Initiation. Contingency plans were made. However, Lisa and new born son Stanley obliged and the happy event occurred early. This enabled Chris to perform a perfect Initiation. The IPM, Tim Johnson, father of Chris and grandfather of Stanley was doubly delighted.



Old Football, Speedway, Boxing Programmes and Memorabilia, Books and Photos wanted.

All other sports such as Motorsports, Cricket and Rugby considered. The Older the Better.

Old Postcards, cigarette & trade cards any subject required. I travel anywhere.

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Out and about

After watching the Lord Mayor's procession in London last November, where members of Metropolitan Grand Lodge were well represented, so promoting Freemasonry to a wider world, a few Hertfordshire brethren have decided to follow suit.

Their aim is to promote 'Freemasonry in the Community' by highlighting the work of the Masonic Fishing Charity. Supporters along with John Clark, chairman of the Masonic Fishing Charity and Chris Noble, the Grand Charity Steward, will be present at two key events in the county.

First up is the Kimpton Mayday Festival on Saturday, May 3.

They will have a float in the procession and a double stall at the Recreation Ground.

Then, at the Hertfordshire Show over the weekend of May 24 and 25, at the county showground in Redbourn, they will be manning a double stand.

Spokesman Stewart Willett said: "Please come along, bring the family, have fun and support your Province. "Or better still, be a volunteer and give us a hand. You may even pick up a candidate or two."



Red Cross of Constantine

The Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St. John the Evangelist.

District Information Officer

W.Kt. Philip J. Hoy Div.Chamberlain Tel: 01279 817792
Email: philip.hoy@uwclub.net

Divisional Conclave

On Saturday, February 22, the Division of Hertfordshire held its annual Divisional Conclave at Ashwell House, St.Albans. Our Intendent General, R.III.Kt Brian Muir, opened a packed Conclave and welcomed everyone present. Among those present were four Intendent-Generals, two Past Intendent Generals, two Deputy Intendent Generals.



■ Our Intendent General R.III.Kt Brian Muir greets distinguished Guests

The business of the Divisional Conclave then took place including the re-appointment of our Deputy Intendent-General III.Kt Gavin O'Sullivan PGChamb.

All other Divisional Officers were then appointed and the rest of the business carried out.

Eusebius	III.Kt. P.E.A. Fotheringham, PGPrefect.
Senior General	III.Kt. T.G. Deakin, GHerald.
Junior General	P.Kt. T.W. Gray.
High Prelate	Em.Kt. A.P. Wright.
Registrar	P.Kt. S.P. Pine.
Treasurer	III.Kt. A.D. Atkinson, PGPrefect.
Recorder	M.P.Kt. A. Waite.
Almoner	M.P.Kt. G. Laverick.
Marshal	III.Kt. D.C. Boore, PGPrefect.
Sword Bearer	W.Kt. P. Thompson.
Deputy Marshal	P.Kt. G.G. Cheshire.
Chamberlain	W.Kt. P.J. Hoy.
Sub-Prelate	P.Kt. B.J. Hobbs.
Standard Bearer (C)	W.Kt. G. McCormack.
Standard Bearer (L)	P.Kt. D. Cope.
Prefect	P.Kt. D.R. Adams.
Warden of Regalia	W.Kt. J.K. Hicks.

Organist	P.Kt. W. Rumford.
Herald (1)	P.Kt. G.L. Ferris.
Herald (2)	Em.Kt. I. Bates.
Steward	M.P.Kt. G. Long.
Steward	W.Kt. C.C. De La Sel.
Steward	W.Kt. M.O. Odumosu.
Steward	W.Kt. G.E. Harrison.
Sentinel	III.Kt. P. Clark, PGStB(L).
First Appointment to Past Divisional Rank	
Past Divisional Herald	M.P.Kt. W.L. Cheshire.



