Amazing charity achievements

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Cancer support services in the region received a welcome boost when a cheque for £500 was handed to Nicola Clark, fundraising manager for Macmillan Cancer Support in Hertfordshire and Essex by W.Bro Peter Slade PProvJGD, WM of Ware Lodge No 3002. Speaking at the presentation in Mayflower Place, Hertingfordbury, the WM said the money had been raised in part at the Lodge’s Sunday lunch for members, family and friends held in October and by a contribution from the Lodge Benevolent Fund. Nicola said: “At Macmillan we offer financial, practical, medical and emotional support to anyone affected by cancer throughout their experience and beyond. “Right now we can’t reach everyone who needs us. But with your help, we can make sure people affected by cancer get the support they need to take back control of their lives. “On behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support I would like to thank the Ware Masonic Lodge for their generous donation of £500 which will help us provide support to local people affected by cancer. “No one should face cancer alone and by involving more people to fundraise, campaign, volunteer and donate, no one will.”

Patients on the dedicated ward for dementia sufferers at Watford General Hospital received some welcome gifts that will help make their lives easier. The Lodge of Light and Honour (No.7894) presented Bluebell Ward with a number of items including a telephone with large buttons, model kits that can be re-used and a Kindle to help with reading and entertainment. Lodge member Colin Stodel is a volunteer at the hospital and helped co-ordinate the project. Charity steward Martin Abrahams told Provincial News he hoped to provide further needed items for the ward and looked forward to seeing how the gifts were used in the ward. Many are important aids to help patients recall past memories. Chloe Cameron, senior sister on Bluebell Ward said items such as the re-usable model kits played a “vital role in communicating with patients” and expressed her thanks on their behalf to the Lodge of Light and Honour. She said such aids helped in engaging patients in activities and “the results are amazing”.

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Donation to RMTGB

When a call for help came from the Rotarians of Stevenage, local Freemasons were quick to answer. The appeal came from no less than Santa himself, via the Rotary Club of Stevenage Grange. He needed helpers for his Christmas collection outside the town’s Sainsbury’s store.

And, as a token of thanks, a cheque for £250 towards the RMTGB 2019 Festival was presented to Provincial Grand Charity Steward Chris Noble, by Rotarian Bro. Robert Bamforth, aka Father Christmas. Robert is a past president and current fundraising chairman for the club. The pair are pictured outside Robert’s business, Regency Hairstyling Salon in Chells Way, Stevenage.

Gifts for Dementia Wards

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Changes to Provincial Honours

The Provincial Grand Master explains why

Brethren, it is some 10 years since last we reviewed and modified the structure for appointment to and promotion in Provincial rank.

Since that time we have witnessed many changes to our demographic profile.

In 2005 we had around 7,000 members and in many cases it would take an initiate some 10 to 12 years to reach the Chair and consequently those becoming Worshipful Master were slightly more senior in years than is currently the case.

Because of the size of our membership we were, until quite recently, permitted to appoint more active ranks and Grand Lodge had not imposed a ceiling on the number of Past Warden ranks to be made available.

A three-column structure was introduced with first appointments being offered seven years from the time of installation with promotion, when deserved, after a further seven years. We also judged that those who had held active rank and had assisted with various duties in the Province would become eligible for promotion, again when deserved, after four years with a notional tariff rank, which in most cases turned out to be PPGSuptWks.

Now our Provincial profile has changed.

I have made changes to the structure which I am planning to adopt from September 2015

We now have circa 5,600 members and although the percentage reduction over the last 10 years is less than in many Provinces, Rule 68 BofC reduces the number of active ranks available.

The average age of our Initiates has continued to fall and this means that in some Lodges brethren are taking office sooner and are being asked to occupy the Master’s chair at a much lower age, sometimes only four or five years after initiation.

In the distant past Brethren were occasionally awarded very high ranks early in their Masonic career. This imbalance meant that an increasing number became eligible for the past ranks of Provincial Grand Warden sooner and these relatively young brethren then found themselves with few opportunities for further meaningful promotion.

The number of Grand Ranks available has also fallen and this was one of the reasons why I announced at my Installation that certain active offices held within the Province would not, in future, automatically result in recommendation for Grand Rank.

With the above in mind, and in consultation with members of the Provincial Executive, I have made changes to the structure which I am planning to adopt from September 2015. However, the overriding prerogative of the PGM making appointments as he deems necessary or desirable will remain.

Several additional past ranks, not previously used in Hertfordshire, will be brought into use, for example, AsstStdB, AsstSuptWks, AsstSwdB, DepSuptWks, DepSwdB.

Continuing with a notional two ranks at each promotion, it will inevitably take longer to reach the most senior rank of Past Warden.

Following an active rank, we will continue to recognise the hard work of those individuals, but there will no longer be a tariff rank and promotion will depend on previous office and commitment.

Brethren who had not progressed to the WM Chair but who had served the Lodge as a MM in the many offices open to Lodge members were also considered for Provincial honours, but this was almost always as a result of a recommendation made by Past Masters on behalf of a Brother who had given long and loyal service in a particular role. This element of the award of Provincial Honours will continue in its present form.

No doubt comparisons will be made between appointments in the past and those of the future. However, by explaining the reasoning behind arrangements for future appointments and promotions, I hope you will be able to understand how the changes are to be made and why.

Support from Hertfordshire masons for the TLC Appeal continues to make a difference for children in hospital.

In the latest donation Colin Taylor, Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary, delivered 144 Teddy bears to the Children’s Accident and Emergency Centre at Lister Hospital in Stevenage. The scheme works by selling enamel Teddy badges to Lodge members. There are four designs and cost £2 each. Every time one is sold the money goes to buy Teddy bears which are delivered to Hertfordshire Hospitals for the nurses to give to any child that comes in for treatment. The Teddy bears have a small label on the back which says ‘Donated by Local Freemasons.’

Colin said: “The Badges can be drawn from the Provincial Office by Secretaries, Charity Stewards, etc, for £2 each. They then sell them on to their Members.”

In a letter of thanks from the Lister, the specialist play team said: “We would like to thank you very much for your donation of Teddies. As you are probably aware we do not have a budget so to have such wonderful gifts donated to us is really appreciated. “They will be given out to children as presents for being so good and brave in hospital.”
A ‘flush’ of chains Mk ll

Members of the Provincial Executive joined the annual Liberator Memorial Remembrance service last November. PGM Paul Gower was joined by Dave Ferris, Jim Harrison and James Young. They are pictured with Ernie Havis of Crossbrook Lodge in front of the memorial which bears his name (his name is just obscured by the middle upper wreath). Ernie was a World War Two firefighter who bought the ground the memorial stands on and is responsible for it being erected. Our picture was taken by Brian Atherton of Crossbrook Lodge.

