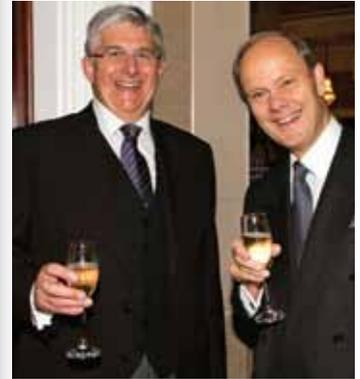


Provincial News

The newsletter for Hertfordshire Freemasons



No. 45 Autumn 2014



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- **Major changes in Craft and Royal Arch executives**
- **2019 Festival 'well on track'**



■ RW Bro. Paul Gower with RW Bro. David Kenneth Williamson

It has been a busy 12 months since RW Bro. Paul Gower was invested and installed as Provincial Grand Master and on September 24 he opened Provincial Grand Lodge for the first time.

In his address, he thanked VW Bro. John Ilott, the retiring Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch in Hertfordshire, for his companionship and support throughout his term of office and wished him and his wife both health and happiness. During the meeting VW Bro. James Sharpley stood down as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, as he will be installed as the new Grand Superintendent in November. After VW Bro. James was presented with a Past DepPGM's collarette, W Bro. James Young was installed as our new Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The PGM then announced that W.Bro. Tom Hedderson would be retiring as Assistant Provincial Grand Master and after presenting him with his Past APMG's collarette, obligated, invested and installed W.Bro. James Harrison and W.Bro. Jay Patel as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters in a 'Provincial Grand Double'.

To complete changes to the Craft executive, W.Bro. Keith Dunnett (Amwell Lodge No. 6459) was invested as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. He will be assisted by two new Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies, W.Bro Ali Osman (East Hertfordshire Lodge No. 3748) and W.Bro Danny Harding (Elstree Lodge 3092).

The PGM exhorted all the Brethren to 'walk tall', to be proud to be a Freemason and be proud to be a member of Happy Hertfordshire

It need hardly be pointed out (but we will anyway!) that with all these changes, Lodge Secretaries and DCs should take special care to download the latest version of the toast list from the Provincial website. (www.pglherts.org.uk)

The Provincial Grand Master then told the Brethren that the 2019 Festival was 'on course' to meet the objectives he had set. He pointed out the benefit

of using Gift Aid envelopes when taking collections. Since January, these have been used at 116 Lodge meetings, enabling the RMTGB to claim an additional £11,000 from the £43,000 collected. He also thanked W.Bro. Michael Imeson for his

many contributions as Provincial Communications Officer over the last eight years. He announced that a new Provincial Communications Team was being recruited which would work to develop and support our communications strategies. Finally the PGM exhorted all the Brethren to 'walk tall', to be proud to be a Freemason and be proud to be a member of Happy Hertfordshire.

**VW Bro. James Sharpley
Outgoing Deputy Provincial Grand Master and MEGS Designate**

VW Bro. James is stepping down from senior active office in the Craft after seven years as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and one year as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He started his career in the Province as a Provincial Grand Steward in 1997, and was appointed Provincial Junior Grand

Warden in 2003.

Many will know him from the Mark degree, where he was Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies for several years, and many more will get to know him, come November, when he succeeds E Comp. John Ilott as the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Hertfordshire.



**W.Bro. James Young
New Deputy Provincial Grand Master**

2014 marks James Young's 20th year as an active Provincial Officer. Starting out as a Provincial Grand Steward in 2005, he was promoted to Junior

Grand Warden in 1997, Deputy GDC in 1998, GDC in 2003 and APMG in 2005. It's an extraordinary record of service to the Province, and one that has ensured his is one of the best-known faces in Hertfordshire masonry. His warm smile and seemingly endless repertoire of amusing stories have made him a popular visitor to Lodges all over the Province, who will doubtless look forward to seeing him in his new role.

**W.Bro. Tom Hedderson
Outgoing Assistant Provincial Grand Master**

W.Bro. Tom was appointed as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master in 2009, following four years as Provincial Grand Treasurer. As the Provincial Grand Master said when presenting him with his collarette, "Tom's expertise in the field of finance, and his sense of humour, will be sorely missed throughout the Province, as will his gentle Scottish burr". Tom is looking



■ W.Bro. James Harrison, W.Bro. James Young and W.Bro. Jay Patel



■ W.Bro. James Young with RW Bro. David Kenneth Williamson

forward to spending a bit more time with his family.



W.Bro. James Harrison
New Assistant Provincial Grand Master

W.Bro James has been a member of the Provincial DC's department since 2003, when he was appointed as a ProvAGDC

by Colin Harris, then Provincial Grand Master. In the same year, both W.Bro. Jay Patel and W.Bro. Tony Reffold were also appointed as ADCs, and the three formed a strong bond of friendship as Deputies. He became a Provincial Deputy GDC in 2004 and in 2008 was "surprised and delighted" to be offered the position of Provincial GDC. After six years in that office he is finally handing on the gold wand to current Deputy ProvGDC, W Bro. Keith Dunnett. "It's been an absolute joy", he commented, "and I have had the great good fortune to be involved in many special meetings of celebration, including four Consecrations and numerous Banner Dedications, Amalgamations and Centenaries." Not to mention all those Provincial Meetings...

W.Bro. Jay Patel

New Assistant Provincial Grand Master

Jayendra Patel was born in Kampala in 1955 and moved to the UK at the age of 17 when Idi Amin expelled all Asians from Uganda. After six months in a refugee camp in Suffolk, he and his parents settled in Hemel Hempstead. In 1973 he began an electronic engineering apprenticeship in the IT industry after which he joined GE Medical, working on the first CT and MRI Scanners. His job

took him all over the world and whilst acquiring many other skills he became fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and competent in Italian, adding to the four other languages he speaks. In 1986 he joined his wife's IT business, where he still works.

His Masonic career began in 1990 when he was initiated into Hemelhemstede Lodge No. 7923. He became WM in 1996 and ADC in 1998. He is also a member of Old Albanian Lodge No.



4999 and Herts Masters' Lodge No. 4090. His Provincial career began in 2003 as a ProvAGDC, followed by promotion to Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works (also active) in 2005 and appointment to ProvDepGDC

followed in 2006. In Grand Lodge he was appointed PAGDC in 2009.

In 2013 Jay was appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden and has been delighted to visit a number of Lodges, representing the Provincial Grand Master. Jay is particularly proud that his son Kayur carried his chain in this part of the ceremony, whilst his brother Vinit carried his patent.

W.Bro. Keith Dunnett

New Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies

Keith was born in Edgware North London in 1965. Educated at Orange Hill Grammar School he left in 1981 and joined the Royal Navy as a Tactical Computer Operator (Warfare). On leaving the RN he served with the Met Police for a short time before commencing a commercial career running his own engineering

recruitment agency.

More recently he has diversified into property development and portfolio management in Canary Wharf and the City of London. He married Lorna in 1989 and they have two children, Myles and Amelia.

He was initiated into Amwell Lodge No. 6459 in 1995 becoming WM in 2002. He was appointed Provincial Assistant GDC in 2009, Provincial Deputy GDC in 2012 and Provincial GDC in 2014. He is also a member of Herts Masters' Lodge No. 4090.

Exalted into Ware Chapter No. 3002 in 2003 he became MEZ in 2006. Promotion in The Royal Arch came in the form of an active rank, becoming Provincial Assistant GDC in 2010.

He is a member of Rose Croix and Joined Godfrey Kent Chapter No. 1117 in 2010. He is a Freeman of the City of London and has been a Liveryman in the Worshipful Company of Distillers since 2008, where he is also the Deputy Liaison Officer for the Companies' affiliated warship HMS Montrose.

He enjoys good food and wine and is a lifelong supporter of West Ham Utd - and despite this remains mostly cheerful. When time permits he enjoys golf and swimming.

New Communications Team

Do you have an interest in the media and communications? Perhaps you have experience in journalism, PR or web editorial? We are looking for volunteers to help develop and execute our new Communications Strategy, ensuring a positive and effective communication of information about Freemasonry in the Province of Hertfordshire both internally and externally.

If you would like to be involved, contact the Provincial Office on 01727 833061 or email provgsec@pgherts.org for further details.

Jewel in the RMBI's crown

It was in August 1994 Prince Michael of Kent Court opened its doors to the first residents.

Twenty years have passed by and a lot has changed during that time. As with all things, with progress comes change and it is due to the care and dedication of Elizabeth Corbett, the home manager and Beverley Roberts, the deputy home manager, that PMKC has embraced these changes and is now regarded as one of the jewels in the RMBI's crown. The home has a warm and friendly environment for Masons and their families to live out the remainder of their years. In fact, many regard it as a five star hotel.

A lot of this progress could not have been possible without the support of all branches of Freemasonry in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Middlesex and London, for which the Association of Friends and PMKC are eternally grateful.



We were especially delighted to welcome Right Worshipful Brother David Ashbolt, Provincial Grand Master of the Metropolitan Lodge of Mark Master Masons of London, and other members of his team in July when they presented PMKC with a new Vauxhall Vivaro minibus. It replaces the old

Volkswagen, which was given to the home by the Association of Friends 20 years ago and has definitely seen better days. Ours is the second home to have benefited from the generosity of the Mark Master Masons of London and it will certainly make excursions out more enjoyable for all the residents.

