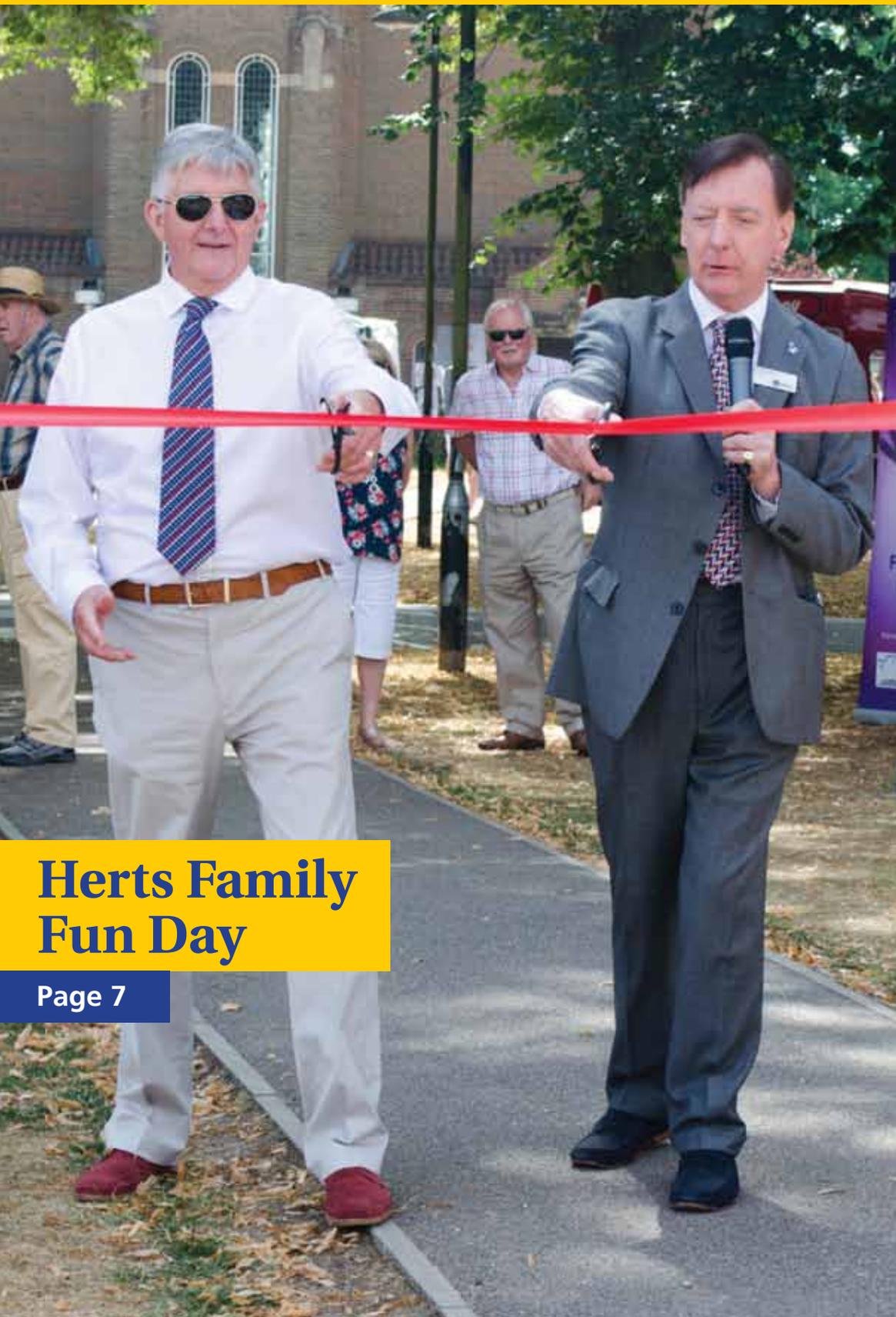


# Provincial News

The newsletter for Hertfordshire Freemasons



No. 53 Autumn 2018



## Herts Family Fun Day

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Helping victims of Hurricane Irma

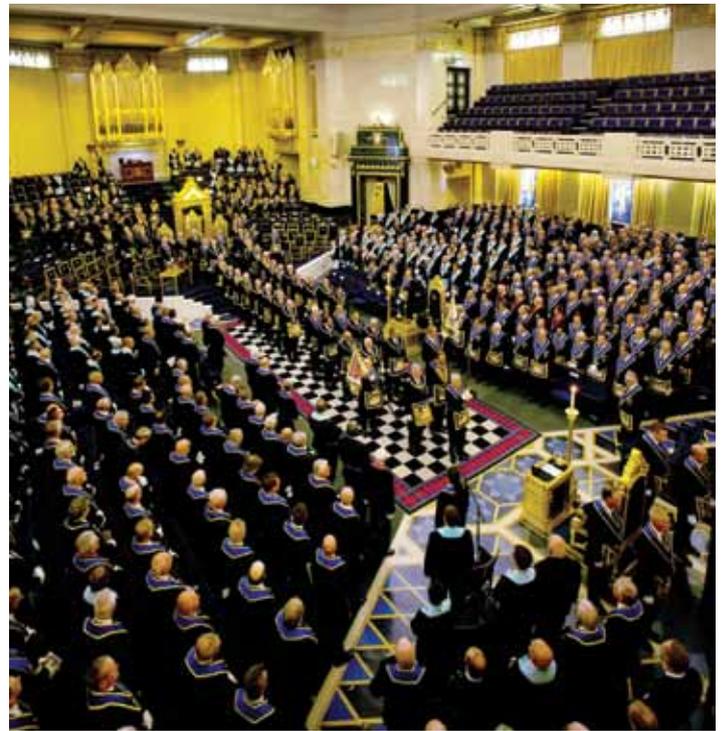
# Annual meeting 2018

Once again it was a packed house when Provincial Grand Lodge held its annual meeting in Freemasons Hall, London. Around 800 attended with more than 520 gathering for the festive board afterwards. It was an emotional afternoon for our Deputy Grand Master VW.Bro David Ferris who retired from his post. He was thanked by

the PGM Paul Gower and presented with a collarette to mark his considerable service to the Province over many years. The PGM then appointed and invested W.Bro Dick Knifton as the new Deputy Provincial Grand Master. W.Bros James Harrison, Jay Patel, Neil Connolly and John Norris were asked by the PGM to continue in their



■ W.Bro Keith Dunnett with his brother-in-law Bro Jim McDowall



roles as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters. New to those exalted ranks this year was our Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies W.Bro Keith Dunnett. He was appointed, obligated and invested as an APGM by the PGM. Among the many other appointments at the meeting, W.Bro Michael Claridge was invested as Provincial Senior Grand Warden, Robert Davis, as Junior Grand Warden and Barrie House as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. Before the conclusion of the meeting, which also included an address by W.Bro Les Hutchinson, chief operating officer of the Masonic

Charitable Foundation, our PGM RW.Bro Paul Gower addressed the assembled brethren. He congratulated all those brethren who had been promoted or appointed. He said: "It has been said before and no doubt will be repeated many times in the future that a Provincial appointment is not only a recognition of service already rendered by an individual Mason, it is also an encouragement to further participation in the promotion of this wonderful institution of Freemasonry from which we derive much pleasure and which is surely a force for good in an increasingly hostile world." The PGM made special





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mention of the Provincial Stewards and the work they did both within the Province and beyond, including helping with the annual Pilgrimage in St Albans. The decline in the number of members of the Province had almost been halted, he informed the audience. Initiations and joining members remained good. But "every mason must be encouraged to recruit quality members so far as he is able". The PGM also highlighted new UGLE initiatives which it was hoped would help improve membership levels. The PGM made special mention of the Visiting Officer Scheme and highlighted the need for further volunteers. The scheme provided "valuable guidance on the success or otherwise of our Lodges and an early warning of approaching difficulty enables us to act swiftly and with greater success in resolving problems". The PGM then went on to

talk about the Tercentenary gathering at the Royal Albert Hall.

"My Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge undertook substantial duties," he told the meeting, "and of course we must recognise the huge organisational work performed by VW.Bro Keith Gilbert and congratulate him on the award of the Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry for all that he did to ensure the success of that venture.

"The completion of the Tercentenary year now affords us the opportunity of concentrating totally on the 2019 Festival for the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys which will reach its conclusion on July 6 with a celebratory banquet at Guildhall, London.

"It is anticipated demand for tickets will be high and after allowing for those brethren who are required to attend a ballot will be held for remaining places."

The PGM went on to say: "I



■ VW.Bro David Ferris with W.Bro Dick Knifton

am pleased to inform you that the Festival target is very clearly in sight and, with a final determined effort by us all, a very respectable total, worthy of the Province of Hertfordshire, will be achieved."

Nearing the end of his address the PGM called on members to mark the centenary of the cessation of The Great War by taking part in one or more of the many ceremonies being held on November 11 and to view the Brothers in Arms exhibition at Freemasons' Hall. He thanked the team at the hall for "their invaluable

assistance in the staging of this Annual Meeting" along with officers of the Province who had all "excelled themselves in the execution of their duties to ensure for you the success of this very special day".

"Lastly Brethren, thank you for your attendance and your unfailing support both here and at your individual Lodges," he said.

"Continue to enjoy your masonry, continue to publicly promote the institution of Freemasonry and be proud to be a member of this happiest of Masonic Provinces.

"May God bless you all."



