Our new APGM studied English at the Universities of Leeds and London, and began teaching in Hertford in 1979, during which time he was also the sub-organist of All Saints.

A love of church music drew him in 1987 to a post at King’s College Choir School in Cambridge, where he was housemaster of the boarders, English Master, librarian and latterly – to his surprise (and dismay) – head of I.T.

In 1999, he moved to Oakham School in Rutland, where he spent 16 years in the English department and as senior girls’ tutor.

He has now moved back to Ware, where he grew up, working freelance as an organist and funeral director. Among other regular engagements, he is once again at All Saints’, Hertford, as Associate Organist.

It was the early connection with All Saints’ Church, where the then vicar, the Rev. Reginald Haw, was a senior organist, that led to Initiation into Hertford Lodge No. 403 in 1986. He was Master in 1995 and 2007, has had two spells as Director of Ceremonies and is currently Treasurer. He is a member of Hertfordshire Masters’ Lodge No. 4090, Hertford Royal Arch Chapter No. 403 (where he spent six years in succession going through the Principals’ Chairs) and the Godfrey Kent Rose Croix Chapter No. 1117. Appointed Provincial Grand Standard Bearer in 2002, and Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in 2008, he became Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 2015. He is also a Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in the Royal Arch.

As organ accompanist to a number of choirs, he has played at many churches and cathedrals in England and Wales, including St Paul’s, Canterbury and York Minster, and in Venice and Rome. He has held a private pilot’s licence since 1982. He is an ardent consumer of real ale and Indian food, interests “which sadly cannot always be wisely, or safely, combined”.

NEW APGM - JOHN NORRIS

Our new APGM found it necessary to step down due to ill-health. He thanked W.Bro Mike for his hard work and commitment over the past two years before going on to announce that he would be appointing W.Bro John Norris, PProvJGW, to the position of Assistant Provincial Grand Master in his stead.

The Provincial Grand Master also appointed W.Bro Fred Charnock PPGsuptWks to take on the role of Provincial Grand Mentor, following W.Bro Peter Thompson PAGDC, W.Bro Bob Cordery to the position of Provincial Grand Orator, taking over from W.Bro George Laverick PGStB, and W.Bro Terry Mitchinson SLGR as our new Provincial Communications Officer, taking over from W.Bro Darren Bending PPAGDC. He thanked all those retiring for their very valuable service during their terms in office.

In his address, the Provincial Grand Master spoke about the Liaison Officers Scheme that is developing well, and called for more volunteers to get involved in the project. He also congratulated all those who had voted in the recent Masonic Charitable Foundation Community Awards. Hertfordshire mustered more votes than any other Province in the country, and were only beaten in the number of votes cast by Metropolitan Grand Lodge which has five times as many members.

After congratulating the 363 Brethren he had appointed or promoted and thanking UGLE staff, the Provincial Secretary, the Provincial DC and their teams and the Board of Provincial Stewards for all their hard work in making the day such a success, the Provincial Grand Master thanked everyone for their support of him and of our Province of ‘Happy Hertfordshire’.

This year’s Provincial Meeting was another memorable occasion; 1,000 Hertfordshire Masons gathered in the splendid surroundings of the Grand Temple at Freemasons’ Hall, welcoming visitors from far and wide, and 540 dined afterwards in the Grand Connaught Rooms.

During the meeting, the PGM announced a number of changes to the Provincial executive and wider team. He first spoke of his regret that W.Bro Michael Cooper, APGM, had
Abbey service

It was a glittering occasion when historic St Albans Abbey hosted a special service marking 300 years of Freemasonry in England.

More than 450 masons in full regalia, together with their families, gathered for the thanksgiving celebration. The service was attended by the Provincial Grand Master of Hertfordshire, Paul Gower and Sir David Hugh Wootton, Assistant Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England and a former Lord Mayor of London, the Dean of St Albans, the Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John and the Bishop of Hertford, the Right Reverend Dr Michael Beasley. Also present at the Abbey was councillor Annie Brewster, former Mayor of St Albans.

PGM Paul Gower said: “We are truly grateful to the Dean and Chapter of the Abbey for allowing this service to be held once again, further strengthening the ties between the Diocese of St Albans and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire.”

Deputy Provincial Grand Master David Ferris added: “The liaison and co-operation between the Abbey and Hertfordshire Freemasons are well established, with masons assisting at various Cathedral events, particularly the Annual Pilgrimage in June where they help steward the popular event celebrating St Alban, which is attended by pilgrims from around the world.”

“Freemasons contribute over £33 million a year as one of the UK’s largest charitable givers. Raising funds largely through voluntary donations by freemasons, they help support individual members and families, local communities and global emergencies.”

Provincial News magazine editor Terry Mitchinson said: “Thanks go to everyone who helped organise this very special celebration. “It was a truly memorable afternoon and a fitting way to mark a significant milestone for Freemasonry.”

The Abbey service was one of many events happening throughout the country celebrating the Tercentenary of the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1717.
Major Ron Etherington

Major Ron Etherington celebrated his 100th birthday with his family, grandchildren, great grandchildren and friends in July.

Ron is pictured with a few of those Masonic friends who attended the celebrations. Most are from two of his Hertfordshire Lodges, Stortford 409 and St Michael's 2136, with both of which he has long been associated with.

He has been a character of considerable note for many years at the Sawbridgeworth and Bishop's Stortford centres. ‘The Major’ was Tyler to these Lodges for a considerable number of years and countless candidates have benefited from his military precision and instruction.

A fine lunch was held “to honour a great man who has served his country with distinction, not only in World War Two, but also in pre-war and post war Army service”. Ron still attends meetings whenever possible and continues to enjoy his Masonry.

Two of his Hertfordshire colleagues, James Young and Edward Miller, couldn’t attend his celebrations but made a special visit to his sheltered accommodation a few days prior to his 100th birthday, in order to take a gift to him.

Jazz Event

It was certainly a moment of jubilation when Jubilation Lodge hosted a Sunday lunchtime jazz event at Ashwell House, St Albans.

W.Bro Graham Cook brought along his 17-piece band, OMJ, which played a mixture of old and new songs with a ‘Big Band’ sound. Numbers including Skyfall, Misty, Street Life and Fly Me to the Moon, entertained a 60-strong audience which included Provincial Grand Charity Steward Chris Noble and his wife Jayne.

£500 was raised for the 2019 Festival.

Chris Noble thanked the band for its “very generous donation of their time and expertise”. He also thanked the audience for their support.

OMJ were formed originally to support the TLC ‘Teddies for Hospital’ Appeal.

Anyone wanting to book OMJ for an event should contact W.Bro Cook on 07836 355 007 or email jazz56andomj@gmail.com

Brighton bike ride

W.Bro Tony Hyams and his wife Rolanda took part in this year’s London to Brighton cycle ride.

They raised £500 for the RMTGB.

W.Bro Tony of Hartsbourne Lodge No 9680 and W.Bro Chris Noble the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, are urging all Herts cyclists to join them next year and form a Hertfordshire Provincial Team in support of the 2019 Festival.

All money raised is accredited to the member and his Lodge.

Please log your interest by emailing Chris Noble on provgcs@pgherts.org

Province online

Keep up-to-date with all the news, social events and history of your province at www.pgherts.org
Long Service Certificates

2017 60 year certificates
April 2017 Andrew Stewart Herts Masters 4090
May 2017 Eric Munday St Augustine’s 8579
May 2017 David Wardrop Ware 3002
May 2017 Neil Thomson Cecil 449
May 2017 (Laurie) Arthur Pyle Stanstead Abbotts 9085
June 2017 Marshall Levy Hartsbourne 9680*

2017 50 year certificates
April 2017 Peter Johnson Chorleywood 3247
April 2017 Michael Fisher Herts Masters 4090
May 2017 John Manning Grove Park 2732
May 2017 Cyril Kanter Samson 1668
Sept 2017 David Caspall Lea Valley 4827
Sept 2017 Peter Duckworth Tring 5001

*Marshall Levy died on 26 July 2017, but had reached 60 years of service in June 2017.

