

# Provincial News

THE MAGAZINE FOR HERTFORDSHIRE FREEMASONS



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## Brethren

The current lockdown situation is having quite an impact on our daily lives. Some find it difficult to manage such a huge change in the way they must now conduct their lives on a daily basis, others are using the time to take up new hobbies or to acquire different skills.

I have taken up painting and have found it to be both therapeutic and very soothing; in fact, I have become quite good at it and my garden shed has never before looked so pristine!

Seriously, these are difficult times and we must all adapt to the circumstances now prevailing in this country. The use of social media enables us to keep in touch with family, friends and, of course, our brethren in Freemasonry and it is important that we maintain that contact especially with those who live alone or who are facing temporary isolation from those nearest and dearest to them.

As I write these lines on 23rd April I am reminded that St George's Day usually heralds the imminent arrival of one of the most important days in the masonic year, the Annual Festival of UGLE. Let us take a moment to congratulate all of those whom the MW The Grand Master has appointed to or promoted in Grand Rank and to express our disappointment that they will be denied the undoubted pleasure of being invested in the magnificent Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall. Hopefully a suitable opportunity will soon present itself when we may celebrate with them the honour that they will be entitled to adopt from 29th April.

The Provincial Executive have continued to discharge their normal duties alongside the additional burden of work occasioned by Covid-19. Together with our fellow brethren in our Regional

Communication Group (RCG7), and with a substantial match-funding grant from MCF, we have provided in excess of £90,000 to the University of East Anglia for the acquisition of equipment to carry out antibody testing which is vital to aid the fight to beat this pandemic. We are also investigating the support

of Food Banks within Hertfordshire and will, in the course of the next few days, hopefully be in a position to assist them with much-needed financial support.

Be steadfast, Brethren, obey the social distancing guidelines, take care of those less fortunate than ourselves and give thanks for the outstanding efforts being made by NHS staff and other frontline workers in the care sector. Together we will beat this dreadful illness.

Above all, Brethren, keep safe and well.

*Paul Gower*  
Provincial Grand Master

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to this latest edition of Provincial News. I hope reading it will bring to you all some small piece of normality in what is a strange, surreal and, for many, frightening time in our lives.

The edition was, of course, meant to be printed and distributed to all members. But, due to the coronavirus pandemic, we took an early decision that this would not be possible.

Instead we have produced the magazine as if it were being printed, but will place it on our website.

We have also taken the opportunity to redesign the way the magazine looks. I hope you like the new style. My thanks to the magazine's designer Dave Walters for his hard work in achieving a bright new feel to your Happy Hertfordshire magazine. I hope you'll get to see the next edition in all its glossy, printed, glory.

Much of the content for this edition had been submitted before the pandemic and, as such, reflects some of the activities our members and Lodges had been involved with over the winter and early spring.

Where relevant I have adjusted articles to reflect the current situation.

Some regular contributors are missing as events they would have been highlighting for the weeks or months to come have had to be cancelled.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Provincial News and that it reminds you of the close ties we all share and the many good things the members of Happy Hertfordshire's Province have been able to achieve.

Now, more than ever, we need to hold on to those bonds. We need to be there for each other and give support where it is needed.

It is vitally important we make every effort to keep in touch and reinforce the friendships which tie us together. We have many members who are isolated, whether because of their age or because they fall into one of the categories classed as more at risk by the health services. It is especially essential we do all we can to support them.

Lodges all over the Province are embracing new and innovative ways to keep in contact and I would urge you all to continue to do so.

I am sure many of you are involved in a myriad of activities which will help both your Masonic colleagues and the communities in which you live and work.

I would love to hear of those efforts. It would be great to feature them in the next edition of Provincial News when times return to some semblance of normality.

In the meantime, please take care, stay safe and, above all, keep healthy.

Best wishes to you all, your families and your friends.

*Terry Mitchinson*  
Editor & Communication Officer

## Almost two centuries of history

Founded in 1845, Berkhamstead Lodge celebrated its 175th anniversary in January.

The occasion was marked at its installation ceremony when W.Bro Richard Stafford took the chair of King Solomon.

He is following in a long line of distinguished Brethren who had served the lodge and Craft well. Indeed, the great-great uncle of current Pro. Grand Master, MW.Bro Peter Lowndes, was a master of Berkhamstead Lodge in 1893. By coincidence, during a general tidy up of the centre as part of the annual working party last summer, an old charity collection box was discovered. Blackened and aged, its history was not clear, but careful cleaning by W.Bro David Cato revealed it to have been presented to the Lodge by W. Bro William Lowndes, in the year 1893. Brian Meager, Lodge Secretary, told Provincial News: "How fitting that it should have been found and restored in time for such an important anniversary.

"As the Pro Grand Master, who is an Honorary Member, was unable to attend, our Provincial Grand Master RW.Bro Paul Gower, presented the collection box to the chairman of the Gables Hall museum on permanent loan from the lodge.

"It will have pride of place in the display cabinet in the vestibule." The PGM, who was accompanied by members of the Executive, Provincial Officers and Grand Lodge Officers, was presented with an inscribed



Front Row: F. O'Keefe, C. Hunt, R. Taylor, W. Randall, J. Godbold, C. Lockley, J. Malone, D. Colella. Back Row: J. Reeve, C. Noble, B. Callum, B. House, J. Scholey, P. Gower, R. Stafford, J. Norris, J. Tepper, B. Meager, G. Gilbert, G. Fleming, M. Gillis, P. Mole and M. Owens.

tankard from the lodge, to mark his upcoming retirement and "to acknowledge his success as PGM and unstinting support of every lodge in his Province during his tenure." Among the many special guests was W.Bro Walter (Wally) Randall. He was still actively Tying and selling poppies at 104 years of age. Wally had often Tyled for the Lodge in recent years\*. W.Bro Meager said: "It was with great pleasure we were able to invite Wally inside on this special occasion, and to have his company at the Festive Board. It was a very memorable occasion."

A total of 58 people dined. A highlight was the bringing out of Firing Glasses for the toasts. "This rounded off the evening in spectacular fashion," said W.Bro Meager. "Spectacular because of the way they managed to underline the differences in speed of masonic fire in various Provinces. Hertfordshire fire is a little quicker than other Provinces and a little slower than some. "The combination of those two elements, plus the lack of practice in the use of the glasses, led to some amusing results but it was a genuine amusement and enjoyment, in the spirit of brotherly love and mutual respect which had permeated the whole meeting and made this a very special occasion for all who were there."

Each brother was given an inscribed leather placemat to take away as a souvenir. On these were depicted the names of the founders, and every Master since the lodge was founded up to the present day.

He added: "I am sure they would be so very proud of what they started all those years ago and proud also to have contributed to this magnificent organisation of ours, making their local community, as well as the wider world, a better place today.

"We at Berkhamstead Lodge are committed to ensuring the continuation of those tenets and traditions.

"Our next anniversary is in 25 years' time in 2045. Sign up now to ensure your place."

*\*Sadly W.Bro Wally passed to the Grand Lodge above in March.*



Brian Meager, D Cato, Paul Gower and Richard Stafford

# 20 Questions



**NEIL CONNOLLY,**  
PROVINCIAL GRAND  
MASTER DESIGNATE

1. It has just been announced that you will be our next Provincial Grand Master. What was your first reaction when you heard the news?

*To be honest there was a slight feeling of trepidation as to what is involved and being able to live up to the legacy of those who had gone before. However we do have an exceptionally supportive and hard-working Provincial Office and Executive and I look forward to continuing to work with them, and the members of Happy Hertfordshire, to maintain and develop our wonderful organisation.*

2. You are still relatively young and working full time. How is this new responsibility going to impact on your life – and how will your personal and professional life impact on your new Masonic commitments?