■ VW.Bro. Keith Gilbert with the Provincial Grand Master

## Guildhall 2019

As the Province closes in on its 2019 Festival target, after almost five years of fundraising, our Provincial Grand Master Paul Gower is inviting members to put their names down to join him for a celebration in London.

An end-of-Festival black tie dinner will take place at Guildhall, in Gresham Street, on Saturday, July 6.

Applications are invited for a maximum of two tickets per subscribing member of a Hertfordshire Lodge.

There is space for a maximum of 700 brethren and partners, so it is likely the evening will be oversubscribed, in which case a ballot will take place.

The cost will be £125 per person including a drinks reception, wine during dinner and musical entertainment throughout the evening.

During the speeches the final total donated by the Brethren of Hertfordshire will be announced.

Full details and ticket application forms are included inside this edition of Provincial News.

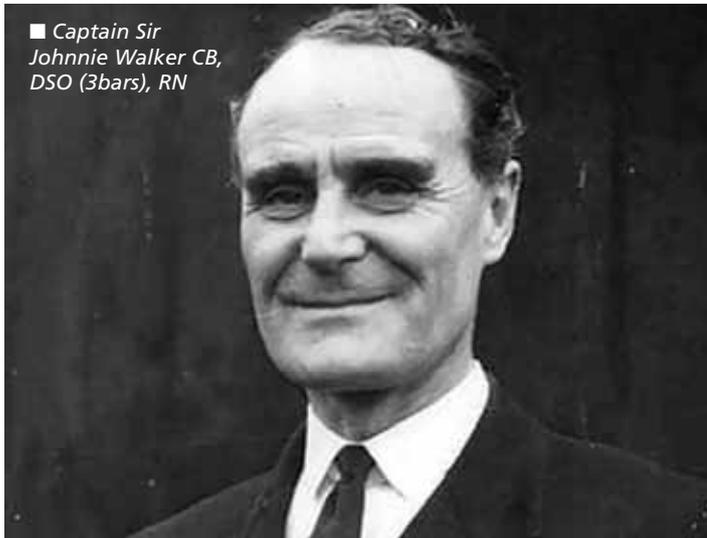
A ticket allocation draw will be at Fleet House on January 12 and successful applicants will be notified by January 31.

Provincial Grand Charity Steward Chris Noble said: "This is a unique opportunity to thank our ladies and partners for all the support we receive from them as Freemasons and enjoy the fantastic surroundings that Guildhall offers.

"Space is, however, limited so please get your applications in for the ballot selection at the earliest opportunity."



Photo by DAVID ILIFF



■ *Captain Sir Johnnie Walker CB, DSO (3bars), RN*

## Johnnie Walker - A truly inspirational Hertfordshire Freemason

### A profile from W.Bro Denis Gibney, Provincial Knights Templar Information Officer

When Hertfordshire Freemason Bob Chilvers spotted a jewel connected to a Knights Templar Preceptory in the Province he decided to buy it.

But the purchase set him on a road of discovery in which he was to unfold the history of a war hero who became known as the Scourge of the U-Boats.

Naval Captain Frederic John ('Johnnie') Walker, CB, DSO, was born in June 1896 and died in July 1944 near the end of World War Two.

He was Eminent Preceptor of Hertfordshire's Melita Preceptory for the year 1922 to 1923.

Here Bob tells Provincial News more about his find and the life of a man who played a huge role in the Allies winning the war.

"A short while ago I managed to purchase an old Melita Preceptor's Jewel, of good quality, with its case, originally retailed through H.T.Lamb & Co, Masonic Jewellers, from St John's Square, Clerkenwell, London.

The Jewel is engraved with the following inscription: 'Presented by Melita Preceptory & Priory No 37 to E Sir Knight Rev F J Walker, as a token of esteem, and in recognition of his year as Preceptor in 1922-1923'.

This stimulated me to find out a little more about the recipient, and what I discovered truly astounded and inspired me.

■ *Order of Bath star*



■ *DSO*

Johnnie, as he was affectionately known, was born in Plymouth, the son of Frederic Murray and Lucy Selina (née Scriven) Walker. He joined the Royal Navy as a cadet in 1909 at the tender age of 13 and was educated at the Royal Naval Colleges at Osborne and Dartmouth, where he excelled.

First serving on the battleship Ajax as a midshipman, Walker as a sub-lieutenant, went on to join the destroyers Mermaid and Sarpedon in 1916 and 1917 respectively.

Following the end of the First World War, Walker joined the Queen Elizabeth-class battleship Valiant.

He married Jessica Eileen Ryder Stobart, with whom he had three sons and a daughter.

Walker was unquestionably the most successful anti-submarine warfare commander during the Battle of the Atlantic in World War Two.

He was known more popularly as 'Johnnie Walker' after the Johnnie Walker brand of whisky.

His group is attributed as having won The Battle of the Atlantic.

On July 30, 1943, Captain Fredric Walker signalled 'General Chase' before engaging a group of three U-boats in the Bay of Biscay.

The flags used by Captain Walker at his action are preserved in the Bootle Town Hall, accompanied by an exhibit of the same in the Merseyside Maritime Museum.

'General Chase' is an exceedingly rare order. Effectively it is a rallying point and used to intimidate, signifying 'to the death', and 'to the ends of the earth', without regard to international or sovereign waters, with no quarter given to the enemy.

It was used less than a half dozen times in British Naval history, the most famous occasion being by Nelson at the Battle of the Nile.

Captain Walker was an unconventional Naval warrior of considerable determination, and was awarded the DSO while still a Commander in January 1942, (meriting many mentions in despatches. He was eventually awarded 3 Bars to that DSO).

Sadly, one of his sons, Tim, was killed in August the following year, ironically while

serving on a British submarine.

The following month Johnnie was awarded the Companionship of the Order of The Bath by King George VI.

He was awarded the third bar on his DSO on June 13, 1944, and was again mentioned in despatches on June 20, 1944.

Walker suffered a cerebral thrombosis on July 7, 1944, and died two days later at the Naval Hospital at Seaforth, Merseyside, at the age of 48.

His death was attributed to overwork and exhaustion.

He was afforded the exceedingly rare honour of a posthumous mention in despatches on August 1, 1944.

His funeral service at Liverpool Cathedral was attended by around 1,000 people, and took on the dimensions of a state occasion. He immediately afterwards was

buried at sea, in Liverpool Harbour, from on board HMS Hesperus on July 12, 1944.



■ *The statue of Johnnie at The Pierhead in Liverpool which was unveiled by The Duke of Edinburgh*



■ *HMS Shikari FL5438*

## W.Bro John Barraclough

It was a meeting to remember for Garston Lodge when APMG W.Bro Dick Knifton presented a 60-year service certificate to the WM, W.Bro John Barraclough.

Having been initiated into the lodge he first went into the chair in 1971 and again 47 years later.

Bro Alan Basciano was then initiated, before a Grand Patron 2019

Festival Certificate was presented to the Lodge by Provincial Grand Charity Steward W.Bro Chris Noble.

Finally W.Bro Dick Knifton

acknowledged the appointment of W.Bro Bob Davis as Provincial Junior Grand Warden.



## Long Service Certificates

### April to September 2018

#### 60 year certificates

May	John Barraclough Garston	5644
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#### 50 year certificates

April	John Ashfield Cuffley	8950
April	Allen Curtis Square Conduct	6816
April	George Souter Herts Masters	4090
May	Anthony Wiseman East Herts Border	6641
May	Peter Tozer Hatfield	3190
June	Edmund Homewood Gresham	869
Sept	Derek Sale Letchworth Garden City	5109
Sept	David Sample Letchworth Garden City	5109

## W.Bro Seymour Samuel



A delegation from the Province visited W.Bro Seymour Samuel PAGReg at his residential home to mark 60 years a Freemason.

It was led by APMG Jayendra Patel PSGD and included Seymour's son Grant and members from South Hertfordshire Lodge & Chapter, Justice & Liberty Lodge and Oakwood Lodge.

Jay Patel presented his long service certificate and a potted history of Seymour's masonic life.

South Herts Secretary Gareth Huxtable presented him with an engraved crystal decanter and glasses. Seymour, frail yet in good spirits, was greeted by everyone and gifted a 10-year single malt to christen the glassware. Sadly, W Bro. Seymour passed to the Grand Lodge Above the following day, and will be greatly missed.



■ PGM, Philip Wolff, Ray Curd, Acting Master 404, and David Swain.

## W.Bro Philip Jonas Wolff

At 92 W.Bro Philip Jonas Wolff struggles to travel into central London for his regular meetings, but that did not stop him receiving his 70-year Long Service Certificate.

Our Provincial Grand Master, RW.Bro Paul Gower, attended Watford 404 Lodge to present the certificate on behalf of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge

W.Bro Wolff was supported by many members of John Carpenter Lodge and by W.Bro Captain David Swain, Metropolitan Grand Secretary.



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## Dauids 2017 tour

Once again W.Bro David Parsons has taken on a cycle challenge to support CoPS, 'Care of Police Survivors' The CoPS charity was set up to look after relatives of officers who have been unlawfully killed in the line of duty. David has a personal link to WPC Mandy Rayner who was the first female PC to be killed on mainland UK. He was on duty on the same shift when Mandy was killed. As part of a 'Unity' cycle ride he carried a 'Bracelet' from New Scotland Yard to the National Arboretum in Derbyshire and presented it to Mandy's family as his token of memory and respect. David and colleagues cycled a total of 166 miles. With team mate Ron he raised £1,100, including a donation from David's mother lodge, Dacre 2086. Dacre lodge members are very proud to support David in this charitable cause which is so close to his heart and supports so many surviving partners.