W.Bro Neil Thomson
A 60 Year Certificate of Service to Freemasonry was presented to W.Bro Neil Thomson at a recent meeting of Cecil Lodge 449, by W.Bro Dick Knifton. W.Bro Thomson was Initiated into The Industrial Engineers Lodge 7516 in May, 1957. He became Master in 1967 and again in 2007, and was promoted to SLGR in 1991. He joined Cecil Chapter 449 in 1991 becoming MEZ in 1998 and gaining promotion to PProvDepGreg in 1999. W.Bro Thomson joined Cecil Lodge in 2013 following the closure of his London Lodge.

W.Bro Andrew Stewart
Churchwarden Andrew Stewart has celebrated 60 years in Freemasonry. He was born near Liverpool, the youngest of four children and later trained as a surveyor. He and wife Carole have two children, Louise and Mark, and two grandchildren. Andrew was following in a family tradition when he joined Freemasonry as both his father and maternal grandfather were Masons. He was initiated into Totteridge Lodge by his father and later installed as WM in his Mother Lodge. He has held a number of offices within Hertfordshire and Nottinghamshire and is a member of Royal Arch and Rose Coix. He has been a lay preacher and churchwarden at three different churches.

Former PGM’s wife celebrates her 100th birthday
Barbara Kent, wife of popular former PGM Godfrey, celebrated her 100th birthday back in the spring. She marked the occasion with a party attended by friends and family in May. Barbara still lives in the moated farmhouse she moved into with Godfrey in 1971. A representation of the house is on the Godfrey Kent Lodge Summons and Banner. The house is built on the site of a reputed former Stone Age fort.

W.Bro Ted Long, second Master of the lodge, said: “Guests at the party included one grandson who asked me for a joining application, so hopefully we will welcome one of Godfrey’s grandsons into Royston Lodge, Godfrey’s Mother Lodge, next season. “I had known Godfrey since I joined Royston in 1978 and took him out on many occasions, especially when I was ProvADC and he was PGM. “I got to know Barbara well when Godfrey insisted on my having a ‘small’ nightcap on dropping him home.”

Tercentenary bowls
Two teams of bowls fans from the county took part in a tournament staged to mark Freemasonry’s Tercentenary. Players from Herts, hosts Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Middlesex did battle. Each Province entered two teams in a league format tournament. After hard fought clashes in each of the two leagues the final was between Middlesex A and Oxfordshire A. Middlesex came out on top and the team was presented with a trophy by Oxfordshire PGM RW James Hilditch. Herts came fourth and fifth.

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Provincial Curator's Report
By Museum curator Brian Tierney

Yet another busy six months with much to catalogue and photograph. Again, the research enquiries have increased. These mainly come from relatives who are researching family history. Hence my continual request for items of Lodge and Chapter interest to be placed in the files. The introduction of the Provincial Tercentenary Heritage Project detailing the banners in the last issue has certainly been well received. The website has already been visited nearly 1,500 times.

If you have not yet looked at it, please go to www.hertsmasonicbanners.uk

If you have any further information not detailed please let us know at archivist@pglherts.org

A considerable quantity of unusual regalia from other Orders and countries has been donated, some of which is currently on display. With this donation came over 30 certificates, some of which we had never seen before. The certificate collection is now nearing the one thousand mark. One rather unusual and unique collection we have is a boxed and leather-bound book containing the twenty-two personal certificates of a Past District Grand Master in Ireland who was initiated in 1873. The Provincial library has increased quite considerably in the past six months. If you are carrying out any Masonic research, you are more than welcome to use the library as well as the collection of Year Books for over 125 years and the Quatuor Coronati Lodge transactions. Just contact me first to ensure the book is located and ready. One very notable recent addition is a signed copy of the Grand Lodge Museum Tercentenary book ‘The Treasures of English Freemasonry 1717-2017’. We are rather pleased that a number of items from our museum have been included.

We have a glass paperweight commemorating the 200-year anniversary of the Province in 1997. It is the only one we have seen and it seems fairly certain it was not made for general issue. Perhaps it was a sample and not put into production. Those of us around in 1997 have no knowledge of it. If anyone can inform us of its origin we would be delighted to hear.

When photos are taken at special events, do make a record of the names, etc, of the brethren depicted. We have a large quantity of older photos where we do not have the names and sometimes not even the Lodge or Chapter name. We are gradually building up a most useful archive with a file for each and every Lodge, Chapter and Units of all other Orders. But still more is needed. We are in the process of writing to each unit where items are still needed but it is a very long and time consuming job. It could take over a year to complete. Then of course, the general archive can always accommodate more. Both the individual file and general archives are proving to be such a valuable source of information in answering the many requests for historical and membership detail. In every newsletter I ask that you do not throw anything away without letting me know first. Also if you have unused items at the back of your Lodge or Chapter locker, or at home, please ask if they are needed in our collection.

We are still looking for a Royal Masonic Hospital Governors Jewel on three chains as opposed to the later one with just one chain. These are small oval gilt and enamel jewels. Some visitors to Fleet House are surprised that the museum has collections on both floors. If you visit and I am not available, do go upstairs after looking at the Hodge Room. If you are coming a distance, it is best if you phone to check I am here and the room is available. If you have any items needing identification and we cannot come up with an answer, our Province being members of the Masonic Museum Group have a vast number of experts at hand to assist.

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Alan Tyler’s garden party
Funseekers once again crowded along to Alan Tyler’s Burnham Green garden for an annual party. The event, featuring barbecue, live music, raffle, auction, refreshments and entertainment from magician Steve Deane, attracted more than 300 people. The garden party has become a highlight of summer activities in the Province and is organised by Knebworth and WGC Lodges. This year a total of £10,000 will be handed over to four chosen charities, WGC Lodge chose Isabel Hospice and WGC Riding for the Disabled while Knebworth picked Garden House Hospice and Malpas Air Ambulance. Alan said: “Once again it was a very successful party which everyone enjoyed and which raised much-needed funds for some very worthy local causes.”

Macmillian Nurses
A donation of £2,560 was made to Macmillan Cancer Support by Dacre Lodge marking Tony Walker’s 2015/16 Mastership, which culminated in a very successful Ladies Festival. Tony chose to support the charity due to the support given to a close friend, Emma Bendell, who succumbed to the disease at a young age. Emma was looked after by Macmillan nurses from Stoke Mandeville Hospital. A Lodge spokesman said: “The care given was outstanding in every respect, both in the time leading up to her death and afterwards to her surviving partner, Nathan. “The experience of this led to the choice of this very worthwhile charity that relies on donations to continue its very caring work.” Tony recently presented a cheque to the Lister Macmillan Cancer Centre. He thanked brethren of Dacre Lodge “for their kind support and for making his year complete”. Special thanks went to Kieran Doyle, Charity Steward, and Graham Rouse, Treasurer.
Canadian visitor

Members of the Lodge of Opportunity No 9777 welcomed a visitor from Canada, RW.Bro Lawrie Bruton at its May meeting.

RW.Bro Bruton is a Past District Deputy Grand Master of the Alberta Grand Lodge. His Mother Lodge is Saskatchewan Lodge Number 92 on the register of GL of Alberta.

He brought greetings from the District Grand Master of Alberta and made a donation to The Hertfordshire branch of the Masonic Fishing Charity.

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Provincial Almoner's report

**Simon Cooper PAGDC**

I would like to take advantage of Provincial News to reiterate the importance of the Almoners and members of the Lodge to be proactive when keeping in contact with our more senior members and widows who have moved away as well as those who live locally. As our membership gets older they may become more vulnerable and, as an organisation, we must do our best to continue to provide pastoral care.

If you have a member, widow or dependant who is in need of additional support, the charity is there to help when the local authority or NHS fail. The charity can be contacted directly, or via myself, if you require advice. Free phone 0800 035 6090, help@mcf.org.uk or go to the website to see what help can be provided, www.mcf.org.uk. Calls and emails will be treated with the strictest of confidence.

My email address is hertsprovgalmoner@gmail.com.

The money that has come back into Hertfordshire to support our membership financially, with family education, health and family residential care is £197,982 in 12 months to March 2017, which represents 125 beneficiaries.