*Having been in the role of an APGM for the past three years and having been active in the Province as Junior Warden and a Steward, I am aware of the amount of work demanded of the Executive and the PGM in serving our Province. Fortunately, the last three years have enabled me to create the balance required and I am fortunate that I have the full support of my family. I am probably more concerned about the impact that the role may have on my waistline.*



3. It's very early days to ask this, but do you have any particular goals you would like to realise?

*My objective would be to see the declining number of Masons stabilise and then increase through the recruitment and retention of younger men into to our organisation. However, in order to achieve this we must look internally at what we offer today's younger working man and, from that, set a series of goals to improve our engagement and alignment with work and family commitments of the modern world.*

4. Turning to your personal life, can you give us some background on who you are, and what you do?

*I was born on the west coast of Scotland and was schooled there and in Welwyn Garden City when my father relocated in the late 60s.*

*I was originally employed in the construction industry and trained as an engineer, eventually going on to project management on the client side. After several years as a director of one of the national housebuilders, I set up a practice specialising in working with challenging sites and making them attractive to the wider investor*

*market, which in recent years has been predominantly from the Far East.*

5. After your wife and family (and the Craft, of course!) what is your greatest passion?

*Mountaineering and diving, which is the perfect prelude to indulging in the occasional Scottish malt whisky.*

6. What one thing in life annoys you most?

*The selfishness and discourtesy of the 'me' culture*

7. Turning to Freemasonry, how did you get involved?

*My father was initiated into Troon Navigation 88 under the Scottish Constitution in 1953 and subsequently joined Welwyn Garden City Lodge, so I was aware of Freemasonry from an early age, although I had no idea what was involved or what it was about. At that time Masonry was a lot more secretive and despite making early overtures about joining I was discouraged until he thought I was ready; for which I am very grateful. Despite being a Lewis, there was still a waiting list of several years and I was eventually Initiated in 1991.*

**8. What, for you, are the most important aspects of Freemasonry?**

*'Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth' and the grand design of 'being happy and communicating happiness'  
Practices and lessons that we should all try and live our lives by.*

**9. Are you a member of many different Lodges? Which ones, and why those in particular?**

*Welwyn Garden City 5748 is my Mother Lodge and I also belong to Salisbury Union Lodge 767 which was an amalgamation that came about as part of the formation of the University scheme which I am very passionate about. I also belong to the Bedfordshire Centenary Fishing Lodge 9151 which is part of the Masonic Fishing Charity initiative and I can walk there from my home.*

*In addition there are a number of other Lodges that are open to members of the Province as they progress in masonry and cater for Masons at different stages of their Masonic career, namely: Hertfordshire Masters 4090, Hertfordshire Provincial Grand Stewards 8984 and Lodge of the Red Rampant Lyon 9843.*

**10. Are you a member of any orders beyond the Craft?**

*I am a member in Royal Arch, Mark, Royal and Select Masters and Rose Croix.*

**11. What do you think is our greatest strength, as an organisation?**

*The national and international dimension which brings together like-minded men from diverse backgrounds. I have been fortunate through business and periods of working overseas to experience the international consistency of fraternal warmth that exists within our organisation.*

**12. And our greatest weakness?**

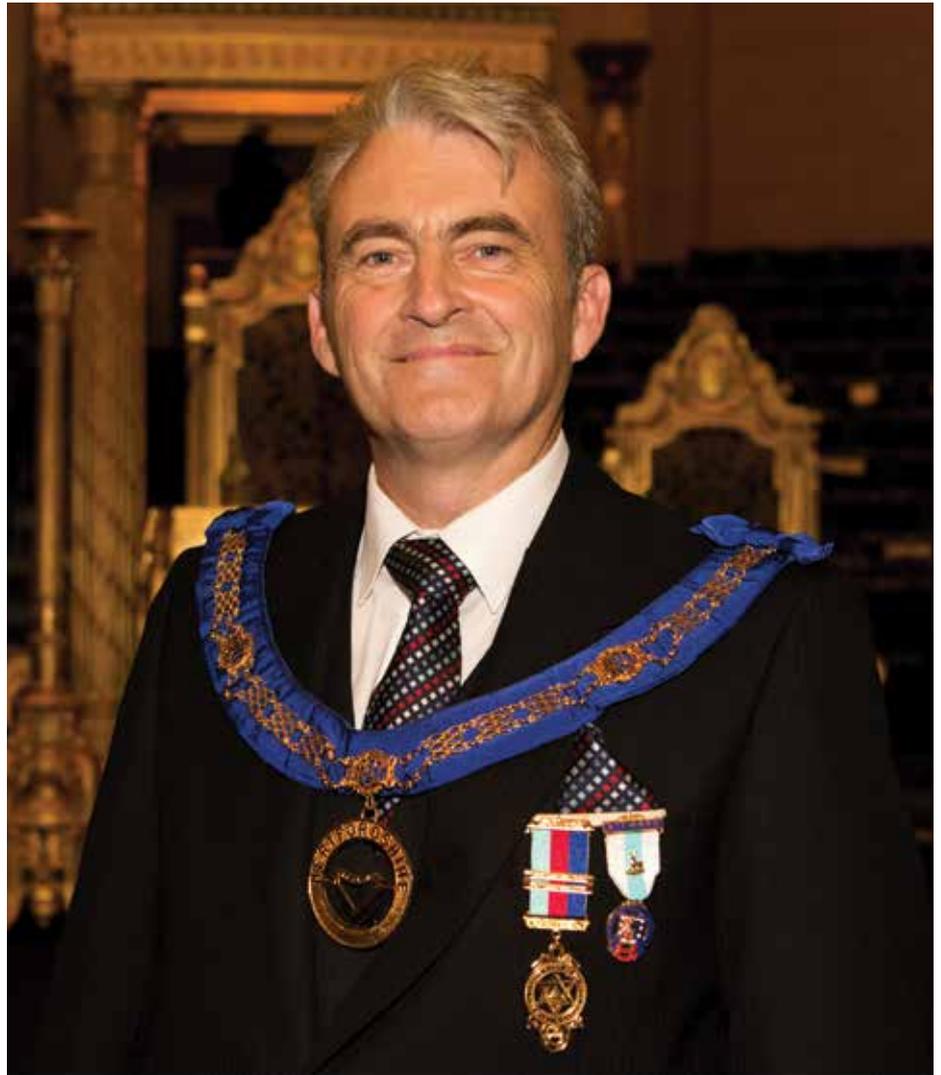
*Intransigence and the inability to recognise and adapt to change. Unfortunately this is not the sole preserve of Masonry.*

**13. What has been the happiest moment (so far) in your masonic career?**

*I would say that it is the collective experience of being able to share Freemasonry with my father and younger brother, which has allowed us to maintain a special bond for which I am particularly grateful.*

**14. You have been Chairman of the Fleet House Light Blues Club for the past three years; what has this experience taught you?**

*Allow the enthusiasm of younger brethren to fly and only provide a gentle touch when required.*



15. Having been an active member of the Hertfordshire Wanderers, what has been your favourite visit?

*Herts Wanderers is probably the longest established 'visiting group' in the Province and we have enjoyed many meetings over the years. Particularly memorable ones were a 250th celebration on the Isle of Wight, and those that involve meeting and dining in places not usually accessible to the general public, such as Mansion House or Guildhall Crypt.*

16. Do you have any advice for members as to how to get the most out of Freemasonry, particularly those who might be disillusioned or struggling in some way?

*We are meant to be a fraternal and supportive organisation but we also all lead busy lives, and sometimes our pastoral care can fall short of expectations. If anyone is unsure then they should be able to approach anyone in their Lodge for assurance. If that fails my details are in the yearbook!*

17. How can we balance the needs of the working Mason with those who are retired?

*All retired Masons were working once and for the organisation to continue we need to recognise that the younger members are our future. Making sure we keep in touch with all members, especially when they do not attend meetings regularly, is important in recognising and addressing the needs of all our members.*

18. What do you think Freemasonry will look like in 50 years?

*Masonry has managed to survive for over 300 years and has always had periods of rapid expansion and contraction. I believe that in England we are in a period of contraction and that we will be a smaller organisation, but with no less relevance in society. If we look to other parts of the world where the organisation is expanding, we can learn to address the issues that we are currently experiencing.*

19. What is it that other parts of the world do differently?

*Masonry in other countries can be far more inclusive and family-oriented. Families and wives are involved in more social events, with White Tables and regular social events seeming to be more common. Meetings are held outside the working day and dining tends to be just*

*two courses, although speeches can be longer! It is also easier to plan events when the sun shines for 250 days a year.*

20. If you were to have a motto or slogan as PGM, what would it be?

*'Think not of what Masonry can do for you but what you can do for Masonry' - with apologies to Kennedy.*



Due to the restrictions brought about by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic our annual meeting planned for September has had to be postponed. A new date for that meeting, including the installation of our PGM designate Neil Connolly, has yet to be confirmed. Brethren will be notified when a decision is made.