■ W.Bro Kieran Doyle, Dacre Lodge Charity Steward, presenting a well-earned cheque to W.Bro David Parsons, Dacre Lodge Almoner and Secretary.

## Herts Mason is shot above the rest



A Lodge member from the Province proved his mettle once again at an annual shooting competition. The 14th National Masonic Championships were held in August at Bisley and hosted by the Province of Surrey. The competition consisted of 100 sporting clays and was shot on the beautiful Cottesloe Heath lay-out by the Clock Tower on Bisley Camp. There were 168 shooters from 17 Provinces competing for the

various titles in challenging conditions varying from bright sunshine to a monsoon.

Top veteran was Chris Lynch, pictured, from Cheshunt Lodge with a score of 83 out of 100 and he is now the National Masonic Veteran Champion for the third year running.

The competition for teams of three was won by the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London with a score of 269 out of 300, Surrey came second with 268 from 300 clays and West Lancashire third with 261 out of 300.

Top Junior was Tom Hemmings from Bristol with 69 from 100 shots.

Top lady was Sue Osborne with 92 out of 100.

Top individual on the day was Danny Bishop from the Isle of Wight with 95 out of 100.

Trophies and prizes were presented to the winners by the Provincial Grand Master of Surrey, RW.Brother Ian Chandler.

A full set of results is available on the website at [nationalmasonicshoot.org.uk/results](http://nationalmasonicshoot.org.uk/results)

A total of £ 5,500 was raised for the Surrey 2019 Festival Appeal.

Next year's event will be at High Lodge in Suffolk and will be hosted by the Province of Suffolk.

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■ Bob with St Michael's Lodge's W.Bro Michael Blight and W.Bro Roger Glynn.

## Help for Heroes fishing

Members of St Michael's Lodge No 2136 organised a charity fishing day in aid of Help for Heroes.

The event raised £2,564.

A cheque was presented to W.Bro Bob Groves of Old Stortfordian Lodge. With Gift Aid the total should top £3,000. Eighteen anglers competed on the day at Clavering Lakes near Saffron Walden.



## Herts Family Fun Day 2018

Crowds once again flocked to the annual Family Funday and a great time was had by all. Almost £20,000 was raised for worthy causes at the event in July.

It was staged at the Royal Masonic School Rickmansworth and opened by our PGM, RW.Bro Paul Gower, and Richard Hone QC, President Masonic Charitable Foundation. They cut a red ceremonial ribbon held by VW.Bro David Ferris DepPGM and W.Bro Dick Knifton APGM.

Provincial Charity Steward Chris Noble told Provincial News: "An estimated 2,500 visitors made for a very friendly atmosphere. There was free parking and admission, with each child receiving a free school sports shoe bag." A total of 455 shoe bags were handed out.

"The car parks and overflow car park only just provided enough spaces for our enthusiastic visitors," said Chris. Seventeen charities attended including Herts Air Ambulance, Herts & Beds Search & Rescue, BloodServe and local hospices encouraged charity awareness with a variety of games and entertainment for the visiting crowds. They also raised just over £5,000 in donations for their own causes.

Thanks to Charlie Ager more than 1,400 draw tickets were bought at the entry gate.

Entertainment ranged from Clayzer Laser Clay Pigeon, Mr Thatchman, and a kiddie's fun fair.



Music was supplied throughout the afternoon by Never Too Late, a 60s/70s rock'n'roll band, the KMJ 17-piece jazz band and the Bootleg BeeGees.

Thirty-four Lodge stalls and events provided fun and games for all ages gaining donations for the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls & Boys.

Moonlite Entertainments, of King Henry the Eighth Lodge, provided a fantastic fairground array of children's rides.

There was also 'Tea at the Ritz-style' courtesy of Stortford Lodge No 409 (Sponsored by Weston Homes) where a high tea of scones and sandwiches, with Champagne options, was provided in a very sedate setting.

Chris added: "The MCF giant wigwam took centre stage providing free goodies for the children and useful information for one and all.

"Their human fruit machine raised money while providing good fun and entertainment for the passing crowds."

Adults too had plenty of refreshments including a Pimms bar run by Park Street Lodge, the Cloisters food stall and Rickmansworth Lodge Bar which served seven ciders, 12 keg beers and 10 real ales.

A total of £19,913.10 was raised for charity on the day and the Provincial Grand Master, R.WBro Paul Gower, said: "Once again Happy Hertfordshire has successfully taken Freemasonry into the community."

## PGL Herts 2019 Festival : Gift Aid

The use of Gift Aid envelopes continues to grow making Hertfordshire one of the most tax efficient Provinces in Festival.

### RA CHAPTERS

Fifty-four Chapters have used 5,069 envelopes collecting £31,005 claiming £7,751 in aid.

### CRAFT

One hundred-and-fifty-seven Lodges have used 37,224 envelopes collecting £318,881 claiming £79,720 in aid.

### PROVINCIAL TOTAL

That means as a Province 45,577 envelopes have collected £373,350, claiming £93,337 in Gift Aid.

Well done and thank you.

**Chris Noble,**

Provincial Grand Charity Steward.



■ PGM, Provincial Charity Steward, Dallas Banfield, Alan Withey, Tony Smith and Ray Curd

## Festival Platinum Patronage

To mark Watford Lodge 404 achieving 2018 Festival Platinum Patronage status, W.Bro Chris Noble, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, presented members with a special certificate. It was received by W.Bro Ray Curd, Acting Master, W.Bro Tony Smith, Lodge Charity Steward and W.Bro Dallas Banfield, watched on by RW.Bro Paul Gower, Provincial Grand Master and W.Bro Alan Withey Halsey Hall Watford Charity representative

## Eastgate presentation

Members of Eastgate Lodge no 6694 gathered outside Halsey Masonic Hall earlier this year to present a cheque for £2,099.89 to the Teens Unite charity. The money was raised during W.Bro Bob Elliott's year in the chair as Master. The charity supports young people in their fight against cancer.



## Charity Report

By Provincial Grand Charity Steward Chris Noble

It is no secret that your continued generosity and support is taking the Province ever closer to the Provincial Grand Master's £3m minimum for the RMTGB 2019 Festival.

Five years have almost passed since the launch and, with just over six months remaining, I urge you all to give the Festival one last push to show that Happy Hertfordshire cares for our Masonic charities.

I am sure you will agree that it would be good fun to keep the total monies raised a secret from here on, to be revealed by the PGM at the Celebration Dinner in Guildhall, London, on Saturday, July 6, 2019.

Plans for the celebration dinner are well under way and you will by now have details of the ticket allocation. Unfortunately we expect the demand to exceed supply so may I wish you good luck in the allocation draw for tickets.

For those of you who enjoy statistics the Festival ones make incredible reading.

We have in excess of 2,500 Stewards, 300 Vice Patrons, 300 Patrons and 100 Grand Patrons. More than 100 Lodges have gained one of four Honorifics.

Other Orders have been most generous in their support of the Festival. Royal Arch has donated over £130k with over 50 Chapters using the gift aid envelopes. Thank you Companions. Gift Aid has contributed over £275,000. A small effort for such a big reward.

During my many Lodge visits I have been impressed by your support of the Festival. I have had a most enjoyable time presenting various Lodge certificates and personal awards. The Prize Draw has been well received and has raised in excess of £35,000. I so much enjoy informing the winners of their prize win.

The Lodge of True Aim No 9930 has had a very successful first year and we take some satisfaction that the Festival Shoots have been somewhat instrumental in its formation. This year's July Festival Shoot hosted 106 shooters from eight Provinces/ Districts and raised more than £2,500 for the Festival.

We have continued to support local and National charities. Eight Herts hospices received a total of £13,500 in MCF Awards.

Last November eight charities received a total of £79,000 MCF Community Awards thanks to your votes. Late in 2017 Herts Lodges nominated over 30 local and small charities which received a total of £36k in donations. In August this year a further 29 nominated local charities were awarded a total of £26,800.

Happy Hertfordshire was well represented at the Albert Hall Tercentenary celebrations with VW.Bro Keith Gilbert receiving due recognition for his sterling organisational skills.

Hertfordshire Lodges nominated 30 small local charities each to receive £300 from the PGM's Tercentenary Awards.

Congratulations to the 60 Lodge and charity stall holders for creating such a friendly and interesting event at the Herts Family Fun Day Rickmansworth in July. We welcomed more than 2,500 visitors raising in excess of £22,000 for 26 charities across the Province. Thanks to all our supporters and helpers. Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity.

## PGL Herts 2019 Festival : Members Honorifics so far

**2,441 Stewards (£500)**

**314 Vice Patrons (£750)**

**314 Patrons (£1,000)**

**115 Grand Patrons (£2,000)**

Provincial Charity Steward Chris Noble said: "Each member has received a letter of thanks and congratulations from me. The higher honorifics have received their Jewel Bar.

"Our sincere thanks to everyone for their ongoing generosity and support."

## Paul Strickland Scanner Centre

It was an emotional time for members of the Mimmne & Bergnet Lodge when money from its 2018 Ladies Festival was handed over to the Paul Strickland Scanner Centre charity.

A total of £2,000 was raised at the event held earlier in the year at the Chichester Park Hotel.

Festival secretary David Bond told Provincial News: "The



scanner centre forms part of the Mount Vernon Hospital. "The Charity was nominated by Eileen Spencer, wife of the then Master W.Bro Martin Spencer. "Eileen had chosen this charity as she herself had

benefitted from the sterling work done there, when several years earlier she had been diagnosed with throat cancer.

