Hertfordshire Provincial Grand Stewards’ view on the Tercentenary

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MCF Community Awards

It was a glittering occasion when eight charities in the county were presented with welcome boosts to their coffers. They shared in a Masonic Charity Foundation Community Award which totalled £86,635. The cheques were handed over to representatives from each group back in October at a dinner in Mayflower Place, Hertingfordbury, hosted by the PGM Paul Gower. Along with charity supporters, guests included members of the Executive and members of sponsoring lodges. Provincial Charity Steward Chris Noble said: "We were pleased to host our friends from the charities who benefited from the donations. They were all very grateful and we had a very enjoyable evening with them. “Our thanks to everyone who voted. “Masonry in the Province supports a huge number of worthy causes, but we would not be able to do this without the unstinting generosity of our members.” Each of the charities getting an MCF Community Award was awarded money according to online votes cast by both masons and non-masons. The charities chosen were: • Willow, based in Welwyn Garden City, which is now a national charity dedicated to bringing special days to seriously ill young adults. £25,000. (Sponsoring lodge, Park Street). • Canine Partners: ‘Amazing dogs transforming lives’. £25,000. (Sponsoring lodge, King Henry VIII). • The Brainwave Centre which helps children with disabilities and additional needs gain greater independence. £15,000. (Sponsoring lodge, Sawbridgeworth). • RDA Gaddesden Place Riding for the Disabled. £6,000. (Sponsoring lodge, Three Rivers). • 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. £6,000. (Sponsoring lodge, Berkhamstead). • St Albans Sea Cadets. £4,000. (Sponsoring lodge St Albans). • New Hope Watford which serves individuals who are homeless or vulnerably housed through the provision of accommodation and “opportunities to transform lives”. £4,000. (Sponsoring lodge, Watford). • The Ware (Skillman) Trust which aims to help people “find the right charity for your needs and those of your friends and family”. £1,635. (Sponsoring lodge, Ware). A spokeswoman for Willow afterwards told Provincial News editor Terry Mitchinson: “We would like to thank the Masons of Hertfordshire for such a magnificent donation. It is most welcome and will greatly help those seriously ill young adults we support. “Thanks also for such a wonderful dinner. We have been made to feel most welcome and had a very enjoyable evening.” The Province over the years has supported dozens of other worthy causes in and around the county. Among them are Hertfordshire’s hospices, Pepper Foundation, Berkhamsted, New Hope Trust, Watford, Herts Air Ambulance, GOSH and Cancer Research.
Report by Provincial Grand Charity Steward Chris Noble

Our lodges have been busy over recent months supporting a wide range of charities and worthy causes. Here are just some examples.

Our thanks and congratulations to all members of the Province who have been instrumental in helping to many less fortunate than themselves.

The 2019 Festival was boosted by a donation of £1,000 from members of Kingswood Lodge. The handover followed the Initiation of Bro Jason Matthews who is the blood brother of Danny, the Worshipful Master.

A cheque from Province for £100 was matched by £100 from Lea Valley Lodge and handed over to Richmond Hill Special School.

David Caspall is pictured handing over the donations to headteacher Mrs Jill Miller.

Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW.Bro David Ferris presented a Grand Patron bar to W.Bro Michael Harvey of Redbourn Lodge in recognition of his support of the 2019 Festival. He then presented the newly installed Worshipful Master W.Bro Alan Robinson with a Lodge certificate as Festival Patron having achieved 100 per cent of the target. He congratulated W.Bro Andy Gunning on both his sterling work as Lodge Charity Steward and his recently awarded Provincial Honours. He thanked members of the Lodge for their wonderful achievement and urged them to push for Grand Patronage.

Province was pleased to award £10,350 to 28 cheques small local charities nominated by some of our Lodges.

They were: • TLC • Lifelites • Hertfordshire Regiment Memorial • Addenbrookes Charitable Trust • Walking With The Wounded • Richmond Hill Special Needs School • Heartbeat • Combat Stress • ASCEND • the AT Society • Friend in Need • Updowns • Crossroads Care • Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme • Mudlarks Community Garden • Speak Out Club Royston • Friends of St. Laurence Church at Wormley • Aston End Scout Group • SSNAP • The Friends of St.Mary's Church Ashwell • Herts Inclusive Theatre • High 5 Mencap group • Forgetmenot Musicians • Teens Unite • Myeloma UK • Kissing it Better • Four Swans Vision • CommUNITY Barnet Town Team project.

You can nominate your local small charity for an award consideration for 2018 by sending details to me, W.Bro Chris Noble.

Members of Oxhey Lodge LoI collected some food for the local food bank. It will be distributed locally for the elderly and needy.

Our impressive use of the Gift Aid envelopes continues with 48 Chapters and 154 Lodges, which collected over £300,000 claiming £75,000 in Gift Aid. Thank you to all for completing and donating through the envelope scheme.

Hospices in the Province have been boosted by grants from the Masonic Charitable Foundation. The foundation’s Charity Grants Committee approved £450,000 in 2017 for hospices across England and Wales.

In total, the Masonic Community has awarded over £12million to hospices since 1984 through the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Hospices in the county which benefited were:

• Garden House, £2,080;
• Hospice of St Francis, £2,260;
• Isabel, £1,900;
• Noah’s Ark Children’s Hospice, £500;
• Peace Hospice, £2,080; and
• Pepper Foundation, £500.

A note for your diary. The 2018 Herts Family Fun Day will be on Sunday 22nd July when we will return to the top fields at Rickmansworth next to the school buildings, where we were in 2016. Watch out for details via the website and social media calling on all Lodges and Chapters to take a stall.
W Bro Douglas Hawes

A 70-year Long Service Certificate was presented to W Bro Douglas Hawes at Prince Michael of Kent Court, where he now lives, by APGM W Bro Jay Patel. W Bro Douglas was initiated into Mercurius Lodge No. 4262 in London on November 19, 1946, and he has held all the offices in the Lodge.

In 1974 he was promoted to London Grand Rank, followed by Grand Rank as PAGDC in April, 1983. He was made an honorary member in 2008.

Douglas was exalted into the Holy Royal Arch in 1959 and awarded the Grand Rank of PGStB in 1987. He is also the holder of Provincial Grand Rank in the Royal Arch in Hertfordshire.

He is pictured receiving his certificate from W Bro Jay with his daughter, Susan, son-in-law, Richard and W Bro Malcolm Andrews, Association of Friends chairman.

W. Bro Alan Tyler

Provincial News ‘regular’ W. Bro Alan Tyler PJGD PPProvGSwdB was presented with his 50 Year Certificate to Freemasonry in February.

Alan’s annual garden parties at his garden in Burnham Green are a highlight of the summer Masonic season. Lodge secretary John Kimm said: “The presentation by W Bro Jay Patel was done in an excellent manner. His oration was first class. “W Bro Alan received a wonderful round of applause from the 54 that attended.”
W.Bro Laurie Pyle

W.Bro Laurie Pyle, PPJGW, was presented with a Certificate of 60 Years’ of Service to the Craft by W.Bro John Norris, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, at the Installation Meeting of Stanstead Abbotts Lodge. He was initiated into Woodhall Park Lodge, No. 7126, in March 1957 and became Worshipful Master in 1967. As Master, he attended the Installation of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent as Most Worshipful Grand Master and remembers being shown to his seat on that momentous occasion by Sir Donald Wolfit, the renowned wartime Shakespearian actor and producer, who was a Grand Steward and Master of the Green Room Lodge, No. 2957.

In his long Masonic career, W.Bro Laurie was both Installed Organist and guest organist in countless lodges and chapters. During the war years, he was part of the Reserved Occupations as an engineer, spending time in Scotland engaged in the manufacture of aircraft parts and coal-cutting machinery. After the war, he spent some years with Vincent Motorcycles, which at the time advertised the ‘World’s fastest motorbikes. At the age of 96, Laurie was delighted to reflect on his many recollections of his life in and out of Freemasonry, from the days when, as he put it, “the Craft was almost a religion”.