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## Brothers in alms!

Between them this family of fundraising brothers has clocked up 153 years of Masonic service. Alan Tyler joined Welwyn Garden City Lodge 52 years ago. Brother-in-law Gil Russell has been in the Craft 51 years. And the latest member of the golden anniversary club, who recently received his 50-year certificate, is Jim Tyler. To mark the special occasion the three met up at Alan's home in Burnham Green for a glass of bubbles and a photo, specially for Provincial News. Editor and Provincial Communications Officer Terry Mitchinson spoke to them.

The trio have all enjoyed long, active and distinguished Masonic careers, taking the Chair on many occasions and in a variety of orders including the Royal Arch and Rose Croix. Gil said: "One of my highlights was initiating my son Ian. That was a lovely and unforgettable moment." Jim was similarly enthusiastic about the occasion when he initiated two of his nephews in a double ceremony. Gil has known his two brothers-in-law since the mid-50s. All continue to be active members of WGC Lodge which meets at the Mayflower Place in Hertingfordbury. "We are truly brothers, not just Masonically, and are very



close," said Gil. Alan is well known in Happy Hertfordshire, not least for his annual garden party which has raised tens of thousands of pounds over almost four decades. All three have been actively involved in the popular event as well as many other fundraising efforts. Alan said: "Being involved with Freemasonry has been wonderful, a real pleasure and honour. "The three of us have loved every moment and we're still just as keen now as when we started, even though our memories might not be what they once were!"



Russ with Lodge WM Simon Roberts

## W.Bro Russell Ridgeon

At 94 years young Gresham Lodge member W.Bro Russell Ridgeon has been presented with a 50 Year Certificate of Service to the Craft by VV.Bro James Young. Lodge secretary Tom Scott said: "Russ is still a very active member of Gresham Lodge, willingly fulfilling any role or position asked of him. "He is a regular attender at Lodge of Instruction and is held in high esteem by all the members of the Lodge. "He recently celebrated his 94th birthday with members of the Lodge and shows no sign of slowing down!"

## OCTOBER 2019 TO MARCH 2020

<b>2019</b>	<b>70 YEAR CERTIFICATES</b>		
Nov	*John Jones	Cecil	449
<b>2019</b>	<b>60 YEAR CERTIFICATES</b>		
Oct	Anthony Goodburn	Sherrards	7182
Nov	Michael Cave	Cecil	449
Dec	Ronald Fidler	Eastgate	6694
<b>2020</b>	<b>60 YEAR CERTIFICATES</b>		
Feb	Peter Creasey	Amwell	6459
Mar	Martin Hollis	Hartsbourne	9680
Mar	David Breslaw	Hartsbourne	9680
<b>2019</b>	<b>50 YEAR CERTIFICATES</b>		
Oct	Jonathan Pewtress	Herts Imp Yeomanry	3192
Oct	David Evans	Watford	404
Oct	Terence Frary	Herutforda L of Sincerity	7632
Oct	Clive Nott	Icknield	4670
Oct	John Frapwell	Stanstead Abbotts	9085
Oct	Ian Neve	Salisbury Union	767
Oct	Russell Ridgeon	Gresham	869
Nov	John Russell	Welwyn Garden City	5748
Nov	John Stuart Kay	Godfrey Kent	9375
Nov	Richard Perkins	Corinthian	7625
Nov	Geoffrey Bedford	St Albans	2786
Dec	Brian James	Sawbridgeworth	5110
Dec	John Daniels	Hitchin	6561
Dec	Barry Chippeck	Tree of Life	9324
Dec	Gerald Greenland	Harpenden	4314
Dec	Michael Imeson	Harpenden	4314
May	Albert Marriott	Cranbourne	1580
<b>2020</b>	<b>50 YEAR CERTIFICATES</b>		
Jan	John Fisher	Stuart	8578
Jan	Kenneth Baish	Letchworth Garden City	5109
Feb	James Tyler	Welwyn Garden City	5748
Mar	Alan Topper	Dyrham Park	8906
Mar	Barry Fennings	Godfrey Kent	9375
Mar	Alan Wiffen	Round Table	9221
Mar	William Hamilton-Hinds	Potters Bar	8704
Mar	William Thomas	Wilson-Isles	2054

\*Sadly no longer with us, RIP

## Farewell to the Major

One of Freemasonry's longest serving members, Major Ronald Stephen Etherington passed to the Grand Lodge above on the 17th December 2019, aged 102.

Anyone who frequented the Sawbridgeworth centre couldn't fail to have met 'Major Ron' who had, in recent years, acted as Tyler for Lodges that met there.

At the age of 22 he was proposed and seconded into The Lodge of Quetta which then met in Baluchistan, British India (in 1947 it became part of Pakistan) but as the year was 1939 the Lodge closed on the 'outbreak of hostilities' and Ron's application was not pursued.

In 1945 however he was initiated into the Lodge of St Paul, No. 389 (SC) which met at Mhow, India and he remained a member of this Lodge until 1973. Ron's military service took him to several parts of our then empire and while stationed in Malta in 1961 he joined United Brethren Lodge No. 1923. He was its Secretary from '62 to '71 and remained a member until the Lodge closed in April 1981. To fill his time



*Edward Miller and James Young visiting Ron at Bishops Stortford a couple of years back*

while in Malta he also joined the Royal Naval Lodge No. 2761 and remained a member until December 1989 even though the Lodge re-located to Yeovil, Somerset, in 1985.

In Hertfordshire the Major joined St Michael's Lodge No.2136 and Stortford Lodge No.409 in 1985 and 2007 respectively and remained a member of those Lodges until his death. RW.Bro Michael Jones presented the Major with his 50-year certificate in October 1995 and it is incredible to think that in the ensuing years, until his sad demise, the Major 'clocked up'

a further 24 years of continued service. Even more outstanding is that if the Second World War hadn't intervened and Ron had been initiated into Lodge of Quetta back in 1939 he would have given Freemasonry an incredible 80 years of continuous service.

VW.Bro James Young told Provincial News: "He was a fantastic character with a ready smile and cheerful disposition who should have had his memorial service on the 21st of April had Covid-19 not cruelly intervened.

"He will be missed by so many and so we say 'Farewell Major Ron and thank you.'"



## DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY

There were two reasons for members of Sawbridgeworth Lodge to celebrate this winter.

At its December meeting Worshipful Master W.Bro Brian James marked 50 years in the Craft. He had taken the Chair of King Solomon again this year to mark the occasion.

Brian was initiated into Wanstead Lodge No 3524 in November 1969, by his father W.Bro Augustus James, in the Grecian Temple at the Great Eastern Hotel. His Grandfather was a Past Master of Wanstead Lodge, and his son David is currently Junior Deacon of Sawbridgeworth Lodge, so establishing four continuous generations of Masons in the family.

A Certificate was presented to Brian by APGM W.Bro John Norris. The Lodge also marked its 90th anniversary having been consecrated in the early summer of 1929. It was from Lodge of Instruction meetings at the Fawbert and Barnard Library at Sawbridgeworth, attended by Brethren of a number of Lodges from the surrounding district, that the Lodge was founded and consecrated at Great Queen Street.

The first meetings were held in the Fawbert and Barnard Library, the smallest Lodge room in the Province until April 1932, when the present Temple in the town was dedicated.

## Prae Wood 40th

Prae Wood Lodge 8919 celebrated its 40th anniversary meeting held at Ashwell House St Albans with the Worshipful Master Brian Relf raising Bro Peter Hulland "in a superb manner".