"The presentation had been held over as Eileen had expressed a strong desire to be there to show her thanks. Unfortunately, after a period of illness lasting several months Eileen lost her battle with ill health and peacefully passed away in July.

"On what would have been her 71st birthday her husband, and now IPM, Martin, myself and one of her grandchildren Reagan went to the Paul Strickland Centre and presented the CEO, Claire Strickland, the founder's daughter, with the cheque.

"Reagan can be seen holding one of the last photos taken of his Gran at her Ladies Festival."

Ms Strickland thanked Mimmne & Bergnet Lodge members for their generous gift which she said would be put to good use. She thanked W.Bro Spencer in particular for "the fortitude shown in making the presentation on this particular day".



## Probatas Lodge

Members of Probatas Lodge 8126 enjoyed a unique occasion when its first ever Lewis was initiated.

Eighteen-year-old Bro Nathan Lambert was initiated into Freemasonry by his cousin and WM, W.Bro Gavin Warby, with his father W.Bro David Lambert acting as Junior Deacon.



## Hounds for Heroes

Dacre Lodge Charity Steward, W.Bro Kieran Doyle, set an ambition for members and visitors to Gift Aid donations at five festive boards to help support the charity Hounds for Heroes.

This effort raised £600.

Our picture shows Kieran on the right, presenting a cheque to finance administrator Ravinder Alhawat at its offices in Petersfield, Hampshire.

The purpose of Hounds for Heroes is to provide specially trained assistance dogs to injured and disabled men and women of both the UK Armed Forces and the Emergency Services.

Through this provision it aims to "provide help and practical support leading to an enhanced quality of life".

To train a dog to the correct standard costs about £20,000, so fundraising and volunteer support is vital to ensure ex service personnel are helped.

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## Centenary Supper

To mark W.Bro Roy Claridge's 100th birthday members of Chipping Barnet Lodge 5599 held a celebration LOI Supper in June.

W.Bro Mike Claridge said: "Expecting a small gathering from 5599, Roy was very surprised when 48 Brethren attended. Six Hertfordshire Lodges were represented as well as members from Bucks, Beds, Northants and Hunts."

Initiated into Chipping Barnet in 1963, Roy is a founder member of Park Street 8556, Herts Prov G Stewards 8984 and a PM of Old Stortfordian 5721 and in the course of his 55 years in Masonry has been WM six times.

W.Bro Claridge added: "An excellent supper concluded with musical entertainment and several toasts to the Guest of Honour, who responded in good form and at length, looking forward to completing his very active 60 years in Masonry in 2023."

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## Provincial Curator's Report

By Museum curator Brian Tierney

In almost every Newsletter I ask members not to throw anything away that might be useful in the Provincial Archive or Museum Collection. In the last 2 weeks I have been handed four massive collections of members who have sadly recently died. I am still wading through it all, but it has proved the value of not throwing things away but letting me sort out. The Provincial Archive has greatly benefitted and is becoming a most valuable and unique research tool. There have been some jewels and unusual regalia added where we did not have an example. The Tercentenary Banner Project website is still attracting attention with now well over eight thousand hits. If you haven't looked yet, start by your own Lodge and Chapter, then some others and realise what a wealth of banners and connected information we have in Hertfordshire. We welcome any comments, additions or corrections. [www.hertsmasonicbanners.uk](http://www.hertsmasonicbanners.uk)



Our current project is to update, correct and expand the former Provincial Chronicle of Noteworthy Events. This used to be included in the Year Book, but was discontinued some years back to save space. Then it was briefly updated for the publication Happy Hertfordshire but never published. The draft for this was recently located and it ends with a written note dated 1997, 'will some kind person please bring this up to date'. We are trying to make it much more informative, cover all Orders and be a useful research aid. We are gathering a list of items where we may have to ask Lodges and Chapters for information. Please do respond as soon as possible. It is hoped that the Chronicle will be added to the website when complete.

Currently on display is the 'Festival Baton' of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.

The second part of my article on the Hallstone medals and jewels appears in this issue. A number of members have indicated that they did not know there were so many different jewels connected with the building of Freemasons Hall. These are on display together with the incredible story of the 1925 Festival Dinner. Do come and see it.



## Pilgrimage

An annual event in St Albans once again received a welcome helping hand from the county's Freemasons. A team of Provincial

Grand Stewards had another successful day when they acted as stewards for the Cathedral, shepherding the Pilgrimage from St Peter's Church through the city to the Abbey. Our picture shows Carol Borrás, cathedral warden and, on the right, Harriet Campbell, cathedral verger, with some of the volunteers.

## Ellenbrook Lodge Memorial Supper

A memorial meal organised by members of Ellenbrook Lodge proved a fitting tribute to a much-loved former Master. W.Bro Rob Figgins, who sadly passed away in July last year after a 15 month fight against cancer. He was just 45.

Rob was installed as Master of Ellenbrook Lodge after his Cancer diagnosis, but his ability to inspire and encourage others despite his illness was recognised by the Provincial Grand Master who awarded him with a field promotion to Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director Of Ceremonies, an honour rarely bestowed, but so well deserved.

The then Master Elect, Bro. Tom Johnston, subsequently organised a memorial supper in Rob's name.

He said: "It was our intention to both remember and celebrate the time we had with Rob and in the process, raise money for the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which had supported Rob throughout his illness."

The occasion was attended by 78 Masons and their guests dining at Ashwell House St. Albans.

Brothers Ian Walker and Luke Crouch, of Ellenbrook Lodge, conceived the idea of a commemorative pin badge.

They created the design, sourced the production and donated 100 badges to the fundraising effort on the night.



The design incorporated many of Rob's favourite things in life; a beer with friends, Freemasonry, Luton Town Football Club and, not least, Chas and Dave.

Seeking a voluntary donation for each badge, they successfully raised more than £800.

Through the generosity of all those who attended, at the close of the evening, the total raised for the Masonic Charitable Foundation had reached £2,530.

Bro. Tom Johnston added: "I thank all those who attended and supported this event in the name of our friend, our Brother, and our sadly departed Worshipful Master Rob Figgins.

"It was a remarkable evening and truly reflected the remarkable man we were there to remember and celebrate."



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## Provincial Almoner's report

### Simon Cooper PAGDC



2018 has been a busy year for myself and my visiting volunteer team who have been busy behind the scenes supporting not only Hertfordshire Freemasons but also Freemasons and their dependents from other provinces living in Hertfordshire. To that end a big 'pat on the back' to Tony Wright who dealt with a very complex case and was featured on the front page of the spring/summer

edition of the Masonic Better Lives magazine. If you missed it you can find his storey using this link. <https://mcf.org.uk/better-lives-summer-2018-now-available/> In the spring/summer 2018 edition of Provincial News an advert was placed by the MCF providing various methods of contact for when a member is in need of support. I have reiterated these details. In the meantime when Almoners are circulating their reports or reading them in open lodge, could you please quote the MCF numbers and make the membership aware, including members or their widows who live in other Provinces, that it is in the Provincial News. Any member of a lodge, lodge widow or dependant can use this service without having to go through an Almoner. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you feel that we can support you or your dependants at [hertsprovgalmoner@gmail.com](mailto:hertsprovgalmoner@gmail.com) or the charity can be contacted directly at [help@mcf.org.uk](mailto:help@mcf.org.uk) or freephone confidential helpline 0800 035 60 90. The money that has come back into Hertfordshire to support our membership financially, with family education, health and family residential care is £332,208 in 12 months to March 2018, which represents 129 beneficiaries. I wish you all a very happy and healthy new Masonic season.



## 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:

"Are you 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](mailto:help@mcf.org.uk)



## Helping victims of Hurricane Irma



■ Elinah with W. Bro John Rycroft, Chaplain and Mentor of the Lodge

Members of The Old Stortfordian Lodge No 5721, their wives and guests were delighted when Bishop's Stortford College student, Elinah, accepted their invitation to dine with them at their White Table Christmas lunch in December.

Elinah talked about her life at the college, her Olympic Rio experiences - she had swum for the British Virgin Islands - but, more importantly, she talked about the devastating impact that Hurricane Irma brought to the Islands in the late summer of 2017. It had completely destroyed her primary school, the Joyce Samuel Primary School, normally home to around 120 pupils from four to 11 years of age.

A lodge spokesman told Provincial News: "She spoke movingly of the plight of the school children on the islands, where they had lost not only their school rooms, their desks and chairs, but all the educational materials, such as books, paper and pens."

Elinah said: "I was really upset when I heard the news and wanted to do something to help."

Following the hurricane, Elinah started raising money for the school and, in November 2017, she teamed up with members of Benson House and Sutton House to raise £1,500 during their joint charity week.

The Lodge spokesman added: "We had already decided to make a donation to Elinah's worthy cause, and very much to her amazement and surprise, Elinah was subsequently presented with a cheque for £1,000, proceeds of the raffle taken at the lunch, by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge, who wished her every success with the project."

At the beginning of May 2018, when the Joyce Samuel Primary School was in a position to receive its new supplies, a van was loaded at Bishop's Stortford College, the first leg in the process of shipping to the BVI.

Elinah was thrilled by the generosity of members of the Old Stortfordian Lodge and wrote to thank them.

She said: "It is with a full heart that I write this letter of thanks to all of you for your incredibly kind and generous donation to my chosen charity, which almost doubled that of my target.

"I hope other students have the honour of benefiting from your welcoming atmosphere at the Lodge and to experience the kindness radiating from within the Lodge community."