A wonderful donation was also made by Royal Commemoration Lodge in London, which was used to refurbish the bar area. This was in great need of updating to comply with health and safety rules and had been one of the projects on our 'To Do' list. The work has now been completed and the bar is fully operational. The Royal and Select Masters of Hertfordshire have given us a generous amount, which was used to upgrade the computers residents use. Now they have speedier access to the internet and can email and Skype family and friends easily.

Money has also been pledged which will pay for the three larger sized wheelchairs that cost nearly £500 each and Forrester Wing has received funds

for a new TV and fireplace to make their lounge more homely, and so your generosity continues.

Without your continued support the Association of Friends would not be able to fund these improvements. We would not be able to pay for chiropody, foot and facial massages, birthday and Christmas presents for each resident, entertainment both in and outside the home and trips



to places of interest. These are some of the things your donations provide for PMKC.

If you send a donation either from your Lodge or as an individual, please could you let us have your email address so we can acknowledge receipt of your gift. This will enable us to save on the cost of envelopes and postage, which does mount up over the year.

We do not just need your financial support, we need people who would be willing to give up some of their time to help at various functions. If you feel this is something that you would like to do, please contact us either by phone or email and again, thank you all for your generosity.

Lorna & Malcolm Andrews.

Tel: 01494 – 433 851.

Email: chairman@pmkcfriends.co.uk

Tring 5001 Worshipful Master gets married in style!

It's not often that a WM gets married during his term of office but W. Bro Russell Brown did just that in London in April.

One Great George Street, a magnificent Edwardian building, the headquarters of the Institute of Civil Engineers, was taken over by more than 150 relatives and guests from 22 different countries to celebrate W.Bro. Russell making Dr. Elena Karnovitch his wife in a civil ceremony, with a harpist providing accompanying music.

Elena being originally from Russia, the programme of events contained a Russian translation.

After canapés and drinks the party assembled in the main hall for a meal interspaced with videos via screens placed around the hall of Russell's and Elena's lives and amusing anecdotes by both bride and groom.

For each speech, the requisite translation was provided using the screens.

One of the highlights of the evening festivities was a long-time friend of Elena's, Dr Pavel Pushkin, singing an aria from the opera Samson and Delilah to the guests in a strong and vibrant countertenor voice, which was rapturously received.

More speeches in both languages followed, interspersed by much shouting of 'Gourka, Gourka', a Russian tradition where the bride and groom have to kiss! There were many traditional Russian touches to the evening. Russian folk entertainment and Cossack Dancing followed, then dancing to a DJ and live band.

Several of W.Bro. Russell's Lodge friends attended the wedding. One was heard to say that the Great Hall would be an ideal venue for a Lodge meeting! In place of wedding favours the Bride and Groom also made a donation to the Worshipful Master's chosen charity, Rennie Grove Hospice Care.



Hertfordshire Mason honoured in 2014 New Year Honours List

By W.Bro. Chris Noble, Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

What can you report about W.Bro Graham Philip Ellis, British Empire Medal (DC Stuart Lodge 8578) that has not already been documented in his local media.

In 1981 Graham entered the first London marathon for charity. This was the start of an incredible chain of events that has seen him raise over £500,000 for many local and national charities.



"Friends and family always have very good reasons to raise money for a certain school project, or a needy hospice." he said, "I have never been short of suggestions to support worthy causes." His efforts have included London Marathons , cycling from Lands End to John O' Groats , London to Brighton and Cambridge cycle rides ,

coast to coast walks both in the UK and abroad , walking the Great Wall of China, cycling across India and 100 miles down the River Nile, mountain climbing in Vietnam and the ascent of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

His latest challenge was trekking across the Sahara Desert. So what inspired Graham ?

Graham took time out of his busy work schedule to allow me to interview him.

His daughter-in-law (both business and charity secretary) made me a cup of tea and we chatted about his incredible 33 years of charity work. The interview made one thing very clear, this is a family affair.

Graham has been married to Sandra for 43 years. They have three children.

He said: "Sandra and I were school sweethearts. We have been married a long time and without Sandra's support and backing my double life as a businessman and fundraiser would not have taken place.

"My family have been there from day one. They are my main source of encouragement and motivation. "

Graham was eager to point out that every event, every trip has been self-funded. Not a penny of donation money went on expenses for the trips.

"I have never wanted this to seem like a glorified holiday with some fundraising for good measure," he said. "It has always been based on hard work and careful planning. But it has been very rewarding.

"My late friend, Bro. Roy Brandon, proposed me into Masonry, and his son W.Bro Ian Brandon was my seconder. Both have been hugely instrumental in my Masonic and charity careers. It is no coincidence that both my Masonic and charitable lives started around the same time in 1981/1982."

One story centres on a good friend of Graham's, W.Bro Bruce Kelly (secretary of Stuart Lodge). Bruce's daughter is an ophthalmic optician and had just acquired a very expensive piece of eye equipment and had asked Bruce if she could test it out on him when he visited her in Nottingham.

It transpired the equipment diagnosed that Bruce had a tumour behind the eye and was immediately rushed to the nearest hospital to have the tumour and his eye removed. Without this chance event they did not want to think what the consequences might have been.

Bruce told Graham what had happened and they both instantly decided to do an 800 mile cycle challenge from Cape Wrath to Dover for Cancer Research UK, raising £15,000 for the charity.

Graham has been driven and motivated by family and friends. His five grandchildren are a big part of his life and he is proud to have grandson, Georgie Ellis, catch the charity bug.

In 2007 Georgie climbed his first mountain at the ripe old age of six. (Helvellyn – second highest mountain in England) Since then he has climbed mountains, performed martial arts, trekked coast-to-coast over 192 miles and cycled the outer Hebrides. (Supporting Grandad of course).

"If old age was beginning to take its toll then my grandson Georgie has certainly rekindled my spirit," added Graham. I have since had the pleasure of attending a Stuart Lodge No.8578 meeting and presented Graham with his festival Medal and thank him on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master for his charitable work.

Clearly the members are as proud of Graham's BEM award as are his family.

Graham and his close family went to Ingatestone Hall for the official presentation of his British Empire Medal back in March.

It has been difficult contacting Graham, or his family, since he got the award , because I am told the telephone reception is not good on Cloud Nine!

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire congratulates W.Bro Graham on his achievements and award and wish him and his family well for the future.

Hertfordshire Knights Templar

Provincial Prior
Right Eminent Knight - Tony Lapsley

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Lord Mayor's Show parade

Not many people get the chance to view the grand Lord Mayor's Show parade from a VIP vantage point.

But for one Hertfordshire Freemason, that was exactly what happened.

Brian Lewis, of Icen Lodge, No 5975, was lucky enough to be invited to attend and be part of the Lord Mayor's balcony party. He also took these shots of the event, which he sent in to Provincial News.

He told us: "I was delighted to see your report of the Lord Mayor's show in the City of London. It was a wonderful event, with over 150 floats in the parade.

"My wife, son and I were honoured this year to be invited to join the Lord Mayor, Alderman Fiona Woolf, on the Mansion House balcony where she took the salute of the parade.

"From this wonderful vantage place I managed to take some photos of the parade and in particular, the Masonic contingent.

"The Masonic delegation was very well supported this year. You will see the major group with their new-style flags."

Brian also included this picture of the spectacular Lord Mayor's coach.



Charitable fund raising

As part of his charitable fund raising for his year in the Chair of Shyre Lodge No.9168, W.Bro. Frank Woods visited the Michael Sobell Hospice to present them with a cheque for £250.

■ *W.Bro. Frank on the right, presenting the cheque to Rod Lacey, chairman of trustees.*



Lemon Marathon Runners!



Not everyone's happy to make a lemon of themselves, but one family certainly was.

For when Herts mason Mark, his brother Sebastian and sister-in-law Jacqui decided to run The London Marathathon there was only one outfit to chose – a lemon. And the reason? The family's name is, of course, Lemon.

Mark, 34, Sebastian, 29 and Jacqui, 32, all live in WGC and work at Aspinalls casino in Mayfair, London.

The trio raised money for Round Table Children's Wish 'Handcrafted wishes for children with life-threatening illnesses.'

Shortly afterwards Mark said: "We have raised over £4,000 so far with the help of the staff at Aspinalls casino, members at Hendon Golf Club and Freemasons of Hertfordshire. There may still be time to sponsor them. Go to www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/thethreelemons

Air Ambulance thanks you

A big thank you was said recently to freemasons from around Herts and Essex for their continued support of the counties two air ambulance services.

A service spokeswoman said: "They have been long-term supporters of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust ever since the service began in 1998.

"To date they have raised an incredible £429,000 for the county's life-saving helicopter emergency medical service." In recognition of over 16 years' support the charity hosted a thank-you evening earlier this month in Stansted.



■ *Chris Noble (Provincial Grand Charity Steward of Hertfordshire) presents a cheque for £4,000 to Jane Gurney (CEO of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust) and Brian Shipley (Chair of Trustees)*

The evening was an opportunity for the charity to "thank freemasons for their generosity and support over the years and to share with them our vision for the future".

Jane Gurney, CEO of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust, said: "We are extremely proud of the journey we have been on and it is a privilege to have shared that with the freemasons of Essex and Hertfordshire.

"We work with many businesses and organisations across the county and it is an absolute pleasure to be working alongside freemasons.

"With ever-increasing operational costs which amount to around £5.3 million a year this is a partnership we value considerably and wish to continue into the future."