I would like to thank my team of welfare officers who devote their time meeting with members and Lodge Almoners to assist our membership when they are in need of support. I would equally like to thank all Lodge Almoners for their dedication to their members. I am always at the end of my email or phone to give advice. Please feel free to ask me anything no matter how trivial you think this may be.

I see on a weekly basis the money coming back into Hertfordshire supporting our membership and our dependants so please continue to support the 2019 Festival.

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Cloisters Patron Certificate

A 2019 Patron certificate was presented to W.Bro Tom Scullion, WM of Cloisters Lodge No 7100, by Provincial Charity Steward W.Bro Chris Noble.
Festival jewels

Seven members of St Augustine’s Lodge received Festival jewels and higher honorifics from W.Bro Neil Connolly APGM. They included two Stewards, three Vice Patrons and two Grand Patrons.

Two other brethren also qualified but were unable to be present. The APGM congratulated the Brethren and the Lodge on their support of the 2019 Festival.

Hartsbourne Lodge

It was a true family affair when W.Bro Steven Beth was installed as Master of Hartsbourne Lodge.

He was put into the chair by his father W.Bro Mervyn Beth, who was assisted by Steven’s two brothers, Allan and Ian Beth.

Also in attendance was Steven’s grandfather Bro Harold Curry.

DC W.Bro Alan Carmel told Provincial News: “It was a great family occasion, with Steven’s cousin Bro Sam Moore, our SW and his uncle, W.Bro Gary Joseph, the Assistant Secretary [now Secretary] also there.”

Latimer Lodge

As part of a collaborative venture with Lodges of the Province, three Entered Apprentices of Salisbury Union Lodge No.767, the Province’s University Scheme Lodge, were Passed at a meeting of Latimer Lodge No.4705 held at Radlett Masonic Hall.

The ceremony was conducted by W.Bro Colin Wootton, who recently celebrated 55 years in Freemasonry and as a member of Latimer. He was assisted by officers and members from both Lodges and followed SU767’s unique ritual which enables the simultaneous conferment of a degree on multiple candidates.

W.Bro Colin is pictured with the newly made Fellowcrafts, Bros. Ben Brown, Robert Stevens and George Coleman.

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New Platinum Award
Provincial Grand Master RW.Bro Paul Gower has introduced a new 2019 Festival honorific level for Lodges exceeding the Grand Patron Level (120%). The Platinum Award recognises Lodges who have hit the 175% mark and two Lodges have already achieved this status. They are Stortford Lodge No 409 and Park Street Lodge No 8556. In June the award was presented to Park Street Lodge No 8556 at its Installation meeting by VW.Bro David Ferris, Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Ninety-six members and guests witnessed the occasion. VW.Bro Ferris said it was a wonderful achievement and the Province thanked the brethren for “their ongoing generosity and support”.

Ashwell House open day
Mayor of St. Albans, councillor Mohammed Iqbal Zia, was a guest of honour when the city’s Ashwell House masonic centre staged an open day early this summer. He was welcomed by the Provincial Grand Master of Hertfordshire Paul Gower along with centre co-ordinator W.Bro Willie Wilson and members of the committee which runs the centre. The mayor was given a tour of the building in Verulam Road, spoke to other guests, looked at items of masonic memorabilia provided by the Provincial museum in Fleet House, and enjoyed a talk about Ashwell House’s history given by W.Bro Dickie Davison. Afterwards councillor Iqbal Zia said: “It was a very interesting and informative visit. “I enjoyed meeting everyone and thank them for their hospitality. I am keen to understand all aspects of life in my community.”

Masons master Mencap golf competition
James Geraghty, WM of Letchworth Garden City Lodge No 5109 and by W.Bro Steve Woodward, of Godfrey Kent Lodge No 9375, teamed up with non-mason Fenton Hyde to win a Mencap charity golf day at a windswept Royston Golf Club. Forty-one teams took part and the trio won by five points. A total of just over £6,000 was raised for the charity.

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The Party in the Park

Thousands of visitors braved atrocious weather to support The Party in the Park event in the grounds of the Royal Masonic School for Girls at Rickmansworth Park. The huge fete was staged to celebrate 300 years of Freemasonry under the Grand Lodge of England. An event spokesman said: “Despite the weather the event attracted big crowds comprising freemasons, their families and friends and members of the public.”

Attractions included stalls, food, a funfair, marching bands, classic cars and arena displays. Three tribute bands, playing the music of Rod Stewart, Buddy Holly and ABBA, brought the day to a close. The fete was hosted by the Provincial Grand Lodges of Hertfordshire and Middlesex. Provincial Charity Steward Chris Noble told Provincial News: “Planning up to the joint venture had gone well,

unfortunately no-one organised good weather and we had rain, wind and chilly conditions. “Nevertheless, more than 1,500 visitors joined in the fun. “Winner on the day was not the adverse conditions but our Masonic spirit which shone through. “Our guest charities enjoyed the awareness gained and even raised decent funds for their individual causes. “Our thanks to the many Lodges and Chapters for braving the conditions and providing a tremendous mixture of fun and games. “Look out for details of next year’s Herts Family Fun Day and we look forward to your company and support once again.”

RMSG Pavilion

At the recent Provincial Fun Day held at the Royal Masonic Girls School, Rickmansworth the site was moved to the rear large sports field. There is a well-known pavilion overlooking the field. Brian Tierney, Provincial Curator and Archivist, tells us more: “It was not until I went inside with other Stewards did we see a commemoration plaque recording the fact that it was the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire who provided the pavilion in memory of the Halsey family. “This prompted me to research the background. Asking many senior members if they knew about the donation always bought a negative reply. “I quote from the Handfield-Jones book on the school history. “The Halsey Memorial Pavilion. “The name of Halsey had long been associated with the Province of Hertfordshire, father and two sons having been Provincial Grand Masters and the school was in the Province. In December 1954, the Province decided to erect a memorial to this family, greatly distinguished not only in Freemasonry but in service to the country. The family and Provincial Grand Lodge suggested that a new sports pavilion on the lower playing field would admirably fulfil their wishes. “On June 23, 1956, the pavilion was completed, and as this was sports day a delightful little ceremony was arranged. Fifteen members of the Halsey family with the Provincial Grand Master, accompanied by representatives of his Province, were received by Lord Harris and others. After partaking of sherry, the visitors were entertained to luncheon and then repaired to the playing fields. “A short opening ceremony then took place in front of the whole school and the many guests assembled for sports day. The pavilion was formally handed over to the school by the Provincial Grand Master. “When later the Institution arranged to buy a supply of tubular steel chairs and tables, the Province insisted upon paying for these as well. What a delightful present this was; how easy it would have been to hand over a cheque and not worry about its disposal, whereas this gift was inspired by love and affection for the school in their midst and they did all the planning and handed over a complete building. “Some months later the Province presented to the school an illustrated volume containing a short history of the masonic activities of Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey and Canon Frederick Halsey and a list of Hertfordshire Lodges. It is kept in a showcase, where it can readily be seen. “The above words were written by Handfield-Jones 63 years ago. “The pavilion is still in excellent condition and very much in use, perfect in its parts and honourable to the builder!”
MCF Community Award
Eight charities in the Province will share in a combined MCF Community Award of £86,635.
Cheques will be handed over to representatives from each group in October.
The charities chosen are:
Willow Foundation which is dedicated to bringing special days to seriously ill young adults.
Canine Partners: ‘Amazing dogs transforming lives’.
The Brainwave Centre which helps children with disabilities and additional needs gain greater independence.
RDA Gaddesden Place Riding for the Disabled.
Road Victim Trust, offering a range of free support services to residents of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire who have been affected by fatal road collisions.
St Albans Sea Cadets.
New Hope Watford which exists to serve individuals who are homeless or vulnerably-housed through the provision of accommodation and “opportunities to transform lives”.
The Ware (Skillman) Trust which aims to help people “find the right charity for your needs and those of your friends and family”.