Humanitas Lodge meeting

In January a party of Freemasons flew from Stansted Airport via Billund in Denmark to the town of Esbjerg for a four-day visit. They were welcomed at the airport by Danish brethren from the Humanitas Lodge No.830 who provided transport during their stay as well as accommodation in their homes. There were four members of The Prince Hamlet Lodge, Frank Seldvig, Mike Cooper, John Wright and Svend Jensen. The other two in the party were Peter Hamel-Cooke and Ray Crossley, both members of the East and West Chapter No.5410 which meets at Southgate.

On Monday evening the group attended a New Year’s meeting at the Excelsior Lodge No 521 in the Danish Swedish Order System which provided the English Masons with a completely different insight of Masonry. This was followed on Tuesday by an excellent Installation Meeting at the Humanitas Lodge where Hans Jorn Christensen, a member of the Prince Hamlet Lodge and Cloisters Chapter, was installed as Worshipful Master. Many Danish Lodges were represented at this meeting and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On Wednesday, after a Lodge brunch, the group visited a factory where a range of memorial and commemorative stones were manufactured. This was an enjoyable tour with explanations of the various stages of production from the cutting of large boulders to the finished article of commemorative stones in various shapes both large and small. The tour was arranged by W.Bro Per H Olesen who is a member of Cloisters Chapter and Prince Hamlet Lodge.
Charity Shoot

Provincial festival Charity Shoot Tuesday 16th. September 2014

A capacity 100 shooters and supporters gathered to support the Inaugural Provincial Festival Clay Pigeon Shoot at the Markyate Shooting Grounds. ProvGCCS Chris Noble said: “I stopped worrying after 50 bookings then started worrying it would pass the 100 capacity. “There was fantastic support from Bedfordshire, Essex, West Kent, Wilts and of course our own Province with many Lodges represented. “Our hosts, Atkin, Grant and Lang, really looked after us putting on an excellent day.” Becky McKenzie, a winner of many UK and global competitions, was the event’s celebrity shooter. She said it had been “a very friendly and enjoyable day”. Despite taking lessons, the PGM Paul Gower decided to support the day rather than compete. He said: “Let’s hope this kick-starts the Hertfordshire Provincial Clay Pigeon Association.”

“Top Gun” PGM Paul Gower and Provincial Grand Charity Steward Chis Noble

Overall High Gun Winners WBro Steve Whitlock L4498

Overall High Gun Runners Up

Team High Gun with Team Leader WBro Chris Lynch (far right) and the inaugural Trophy.

Team High Gun Runners Up

Festival Shoot Trophy, Made by Jason Littlefield L8556

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Mayflower Place

One of the most unique meeting paces in the Province, the Mayflower Place in Hertingfordbury, has a new man at the helm. Filip Novotny took a 25 year lease on the building, owned by East Herts Lodge and dating back to 1910, in June last year.
And while Masonic meetings will continue to provide the majority of his work, he is keen to branch out into catering for other functions. Filip started his career as a chef 15 years ago before branching out into various managerial roles. He was working in Henley-on-Thames when the opportunity at the Mayflower Place came up. He said: “I live in Bishops Stortford with my wife and two young children so working in Henley on Thames was difficult. “We discussed taking over Mayflower Place as a family and decided it was a great opportunity. “It is a project I plan to spend the rest of my working life on. “We want to improve the building, which is listed, and the surroundings. “It will be a long-term plan.”

Among the non-masonic functions Filip is keen to bring to the premises are weddings, christenings, birthday parties for all ages, and wakes. He is already staging functions for people living nearby including jazz and blues evenings and lunch clubs. “It is also an ideal venue for all sorts of company functions,” he said. “We have an attractive hall with loads of character which can take up to 160 people, a comfortable bar, massive car park, terrific kitchen facilities and beautiful surroundings. “The Mayflower Place has so much potential.”


Mud Brother

Not everyone wants to be covered in mud on a cold Sunday morning in October – unless, of course, it is in a worthy cause.
Lee Kidd, Junior Warden of Walnut Tree Lodge No 5192, did just that. He entered last year’s Tough Mudder event, a 12-mile run through hilly, muddy terrain, with 26 obstacles in your path with names such as Arctic Enema, Walk the Plank, Mud Mile, Electrostoke Therapy and Boa Constrictor.
Lee told Provincial News: “I decided to take part to raise awareness and money for Macmillan Cancer Support which has been instrumental in helping my mum with advice in her situation and fight against Leukaemia. “It is a team event and instead of promoting the best times people can run, it promotes togetherness and camaraderie in helping your fellow ‘Mud Brothers’ or ‘Mudders’ get through the many miles of mud and steep hills and tough obstacles. “It was an obvious choice of event for me considering my being a Freemason with the fraternal undertone which was present throughout the day. “My family, including my mum, were present at the event and were a great motivator throughout the day. “We managed to beat my initial target for donations of £250 and have now gone over the £300 mark to donate to the charity. “My lodge also made a donation for which I am very grateful.”


Noah’s Ark Children’s Hospice

A children’s hospice received a welcome boost from masons in the county. A cheque for £500 was presented to Noah’s Ark Children’s Hospice on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire. Noah’s Ark Children’s Hospice is a community hospice service providing clinical, emotional and practical support for children and young people with life-threatening or life-limiting conditions and their families living in North London.

Punyapriya Singh, community fundraising manager, told Provincial News: “The children we work with have a range of conditions and often have very complex needs. “Our aim is to enable them to live full lives and to achieve their aspirations. “We also aim to ensure that families are able to live life as fully as possible whilst their child is still alive and go on to face the future with hope after bereavement. “We can’t carry out our work without the support of the community.”
W.Bro Michael Dennis ProvSGD and son W.Bro Matthew Dennis of East Herts Lodge No. 3748 have been keen charity fundraisers for many years.

These days Mick tends to keep his feet on the ground, but Matthew decided it would be a good idea to join a team climbing to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in September. His aim was to raise funds for the 2019 Festival.

And, when all the money came in, he had raised just over £1,890. He said it had been a fascinating, but hard climb which “tested his fitness to the limit”.

The final push for the summit took them an exhausting eight hours, but it was worth it. It had been a thrill to stand at such a height and know they had achieved their aim. The return climb was no less difficult and took almost as long.

Matt texted his father Michael and W.Bro Chris Noble, ProvGCS, from camp to inform him of the success. The climb was fully funded by Matt and every penny donated will go to the RMTGB 2019 Herts PGL Festival.