■ The van before setting off

## Provincial Communications team

It has been a busy year for members of the Provincial Communications team.

The executive decided members and the outside world would benefit from widening the range of ways we get our message out.

The project is being headed up by Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro Jim Harrison, aided and abetted by Provincial Communications Officer and Provincial News editor W. Bro Terry Mitchinson.

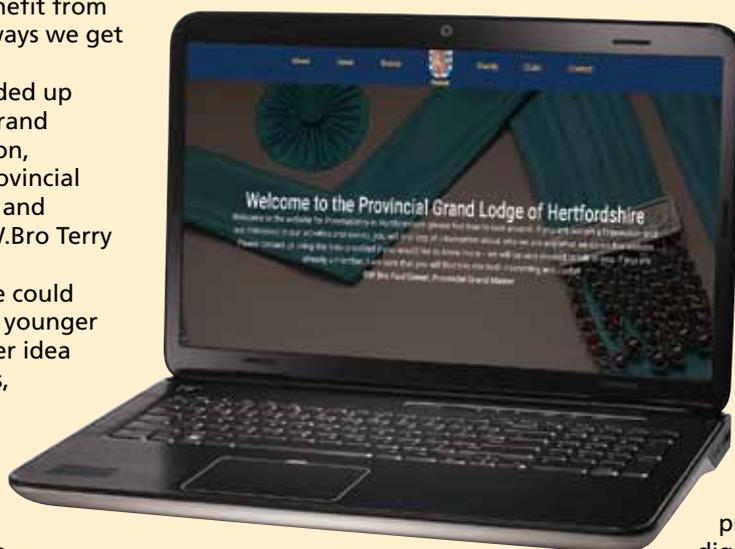
Terry said: "To ensure we could tap into the expertise of younger Brethren with a far better idea of social media, websites, etc, than I can boast, we brought on board some young blades we knew would bring with them the skills we needed to move forward."

So, to introduce the rest of the team:

They are Dan O'Connell, James Davis, Clint Childs, Tom Golds and Tom Day.

A list of priorities has been drawn up with the launch of a new newsletter top of the pile.

This has now been delivered and we hope our members are finding it beneficial.



The website, another priority, has been revamped and rebranded. Content has been updated and the design is now simpler to use with clear menus and signposting.

This continues to be a work-in-progress with the aim of continuous improvement. The team will also be looking at improving external communications, how to make better use of various social media platforms, public engagement, traditional press and our overall branding. Each of the team will be focussing on specific areas; Dan is overseeing artwork and design and is in charge of sending out the newsletter, James' and Clint's main focus is on website development, while the two Toms are leading on providing additional content for all digital platforms.

Terry said: "I hope our members are seeing the benefits of the team's hard work.

"Upgrading the website especially is complicated and time-consuming but we feel we are getting there.

"If any members have thoughts about how we can improve our communications I would be pleased to hear from you."

If you have not yet signed up to receive the newsletter you can do so by going to [www.pglherts.org/email](http://www.pglherts.org/email)

## Growing Hair for Charity



Back in March 2014, just as the 2019 Festival Appeal was being launched, Brother Richard Crow came back from the Provincial Stewards' Lodge meeting to announce to his wife Pam, that he'd decided to grow his hair for the entire period of the Appeal. 'How long does the Festival Appeal last?' she asked. 'Five years,' he replied. 'What?!'

From that unpromising start, Richard has soldiered on raising money not just within Masonic circles but far and wide.

To date, his lengthening locks have persuaded sponsors to part with nearly £4,000, and his aim now is to ask brethren to give his efforts a final boost.

The Festival finishes on July 6, so that's the day Richard intends to have his hair cut – much to the relief of Pam who says all these years of being on the arm of someone who looks like an aging rock star is wearing a bit thin! Richard is also well known for his renditions of The Master's Song and The Ladies' Song. As part of his fundraising bid he is offering his services to Lodges for a donation to the appeal.

To ask him along for a song, call 07973 844240.

A donation page has also been set up through the Relief Chest Scheme.

Go to everydayhero.co.uk and enter 'Richard Crow' in the search box.

You will then see Richard's collection under the heading 'Growing Hair for Charity'.

So, spare a thought for poor Pam – married to a man who wears more hairspray than she does! Please take pity on her, and help if you can.

## Lifelite

A charity boss received a warm welcome in the Province. CEO of Lifelite, Simone, visited 47 Provinces in 14 days using donated unusual modes of transport as part of a huge fundraising effort.

Bucks PGM John Clark brought Simone to the Henry Moore Foundation in Hertfordshire in his Porsche Carrera. Hertfordshire masons welcomed her in a 1966 Austin Healey Mrk3 3000 GT.

Charity bosses set what they believed was a tough target of £50k, but passed that with ease thanks to the generosity of Masons across the UK.

Chris Noble, our Provincial Grand Charity Steward, handed over a cheque for £3,750. The money will be donated to local Children's hospices.

W.Bro Chris then met Priya Singh, of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, in support of its project building a new centre in Barnet which should be completed in June 2019.



## Masonic Fishing Charity

This year the branch held five events, two at Westmill Farm (near Ware), and three at Verulam Angling Club's Riverside Fishery (St Albans), involving over a 125 participants enjoying both fly and coarse fishing.

The season finale event was the Provincial Community Day at Westmill Farm in October, involving 28 participants from four special needs schools, and sponsored by the Province of Hertfordshire.

It was attended by Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW.Bro James Young and the Deputy CEO of the Masonic Fishing Charity, W.Bro Graham Snell.

The weather held fair and many fish were caught. All the young guests had smiles and enjoyed a cooked lunch with fresh fruit to follow. A good time was had by all. Charity organisers thanked the branch committee, volunteers, Mike Eames and his catering team, sponsoring lodges, the Province and venue owners.

A branch spokesman said: "Fishing is the conduit, the medium for helping these young people and encouraging them to expand their lives and experience.

"At the last event a fairly new teacher explained to us her absolute delight at the changes that had occurred in her pupils during the course of the day. Her smile just struck home and underlined the obvious reality that all the branch's efforts had been worthwhile." The branch hopes to put on another five events next year. It is always on the lookout for experienced anglers, volunteers and donations.





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## He's at it again!



Barrie Church of Bengo Lodge 6801 has been active in his Uffington village over several years helping organise the May Day Scarecrow weekend, especially the main car parking where organisers raise over £4,000 a year for local charities. In the last two-and-a-half years he has been building a model railway of the Stamford rail system prior to

the Beeching cull and, in that time, has been showing his railway to raise funds for local dementia charities as well as Admiral nurses for dementia care. So far, he has raised over £300.

Barrie tells Provincial News: "The railway model is nearing completion and there were queues to see it every day. "Meals were taken on the hoof and comfort breaks were hard to fit in. Visitors were amazed at the sound effects from the locos as well as all the working light and signals." Barrie says his hobby is a great provider of respite and without the assistance of friends Neil and Paul, of The Little Layout Company, he would not have achieved so much so quickly.



## CONTINUED FROM THE LAST EDITION The Masonic Million Memorial Fund and its Jewels

By Brian Tierney, Provincial Curator and Archivist

There are other jewels connected with the Memorial Fund in addition to the Hallstone breast jewel and Lodge jewel. An Especial Meeting of Grand Lodge was held on June 27, 1919, to celebrate The Peace and when the decision was taken to commence funding for a new hall. A breast jewel to be



■ Peace Medal

named The Peace Jewel was issued to all who attended the meeting suspended on a dark blue ribbon with a Siler 'S' mounted on the ribbon. Later the jewel was also made available for those who were eligible to attend, but were unable to do so. This jewel omitted the 'S' on the ribbon. One single jewel was made in gold and presented to the Grand Master as a gift.

On August 8, 1925, a fundraising Festival meal was held at the Kensington Olympia. For many years this was the largest held silver-served sit-down catered meal in the world. Even now it is still the largest held in Europe, full details of which are displayed together with the jewels

at Fleet House. A total of 7,250 Masons joined the Grand Master. Attendees received the festival jewel with an 'S' on the ribbon if they had been a Steward at the meal. At the Festival it was announced that £825,000 had been raised to date. This jewel was made in hallmarked silver and coated with a gilt lacquer. This jewel was not engraved.

A further jewel was created to be awarded to those individual masons who had donated the sum of 240 guineas or over. This was known as the Collector's Jewel. A total of 956 were made.

Building work on the Masonic Peace Memorial, as it was first called – later to become known as Freemasons' Hall – commenced in 1927 and was completed in 1933 when the building was dedicated.

At the June 1938 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Special Committee presented its final report recording that the memorial had been handed over to the Board of General Purposes free from debt and that well over one million pounds had been subscribed to the fund. The fund closed on December 31, 1938, and these jewels survive as a testament to the efforts made in raising that money.

Except, of course, for the Provincial Jewel, the Fleet House Museum has samples of all the jewels named above including the Lodge jewel of Gaddesden Lodge No. 3398 [closed], kindly loaned by Grand Lodge.

The names of those killed are each individually recorded under their Lodge name and number on a continuous parchment scroll housed in a large bronze cabinet in Freemasons' Hall which can easily be turned and searched.

The building will be a lasting memorial to both those who lost their lives and those who served and returned.



■ Festival Jewel

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or by email to; Secretary@ashwellhouse.org

## Ultimate Beyond the Craft,

by W.Bro Bob Cordery ProvGO

Members and guests of the Veritatem Sequere Lodge (VSL) – the Province’s Research Lodge – enjoyed an enlightening event this summer.