On the night Jane Gurney received five further donations from the freemasons of Essex & Hertfordshire.

Two of the cheques, for £4,000 each, came from the Freemasons' Grand Charity and were presented by John Webb, Provincial Grand Master for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex and Chris Noble, Provincial Grand Charity Steward from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire. To find out more about the air ambulance charity and how you can help, visit EHAAT.uk.com

Geoffrey Colston Wickham Cooper PPrGSoj

Died July 19, 2014, aged 101 years.



Born in Harrow, Middlesex on, October 6, 1912, Geoffrey was one of seven children. Educated in his teens at a private school in Dieppe, France, he learnt to speak French and Spanish fluently, which stood him in good stead for his work in Europe in the jewellery business. During World War Two he was a fire warden at Gamages department store in Holborn, central London. He married his wife Dorothy

and spent many happy years with her until 25 years ago when she passed away.

He leaves behind his daughter Cheryl and her husband John, two grandsons Christopher and Jonathan and five great grandchildren.

After the war he returned to the family jewellery business where he made many good friends at home and in various parts of Europe and the world.

He was initiated in January 1965 into First Artificers Lodge 3774 in Clerkenwell, went through the various offices and later became Worshipful Master, a Past Master of Stanstead Abbotts Lodge in addition to being a founder of the Stanstead Abbotts Chapter. His mastery of the Masonic ritual was second to none; he knew the little book from cover to cover.

In his free time he entertained people as a magician serving the Magic Circle as chairman and stage manager. He was a founder member of Hendon Rugby Club and also very proficient in tennis and ballroom dancing. It was at a dance in Birmingham that he met Dorothy.

A Freeman of the City of London, member of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths and the Royal Society of St. George, Geoff was full of energy and loved life.

He enjoyed a good dinner, accompanied by some fine wine together with a few brandies. He was the life and soul of the party and will be sorely missed. At his funeral members of the various organisations paid their last respects to a "remarkable, old gentleman".

Herbert Arthur (Bert) Woodward PPJGD LGR



Probably the oldest mason in the Province sadly passed to the Grand Lodge Above in July.

W Bro. Herbert Arthur (Bert) Woodward PPJGD, LGR was 105 years old and a member of Chorleywood Lodge. He was born in Fulham, one of six children.

He trained as mechanical engineer and served with St John's Ambulance Brigade during the London Blitz.

At one time during the early part of WW2 he drove buses and it was while driving a bus one day saw his wife to be. He stopped the bus, got off, spoke to this young girl who had caught his eye and asked for a date.

Lucy became his wife in 1940 and they lived in harmony for 64 years moving to Rickmansworth in the early 1970s until Lucy died in 2004.

The couple had one daughter, Sue, who has lived in Australia for many years, two grandchildren and two great children. He later became a teacher at the then Willesden Technical College where he taught for over 20 years and then after retirement taught at the St Joan of Arc Catholic School in Rickmansworth.

Bert looked after himself in his bungalow in Highfield Way Rickmansworth until ill health necessitated him to move to the PMOK Court in 2011.

He travelled to New Zealand and Australia on his own, well into his late 90s.

Bert was Initiated in March 1961 into the Centre Lodge and remained a member until December 1992 receiving LGR. He was Worshipful Master in 1973 and 1983.

He joined Chorleywood Lodge in November 1980, served as Almoner from 1992 until 1995 being awarded PPJGD in September 1993 and was made an Honorary Member in 2008, some 28 years after he joined on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Bert was also active in the Royal Arch, holding the ranks of PPGSoj and PPGReg and receiving the Provincial Grand Superintendent's Certificate of Service in 2008.

Rickmansworth Chapter made Bert an Honorary Member in 2011.

W. Bro. John Oakley-Smith, the present Master of Chorleywood Lodge, said: "He always sat adjacent to the Junior Warden's chair where he said he could watch everything and every one going about their business "Bert had a happy disposition, was always smiling, had a tale to tell and was generally very good company. You were never bored in his presence."

2015 Calendar

Paul Loveday of the St Albans Lodge No. 2786 has produced an interesting photographic calendar for the new year. Photographs include well known buildings within the Province, Masonic articles and unusual shots within the Temple. Contact Paul for details **07891 291999** ploveday13@gmail.com



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Alan Tyler garden party



Bigger crowds than ever attended the annual garden party fundraiser organised by two Hertfordshire Lodges. Almost 500 people – masons and their families along with non-masons, their families and friends – gathered in Alan Tyler's Burnham Green garden.

Around £17,000 is expected to have been raised. Guests, who paid £35 a ticket, enjoyed free food, drink and entertainment from two live bands. There was also a grand raffle, casino, auction and Champagne auction. The annual event, staged by WGC Lodge and Knebworth Lodge, has been running for 25 years.

This year the four charities who will benefit are Isabel Hospice, the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Lister Hospital's Magic of Play Appeal and Welwyn Hatfield based Homestart.

Alan said: "Once again it was a brilliant day and we were again so lucky with the weather. The sun shone all afternoon.

"It's a great value for money as guests enjoy free food, drink and entertainment with the ticket price. It's never a job to sell the tickets, people come year in year out.

"Everyone wants to come along.

"Thanks to all those who joined us and helped raise a lot of money for four very worthy causes."



96-year-old Alec recognised for services to King Henry VIIIth Lodge

At the June meeting of the King Henry VIIIth Lodge, 96-year old Alec Gray, BEM, was presented with the Provincial Grand Master's 50 year Certificate of Service to Freemasonry by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Jim Sharpley.

Alec was initiated into Freemasonry in March 1964 and became Worshipful Master for the first time 40 years ago.

He rose to the rank of PPGSuptWks and received the Grand Masters Certificate of Service in 1996. In Chapter he became MEZ in both 1982 and 1987 he attained the rank of PPGSN and later received the Grand Superintendent's Certificate of Service.

Alec received the British Empire Medal in recognition of his dedicated service to the St John's Ambulance service in Hemel Hempstead. During active service as ground crew working on Hurricanes and Spitfires with the Royal Air Force in the Second World

War he met the legendary Douglas Bader. DepPGM Jim Sharpley said: "I was delighted to have had the opportunity to present Alec with his certificate. "Alec is a highly respected Mason who is recognised for his active membership in the Province over half a century. It is a wonderful achievement for him and a fitting tribute to his work in the Lodge."



■ Alec Gray BEM receiving his certificate from DepPGM Jim Sharpley watched by Worshipful Master Matt Large

Bill Porter celebrates 50 years



At the May meeting of Churchgate Lodge No.7276 W.Bro. William (Bill) Porter, PPJGW, was presented with his certificate marking 50 years' membership of the Lodge, by A.P.G.M. W.Bro. David Ferris, PSGD.

W.Bro. Bill was initiated into the lodge on March 27, 1964 and has since given great service, having been Master in 1974 and again in 2012, DC for 16 years and, more recently Preceptor of the LoI for five years, only

relinquishing that office last year.

Bill's late father, W.Bro. Charles (Charlie) Porter, was a founder member of the Lodge. Bill's son W.Bro. Mark Porter, PPGStB, also a member of the Lodge, was present at the meeting.

W.Bro. David Ferris had obviously researched his subject well and gave an excellent, informative and interesting presentation to W.Bro. Bill.

At the festive board W.Bro. Ron Potts made a presentation from the brethren to W.Bro. Bill. This was a voucher for afternoon tea for Bill and his wife Pam at Fanhams Hall Hotel, Ware; a limousine has been booked to ferry them to and fro.

Golf day

Sherrards Lodge staged a successful golf day in aid of the RMTGB in early August where Chris Noble was pleased to hand out RMTGB packs to each golfer and wish them a good round.

Suspiciously the organiser W.Bro Kenny Skelton was part of the winning team.

The day raised £310 for the festival appeal.



■ WBro. Chris Johnson (IPM), WBro. Chris Noble (ProvGCSTWD), WBro. Tim Johnson (IPM) and WBro. Kenny Skelton (Chaplain)

Meal fit for a king

Members and guests at Broadhurst Lodge's family barbecue enjoyed a successful event - and raised more than £800 for the 2019 Festival.

Among the guests was Provincial Grand Charity Steward Chris Noble.

A lodge spokesman said: "Chris Noble and his family enjoyed our very successful inaugural family barbecue in support of the Festival in aid of the RMTGB.

"Lodge members, family and friends joined in with the raffle and various games and competitions.

"The feast was fit for a king.

"The weather was extremely kind, adding to the general success of a fantastic day."

Keep it in the Family

Chris Noble Provincial Grand Charity Steward, met Charity Steward W.Bro. Mick Dennis and members of the East Hertfordshire Lodge 3748 when he visited in May.

W.Bro. Mick is working hard with his members raising money for the RMTGB 2019 Festival.

Several Lodge members are now Festival Stewards and the Lodge has already achieved Vice Patronage.

This is a fantastic early achievement.

W.Bro Mick's son W.Bro Matt Dennis is swapping his running shoes for climbing boots. Having run numerous marathons and half marathons for charity, he takes on Mount Kilimanjaro, leaving on September 26, to raise money for the 2019 Festival.

Matt said he knows he is fully fit and has been training very hard. His one slight reservation is the altitude, but he is determined and ready to complete the challenge.