W.Bro Matthew Dennis

Isabel Hospice

Cedars Park Lodge No 8206 members W.Bro. Geoff Barker and W.Bro. Peter Walters visited the in-patient unit at Isabel Hospice in Welwyn Garden City in November to present a cheque for £700 in memory of W. Bro. Dennis Charles PPAGDC who had died in the hospice in September. Dennis had been receiving hospice care firstly at the Thorley Day Centre in Bishops Stortford, and at home and finally in the in-patient unit of the hospice where his final days were made as comfortable as possible by the dedicated staff and volunteers. Indeed on the night before he died Dennis shared a beer with his two sons at his bedside.

The donation was received by Lea Van De Hiet, the nursing team manager and Jordan Russell, a fundraising co-ordinator, who both expressed their gratitude on behalf of the Isabel Hospice for such a generous gift.

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Ninety members and guests attended a Ladies’ reception and dinner at Berkhamsted School in November, hosted by Old Berkhamstedian Lodge, No. 4903. The evening began with drinks and canapés in Old Hall, before all walked through the cloisters to enjoy a five-course dinner in Deans’ Hall. During the evening, entertainment in the form of “Songs from the Shows” was provided by Kathryn Jenkin, a local soprano.

A presentation was made by James Milne, Worshipful Master of Old Berkhamstedian Lodge, to the Principal of Berkhamsted School, Mark Steed of two donations to further cement the relationship between Lodge and school. The first cheque was the Lodge’s annual gift of £500 to Sandi Senior Secondary School, which was established in 1995 and is a co-educational, rural school in the Ngqeleni District of the Eastern Cape. There are about 870 learners aged 15 to 25 and 32 educators. The school is a centre of excellence for mathematics, science and technology. Berkhamsted School developed a financial and friendship link with Sandi in 2004. A further contribution of £1,000 to the Peter Gibbs Science Scholarship was also made. This is a full science scholarship at Berkhamsted School which enables a student who is aspiring to study a science-related subject at university to enter the school in the sixth form. Peter Gibbs was a former pupil and schoolmaster of Berkhamsted School who dedicated his life to the school.

The evening was brought to a close with a raffle of gifts and vouchers donated by local businesses. It raised £1,000, which was equally divided between the Peter Gibbs Science Scholarship and the 2019 Festival Appeal on behalf of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.

Berkhamstedian Lodge Ladies’ reception

Chris told Provincial News: “Supporting the community is very important to everyone in the Chapter alongside our continued support of Masonic charities.”

Natalie said: “It is great to have community support as it costs over £180,000 to run Grove Cottage each year and we get no central funding from Mencap.” Grove Cottage provides social and educational activities for people of all ages with learning disabilities. The aim is to develop their potential, avoid social isolation by supporting lifelong friendship and to provide respite for families.

A presentation was made by James Milne, Worshipful Master of Old Berkhamstedian Lodge, to the Principal of Berkhamsted School Mark Steed

Park Street 8556 brethren and their ladies accepted an invitation to join Kimpton Bowls Club for an afternoon of bowls and cream teas, while competing with the aid of a little tuition. Twenty members and partners, being not sure what to expect, thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon of fun and competition. So much so they have been invited back to repeat the event. A raffle raised £125 which was handed to the club chairman for club funds by the Worshipful Master W.Bro. Steve Savory. Modesty prevents the Prov. GCS from naming the cup winner. He told Provincial News: “Why not contact your local bowls club and arrange a similar event?”

Grove Cottage donation

St Michael’s Chapter donated £1,500 to Grove Cottage, home of the Bishop’s Stortford branch of Mencap, E.Comp Chris Foxcroft MEZ and E.Comp Barry Pyle handed over a cheque to fundraiser Natalie Trapmore.

Chris told Provincial News: “Supporting the community is very important to everyone in the Chapter alongside our continued support of Masonic charities.”

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Bowls club visit

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Son initiates his Father

A unique father and son initiation took place in February.
For W.Bro Paul Clark initiated his dad David Clark into Jubilation Lodge No. 8831 at Ashwell House in St. Albans Provincial Magazine is informed this has not happened before in the Province.

A large number of guests attended including VW.Bro Allan Atkinson PDepPGM along with Grand Officer W.Bro Rod Hancock, PAGDC. The ceremony was conducted to an impressive standard, the charge after initiation being given by W.Bro John Donne in an excellent manner.

Not many members of Freemasonry can boast a 65-year membership of the fraternity, but in January, at Cecil Lodge’s Installation, W.Bro. John Jones did just that. To mark the occasion he was presented with a certificate from Provincial Grand Lodge to celebrate this milestone, by W.Bro. Richard Knifton, Assistant Provincial Grand Master.
W.Bro John was initiated into the Frituna Lodge on October 1, 1949, at the Frinton and Walton Masonic Centre. He became WM there in 1959 and is now an honourary member of the lodge. He joined Cecil Lodge in 1968 and became Master in 1991. He holds the Provincial rank of PPJGW. W.Bro. Richard Knifton said it was a great privilege to present the certificate to John. W.Bro. John thanked him and the Province for the honour they had bestowed on him and reported he had thoroughly enjoyed his 65 years in the Craft.
Cheques for hospices

Gill Macdonald, media officer at Welwyn Garden City-based Isabel Hospice, thanked Chris for the “wonderful” donation of £2,828 which would be a big help providing much-needed services. She added: “Our care is about putting life into days, rather than being able to put days into life and we do this by treating the whole person, not just the illness. “Not all our patients have cancer. We also care for those with end-stage renal, respiratory or heart conditions as well as for those with neurological conditions such as MND.”

A spokeswoman for St. Francis said: “It was an absolute pleasure to meet Chris and we thank you so much for your fantastic donation of £3,016. “The money you have kindly donated will pay for one bed in our in patient unit to run for six whole days, so you can see this will make a real difference.”

Chris with Isabel Hospice fundraising co-ordinator Cheryl Cusack

Provincial Grand Charity Steward Chris Noble gave a welcome boost to two of the county’s hospices. He presented cheques on behalf of The United Grand Lodge of England.

Our pictures show Chris with Isabel Hospice fundraising co-ordinator Cheryl Cusack and Jenny Burrell, senior sister, at The Hospice of St. Francis. Gill Macdonald, media officer at Welwyn Garden City-based Isabel Hospice, thanked Chris for the “wonderful” donation of £2,828 which would be a big help providing much-needed services.

A donation of £500 was presented to Grove House Hospice. The money was part of £800,000 in donations from the Grand Charity. Festival representative Keith Ratley handed over the cheque to Joe Rodford, a volunteer at the charity’s St Albans shop.

Almoner’s report for spring

The Chaplain of High Barnet Masters Lodge 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 Goverment 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.