RW Bro Michael Jones

Past Provincial Grand Master RW Bro Michael Jones was presented with a 60 year Certificate of Service to Freemasonry by PGM RW Bro Paul Gower at a recent meeting of Watford Lodge. RW Bro Michael Jones was initiated into Watford Lodge No. 404 in 1957 and became Master in 1966 and again in 2000. His first appointment in the Province was in 1973 to Provincial Senior Grand Warden. He was appointed Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1975, and Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1977, an appointment he held until he became Assistant Provincial Grand Master in 1981. In 1979 Michael was appointed to the active rank of Assistant Grand Registrar in Grand Lodge, being promoted to Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies the following year, an appointment he held for three years. He was elected to the Board of General Purposes of Grand Lodge in 1982 and served as an elected member for three years at the end of which he continued on the Board as one of the members appointed by the Grand Master. Whilst on the Board of General Purposes, Michael served on most of its Committees. He was Chairman of the Library, Art and Publications Committee, and subsequently Chairman of the Procedure Committee.

In 1989, Michael was appointed Past Grand Sword Bearer in Grand Lodge entitling him to the prefix Very Worshipful, and in 1990 became a Grand Steward. In the Province he was Master of Hertfordshire Masters’ Lodge No 4090 in 1984 and of White Star Lodge No. 8727 in 1985. On the death of VW Bro Geoffrey Pryke in March 1992, Michael was appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master and in September he was installed as Provincial Grand Master by the Assistant Grand Master, the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Eglinton and Winton at Freemasons’ Hall. Michael consecrated nine Lodges, Jubilee Lodge No.9475, Stanboroughs Lodge No.9523, Herts Scots Lodge No.9527, Welwyn Viaduct Lodge No.9555, Burning Bush Lodge No.9608, Veritatem Sequere Lodge No.9615, Wormley St Laurence Lodge No.9621, Hartsbourne Lodge No.9680, Lodge Trust and Fear Not No.9698.

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REGISTERED
The Masonic Million Memorial Fund and its jewels

By Brian Tierney, Provincial Curator and Archivist

It is understood that a number of younger brethren have asked, ‘why is our Lodge called a Hallstone Lodge and the Master wears a special jewel on a collarette’. Others ask, ‘what are the special breast jewels of a similar design on display at Fleet House’. Just a couple of short questions but they have a very long answer.

The Memorial Fund did not get off to a very good start. It was suggested in 1919 by the MW the Grand Master, HRH the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, that Grand Lodge should embark on the building of a new headquarters for the English Craft as a memorial to the many brethren who had given their lives during the First World War.

A committee was set up in 1920 and an appeal was made to every member of the Constitution. Much criticism and objection was hurled at the scheme, mainly by those who had imperfectly read the details. The Grand Master’s Committee wisely hesitated and not until 1921 was a detailed circular issued where brethren would find answers to the various questions raised. The appeal then began to be very successful.

The circular was set out in a number of statements. Just a few of the main points are produced here but the actual circular was nearly three times as long:

What it is. The Grand Master’s idea. The outcome of the Masonic Peace celebration held June 1919.

What it will provide. A Temple to accommodate meetings of Grand Lodge and Supreme Grand Chapter. Provide a Library and Museum and a Central Masonic Home. Accommodation for Lodges to meet. Administrative accommodation.

What it needs. Every member to respond to the Appeal and show loyalty to the Grand Master either at once or over the next five years. The circular went on to give information about the individual breast jewel to be made in silver and with the recipient’s name and Lodge number engraved. This would be awarded to every brother who gave 10 guineas. Those who subscribed 100 guineas would receive a gold jewel. There are many silver jewels in the Provincial Museum, including the scarce first issue made from two riveted sections. Later issues were in one piece and made by various companies. At the end of the circular was a statement. 'Until the Craft has approved the plans the money will not be spent'. It also stated that all individual contributions would automatically accrue to the credit of Lodges, Provinces, and Districts. Each Lodge was asked to appoint a member as a collector.

The design of the 35mm individual medal and subsequent 42mm Lodge jewel was the result of a competition held by Grand Lodge. The competition was won by Bro Cyril Saunders Spackman, RBA, RMS, and was described at the time as:

"The jewel is in the form of a cross, symbolising Sacrifice, with a perfect square at the four ends, on the left and right, squares being the dates 1914-1918, the years in which the supreme sacrifice was made. Between these is a winged figure of Peace presenting the representation of a Temple with special Masonic allusion in the Pillars, Porch and Steps. The medal is suspended by the Square and Compasses, attached to a ribband, '[Ribband' was the word used in the original specification] the whole thus symbolising the Craft's gift of a Temple in Memory of those brethren who gave all for King and Country, Peace and Victory, Liberty and Brotherhood"

Some 53,224 individual breast jewels were issued. Lodges that contributed an average of 10 guineas per member were to be known as Hall Stone Lodges and the silver gilt jewel on a light blue collarette to be worn by successive Masters. In total 1,321 Lodges from home and abroad have their names and numbers inscribed on commemorative marble panels in the main memorial entrance vestibule of Freemasons’ Hall. The jewels are inscribed with the Lodge name and number as well as Grand Lodge to indicate that the jewel remains the property of Grand Lodge and has to be returned together with the Warrant if the Lodge closes and is erased.

A third version of a 48mm gold and enamel jewel on a dark blue collarette was arranged to be worn by successive Provincial and District Masters of Provinces and Districts contributing an average of 500 guineas per Lodge. Originally four gold jewels were made in readiness. The target proved to be almost impossible to achieve in the time allowed. Only one Province qualified being Buckinghamshire and the jewel is still proudly worn to this day.

Two districts qualified, being Japan and Burma, but the two jewels were lost during WW2.

The fourth jewel still exists and is on display at the Museum in Freemasons’ Hall. However, a special panel is included in the memorial vestibule staircase of those few Provinces that very nearly achieved the target, Hertfordshire being one of them.

See page 10 for the Provincial Curator’s Report.

ALSO in the next edition more jewels connected to the Memorial Fund.
The Tercentenary from a Steward’s perspective
By Jon Lydon, Secretary – Hertfordshire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge

It all started with a simple email early March 2016 when I confirmed Hertfordshire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge would be pleased to assist with the Tercentenary event. That was followed by a kick-off meeting at Freemasons’ Hall on May 18.

Our own Keith Gilbert had already been appointed to lead the overall Tercentenary project for Grand Lodge and Keith, together with Ian Chandler [Provincial Grand Master of Surrey], outlined the task to myself and nine other representatives of Stewards Lodges around the London region.

Essentially the Stewards Lodges would carry out all the logistics of the Tercentenary event at the Royal Albert Hall and Battersea Evolution which would be under the direction of Ian Chandler. Our next meetings at the RAH gave us an idea of the scale of the building and the challenges that lay ahead for 4,000 Freemasons attending from all over the world. We estimated 350 Stewards would be required.

Over several months meetings took place at the RAH with its staff who gave us the benefit of their experience and highlighted a number of the issues we needed to consider, as well as the expected interaction with their staff. This enabled preliminary operational plans to be drafted and shared among the team.

The next step, in September 2016, was to start the recruitment of the necessary Hertfordshire Stewards for a project more than a year away. All our 130 membership were asked to express their interest to take part, which gave me around 50 committed, with another 30 who could not commit at that stage. Over the next 11 months Stewards were added and removed from the list for various reasons. Ultimately we had a final complement of approximately 55 Stewards, plus 45 from West Kent, [which was the largest contingent for one floor of the RAH]. The particular skills and backgrounds for each of our Stewards had to be determined for specific duties or to cover eventualities that might crop up on the day.

The project team identified at a very early stage, leaders would be needed to manage teams of Stewards for all activities, and so from my initial list of volunteers we had to select eight Stewards to assist me running the event. In July 2017 these team leaders, plus those from other Stewards Lodges, were all invited to RAH to be briefed by Ian Chandler, as well as getting a feel for the building plus walking through the general duties and discussing some of the potential pitfalls.

The opportunity arose to trial using most of our Team Leaders at our Provincial Meeting at Great Queen Street on September 27, 2017, and to identify any aspects [good or bad] that could be adopted for the RAH, and these were incorporated as necessary in the Operational Plan.