■ Left to Right: Deputy Intendent-General III.Kt Gavin O'Sullivan PGChamb, Intendent General R.III.Kt Brian Muir, Marshal III.Kt. D.C. Boore, PGPrefect and Senior General III.Kt. T.G. Deakin, GHerald

At the festive board, RW.Bro. Paul Gower, Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire, was a guest of the Division as well as some 22 visitors from other divisions across the country. More than 50 per cent of Hertfordshire Knights were also present.

Grand Imperial Conclave

The appointments/promotions made at the last Grand Imperial Conclave in 2013 that involve RCC members in Hertfordshire were:

Active Ranks:

Grand Junior General: John Paternoster (promotion from PGStB(L.)

Grand Orator: H. Keith Emmerson (first appointment to Grand Rank - through MMH).

Grand Herald Terry Deakin (first appointment to Grand Rank - through Sep. Gd..)

Promotions:

Past Grand Standard Bearer (Labarum) Peter Clark.

Past Grand Standard Bearer (Labarum) E. Peter Whitehead.

First Appointment:

Past Grand Herald Reginald F. Luckman.

The Red Cross of Constantine is a particularly good order for Masons who are interested in knowing more about Masonry and the foundation of early Christianity. Any member will be pleased to discuss the order should you be interested in finding out more information or considering joining. There are Conclaves in Radlett, Royston, Cheshunt, Watford and St. Albans.

We are also considering forming a new Conclave in Bishops Stortford and are looking for founders.

Anybody wishing to know more about this Christian Order should contact Albert Waite, Divisional Recorder (albert.waite@virgin.net).



Mark Masons

Provincial Information Officer

W.Bro. Harry Parsons Tel: 07803 835871
Email: harryparsons2marksec@gmail.com

Amalgamation of RAM Lodges



■ *The last Worshipful Commanders of Digswell Lodge No 872 – W. Bro Tony Nutley of William Hamilton Underhill No 926, W. Bro. Eddie Hulstrom of Stevenage Lodge No1404 and W. Bro. Graham Hawkes.*

Three Royal Ark Mariner Lodges which met at the Cloisters Masonic Centre, Letchworth, have joined forces.

The amalgamation took place in November.

The Provincial Grand Master RW. Bro Chris Radmore conducted the first part of the ceremony, the amalgamation of three lodges; Digswell Lodge No 872 RAM, William Hamilton Underhill Lodge No 926 RAM and Stevenage Lodge No 1404 RAM.

The newly merged lodge will be known as The Cloisters Lodge No 872 RAM, and will obviously continue to meet at The Cloisters, Letchworth.

The Deputy Provincial Master,

W.Bro Richard Walker, then conducted the second part of the ceremony, to install the first Commander of the new Cloisters Lodge No 872 RAM, Bro. David Hollyman.

He was formerly a member of the William Hamilton Underhill Lodge of MMM. W.Com. Hollyman then invested his Wardens and officers.

A RAM spokesman told Provincial News: "Both parts of the ceremony were carried out with great aplomb to the enjoyment of all who were present.

"This ceremony was unique in as much that only a few of those present had seen one before, and certainly not the amalgamation of three Lodges at once."



■ *The PGM, the DepPGM, the AsstPGM and Provincial Wardens with the new Worshipful Commander of Cloisters Lodge, W. Bro. Hollyman*

Scholarship student

Meet Naya Inyama, a scholarship student the Mark Degree is sponsoring during her studies at Hatfield's University of Hertfordshire.

Hertfordshire's Mark Degree donates a bursary to a student elected by the university for the entire time they are doing their studies.

She completes her time at the university in 2015

Here Naya tells the Provincial News more about herself:

"I am the youngest of four children and have lived in East London for 19 years.

"Most of my schooling was in East London. I achieved 10 GCSE's, A* - B and 3 A Levels, grades B to C.

"I was certain I wanted to continue my education, and by the age of 15 I had already developed a genuine interest in the HR field. Thus,

I chose to tailor my education to support my career ambition.