Chris told Provincial News: "I am sure we all wish him well in this tough challenge and should anyone wish to help him on his way with sponsorship please visit <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MattDennis1>

Helping families

For decades the RMTGB has been helping families throughout Hertfordshire and the entire country.

To illustrate just a small part of the work it does the Provincial Magazine is highlighting just one example.

Below is a letter from a single mum of two young children in the county who has been aided by the charity.

With its help she was able to send her children on school trips she would not otherwise have been able to afford.

Below is an edited letter to the lodge almoner concerned following the trips.

We have changed the names of the children to protect their identities.

"To let you know both children went on their school trips last week and had the most brilliant time. "I was not sure if James would go as he was very wobbly emotionally but he did and told me he only cried for me once on the first day. James took part in archery, a night-time walk, falconry display and swimming. On their last day they played on the beach and had their lunch in a restaurant on the pier. "Jane was full of information when she got back on Friday, they went to a Victorian town where they did canoeing, climbing and worked on low ropes. "They went to slate caverns and Jane won a slate coaster for answering a factual question. "They climbed half of

Snowdonia and visited Llandudno. They carried out traffic surveys (much to Jane's delight!) and compared them to those carried out back at school. "Jane and James have certainly benefited from their trips and although Jane is quite happy to go off to places she was very happy to be home too. "I am so proud of James for his strength of character being able to make his own decision to go on the trip, especially as it was going to be slightly unusual having his birthday on the last day. "Thank you enormously for enabling my children to take part in these trips. There were only three children from each year group (62 in each year group) who didn't partake."

The 8556 Provincial Wedding



■ W.Bro Stew Willett and the new Mrs Lynda Willett with best man W.Bro Chris Noble ProvGCS

Perhaps the most amusing and unusual event of the year so far is what we can simply call "The 8556 Provincial Wedding".

Wbro.Stew Willett and Lynda his fiancé of 12 years were married early August.

All the men at

the Wedding Party wore the Herts Provincial Tie.

Instead of gifts all guests to the proceeding Garden Party were invited to make donations to the RMTGB (using gift aid envelopes of course).

An amazing and fantastic sum of just over £2,700 (including £540 gift aid) was donated and has been sent to the RMTGB.

Tree of Life Lodge No.9324 - 25th Anniversary

A lodge whose seeds were planted over two decades ago continues to grow strong.

For the Tree of Life Lodge No.9324 celebrated its 25th anniversary in June.

The meeting combined the installation of a new Master, W.Bro. Steven Davis, together with an oration about the history of the first 25 years of the Lodge.

The meeting, held at the Metropolitan Police Bushey Sports Club, was attended by W.Bro. Richard Knifton, on behalf of the Province, together with 100 brethren who were all presented with an engraved pen after the proceedings to commemorate the occasion.



■ Officers and founders of the Lodge



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Remembrance day poem

With Remembrance day fast approaching after the publication of this issue of Provincial news, Herts companion Terry Raymont, PAGDC, sent in this poem.

Terry is a member of four provincial chapters, Goffs Oak Chapter No 7169 (Mother Chapter), Chapter of Grand Design No. 7567, Herts 1st Principals Chapter No.4090 and Herts Prov. Grand Stewards Chapter No.8984



One Summers Day

*They went to war one summers day
You will be home for Christmas they heard them say
They were eager to go, they went so fast
Little did they know how long it would last*

*They fought so bravely in every battle
But a lot of the time they were treated like cattle
When they were rested they would send home a letter
And replies from their loved ones would help them feel better*

*Then sometimes they were face to face with the foe
When crossing the lines to play football they would go
But they knew when the game came to an end
The next day they might kill their new found friend*

*To the enemy the Generals would not yield
They sent thousands to die in muddy Flanders field
They advanced on the enemy in the rain and the cold
But death did not choose between young and old*

*Onward they went into the ferocious gun fire
Forming human bridges over tangled barbed wire
Past dead comrades who had died before
Knowing they were released from the horror of war.*

*For those who survived the war it was hard
For many the rest of their life was scarred
Now, I knew a man who with sometimes I would walk
But of the times of that war he never would talk*

*I ask you please on that day in November
Please stop for a moment and just remember
Of those men who died for their King and the Kingdom
So that what they gave has given us freedom.*

*They fought with such courage when they gave their lives
Leaving to mourn them, Mothers, Girl friends and Wives
So when you stand silent on that eleventh hour
Please wear with pride your red Poppy flower*

Charity steward seminars

The Prov. Grand Charity Steward held three Charity Steward seminars at Fleet House in St Albans in early September.

They attracted more than 30 attendees.

W.Bro Chris Noble said: "While the seminar agenda was based on the charity stewards handbook the needs and wants of attendees dictated which subjects we covered.

"I did not want to teach anyone how to suck eggs.

"The main topics covered were Gift Aid envelopes, how to use and process them and Relief Chest and how to use the RMTGB for reports and support.

"It was pleasing to chat with both experienced and charity stewards new to Fleet House.

"Because of the uptake of attendees and general interest I intend holding further sessions in early October and later in the year."

Legion D'Honneur

The Chaplain of High Barnet Masters No. 8746, W.Bro. Fred Harris has received the highest civilian rank awarded by the French Government and his rank of Chevalier is the highest in that particular civilian order.

Fred, who was 92 in August, was given his medal at a ceremony in France during celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of D Day.

It was only a few days before departing for Normandy to take part in proceedings marking the anniversary of the historic campaign that Fred received an email from the War Office saying the French Government had awarded him the Legion D'Honneur and he would receive the medal at a service in Caen on June 5.

No reason was given, no citation just a plain short message.

Fred, who is also a member of the Middlesex Masters' Lodge which meets in Harrow, received the award, plus a kiss on both cheeks, from an embassy official.

And, in his words, "that was it".

He said: "The identity name tag I had been presented with beforehand, was spelt wrong - Frederic Jan Harris, instead of Frederick James Harris, and we were bid farewell.

"We poured out on the streets and made our ways back to our respective hotels, more than a little bewildered."



Fred, a Royal Engineer reconnaissance armoured car driver with the 7th Armoured Division, had hit the headlines a couple of months earlier when it was revealed he had helped save the life of a wounded officer. Here is his story in his own words: "Shortly after the break out from Normandy, we had been sent ahead to examine a bridge spanning a railway line and the Le Basse Canal in Bethune, to see if it would carry tanks. "The officer, Lt Beach, went forward on foot to complete the recce, leaving myself and a sergeant, Bill Tynan, in the armoured car. "After a while we heard shots and the sergeant went to investigate while I manned the bren gun in the turret. "Tynan returned to reveal the officer had been shot in the back.

"We immediately drove forward to recover Beach. With Tynan holding him on the flat back of the vehicle, I drove back to the main battle column. "Before being transferred to an army ambulance, Beach asked me to pass on the message that the bridge would take tanks.

"That was the last I saw of him until 70 years later, when I learned he had made a full recovery, stayed in the Army and rose to the dizzy heights of a full general, becoming the Chief Royal Engineer and Deputy Commander of UK Land Forces.

"He was also knighted.

"He is now General Sir Hugh Beach MC. He received the MC for his daring deeds at Bethune.

"Tynan, who sadly died in 2003, was awarded the Military Medal, and later the Croix de Guerre (but that's another story).

"Maybe the incident jogged memories to award me the Leg. D'Hon, though I am also chairman of the 93rd (Finchley) Branch of the Normandy Veterans' Association and also a committee member of the national body.

"Incidentally, Beach and I met at the Victory Services Club in February for a drink and to talk over old times.

"I had to relate what happened at Bethune. He was amazed, having no recollection of the incident."

Proud moment for David as lodge marks 70th birthday

Temple Bar Lodge, No 5962 celebrated its 70th anniversary - and marked the occasion with the installation of W. Bro. David Ferris, APMG.

David became Master of his mother lodge for the third time, having previously held the gavel in 1990 and 2002.

W.Bro. James Young, APMG, attended on behalf of the Province, escorted by The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies W.Bro. James Harrison. W.Bro. Brian Tierney, MBE and Past APMG was among the many guests.

David Ferris took the opportunity to present a cheque for £2,500 on behalf of the Lodge to James Young for the 2019 Festival Appeal. W.Bro. Young presented festival jewels to four members of the Lodge. The lodge's 70th anniversary

coincided with the commemoration of D-Day and Temple Bar members are proud to have among their number W.Bro. Peter Trigg, PPGReg, who was one of the brave men who fought on that historic day.

During an emotional toast to the visiting brethren, in which he recounted some of his personal Temple Bar and Normandy experiences, Peter presented the newly installed Master with a memento from his fellow Normandy veterans and also passed his Normandy medal to W.Bro. Doug Brown to award to the pupil who wrote the best essay from his school's recent trip to Normandy.

Doug intends to present the medal at his school speech day (he is deputy headmaster at a local school).



OBE for Services to Angling



Dacorum Lodge member Mike Heylin was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to angling.

Mike has been a stalwart supporter of angling over many decades and was rewarded, in particular, for his role as chairman of the Angling Trust for the first five years of its existence.

He retired as chairman in 2013, but remains as a director on the board and a committee Member of Fish Legal, which acts as the legal arm of the Angling Trust in England.

Under Mike's chairmanship, the Angling Trust united, for the first time, anglers of all disciplines (game, coarse and sea), into a single organisation to promote fishing in all its forms and to campaign to protect and improve fish stocks. Eleven organisations have been wound up over the past five years to form the Angling Trust, many of whom had more than 100 years' history as separate bodies.