“The officer, Lt Beach, went forward on foot to complete the recce, leaving myself and a sergeant, Bill Tynan, in the armoured car.

“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.”

Simon Cooper

Provincial Grand Almoner
Mr & Mrs Christmas Light Up Croxley Green Again

Since 1978 W. Bro. Dave Edwards of Croxley Green Lodge 8636 has been festooning his house with Christmas lights in the name of charity. He has raised thousands of pounds thanks to his festive spirit and his wife Carol’s support, by covering his house with up to 30,000 lights and inviting people to donate throughout the Christmas period. This year’s big switch-on was performed by Noah Collins, a five-year old boy with cerebral palsy who benefitted from more than £5,000 that was donated last year. He went to America for an operation that helped him learn to walk. Heart Radio were in attendance to record the moment and DJ Daniel Fox played the clip on his breakfast show. More than 650 people turned up on the night and donated £780.89, the most ever raised on a first night. W.Bro Dave has won many awards, including fundraiser of the year and community person of the year, but stresses he couldn’t have done this without the support of Carol and his family, all of whom get involved, including his grandchildren who help collect money.

In 2013 Channel 5 TV filmed the big switch-on for a programme called the World’s Craziest Christmas Lights and voted Dave Mr Christmas with the best dressed house in the UK. This programme has been seen across the world, with people recognising Dave and Carol when they have been on holiday as far away as Greece. Now 81, Dave relies on the help of friends to climb the ladders to put lights on the roof of his house, but he and Carol still place the other lights around the garden and in their porch. The whole operation takes about two weeks. Dave and Carol fund the cost of electricity themselves, with all donations going to charity and not the power companies.

Kingswood Lodge 125th anniversary

Members of Kingswood Lodge 2278, celebrated their 125th anniversary at their installation at Ashwell House, St. Albans, by organising a banner re-dedication ceremony. The meeting was attended by the RW Provincial Grand Master Paul Gower and various members of his Executive.

The Banner was re-dedicated by the RW PGM Paul Gower and his attendees in an impressive manner. Lodge brethren then paraded the banner in the Lodge “gracefully and in a pleasing manner” much to the enthusiasm of brethren and, as not many such ceremonies are held, the PGM was presented with a cheque for £2,000 for the 2019 Festival Appeal.

The PGM congratulated the Lodge on this momentous landmark and thanked Brethren for the generosity, adding: “If all Lodges in the Province could follow your example, we will reach our goal earlier.”

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REGISTERED
Mark fishing at Tolmers

Tolmers Park is well-supported by Herts masons, not least our Mark Masons who have given money to the scouts to improve their facilities and also help make the lake safer for fishing and canoeing.

And in September, Mark Masons held their first activity at the newly-restored lake when they were joined by 13 disabled children from Amwell End School, together with teachers and care workers.

John Clarke, chairman of the Hertfordshire branch of the MTSFC, headed up a team of fishermen (one per child) and catering staff.

Neil Phillips told Provincial News: “The children loved the experience. “Masons, scouts and teachers present all said they had had a great day. “I presented 13 certificates, one to each child, and three medals.”

Neil received a certificate from John Clarke in recognition of the contribution Mark Masons had made at Tolmers.

Festival golf day

Golfing fundraisers swung into action and made a grand effort for the RMTGB 2019 Festival.

Sixty golfers had an enjoyable day at the Aldwickbury Golf Club Harpenden in September, raising over £1,000 for the appeal.

Competition was keen, but a very friendly atmosphere prevailed over the course and presentation dinner. ProvGCS Chris Noble thanked everyone for their support and promised Provincial News the event would be held again this year.

-Provincial Festival Golf Day Winning Team Ellenbrook 8155 with Team Captain WBro Keith Ratley

“Putting on the style” at the provincial Festival Golf Day

(Left) PGM Paul Gower & John Ilott Toast a successful day

(Below) Young & Old, Masons & Non Masons enjoyed the day
After a successful recruitment process the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire has appointed a new Provincial Communications Officer.

W. Bro Darren Bending PPAGDC, from West Watford Lodge No.6492, will be working closely with a small, but dedicated, team of Hertfordshire Freemasons to ensure that the Province is at the forefront of Craft communications in Hertfordshire.

Darren is spearheading a new strategy designed to not only develop the communications that are already in place, but to also move further into traditional and ‘newer’ media formats. Bro Tom Golds, from Dacre Lodge No.2086, the Assistant Provincial Communications Officer, is focusing on the development of the website and other forms of social media.

The Provincial Communications team has already made some changes to the website and will be making more as time goes on. To catch up go to www.pglherts.org. If you are on Facebook search for and like the page for Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire or search @pglherts for our new and improved Twitter page.

If you would like more information on Provincial communications, a story of what you, or your lodge, or other Brethren have been up to, or you would like to get involved, contact us either through the Provincial Office or through W. Bro Darren’s contact details on the back page. We would be very pleased to talk to you and hear your views.
The Hertfordshire District of Royal and Select Masters held a successful fundraising event at Cheshunt Masonic Centre together with the Knights Templars.

Both the Royal and Select District Grand Master, Right Illustrious Companion Colin Hellyer and the Provincial Prior, Right Eminent Knight Tony Lapsley, were there with many other Companions and Brethren together with wives, partners, friends and families. A similar event will be held this year on November 28.

The evening was a race night with contestants having to draw their horse towards them by reeling in a line attached to a spindle which was underneath their chairs. This was done with their backs to the race track so they could not know who was winning. However, the gathered crowd of supporters were very vocal in their support for their chosen horse – largely because of the small wagers being made. The picture shows some distinguished brethren giving their all in the name of Masonic fundraising! The first reader to correctly identify all three by sending an e-mail to marksaunders@cix.co.uk can claim a pint the next time they see him at a Masonic centre.

The Order of Royal and Select Masters continues to thrive in Hertfordshire with all of our councils, who meet at Royston, Radlett, St Albans, Cheshunt and Letchworth, growing in numbers. The order is open to any Master Mason who has also been advanced into the Mark Degree and Exalted into the Holy Royal Arch.

For more information contact the District Grand Recorder Illustrious Companion Colin Taylor colin.taylor7@ntlworld.com

If you do attend a meeting in the District look out for the new jewels being worn by a few select Companions. The Excellent Master Degree is a personal gift of the Grand Master of the order, Most Illustrious Companion J. Alan Wright, on recommendation from the District Grand Master. However, numbers are strictly limited. Candidates must be Installed Masters and have previously received the Order of the Silver Trowel. This Ceremony has always been known as the Passing of the Veils and it is by agreement reached by Most Illustrious Companion J. Alan Wright with the Masonic authorities in Scotland that it can now be conferred in England and Wales under the authority of the Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters.