"Four years later, I am now in the second year of my Human Resources BA Hons degree course.

"I am performing above target and I continue to achieve top grades in my modules.

"I thoroughly enjoy the diversity of the modules on offer at the University of Hertfordshire, from: accounting

to law to

cross-cultural management lectures. It is a core aim for me to graduate in 2015 with an overall 1st class degree in Human Resources Management.

"This qualification will set me out from the crowd and act as the foundation for a prospective long and successful career in Human Resources.

"I look forward to working with a large range of employees who all require differing levels of support.

"I look forward to recruiting and selecting the best candidates within a pool of talented individuals, to implementing new policies, procedures, rewards and benefits systems and to working with a team of HR professionals who are all devoted to strengthening the HR function and maintaining overall employee satisfaction.

"With a successful career in HR under my belt, I then hope to transition into Occupational Psychology. I anticipate I may need to undergo a Masters Degree in order for me to fulfil this ambition.

"I am so grateful for the scholarship which has been given to me by the Mark Master Masons of Hertfordshire. It means more opportunities are open to me; being able to pursue a master's degree being one of them.

"I will continue to work hard and enjoy the remainder of my degree course and university experience."



■ *Naya Inyama pictured with the PGM and the Deputy PGM*

Consecration of a New Lodge

At Ashwell House Masonic Centre, St. Albans, a new Lodge, known as Rudyard Kipling Lodge of Mark Master Masons No1947 was consecrated in September.

The Consecrating team was led by the Provincial Grand Master, RW.Bro. Chris Radmore who conducted the ceremony, ably assisted by the rest of the team.

For many at the meeting this was the first time they had seen such a ceremony in a Mark lodge. As the name infers the new lodge has a strong connection to the scouting community, to which most of the members had, at some time belonged..

Following the Consecration the first master, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Neil Phillips was installed by the Deputy Provincial Master, W.Bro. Richard Walker. The Worshipful Master then invested R.W.Bro. John Oakley-Smith as Senior Warden and W.Bro. Alan Lean as Junior Warden, followed by the rest of the first officers of the Lodge.

The Lodge will meet on the first Saturday in September (Installation), the second Saturday in February and the third Saturday in July, all at Ashwell House.

If any brother wishes to join they should contact the Secretary W.Bro. Mark Pedroz on 01727 753549, email pedroz@ntlworld.com



Where are they now?

Career Update for Jenny Polley

I am very happy to fill you in on my situation although not much has changed! I have reason to be very grateful to the Mark Master Masons of Hertfordshire and enjoyed meeting them at the University, as it was through their generosity that I was able to complete my degree in palliative care. I'll never forget the graduation ceremony in St Albans Abbey, it was such a special day.

I continue to work as a staff nurse in Grove House Day Hospice in St Albans. We are a charity who looks after patients who are living with life limiting conditions. The work is challenging but rewarding and I work with a great team. We are privileged to be able to support people at a difficult time in their lives. I am also a mentor for nursing students from the University of Hertfordshire so I have a chance to influence the next generation of nurses albeit in a small way. Hope this will be useful, my grateful thanks to the Mark Master Masons of Hertfordshire.

Career Update for Natalie Sawyer

A big thank you to the Mark Master Masons of Hertfordshire for the support they gave me through Scholarship whilst working towards my BEd (Hons) in

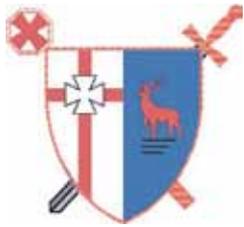
Primary Education at the University of Hertfordshire.