The Trust now turns over in excess of £2 million a year and, with Fish Legal, employs 45 staff and is supported by hundreds of volunteers.

It has a growing membership of 17,500 individual anglers and 1,600 angling clubs, fisheries, trade members, consultative associations and charter boats.

Mike has been the secretary of Boxmoor & District Angling Society In Hemel Hempstead for over 20 years, secretary of the Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative for more than 10 years, and is involved in many other fishing-based activities and organisations. Plus conservation groups and is also secretary of the Specialist Anglers Alliance.

Mike, whose other interests include raising money and supporting his local hospice, Rennie Grove, and English country dancing with the display team, English Miscellany, said: "I am so proud that angling has again been recognised.

"I have felt humbled and honoured to be able to put something back into a sport I have loved all my life.

"As a pretty incapable angler I was fortunate enough to be able to bring other skills to the game and hopefully have made secure what I had dreamt about; a unified voice for anglers and their fisheries.

"I would like to thank all those, including many no longer with us, who made what we have today possible."

Mark Lloyd, chief executive of the Angling Trust and Fish Legal said: "I couldn't be more delighted that Mike has been honoured by the nation for all he has done for angling over several decades as a volunteer.

"He has given so much of his time to protect and improve fish and fishing and has done so with immense enthusiasm, determination and kindness that has touched thousands of anglers.

"I am very grateful to Mike for the unwavering support he has given me over the past five years, which included some tough times in the early days of the organisation, and for all the hard work he has put in to make this organisation the success that it is.

"He is without doubt one of the most kind and generous people I have ever had the privilege of meeting."

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Masonic Fishing Charity



Members of the Hertfordshire branch of the Masonic Fishing Charity were out and about this Spring – and landed some more supporters.

At the beginning of May Kimpton held its 50th anniversary festival and the branch had a float in the procession.

The float, with Monty, a five foot trout hooked second plaice! Monty was the brainchild and constructed totally by one lady, Jax Cain who lives in Kimpton. It was her idea also for a 'duck snaffling' pond as a game for children and APGMs and as a fun fundraiser.

During the festival more than 200 people visited the Masonic Fishing Charity stand and joined in the duck rescue game.

At the end of May the charity had a stand at the Herts County Show at Redbourn.

Monty the trout was again in attendance and over the weekend more than 35,000 people tramped along. Over 900 of them took part in the duck rescue game.

The charity not only bagged first prize in the show's charity trade section for its stand and display, it also banked over £1,500 for its coffers.

A spokesman for the Masonic Fishing Charity's Herts branch said: "Both of these events showed a very positive face of Freemasonry in the community and people of all ages are now aware of the work we do, putting smiles on the faces of people with special needs.

"We were very pleased with the positive response and feedback received and delighted with the number of potential new volunteers, many of them non-masons, who expressed an interest in helping with the work of the charity."

Hertfordshire's branch of the Masonic Fishing Charity gives disabled children, both mentally and physically, from schools in and around the county, the chance to experience fishing at various events staged within the Province during the year.



Royal Arch Golf Day



■ Richard Love, West Watford Chapter, one half of the Doubles winners with 67 pts, with Sydney Tuck and the Sydney Tuck trophy

Once again the Royal Arch Golf Day returned to Redbourn Golf Club with the weather somewhat better than the previous year, overcast and fresh but not raining.

Forty-four Companions took part in what all agreed was a good day's golfing at a superb venue. The Grand Superintendent and his counterpart from Northampton and Huntingdonshire watched the proceedings from the safety of a buggy and gave their encouragement to all.

After the golf, 16 wives, partners and friends joined the ensemble and enjoyed drinks, dinner, prize-

giving, a raffle and an auction, all of which raised £738.

Winner of the singles competition was Stuart Adams, a non-Hertfordshire mason, with 38 points. Runner-up was Roy Hay of Letchworth Garden City Chapter with 37 points. Roy won the Alec Fuller Cup which is awarded for the best score by a Hertfordshire Companion.

The doubles competition and the Sydney Tuck Trophy was won by Richard Love and Michael Goane of West Watford Chapter with 67 points. (Michael Goane was winner of the singles competition in 2013). Runners-up were David Cunningham and John Jarrett of Stansted Abbots Chapter with 65 points.

Graham Ellis and Paul Ellis – no relation - won nearest the pin completion.



■ Left: John Ilott with Stuart Adams, Singles winner with 38 pts



■ Roy Hay, Letchworth Garden City Chapter, Singles runner up with 37 pts, winner Alec Fuller Cup



■ David Cunningham and John Jarrett, Stansted Abbots Chapter, Doubles runners up with 65 pts

Queens Oak BBQ



Around 50 Queens Oak Lodge members, partners and friends, gathered on a thankfully sunny afternoon in August at W.Bro. Roger Trigg's garden for a relaxing and fundraising afternoon. A total of £750 was raised for Master W.Bro. Les Bullamore's chosen charities. W.Bro. Steve Brayshaw was head chef and the senior warden acted as head sommelier which included

serving from a barrel of Breakspear's finest on draft. The lodge thanked Carole Trigg for her puddings and hosting the event, and those members who helped on the day and before.



PGM visits Flower Festival



Tens of thousands of guests were expected to visit St Albans Abbey at the end of September for its annual Music and Flower Festival.

And among them was Provincial Grand Master Paul Gower and his wife Barbara.

The couple were greeted and shown around the impressive displays by the Dean of St. Albans, The Very Rev'd Jeffrey John.

He said he hoped the annual festival would attract around 100,000 visitors during the four days of the event.

Flower arrangers from churches around the diocese had joined forces to put on a range of displays including some which commemorated the start of World War One.

Members of the Hertfordshire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge helped out on a rota basis to supplement the regular Abbey guides, which underlines the Freemasonry in the Community aspect of Masonic activities.



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Provincial Charity and Festival Report

It is with great pleasure I present my first full report as Provincial Grand Charity Steward since the launch of the 2019 Festival Appeal for The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.

First I would like to thank everyone and in particular W.Bro Dick Knifton (Festival chairman) and W.Bro Stewart Willett (Festival team leader), for their ongoing help and support.

We have worked hard as a team, and are enjoying the wonderful support of the Brethren.

The main focus over the five Festival years is to encourage our Lodges to concentrate their support and giving in the direction of the Trust.

Our initial focus was on the eight Provincial launch events with excellent results. In total 171 Lodges were represented, with 850 members attending.

It was also pleasing to see nearly 20 per cent attendance by our ladies/partners. The Q&A sessions proved popular and the details have been posted on the Provincial website. The Lodge Charity Stewards have been well briefed on what is being asked of them, their Lodges and members. In return their response has been most encouraging. Our sincere thanks to the eight centres for being the perfect hosts for our launch events. We hope to hold re-launch events early 2016 for the benefit of all, but in particular for the newer Brethren.

The initial uptake of Festival Honorifics has been excellent with over 800 members qualifying as Stewards, along with several Vice Patrons, Patrons and Grand Patrons. A few Lodges have already achieved very early Festival Honorifics. A wonderful start to the campaign, so thank you all.

Gift Aid has been another important focus and I have enjoyed making over 70 Lodge visits to explain how easy the Gift Aid envelope scheme is to operate. In excess of £30,000 in Gift Aid has already been claimed by the RMTGB on behalf of Hertfordshire Lodges, with a further £87,800 to be claimed against regular payment promises, a total of £117,000 which is well worth the little extra effort.

Of course the easiest and most tax efficient way to contribute, and gain

Honorifics, is to complete an RPP Form (Regular Payment Promise). Just £8 a month (less than two pints of beer) immediately qualifies you as Festival Steward. Ask your Charity Steward, or visit the Provincial website, for a copy of the form and complete it today.

While our concentration is on the 2019 Festival we have not ignored other local and national charities.

The trustees of the Provincial Benevolent Fund have approved donations totalling £18,000 to local charities including Teddies Loving Care, Air Ambulance, Masonic Trout and Salmon Fishing Charity, Footprints, Scouts, Boys & Girls Sea Scouts, Willow Foundation and others.

Your Festival team (see website for details) is here to help and support you during the Festival; jewel presentations, Festival talks, Gift Aid explanations, and assistance with local social events. We can help advertise your event. Please contact us with any Festival needs you may have.

Many sports and social events are and have been arranged.

Among them are Watford Race Night, Cloisters Casino Evening, Cheshunt Dinner Dance, Novice and Competition Clay Pigeon Shoots, Texas Scramble Golf Day, Festival Christmas Prize Draw, Fishing competition and more. Please let me know if you are planning an event in the future in case I can be of assistance.

Sherrards Lodge held a successful golf day in aid

of the RMTGB in early August and I was pleased to hand out RMTGB packs to each golfer and wish them a successful round.

Park Street Lodge joined the members of Kimpton Bowls Club for a tuition-based fun Bowls Competition. Great fun was had by all with a small sum raised for charity. Modesty prevents me from naming the joint competition winner. Broadhurst Lodge held its first family

barbecue event and were very pleasantly surprised with the results. I was in charge of the weather and we enjoyed good sunshine. The food was fantastic, and the fun and games raised in excess of £700 for the RMTGB.