Our Stewards were advised this was a Grand Lodge event and their rules of etiquette would apply, with all Stewards having to wear a Tercentenary Jewel and Grand Lodge tie, as well as our usual morning dress. They also had to be briefed on their duties at the RAH, which took place at two venues in the Province during the middle of October 2017. The Operation Plan had been circulated to everyone and they were advised of the changes to the plan – inevitably, there would be other late changes. The main change was that we had to provide the escort on the ground floor for the Grand Master when he left the Royal Box to enter the auditorium and likewise when he left at the end. This was a great honour for those of our Stewards who were involved. They also lined the corridor when the Grand Officers and all the Provincial Grand Masters processed into the auditorium.

Another Tercentenary activity our Stewards carried out was at the Grand Connaught Rooms, when fifteen together with a number of Grand Stewards, were at the welcome reception for 400 guests including Grand Masters and their partners from the other Grand Lodges throughout the world. Here our duties were much easier when we only had to mingle with the guests, pour wine and ensure they had a good time – duties Stewards excel at!

From a personal point of view, I had absolutely no idea two years ago what the Tercentenary would mean for me, and although a tough project, it was very enjoyable. I could never have organised our involvement without the invaluable help of the Hertfordshire Stewards.

This Province should be very proud of such dedicated members, not just for the Tercentenary event but for all the other activities undertaken by the ‘Stewards in red’ every year. We have a saying among Stewards – “once a Steward always a Steward” and this was definitely applicable in 2017.

The whole event can be watched on demand at www.RAH300.org.

Ever wondered what an organ concert sounds like in Freemasons’ Hall?

Richard Hills
International Concert Organist

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13th June 2018
7.15pm

In 2017, the United Grand Lodge of England celebrated the 300th anniversary of the world’s first Grand Lodge, here in London, in 1717. Part of the preparation for the celebration was the overhaul and enhancement of the 1933 Willis III organ in Freemasons’ Hall, Covent Garden and the set-up of a series of FREE, public organ concerts, the latest of which is shown above.

If you haven’t seen the amazing Grand Temple, or heard this magnificent instrument, now is your chance! FREE tickets are available at http://bit.ly/EMH-Concert
The A Walker clan

Brethren and visitors of Dacre Lodge witnessed a special occasion back in December when W.Bro Tony Walker initiated his eldest son Ashley. Assisting in the ceremony was Ashley’s younger brother, Bro Adam Walker, who had been previously initiated by his father. A lodge spokesman told Provincial News: “We now have three A Walkers on the list of members, two of which are Lewises. We wish them all very happy and memorable times at our ceremonies.”

Dacre Lodge

Dacre Lodge has qualified for 2019 Festival Vice Patron status. Charity Steward W.Bro Kieran Doyle said: “This was the culmination of four long and hard years of work. But it is not the end. There are still two more ‘bars’ to achieve. “And with a great lodge, and charitable members and guests behind us there is no reason why Dacre Lodge 2086 should not go all the way.”

Provincial Almoner's report

Simon Cooper PAGDC

I wish to start my column singing the praises of our Masonic Care Home in Watford, Prince Michael of Kent Court. I have received positive feedback from relatives who say staff members are extremely dedicated, helpful and supportive. In recent weeks, I have received numerous enquires in regards to residential care for members and their dependants. Brethren, please remember that the home does have an excellent Dementia unit, but is not a nursing home. I would suggest that anyone who is contemplating support for their loved ones or members of their Lodge is proactive in their enquiry as the home has a waiting list. The home can be contacted via its website or the RMBI website.

We are seeing an increasing number of cases in Hertfordshire for people who need support from the Charity. As a result the workload for the dedicated team of volunteers who visit applicants in their own homes to complete the paperwork has increased and they do their utmost to respond to enquiries as quickly as possible. The volunteer’s role is truly rewarded when the applicant is awarded support by way of a grant or medical assistance. I would like to thank them all for their outstanding efforts in contributing to the statistics below: The total year-to-date grants 2017/2018 awarded by the Charity for family, financial and health was £195,424.00 which represents 94 cases, this does not include support in the RMBI homes.

If members feel that they or their fellow members are in need of support due to financial difficulties or illness then please try and be proactive to ease their burden before things get out of hand. Even if the Charity cannot support their application they can still provide advice and point them in the right direction. The free phone confidential helpline is open Monday to Friday for all forms of support 0800 035 60 90 or help@mcf.org.uk.

I was recently privileged to present a Vice Patron Certificate for the 2019 Festival to Stanstead Abbotts Lodge 9085, on behalf of the Provincial Charity Steward who was unable to attend. The generosity of our membership never ceases to amaze me. Without your financial support the Charity would not be able to help our membership or dependants. Please continue to support out festival.

Tudor Lodge visit

There was a double celebration at Tudor Lodge’s installation meeting last year. Provincial Grand Master Paul Gower, Provincial Grand Charity Steward Chris Noble and other Provincial officers were there to see the Worshipful Master, W.Bro Stuart Adams, presented with a Certificate of Patronage for the Lodge, in recognition of its donations to the 2019 Festival. At the same meeting Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Mike Fenner, who holds the rank of PPSGD in Middlesex, was awarded a Field Appointment to the rank of PPSGD in Hertfordshire by the PGM, in recognition of the standard of his work.
W. Bro Peter Lowi

Car lover W. Bro Peter Lowi, a member of Harpenden Lodge No 4314 for 34 years, wanted desperately to show off his beautifully-restored 1926 Chevrolet Tourer at the town’s classic car show back in July. Sadly wet weather scuppered that plan.

But the car made an appearance in the town in very sad circumstances just a few weeks later when, following Peter’s very sudden death, it was brought to his funeral service by his son Andy. Andy drove the car from the service to Harpenden cemetery in tribute to his dad. Here another Harpenden member kept guard on the car parked outside the church where it was admired by mourners.
Provincial Curator's Report  
By Museum curator Brian Tierney

Once again there have been a number of new items donated to the collection, but the most notable in this report is a unique Masonic Chess Set. A member recently died leaving a massive collection of chess sets. His family kindly donated the Masonic set to the Province. For two months it was openly displayed in the Hodge Room and has now been moved to a more secure display on the first floor. Just as unique, but a little smaller, is an engraved gold propelling pencil. There were only 19 made and they were presented by members of the 1931 Board of Grand Stewards to their ladies. Also donated is a silver Tercentenary Jewel. The jewel collection continues to grow. There has recently been two substantial legacies as well as many handed in with regalia from deceased members. In some instances, especially Charity Festival Jewels of Hertfordshire, the numbers have become somewhat substantial and overwhelming. Whilst we do exchange with other museums, there has been less interest in private collecting of such jewels. But I do not throw away any. Every jewel is catalogued, photographed and valued. But if any member does collect, I always welcome a ‘wants list’.

Much time has been spent upgrading our various catalogues. Due to the sheer number of items one can never be absolutely sure of total accuracy, but we hope we have now achieved something very close to 100 per cent. Visitors are always surprised how quickly we can locate the record and actual jewel or artefact.

Our museum covers all Degrees, Orders and Constitutions as well as a substantial library and archive. But in comparison to other museums we are rather short of old masonic pottery, china, brass and wood.

Grand Lodge has asked for a copy of the 1985 Hertfordshire Year Book. Our spare set at Fleet House is also missing the 1966 book. If anyone has a copy of either, they would be most welcome.

Again I am pleased to report that there is still considerable interest being shown in the Provincial Tercentenary Banner Project website. The number of visits is now approaching three and a half thousand. There have been some new banners added. We would welcome any comments, corrections or additions. www.hertsmasonicbanners.uk

As always I repeat the request that you don’t throw anything away before letting me see it. The one item we cannot receive and keep is the official records of open Lodges and Chapters such as Minute, Attendance, Declaration and Accounting Books. If any Secretary or

Mind donation

A donation of £1,250 was recently made to Hertfordshire MIND Network by Three Rivers Lodge 9078. The sum was raised during the Mastership of W.Bro Gordon Scott during 2017/18; a year which concluded with a very successful Ladies Festival at Cambridge.

The presentation, at Ashwell House St. Albans, was made by Gordon Scott and Charity Steward W.Bro Chris Oats to Julie Nicholson CEO of Herts. MIND Network. MIND is an independent charitable provider of mental health services to those over 18 facing mental health issues or caring for those who have those issues.
**Prince Michael of Kent Court**

**Changes on the Association of Friends**

by Malcolm Andrews.