Captain William Hall, the grandson of W.Bro. Jack Hall, PJGD, PProvGDC, a member of St Michael's Lodge No.2136, has made his grandfather and his entire family very proud by being awarded the Military Cross. Captain Hall, 32, of the 16th Royal Regiment of Artillery was awarded the MC for exemplary gallantry during land operations in Afghanistan.

Oxhey Lodge rewarded

Brethren of Oxhey Lodge No. 6864 have been rewarded for their efforts on behalf of the 2019 Festival.

Festival jewels were handed out to 19 qualifying Lodge members. The meeting was attended by W.Bro Stuart Hutchison ProvSGW and W.Bro George Laverick ProvGOrat.

W.Bro Hutchison told Provincial News: “We enjoyed an excellent meeting with the Master and brethren of Oxhey Lodge. “We witnessed a superb ceremony and had a first class evening. “W.Bro Terry Diamond, Lodge Charity Steward, handed over a cheque for £4,935 for the RMTGB.”

A proud Masonic grandfather

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Museum Report

The Provincial museum, library and archive continue to progress well, especially the archive. I never cease to be amazed by what just turns up and is left at Fleet House. We are, of course, very grateful to all members who have donated items. This has meant we now have a very useful and impressive collection. Visitors have increased quite noticeably, as well as pre-arranged groups from Lodges and Chapters. Some of the recent additions, while they may not be very impressive to look at, have been extremely important. For instance, we have a superb collection of important brochures of notable Grand Lodge events ranging from the Installation of the Prince of Wales as Grand Master in 1875. But despite searching, we have never had a copy of the VIP brochure and programme for the opening of the Rickmansworth Senior Girls School by HM Queen Mary. A week or so ago an original copy was left here.

Mrs Barbara Kent, the widow of RW Bro Godfrey Kent has kindly donated his Grand Lodge Patent of PGM and the Rose Croix Patent of Inspector General, but also a rather unusual item of his Patent of Assistant Provincial Grand Master when he was a Past Provincial Deacon and not a Grand Officer. This ties up with his first APGM’s apron on display at Royston.

The creation of a Provincial archive has assisted in responding to the ever-increasing requests from relatives and historians. These can be about a vast range of subjects from a simple, “Was my grandfather a Mason?”, to a university student making a full study of Freemasonry in Hertfordshire. But the files will never be complete. There is always room for more. If you or your Lodge or Chapter has anything to spare, please send it to Fleet House. Items like Consecration Banners, Jubilee and Centenary brochures, Certificates, photos, menus, etc. The archive covers Craft, Royal Arch, Mark, RAM, Rose Croix, KT and all other orders. The Provincial Grand Master has recently presented us with an unusual apron of the Grand Lodge of Colombia which is now on display. Naturally we can always take more items, especially old pottery, silver, wood, brass and of course jewels. The Banner Project continues well and soon we will have a very valuable research facility. Our Province has been invited to assist in formulating the heritage and public awareness plans for the tercentenary of Grand Lodge in 2017, especially in regard to museums throughout the country.

We continue to give Secretaries and Scribes essential information about keeping and preserving the official records, something we are very pleased to do, especially to those who have just taken office. As always, if you have anything Masonic to dispose of, please don’t throw away. Let us have a look at it first. A number of Lodges and Chapters have had a clear-out of their locker or box to make more room and passed items to the museum either as a donation or loaned. I will end this report with the words that I always end my talk to Lodges and Chapters about the museum. “Fleet House, the Hodge Room Museum, the library and archive are all your property. Why not come and inspect your property?”

Our museum curator celebrates 50th year

Back in December members of The Grove Park Lodge (No.2732) hosted a very special meeting, when W.Bro Brian Tierney was awarded a 50-Year Certificate of Service to Freemasonry by the PGM, Paul Gower.

What makes this almost unique is the fact that W. Bro Brian Tierney has never missed a meeting of his Mother Lodge since he was initiated in 1964.

Almost the entire Hertfordshire Provincial Executive as well as heads of the Royal Arch and Mark Masonry in Hertfordshire attended the meeting, which was followed by a Champagne reception and an excellent Festive Board. Until 18 months ago W.Bro Brian Tierney was the Province’s APGM. He is also the long-standing curator of the Provincial Museum and Library in Fleet House.
The beginning of a new era in the Province was witnessed by members of the Salisbury Union Lodge No.767 and their guests.

For, in January, the lodge initiated the first University of Hertfordshire Student Candidate under the auspices of the United Grand Lodge of England’s Universities’ Scheme. Ed Davies, is a third year student studying Philosophy at the university.

The ceremony was carried out by the Immediate Past Master, W. Bro Ron Faulds PAGDC, at Ashwell House, St Albans. To mark the significance this auspicious occasion the Provincial Grand Master, RW Brother Paul Gower, was in attendance along with the University Scheme President, RW Bro David Williamson, PAGM, accompanied by other senior Brethren.

Two new honorary members, APGM’s W. Bro Richard Knifton and W. Bro James Harrison, were also warmly welcomed by members.

A Steward of the Lodge, Bro Rory MacDonald, a PhD student with the University of Newcastle, and the Lodge’s first student member, having been Initiated, Passed and Raised in 2014, acted as Junior Deacon for the ceremony.

The ceremony was rounded off with Lodge Secretary, W. Bro John Letham, delivering the Charge After Initiation, with the DC and ADC, W. Bro Peter Lucas and W. Bro Graham Kolthammer demonstrating the answering of the questions leading to the Second Degree for the benefit of Bro Davies.

RW Bro David Williamson PAGM accepted an invitation to present Grand Lodge Certificates to Bros Geoffrey Faulds and Rory Macdonald, which he did in a most interesting manner showing the certificates of his father and grandfather.

As Scheme President, he then personally welcomed Salisbury Union Lodge No.767 to the Universities’ Scheme and congratulated them for the “excellent manner in which the ceremony was conducted”, with particular praise for the acting Junior Deacon (Bro Rory MacDonald).

A short presentation about the Universities Scheme was then received from Scheme Committee Member W. Bro David Thompson, PAGDC.

Finally, the Charity Steward, W. Bro Graham Wilson, presented the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master with a cheque towards the Province’s Festival Appeal.

At the Festive Board, a recorded video message from the Installed Master, W. Bro Neil Connolly, was played, in which he thanked Brethren for all the support for this meeting. Bro Ed Davies and diners were then treated to a rendition of the Entered Apprentice’s Song from the Provincial Singers, specially arranged for Salisbury Union Lodge by W. Bro Ken Burgess and W. Bro Graham Kolthammer.