Perhaps the most amusing and unusual event of the year so far is what we can only call "The 8556 Provincial Wedding". W.Bro. Stew Willett and his fiancé of 12 years were married early August. See page 9 of Provincial News. Modest numbers of tickets have been sent to each Lodge for The Provincial Prize Draw for Christmas. A first prize of £1,000, second prize of £500, five runners-up prizes of £100 and 25 bonus prizes of Provincial merchandise, (cufflinks, napkins, shirts etc) will be won. "Be in it to win

it" and make sure you return your stubs and payments, for my attention (Chris Noble) at Fleet House. The Provincial Grand Master will make the draw at the November 4090 meeting.

If you are arranging, or thinking of arranging an event in support of the Festival and the RMTGB then do keep me informed, and perhaps I can assist in some way by promoting and advertising it for you.

Thank you for your wonderful support thus far, and let us all share best practice. Please send event details to me, Chris Noble, provgcs@pgherts.org Last but certainly by no means least is the incredible news that you, the Hertfordshire Brethren, have given and promised to give nearly £1million in the first year of the Festival. On behalf of the Province, may I thank each of you for your fantastic support thus far, but remind you all we must continue to build on this excellent start. Should every member of the Province choose to become a Festival Steward by promising to donate £400 over the Festival period, with the added bonus of Gift Aid, we would achieve our target of £3million.

Chris Noble

Provincial Grand Charity Steward

In excess of £30,000 in Gift Aid has already been claimed by the RMTGB on behalf of Hertfordshire Lodges, with a further £87,800 to be claimed against regular payment promises, a total of £117,000 which is well worth the little extra effort

The main focus over the five Festival years, is to encourage our Lodges to concentrate their support and giving in the direction of the Trust

Spirits not dampened by wash-out

On a Bank Holiday more suited to snorkels than slippers, Brian Meager and Frank O’Keeffe, of Berkhamstead Lodge No. 504, braved the elements to erect an information stand at the Berkhamstead Lion’s Fete on August 25.

Unfortunately the Gods were not kind on the day, and it was more like Canute trying to stem the tide on the seashore, than Brian and Frank trying to stem the tide of visitors.

The pair told Provincial News: “But a walk around visit by the Mayor and other dignitaries (all Masons themselves) bolstered our spirits, and as the photo shows, even the few intrepid souls who did venture out despite the weather, were interested to read about masonry in their community.

“Very few walked past without looking in, or popping in for a closer look and a chat, so it showed that it’s a worthwhile way of getting the message across about what we do, and that we’re not the evil conspirators of the popular press.

“To misquote Arnold Schwarzenegger, ‘We’ll be back’.”



Helping schools and hospices

Over the past year, the Worshipful Master, W.Bro Brian Miles and Charity Steward, W. Bro Ivan Boemer of Tring Lodge have between them made two groups of donations.

£250 was presented to primary schools in Tring, including two special needs schools in Aylesbury and Hemel Hempstead who take Tring children.

With a free choice, the schools bought items ranging from benches, an Ipad, balance bikes and floor mats to a deposit on an outside pond.

The Hospice of St .Francis and Ian Rennie Hospice, plus the MS Society, received donations of £400.



Bergnet Lodge Visits the Somme



On a cold weekend in October a group a Bergnet Lodge members visited the First World War battlefields of the Somme in northern France.

The tour was led by W. Bro Barrie Friend who is an accredited guide whose knowledge of the history and geography of the area is astounding.

He had also researched many of the Freemasons involved from the highest down to the lowest ranks.

Barrie explained how the generals planned the attacks which resulted in enormous loss of life, as we could see from the multitude of graves in the numerous cemeteries, some containing the bodies of Freemasons.

On the morning of the final day there was a visit to the Thiepval Memorial which lists

the names of the 72,000 dead with no known grave. W. Bro Tony Read (ex Royal Signals) laid a wreath on behalf of the Lodge and W. Bro Dave Bird (lodge chaplain) delivered a short oration. The group was fortunate in having the services of an excellent coach driver, James Mason of Masons Travel. He is neither a film star nor a freemason!

Barrie would be happy to give a talk on this theme at lodge meetings.



■ Tony Read with wreath and above, the party in front of coach



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OUR TRAVELLING INTENDANT-GENERAL

In 2007 Rt Ill Kt Brian Fraser Muir was appointed Intendant-General. In that time he will have met every member of the division, but what a lot of Knights will not be aware of is the amount of travelling he does on our behalf.



■ Brian and Anne enjoying a meal out

In this year alone, as well as attending the Appendant Orders and annual AGM, he has attended all Enthronement meetings within Hertfordshire and travelled to all parts of the country representing Hertfordshire

at Divisional AGMs, including Essex (Southend), East Anglia (Cambridge), Kent (Gillingham), London (MMH), Middlesex (Twickenham), Surrey (Surbiton), Sussex (Worthing), Dorset (Wareham), Hants & Isle of Wight (Botley), Devon & Cornwall (Torquay), Somerset (Nailsea), West Midlands (Birmingham), North Wales (Bangor/Wrexham), Cheshire (Christleton), East Midlands (Northampton), Lincolnshire (Sleaford), Derbyshire (Littleover), Nottinghamshire (Nottingham), North & East Lancashire (Preston), West Lancashire (Leyland), West Yorkshire (Huddersfield/Sheffield), North & East Yorkshire (Middlesbrough), Durham (Gateshead) and Northumberland (Newcastle). All of the forgoing, with the exception of East Midlands, Nottinghamshire and Essex, take place on a Saturday morning.

Brian, who celebrated his 76th birthday in July, was born in Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire. He has been married to Anne for 53 years and they have four sons (all married), eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

After leaving the Provost branch of the Royal Air Force, Brian spent the next 26 years in the electronics industry.

He was initiated in Layston Lodge, No. 6699 in 1982. Since retirement he has joined at least 17 Orders with multiple memberships in many of them.

Since moving to Lincolnshire, he has joined a local Rose Croix, Royal Order of Scotland and a KT Preceptory which meets in the Chapter House of Lincoln Cathedral.

Specific interests include flying (now FlightSim), cooking, travel, caravanning, good food and wine and all aspects of Freemasonry.

HERTFORDSHIRE MEETINGS The next Appendant Orders will be held under the auspices of The Rose Walk Conclave at Radlett on Saturday, November 1 and all members are encouraged to attend. The next Divisional Conclave for Hertfordshire will be on Saturday, February 28, 2015 and again all Knights are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

NEW WEBSITE FOR HERTS MASONS In conjunction with a number of other degrees and orders in Hertfordshire, we have set up our own website at www.hertsmasons.co.uk. Please feel free to visit this site to see our webpages and those of the other degrees. If you have anything that you would like to see online, please send it to me as Information Officer for the RCC.

GRAND IMPERIAL CONCLAVE A new Grand Sovereign of the Order was installed on July 1 - M. Ill. Kt. Graham Leslie Flight GCC (promoted from Grand Marshal). R. Ill. & Em. Kt. Peter Hawken, MBE, GCC, was re-appointed Deputy Grand Sovereign and R. Ill. & Ven. Kt. Dr The Rev. Charles Peter Bernard Blackwell-Smyth, GCC, was re-appointed as Grand Eusebius.

Members of Hertfordshire promoted were E. Glyn Hughes to Past Grand Chamberlain (through Metropolitan) and Colin Childs to Past Grand Standard Bearer (L). First appointments went to Brian Hobbs (PGPrefect), Bill Rumford (Past Grand Warden of Regalia) and Albert Waite (PGStB(L)). Our congratulations to them all.

NEW DIVISION Of possible interest to any Knights who live on the Herts/Middx borders is the splitting of a couple of Conclaves from Metropolitan and the Consecration of a new Conclave to form a Division of Middlesex. The Consecration and Constitution of the new Division took place at Cole Court, Twickenham, on Thursday, September 4. The new Intendant-General will be Denis Leigh who until then is the Recorder for Metropolitan Division. Meetings will probably be held at Twickenham and Staines with the possibility of new Conclaves at Uxbridge or Harrow.

NEW CONCLAVE IN BISHOPS STORTFORD The Division is considering the formation of a new conclave in the east of the Province at Bishops Stortford. The Intendant General has made it clear this is subject to the support of sufficient numbers as founders and will not take place until 2016 at the earliest.

Subject to approval, the conclave will be named the Esterteford Conclave after the ancient settlement originally established by the Saxons. It assumed its current name when the castle was sold to the Bishop of London in the 11th century. It became an important market town, boasting fairs, festivals and its very many pubs.

If you are a member of the Order, whether in the Hertfordshire Division or elsewhere, and are interested in becoming a founder, please contact either Ill Kt Gavin O'Sullivan (gavinosullivan@btinternet.com) or the co-ordinator, Em Kt John Campbell (john.campbell40@btopenworld.com)

JOIN US 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.

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



Mark Masons

Provincial Information Officer
W.Bro Jack Franks Tel: 01279 865526
Email: jackfranks@ntlworld.com

Brethren first of all I would like to thank my predecessor Harry Parsons for all his work as the Herts Mark Information Officer. And to introduce myself to you, Brethren, I am Jack Franks. I am a Hertfordshire MMM and Royal Ark Mariner Mason. My lodge is Stanstead Abbots Lodge 1809, meeting in Sawbridgeworth. I also have an assistant who will be dealing with the Facebook side of things. Well he is younger than me and I get easily confused. He is Bro Justin Tepper. It is the Provincial Grand Master's wish every Mark and RAM Lodge should have its own Information Officer and he should be the Lodge's voice in keeping me informed. In this way we hope to set up an information route and in these pages try to keep all Lodges informed of what has happened and what is going to happen in the Province. So please contact me if you have a special occasion and if possible I will try to give it space in our pages.