There have been two personnel changes in the Association of Friends of Prince Michael of Kent Court at the Annual General Meeting in April.

Kathy Loveridge stood down as Membership Secretary. Kathy has given many years of devoted service to the task and we thank her very much for all her hard work. She is remaining on the events sub-committee and intends to devote more time to working with the residents, which she particularly enjoys.

W.Bro Doug Brodie of Hertfordshire replaced Kathy and has adopted the email address of membership@pmkcfriends.co.uk. Doug’s administrative expertise will be of great value and he has some refreshing new ideas to bring to the job.

I also stood down from my position of Association of Friends Chairman.

Having been in post for nearly seven years I felt the time was right to hand over to someone new to give the Association fresh direction and energy.

W.Bro Julien Sampson, a SVO in London and a very experienced Freemason, replaced me. Julien brings with him considerable managerial experience from his working life and has exactly the right character and vision for the position. He has adopted the chairman@pmkcfriends.co.uk email address. Kathy and I want to thank everyone for the support and help we have been given over the years and wish Julien and Doug every success in their new roles.

Over the past 12 or so months, the events sub-committee has had a number of new people join it. W.Bro Simon Comben is now the sub-committee chairman. He has Kathy and Jo Shipley still with him along with new members Bro Vinay Jain from Middlesex, Doug and Roz Brodie, Julien and Cynthia Sampson and W.Bro Andrew Farleigh from London. All are doing a fantastic job working closely with Beverley and Nina (the home’s management team) and the activities staff to bring new, fresh events onto our calendar along with some of the old favourite ones, suitably revamped as necessary.

The Association continues to use all donations for the benefit of the residents, whether it be for entertainment, chiropody, birthday and Christmas presents or bigger projects such as the newly completed dementia garden, which is a wonderful benefit for our ageing Masons and their dependants. Please continue to support the Association and may I thank each and every one of you for your past help and support.

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**Watford Workshop**

Charity Watford Workshop received a welcome boost from the town’s Halsey Hall.

Our picture shows events team chairman Mike Kerrigan presenting a cheque to trustees Annick Devillard, Linda McIntyre and Megan, its fundraising ambassador. The donation was made possible by a successful Christmas Party held at Halsey Hall and is one of several local charities being supported by various events throughout the year.

The role of this charity is to give disabled and disadvantaged people new skills and confidence through work experience and training. Where possible they help them to move into unsupported employment. Over 50 people attend the workshop with a range of disabilities, including learning difficulties, blind and deaf service users. There are also people with different languages and some able-bodied workers. A number of volunteers help in various capacities.

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**Helpline**

The Masonic Charitable Foundation has launched a new helpline campaign.

Advice will cover a range of issues including finance, health, family and care concerns. An easy to keep card has been sent out to Masons across the country via the Freemasonry Today magazine.

The card literature lists the sort of advice on offer along with contact details. It states:

“As you are a Freemason, or a close family member of a Freemason? Do you have a financial, health, family or care related need? We may be able to help”.

Two contact details are also included: 0800 035 6090, help@mcf.org.uk

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Rosewood Lodge

After a successful Ladies Festival in Chichester, Roger Bartropp, Worshipful Master of Rosewood Lodge, together with his wife Jean and Charity Steward Earle Williams presented a cheque for £300 to Radlett Lodge School. The donation was to be used for a Christmas Party for pupils. The school is run by the National Autistic Society and Roger is a volunteer minibus driver. Purpose built in 1974 it takes children from 20 local authorities aged from four to 19. Rosewood has recently attained the rank of Patron of the 2019 Festival. For further information on the school and charity go to http://www.autism.org.uk/services/nas-schools/radlett-lodge.

Provincial Assistant Grand Chaplain for the high jump

As Provincial News went to press (May 5) W.Bro Andy Clarke was due to be jumping from a plane - hopefully attached to a parachute! Andy is raising money for Willow which was set up by former Arsenal goalkeeper Bob Wilson and his wife Megs after the death of their daughter. Willow, based in Welwyn Garden City, provides special days for adults aged between 18 and 40 who have severe or life-threatening illnesses. The special days give the families time together that might not be otherwise possible. Willow has held a carol concert at St Albans Cathedral for many years and after hearing some of the testimonies from the families, Andy decided he wanted to help.

Andy told Provincial News: “It was very emotional listening to the people who had been a recipient of the Special Days, telling the audience at the concert just how much it meant to them that they had been given the opportunity to spend time with their families which might not have happened without Willow.”

Speaking before his parachute jump he said: “I have worked closely with Willow when they are at the Cathedral for their concerts and I thought this was an opportunity to give them some support.

“I’ve never jumped from a plane before and I’m not really good with heights, so this could be an interesting day.”

If you would like to support Andy, donations can still be made at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andywiclarke

Provincial News editor Terry Mitchinson, a founder trustee of Willow, said: “It would be great to see as many people as possible supporting Andy. I know first hand what a terrific charity Willow is.

“Having done a parachute jump myself I know it is not for the faint-hearted so a huge well done and thank-you from me!”

Fundraiser for baby

A £1.5m hospital appeal has been given a boost by members of The Welwyn Viaduct Lodge. The donation, in memory of Freddie Smith, went to the Luton and Dunstable Hospital which is raising funds for its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Freddie had been transferred to the unit after a traumatic birth at the Lister Hospital in Stevenage. But he sadly died two days later. Freddie’s parents Lauren and Bobby are fundraising in Freddie’s memory, as a thank-you for the care he received, and “for the consideration and kindness shown to the family during Freddie’s short life”. His grandfather Bob is a past master of the lodge.

Our picture shows Freddie’s younger brother George, four, presenting a cheque for £700 to staff members at the unit. For further details and pictures go to Justgiving.com/fundraising/freddiesmith20012

So far £560,000 has been raised towards the total.
Guardian Children

Four Hertfordshire children with challenging conditions, along with their families, are being helped thanks to grants from the MCF Community Awards. All are being supported by charity Brainwave which help children with disabilities “reach their full potential.” The £15,000 Community Award means the four are being classed as Guardian children, meaning the Province is supporting them through a full year of therapy and will receive updates on their progress and photos from their visits to Brainwave. Our four Guardian children are:

Safiya from Bushey
Safiya is almost three years old and has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy, which affects all areas of her development, particularly physical and speech and language. She first attended Brainwave in September 2015. At that time she had poor head control, was unable to sit up, or roll over, without support and could not grasp objects. She is now able to hold these activities and positions for longer periods of time and is using a wider range of vocalisations. Her therapy programme was updated with the aim to continue to improve head and trunk control, improve weight bearing on her arms and encourage speech sounds.

Kush from Bushey
Kush is four years six months old and has been diagnosed with Down’s Syndrome, which affects both physical and speech and language development. He first attended Brainwave in October 2016 and at that time his speech development was poor and he was not able to maintain a pincer grip to hold a pencil. Kush is now using a wider vocabulary and longer sentences and is beginning to develop his pincer grip. His therapy programme was updated with the aim to continue to develop fine motor skills, speech development and improve his attention and focus.

Antonio from Ware
Antonio is five years and eight months old and has been diagnosed with Autism. He first attended Brainwave in July 2015 where he had difficulty with social and communication skills and panicked in noisy environments. Initially, Antonio only used single words to communicate but he is now using a wider range of vocabulary and his attention skills are improving. His therapy programme was updated with the aim to continue to improve language and attention skills and encourage turn taking.

Sam from Stevenage
Sam is nine years old and has been diagnosed with developmental delay and KCNQ2 Genetic Syndrome which affects his physical and communication development. He first attended Brainwave in July 2012 and was unable to walk or sit without support and needed help with all personal tasks. Sam is now able to transfer to different positions, walking using an aid and his interaction and communication skills have improved. His therapists and parents will now aim to continue to build upon these achievements. Sam’s mother said: “Sam has continued to make good progress in all areas and still works very hard on his Brainwave exercise programme every day. We’re so glad that Sam attends Brainwave as they have given us positivity and their therapists have brilliant ideas to help Sam”.

Beyond the Craft:
A special meeting of the Veritatem Sequere Lodge
By W.Bro Bob Cordery ProvGOrat

Just before he handed over the role of Provincial Grand Orator and Worshipful Master of the Veritatem Sequere Lodge to me late last year, W.Bro George Laverick had set in motion the planning of a special meeting of the Province’s research lodge to be held in July 2018, and to which all Hertfordshire Master Masons would be invited to attend.