The Hertfordshire Branch of the MTSFC
The first MTSFC (Hertfordshire branch) event of the season took place in the spring at Rib Valley Fishery near Ware and was sponsored by Cecil Lodge No 449.
Twenty-four eager young participants from special needs schools were teamed up with 24 experienced anglers.
Four new anglers joined the team to watch and be ready to fish at the next event.
Lunch was served by Mike Eames’ catering team.
Steve Parker presented a Certificate of Sponsorship to Peter Davies representing Cecil Lodge.
Steve thanked Cecil Lodge for the part it played supporting work in the community.

Running for Spinal Research
Ian Drury of The Grove Park Lodge completed the London Marathon in the spring, his third marathon for charity in 10 years.
His 2017 run was for Spinal Research, a cause close to home as his wife Jo benefited from pioneering surgical techniques after suffering life-changing injuries in a car accident.
Ian told Provincial News: “There is nothing quite like the atmosphere of the London Marathon. The support you get from the crowd helps spur you on, and the kindness of strangers continues all the way home on the tube.”
Ian raised more than £5,000 for the charity Spinal Research.

Herts Scots Lodge
Members of the Herts Scots Lodge aimed to raise plenty of cash for homeless young people at a recent fundraiser.
They hosted a clay pigeon shoot at Codicote Bottom Clay Target Club, near Codicote, in aid of Herts Young Homeless based in Hatfield and Hertford.
Almost 60 people attended including masons, family members and non-masons.
Sixteen shooters took part in teams. The youngest was 10-year-old Frankie DasGupta, son of the Herts Scots Junior Deacon, who went on to win the Best Endeavours Trophy.
Top Gun trophy winner was John Ullerenshaw from the Lodge of True Aim and Best Novice was Matt Davis.
There was a raffle and barbecue. A total of £533 was raised with Codicote Bottom Clay Target Club contributing £100 towards this by way of a donation from ticket prices.
Lodge WM Richard Bates said: “It was a brilliant day which was supported by Brethren, their families and Codicote Bottom Clay Target Club without whose help in organising and co-ordinating the event meant it would have been so much harder to put together.
“Everyone had a good time and their generosity was outstanding as shown by the amount raised. A big thank you to all.
“Catherine at HYH was amazed and extremely grateful to everyone.”

■ Rehydration is vital post-marathon: Jo Fletcher pours Ian the Pol Roger.
Jersey Street themed garden project
There have been some blooming great changes at Prince Michael of Kent Court in Watford. For after four and a half months of work the overgrown garden by the side of Jersey Wing Dementia Unit has been transformed into a 1960s street scene.
It was formally opened in July.
Complete with safety flooring laid out with a road, pavement and grassed areas the space is enhanced by mock shop fronts, a café, telephone box, bus stop and shelter, lamp columns and even a set of working traffic lights.
The shop fronts are accessible to staff and are lit.
Chairman of the Association of Friends, Malcolm Andrews, told Provincial News: “We can’t wait for Christmas to come and will decorate the shops as they would have looked back in those days meanwhile changing the shop window displays periodically along the way.”
The area has been named Barnato Street after the former members of Barnato Lodge from London voted to donate their Benevolent Fund to this project.
Mr Andrews added: “It has been made entirely safe for dementia residents to walk round and relate to through reminiscing and connecting with the things they would have been used to 50 or so years ago when walking along any high street.

“From a much underused garden the new look area will be fully utilised benefitting residents by giving them purpose and a comforting sense of wellbeing and belonging.”
The garden was officially opened by RW.Bro Stephen Fenton with many high ranking RMBI Care Co staff and Freemasons attending, including the RMBI Care Co managing director, Mark Lloyd, and our own RW.Bro Paul Gower and his wife Barbara.
“Everyone enjoyed a first viewing of the finished result with a buffet lunch provided afterwards,” said Mr Andrews.
“I say first viewing as Beverley, the home manager, had sealed off the garden from all prying eyes until the official opening wanting everyone to see it in its full glory, not part complete.
“After many of us returned to the main lounge for lunch, residents were already wandering into the garden and exploring it.
“Everyone attending was hugely impressed with the project and amazed at what Beverley, her deputy, Nina, and all those involved in the project have achieved.
“This is a long-term project which, apart from routine maintenance, will last for many years and is considered to be a major step forward in dementia care, a matter the RMBI Care Co will be looking closely at.
“If you’re in Watford and have a spare few minutes, it is well worth a look. You cannot fail to be impressed.”
For more information about PMKC call 01494 433851 or email chairman@pmkcfriends.co.uk

Festival Shoot
Back in the spring 40 shooters contested a Festival Shoot at the Atkin, Grant and Lang Shooting Grounds, Markyate. The weather was kind and an enjoyable day was had by all.
High Gun of the day, John Perrin, who scored 56 points, received his award from Master of the Lodge of True Aim No. 9930, W.Bro Stuart Hutchison.
Flurry winners were Team 4 with 114 points. Nick and Craig Prutton, Miko Walton, Trevor Muldoon and Duncan Lusted.
High Gun winners were Team 8 with 235 points. David Self, Bob Battaglia, Tony England, Mick Roper and Colin Sutton.
High Gun runners-up were Team 6 with 197 points. Alison Hawkes, Kevin Moore, Peter Littlejohn, Paul Loveday and Bruce Marks.
A raffle raised £420 for charity.
Danesbury Parkinson’s DVD

While there is, as yet, no cure for Parkinson’s, exercise can help slow down its progress. And at Welwyn’s Danesbury centre sufferers can get help through its STABLE programme. Now Danesbury staff are attempting to expand that help by producing an exercise DVD so patients on the programme can do their exercises at home. A spokesman said: “One way to slow down the progression of Parkinson’s is to exercise at high intensity. “This includes doing exercises that involve big movements with a lot of effort and a large number of repetitions. “We can teach people the exercises in therapy, but it is difficult to remember them all and how to do them properly and put in the required effort.”

Parkinson’s sufferer Colin Taylor recently completed his Danesbury Course and came to the conclusion the DVD project was a worthy one. He approached the Provincial Office to see if the Herts Benevolent Fund could help. It promptly decided to do so and our picture shows Colin handing over a cheque for £1,500.

Friend in Need charity

As part of the Province’s Tercentenary celebrations a cheque for £300 was presented to the Friend in Need charity. FiN provides help for older adults living in Barnet, in particular East and New Barnet. A charity spokesman told Provincial News: “We offer various activities such as exercise classes, yoga, tai-chi, dance and IT training, so that older adults may have a friendly environment in which they can meet and enjoy doing things together.”

Hertfordshire MCF awards

Two charities benefited from events staged at one of the Province’s Masonic centres. Ali Nunes and Emma Power of Home-Start and Shelia Ramage from the Watford Hospital Trust Secure Baby Unit (SCBU) went to Halsey Hall in Watford to receive cheques for £750.

Brian Handley of the Halsey Hall Watford Events Team said: “The SCBU is dedicated to the care of new-born babies while Home-Start, a Watford charity that has been running since 1993, gives help and support to vulnerable and overwhelmed families with a child under five. “The money raised came from various social events held at Halsey Hall, in particular the ever-popular Christmas party and the St George’s Day luncheon. “Both charities were extremely grateful. For the SCBU it means they can enhance the facilities they offer. Home-Start who, as with most charities in these austere times, found their funding reduced and were going to have to cut back their services. One notable event is their annual families day-trip, the donation has meant the trip can continue.

“It was enjoyable to see the happiness derived and that while enjoying ourselves at our social events we are also, by our fundraising, able to make life a little bit better for others.”

Letchworth Garden City Lodge donation to MacMillan Cancer Care

Members of Letchworth Garden City Lodge raised £5,000 for MacMillan Cancer Support. Lodge WM, W.Bro James Geraghty and Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro Dick Knifton, are pictured presenting a cheque to charity representatives.
Shyre Lodge

As part of its Tercentenary celebrations members of Shyre Lodge No.9168 chose to donate £300 to each of two local charities.

Cazfest was set up to raise awareness of heart risk in young people and to help finance heart screening for pupils in Hertfordshire and Essex. A number of these screenings have identified potential problems which have been successfully treated. (For further information go to www.cazfest.com).