It has now been five years since I graduated. With the support of the Mark Master Masons I achieved a 2:1 degree and began my teaching career at Ardley Hill Lower School, an establishment in my home town and where I was once a student. I began studying for a Master of Arts in Education at the University of Hertfordshire during my NQT year whilst working full time as a teacher. During this time I was promoted to Key Stage Leader where I was given further responsibility for the teaching and learning of children within the school. I completed the MA in 2012, graduating with a distinction after researching the ways that children are influenced in learning by association and enjoying the subject matter taught in an interactive and inclusive environment. Alongside leading Key Stage 1, I continue to be responsible for leading Literacy, ICT and the Eco-schools initiative across the school. I am also mentoring teachers from other local schools and academies as well as mentoring NQTs and students at Ardley Hill Academy. I am still teaching at Ardley Hill which is now an expanding and thriving Academy. My time at Ardley Hill has

been rewarding and I am now taking up a promotion to be Deputy Head Teacher from January 2014. Over the past five years my Head Teacher, Jonathan Smith, has been supportive and allowed me to grow into the Senior Leadership Team taking on the various leadership roles and sponsoring me for a local award as Teacher of the Year which I was awarded in 2012.

I thoroughly enjoy teaching and am passionate about providing an exciting and engaging education. Thank you very much to the Mark Master Masons for their confidence at such an early stage in my career.





Knights Templar

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Dates for your diary:

Provincial Service of Thanksgiving:

May 11, Waltham Abbey Church.

Provincial St George's Day Dinner:

April 27, Cheshunt Masonic Centre.

Provincial Priory:

June 26, Metropolitan Police Sports Club, Bushey

50 Years And Growing! The Joseph Moffett Preceptory

The Joseph Moffett Preceptory No 383 celebrated its Golden Jubilee in October. E Kt. David Sodey Installed his successor – E Kt Paul Craker, in fine style before a packed Temple.

Before the Festive Board, the assembled Knights were joined by family and non-masonic guests, when the Temple was transformed into a concert hall. They were then entertained by students from The Purcell Music School, Bushey, who gave a dazzling display of music performed to an unbelievable standard for those so young.

Highlight of the event was probably the performance of Elgar's Cello Concerto given by a 15-year-old boy. Such was the quality of his work, that most of the audience were left in tears.

After the final piece, E Kt. Paul Craker presented the group with a cheque for £500, which will be used to support students who could not otherwise attend the school. It was a most worthy cause for such prolific talent.

88 Knights and guests then sat down to an excellent Festive Board.

Malta Degree Ceremonies

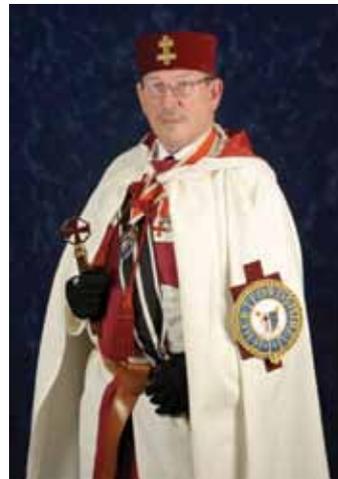
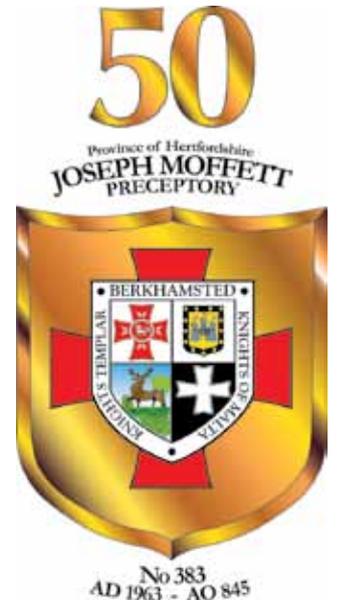
In past years it had been the usual practice to invest Knights into their Malta Degree at the Annual Provincial Meeting. This has meant that our Knights didn't have the opportunity to experience the full Malta Ceremony, which is a wonderful piece of ritual.

In the last two years, the full Malta ceremony has been held in selected Preceptories in the Province. Many Knights have now been put forward through their mother Preceptories to units where the Malta Degree is performed. This is now a very successful practice within the Province.