The plan is for the Lodge to hold a short meeting where the formal business will be conducted, and then close so that a number of presentations under the title ‘Beyond the Craft’ can take place.

Representatives from all the main organisations and orders (including some of the esoteric ones) will each do a short talk about their order whilst wearing their regalia. It is hoped that the following will represented:

- Grand Stewards
- Holy Royal Arch
- Mark
- Knights Templar
- Knights Templar Priests
- Rose Croix
- Allied Masonic Degrees
- Royal Order of Scotland
- Royal & Select Masters
- Societas Rosicruciana In Anglia
- Red Cross of Constantine
- Knights Beneficent of the Holy City Scottish Rite.

The intention is to enlighten attendees as to the wide-ranging nature of Freemasonry in general and Hertfordshire in particular. The usual Festive Board will be replaced by a buffet in order to accommodate as many attendees as possible while keeping the cost – approximately £15 - as low as possible.

The meeting will be held at Ashwell House, St Albans, on July 11, and any Hertfordshire Mason will be able to attend. All they have to do is to contact the Secretary, W.Bro Barrie House, for further details. Email Barrie.j.house@gmail.com or call 07415 877716.
Three Freemasons appear in the dock with local councillor

Yes, that's right! The picture shows our PGM Paul Gower, along with Hugh Oram the ProvGSec, Tony Harris, ProvGSuptWks, and St Albans councillor Annie Brewster.

All four of them had followed the same path of previous criminals from the basement cells to the dock in old St Albans courthouse.

Instead of feeling down and despondent, however, they were in celebratory mood as they had just enjoyed a fascinating tour of the nearly completed refurbished building.

We reported in the Spring 2017 edition of Provincial News how the Province had become a ‘Gold’ sponsor of the refurbishment project, to convert the old courthouse building into a museum, art gallery and multi-functional building.

The work has made staggering progress and the project is due to be completed later this year.

The PGM Paul Gower told Provincial News: “Without any doubt this development is of the highest standard and will become a great asset to both the local people of Hertfordshire and also the nation.

I am delighted that our province has been associated with it.”

The building now accommodates a number of large enclosed areas for use as galleries, museum displays and function rooms. It also has its own restaurant, catering facilities and a most amazing ballroom. Even the old courthouse has a new use – as a cafeteria and tea room.

Defibrillator for village hall

Members of the Lodge Trust and Fear Not in St Albans chose, as part of its charitable activities, to donate a portable defibrillator to the Park Street Village Hall, Park Street.

Master, W.Bro Dr Michael Rhead, Secretary W.Bro Geoff Gale and three other members of the Lodge presented the ‘LifePak’ defibrillator to Chris Brown, Village Hall Committee chairman watched by trustees and hall committee members.

Lodge member Bill Pryce said: “Park Street Village Hall has been completely renovated and refurbished over the last 10 years by volunteers, mainly members of the hall committee and Park Players, from a fairly unkempt and little used facility into a hall fit for purpose with new roofing, new meeting rooms, kitchens and toilets and a useable car park. A new stage will be erected shortly.

“The hall is now hired by a wide range of users, young and not so young, from ballet classes to table tennis, quiz nights to Zumba sessions and for council elections.

“The installation of a defibrillator, suggested by a member of Lodge Trust and Fear Not, was thought to be a necessary addition to the hall’s equipment. The Lodge contributed to the full cost of the equipment and installation.

“Of course, we do hope it is never used, but it is now there just in case.”

W.Bro. Peter Trigg

Back in the summer of 2016 W.Bro. Percy (Peter) William Trigg was informed by the Ambassador for France that he had been appointed to the rank of Chevalier in the National Order of the Legion of Honour.

The honour expressed France's thanks to all those who fought for the liberation of Europe.

Peter, now 92, was an Able Seaman in the Royal Navy on D Day, June 6, 1944.

At the time of the Normandy Landings he was serving on Motor Torpedo Boats in 55 Flotillia, patrolling the coastline, concentrating on any attempted enemy breakouts from Le Havre.

Following the landings he was anchored in the Mulberry Harbour off the beaches where troops, supplies and equipment were being landed.

He remained there until August 21. The Army had pushed into France by then and Peter was recalled to HMS Hornet, the Coastal Forces Depot, and was inoculated, examined and sent to Liverpool. The inoculations were not required for visiting Liverpool! But he had been posted to Ceylon via Cape Town on HMS Andes.

In Ceylon he was part of the 38th Flotilla of ML Gun Boats, but as Peter says, “That’s another story”.

He was de-mobbed in 1947.

Peter was in Mulberry Harbour on June 30, 1944, when his Mother Lodge, The Temple Bar Lodge No. 5962, was consecrated.

Since his Initiation into the Lodge in 1963, he has served as Master in 1976, and was one of the first Trustees of the Orchard and Pullen Trust, a Lodge charitable account for disabled children and funded originally by bequests from two Lodge widows.

At a Regular Lodge meeting in December last year, VW.Bro David Ferris DepPGM, formally recognised Peter’s achievements both in his war service and to his Lodge and the Craft in general.

In congratulating him on his receipt of the Legion d'Honneur, he also presented Peter with a Vice Patron Bar to his Jewel for the RMTGB Festival 2019, in recognition of his ongoing charitable donations.

Peter, much moved by the occasion, replied to the Lodge regaling them with a few of his exploits and his extensive activities with the local Normandy Veterans Association; which sadly has now been disbanded as it was down to just two members.
Royal Arch Masons

Provincial Information Officer
E. Comp. Michael Gowland Tel: 01763 852961
Email: provinfoofficer@herts-chapter.org.uk
I would be very grateful to hear of any news or events you might like to see featured in the Provincial News or to have promoted on the Province's social media and web site.
www.herts-chapter.org.uk

For your calendar:
TRADITIONAL AFTERNOON TEA - JUNE 24
Following the success of a similar event last year, a traditional afternoon tea will be held once again at Mayflower Place, Hertingfordbury. It will take place on Sunday, June 24, starting at 2.30pm. There will be a few extra fundraising games and raffle and all surplus money will go to the 2019 Festival Appeal.

RA GOLF DAY - JULY 13
We shall again be holding this popular event at Redbourn Golf Club on Friday, July 13. Tee times will start from 11:30am and the event will be followed by a presentation dinner to which non-golfers are most welcome and indeed are to be actively encouraged.

CHAPTER PRINCIPALS & SCRIBES ANNUAL LUNCHEON
Royal Arch Province of Hertfordshire invites the Active Provincial Officers of 2018 and 2019, the Chapter Principals and Scribes to attend the Annual Luncheon to be held on Sunday, October 7, at The Cloisters, Letchworth Garden City. Details and application forms will be sent out in May. Contact David Hampton, Deputy Grand Superintendent.
Email david.hampton@herts-chapter.org.uk

WEEKEND AWAY - NOVEMBER 16/18
Having had a very successful weekend away last year, the Province is exploring arranging another for this year. Details to follow later in the year.
For further details of all these events go to the Chapter website.

Hertfordshire’s Royal Arch Extends over Denmark!

It is sad when a Lodge or Chapter has to close, and until very recently that seemed to be the fate confronting Cheshunt Chapter No. 2921, as it was struggling to find new candidates. Our Province, however, was able to come up with an exciting alternative to closure. Freemasonry has been present in Denmark since the founding of the Lodge of St. Martin in Copenhagen in 1743. The regular Grand Lodge of Denmark, the Danish Order of Freemasons, follows the Swedish Rite, which is somewhat different from British Freemasonry in that, instead of having a series of side orders that a brother may or may not chose to join after going through the three degrees of Craft Masonry, the Swedish Rite has eleven degrees that a brother can work through in sequence (though few will get as far as the last degree in the sequence, ‘Most Enlightened Brother, Knight Commander of the Red Cross’).