Radlett Lodge School “is a warm and welcoming school for autistic children run by The National Autistic Society”. It was rated Outstanding by Ofsted in 2017. The school was badly in need of funds to refurbish and improve its soft play area “and it was delighted to receive a donation which it could put towards this project”. For further information on the charity go to http://www.autism.org.uk/services/nas-schools/radlett-lodge.

Park Street Lodge

As part of the PGM’s Tercentenary celebrations, 30 £300 celebration awards are being distributed among worthy causes in the Province. W.Bro Mark Page, WM of Park Street Lodge No 8556, presented one of those cheques to Lindsey Moss, a volunteer at the Herts, Beds & Bucks Midshires Search & Rescue Services. Park Street matched the award, making a total of £600.

Royston Lodge

Members of Royston Lodge, which meets in Jepps Lane, Royston, successfully nominated the Royston Speak Out Stroke Club as a recipient of one of the 30 £300 Tercentenary cheques. Past Master Anthony Pigg presented a cheque to Jo Tunnicliffe, a volunteer who helps run it. The Speak Out Stroke club was formed as a confidence building and social club for people whose communication is affected by a stroke. It meets in the Old Barn in Upper King Street.

For more information go to https://www.stroke.org.uk/finding-support/royston-speak-out-stroke-club

Liberator Memorial

The Hertfordshire Lodge of the Legion will again be conducting the Liberator Memorial Ceremony on Saturday, November 4.

It starts at 10.45am at Bury Green Lane, off Lieutenant Ellis Way, followed by light refreshments at Cheshunt Halsey Hall. The PGM and executive will be attending as will the mayor, councillor Carol Crump, a USAF honour guard and firing party from RAF Mildenhall along with other dignitaries.

Gary Boudier said: “Everyone is welcome, not just Masons. “The memorial stands at the gateway of St Mary’s CoE High School. The school car park will be open with plenty of parking.”

Boost for Macmillan Cancer Support

Members of Three Rivers Lodge 9078 raised £1,345 for Macmillan Cancer Support. A cheque was presented by outgoing WM, W.Bro Fred Ponting, to Jodie Simmons. Charity steward Bro Richard Donnelly said: “A member of Three Rivers Lodge recently underwent treatment for prostate cancer and experienced first hand the superb help Macmillan Cancer Support offers, and will offer others in the future.”

Mark’s marathon effort

Mark Worley is taking part in two marathons in aid of different charities.

He is due to take part in the Great North Run in September (which would have taken place at the time Provincial News went to press) and the Las Vegas Marathon in November. He is raising money for animal charity The Donkey Sanctuary and for the 2019 Festival. For more contact mail@markworley.uk

West Herts Lodge

Members of West Herts Lodge No. 8207 donated £1,000 to the RMTGB 2019 Festival. Our picture shows APGM W.Bro James Harrison receiving a cheque from the Master, W.Bro Jim Taylor, while West Herts’ Charity Steward Frank Woods looks on.
Knights Templar

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

New Supreme Grand Master
R.E.Kt. Paul Raymond Clement, GCT, was Installed as the new Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, at the meeting of Great Priory, at Freemasons’ Hall in the spring.
This was the most prestigious occasion in the KT calendar this year.
Freemasons’ Hall was packed and we were pleased to welcome many visitors from all over the world.
The ceremony was taken by retiring Grand Master M.E. Timothy Lewis, who conducted the ceremony in a most sincere, elegant and prestigious manner, making the day a wonderful experience for the entire assembly.
We all wish Paul Clement a long and happy reign.
At the same meeting we were pleased to congratulate those Great Priory Knights who were promoted and invested – Eric Misselke, David Sharman, John Wickes and Peter Beresford, who received his first appointment.

Helping Combat Stress
Combat Stress is a charitable organisation which supports former servicemen who suffer from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
Its invaluable work with our ex-servicemen takes place at Tyrwhitt House in Surrey.
It is funded mainly by charitable donations and partially from referrals via the NHS.
Masonic units from Hertfordshire and London have made several donations to Combat Stress to support its work.
Denis Gibney of Croxley Green Lodge told Provincial News: “In June we visited its headquarters to present £300, one of the donations from The Province of Hertfordshire as part of the Provincial Grand Master’s charity initiative, and national Tercentenary Celebrations.
“Two of our Croxley Green Lodge members, James Duffy and Glenn Dobson, who are both ex-servicemen, accompanied by myself as Charity Steward, presented a cheque to administrator Peter Butterworth and Alex Stobbs, one of their therapists.
“Although we could not enter the clinical areas, we spent time in the administrative centre and the beautiful grounds.
“We look forward to supporting the vital work of this most valuable charity in future.”

Provincial Priory
The Annual Meeting of The Provincial Priory was held back in June at Bushey Police Club.
Provincial Prior Tony Lapsley invited all Knights of The Province to join him for the culmination of our annual Hertfordshire celebrations.
Again it was a happy and joyous occasion when we congratulated all those Knights who received honours and promotions. The Provincial Prior re-appointed his Executive Team, and it was quite clear from the celebratory atmosphere that all Knights and the many visitors and guests thoroughly enjoyed the day. It was a fitting precursor to what we hope will be an exciting new year into 2018.

Masonic Charitable Foundation
A Masonic charity drinks reception was held during a cruise this summer on the P&O ship Arcadia.
Twenty-two Freemasons and their wives and/or partners attended, together with two guests and three Masonic widows.
The gathering was instigated by W.Bro Patrick Murphy of Northcote Lodge No. 2659 in the Province of Devon.
He was assisted by W.Bro Frank Cooke, of Vigilance & Douglas Lodge No. 6236 in the Province of West Lancashire, W.Bro David Cartwright, of Lodge of Peace No. 149 in the Province of West Somerset and W.Bro Peter Blacker of Hooks Cross Lodge No. 8705 in the Province of Hertfordshire.
A sum of £300 was raised for charity. £100 went to a charity of the captain’s choosing with the remaining £200 going to a Masonic charity.

Pictured left to right are Alex Stobbs, Glenn Dobson, Peter Butterworth and James Duffy.
St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital

The Knights Templar Province of Hertfordshire made a donation of £1,500 in July to The Eye Hospital. We have received a reply from Diana Safieh Isreal, who included the following, very moving statement: “We are incredibly grateful for your support. As you may know, due to the amazing fundraising achievements of the Preceptories and Priories, the Knights Templar’s sponsorship of Judith Musallam, Head of the Orthoptics Department, has expanded to become a sponsorship of the entire Orthoptics Department, including assistants and nurses. Your gift is extending a caring hand to our patients, in an area of the world where our services are more vital than ever. The rate of blindness in the Palestinian territories is ten times higher than in the West, with up to 80% of cases being treatable or preventable. Our patients live in dire times. 75% of Palestinians in East Jerusalem, where our flagship hospital is based, live below the poverty line, and 80% of the Gazan population rely upon international aid for survival. Without our charitable services, they would have no access to eye care, and therefore - limited opportunities for education and livelihoods. It is entirely through your kind donations, that we were able to see and treat more than 125,000 patients last year, in addition to opening two new hospitals in Hebron and Gaza; and a new clinic and gardens in the Old City of Jerusalem.”

The annual church service at Waltham Abbey

Waltham Abbey played host to the Annual Family Church Service in May. It was a beautiful day, and we were once again given a most convivial welcome by the Dean. The Abbey was filled to capacity with Hertfordshire Knights and their families. Waltham Abbey is a splendid example of medieval architecture. The stonework, columns and stained glass are certainly some of the finest in Europe and it is always worth a visit in its own right. During the service we heard, for the first time, a new young tenor who sang beautifully, and we hope he will be with us next year. Our Knights in full regalia and displaying banners makes a colourful occasion which also attracts great interest from the local community and tourists.
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**
Em.Kt. Philip J. Hoy P.Div Junior General  Tel: 01279 817792
Email: philip.hoy@uwclub.net

**OUR NEW INTENDENT GENERAL**
Many members will know our new Intendent General Rt.II.II. Kt Simon Pine who was installed on February 25, but not everybody will know his background.