Three of the remaining Founders of the lodge were in attendance; W.Bro Keith Emmerson, W.Bro John Suckling and W.Bro Colin Spurr.

Also at the February meeting was Bro Eric Preece of Preece Burdett Caterers. Brethren enjoyed a five-course meal along with a cake made by Bro Dennis Holmes' daughter featuring the Lodge Crest.



*Bro Eric Preece, W.Bro Colin Spurr and W.Bro John Suckling cutting the cake*

## PROVINCIAL ALMONER'S REPORT



Welcome to my Spring edition report.

### Keeping in touch

I urge Lodge Almoners to be proactive in keeping in touch with elderly members, widows or dependants. There are various ways the Masonic Charitable Foundation can support members and their dependants. Almoners need to manage expectations when talking to members of their lodge and never guarantee support as this will be assessed by the Masonic Charitable Foundation as they may not be eligible i.e. their income or savings exceeds the qualifying threshold.

### For instance;

- A Freemason having recently passed away; his widow's household income may have dramatically reduced; support may be given if they are below the threshold.
- A Freemason or his wife/partner may have lost their job or be on prolonged sick leave; support may be

given over this period of time and also educational needs for their children

- An elderly Freemason or his wife/partner needs assistance with mobility aids or home adaptations which will be assessed by an occupational therapist and may lead to a grant.

If you have a member who has been advised by the NHS that the waiting list is over 12 weeks for a surgical procedure or over eight weeks for cardiac surgery or cancer treatment, the member, family member or Almoner can contact the Masonic Charitable Foundation directly to establish whether they are eligible for support to help with the cost of private treatment or surgery. It can also offer grants to fund an initial consultation or assessment when the NHS waiting list is over eight weeks.

The Masonic Charitable Foundation can be contacted directly by members and their dependants using the confidential Freephone and email help lines; 0800 035 60 90 and [help@mcf.org.uk](mailto:help@mcf.org.uk) As always I would like to thank Almoners for being proactive and members of the Visiting Volunteer team who carry out a tremendous amount of work behind the scene.

*Simon Cooper PAGDC*

## 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)**

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## Provincial Honours presentation

It was a bitter sweet moment when W.Bro Melvin Wold received his Provincial Honours in a 'field appointment' at Baldock Lodge of Harmony.

W.Bro Mel was Initiated into the Lodge in January 2008. He progressed through the Offices and successfully occupied the Masters Chair in 2013.

He was appointed DC for a year and has presented the Lodge with a pair of Columns and sourced a rare Founders' breast jewel, which is permanently affixed to the Masters Collar.

He was very much involved in the now regular, Christmas Carol Service and dinner.

Sadly over the past few years, Mel has experienced an exceptional history of serious ill health and has been diagnosed with terminal cancer, which he continues to fight.

Due to his illness, the Province agreed that Mel would be presented with his honours early in December 2019. Lodge Secretary Gwyn Howard told Provincial News: "Bro Mel is currently receiving care under the Letchworth Garden House Hospice and continues to research any means of combatting his cancer.

"The Province agreed that this was a deserving case to make a "field appointment", early to ensure Bro. Mel would enjoy the Honour of Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies."

A special presentation meeting was arranged at the Cloisters Masonic Centre, Letchworth.

Deputy PGM Dick Knifton and APGM Ollie Wells, attended to make the presentation. The meeting was attended by more than 30 Baldock Lodge members and guests.

W.Bro Peter Lucas, Cloisters' General Manager, had kindly provided refreshments and an open bar for drinks sales after the meeting which closed with a photo shoot.

W.Bro Howard said: "Mel was delighted with the arrangements and thanked the Senior Provincial team for its support, which was much appreciated by him and those present for this special presentation meeting. Our sincere thanks to the Province."



W.Bro Mel and members of Baldock Lodge



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## PRINCE MICHAEL OF KENT COURT OPEN DAY



Among the guests at an open day at Prince Michael of Kent Court care home was Provincial Charity Steward W.Bro Chris Noble. Deputy home manager Nina Stephens showed Chris round the completed Orangery Room extension for the dementia ward, which was part-funded by the Province with a £20k grant. W.Bro Paul Fairchild, of Gladsmuir Lodge and Provincial Stewards Lodge was also visiting and Chris found him chatting to Julien Sampson, chairman of the Association of Friends of PMoKC. Chris caught some of the care home staff and volunteers enjoying a quiet moment with tea and cake and asked them to pose for a group photo. He praised them for the "wonderful work and support they give PMoKC, our Masonic Home in Watford".

Our picture shows (L to R) Kathy Loveridge, a regular volunteer, events committee and management committee member and almoner of the Association, Roz Brodie, - volunteer, co-chair of the events committee and management committee member, Debbie Simmons, volunteer, co-chair of the events committee and management committee member, Jo Shipley, regular volunteer and long-term member of the Association, Pauline Denby, regular volunteer and long-term member of the Association, Nina Stephens, deputy home manager and home manager, Beverley Roberts. Chris also bumped into regular volunteer W.Bro Reg Denby and supporter W.Bro Doug Brodie who gave Chris a quick tour of the other facilities.

W.Bro Chris told Provincial News: "Quite a few Lodges have signed up to become Friends of PMoKC by pledging a modest annual donation. "My thanks to the brethren who managed to find time to visit and support this open day. Do watch out for future dates because we are so proud to have this home of excellence in our Province and it would be a real boost for one and all if you managed to support them in the future."



*Nina Stephens Deputy Home Manager*



*Julian Sampson, Chairman, Friends of PMoKC & Paul Fairchild*

## Barnet father and son

Guests are an important part of Freemasonry – and they proved invaluable at a recent meeting of East Barnet Lodge, for due to illness many lent a welcome hand at a unique double ceremony. During last year the lodge initiated and passed father and son, Gary and Adam Pickett, at double meetings and earlier this year the pair were raised in a double ceremony, with nine guests from nine different lodges taking active roles in the ceremony. Guests from a total of 15 different lodges were at the meeting. Our picture shows Adam and Gary with WM, W.Bro Andrew Grimmett and with other guests and lodge members.



## PEACE HOSPICE CHEQUE

Peace Hospice in Watford received a welcome boost following a Lodge Ladies Festival. W.Bro Peter Johns and Master Elect Bro Mike Leaney, of Chiltern Lodge, met with Deana Cadden, hospice deputy fundraising director to present her with a cheque for £500. The money was raised through the festival raffle. Mike told Provincial News: "Peter and I were shown the extensive work the hospice does to support patients and their families in the community long before they need final care. "We were shown the many rooms for its counselling service, music and art therapy courses, along with other activities which help keep people both mentally and physically active when faced with a terminal illness. "The 150 staff and 500 volunteers are only partially funded by the NHS and so rely heavily on charitable donations for the maintenance of the hospice and the valuable services it provides."



## King Henry party

Brethren and Companions of King Henry VIII Lodge and Chapter led by W.Bro Rob Gurney entertained 64 children of Members of the Province at a Christmas party in Ashwell House in December.

There was a full programme of entertainment from W.Bro Bryan Cullum's Moonlite Production with painting, a Magician and a Disco.

Father Christmas and his elves also dropped in. There was also plenty of food and drinks for all the children.

Tony Wright told Provincial News: "The Brethren are to be commended on their generosity of time and money in laying on the event.

"All the children went home excited and very tired from three hours of constant entertainment.

"Money raised from the event was shared between the RMTGB and SANDS Charity for Bereaved Parents."

Pictured are the grandchildren of W.Bro Anthony Wright of Prae Wood Lodge.

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## Charity Report

The 2019 Festival has finally and successfully ended, coinciding with the 2019 New Year celebrations. I have enjoyed a few late Lodge and individual honorific presentations but my general role has changed almost completely.

I have been busy concentrating on our hospices, care homes, Air Ambulance, national charities and small local charities. I have also enjoyed completing several MCF initiatives. Playskills Watford and Youth Talk St Albans both successfully applied for MCF Grants, while AGE UK (WGC branch) received part of a national MCF large grant to Homestart and AGE UK.