A Lodge spokesman told Provincial News: “We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those Brethren who have supported the Lodge in preparing for this meeting, particularly those from Lodges 4090, 8984 and others who supported rehearsals for Multiple Candidate Ceremonies at the Lodge of Instruction.”

More details about the Salisbury Union Lodge No.767 can be found on the Lodge’s website salisburyunion.org.uk. The lodge is particularly keen to hear from those who have an association with the University of Hertfordshire.

Due to space restrictions and the number of articles received, some stories are being held over for the autumn edition. To avoid disappointment, please submit articles as early as possible and not wait until the deadline period.
Bi Annual Church Service

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication of the Repairs to the Nave Screen at the Cathedral and Abbey Church of Saint Alban on Sunday July 5.

This will be a service to celebrate the close bonds between the Abbey Church and Hertfordshire Freemasons. The highlight will be the Dedication of the repaired Nave Screen; the cost of the work was assisted by a generous grant from the Hertfordshire Mark Province. These restoration works were vital ahead of the 900th anniversary of the abbey’s dedication, when there will be the installation and blessing of statues of Christian martyrs on the Nave Screen. This is believed to be the first time since the Reformation that polychromatic statues have been restored to a medieval cathedral screen.

The sculptor is Rory Young, responsible for modelling the Genesis Cycle carvings on the Great West Doorway of York Minster, the life-size Millennium Pilgrim statue in Southwell Minster and many other church and private commissions. The Provincial Grand Master cordially invites all Hertfordshire Masons with their friends and families to attend this Thanksgiving Service to acknowledge the events and asks them to join him for refreshments after the service in the North Transept of the Abbey Church. The service will start at 3.30pm. The reception is planned for 4.30pm until 5.45pm. Brethren are invited to wear full dress regalia with no gloves. There are no changing facilities so it is advised that regalia be carried in plastic bags or small cases.

Free tickets are available to brethren by application to the Provincial Office. For more details please see the flyer enclosed with this copy of Provincial News.

 Provincial Grand Steward

On April 13, W. Bro. David Ferris, APGM, was installed as Worshipful Master of the Hertfordshire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge No 8984 by the PGM, RW Bro. Paul Gower.

The Lodge was consecrated in 1981 as a working Lodge of service and support to the PGM and the Province of Hertfordshire, fulfilling duties as Escorts to the PGM and Executive, and at all other events organised by the Province as and when required. Over the years the Stewards Lodge has formed an important part of provincial life and activity.

W. Bro. David joined in 1990 having been made an Essex Steward in 1989. He follows a long line of distinguished brethren who are Past Masters of the Lodge and still actively carry out their duties as Stewards serving the Province, including James Young DepGM, James Sharpley PDepGM and MEGS, Keith Gilbert APGM, and Brian Tierney PAPGM.

Liaison and inter-visiting is encouraged between other Provincial Grand Stewards Lodges where fellow Stewards meet and discuss current practices and differing ways of responding to Provincial responsibilities and good practice. The Stewards’ main duties involve stewarding at our Annual Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting, and without their assistance at this highlight of our Provincial Year the event would not proceed as smoothly. They fulfil an important part of the Provincial Team’s work on the day. It is important to note it is incumbent on Stewards to present an impressive presence and professionalism which helps set the standard for the rest of the meeting. These standards and commitment by the red aprons are shown in many other ways. Our Stewards assist with the marshalling and organising of the bi-annual Church Services and help behind the scenes overseeing other events, highlighting Freemasonry in the community. The Province shares a very strong bond with the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, and the Stewards Lodge has added to the strength of that relationship with assistance given to Abbey-related events in the community. These duties, worthy of mention, include attendance at the St Albans Abbey Flower Festival 2014, which received worldwide visitations, and also annual help to ensure the St Albans Pilgrimage to celebrate St Alban, proceeds safely through the City and culminates in an open air service at the Abbey Church.

Less high profile involvement, but still important in the operation of the Province, includes envelope filling with the issues of the Provincial News for distribution to the brethren of Hertfordshire. The Lodge has a long and proud association with the Province and the award and acceptance of the red apron pledges not only committed service and participation during their two-year period of active Provincial duties, but also when they are Past Provincial Stewards. The distinctive badge may be worn with pride at Stewards events throughout a brother’s association with this prestigious and important Lodge in our Province and they will continue to serve in the future whenever assistance is sought.
Brethren these are your pages, so please contact me if you have news about your Lodge. If you are doing something special for the Hope for Tomorrow Charity, I also look forward to hearing from you.

In September, W.Bro Graeme McCormack, with a riding companion, completed a 100-mile cycle ride around every Masonic hall in Hertfordshire that hosts a MMM or RAM Lodge meeting. This was on behalf of The MBF towards the Hope for Tomorrow charity. He raised £140. After a gruelling day W.Bro Graeme, aching in every joint, said “ouch! but job well done”.

In November, Bro Martin Roche was installed as Master of Halsey Lodge MMM no 1489 at the Royston Masonic Centre by W.Bro Phil Smith and then invested his officers. But that was where normal proceedings ended. The Lodge was then called off and Mrs Natalie Smith was invited into the Lodge. Natalie, having heard from her husband Simon, a Lodge member, about the Hope for Tomorrow charity, decided she wanted to help. Without informing Simon, she started to train, with the help of her father and family, for a half marathon to take place 11 weeks later, in July last year.

On February 1, Bro. Justin Tepper, of the Cheshunt Lodge (he is the one who deals with the Facebook for the Mark degree) decided to have his beard and his head completely shaved. He did this to raise money for Hope for Tomorrow. Sponsorship is going well, but all donations will be accepted. Good luck Justin.

Simon was then told and immediately got behind her. She had not run for many years but soon had friends and relatives with her. The run was called ‘Fit for the Challenge’, The Bassingbourne Beastly Run’. It was 13.1 miles, completed in two hours 19 minutes on road and cross country. In her words, “I had to cross that line”.

On her Facebook Just Giving page she raised £800. A client, who had suffered for many years with cancer, gave her an envelope and told her it was her donation. In the envelope was £500. Natalie is a well respected hairdresser and, together with her friends, relatives and the MMM of Halsey Lodge, she raised a total of £3,000 for the Hope for Tomorrow charity. Rt.W.Bro. John Prizeman, PGM of Hampshire Isle of Wight and President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, journeyed all the way to Royston, to present a Grand Patrons brooch pendant to Natalie.

After the presentation, Rt.W.Bro Prizeman gave a short talk and Natalie replied in a most eloquent manner. Simon listened intently and was a very proud man. Natalie said that she was not finished. Well done to a very determined lady.

The pendant broach she was presented with was the first of a new design and also the first to be presented.