Simon was born in Taunton, Somerset, in 1948. He moved to London in 1968 to join the Metropolitan Police at the age of 19. Simon rose through the ranks and undertook a variety of uniform, detective and teacher-training duties during the course of his career.

Unfortunately, he became seriously ill and had to retire under regulatory health grounds in 1997. He is a Freeman of the City of London, a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and a holder of the Police Long Service Medal.

His Masonic career commenced when he became a Craft Freemason in a London Lodge in 1981. He took the chair in 1987. He is a member of four other Craft Lodges in London, Hertfordshire and Middlesex and holds Provincial Grand Ranks in both Middlesex and Hertfordshire, and SLGR in MetGL.

He is also a member of Malta and Scotland. He joined the Holy Royal Arch in 1983 in the Province of Middlesex and became MEZ in 1993. A Member of five other Chapters, he holds Grand Rank of PAGDC and P3rdProvGPrincipal in the Province of Middlesex.

He is a Mark Master Mason and Royal Ark Mariner in the Province of Middlesex. He is also a member of Rose Croix, Knights Templar and Royal Order of Scotland as Substitute Provincial Grand Master in the Province of Middlesex and a member in the Province of Hertfordshire.

Simon is also a member of Royal and Select Masters (Cryptic) where he is the current Master in the District of Hertfordshire. As you can see Simon is a devoted Freemason with a considerable breadth of Masonic experience and I know all members of the Division will give him their full support and best wishes as our Intendent General.

**THE HISTORY OF THE DEGREE**
Constantine, a Roman, was destined for the college of Emperors but following the death of his father, he was hailed by the Legions in York as Augustus and became the Governor of Britain and Gaul. After several successful battles across the Alps and Italy he eventually established himself as the lawful Emperor of both the East and West and transferred the capital of the empire from Rome to Byzantium, later to be named after him.

He was the first Roman Emperor to openly encourage Christianity. His conversion began one evening after a long day's march with his army when, in what he believed was a sign from Heaven, he and his army saw in the sky, and by the rays of the setting sun, a pillar of light in the form of a special Cross. To sanctify the minds of his pagan army, he had made a standard bearing a Cross like that seen and ordered it to be carried before him in the wars.

Several Christians in his army came forward and avowed their faith following which Constantine directed that they should wear on their armour a red cross.

Having been successful in battle it is said that Constantine with the help of his chief bishop, Eusebius, opened a Conclave of the Knights of the Order whose members became the bodyguard of their Sovereign.

**THE CEREMONIES**
The Christian Order is in two parts. The first ceremony consists of the candidate's admission, obligation, and then the installation as a Knight-Companion of the Red Cross of Constantine, in which the historical basis of the Order is also detailed.

In separate ceremonies, the Knight-Companion builds on what he has already been taught, and in the ceremony of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and St. John the Evangelist this knowledge is further expanded and the ultimate aims of Freemasonry are revealed. These, together with the two Installation ceremonies leading to the principal Chairs in the Red Cross of Constantine, are undoubtedly among the most impressive ceremonies in Masonry.

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. The regalia of the order is simple and inexpensive consisting of a sash and two jewels although a sword will be required later on as you move up the ranks.

There are Conclaves in Radlett, Royston, Cheshunt, Watford and St. Albans.

Anybody wishing to know more about this Christian Order please Contact Peter Thompson Divisional Recorder p.thompson15@ntlworld.com for membership details.

We have our own website at www.hertsmasons.co.uk
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF GRAND COLLEGE
The Annual Assembly of Grand College was held at Jurys Inn, Hinckley Island in May. This has now become the established venue for our annual event and provides excellent facilities. The meeting was well attended by some 350 members, including distinguished guests and many overseas visitors. The District of Hertfordshire was also well represented.

The Grand High Priest, Christopher Gavin Maiden re-appointed Ian Duff as Deputy Grand High Priest and Grand High Prelate and Ian Smith as Assistant Grand High Priest. He then appointed and invested Peter Charles Astfalck as Assistant Grand High Priest, following the retirement of Dr Donald Woodgate.

The GHP presented Certificates of Merit to five KtPts including our own District Recorder, Eric Mitchell who will now have the title of R Em Kt Pt. A large number of Kt Pts were appointed and promoted including from Hertfordshire, as Active GVIP, John Wickes. There were the following promotions to Past ranks: Terry Deakin, PGVIIP, John Kempton, PGVIIP, Martin Grey, PGVIP, Graham Holmes, PGIVP and George LaVerick, PGIIIIP. First appointments were Philip Hoy, PGIIP, John D Roberts, PGBB and John Roberts, PGBB.

The Grand Superintendent, Barry Searle was pleased that many of the recipients had been able to attend and welcomed them and other Kt Pts at the lunch following Annual Assembly.

In a departure from standard practice R Em Kt Pt Barry Searle presented a Companion of Holy Wisdom Certificate to V Ill Kt Pt Colin Thurston during lunch in recognition of his service to the Order. As a personal gesture, he also presented a CHW lozenge to Colin in gratitude for his loyal support over many years.

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY
At Crux Roisia Tabernacle No.192 in April our Divisional Director of Ceremonies Ill.Kt.Pt Neil Evans OHW PGVP welcomed his brother Alan Evans as a member of our Order. Alan was very impressed by the ceremony and the Tabernacle was honoured with the presence of our Grand Superintendent to witness the ceremony.

OHW MEETING
The meeting of the
John Owen Place
Tabernacle was held at Halsey Hall, Watford in April. The Tabernacle then hosted the District Meeting of the Order of Holy Wisdom and the Grand Superintendent was pleased to welcome our three newest members.

The decision to have a separate Order of Holy Wisdom only happened last year but it does make for a very interesting ceremony.

PILLAR FUND
The Pillar Fund now stands at some £215,000 and a sub-committee is seeking premises for a permanent home for our Order. Three GSupts were presented with Green Collarettes and one with a Sky Blue Collarette in recognition of the contribution to the fund from their Districts. In his address, the GHP thanked members for their support of the Pillar Fund and urged them to continue their efforts. He also emphasised the global nature of our Order, with new Tabernacles to be consecrated in the West Indies and South America, following on from new Tabernacles in France, Spain and Greece.

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS
To be considered for membership of the Order you must be a subscribing member of the following Masonic bodies:
A subscribing Master Mason of three years standing.
A subscribing Royal Arch Mason.
A subscribing Knight Templar.
And profess the Trinitarian Christian Faith.

TABERNACLES IN THE DISTRICT
Hertfordshire Tabernacle No 29 meeting at Radlett
Halsey Tabernacle No 177 meeting at Cheshunt
Crux Roysia Tabernacle No 192 meeting at Royston
John Owen Place No 200 meeting at Watford
Southgate Tabernacle No 216 meeting at Southgate
James William Turner Tabernacle No 222 meeting at Watford

If you are interested in joining this wonderful Order, please contact the District Recorder:
Very Illustrious Knight Priest Eric Mitchell CHW, PGVIIP
45 Coppice Farm Road, Tylers Green, Bucks, HP10 8AN
Tel: 01494 814098
e-mail: eric.mitchell1@tesco.net
As usual a hearty welcome to my contribution for the Mark and RAM degrees.

At a spring meeting of the Royal Savoy Lodge No 355, formed in 1885, members of the Mark Provincial Team carried out a demonstration of the Mark degree. At the RAM degree there was a Proclamation. W.Bro Quin nell then invested his officers. The Lodge was then opened in the Mark degree. Provincial DC W.Bro Roy Moth informed the WM and Brethren that Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro Chris Radmore was outside. He then entered with a full retinue of Provincial Officers. WM, W.Bro Quin nell, offered the gavel to the PGW who on this occasion accepted it. He then asked W.Bro Wing Commander Graham Pattenden to take the Chair. Provincial Officers then occupied all the working positions in the Lodge.

As there was no candidate a young brother, Chris Radmore, offered his services. The Degree was performed to perfection. The Signs were demonstrated by W.Bro Tony Smith, the PG Charity Steward, and the Working Tools by W.Bro Jack Franks.