Many of the degrees in the Swedish Rite are similar or equivalent to the degrees worked in England, but there is one striking omission. Up until now there has been no Holy Royal Arch degree worked in Denmark. On Saturday, December 6, 2017, that changed as Cheshunt Chapter relocated to Denmark.
Our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, James Sharpley and the Provincial Grand Treasurer, Tim Huckle travelled to Esbjerg, Denmark to attend the official opening and the relocation of the Chapter. This will be followed by two other failing chapters.
So now Cheshunt Chapter has been saved from closing and has relocated. It will now operate as a Royal Arch Chapter, still under the Provincial Grand Chapter of Hertfordshire, but now in Denmark, bringing the Holy Royal Arch to that country at last.

Brother exalted!

Whenever a mason is exalted into the Holy Royal Arch we would say he is being exalted by his brother. Those attending Hertford Chapter in October at Hertingfordbury were, however, fortunate to enjoy a special occasion when a brother exalted his true brother. For at that meeting MEZ, E.Comp Richard Borsberry exalted his brother, Paul Borsberry.
It was a splendid ceremony in which Richard was assisted with a faultless performance as Principal Sojourner by E.Comp Tony Bearpark.
Paul began his masonic journey in 1985 when he was initiated into Layston Lodge, where he is currently Director of Ceremonies. When he decided the time was right to complete his Masonic journey by joining the Royal Arch. What better start than being exalted by his brother, Richard.
Setting the Standard

In November Queen’s Oak Chapter celebrated its 25th anniversary at its installation meeting. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E.Comp James Sharpley, accompanied by the Second Provincial Grand Principal E.Comp Paul Blakemore, the Third Provincial Grand Principal, E.Comp Phil Masters and the Deputy Provincial Director of Ceremonies, E.Comp James Angus, as well as a retinue of Active Provincial Officers, attended.

E.Comp Terry Smith was installed as MEZ under the watchful eyes of a number of the founders of the Chapter, including 90-year-old E.Comp Eric Self. This was the first outing of the new Provincial Sword and Standard which can be seen on display in the photograph with our Grand Superintendent and members of the Provincial Grand Chapter together with the Principals of Queens Oak Chapter.

Calling all Craft Lodges

Do you have a Holy Royal Arch Chapter connected with your lodge? If not, there are many Royal Arch Chapters in the province that would be very pleased to connect with your lodge, and the Royal Arch has a great deal to offer both to individual brethren, and to lodges. For individual brethren, the Holy Royal Arch offers a continuation of your masonic journey completing the difficult transition begun in the Third Degree and, in a symbolic sense, fulfilling the promise of a journey you began as an entered apprentice.

It is also a gateway into several other orders, including Royal and Select Masters and Knights Templar that can extend a brother's masonic knowledge even further, developing the account of Solomon's Temple and also introducing the chivalric aspects of Masonry. For lodges, the Holy Royal Arch offers a way of maintaining brother's interest and engagement with Freemasonry, especially in that period after they have passed through the Chair and served their year as Immediate Past Master. This has been identified as UGLE as one of the periods when we sometimes struggle to retain a brother. Having passed through the progressive offices, and suddenly finding themselves with little work to do, a brother can start to feel they have received all that Freemasonry has to offer them and there is little for them to do now, especially in a larger lodge where the other important offices may well be filled by more senior brethren. This is a time when the Royal Arch and the other side orders can really help to expand a brother’s masonic horizons and maintain their interest in the Craft.

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Annual Convocation – November 2017

The M E Grand Superintendent, E.Comp James Sharpley, has thanked all those Companions who supported the Province and Companions by attending the Provincial Annual Convocation at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street, London, in November.

It was a memorable and most enjoyable occasion when 448 Companions were in attendance in the Grand Temple and 271 dined in the Grand Connaught Rooms afterwards. Six Grand Superintendents of neighbouring Provinces joined us along with many other distinguished guests. It proved to be an excellent occasion and a most enjoyable dinner.

After the convocation, the Provincial Grand Scribe E, E.Comp John Linley received many letters of commendation and thanks and some comments are contained below:

…..You, and all the team are to be congratulated on the organisation of the day, which was very well managed and the meeting was most impressive! Please give our best wishes to all the Companions of Hertfordshire.

Nick B. Le-Grys, Provincial Grand Scribe E, Suffolk

…..Thoroughly enjoyable and a super performance all round particularly from the Grand Superintendent.

Bill Dastur, Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Cambridgeshire

…..It was a most enjoyable occasion and it was obvious a lot of work had gone into making it the success it undoubtedly was. The precision of the work performed by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team was truly amazing and the grandeur of the setting only served to enhance a memorable experience. The atmosphere, both during the Convocation and at dinner afterwards, demonstrated what a happy Province Hertfordshire is.

David Workman, 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, Hants & IOW

…..I thoroughly enjoyed both the meeting and the company and food at the festive board. The excellent turn out of members and guests made the proceedings even more special. Please give my heartiest congratulations to your Grand Superintendent, James Sharpley together with David Hampton as Deputy and to the other Principals, wishing them another successful year ahead.

Martyn P. Farrell, Deputy Grand Superintendent, Middlesex

And many more………..

We should all be very proud of our Chapters and Province and on behalf of the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent and the Executive, wish you another successful year in your Chapters in this Province of Happy Hertfordshire.

Provincial Officers, Principals and Scribes Luncheon

A record number of guests, totalling 117, attended the Annual Luncheon for Provincial Officers, Chapter Principals and Scribes at the Cloisters Masonic Centre, Letchworth Garden City, in October.

The event was presided over by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, James Sharpley who said it was a delight to see so many guests and members present and thanked them for their support of the luncheon and the Province. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent also thanked all members present for their past services and in anticipation of their continued service to their Chapters and the Province in the year to come.

A delightful afternoon was had by all who attended, with a very enjoyable three course carvery meal supplied by the Cloister's catering team.

After the success of last years event, the luncheon has again been provisionally booked for Sunday, October 7.

Please give my heartiest congratulations to your Grand Superintendent, James Sharpley together with David Hampton as Deputy and to the other Principals, wishing them another successful year ahead.

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After the success of last years event, the luncheon has again been provisionally booked for Sunday, October 7.
East Hertfordshire Chapter re-connects with East Herts Lodge – after seven decades

In February 1917, East Herts Lodge petitioned for a new Royal Arch Chapter. The petition was granted and on October 24 East Hertfordshire Chapter No. 3748 was consecrated at the Holborn Restaurant in London. The Chapter moved around quite a bit during the early years, but extracts from the minutes show membership steadily increased and by 1925 there were some 27 members with an average of 21 attending each meeting. Candidates were then being drawn from a number of Lodges including East Herts, King Harold, Walnut Tree, Gresham and Gaddesden. In those days, they had so many candidates they were often exalted in threes; indeed at one notable meeting in 1927 five candidates were successfully exalted together.

The October meeting in 1940, held in the temple contained in the mansard roof of the Holborn Restaurant, was of particular note. During the meeting, an air-raid siren sounded, soon followed by the sound of heavy gunfire. The temple was quickly closed and evacuated.

The candidate at that fateful meeting was W.Bro Cyril Bates, who was informed that the Mystical lecture and signs would be delivered at some other time when personal safety was more certain. The Chapter held an emergency meeting in May 1941 purely to deliver the lecture to him, most probably wearing tin hats! W.Bro Cyril Bates was the last candidate to come from East Herts Lodge for what turned out to be the following 77 years - as the Chapter became separated from its sponsoring Lodge.

That is until now. At its April meeting the current secretary of East Herts Lodge, W.Bro Tom Day, was exalted into the Chapter for the start of what they hope will be a new chapter of close links with East Herts Lodge.

Craft meets Chapter

Like many Chapters, Charles Edward Keyser Chapter No. 2518 has been working hard to find exaltees, as it has not had a candidate for the last two years. This was affecting, not just the Chapter itself, but also some other units, such as Knight Templar, which requires Royal Arch Companions as candidates. Excellent Companion Les Butler, seeing both his Royal Arch and Knights Templar preceptory suffering, decided to do something about it.