Also in November members of the Hemel Hempstead Lodge of MMM No 1291 attended its 50th anniversary meeting. A toast to the second 50.

On a sad note Eleanor Cross Lodge of MMM and RAM, having found it difficult to fill meetings, decided to surrender their warrants. This will take place at the meeting on May 20th 2015. Due to falling numbers only seven attended the last RAM meeting. Every regular attending member has been invited to join other lodges. We wish them all well.

At a meeting in February of the Royal Savoy Lodge members voted to cease being a Middlesex Lodge and have asked to be taken under the Hertfordshire banner as they meet at Cheshunt. So we have lost one Lodge and have gained another.
Report from Naya Inyama, a recipient of a scholarship that Hertfordshire MMM sponsors. We believe this young Lady will go far and are happy to support her.

My name is Naya Inyama. I am the youngest of four children and have lived in East London for 19 years of my life.

Most of my schooling was done in East London. I achieved 10 GCSE’s, A*-B and 3 A Levels B-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 from then on 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 am continuing to achieve top grades in my modules.

I am thoroughly enjoying 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 will act as a 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. I look forward to implementing new policies, procedures, reward and benefits systems.

I look forward to working with a team of HR professionals who are devoted to strengthening the HR function and maintaining overall employee satisfaction.

With this successful career in HR under my belt, I then hope to make the transition into Occupational Psychology. I anticipate I may need to undergo a Master’s 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 that various more opportunities are now 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.

Warm Regards Naya Inyama
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

Dates for your diary
It will again be held at Waltham Abbey. We have always been made most welcome at this beautiful, ancient venue. It is a full family occasion, so all Knights are encouraged to bring their families and friends. We are also entertained afterwards with a delicious tea. Not to be missed.

Again, for the second year, this will be held at Freemasons’ Hall, Great Queen Street. This is open to Knights of all ranks.

This will be held at The Metropolitan Police Sports Club at Bushey, where the facilities and parking are excellent. We will of course be appointing and investing our new team of Provincial Officers for the year, so make sure that your Preceptory is there in strength to congratulate them. We will be giving very special thanks at this meeting to EKt Philip Hoy, who stands down as our Vice Chancellor. Philip stepped in at very short notice a few years ago, when Barry Searle’s illness prevented him from continuing in office.

Full details and booking forms for these three meetings will be circulated to Preceptory Registrars.

A military historian looks over the parapet

Many of you will have met EKt Michael Phelan, who is one of our Provincial Officers of the year. What you probably didn't know, is that he is an eminent military historian. He has a particular interest in the history of The Knights Templar in this Province during the past 50 years. During our conversations while on the Provincial circuit, Michael has expressed a great interest in meeting up with, and forming an interest group of, Freemasons in Hertfordshire who would like to explore further information on these subjects.

We will shortly be including a section devoted to this on the Provincial website. However, those who would like to contact Michael for further information and interest, contact him at, 118 Beechfield, Hoddesdon, EN11 9QL.
Tel: 01992 467093. Email, m.phelan73@ntlworld.com

Coming of age

Two of the Province’s oldest Preceptories will celebrate significant anniversaries this year. The Stuart Preceptory No 28, consecrated on July 28, 1840, will reach its 175th year on June 8, 2015, and The Melita Preceptory No 37, consecrated in 1815 in Malta, will reach its 200th year.

Both of these anniversaries will be celebrated in grand style, and we expect a very large attendance. On this occasion, The Stuart Preceptory will hold its meeting at The Metropolitan Police Sports Club at Bushey, where the venue can hold up to 250. The Melita Preceptory will hold its meeting at Halsey Hall in Cheshunt, where again, a large number of visitors can be accommodated.

For both days, the Province will attend in great numbers, and, we expect many distinguished visitors from Great Priory, and from abroad.

Both Preceptories will, of course, welcome visitors from our own Province, so all those Knights who wish to be part of these wonderful celebrations will need to book in early.

Contact the Registrars of the Preceptories as early as you can, so you are not disappointed.

For Stuart Preceptory contact, Eric Misselke, 16 Lakeside, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 7NN.
Email, ericmisselke@yahoo.co.uk

For Melita Preceptory contact, John D Roberts, 5 Priory Gate, Thomas Rochford Way, Cheshunt, Herts, EN8 0SG. Tel: 01992 444689

As a Christian Royal Arch Mason we welcome you to take your next step in Freemasonry and join The United Religious Military & Masonic Order of Knights Templar in Hertfordshire

Please contact E Kt. David Greenland, PGtHer
For full information and your nearest Preceptory
01582 516680 • 07889 904826
david.c.greenland@ntlworld.com
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

Sunday Luncheon
On Sunday, September 28, the Red Cross of Constantine for Hertfordshire held a Sunday carvery luncheon hosted by the Intendant-General, Rt III Knight Brian Muir and his wife Anne. It was a splendid, sell-out affair attended by members of the Division of Hertfordshire, together with their partners and friends.

The luncheon was held at the Great Hadham Country Club and arranged by Pamela Young’s and a cheque for £50 was sent on her behalf.

As it was such a success we have arranged another one this year on September 27. Application forms will be available later in the year.

Divisional Conclave
This year’s Annual Divisional Conclave for the Division of Hertfordshire was held on Saturday, February 28, at Ashwell House, St.Albans.

Our Intendant General, R.III.Kt Brian Muir opened a packed Conclave and welcomed everyone present.

The Conclave was honoured by the visit of the Deputy Grand Sovereign R.III. and Em.Kt. Peter Hawken, MBE, GCC plus eight Intendant-Generals, two Past Intendant Generals, five Deputy Intendant Generals and a number of other distinguished Brethren from both outside and inside the Division. The intendant General was also delighted that over 50 per cent of Hertfordshire Knights were present.

A cheque was presented to Peter Hawken by the Intendant-General for the Grand Sovereign’s Care for Children Fund. This was a charity originated by Victor Wallis the previous Grand Sovereign and originally called The Millenium Fund. Most of its donations are to established charities specialising with disadvantaged children in the UK and, in particular, children’s hospices and other projects to give some happiness to terminally ill children.

The business of the Divisional Conclave then took place including the re-appointment of our Deputy Intendant-General Ill.Kt Gavin O’Sullivan PGChamb. All other Divisional Officers were then appointed and the rest of the business carried out.

At the festive board, we were honoured to have RW.Bro. Paul Gower, Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire, E.Comp Jim Sharpley MEGS and RW.Bro. Chris Radmore, PGM of the Mark Degree as the guests of the Division as well as some 29 visitors from other divisions across the country.