In May the eight-mile MBF walk was staged through our Royal parks. Our three walkers, W.Bros Moth, Saunders and Smith, had trained hard for at least four minutes and were eager to start. Tony Smith took the lead. As Provincial Grand Charity Steward he would collect the money. Mark Saunders, Provincial Grand Treasurer, was second and counted the money. Closely following was Roy Moth. As Provincial Grand DC he made sure they were in a straight line and squared all corners. Mark was well up on landmarks and pointed out all places of interest on their journey.

The three athletes completed the course and arrived back at Mark Masons Hall. They thought about the Sahara Desert Marathon next, but you will be relieved to know that’s as far as it got.

Brethren this was just a light hearted look at this walk, but thank you W.Bro Roy Moth, W.Bro Mark Saunders and W.Bro Tony Smith for taking the time to do this for the Mark Province of Hertfordshire. Money collected was quite substantial. Our picture shows our three athletes.

The annual assembly of Royal Ark Mariners, held under the banner of the Hertfordshire Installed Commanders Lodge 1121, took place in June at the Metropolitan Police Club, Bushey. The Installed Commanders Lodge was opened and normal Lodge procedures including the election of next year’s Commander, who will be W.Bro Stuart Kay. Treasurer W.Bro Mark Saunders was re-elected. The PGM was then received into the Lodge and opened the Annual Provincial Assembly of Ancient & Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners. The Assistant Grand Master RW.Bro John Prizeman then entered to a very hearty welcome. Brethren who had been appointed to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank were then Invested by the RW.PGM Chris Radmore as follows: Phillip Masters, Desmond McMeekin, Leslie Butler, John Fowl, Warren Singer, Darren Bending, John Burnapp, Brian Meager, Christopher Foxcroft, Roger Woolman, Jan Cowper, Michael Gerschel, Christopher Slater, Philip Smith, Rodney Bendon. A full list with their Lodges is on the web site www.hertsmark.org.

The Hertfordshire Installed Mark Masters Lodge was opened and normal Lodge business ensued. W.Bro Ted Long was elected Master and and Mark Saunders Treasurer. Both elections were unanimous, so congratulations to both! It was noted RW. Bro John Oakley-Smith was celebrating 50 years of Mark Masonry.

In the Temple there were 146 Mark Masons, a record number for this the Hertfordshire Installed Mark Master Masons’ Lodge. John had invited as his guests a full set of R.W. Brothers. RW.Bro Roger Croucher PPGM Kent. RW.Bro Richard Slade PPGM Oxfordshire. RW.Bro James Hilditch PPGM Oxfordshire. RW.Bro John Oakley-Smith. RW.Bro Peter Rollin PPGM East Anglia. RW.Bro David Nelson PPGM Somerset. RW.Bro Martin Brown PPGM Wiltshire.

RW.Bro John Prizeman then took the floor and his DC placed four chairs in front of the WM. John Oakley-Smith was placed in one chair facing the other three, occupied by the PGM Chris Radmore, Assistant Grand Master John Prizeman and Past Deputy Grand Master Keith Emmerson, who proceeded to go through John Oakley-Smith’s Mark Masonic career. We all had a great time; there were laughs and applause. He has and will be for a very long time a very interesting man.
He was presented with a certificate from Mark Grand Lodge and the AsstGM, a personal friend, presented him with a bottle of gin telling him he only bought it because it was on offer at his supermarket. He also told us that if we had waited a week we could have had the DGM instead of the Assistant GM as he gets promoted next week.

John Oakley-Smith was then presented with another certificate by the PGM RW.Bro Chris Radmore to mark his 50 years of Mark Masonry. After closing we all retired to the festive board, for good food, good wine and great company. A very good day.

The photo above was taken showing the Commander of the RAM Lodge, the DPGM W.Bro Richard Walker, the PGM, RW.Bro Chris Radmore, and PDPGM RW.Bro John Oakley-Smith, PDGM, RW.Bro Keith Emmerson and W.Bro Paul Gower, Master of the Installed Mark Master Lodge and also PGM of the Craft.

In July the Mark Provincial Meeting was staged. Our Provincial DC Roy Moth has it down to a fine art with the help of his Deputy W.Bro David Wavell and Provincial Secretary Trevor Clarke.

It was opened by RW.Bro Chris Radmore. Deputy Grand DC then announced that RW.Bro John Prizeman, Deputy Grand Master, would like to enter. He was welcomed and entered with Grand Secretary R.W.Bro. Ryan Williams.

The names of Brethren who had passed to the Grand Lodge above were read by APGM Dr Jordan Giddings and a moment of reflection followed.

The new Custodian of the Provincial Benevolent Fund. W.Bro Roger Southcombe, was announced. Donations went to the following:

- £2,000 To the Mark Province of Lincolnshire in support of the 2018 Festival, received by the DPGM W.Bro Neville Storey, who thanked the Province.
- £2,000 to the Hertfordshire Craft 2019 Festival Appeal for Girls and Boys. Received by the Craft PGM W.Bro Paul Gower who also thanked the Mark Province.
- £2,500 to the Mark Benevolent Fund in support of the Hope for Tomorrow Appeal.

The PGM then reappointed VW.Bro Richard Walker as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and W.Bro. Dr Jordan Giddings as Assistant Provincial Grand Master. Presentations were then made to Lodges and individual Brethren who had achieved Grand Patron Gold Collar Mark Benevolent Fund:

- Rose & Lily Lodge MMM Collected by the WM, W.Bro Peter Muswell.
- Stanstead Abbots Lodge MMM. Collected by the WM, W.Bro Ken Moore.

James Parsons Lodge of RAM. Collected by Charity Steward W.Bro Dennis Brown.


The PGM's Silver token was presented to W.Bro Jim Cutler a long serving and respected brother.

The Provincial Grand Master then invested his Officers for the year a full list of these are available on this website.

The PGM then addressed the meeting and informed us that this would be his last term of office and that this would be his last Provincial Meeting. His full speech is on this website.

He has been an excellent Provincial Grand Master and will be missed. You will still see him out and about during this year and I hope for many years to come. After his address he was met with a standing ovation. Thank you Chris.

The Deputy Grand Master then addressed the brethren and told us that this part of his speech was short but he would continue at the festive board and proved this by dropping all his papers on his chair.

After the meeting he circulated in the bar area meeting as many of the brethren as he could.

The Provincial Grand Secretary then stood to address the meeting and at the end informed us the next Provincial Meeting would be his last.

Provincial Grand Lodge was called off and Muna Elmi our sponsored student was escorted into the meeting by W.Bro David Horne, newly invested Charity Steward, accompanied by Harriet Bayliss, Head of Development and Alumni Relations.

Muna addressed the meeting telling us of her achievements and hopes for the future. More details about Muna can be found on our website.

The two ladies were then escorted out for refreshments, before joining us at the festive board.

During the annual Come To Tolmers Fortnight in July, site manager Chris Rainbow had invited us to a cream tea at the activity centre.

More than 600 scouts and guides and 200 leaders and volunteers were there.

More than 40 activities, including a climbing wall, were on offer.

The cream tea was served by young guides.

We then had a tour of the site which completed a very pleasant afternoon.

Chris Rainbow and his team are doing a great job and I am happy to say Hertfordshire Mark Masonry is supporting them.

Please take a look at our website and Brethren, keep me informed. If you ask a question and I don’t know the answer I will in most cases know a man that does.
Support for fishing charity

The Hertfordshire Royal Arch Benevolent Fund has donated £200 to support the fishing charity, MTSFC, which takes disabled or disadvantaged children from Special Needs Schools and gives them a day’s fishing in the countryside.

The charity’s Hertfordshire branch is well supported by the Craft and Royal Arch and has many volunteer fishermen who fish one to one with the youngsters. Many of the teachers and carers have been amazed at the effect fishing can have on people with behavioural or emotional difficulties, and sometimes the experience has long lasting beneficial effects.

In 2016 the Hertfordshire branch took over 120 youngsters fishing as well as a victim of a serious stroke. Without the help of volunteer casters, helpers and organisers, who give their time for free, and the Chapters and sponsors supporting the events, none of this would be possible.