Knights who haven't completed their Malta Degree, cannot be Installed as a Preceptor. It is essential all Knights complete this Degree. Speak to your Registrar or to The Provincial Vice Chancellor – Phil Hoy, who can provide you with details of Preceptories where the Degree is held.

The Province

Provincial Prior Tony Lapsley is completing his second year as our Provincial Prior, and with his new team of Provincial officers is looking forward to the continuing healthy and happy progress of the Province during his period of office. He is assisted by his new team, and looking forward to appointing the new Provincial Officers for 2014/15, at The Provincial Priory meeting on June 26.



■ Right Eminent Knight – Tony Lapsley, Provincial Prior Of The Province Of Hertfordshire



■ Provincial Sub-Prior - Eminent Knight – Mike Stanforth



■ Provincial Vice Chancellor – Eminent Knight Philip Hoy



■ Provincial Marshall - Eminent Knight Mike Beaty

Provincial Priory

This annual event will be held at The Met Police Club on Thursday, June 26. All Knights are welcome and encouraged to attend this most important occasion. Full details will be circulated soon.

Knights Templar on the move

Many circumstances have caused the country and Province to move venues of important Provincial meetings.

Firstly, the Clarendon Centre at Birmingham closed a few weeks ago. This centre was the venue for Great Priory. A huge centre, with large meeting rooms, good changing facilities and plenty of parking, as well as being in the Midlands and easily accessible, made it ideal for Knights from all over the country to travel to. Also, there was a very pleasant little Chinese restaurant next door, where the Hertfordshire contingent would regularly meet for lunch before the main events of the afternoon, we will miss that. Great Priory will now meet at Great Queen Street.

This event is on Wednesday, May 21. Information on this has already been cascaded to all Registrars in the Province. All Knights are eligible to attend. This is a massive occasion, with visitors from all over the world. Every Knight is encouraged to support Great Priory, and of course, several of our Hertfordshire Knights will be receiving honours and appointments.

The Hertfordshire Province has for many years held the summer Provincial Priory at the Cambridge Motel, on the Cambridge Road at Shepreth. It was an entertaining sight for passing drivers to spot groups of Knights Templar in flowing capes, striding about on the edge of the main road! We have been well looked after over the years by the staff at the motel, but realistically, it was not an ideal venue. Security was difficult, changing areas were inadequate, and tiling meetings was impossible with only hanging sheets separating us from the wider public.

In recent years, many Provincial Orders have discovered the benefits of The Metropolitan Police Club at Bushey.

A large venue, close to Watford town centre, it has large meeting rooms, bar spaces, changing areas, and easy parking. Our Provincial Prior, Tony Lapsley, has made the decision to re-locate The Provincial Priory to Bushey this summer, so we hope this will be a successful move, and encourage more of those Knights who haven't been able to travel to Cambridge, to attend.

Finally, we await to hear where The Great Priory of Malta will transfer to. This used to be held at Birmingham. Keep an eye out for news via your Registrars.

Regular Preceptories Of Improvement

Many Preceptories are not always able to hold their own Preceptories of Improvement. The Province Executive is keen all Knights are able to perform their offices well, to their own satisfaction, and to give our new candidates a strong welcome and introduction, so regular practice is vital.

Our Provincial Marshall holds regular Preceptories of Improvement for all Knights of the Province.

A Preceptory of Improvement for all members of the Province is held at the Rose Walk Masonic Hall, Radlett, Herts. (C3092) 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, to which all Knights are welcome. You should bring your sword, with belt and frog. Newer Knights are particularly encouraged to attend. Further details can be obtained from the Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Mike Beaty, on 01582 519941, 07909 983179, or by email, mbeaty@ktherts.com

Great Priory, Wednesday, May, 21

This year the Great Priory will be held at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street.

Hertfordshire Knights Honoured by Great Priory include:

E.Kt. Keith Emmerson will be appointed as Great 1st Constable at the Great Priory Meeting.