MMM & RAM Diary 2014

JANUARY

On Saturday, January 11, 2014, Stanstead Abbots Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges No1809 had a double banner dedication ceremony at Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall, under the leadership of the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Chris



■ Stanstead Abbots double Banner dedication. With Master and Commander and members of Both Lodges

Radmore, accompanied by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. Richard Walker, the dedication team, members, visiting Brethren and of course their ladies. In all over 100 people attended an elegant ceremony conducted by the Prov Grand DC W.Bro. Roy Moth. There was a great festive board and, in all, it was a most enjoyable morning. The Mark Lodge is now 15 years old and RAM five years. Visitors are always welcome to this old temple in Sawbridgeworth.

MARCH

Friday, March 21, 2014 saw Rosewalk Lodge No 1585 dedicate its new banner. Once again our Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Chris Radmore and the team headed by Roy Moth, Prov DC, put on a great ceremony. It is a beautiful banner and once again members of the Lodge turned out with partners and friends with a white table to follow.



■ Rose Walk Lodge Mark Banner dedication with members and Prov Grand Master and Deputy Prov GM

Grand Officers announced: 13 appointments announced for Herts MMM. W.Bro. Roy Moth was appointed Grand Senior Deacon (Active Rank) and W.Bro. Grahame Lovett, Grand Steward. W.Bro James Sharpley becomes a V.W.Bro as PGJO. First appointments, Ken Gooding and Jon Lydon PGStB and George Edwards PAGStB. Congratulations to all these and other Brethren not mentioned as we are limited on space.

The Provincial Grand Officers List was announced and, of course, congratulations to all the Brethren Honoured, well done. They were invested in July at the Provincial Meeting.

APRIL

Although not Mark or RAM, On April 7, the Provincial Grand Secretary Trevor Clarke, was Installed into the Chair of Hertfordshire Craft Stewards Lodge by the Provincial Grand Master Paul Gower. It is a real honour to reach this position, well done Trevor. Also congratulations to our APGM Neil Philips on being installed into the Chair of High Barnet Masters Lodge.

On April 9 the Mark Demonstration Team visited Watford Lodge which was well prepared and the candidate Bro Martin Potter was advanced to the Degree of MMM, by W.Bro. Warren Singer in an excellent manner. Well done all in the team.



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MAY

May 9, saw John Burr Lodge No 1824 Royal Ark Mariners consecrated at St Albans. W.Bro. James Young is the first Commander, with Mervyn Lewis as first IPC. Paul Benham and Peter Morris are respectively the first Wardens. A large number of Royal Ark Mariners saw a very polished ceremony performed by the Provincial Team.



■ John Burr RAM Lodge Consecration First Master, Founding IPC, S&J Wardens and founding members

JUNE

On Tuesday, June 3, the Herts Installed Commanders Lodge 1121 moved to the Metropolitan Police Club, Bushey and hosted the Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners. Eleven Brethren received Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank from the PGM R.W.Bro. Chris Radmore. The Temple had plenty of room and with an excellent ceremony it was a very good day.

Friday, June 6, the RAM Demonstration Team with W.Bro. Colin Dixon as Commander and a young chap called Chris Radmore as Candidate (He could go far), did a great job showing the Rose Walk Lodge at Radlet and guests exactly how the Degree should be done.



JULY

The Annual Provincial Meeting took place once again at the Masonic School for Girls at Rickmansworth. The ceremony was excellent and, of course, much of this was down to the Provincial DC W.Bro. Roy Moth. Brethren this is not a day to miss, so make sure you are there next year. The new Provincial Officers were invested and also past ranks conferred by the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Chris Radmore. This was followed by a very good festive board.



■ Provincial Grand Lodge Pre opening

On Tuesday, July 15, it was the turn of Prince Michael of Kent Court to receive a new state-of-the-art mini-bus, from the Province of London. That the Province has been raising money over the past few months under the leadership of Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro David Ashbolt, to provide these special buses. Representing Hertfordshire at the presentation were Deputy Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. Richard Walker and the Provincial Grand Secretary W.Bro. Trevor Clarke. Representing the Craft were the Deputy Provincial Grand Maser James Sharpley and the APMG W.Bro. Keith Gilbert. It was a very pleasant day and residents were very pleased, with many trying the seating of the bus with the wheelchair ramp which makes life a lot easier. W.Bro. Arthur Craddock, a resident, felt this was a great gesture by the Mark Degree. Well done again Brethren.

FUTURE DIARY

Sunday, November 2, 2014. Winter Mark Lunch at Chesfield Downs Golf Club. This will be a very nice afternoon, so bring your friends and family and renew old acquaintances. Contact Geoff Parrish on geoffjan@aol.com for details. All Lodge members should have received notification from their Lodge secretary.

Thursday, November 6. 50th anniversary meeting of the Hemel Hempstead Lodge of MMM No 1291. Applications to attend this meeting should be made to the Lodge Secretary, W.Bro. Terry Dancer at terry@dancer47.plus.com or 01442 864438.

Thursday, December 11, 2014. Annual trip to Twickenham, Varsity Match. Details from your Lodge Secretary. Early booking required.

DIARY 2015 SO FAR

Tuesday, March 31, 2015 Provincial Grand Officers Demonstration of the Advancement Ceremony under the banner of Scholars in Amity Lodge of MMM NO 1710 at St Albans. Details can be obtained from the Lodge Secretary W.Bro. Simon Lincoln, stlincoln@talktalk.net or 07957 17063

Tuesday, June 2, 2015. Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners, held under the banner of Hertfordshire Installed Commanders Lodge No 1121 at the Metropolitan Police Sports Club, Bushey. Details to follow.

Wednesday, July 1, 2015. Provincial Grand Officers Demonstration of the Elevation Ceremony. Under the Banner of the Bishops Stortford Lodge of RAM No1236, at Bishops Stortford. Applications to attend this meeting should go to Scribe W.Bro Graeme McCormack on 01992 522955 or graemecormack@hotmail.co.uk

Tuesday, July 14, 2015. Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge at Rickmansworth Masonic School. The Meeting will start at 4pm, so be seated by 3.30pm. Dinner is at 6.30pm.

A very special charity

HOPE FOR TOMORROW

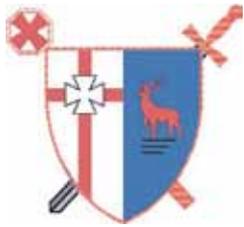
Our Provincial Grand Master R.W. Bro. Chris Radmore has asked us all to embrace this charity. To this aim he has asked the ProvgJW W.Bro. Graeme McCormack to assist him with HOPE FOR TOMORROW. Brethren, if you or your Lodge has an idea and wish to organise an event for this worthwhile cause it will be appreciated. For more details contact Graeme on 01992 522955 or graemecormack@hotmail.co.uk.

ABOUT THE CHARITY

Founded by Christine Mills MBE in 2003 after she lost her husband David to cancer. The couple endured many stresses travelling from their home to the oncology centre, a journey of some 60 miles. In 2007 the charity built the world's first mobile chemotherapy unit. This charity is dedicated to bringing cancer treatment closer to home. Each mobile chemotherapy unit costs £260,000 to build and maintain for three years and will help relieve patients from the stress of travelling and bring treatment to the patient.

Units can travel seven days a week and can treat 20 patients a day.

Brethren this is just a brief outline of this very worthy cause. Graeme or I would be pleased to answer any questions.



Knights Templar

Provincial Information Officer

Denis Gibney Tel: 01923 490314
email denis.gibney@yahoo.co.uk

Full information of The Knights Templar in Hertfordshire is on the Provincial website.
www.ktherts.com

Provincial Priory

Provincial Priory was held this year at The Metropolitan Police Club on Thursday, June, 26. It was held under The Banner of Standon Priory, Preceptory No. 581.

Holding Provincial Priory at this new venue proved a great success and was very well attended. It would seem the proximity to our home ground, convenience of access, and plenty of parking, as well as comfortable bar and reception facilities, played a positive part in attracting a very high number of Hertfordshire Knights and a prolific attendance by distinguished visitors.

The new Provincial Officers of the year and promoted Officers were invested with their honours by The Provincial Prior in fine form. The Province now looks forward to a productive and enjoyable 2014/15 for all our Preceptories, and our new Provincial Officers.



■ The Provincial Prior entertains Distinguished Guests



■ The Grand Superintendent John Illott is a most welcome guest following his recent illness

The Annual St George's Day dinner

This annual event was held at Halsey Hall, Cheshunt on Sunday, April 27, to celebrate our patron saint in the traditional way with a great meal and lots of hilarity.

As usual, senior Knights of the Province let their hair down. The evening was open to all Hertfordshire Knights and their guests, masonic and non-masonic.

Musical entertainment was by Gemma Turner. There was 'Stand Up Bingo' and great singing with our version of The Last Night of the Proms as a grand finale.

As usual, it was a successful sell-out, and a great time was had by all.

For those who missed it, watch out for the notices for next year, and get your booking in early.



■ The Vice Chancellor rallies the troops



■ John Paternoster and Bob Landragin in their new 'Masonic Regalia'

The Annual Service of Praise

Our annual Provincial Service of Praise was held at The Abbey Church, Waltham, on Sunday, May 11. The magnificent Waltham Abbey was packed with the assembled Hertfordshire Knights and their families.