By the end of 2017, 130 youngsters will have had a day out fishing. This is all a good example of Freemasonry working with and in the community and is most worthy of our support.

Certificate of Service to Royal Arch Masonry

In August, The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E.Comp James Sharpley accompanied by the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E.Comp David Hampton and E.Comp Edward Miller visited E.Comp Ian Groves at his home in Bishops Stortford to present him with the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent’s Certificate of Service to Royal Arch Masonry in Hertfordshire.

The delegation spent some time with E.Comp Ian and his wife Maggie reminiscing over his time in Masonry in general, having been initiated in 1975, and reflecting many good times and occasions. E.Comp Ian was exalted into Stortford Chapter No 409 in 1986 and installed as First Principal in 1996, having worked his way through the various offices prior to that appointment. In 2000, he was appointed Scribe E, a position he held until 2016 when he handed the reins over to his successor, but so as not to lose touch, was appointed Assistant Scribe E at the same Convocation. In his many years of membership in Stortford Chapter, E.Comp Ian has been a stalwart supporter of all its activities and ably assisted many of the junior Companions to achieve their own goals and aspirations.

E.Comp Ian was first appointed to Provincial Grand Rank as Provincial Grand Standard Bearer in 2000. He was promoted to Past Provincial Deputy Grand Registrar in 2004 and Past Provincial Grand Registrar in 2011.

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent awarded E.Comp Ian with his certificate in recognition of his “long and meritorious service to the Province in general and the Stortford Chapter in particular”.

The Deputy Grand Superintendent then presented E.Comp Ian with a gold lapel pin as a memento of the occasion.

Back to its roots

In November 2017 East Herts Chapter 3748 will celebrate its 100th birthday. It was founded by members of East Herts Lodge 3748 in October 1917, but for reasons unknown lost contact with its founding Lodge.

However as the centenary looms, it was decided that the Chapter and Lodge should try to rekindle links with each other.

East Herts Chapter has invited members of East Herts Lodge who are members of the Royal Arch to its 100th birthday meeting and the Lodge has reciprocated. But it is not all about business, but fun as well. The first of many planned social occasions was a quiz night held at Mayflower Place when the Chapter and Lodge raised funds for the 2019 Festival. More than 70 people attended the quiz which was deemed a great success as well as good fun. Further events are planned. This initiative is one way that Chapters could recruit new members and talks are under way to encourage the reconnection of Chapters with their founding Lodges.
Royal Arch Golf Day

The Royal Arch Golf Day held at Redbourn Golf Club in June was a huge success. The weather was very kind, the course in excellent condition, the scores all round were outstandingly good, the evening meal - splendidly adorned by a number of glamorous ‘other halves’ - was delicious, and the company and companionship first class. And entirely thanks to the attendees’ generosity, with the raffle and auction the event raised £900 towards the 2019 Festival.

The Sydney Tuck Trophy, awarded to the best pair’s score from a Hertfordshire Chapter, went to Neil Ashwell and Chris Noble, representing Cranbourne Chapter, with 73 points.

The Alec Fuller Trophy, awarded for the best singles score, went to John Piggott with 37 points. Runner-up, with 36 points, went to Peter Cox (one of the event organisers) and third place, with 35 points, went to David Jackson.

Nearest the pin prize was won by Paul Hobbs, who was unable to stay for the prizegiving and second prize was awarded to David Jackson.

Next year’s Royal Arch Golf Day will take place on Friday, July 13.

Future RA Golf Days will take place on the second Friday in July.

Charity walk

E.Comp Terry Rayment and his wife Valerie completed a four-mile walk from Moorfields Eye Hospital in City Road, London to the London Eye. The weather was horrendous but they raised an impressive £675. This figure was further bolstered by a £200 donation from the Royal Arch Benevolent Fund. A spokesman said: “Walking four miles might not seem a massive challenge to some, it should be noted that E.Comp Terry has had Glaucoma for 35 years. His wife Valerie was about to undergo major surgery for cancer, now fully cleared up, and Terry was about to have a procedure to prevent the development of cancer in himself.”

E.Comp Terry said he had a lot to be grateful for Moorfields for, as his daughter had been a patient as a child, his mother was a patient for many years and his wife had called upon their A&E services on occasion. The family had been delighted to be able to “give something back to this incredible institution”.

Afternoon tea party

A sumptuous tea, beautifully prepared and served at Mayflower Place, in Hertingfordbury, was attended by 81 Companions, friends and guests, on a sunny Sunday in June. Guests were entertained by a superb guitarist, Jerry Harrison. The tea party was organised by E.Comp Gary Sereno. MEGS James Sharpley thanked all those attending before guests were invited to adjourn to the gardens of this magnificent Masonic centre.

A spokesman said: “It was a wonderful way to spend a beautiful summer’s Sunday and will no doubt be repeated in 2018.”

100 not out?

It’s not often that a Chapter reaches its century but that’s what King Harold Chapter No 1327 is looking to do in November 2020. But it needs a few new team members. A Chapter spokesman told Provincial News: “As you can imagine in a Chapter of our age a few players have now gone on to that Great Pavilion Above and some other players feel they now want to go in as 12th man.

“If you are perhaps looking to join a Chapter that meets three times a year, on a Saturday in Cheshunt, you might just want to press your whites and dust off your bat and join us.

“Maybe you might want to come along as a guest in the first instance to see what we are like.

“You will be assured of a very warm welcome, a Membership that, although small in number is none the less committed to enjoying the work and having fun.”

For more details contact the Scribe E, Bill Hamilton-Hinds, on 01707 642698 or email wjhamilton-hinds@msn.com
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CRAFT PROVINCIAL TEAM

Provincial Secretary
Hugh Oram
provgssec@pglherts.org

Treasurer
Richard Phillips
provgtreas@pglherts.org
(both of the above)

Provincial Office
10 Parkway, Porters Wood
St Albans, AL3 6PA
01727 833061

Director of Ceremonies
Keith Dunnett
01438 798880
07971 672144
rapidathome@aol.com

Almoner
Simon Cooper
01438 235518
07785 921611
hertsprovgsalmoner@gmail.com

Charity Steward
Chris J. Noble
01582 769648
07795 903066
family.nobles@btinternet.com
provgscc@pglherts.org

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Editor
Terry Mitchinson
07899 791242
01438 840613
terry.mitchinson@outlook.com

The editor reserves the right to edit letters and stories for clarity or length where necessary.

Editorial Board Chairman
James Young PDepPGM
01438 829055
james@teamyoung.co.uk

Communication Officer
Terry Mitchinson
07899 791242
01438 840613
terry.mitchinson@outlook.com

Advertising Manager
Tony Harris
07584 282868
tonyharrisagh@btinternet.com

Printed by HDML Masonic
Printers
07932 692298
hdml@outlook.co.uk

Craft Webmaster
James Davis
0800 246 5403
info@splashpixels.co.uk

Royal Arch
Provincial Scribe E
John B Linley
07764 293154
scribe@herts-chapter.org.uk

Mark Master Masons/Royal Ark Mariners
Provincial Secretary
Trevor B Clarke
01279 651001
trevor.clarke@live.co.uk

Knights Templar
Vice-Chancellor
Alastair White
07407 170481
v-chan@ktherts.com

Knight Templar Priests
District Recorder
Eric Mitchell
01494 814098
eric.mitchell@tesco.net

Rose Croix (Beds & Herts)
P. Thompson
01462 456538
p.thompson15@ntlworld.com

Royal and Select Masters
Tony Nutley
01438 239621
t.nutley@yahoo.co.uk

Red Cross of Constantine
Philip J. Hoy
01279 817792
philip.hoy@uwclub.net

Societas Rosicruciana In Anglia
Provincial Secretary
(Home Counties)
Stephen Murphy
020 8386 8399
stephen.murphy@cuk.cannon.co.uk

Province online
Keep up-to-date with all the news, social events and history of your province at www.pglherts.org

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
10 Parkway, Porters Wood
St Albans, AL3 6PA
01727 833061