Following the January Provincial Awards of £13,100 to 26 small local charities, as nominated by yourselves, we took advantage of the MCF's match-funding initiative which meant many had their initial award doubled. It was most enjoyable and rewarding contacting charities a second time informing them of the extra funding. I know the nominating brethren were delighted with the news.

Thank you to the the 16% of our 184 Lodges that have returned an early completed report on their charitable giving in 2019. Naturally I have no intention of naming charities, lodges



### COMBAT STRESS DONATION

The link between Hertfordshire Imperial Yeomanry Lodge No. 3192 and the Armed Forces remains strong.

It was originally formed from members of the regiment in 1906 and recently the current Worshipful Master, John Bird, presented a cheque for £650 to a representative of Forces support Charity, Combat Stress. The money was raised during the Lodge Ladies Night.

or individuals in any subsequent report (GDPR) but the early statistics are very interesting as to where we Happy Hertfordshire Masons donate our charity money. Even during the Festival period we awarded more than 43% to non-Masonic causes. Special needs schools received 9%, Air Ambulance 5%, hospices 5%, age related groups 4%, Armed Forces support 3%, children 3% and cancer 3%. Early indications are that our 184 Lodges privately donated approximately £500,000 to charity. I am proud to be a Hertfordshire Mason.

For your interest my own Lodge, Park Street No. 8556, recently hosted representatives of nine charities, including hospices, Air Ambulance and Prince Michael of Kent Court, at the Kimpton Players Old Time Music Hall with the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VWBro Dick Knifton presenting cheques to each charity. (See our separate report and pictures to the right).

Please check the website for future dates and venues of the Charity Stewards' workshops. *[Obviously timings have now been severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic - editor]* Once again my sincere thanks to you all for your wonderful generosity and support.

*Chris Noble*  
Charity Steward



Members of Hertfordshire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge are well known for their staunch support of worthy causes.

More than £700 was raised at its winter meeting. Worshipful Master Keith Piggott is pictured making a donation to Julien Sampson, chairman of The Association of Friends of Prince Michael of Kent Court. Simon Comben, of the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge, said: "Julien said this is a very welcome and much appreciated donation which will be used to provide a new television for the day room."



### CHEQUE HANDOVERS

Cheques for varying amounts were handed over to worthy causes by VW.Bro Dick Knifton and W.Bro David King.

Representatives from Herts Air Ambulance, Prince Michael of Kent Court, Dewhurst St Mary's Special Needs School, Rennie Grove Hospice, Garden House Hospice, Hospice of St Francis, Pepper Foundation Children's Hospice, Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and Isabel Hospice enjoyed an evening of good old fashioned fun, together with a ploughman's supper, at the Kimpton Players Old Time Music Hall. It was hosted by Park Street Lodge. Additional £250 cheques were given to the Kimpton Players, Kimpton Memorial Hall and £100 to Asthma UK. A total of £3,750 was donated.



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## Mr Christmas

Readers of the Provincial News will be well aware of the annual antics of W.Bro (and E.Comp) Dave Edwards of Croxley Green Lodge, otherwise known as Mr Christmas. For the past 40-plus years he has been lighting up his house in aid of charity and has raised more than £120,000 for worthy causes as well as bringing pleasure to all who see the display.

Last Christmas was no exception. In November more than 2,300 people watched the grand switch-on.

Stormtroopers, the stars of Frozen, Captain America and Guardians of the Galaxy were there help the festivities and a grand firework display enhanced the occasion - the snow fell in abundance!

Darth Vader and Chewbacca helped W.Bro Dave switch on the lights and there was a film crew from Channel 5 to film the proceedings.



## COLLETT SCHOOL



Our Provincial Charity Steward Chris Noble joined forces with W.Bro Keith and Pat Goddard to present both money and toys to Gillian Lawson, Head of Engagement at Collett special needs school in Hemel Hempstead. Keith and Pat have searched the various websites for secondhand 'Brio' wooden toys, which are a particular favourite with the school as they help the children develop play skills and hand-eye co-ordination. The visit followed a connection between members of Old Albanian and

Berkhamstead Chapters and the school. As well as the toys, three cheques totalling just over £1,100 were handed over.

Gillian told Chris, Collett School were in constant need of funds to "continue the high excellence of their work with special needs children".

For more about the school and its support by Herts Masons go to our Royal Arch pages.



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## AIR AMBULANCE DONATIONS

The county's life-saving air ambulance service received a welcome boost from Freemasons in Happy Hertfordshire. More than £12,500 was handed over to staff at its HQ.

A donation of £4,000 was made by our Province, via the national Freemasons' charity, MCF – but this was boosted by a range of extra donations from lodges around the county. Our Provincial Charity Steward W. Bro Chris Noble invited Lodge charity stewards to join him for a visit and cheque presentation at the Herts & Essex Air Ambulance base in North Weald, Essex.

He told Provincial News: "Two visits had to be arranged to accommodate the 36 visitors representing 19 Lodges. "The first visit found the regular aircraft in pieces in the hanger having a major engine overhaul with the replacement temporary unit 'ready for a shout'. Both parties enjoyed a tour of



the facilities and a good look around the aircraft.

"A short video informed us of the proposed new £7m base which will replace the two existing bases saving time and money and allowing 24/7 cover, thus almost doubling the operating hours. They hope to have the new base operating by early 2021." Cheques totalling £12,535 were handed over.

The service receives very little in the way of Government or council grants and relies heavily on public donations. Staff told the visitors that without help from Freemasons they would not be able to operate at current levels. Chris said: "Both aircraft proudly display the Square & Compasses. "We met the air crew, doctors and paramedics and were told that with the recently acquired new equipment

they are able to carry out minor open heart operations at the emergency scene."

A total of £1,700 was donated by lodges which meet in St Albans and Radlett. These were Romeland, Park Street, Lodge of Opportunity, Three Rivers, South Hertfordshire, Samson and Lodge of Light and Honor. More than £4,750 was donated by lodges which meet in Hertingfordbury, Cheshunt and Sawbridgeworth. These were Hertford Lodge, Lodge of Sincerity, Ludgrove, Square Conduct, New Elizabethan, Phocas and East Herts Borders Lodges.

A total of £1,500 was donated by lodges which meet in Watford. These were Edward and Alexandra, Waltham Cross, Garston and Chiltern Lodges. Members of Bodina Lodge, which meets in Royston, donated £130.

## Inclusive theatre

A far-reaching theatre group has been given a further welcome boost from Hertfordshire Masons.

Bob Chilvers, of Dacorum Lodge, presented a cheque from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire for £500 to the Herts Inclusive Theatre.

This is Dacorum Lodge's chosen charity.

As you can see from the photo, members were all highly delighted at this continuing support.

The Director, Caroline Stevens, is pictured with colleagues receiving the cheque.

During his visit Bob was informed of a variety of projects being undertaken by the Adult, Childrens and Youth Theatres, along with their volunteers. The most recent was a pantomime at the Pump house, Watford.

Bob said: "You will find a busy and well thought-out programme of events and initiatives we have been supporting on its website. These include workshops and general 'healing' activities aimed at improving the quality of life for the disabled, disadvantaged and 'left



behind sections of the community in Hertfordshire'."

He added: "As Freemasons, I firmly believe that this is a unique opportunity for us to support some very needy elements in our community close to home, all over our county.

"We could not do more good in

Hertfordshire with our (limited) charitable donations in any other way that I am aware of.

"Please keep up the good work which will enable them, in turn, to keep up their good works."

**More information about the theatre can be found at [www.hit-theatre.org.uk](http://www.hit-theatre.org.uk)**

## Curator Report

The last six months has been as busy as ever with many new additions to the collections.

Two large legacies have been brought in, one of which can only be termed as vast. It contained over 40 certificates, many boxes of paper records and over 100 jewels and regalia of almost every known degree and some unknown.

It also included a set of Masonic pictures by a famous artist, which have been displayed in the Hodge Room.

The whole legacy took weeks to catalogue, photograph and display.

The display units on the staircase landing have been increased to four and contain a variety of items which attract attention from members going to the regalia department. We intend to change the display fairly regularly.