After normal business had been conducted, representatives of 11 Masonic organisations made short presentations about their Orders to the assembled audience.

Each presenter, dressed in the robes of his office, explained the background to their Order, its entry requirements, and how it fitted into the greater picture of Freemasonry.

The presentations opened with a short explanation about the role of the Grand Stewards by RW.Bro Colin Harris PProvGM.

Orders represented were Mark Masonry, the Holy Royal Arch, the Royal and Select Masters, the Knights Templar, the Knights Templar Priests, the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City, the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia, the Allied Masonic Degrees, the Red Cross of Constantine, the Royal Order of Scotland, and the Ancient and Accepted Rite. The meeting was such a success that there are plans to hold a similar event in the near future where other Orders will be invited to make presentations.

For Brethren who want to participate with the work of VSL but who don’t want the expense of joining another Lodge, VSL has created its own Correspondence Circle (VSLCC).

For only £5 a year a member of the Correspondence Circle receives invitations to all of the Lodge’s meetings and festive boards as well as the minutes of all the meetings.

As a result, a member of the Correspondence Circle enjoys all the privileges of being a full member of the Lodge, except the right to hold office or to vote on Lodge matters. Any Master Mason of good standing can join VSLCC by contacting the Lodge Secretary.



## London to Brighton

Master elect of Dacre Lodge Bro Martin Zealey got on his bike for the British Heart Foundation’s London to Brighton bike ride earlier in the summer.

The ride is 54 miles long and Martin now has a personal best time that he hopes to beat next year.

He raised more than £900 which was started with a donation of £200 from Dacre Lodge no 2086, Martin’s mother lodge. Dacre’s charity steward W.Bro Kieran Doyle said: “Dacre is very proud of Bro Martin’s achievement. To go through all that training, then commit to cycling 54 miles is truly amazing and makes us all very proud to be freemasons.”

## Light and Honour Lodge

There was a pleasant surprise for nearly 80 members and guests attending the spring Installation meeting of Light and Honour Lodge.

For they were delighted when the newly installed Master, W.Bro Warwick Blake, was accompanied into the Festive Board by a Scottish Piper in full regalia.

However, nobody was more surprised than the Master himself who had no idea that this had been arranged for him. Being of Scottish descent and brought up in Glasgow, his homeland was well represented by a contingent of 12 family members from Scotland including his proud father, who took part in the Installation ceremony.

The Lodge also presented W.Bro Ollie Wells with a further donation of £500 towards the 2019 Festival.



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# Royal Arch Masons

## Provincial Information Officer

E. Comp. Michael Gowland Tel: 01763 852961

Email: [provinfoofficer@herts-chapter.org.uk](mailto: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.

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Provincial.Grand>

Chapter.of.Hertfordshire

[www.herts-chapter.org.uk](http://www.herts-chapter.org.uk)

## For your calendar:

### CHAPTER PRINCIPALS & SCRIBES

#### ANNUAL LUNCHEON, OCTOBER 7

The Province invites Active Provincial Officers of 2018 & 2019, Chapter Principals and Scribes to attend the annual luncheon to be held on Sunday, October 7, at The Cloisters, Letchworth Garden City. Contact David J Hampton, Deputy Grand Superintendent, for further details.

Email: [david.hampton@herts-chapter.org.uk](mailto:david.hampton@herts-chapter.org.uk)

### ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF HERTFORDSHIRE, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5.

The Annual Convocation is at Freemason's Hall, Great Queen Street, London on Monday, November 5.

### WEEKEND AWAY

Having had a very successful weekend away last year, the Province is holding another weekend away at the Queen's Hotel in Bournemouth in November. Sadly, bookings for this are now closed.

## In Remembrance of Excellent Companion Ian Clift

The Province greatly mourns the loss of our Excellent Companion Ian Alexander Clift, who sadly passed to the Grand Lodge above on August 23.

Ian Clift was a highly regarded Freemason who was noted for his commitment to his family, his masonry and his golf.

Ian was born on July 9, 1944, in Chelmsford, Essex. His mother and father were Jo and Sid Clift. He had a younger sister, Pauline, who unfortunately died a few years ago. Among many other things his father was a turkey farmer in the Balls Green area. Ian sort of followed in his fathers' footsteps when he became a butcher and later a meat wholesaler.

Ian married Elaine on June 14, 1969. They had two children, Ben and Jessica and have been blessed with two grandchildren, Ella who is 14 and Toby who is five. Together with Fluff the cat, they were the apple of grandad's eye! Ian followed his father into Freemasonry being initiated into Knebworth Lodge No 6941 in October 1971. He progressed through the offices and became Master in April 1982. He was Assistant DC for a total of 11 years and Secretary for two

years. He was also a member of Hertfordshire Master's Lodge No 4090, White Star Lodge No 8727 and Ludgrove Lodge No 7766 where he was Master in 2012 and DC for a total of nine years in three different stints. He was honoured by the Province of Hertfordshire with an active first appointment of ProvAGDC in 1989, promoted to PPDepGDC in 1992 and again to PPGSwdB in 1999. He was also honoured with Grand Rank (PAGDC) in 2006.

Ian was a very enthusiastic Royal Arch mason and was Exalted into Dacre Chapter No 2086 in January 1977. He became MEZ in 1987 and held the office of Scribe E for two years from 2015.



He was also a member of four other Chapters – Hertfordshire First Principals No 4090 (MEZ in 2002), Stevenage No 7748 (MEZ in 2000), High Barnet First Principals No 8748 (MEZ 2013) and Probity No 7333 in the Province of Cambridgeshire where he was DC from 2011 until his passing. He was given a first appointment by the Royal Arch Province of Hertfordshire of Prov Deputy GDC in 1991 and was promoted to Prov GDC in 1997. He became 3rd Prov G Principal in 2003, 2nd Prov G Principal in 2006 and Deputy Grand Superintendent in 2009. When he retired from that office in 2014 he had completed 23 years of continuous service to the Province.

In addition, he was an Honorary Member of 35 chapters throughout the Province, roughly half the total, which demonstrates the high regard and esteem in which he was held.

He received a first appointment to Royal Arch Grand Rank of PAGDC in 1997, was promoted to PAGSoj in 2005 and to PPGSwdB in 2010.

Ian was also a very enthusiastic member of the Mark and a lapsed member of Royal and Select.

Returning briefly to the subject of family, Ian was a very proud father when he initiated his son Ben into Knebworth Lodge No 6941 in December 2004. He also Exalted him into Dacre Chapter No 2086 in September 2006.

Ian was a very good ritualist. In October 2007 Ian, then the Second Provincial Grand Principal, attended as a guest and due to the incapacity of the MEZ agreed to take the First Principals chair. He then proceeded to install E Comp Rex Harvey as Joshua as he was unable to attend the Installation meeting, and also carried out the ceremony of Exaltation. When accused of showing off he gave one of his rueful smiles as much as to say "but of course!"

Ian was a keen golfer. He organised a successful Golf Day for the Mark, was a key member of the Royal Arch's Provincial Golf Day organising committee and played in the Province's golf team in the Inter-Provincial Golf Day.

His friends confirm that you would not find a more loyal friend or a more staunch champion of Freemasonry in general and Royal Arch Masonry in particular than Ian Clift.

He will be greatly missed, but he will not be forgotten, "Ian lived respected and has died regretted".

## Hot Running!



Could you imagine volunteering to travel all the way to Morocco to spend a week running 156 miles across the Sahara desert, in 55 degree heat, carrying with you your food, water, sleeping bag, cooker and survival kit?

That is what Hertfordshire Mason Simon Smith is training for. Simon, a keen marathon runner, has been building himself up for the last six months. He is now running 200 miles a month in preparation for the race and has just been informed he has officially been awarded a place in the Marathon des Sables 2019. Why he would want to do this is anyone's guess. The race is run over six days, with each day being the equivalent of a normal marathon, except for day four when they have to run a 52 mile section. That truly is extreme.

The race is run over desert sand dunes, salt flats, mountains and rock. Contestants have to carry all their own kit. The 1,300 competitors, from 30 countries, get a brief night's sleep between sections under a bivouac.

Simon is running in support of WalkOnceMore, a charity dedicated to seeking a cure for spinal cord injuries - injuries that can leave people paraplegic or quadriplegic for life. Simon and his father pledged to raise at least £6,000 for the charity. Sadly, Simon's father passed away in July and so will not be able to see Simon run, though he will be with him in spirit.

This is a very worthy charity, and Simon is so keen on undertaking this endurance race that, even though he sadly nips across the border to Bedfordshire for his Chapter meetings, we are very pleased to support his endeavours. If you would like to sponsor Simon's run you can do so via [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/simon-smith92](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/simon-smith92)

## Tented

The First Cheshunt Scout Group has been finding the going a bit tough recently.

Its old scout hut had become so dilapidated it was actually dangerous and they had to rebuild it. That took up much of its reserves and meant the group was struggling to get the new equipment it needed.

Fortunately members knew a few good men who could help! In May, W.Bros Howard Collins and Alan Pilcher were invited by the scout master, Paul Mills, to visit the troop and present donations towards much-needed camping equipment.

Howard, the RA Provincial Grand Charity Steward, presented a cheque, on behalf of our MEGS for £200 which was received by Boy Scout Leo Marshall. Alan presented a cheque for £200 from his London Lodge St Johns 167 which was received by Girl Scout Robin Dizenzy.

Both Howard and Alan are active members of Michael Batham Jones Lodge 9675.