To commemorate the visit of the Deputy Grand Sovereign to our Division the Intendant-General presented him with a very special book. The book was a pre-publication copy of an illustrated history of the Abbey and its treasures not yet available to the public and was obtained for Divisional Conclave by George Laverick, who also managed to get a dedication from the Dean of St. Albans Abbey.

The whole day was a very splendid and colourful affair and enjoyed by all present.

Appendant Orders
The next Appendant Orders ceremonies are planned to be held as part of the normal meeting of The Rose Walk Conclave No. 389 at Radlett, on Saturday, November 7. All members are invited to attend.

New Conclave in Bishops Stortford
We are still looking for founders of a possible new conclave to be formed in Bishops Stortford. 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 Cambell (john.campbell40@btopenworld.com)

RCC 150th Anniversary Church Service
Grand Imperial Conclave has confirmed that the RCC 150th Church Service will take place on Saturday, September 19, at Lincoln Cathedral at 11a.m. followed by a reception and lunch at the Lincoln Showground.

RCC 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.

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 contact Albert Waite Divisional Recorder (albert.waite@virgin.net) for membership details.
In his reply, E Comp John expressed his gratitude to all those who had served the Province with him and all companions who had welcomed him into their Chapters whenever he had visited, either in an official capacity or as a private guest and which had made Hertfordshire such a happy province. The Deputy Grand Superintendent, who was also due to retire at the same time, was also thanked by E Comp John for all his hard work, both as Deputy for the last five years and an active officer of the Province for the past 23 years. The outgoing Grand Superintendent thanked his wife Glenys, who “had been such a tower of strength in supporting him with all his Masonic duties” and thanked Mrs Elaine Clift for her support of Ian with his duties. Mrs Ilott and Mrs Clift were presented with bouquets before E Comp John presented E Comp Ian with a token of appreciation for his unstinting loyalty and hard work on behalf of the Province.

In closing, E Comp John thanked all those present for sharing “this wonderful occasion” with him. He then drew the raffle, which raised around £500, which he donated to the Craft’s 2019 Appeal in support of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.

John Ilott Says Farewell

In October 2014 Most Excellent Grand Superintendent John Ilott attended his final meeting before he retired from office. The meeting, Herts First Principals Chapter No. 4090, was held at Halsey Hall Cheshunt and attended by 123 Companions.

It held several surprises for E Comp John, the first of which was when three Grand Superintendents from neighbouring Provinces entered the temple after the Chapter had opened. Scribe E David Williams had managed to get E Comps Kenneth Benford of Berkshire, Robert Lovesey of Bedfordshire and Wayne Williams of Northants & Huntingdonshire into the centre without E Comp John seeing them so their entrance to the temple was a complete shock, “but an absolute delight”.

E Comp John gave his reply and presented E Comp Ian Clift, Deputy Grand Superintendent who was also retiring from active duties after 23 years since taking his first active role as Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1991. He thanked Ian for his devotion to duty and for the special friendship they had forged over the years.

E Comp Ian gave his reply and presented E Comp John with a cheque which was the culmination of a collection from each Chapter within the Province. This was greeted with rapturous applause from all the companions.

At the Festive Board another surprise awaited E Comp John when the newly installed First Principal, Keith Sharpley, presented a decanter and four glasses, engraved with the 4090 logo and inscribed with the message ‘Presented to M E John Ilott from the Companions of Hertfordshire First Principals Chapter No. 4090, 27th October 2014’. Companions drank a toast to E Comp John. E Comp John concluded by saying the 2014 Annual Convocation would be the first he had missed in more than 30 years and he sincerely wished E Comp James Sharpley a happy and successful meeting and many happy and healthy years ahead.
Excellent Companion John Whinney

E Comp John Whinney was presented with a certificate to mark 50 years’ service to the Royal Arch. John was initiated into Castle Lodge of Harmony No 26 by his father in April 1952, within two weeks of turning 21. In January 1965 he was exalted in Castle Chapter of Harmony No 26, having served as a Grand Steward in 1960, an honour that was repeated in 1980. One of the highlights of John’s Masonic career was serving as a Steward at the Royal Albert Hall on the occasion of the Installation of HRH Duke of Kent as Most Worshipful Grand Master.

John has served the Royal Arch and the Craft well over the years, having been elected auditor for Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter in 1967, posts he held until 1988. He was also Treasurer of Castle Lodge of Harmony for 48 years and Castle Chapter of Harmony for 44 years. He has had several active ranks in the Royal Arch including Grand Sojourner in 1975 and Grand Scribe N in 1993.


When he was 20 years old, John’s Father asked him whether he had considered joining Masonry. He said, “no, because “I don’t know anything about it”. His father responded by saying that he didn’t want to pressurise John into it, but said that if he did join, he would have no regrets.

As John said: “This prediction has proved, if anything, an understatement. I have hugely enjoyed my masonry and all the many friends I have met.”

Allan Atkinson 50 year Certificate

Allan Atkinson is a founding member of Prae Wood Chapter. He was initiated into Craft masonry in Harrogate & Claro Lodge 1001 in May, 1963 and became Master in 1974. He subsequently joined a number of Lodges and has held many Provincial Ranks, culminating in Dep ProvGM in 2004. His Grand Rank offices have been PJGD 1991, PSGD 2000, and PGSwdB in 2005. He was exalted into Harrogate & Claro Chapter 1001 in February, 1965. A member of other chapters including Herts First Principals Chapter 4090 he received LGCR in 1997 and Grand Rank as GStB in 2008.

The Annual Convocation

On Monday, November 3, 2014, the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter was held at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street.

Nearly 700 Companions witnessed the Past Third Grand Principal, Sir David Wooton, install Excellent Companion James Sharpley as the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Hertfordshire. The ceremony carried all the pomp and splendour that Supreme Grand Chapter brings to such occasions and E Comp James was installed with great dignity and sincerity.

The newly installed Most Excellent Grand Superintendent then installed his executive. E Comp Gary Warren was installed as Second Grand Principal, Tim Cole remained as Third Grand Principal and E Comp David Hampton was invested as Deputy Grand Superintendent. Robert Asser was promoted to Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, and E Comps David Enoch, Paul Blakemore and John Linley remained in office as treasurer, Scribe E and assistant Scribe E respectively.

Ninety-six Companions received promotions or attained their first appointments within Provincial Grand Chapter. In his address to the Companions, MEGS James came into the chapter unannounced with E Comp Alan Withey, Provincial Deputy DC. After the presentation of the certificate the Principals proceeded to Exalt a candidate and the MEGS and his Deputy DC stayed for the festive board.

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Allan Atkinson was presented with his 50 year Certificate of Service to Royal Arch Masonry by Provincial Grand Superintendent James Sharpley on Monday, March 2, at Ashwell House, during the meeting of Prae Wood Chapter.

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