Another exciting recent find, concealed in the Ashwell House storeroom, was a box of some 350 gold and silver jewels, all dated before 1940. It is probable that these were being collected for the Grand Lodge war effort appeal and never sent. They filled a number of hard-to-find spaces in our collection of pre and post-1900 jewels.

But the most remarkable jewel is a member's jewel of Pilgrim Lodge No.238 belonging to Rt.Hon. Thomas Frederick Halsey, Deputy Grand Master and Provincial Grand Master, dated February 1910.

We have carried out a detailed and painstaking audit of the jewel collection and can now be reasonably confident of its accuracy, which is important for both our insurers and ourselves. It is hoped that the recently completed Provincial Chronicle will soon be available on the website.

One unusual recent addition is a large and very heavy piece of marble taken from the Queen's toilet in Buckingham Palace when a member of Ludgrove

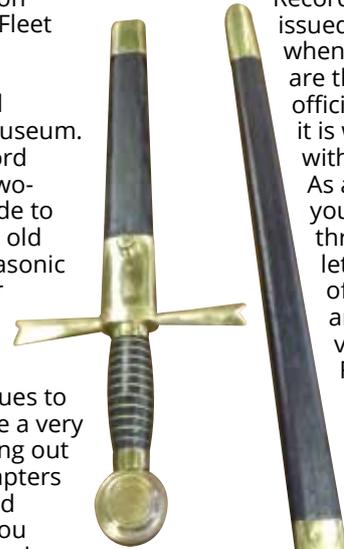


Lodge repaired war damage in 1943. He carved the emblem of the Lodge on the marble and this was displayed at every meeting. The Lodge has sadly closed, but the marble is now on display here at Fleet House.

Gadebourne Lodge has deposited its gold-plated Master's Goblet in the museum.

An unusual item is a sword without a sword. It is a two-piece solid scabbard made to fit in a masonic case. An old silk scarf with various masonic symbols and many other items have also been donated.

The important Provincial archive continues to grow and is proving to be a very valuable aid when carrying out research for Lodges, Chapters and relatives. But it could contain much more. If you have any special paperwork, summons, histories, photos, etc.



please do consider placing them with us. Similarly, if you are preparing a history of your Lodge or Chapter, do come and see what information we already have.

The Hertfordshire Archive and Records Office at County Hall has issued some new requirements when depositing items. If you are thinking of placing your official records in County Hall, it is well worth having a word with me first.

As always, we are here to help you in any way we can. Never throw anything away without letting us see it first. We can offer advice on preservation and repairs as well as giving valuations for insurance.

Finally, as always, do come and see your museum and its collections. We can also come to Lodges and Chapters and give a talk about the collections.

*Brian Tierney*  
Museum Curator



### Vintage Toys Wanted

Die cast vehicles and Figures: Dinky Corgi Matchbox Spot On Britains Lone Star etc.  
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## A Little bird tells me...

Founder and member of The Cloisters Chapter, Deputy Grand Superintendent, E.Comp David Hampton, joined members and guests at its installation meeting this winter. With him was Second Provincial Grand Principal E.Comp Phil Masters. The Cloisters Chapter meets on a Saturday morning, in November, February and June and has worked tirelessly to support the Danish Royal Arch Masonry initiative and it is now moving into the next chapter in its life. It is the first Chapter in Hertfordshire to have a Twitter account and welcomes all potential members and visitors alike to the site. David and Phil are pictured with newly Installed Principals, E.Comps Julian Hunt, Graham Woodman and Andrew Gillard. To commemorate its Danish influence, "Broderlige Hilsener", which means Fraternal greetings in English, were extended to all members and guests.



## SEVENTY YEARS' SERVICE TO THE ROYAL ARCH

Members of Charles Edward Keyser Chapter were looking forward to an extra special Installation Convocation at the end of the summer. Deputy Grand Superintendent, E.Comp David Hampton was there



*E.Comp Tommy with E.Comps David Hampton and Les Butler.*

to present E.Comp Thomas (Tommy) Knight with a certificate celebrating, to the day, 70 years of Royal Arch Masonry in Hertfordshire.

Unfortunately, the day before the meeting, E.Comp Tommy called to say he was unable to be present. So E.Comp David, with Chapter Scribe E, E.Comp Les Butler, visited Tommy at home a few days later to do the honours. They were warmly welcomed by E.Comp Tommy and his wife.

E.Comp Tommy was initiated into the Charles Edward Keyser Lodge in April 1942, while on leave from the RAF, at the age of 21. He was installed as the Worshipful Master in June 1955. He was installed as MEZ of Charles Edward Keyser Chapter in September 1967.

E.Comp Tommy has received many honours in both Chapter and Craft and continues to be a subscribing and supporting member of both the Lodge & Chapter. The certificate presentation was "in recognition of his long and distinguished masonic career".

## Annual luncheon

The annual luncheon for Active Provincial Officers, Chapter Principals and Scribes was attended by 77 Companions and guests and hosted for the first time at Mayflower Place, Hertingfordbury.

The event was presided over by Deputy Grand Superintendent, David Hampton, who commented that it was a delight to see so many guests and members present and thanked them for their support in the new venue.

The Deputy Grand Superintendent also thanked the Companions for their past services and in anticipation of their continued support to their Chapters and the Province.

Afterwards he told Provincial News: "It was a delightful afternoon, enjoyed by all who attended. There was an excellent four-course menu and the added bonus that the sun continued shine."

The Deputy Grand Superintendent received many comments of appreciation on the day and afterwards letters of thanks which included, among others, the following comments:

"Just a quick note to congratulate you on the success of the lunch today, it was great fun and the quality of the food was outstanding. Please do convey our gratitude to the catering staff, one of the best meals that we have had this year - fabulous!"

"To my mind and many others I spoke to this was a big improvement on previous years and an excellent social event."

"..... I thought the meal and service was splendid!"

"Thank you for organising such a terrific lunch yesterday. I speak for those on my table when I say that we all enjoyed the event and look forward to the next one."

**The 2020 luncheon is due to be held in October at Mayflower Place, Hertingfordbury. Further details will follow.**

## RAISING AWARENESS

Second Provincial Grand Principal E.Comp Phillip Masters took part in a Royal Arch awareness evening at Watford Lodge in March.

After the Lodge had been called off, E.Comp Brian Handley, with other Royal Arch Companions, explained some of the history of the Royal Arch and how it came about as a result of the union of the Ancients' and the Moderns' Grand Lodges.

They also delivered an explanation of some of the ritual and the different regalia worn by Companions of different ranks. Finally the structure and organisation of the order, with an emphasis on Hertfordshire, was explained.

As a direct result of this presentation, Watford Chapter now has a possibility of five or six exaltees.

If any Lodge would like a similar presentation, E.Comps Tim Coles or Phillip Masters are the people to talk to.

## Another memorable occasion

Autumn saw another successful annual Provincial Convocation at Freemasons Hall in London. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E.Comp James Sharpley, presided over the afternoon. It was attended by 393 Companions of the Province and guests along with representatives from 15 neighbouring Provinces including seven Grand Superintendents. Thirty-seven Companions received either a re-appointment, appointment or promotion to active rank and 71 Companions received promotions in or were appointed to past rank. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent re-appointed and invested the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E.Comp David Hampton and E.Comp Phillip Masters as Second Provincial Grand Principal. E.Comp Robert Asser was appointed, invested and proclaimed as Third Provincial Grand Principal. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent presented a Past Jewel Collarette to E.Comp Rodney Hancock with "grateful thanks for his hard work and dedication over the past 12 months as Third Provincial Grand Principal". Three Excellent Companions, Peter Walters, Darren Bending and Peter Pateman were re-appointed as Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals in response to the increased workload placed on the Executive with the introduction of many new initiatives. The remainder of the Executive were re-appointed to their respective Offices.