In a traditional service lead by the Dean and our Provincial Prior, Preceptory banners were paraded in with a spectacular procession to the nave. Beautiful hymns were sung including a superb solo by our resident soprano.

The service was followed by an excellent afternoon tea, at which the Dean and his abbey staff were thanked again for the tremendous hospitality with which we have been welcomed.



■ Banner bearers assemble in front of the Great Altar

The KT weekend away at Warwick

The Hertfordshire KT Away Weekend at Warwick in May was for family and friends, and proved a great success. It was held over the Spring Bank Holiday at a nearby luxury hotel.

The weekend started with a welcoming dinner on arrival on the Friday night. On Sunday, we were fortunately blessed with fine weather and enjoyed the coach trip to the castle. Highlights included a visit to a medieval fayre, jousting and flights of birds of prey in the grounds of the magnificent Warwick Castle.

We returned to the hotel in the evening for a sumptuous banquet. This was a spectacular weekend event in every respect and we shall all look forward to a similar success in years to come.

The event was superbly well organised by Philip Hoy and his wife Shirley.



■ A traditional setting for medieval jousting



■ The crowds enjoyed jousting in full costume in the sunlight



■ A huge bird of prey waiting to set off into flight



■ The Vice Chancellor entertains his table at the banquet

The Provincial Preceptory of Improvement

This is held, under the leadership and guidance of the Provincial Marshal, Ekt. Mike Beaty, at The Masonic Hall, The Rose Walk, Radlett.

It starts at 11am on the first Sunday during the months of February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November and December.

It was formed for the purpose of helping the Knights of the Province learn and practice the drill and ritual, and so improve standards throughout Hertfordshire Preceptories. A drill session is held during every PoI and is particularly beneficial to those Knights who have recently come into the Order.

Being a military Order, Knights Templar is very different to most other Masonic Orders, in that members have to use a sword, perform drill, and work as part of a team. A Ceremony of the Installation of a Knight is usually performed at each PoI.

Preference is given to officers who want to practice their role in a forthcoming ceremony in their Preceptory.

An effort is made to involve all Knights present, and if numbers permit, to include Guarding the Sepulchre and an Arch of Steel. If any Knight wants to practice a particular role, or part of the ritual, he can make this known to the Provincial Marshal at the previous PoI.

Ever increasing attendance figures show the benefits, and it is hoped more Knights will take advantage of joining in knightly brotherhood, and increasing their knowledge and enjoyment of this wonderful Order.

Hertfordshire Knights Templar

Provincial Prior
Right Eminent Knight - Tony Lapsley

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Royal Arch Masons

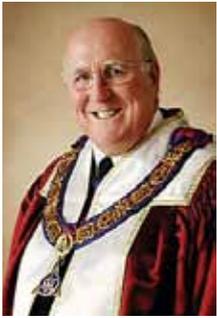
Provincial Information Officer

E Comp Tony Reffold Tel: 01923 240617

Email: tonyreff@yahoo.com

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

All change at the top



At a packed meeting of Herts First Principals Chapter in March, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent John Ilott announced his retirement from the office after eight successful years leading the Royal Arch in Hertfordshire.

E Companion John was initiated into Rickmansworth Lodge 2218 in February 1969 where he became Worshipful Master in 1976. He was appointed Provincial Junior Warden in 1983 and Provincial Grand Charity Steward in 1991. He was given active rank in Grand Lodge, first as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1989 and later Deputy Grand Sword Bearer in 2007.

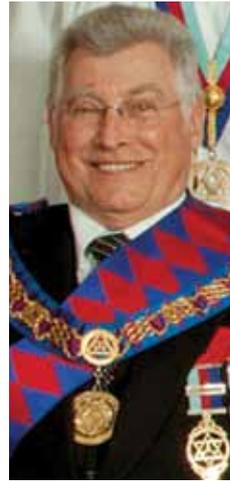
His Royal Arch career began in Rickmansworth Chapter 2218 in September 1973. He was installed as MEZ in 1982. Active rank in the Province soon followed, first being appointed Provincial Deputy Grand Registrar in 1986, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1990, 3rd Provincial Grand Principal in 1999, Deputy Grand Superintendent in 2001 and Grand Superintendent in 2006.

John is a member of three other Craft Lodges, including Isambard Brunel Lodge 8908, of which is a founder, three further Royal Arch Chapters including White Star 8727 and Probity 7333 (Cambridge) both of which he was a founder, Chevalier Lodge of Mark Master Masons & Royal Ark Mariners, and a member of St George Chapter Rose Croix. He is also a past chairman of Halsey Masonic Hall (Watford) and was the founding chairman of the Association of Friends of Prince Michael of Kent, the RMBI home in Watford and a past chairman of governors of a local comprehensive school. He has also worked to improve facilities for local children.

John is also very keen on cricket, having qualified as an umpire, officiating in minor counties, Home Counties and Hertfordshire leagues as well as the Under 15s World Cup and he has stood in the final of the Evening Standard competition at the Oval. His two sons have both played cricket, Nigel playing for Hertfordshire and Mark for Essex and England, playing five test matches against Australia and South Africa. A shoulder injury has put paid to John's cricketing career and he has also had to give up golf.

He has been married to wife Glenys for 51 years and he is looking forward to spending more time with her as well as gardening and painting with watercolours; he is hoping to try his hand at oils and acrylic painting. His five grandchildren are a source of great joy and he hopes to spend more time with them.

Clearly a man of great energy, there is no way John will sit back and relax, so expect to see him around the Province. He would welcome the chance to meet as many brethren and companions as possible. His retirement party in October has sold out which just goes to show what a popular Grand Superintendent he has been. He will be missed, but he trusts his successor will receive the same magnificent support he was given during his time in office.

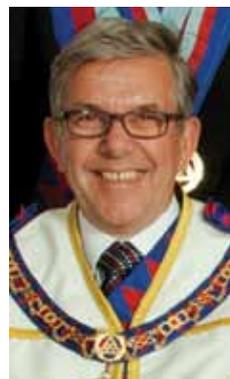


Ian Clift has also announced his retirement as Deputy Grand Superintendent after five years in post. Ian was initiated into Knebworth Lodge by his father in 1971 (Ian subsequently initiated his son, Ben, into the same Lodge) and was exalted into Dacre Chapter in 1977, where he is still a member. Ian was appointed Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1991 and has tirelessly served the Province since then, having been appointed Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1997, 3rd Provincial Grand Principal in 2003, 2nd Provincial Grand Principal in 2006 and Deputy Grand Superintendent in 2009.

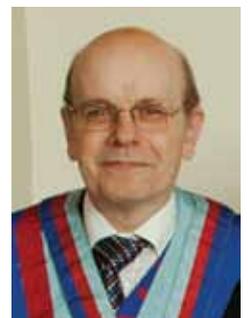
Ian is looking forward to spending more time with his family and playing golf. As a member of four Lodges and seven Chapters he certainly has no intention of reducing his Masonic membership and always looks forward to meeting Companions on his travels.



In May, at a meeting of Herts Provincial Stewards Chapter, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent announced that E.Comp James Sharpley would be his successor. E.Comp Jim is well known throughout the Craft as the current Deputy Provincial Grand Master, having previously served as Assistant PGM for seven years and Deputy Provincial Grand Master since 2013.



MEGS Designate Jim has announced his new executive. E Comp David Hampton will be Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Comp Gary Warren will be promoted from Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies to 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, and Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies



Robert Asser will be the new Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. E Comps Tim Coles, Paul Blakemore and John Linley would remain in their current offices as 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra and Assistant Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra respectively.

Cecil Chapter Celebrates 125 Years

On Friday June 27, Cecil Chapter celebrated its 125th anniversary with a visit from the Provincial Executive and an installation ceremony.

Sixty Companions joined together to hear the minutes of the very first meeting, read by E Comp Peter Davies, and a very interesting and informative talk about the history of the Chapter, given by E Comp Tim Mitchell. After that there was an excellent installation ceremony during which E Comp Stuart Rigby was installed as 1st Principal, David Reynolds as 2nd Principal and Philip Player was inducted to the 3rd Principals chair. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent and his team offered their congratulations to the Chapter and all Companions then repaired to the Festive Board, which was a most convivial affair. The Companions presented MEGS John Ilott and E Comp Ian Clift with gifts to mark their forthcoming retirement, which were gratefully received.

Baldock Chapter of Harmony 75th



Baldock Chapter of Harmony celebrated its 75th anniversary on June 4 with a very special meeting attended by 49 Companions, including the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent (MEGS), the Provincial Executive and 19 guests.

The MEGS took the chair and the Executive occupied their respective places. The 3rd Grand Principal Tim Coles gave an oration, the Provincial Grand Scribe E read the Charter and E Comp Gwyn Howard read the minutes of the Consecration Meeting from Tuesday,

February 21, 1939. After a short break, Bro Anthony Colbeck was exalted into the Chapter in a superb ceremony packed with excellent ritual and great emotion. On the 3rd Rising the Scribe E presented E Comp John Ilott with two beautiful crystal glasses and a bottle of gin in recognition of his eight years of service to the Province. The tables were turned when MEGS promoted E Comp Gwyn Howard to PPGSN with immediate effect, an award that was received by all the Companions present with warm and heartfelt applause.



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