Keith is well known within Hertfordshire having been the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Degree and he is now the Assistant Grand Master of the Mark.

We congratulate him and the other Knights to be appointed, who are –

E.Kt. Terry Bany, promoted to Past Great Herald,

E.Kt. Jeff, who has been appointed Past Great Aide-de-Camp and E.Kts Doug Knight and Mick Chalkley, who have been appointed Past Great Wardens of Regalia.

All knights are eligible to attend Great Priory. Full details are available from E Kt. Philip Hoy, Provincial Vice Chancellor - v-chan@ktherts.com and 01279 817792

The New Provincial Website

Our web-master and Information Officer, Denis Gibney, is in the process of re-constructing the Provincial website. This will be live soon.

It will keep you up to date with all the Provincial news, events and developments.



Hertfordshire Knights Templar

Provincial Prior
Right Eminent Knight - Tony Lapsley



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**Please contact E Kt. David Greenland, PGtHer
For full information and your nearest Preceptory**

01582 516680 • 07889 904826
david.c.greenland@ntlworld.com





Royal Arch Masons

Provincial Information Officer

E Comp Tony Reffold Tel: 01923 240617

Email: tonyreff@yahoo.com

Please don't hesitate to contact Tony with news from any Chapter.

Remembering Valentines Day



■ L to r: Peter Brown, Sande Nuttall Up on Downs support group co-ordinator and Peter Headington

Not many people get the opportunity to sit down with a group of children and get involved with making Valentine Day cards!

But that's just what Peter Headington and Peter Brown – MEZ and Charity Steward respectively of Walnut Tree Chapter – got to do recently. They were visiting Up on Downs, a Hitchin-based Downs Syndrome support group, to hand over a cheque for £930, raised by Companions of the Chapter. With Gift Aid the final total came to over £1,000.

Up on Downs is a registered charity and was chosen by Peter Headington as his charity for his year in office. Z Elect Michael Wormall has decided to continue supporting during his year. While visiting the group they were also treated to a drama and music workshop, but both of them sheepishly declined to act out being a tree or a sea serpent! More details about the charity can be found on its website at www.upondowns.com

Let there be light

Dave Edwards, a senior Companion in The Penmans Green Chapter No 8384, has for many years, festooned his Croxley Green house with Christmas festive lights.

In doing so, money has been raised for a large number of charities; over the years amounting to many thousands of pounds.

Provincial Convocation

The Provincial Grand Chapter of Hertfordshire held its annual convocation on Monday, November 4, 2013.

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, John Ilott, appointed E Comp David Hampton as 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, succeeding E Comp Roger Pells and E Comp Tim Coles as 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, succeeding E Comp Gerry Greenland.

David is a member of several Chapters and runs a successful catering company.

Tim is a member of Walnut Tree Chapter and is a happily retired financial advisor.

Both are thoroughly enjoying their appointments so far and they look forward to visiting as many Chapters throughout the Province as possible during their time in office.

Thirty five Companions were appointed or re-appointed to active rank, and 65 others were promoted and appointed to past rank.

Three Companions – James Acott, Ian Baird and Cliff Shipman - received the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent's Certificate of Service to Royal Arch Masonry.

E Comp Tony Reffold said: "This certificate is a great honour to receive and recognises the dedication and hard work these companions have devoted to the Royal Arch in Hertfordshire."

More than 300 Hertfordshire companions were in attendance to congratulate and give support to all those receiving honours.

After the meeting Companions moved to the Grand Connaught Rooms for an excellent Festive Board, where it was generally agreed that the standard of catering has vastly improved in recent years. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent addressed the Companions and wished them well for an enjoyable year ahead.

The next Convocation is on Monday, November 3, 2014 and you are actively encouraged to attend what is always a most colourful and enjoyable meeting, and give your support to those who are being appointed and invested.