To this end, recognising that the relationship with the Craft is the key to his Chapter’s health, Les approached Provincial Grand Chapter for its help in putting together an event to introduce the Chapter to members of the Craft and to help the bond between the orders. On Tuesday, May 15, at Halsey Masonic Hall Cheshunt, Charles Edward Keyser Chapter will host a ‘Dine a Mason’ event at which members of this, or any other chapter, are welcome to bring any Master Masons who may be interested in Chapter. From 5.30pm the Chapter will welcome companions and members of the craft with tea and biscuits. They will then be invited into the Chapter room where much of the furniture of the chapter will be laid out, with the officers of the Chapter in their places in full regalia. Members of the craft will then be treated to a presentation on Chapter by the Provincial Executive, and officers of the Chapter will give a commentary on their various roles.

Having a good relationship with a Chapter can help a Lodge with retention of members and with maintaining their active interest in Masonry. One period Grand Lodge has identified as a crucial time for retention are the years following a brother’s passage through the Chair of a Lodge. This is where joining Royal Arch can help.

Any brother or companion wishing to attend this event should contact Les Butler at ljbutler@btconnect.com (dinning will be £25). Les has also offered to share his experience in organising the is event with other Chapters. Contact him on the above email address.

Celebrating Success

At a time when we hear about Chapters and Lodges that are finding the time difficult, it is a delight to celebrate a Chapter that is thriving. In January Harpenden Chapter No. 4314 celebrated its installation and Burns night meeting, with 69 companions sitting down to dine.

This is not an unusual number for the Chapter. Since its Scribe E, E.Comps Keith Gilbert PGStB PPGSoj took office in 2000, it has had around 70 companions at each installation, 50 at the April meeting and around 35 for the September meeting.

What is the secret of its success? Clearly members have a good relationship with the Craft. More than two thirds of its members are exaltees, indeed in the last 20 years only four meetings were without a candidate. Another thing that helps the Chapter thrive is the way it makes the festive board special. At installation it has a Burns night. The April meeting is a celebration of an important person or event. These have included celebrating Kipling, London, St George and Shakespeare. Clearly having these special celebrations helps maintain attendance at the Chapter, for numbers are highest at meetings where members host these celebratory festive boards.
Mark Masons

Provincial Information Officer
W.Bro Jack Franks   Tel: 01279 865526
Email: jackfranks@ntlworld.com
Provincial web site www.hertsmark.org
Bro James Davies web master

It has been 10 years since Chris Radmore took over as Provincial Grand Master of The Mark and RAM Province of Hertfordshire. During this period we have seen the Province improve and our Lodges become more confident; so it is right to say thank you for keeping Hertfordshire Mark Masonry in such good and safe hands. I am sure I speak for all Mark Masons and all RAMs in the Province and we look forward to seeing you out and about in the Province.

Forthcoming Events
The Installation of the new Provincial Grand Master V.W.Bro Richard Walker PGJO at the Provincial Meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 17, at the Girls School, Rickmansworth, to be opened at 10.45 precisely. Brethren must be seated by 10.25am.

Brethren by the time that you read this I expect this morning part of the day to be fully subscribed to, but it is always worth checking. The afternoon starts with lunch at 1pm and the afternoon meeting with all being seated by 3.10pm. During the Provincial Meeting the New Deputy Provincial Grand Master W.Bro Maurice Smith and Assistant Provincial Grand Master Professor Jordan Giddings will be installed, along with new Provincial Grand Officers.

Wednesday, January 10

The Installation Meeting of Hertfordshire Installed Commanders was the first engagement of the year and quite a landmark because at this meeting our next PGM Installed W.Bro Stuart Kay a well-respected Royal Ark Mariner. The ceremony was a perfect one and W.Bro Richard Walker demonstrated the type of ritual that would be expected during his term as Provincial Grand Master. The new W.Commander then went on to appoint and invest his Officers, with Ted Long as SW and Brian Tierney as JW. The new Commander then gave a very interesting talk entitled ‘The secrets of the Secretariat’. The meeting was very well attended and the festive board enjoyed by all. I wish the Commander Stuart Kay a great year.

Wednesday, February 7

The Mark Demonstration this year was hosted by The St Albans Lodge MMM No 1108. The team as usual under the direction of Roy Moth arrived at noon to start rehearsal. Every aspect was checked from procession in to procession out, until Roy was satisfied. The Brethren of St Albans Lodge arrived and they too had a rehearsal. The Lodge was opened and the Provincial team entered with the PGM at its head welcomed warmly by the Brethren under the WM. W.Bro Denis Gibney. The WM’s chair was occupied by W.Bro Sachin Rajput a new name on the list of Provincial Officers but one you are bound to hear again. W.Bro Rajput treated us all to an excellent and flawless ceremony. The signs of the Degree were given in an excellent manner by W.Bro Richard Harvey. The ceremony completed, the Lodge was handed back the WM and his officers and the PGM. R.W.Bro Chris Radmore left the Lodge in Procession.

The festive board followed and old and new acquaintances renewed and made. This was a great day and one that all Mark Masons should try to attend.

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John Goddard
On behalf of Character Windows and Doors 2005 Ltd
The Hertfordshire Mark Sunday Lunch was held at Hertingfordbury Mayflower Place and organised by W.Bro Geoff Parish and his good lady Jan. I am not sure about the word spring; with snow storms it was more like an arctic winter. But that did not stop the event and there was a full house. On arrival we were met with a blazing log fire in the bar and many friendly faces. The Sunday lunch was excellent, service was great and I must add very well done by the caterers Sarka and Filip Novotny.

At the end of the lunch the PGM Chris Radmore made a short thank you to Geoff and Jan and went on to say this was one of the last times he would be speaking as PGM. He also informed us that Brenda who had been ill was well on her way to recovery. We were all glad to see her looking so well on the day. Finally Chris said on behalf of Brenda and himself he would like to say thank you to two very special people for their support and friendship over a difficult period. Norwell Roberts QPM and his wife Wendy received a rousing round of applause. Chris then sat and he received a standing ovation from all present.

Friday, March 9

This time the Provincial Royal Ark Mariner demonstration team went to Radlett Masonic Centre at RoseWalk, our hosts being Elstree and Radlett Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners. Most of the team arrived two hours before the start and a full rehearsal took place. The Mark Ceremony was first. We were treated to an excellent Advancement ceremony by the WM W.Bro Alan Russell. W.Bro John Walker PPGJW demonstrated the signs and then the working tools. All the officers did a great job. The PGM RW.Bro Chris Radmore congratulated Bro Goldthorpe on his Advancement. The RAM meeting was opened and PGM with the full team entered. Lodge officers changed places with the Provincial Demonstration Team and the Provincial Grand Charity Steward W.Bro David Horne and his hardworking assistant W.Bro Denis Brown have set about their task with great aplomb. The scheme is devised so that every month 50 per cent of the money paid in will be distributed in prizes, and the other 50 per cent donated to the Herts Mark Benevolent Fund to assist brethren less fortunate, and other local small charities to which a small windfall of say £200 is a life-line. Over the past few years we have concentrated on the Hope for Tomorrow project and have neglected our own Fund which has used quite a bit of its reserves in serving all in need. At your own Lodge meeting you will have heard the Provincial representatives asking the Lodge Charity Steward if he or any brother had a small local charity that would benefit from a small donation. You may not be aware that if representation is made to the Provincial Grand Charity Steward it is possible that the Province will match fund whatever your Lodge will donate up to say £250, subject to the funds being available. Hence the need for our ‘pot’ to be replenished.

By joining this scheme this will help all. I understand there are some brethren who see this as gambling and I respect that position. But to any who are able and willing to donate £5 per month to this club the Executive will be grateful. If you wish to take part please contact the Provincial Grand Charity Steward and he will send you the details.

Sunday, March 18

The Hertfordshire Mark Sunday Lunch was held at Hertingfordbury Mayflower Place and organised by W.Bro Geoff Parish and his good lady Jan. I am not sure about the word spring; with snow storms it was more like an arctic winter. But that did not stop the event and there was a full house. On arrival we were met with a blazing log fire in the bar and many friendly faces. The Sunday lunch was excellent, service was great and I must add very well done by the caterers Sarka and Filip Novotny.

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Knights Templar

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

Dates for your diary

May 13 - THE ANNUAL CHURCH SERVICE
The Abbey Church, Waltham Abbey, Essex, BA2 7AY
The Annual Provincial Service of Praise will be held at The Abbey Church, Waltham, at 3pm on Sunday, May 13. Each Preceptory in the Province is represented. This is a great outing for all masonic friends and family. Tea is served after the service.