## Your Next Step in Freemasonry?

There are a few points in your masonic career where you may well find that you suddenly don't have a great deal to do. In a very busy lodge this might happen after your third degree, but if you go straight through the offices it may not happen until after your year as I.P.M. Of course, this may come as a relief if you have a lot of demands on your time from work or family. But, for most of us, there comes a time when our masonic growth has reached something of a hiatus and we would like to branch out into something new.

In some lodges you will soon have forms to join all kinds of orders pushed your way, but there are many lodges in which no one has engaged with the other masonic orders; so you may not be aware of the wealth of masonic experience that is open to you.

There are a number of principle degrees you can ask to join as a Master mason and the foremost is the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch of Jerusalem or 'Chapter'.

It is the only masonic order, other than Craft, formally recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England, and it is the only one run out of Great Queen Street.

The degree itself is sometimes described as the completion of the Third Degree. If you are already a Master Mason you



will of course be aware of the situation we are left in at the end of the Third Degree and of the task that remains to be completed. The Royal Arch ritual instructs us in how we may advance in that task. The Supreme Grand Chapter web site expresses it this way:

"...man is not simply a practical being, he has an essential spiritual

aspect to his nature. That spiritual aspect is introduced in the Third Degree, in which the candidate is led to a contemplation of man's inevitable destiny, and becomes the central message of the Royal Arch. In that sense, "pure ancient [Craft] Masonry" can be seen as a journey of self-knowledge and discovery with the Royal Arch completing the practical lessons of the Craft by a contemplation of man's spiritual nature, not replacing but reinforcing and supporting what he has learned from his religion."

It is a beautiful degree, rather different in style from Craft. Chapters generally meet three or four times a year, and the subs tend to be a little lower than Craft. Dining is very much the same, with slightly different formalities. It quite often takes a companion a while to get to grips with the ritual, but when you do it is one of the most memorable bits of ritual in Freemasonry to deliver, especially the role of Principal Sojourner.

The Royal Arch is also a doorway into several other side orders, including Knights Templar and other chivalric orders. Which of these orders will be right for you next step depends very much on your interests and how much time and money you have to commit.

If you only ever intend to join one other order then there are very strong reasons for picking the Holy Royal Arch for, though there are great things in the other orders, the Royal Arch really does point to the way of completing the task begun in Craft and it would be a shame to not get the last instalment in the story.

If you are interested in joining the Royal Arch, most lodges will have a Royal Arch Liaison Officer who can point you in the right direction. Otherwise if you contact the Provincial Grand Chapter through the website ([www.herts-chapter.org.uk](http://www.herts-chapter.org.uk)) we will be happy to put you in touch with a suitable chapter. If you are interested in other orders you can find details on their pages in the Provincial News, or in the Provincial Yearbook.



## Mark Masons

### Provincial Information Officer

W. Bro Jack Franks Tel: 01279 865526

Email: jackfranks@ntlworld.com

Provincial web site [www.hertsmark.org](http://www.hertsmark.org)

Bro James Davies web master

If you have anything for the web site please contact Jack Franks

### Dates for the diary

**The Varsity Rugby Match. December 6.**

For details contact David Firshman, 0134 2836704 or 07973175936. Email [davidfirshman@gmail.com](mailto:davidfirshman@gmail.com)

Full details on the website.

**At the Installed Commanders Lodge meeting in June it was announced that next year's Commander would be Ted Long.**

Then it was onwards to the Annual Provincial Assembly. The Provincial Grand Master entered accompanied by his provincial team and took office.

He read the roll of those appointed to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank. They consisted of Brian Handley, Watford; John Bassford, Rose & Lily; Andrew F Saban, James Terry; Stephen Summers, Debenham; Paul Jay, Ravenscroft; Michael Pilszac, James Parsons; Michael Phelan, Cheshunt; Robert Johnson, Bishops Stortford; Raymond Leach, Halsey; Michael Beaty, Chevalier; Russell Fletcher, Ayot; Charles Huddleston, Scholars in Amity. Very well done to all.

The Lodge was then closed.

The Installed Mark Masters Lodge was then opened with Ted Long in the chair. RW. Bro Keith Emmerson was elected as WM for the ensuing year.

It now came a spot entitled 'And it don't seem a day too much', in which Chris Radmore attempted to encapsulate 10 years in 10 minutes. This was done to much aplomb and the audience responded with a standing ovation. The PGM then went on to explain that a new band had been added to the Benevolent Fund grouping, that of 'Diamond' status. He announced that two members of Hertfordshire Lodges had reached that stage, W. Bro Terry Laver of Harpenden Lodge 1254 and W. Bro John Worley of Hemel Hempstead Lodge 1291. Very well done, a great achievement.

**Later in June, 130 people assembled at the Halsey Masonic Centre, Cheshunt, to give a send-off to Chris Radmore.**

From the most humble to the most senior, all were there. This was a dinner and presentation to mark the completion of 10 years' of service of RW. Bro Chris Radmore to Hertfordshire Mark Masonry as PGM.

After much mixing in the bar we were called in for dinner and Chris and Brenda Radmore entered to rapturous applause. The meal was served by the new caterers at the centre and was excellent.

We then had a speech by Richard Walker, PGM designate. It was very amusing and to the point.

He presented Chris Radmore with a small package containing

a tie with a fish image. Chris is allergic to all fish and it was received with laughter.

Richard then presented Brenda with a pair of Russian gold earrings which she thanked him for and showed to all present. Chris then received a large package containing a picture of Nelson's flag ship Victory. It was very well received and Chris showed it to the crowded room. These tokens and words spoken by Richard Walker added up a real 'thank you' for 10 very good years.

Chris thanked Richard and all present for the gifts and for turning out and making it such a memorable evening. He said the Province was in good shape. He knew that Richard was the man to keep it that way and wished him luck in his job as PGM.

We went our separate ways reflecting on what had been a great evening.



■ Radmore and Walker

**Tuesday, July 17, was the day we had all been waiting for. I had a phone call the night before asking me to fill the post of Grand Inner Guard.**

I arrived at 8.30am to find the place buzzing.

We had a full rehearsal of the ceremony and after a number of attempts the job was done and we could relax.

Provincial Grand Lodge was opened by the Presiding Officer RW. Bro Keith Emerson PDGM, with the help of RW. Bro John Oakley-Smith JP.

Grand Lodge Officers were then admitted in procession and a rousing round of applause greeted RW. Bro John Prizeman, Deputy Grand Master, who was greeted by the Presiding Officer. He accepted the gavel and Grand Officers were shown to their places.



■ Grand Lodge Team



■ Richard Walker, Deputy PGM Maurice Smith, Assistant PGM Prof Jordan Giddings

The Provincial Grand Master Designate, RW.Bro Richard Walker, entered accompanied by the Masters of Lodges closest to him. He recited his obligation, was entrusted, invested and formally placed in the chair by RW. Bro John Prizeman. W.Bro Maurice Smith entered, was entrusted by RW. Bro Richard Walker and took his place as Deputy. W.Bro Jordan Giddings entered, was entrusted and took his place in the Lodge as Assistant. The Provincial Grand Master went on to thank all the Brethren of Hertfordshire for attending and all the RW. Brethren who had travelled from all points of the compass to attend. Provincial Grand Lodge was then called off for lunch. During an excellent lunch a number of speeches were made, including one to our new PGM Richard Walker by John Prizeman Deputy Grand Master. In reply Richard presented



■ RW. Bro John Prizeman Deputy Grand Master. W.Bro Jack Franks. RW. Bro Keith Emmerson Past Deputy Grand Master.

John with a book on the subject of The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, which had been signed by the Dean and a fine bottle. Then it was back to the Temple. Proceedings were called on and after reports from the Treasurer, Secretary, Almoner and Charity Steward, the investiture of officers took place. It was a tense time but the team were well rehearsed. Congratulations to Brethren who received honours on the day. The PGM then announced that the Silver Token would go to Dennis Brown of James Parsons Lodge. He was escorted to the pedestal and received the Token and given a hearty round of applause. The PGM then went on to say that he had one more to present. After a long list of Lodges and achievements, the name of Derek Watson, of Hertford Lodge, was announced.

He was escorted to the pedestal, received his token and a hearty round of applause. The PGM then addressed the assembly, thanking the Right Worshipful Brethren and all present for attending what had been a great day. Some 316 had attended. It had been a great day. Everything had been planned and rehearsed over and over again. Our thanks go Roy Moth DC and Trevor Clarke PGSec for their hard work. We must not forget the team from Grand Lodge. Their work was perfect and really enhanced the day. The Grand DC RW. Bro Frank Spencer and his Assistant DCs Mathew Hampson and Mark Golding and the rest of the team from Grand Lodge were absolutely spot on. The team who cleared up started at 5.05pm and finished at 6pm. They too deserve our thanks for their hard work.



■ The official team pic



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**John Goddard**  
 On behalf of Character Windows and Doors 2005 Ltd



# Knights Templar

## Provincial Information Officer

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

## Dates for your diary

**20th November 2018**  
**GREAT PRIORY OF MALTA**

At Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street.  
All Knights of Malta are encouraged to attend. Details will be circulated well in advance of the date.



## Provincial Priory Annual Assembly



■ The New Provincial Banner

The most important event in the year, Provincial Priory, was held at the Metropolitan Police Sports Club in Bushey in June.