Royal Arch Golf Day

The Royal Arch Golf Day takes place on Friday, July 11, at The Redbourn Golf Club, Kinsbourne Green Lane, Redbourn, St Albans, AL3 7QA.

Tee-off will be at 12.30pm. The entry fee is £50 per person, which includes coffee and a bacon roll from 11am, 18 holes of golf and a three course presentation dinner in the evening. Wives, partners and girlfriends and any non-golfing masons, with partners, are welcome to join in the evening festivities at a cost of £25 per person.

For more details go to the Royal Arch Website www.herts-chapter.org.uk where you can download the booking form. Or contact Phil Lever on 01707 324647 for further information.

As a result of his efforts Dave was voted 'Hertfordshire Hero for 2013' in a Herts Radio campaign. His annual 'switch-on' was covered this year by both the radio station and Channel 5 TV.

Dave, who is now nearly 80, was featured going up and down ladders and rooting about in his loft during the run-up to the event.

He was also chosen to do the official opening of the Christmas lights at Watford's Harlequin Centre.

Royal Arch appeal & celebratory banquet

A very big cheque – in both senses of the word – was presented by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent John Ilott to the Second Grand Principal George Pipon Francis at the Hertfordshire Appeal Celebratory Banquet in October. The cheque, for £137,000, was the sum raised to date by Hertfordshire Companions for the Royal Arch Appeal for the Royal College of Surgeons. The Second Grand Principal told an audience of over 200 Companions and guests, gathered at the Bushey Police Sports and Social Club, that he was “delighted to receive such a magnificent contribution”. He made the point that the sum raised was all the more impressive considering the size of the Province. However, at the banquet, our Grand Superintendent laid down a challenge to raise our total to £150,000. And, just one month later, at the Provincial Convocation, he was able

to say that total had been reached. The final sum raised by all Provinces was £2 million and this was presented to the President of The Royal College of Surgeons, Professor Norman Williams by the Most Excellent First Grand Principal His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent. The final total raised by Hertfordshire Companions was £171,404.45. The Grand Superintendent John Ilott said he congratulated and thanked all Chapters who “worked so hard to raise this wonderful sum”. He congratulated the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, E Comp Howard Collins for his “truly outstanding efforts” in collating each contribution and chasing HMRC for Gift Aid contributions. Only the Metropolitan Grand Chapter donated more than Hertfordshire, a feat all Hertfordshire Companions should be very proud of.

50 years' service

At the installation meeting of Queen's Oak Chapter No. 9262 in November the Third Provincial Grand Principal, E Comp Tim Coles made his first Official visit and presented E Comp Eric Self, PGStdB, a founder of the Chapter and first Scribe E with his certificate marking 50 years' service to the Royal Arch.



■ Tim Coles and Eric Self

2019 Festival

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent has given his full support to the Provincial Grand Master's 2019 Festival in aid of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, and has given permission for the Craft Festival tie and jewel to be worn in Chapter meetings in Hertfordshire. At the annual Convocation in November 2013, a cheque for £4,000 was presented by the Royal Arch Province to help kick-start the 2019 Festival.

Royal Arch soiree

The Royal Arch Soiree will once again be held at the Metropolitan Police Sports Club in Aldenham Road, Bushey on Sunday, June 1. Tickets cost £25 and applications should be made to E Comp David Broomer. The party starts at noon when Companions and their partners, along with other Masonic and non-Masonic friends, will meet for drinks, prior to dining at 1pm when a three course lunch including a carvery will be served.

There will then be a raffle and dancing until 5pm. E Comp Tony Reffold said: “This has always proved to be a very popular occasion and you are encouraged to book your places at the earliest possible opportunity for what will be a very happy afternoon, in the great tradition of the Royal Arch at play in Happy Hertfordshire.” More details and a copy of the application form can be found on the Royal Arch Provincial website www.herts-chapter.org.uk

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In the Autumn edition

An interview with W.Bro Graham Ellis who was honoured in 2014 New Year Honours List.

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