The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent and the Deputy Grand Superintendent welcomed and congratulated six representative Exaltees to the meeting. They were Marcus Clark, East Herts Chapter, Frank Freeman, Theobalds, Gordon Gonourie, Rickmansworth, Binta Mushini, Theobalds, Steven Ingram, Burning Bush and Alexis Schwatz, Chantry Bodina Chapter. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent's Certificate of Service to Royal Arch Masonry was presented to E.Comps Colin Childs, Jeremy Hopkinson and Ernest Morris. Each were also presented with a commemorative gold tie pin. They were warmly applauded by all those present. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent then highlighted current and new initiatives and

thanked all Companions for their support and enthusiasm for the Royal Arch in Hertfordshire. He made special mention of the retirement of E.Comp Rod Hancock along with E.Comp Howard Collins, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, and E.Comp John Burnapp, Provincial Grand Almoner, thanking them all for their dedication and hard work. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent then welcomed E.Comp Robert Gurney, Provincial Grand Almoner and E.Comp Clive Bradnum, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, to their new roles. (The PGS's full address can be seen on the Royal Arch website). There then followed a truly enjoyable festive board, in the Grand Connaught Rooms, attended by more than 240 Companions.



## THE CONSECRATION OF SPARTA CHAPTER NO 9771

Royal Arch Province of Suffolk  
Friday 2nd August 2019

As you read this narrative, you may be wondering why a new Chapter consecrated in the Province of Suffolk – that of Sparta Chapter No 9771 - is appearing in the Royal Arch section of Provincial News.

Well, our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E.Comp James Sharpley along with three other Most Excellent Grand Superintendents from the Provinces of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Norfolk made up the Consecrating Team. This was because the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent for the Province of Suffolk, E.Comp David Boswell was being installed as MEZ, the Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Suffolk, E.Comp Ian Yeldham as H and the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent for the Province of Cambridgeshire, E.Comp William Dastur was being installed as J. The consecrating team was led by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent for Bedfordshire, E.Comp Tony Henderson and assisted by our Grand Superintendent, E.Comp James Sharpley, E.Comp John Keeble, Most Excellent Grand Superintendent for Buckinghamshire and E.Comp Stephen Allen, Most Excellent Grand Superintendent for Norfolk. They “delivered a wonderful



Consecration ceremony befitting the occasion”. Following the consecration, the Chapter was opened and the business of the Chapter was conducted in a very friendly and effortless manner by new MEZ, E Comp David Boswell. The Consecration and Convocation was attended by more than 140 members and guests, including our Deputy Grand Superintendent, E.Comp David Hampton and the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Degree in

Hertfordshire, E.Comp Chris Radmore. E.Comp David told Provincial News: “At the Festive Board, we dined in fine style and the occasion was presided over by the new MEZ, E.Comp David Boswell in a very sincere, convivial and amusing way. “Towards the end of his address, the MEZ presented each of the Consecrating Team with a Province of Suffolk tie, in token of recognition for their assistance at the meeting. “A good time was had by all present.”

## David’s golden double

In November last year E.Comp David Enock celebrated 50 years in the Holy Royal Arch – just a year after marking the same landmark in the Craft.

David was Initiated into Tetrahedron Lodge in London before joining Godfrey Kent Lodge in Hertfordshire in 2004.

He achieved Senior London Grand Rank in 1996.

His main love in Masonry however, has been the Royal Arch. Having been exalted into Tetrahedron Chapter less than 12 months after his initiation he was its MEZ for the first time in 1981.

In Hertfordshire he was a founding member of Hooks Cross Chapter and its MEZ in 1987 and again in 2011.

He was a joining member of Hertfordshire First Principals Chapter, where he served as 2nd Principal in 2009. He also joined High Barnet First Principals Chapter and White Star Chapter.

In the Royal Arch Province of Hertfordshire he has had many honours and was Provincial Assistant Grand Scribe E in 2002, Provincial Deputy Grand Scribe E in 2005 and finally Provincial Grand Treasurer in 2007, a post he held for eight years.

In Supreme Grand Chapter he was appointed PAGDC in 2004 and PAGSoj in 2012.

At Hooks Cross Chapter, Second Provincial Grand Principal E.Comp Phil Masters presented E.Comp David with his Craft and Royal Arch Certificates, stating how grateful we all were for his long and valued contribution to Freemasonry in general, which was met with spontaneous and rapturous applause.



## First aid training sessions

A joint Royal Arch Chapter and Craft initiative to increase the number of first aiders at Masonic centres in Hertfordshire is on the cards.

Although defibrillators are available at many centres there are few people who have received any instruction in how to use them.

Deputy Grand Superintendent, David Hampton and Provincial Grand Master designate, Neil Connolly, are promoting this as a joint training initiative aimed at regular centre users.

It was to have launched in April, but due to the coronavirus situation this will now be pushed back.

Provincial Grand Almoner Robert Gurney said: "First aid is a life skill that everyone should have and we are delighted to be able to offer a limited number of free places for Masons and staff at our centres to learn some emergency first aid skills".

E.Comp Paul Walker, who provides commercial First Aid training nationwide, has offered to deliver the training free of charge to those attending our centres.

The one-day course will provide basic life-saving first aid skills and knowledge of workplace health and safety regulations. Those who successfully complete the course will receive an Emergency First Aid at Work Certificate, valid for three years.

Although training will be provided at no cost to individuals or units, host centres have been asked to provide morning tea or coffee and lunchtime refreshments for those attending. Training sessions will cater for a maximum of 15 people, although there is a possibility of more spaces being made available if demand is high. Further details will be available once a new timescale is agreed.



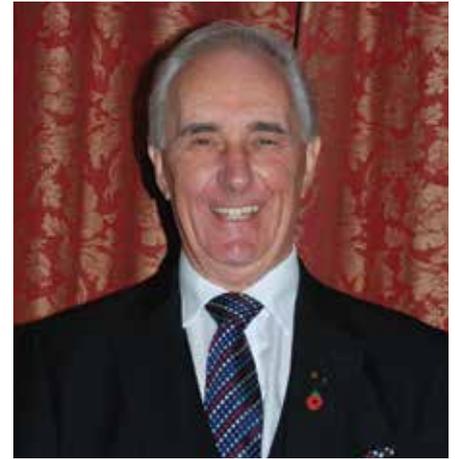
*Provincial Grand Almoner Robert Gurney*

## GATHERING OF CHARITY STEWARDS

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward, E.Comp Clive Bradnum hosted the first meeting of local Royal Arch Chapter Charity Stewards with the welcome assistance of Peter Lucas, Manager of Letchworth Masonic Centre and supported by Martin Francis, Theobalds Relief Chest representative.

After canvassing the 22 local Charity Stewards, (local being within a 15-mile radius of the centre) and receiving replies from nine, representatives from seven Chapters – Cecil, Broxbourne, Harpenden, Stevenage, Potters Bar, and High Barnet First Principals - attended.

E.Comp Clive gave a short PowerPoint presentation regarding new Royal Arch Initiatives, covering both the Relief Chest and the Match-funding schemes, followed by a discussion on the pros and cons of both. Letchworth Masonic Centre



*E.Comp Clive Bradnum*

provided free use of the facilities and complimentary tea and coffee.

E.Comp Clive stated that although more support from local Chapters would have been appreciated, it was a "worthwhile experiment which will be repeated at other Masonic Centres throughout the coming season".

## An essential role

Following recent addresses by the Grand Master and Pro Grand Master at Quarterly Communications and Supreme Grand Chapter, it is clear our Rulers value membership of the Holy Royal Arch as an essential part of Craft Masonry.

The Pro Grand Master, in particular, has focussed on the importance of Royal Arch Representatives and the role they should be playing within their Lodges, to encourage new members to complete their journey through Pure and Ancient Freemasonry.

Since the introduction of Royal Arch Representatives in the Province of Hertfordshire, it has become clear a more structured and collective approach to their role and responsibilities is required and a more effective manner of sharing information and evaluating their effectiveness is needed.

To this end the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal E.Comp Robert Asser and the Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, E.Comp Peter Walters were to have hosted two informal seminars for Royal Arch Reps in the Province in April.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis these will now be rescheduled. Further details will be sent to all Royal Arch Representatives in the Province. The meetings will be "an informal get together to discuss the role and responsibilities of Royal Arch Representatives and explain the vision of the Executive in respect of this extremely important position".