In addition to the usual annual celebratory matters, the Province held a very special event when we celebrated the Dedication of the new Provincial Banner. We received and welcomed The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T, assisted by The Very High and Right Eminent Great

Seneschal, Malcolm Ernest Slater, OStJ, G.C.T. and The Great Marshal, VE Kt Timothy Wheeler.

They were accompanied by many high ranking representatives from Provinces nationwide, who had joined us for this outstanding occasion.



■ The Provincial Prior flanked by the Supreme Grand Master and The Great Seneschal with The New Provincial Banner

The banner was processed into the assembly escorted by a retinue of Great Officers, and presented to the Grand Master. The full ceremony of Dedication then followed by a finale of a salutation by all the assembled knights. This magnificent ceremony was applauded by over 200 knights present.

The annual meeting then continued with the highest number present for many years. The Temple was full to capacity, and it was a pleasure to see the Bodyguard and Provincial Officers carry out the ceremonials with accuracy and precision, as the new officers for the year were escorted, presented and invested by the Provincial Prior. The long, but most enjoyable day was completed with an excellent festive board.



■ The Festive Board attended by over 200 knights

## Great Priory

Great Priory was held at Freemasons' Hall in May this year, and we were pleased to see our Provincial Sub Prior (now,) VEKt. Mike Stanforth, receive promotion to Past Great Registrar. Knights, John Roberts (PGtA-de-C), Bob Asser (PGtA-de-C) and David Newell (PGtWofR), also received appointments. Our congratulations to these Knights for the recognition of their hard work and dedication to this Order.

**Hertfordshire**  
**Knights Templar**  
Provincial Prior  
Right Eminent Knight - Tony Lapsley

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

Please contact EKt. David Greenland, PGtHer  
For full information and your nearest Preceptory  
07889 904826  
2davidgreenland@gmail.com

## Provincial Priory Annual Church Service

Our Annual Service was once again held at the ancient medieval Abbey Church at Waltham Cross. This beautiful and well-preserved building is always a wondrous pleasure to enter and experience. The existing abbey dates back to the 12th century, and in the grounds are former structures dating back as far as the 7th century. Our knights assembled and processed into the church with the banners of the preceptories. This year a new singer, Helen Strange, gave excellent renditions of familiar hymns, which the capacity assembly fully appreciated. Afterwards, we had a fine tea when the Provincial Prior passed a substantial donation to team rector Rev Peter Smith, who as always, is most appreciative and welcoming to us.



■ Top left: The Banners process in. Top right: Helen Strange. Above: The Provincial Prior at tea. Below: Ancient stonework Right: The Abbey Apse. Bottom: Preceptory banners



## Standon Priory No 581



Standon Priory Preceptory celebrated its 25th anniversary in June. The Provincial Prior RtEkt Tony Lapsley, and the Sub Prior VEKt Mike Stanforth attended along with Consecrating Prior RtEkt John Hay KCT. It was also the Installation meeting of a new E. Preceptor, Kt Stephen Hammond, who was Installed as Eminent Preceptor by Ekt Brian James.

RtEkt John Hay and one of the founding members, Ekt Tony Wiseman, cut the celebratory cake, which the knights then enjoyed with coffee and port. Ekt John Milner entertained guests with a few songs which added to the ambience of the evening. A good time was had by all, and 35 knights raised their glasses to the next 25 years.

■ Top: The Preceptor with Founders. Above: Founders cut the Cake Below: The Anniversary Cake.





## 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 Jun Gen, Asst Div Rec,  
Div Information Officer

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### REPORT ON THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GRAND IMPERIAL CONCLAVE (RCC)

On a gloriously sunny Tuesday in July, warmth was in evidence (in every respect) when our Grand Sovereign, Graham Flight, presided over the annual meeting of Grand Imperial Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine at Freemasons' Hall in London.

At this meeting representatives from a number of overseas Grand Conclaves joined us to witness three very deserving members of our Order receive promotion to the very high rank of Knight Commander of Constantine, including Neil Matthews the Grand Marshal. Neil is well known to members of our Hertfordshire Division, having escorted the Grand Sovereign, as well as directing the ceremonial, on their visits to the Division of Hertfordshire twice in the last two years.

Also at this meeting appointments and promotions in Grand Rank were conferred on worthy recipients. Congratulations to three Hertfordshire Divisional Knights who received Grand Honours, as follows:  
Allan Atkinson, who is Treasurer in his Conclave and had been our Divisional Treasurer for several years, received



■ Terry Deakin (Intendant-General), George Laverick, Allan Atkinson, John Wickes (Deputy Intendant-General) and Keith Emmerson.

promotion to Past Grand Chamberlain. First appointments were awarded to Alan Yeowell and Terry Gray, who received Past Grand Standard Bearer (Labarum) and Past Grand Vice-Chamberlain respectively. Alan is currently our hard-working Divisional Recorder, as well as being Treasurer in his Conclave. Terry has been Recorder in two of our Conclaves for a number of years and is well known for visiting all the others, frequently taking office when required to help them out. Following the meeting a very enjoyable Festive Board was held in the Connaught Rooms. Some of the Hertfordshire contingent are pictured in convivial mood.

### 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 Masonic Order of the Red Cross of Constantine appears to have been first organised in the United Kingdom by Charles Shirreff in about 1780 and was re-organised in 1804 by Waller Rodwell Wright.

During the next 50 years the Order was not very active until in 1865 Grand Imperial Conclave was reassembled for the election and enthronement of William Henry Wright.

Since 1865 there has been steady and continuous working and daughter Grand Imperial Conclaves have been formed from England throughout the world and in recent years, in Germany, France and Finland.

The Order of the Red Cross of Constantine belongs to the 'East and West' class of Initiatory Rites and consists of three degrees - Knight, Priest-Mason and Prince-Mason - titles which represent grades in the scale of Initiation

**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.**



## The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom

### District Information Officer

Information Officer Ill.Kt.Pt. Philip Hoy PGIIIP Dep Dist Rec  
email: philip.hoy@uwclub.net

### GRAND COLLEGE 2018

The Annual Assembly of Grand College was held in June at Hinkley and attended by the Grand Superintendent, R Em Kt Pt Barry Searle, GCPO.

A number of Knight Priests from Hertfordshire received appointments and promotions. Receiving first appointments were Ill Kt Pt Geoff Cheshire, PGIIIP, Ill Kt Pt Chub Reeves, PGGB and Ill Kt Pt Alastair White, PGIIIP.

Promotions went to Ill Kt Pt Mick Chalkley, PGIVP, V Ill Kt Pt Neville Church, PGVIIP, Ill Kt Pt George Constantis, PGIIIP, Ill Kt Pt Hans Gudka, PGIIIP, Ill Kt Pt Tony Lapsley, PGVP, Ill Kt Pt John O, Malley, PGVP (through London), V Ill Kt Pt Ted Richardson, PGVIIP, V Ill Kt Pt Colin Thurston, PGVIIP V Ill, Kt Pt John Wickes, PGVIIP and Ill Kt Pt John Roberts, PGIIIP.

The Grand Superintendent was pleased that a number of these Kt Pts were able to attend in person and he was supported by other Kt Pts from the District.

The Grand High Priest appointed R Em Kt Pt Glyn Goddard, KCPO, as Grand Recorder, he is succeeded as Grand Director of Ceremonies by V Ill Kt Pt Toby Pratt.

### ORDER OF HOLY WISDOM

The meeting of the John Owen Place Tabernacle was held at Halsey Hall, Watford in April. Following the meeting, the Tabernacle hosted the District Meeting of the Order of Holy Wisdom and the Grand Superintendent was pleased to welcome our newest member, Kt Pt Paul Asante, of James William Turner Tabernacle No 222.



■ R.Em.Kt.Pt Barry Searle, Ill.Kt.Pt Geoff Cheshire, Kt.Pt. Paul Assante and V.Ill.Kt.Pt, John Wickes

The ceremony was carried out in an excellent manner by Ill. Kt.Pt. Geoff Cheshire who acted as the High Prelate and was very ably assisted by his team of officers.

At this meeting two of the major divisional offices changed hands when the District Recorder, R Em Kt Pt Eric Mitchell, retired as District Recorder and was replaced by Ill Kt Pt John Roberts. The Grand Superintendent thanked Eric for the work he had done for the District and the support he had given him over the last nine years.

Also changing was the Divisional Director of Ceremonies when Ill.Kt.Pt Richard Brown took over from Ill.Kt Pt. Neil Evans.



■ R Em Kt Pt Eric Mitchell and Ill Kt Pt John Roberts.



■ Ill.Kt.Pt Richard Brown and Ill. Kt Pt. Neil Evans.

### PILLAR FUND

The Pillar Fund now stands at £278,000 and an increasing number of Tabernacles have achieved Green Collarettes, a donation equivalent to £70 per member. So far no Hertfordshire Tabernacle has reached this target and it is the sincere wish of R Em Kt Pt Barry Searle that all Tabernacles in the District do so.

It has been announced that the centenary celebrations will include a service in Newcastle Cathedral on Saturday, May 18, 2024.

The John Owen Place Tabernacle will be meeting at Cheshunt on Thursday, October 25. The Tabernacle will host the District Meeting and there will also be a demonstration of one of the Appendant Degrees. All Kt Pts are encouraged to attend.

### MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered for membership of this deeply significant 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.

Cruz 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 PGIIIP**

**5 Priory Gate, Thomas Rochford Way, Cheshunt, EN8 0SG**

**Tel: 01992 444689**

**e-mail:j.d.roberts53@btinternet.com**

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## 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.pgherts.org/email](http://www.pgherts.org/email)