Wednesday, May 16 - THE GREAT PRIORY ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
At Freemasons’ Hall, London, this is the most important national event in the KT year, when each year Great Priory Honours and Promotions are appointed.

May 26 to 28 - THE AWAY WEEKEND AT YORK
Mercure, Fairfield Manor Hotel, Shipton Road, Skelton, York, YO30 1XW.
Following the great success of last year’s trip, we are going again to York, a wonderful historic city with much to see and enjoy. A full banquet will be held at the hotel.

June 26 - THE GALA FUND RAISING DINNER
For The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, at The London Guildhall.

June 28 - PROVINCIAL PRIORY
Our most important event in the year, the Provincial Priory will be held at the Metropolitan Police Sports Club in Bushey.
In addition to the usual celebratory matters, there will be a special item when we present and dedicate the New Provincial Banner. We expect The Grand Master and many national dignitaries to be with us for this outstanding occasion.
The Annual Meeting is proving to be a successful occasion with our biggest attendance so far last year. The Temple is arranged at The Metropolitan Police Club in Bushey. This venue is close to the centre of our Province, easy to access, has excellent facilities and plenty of parking.

The Provincial Prior’s Bodyguard
The Provincial Prior’s Bodyguard is a team of Knights drawn from Preceptories in the Province of Hertfordshire, who provide ceremonial duties when the Provincial Prior is visiting a Preceptory, at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Priory, and the Provincial Service of Praise.

When the Provincial Prior formally visits a Preceptory, members of the Bodyguard attend and form an Arch of Steel for his Procession in, and the Recession out of, the Preceptory. At the Annual Meeting of Provincial Priory, and the Service of Praise, they perform a variety of other tasks to generally assist the Provincial Marshal with the physical arrangements on the day.
The Hertfordshire Pilgrims

Who are the Hertfordshire Pilgrims?
An enthusiastic and happy band of Knights (formerly pilgrims) formed to travel around The Province to assist and support Preceptories in need, by swelling their attendance, taking office for the meeting, assisting in ritual, or whatever else may be required. Knights can enrol and receive a list of dates, and meeting details, then a summons for each meeting. You can support whenever you choose, with no obligation to attend meetings other than those you select.

For further Information contact:
Mike Beaty, Tsalta, 5 Cusworth Way, Dunstable, Beds., LU6 1UF, or email mbeaty@ktherts.com
For further information visit the KT website, www.ktherts.com and go to the link Contact the Pilgrims. You must be a member of the Order already.

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 R.Div Jun Gen, Asst Div Rec, Div Information Officer
Tel: 01279 817792 Email: philip.hoy@uwclub.net

INSTALLATION OF NEW INTENDANT-GENERAL

The meeting was split into two parts, with the morning session covering the installation of the new Intendant-General, by the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign, Graham Flight, assisted by the Grand Imperial Conclave and Divisional officers, plus the Grand Sepulchre Guard in their accustomed, supporting role. It was a splendid and colourful ceremony much enjoyed by all.

The above teams and Divisional officers then assisted with the installation of our newly appointed Deputy Intendant-General, Ill. Kt. John Wickes a duty which gave our Intendant-General particular pleasure in performing.
A PROFILE OF OUR NEW INTENDANT-GENERAL

Terence Deakin, known throughout Hertfordshire as Terry, was born in St. Albans in 1955. He is a Chartered Accountant and lives in Letchworth with his wife Susan. They have a 20 year old son.

He was initiated in 1980 into the Old Albanian Lodge No. 4999 and Installed as WM in May 1993. In May 1996 he was the Founding A.D.C of Veritatem Sequere Lodge No. 9615. Within the Province, he was appointed ProvGSwdB in September 1996 and promoted to PPJGW in September 2005. In the Royal Arch he was Exalted into the Old Albanian Chapter No. 4999 in 1983 and installed as MEZ in October 1992. In the province he holds the rank of PPGScN. Terry holds Great Priory Rank within Knights Templar having been a member of the Grand Master’s bodyguard and last year he was appointed to the very senior rank of PGVII within Knights Templar Priests.

He holds the 31° within Rose Croix and was the Subst. Prov.G.M within the Royal Ordinariate of Scotland. In our own order of the Red Cross of Constantine, Terry was Installed on November 5, 1994, in The Rose Walk Conclave No. 389. He Joined the Grand Sepulchre Guard in May 1996. Within the Division of Hertfordshire he was appointed Div. Steward in February 2007. He was the Founding Captain of the Divisional Sepulchre Guard in February 2007. He received several promotions until becoming Deputy Intendant-General in February 2017.

He was appointed Grand Herald in May 2013 and promoted to P.Grand Chamberlain in May 2017. Outside of Masonry he was admitted as a Freeman of the City of London in December 1995 and attained Shodan (1st Dan level) Karate Black Belt in May 2010.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO DEPUTY INTENDANT-GENERAL

For several years John Wickes served as Commander of the Grand Sepulchre Guard. In honour of this, the Grand Sovereign made a special presentation to John in the form of a unique collar jewel. Members of the Grand Sepulchre Guard are entitled to wear a silver collar jewel in the form of a sword held in a gauntleted fist. To mark John’s service, the Grand Sovereign had specially commissioned a unique gold jewel and in presenting it to John gave him special permission to wear it as part of his regalia.

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.

Any member will be pleased to discuss the order should you be interested in finding out more information or considering joining. There are Conclaves in Radlett, Royston, Cheshunt, Watford and St. Albans. Anybody wishing to know more about this Christian Order please Contact Alan Yeowell Divisional Recorder alan.yeowell@ntlworld.com for membership details.
DISTRICT MEETING

The autumn meeting of the John Owen Place Tabernacle, No 200 was held at Cheshunt. It hosted the District Meeting and was attended by the Grand Superintendent and High Prelate, R Em Kt Pt Barry Searle, District Officers and 30 members and guests. It was announced that R Em Kt Pt Eric Mitchell was retiring as District Recorder and would be replaced by Ill Kt Pt John Roberts. The Grand Superintendent thanked Eric for the work he had done and the support he had given him over the past nine years.

In his final report the District Recorder highlighted the decline in numbers with a net loss of four over the year. This point was emphasised by the Grand Superintendent in his address, stating recruitment continued to be his biggest concern and that he would be launching a new initiative to promote the Order. He wanted more people to have the opportunity to “benefit from and enjoy the depth and meaning of our wonderful ritual”. The Grand Superintendent announced that the James William Turner Tabernacle, No 222 had achieved the first level of contribution to the Pillar Fund and the High Priest of the Tabernacle would be entitled to wear a green collarette. He hoped other Tabernacles in the District would be encouraged to do the same, the qualification being donations totalling the equivalent of £70 per member.

At the close of the meeting R Em Kt Pt Les Butler and his team presented an Exemplification of the Appendant Degree ‘Most Excellent Master’. This was carried out in a superb fashion and was much appreciated by all present. The Grand Superintendent thanked and congratulated Les Butler and members of the team; David Sodey, Richard Brown, Malcolm McCaw, Bob Chilvers, Dean Moore, John Roberts and Melvyn Pateman with Neil Evans acting as the candidate.

PILLAR FUND

We have made it to a significant milestone in the Pillar Fund by reaching £250,000 to date. In the five years since starting, this is a magnificent result and reflects a great commitment from people throughout the Order. With only six years to go until our centenary we need to keep up the good work in continuing to grow the fund. To this end, members might like to consider making a donation, either as a one-off, an annual payment, or as a regular Standing Order payment.

Below are the amounts for the achievement of the different award levels within the fund.

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* Lapel Pin Per Member

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered for membership of this 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

Illustrious Knight Priest John Roberts PGStB
5 Priory Gate, Thomas Rochford Way, Cheshunt, EN8 0SG
Tel: 01992 444689
E-mail:j.d.roberts53@btinternet.com
Provincial Email Newsletter

To enable the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire to communicate directly with our membership more quickly and efficiently we have launched a digital newsletter. In order to ensure this service reaches as many of our members as possible, we need everyone to give their permission to be contacted in this way and to provide some basic details (name, email, etc.). This information will be kept secure by the Province and not be shared with any third-party without your consent.

If you wish to receive this email newsletter please visit: www.pglherts.org/email