*E.Comp Peter Walters*



*E.Comp Robert Asser*



## A 'Cracking Meeting'

In what was described by one guest as a "cracking meeting" it was all change at Prae Wood Chapter's installation convocation held at Ashwell House, St Albans.

A spokesman said: "The new Principals, E.Comp Dennis Holmes (MEZ), E.Comp Anthony Wright (H) and E.Comp John Hillman (J) were well and truly Installed in fine fashion by their predecessors, especially E.Comp Keith

Emerson (IPZ) PAGDC.

"There were just under 30 Companions in attendance to assist and witness a great meeting and to participate in a super Festive Board. It was a cracking meeting, enjoyed by all."

The meeting was attended by Provincial Executive members E.Comp Phillip Masters PAGDC, 2nd Provincial Grand Principal and E.Comp Robert Asser PGStdB, 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, accompanied by E.Comp Darren Bending, Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals.

## CHAPTER LIAISON OFFICERS SCHEME

Over recent years our Royal Arch Province has been running a Chapter Liaison Officers' scheme.

It has been done on a voluntary basis, with Chapters asking to have a Chapter Liaison Officer (CLO) allocated to them.

It has proved very successful. But with 75 Chapters to oversee, the Executive continues to look for new ways to innovate and create a more stimulating environment.

As part of this initiative the Provincial Executive took the decision to 'roll out' the Chapter Liaison Scheme to every Chapter in Happy Hertfordshire.

In February, a letter was sent to Scribe Es of the Chapters who hadn't taken the scheme up voluntarily and to date the response has been positive.

A spokesman for the Executive said: "We recognise all Chapters are private, and we cannot interfere with the way Chapters are run unless it is against the Rules and Regulations in the Book of Constitutions.

"However, by maintaining regular contact, a Chapter Liaison Officer can become a conduit between the Chapter and the Provincial Executive.

"The scheme allows the Executive to have a more structured overview of the Province and its Chapters and the CLO would provide a greater, more managed and regular two-way communication.

"The CLO would be a friend to the Chapter. If asked, he can pass on advice and guidance. He would pay his own dining fee, and so not be a burden on Chapter expenses."

The scheme's aim is to assist in bringing the members of individual Chapters up to speed with the latest Provincial initiatives and other important matters. The 2nd Provincial Grand Principal E.Comp Phil Masters is overseeing the scheme. E.Comp Darren Bending has been charged with allocating Liaison Officers to all Chapters which need one.

## SCHOOL DONATION

Companions of the Old Albanians and Berkhamstead Chapters donated £500 and £460 respectively to The Collett SEN School.

This was match-funded by Hertfordshire Provincial Chapter to the tune of £250 each.

E.Comp Clive Bradnum, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, presented a cheque for £500 to Josh, one of the pupils.

A cheque for £500 from De Lisle Motor Engineers and Body Works of Northchurch was also presented. Other Craft, Chapter and Mark Lodges are also making donations to the school.

The Mark Benevolent Fund is giving a grant of £14,365 so the school can replace its strobe-effecting fluorescent light with LEDs.

Children at The Collett School, in Hemel Hempstead, have many conditions including Downs Syndrome.

Fifty per cent have Autism.

Two pupils have very rare diagnosis, one is one of only two in the world and another is one of only six globally.

Almost half the pupils are under the care of Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Nearly 50% come from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. Some are in care or fostered and many have parents who have special needs themselves.

More than 90 per cent of its Local Authority funding is used for the necessary high ratio of staff, leaving seven per cent to cover everything from loo rolls to books.

If readers would like further information on this charity or any others, contact the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, E.Comp Clive Bradnum



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- A raffle prize
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**Did you know that we are on Social Media?**

**For Twitter** - @HertsRSM

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## WHAT IS THE ORDER OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS ALL ABOUT?

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas was formally constituted on 29 July 1873 by four Councils chartered just two years earlier by the Grand Council of New York.

They organised themselves into a Sovereign body under the Patronage of the Rev. Canon G.R. Portal, a Past Grand Master of Mark Master Masons, who was Installed as the Grand Master of the Order. By the turn of the century there were 27 Councils and a similar number consecrated by the end of the Second World War. The Order then grew rapidly reaching 250 by the end of 2013.

The Degrees in the Order - four in total - are often referred to as the 'Cryptic Degrees', and the Order sometimes as 'Cryptic'. The ceremonies complete the Solomonic legend as they prove the essential link between the Degrees of Mark Mason, the Raising in Craft and The Royal Arch.

The Degrees allow Candidates to understand the reasons behind the legends. Many members will tell you this Order has one of the most beautiful pieces of ritual in Freemasonry that ties together all that we learn in the Holy Royal Arch and the ceremony of Raising.

When admitted to the Order you are 'Chosen' as a Select Master and from that point entitled to wear the jewel of the Order. You are then able to progress through the Degrees until you become a Super-Excellent Master and are permitted to wear the unique triangular apron. This denotes your completion of the legend that connects the Solomonic structure.

## DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A COUNCIL NEAR YOU?

In the District of Hertfordshire there are nine Councils. These are spread over the Craft Province of Hertfordshire across a range of meeting dates and centres:

Hertfordshire Council No 121 meets at Radlett on the 4th Saturday in May (Installation), 2nd Saturday in September and 2nd Saturday in January.

Willian Council No 135 meets at Letchworth on the 1st Thursday June (Installation), 1st Thursday in October and 1st Thursday in March.

Portal Council No 179 meets at Cheshunt on the 4th Wednesday in November (Installation), 4th Wednesday in February and 4th Wednesday in May.

St Albans Council No 215 meets at St Albans on the 1st Saturday in October, 1st Saturday in February and 2nd

Saturday in May (Installation)  
 Roysia Council No 233 meets at Royston on the 4th Friday in November, 1st Monday in April (Installation) and 4th Friday in June.  
 John Mortimer Council No 247 meets at Radlett on the 2nd Thursday in April, 1st Monday in July (Installation) and 3rd Tuesday in December.  
 Ninth Arch Council No 318 meets at St Albans on the 2nd Wednesday in April and 3rd Wednesday in November (Installation).  
 Sæbeorht Council No 330 meets at Sawbridgeworth on the 3rd Thursday in September, 2nd Thursday in January (Installation) and 4th Tuesday in May.  
 Trulla Argentea Council No 333 meets at St Albans on the 4th Friday in January (Installation) and 3rd Friday in July.

**If you would like any more information on a specific Council or the Order in general, please contact the District Recorder, Tony Nutley either by phone 01438 239621 or email [t.nutley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:t.nutley@yahoo.co.uk)**

## New Deputy District Grand Master Invested at Ninth Arch Council, No. 318

On Wednesday, 20 November, M.III.Comp. Kessick John Jones, Grand Master, paid a visit to the meeting of Ninth Arch Council No. 318 at Ashwell House, St Albans, to see the new Deputy District Grand Master III.Comp. John Wickes, being invested by the District Grand Master, R.III.Comp. Peter Brindle. Also in attendance were all three previous and the present District Grand Masters since the District was established in 1996 and the opportunity to have a photograph taken with the Grand Master could not be missed. There cannot be many districts who have four past and present District Grand Masters.



*Back Row (left-to-right):  
 R.III.Comp. Colin Hellyer,  
 P.Dist.G.M. - R.III.Comp. Peter  
 Brindle, Dist.G.M.*

*Front Row (left-to-right):  
 R.III.Comp Colin Thurston,  
 P.Dist.G.M. - M.III.Comp.  
 Kessick John Jones, Grand  
 Master - R.III.Comp. Peter  
 Baikie, P.Dist.G.M.*



*R.III.Comp. His Hon.  
 Ian D.G. Alexander,  
 QC, Dep.G.M., R.III.  
 Comp. Gp Capt Peter J.  
 Brindle, Dist.G.M., M.III.  
 Comp. Kessick J. Jones,  
 Grand Master, R.III.  
 Comp. Richard L. Gan,  
 JP, IX, G.P.C.W. and III.  
 Comp. Neil Phillips,  
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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.

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