

Summer 2025



THE ONLINE MAGAZINE FOR THE
MASONIC PROVINCE OF EAST KENT

THE PROVINCIAL
GARDEN PARTY

BROTHER THEODORE
BAGDONOVITCH GC

AROUND
THE
PROVINCE

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Southern Golden Retriever Society Display Team
(see pages 6 & 7)

Front Cover: Widows Sons East Kent Motorcycle Chapter (see pages 6 & 7)

Contents

6

The Provincial Garden Party

A round up from Godmersham Park

9

Vulnerable Children helped in Sheerness

All because of you!

18

A Day to Remember

A special visit to Buckingham Palace, but for who?

20

Theodore Bogdanovitch GC

What has he got to do with Freemasonry? Find Out

22

East Kent Clays

Learn more about this very active and interesting group.

25

Around the Province

News and stories from Your Province

35

Cryptic Crossword?

Test your masonic skills

40

The Light Blues Brothers

AGM at the Spitfire Museum

43

Kent Museum of Freemasonry

Find out what is going on in the museum

45

Teddies For Loving Care

Truly Inspiring, thank you for your support.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Summer in Full Bloom

Welcome to the summer edition of The Provincial Lite, your online window into the life and work of the East Kent Freemasons. As nature reaches its full bloom and the days are long and warmed by golden sunshine, we are reminded of the power of growth and renewal, which are themes that echo throughout this issue.

This summer, we are delighted to showcase the Provincial Garden Party held at the stunning Godmersham Park Estate. It was a true celebration of family, fellowship, and fun. With joyful faces, engaging activities and shared laughter. It was an occasion that perfectly captured the spirit of the season.



Among the highlights, we shine a light on the heartening efforts of Lodges and individuals across our Province. Generous donations have been made to worthy causes, many in memory of Brethren who have passed to the Grand Lodge above. These acts of kindness often take place in collaboration with the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity, whose support continues to amplify the positive impact of our collective work. Together, we demonstrate how Freemasonry remains a steadfast force for good within our communities.

We're delighted to share a heartening roundup of news from across the province, highlighting the meaningful work and memorable events taking place in support of our communities. One particularly uplifting story comes from Romney Marsh Lodge 4743, which recently held its annual meeting with the Netherlands Lodge, Oostmaaslaan 950. It's a beautiful example of "*hands across the sea*," where fraternal bonds transcend borders and lasting friendships are nurtured through shared values and goodwill. Also featured is the East Kent Clay Shooting Club. A vibrant and welcoming group that blends sport with sociability, offering enjoyable events for Masons and guests alike across the South East.

In this edition, we also bring to light the extraordinary story of Brother Theodore Bogdanovitch, a recipient of the George Cross for his heroism during the Second World War. His journey, uncovered by chance and featured here, is both moving and inspirational. A testament to courage, duty, and remembrance.

As you read through this summer's edition, we hope you feel proud of the shared purpose and positive impact that defines Freemasonry in East Kent. The Provincial Lite celebrates who we are, what we stand for, and the enjoyment that comes from working together for the good of others.

EDITOR

Derek Lindars

Upcoming Events

Full details and to book all events visit the Provincial Website

www.eastkentfreemasons.org/events/

29th Aug **Geoffrey Dearing Bowl**
Tenterden Golf Club

31st Aug **Group 8 Get Together BBQ**
Hartsdown Park Margate

12th Sept **Reculvers Chapter**
Margate Masonic Centre

20th Sept **Cornwallis Lecture**
Ashford Masonic Centre

21st Sept **Great Charity Park Run**
Betteshanger Country Park

26th Sept **Captains Day Golf**
Faversham Golf Club

26th Sept **Kent Museum Coffee Morning**
In Aid of Macmillan Cancer

17th Oct **David Graeme Cup**
Light Blues V Dark Blues Golf

8th Nov **PGM Awards**
Mercure Great Danes Hotel, Maidstone

29th Nov **2025 Festival Celebration**
Leas Cliff Hall Folkestone.

A Day to Remember at the Provincial Garden Party

On Saturday 5th July, the stunning grounds of Godmersham Park came alive with colour, music, and joy as it hosted this year's Provincial Garden Party. Nestled within the picturesque 18th-century estate, the event was a vibrant celebration of community, tradition, and fun.

From the very first notes spun by the charismatic DJ Chris Spins, the atmosphere was electric. His funky tunes set the tone for a day full of laughter, warmth, and good old-fashioned merriment. The BBQ was already in full swing, filling the air with mouth watering aromas, and dishing out burgers and sausages at such speed it could have qualified for a world record.

Official proceedings began with a warm welcome from event organiser Miki Smith and the Provincial Grand Master for East Kent, Neil Hamilton Johnstone. Undeterred by the brief passing showers, their positive energy set a tone of friendship and community for the entire event.



Neil Hamilton Johnstone with his wife, Margaret



Miki Smith

By midday, the grounds were buzzing. A dazzling parade of motorbikes from the East Kent Chapter of The Widows Sons, classic cars, and scooters wowed the crowd. This spectacle of chrome and history was followed by an equally captivating display from the Southern Golden Retriever Society.

Their demonstration was as heartwarming as it was humorous, with the talented dogs seemingly having trained their humans rather than the other way around. But all the while, their lively and entertaining display was performed with charm and precision to upbeat music.

Live music performances kept spirits high throughout the day. From golden hits of the '50s and '60s performed by Gary O'Connor, to the rousing sounds of the Ashford Sea and Royal Marines Cadets Band, and the music flowed like a river through the event. Folk musician Reg Miles added a peaceful note to the afternoon with his calming melodies, creating moments of gentle reflection amid the festivities.



EAST KENT
FREEMASONS

The Provincial Garden Party... continued



A Member of the Widow's Sons arriving for the Garden party

As the sun dipped low, the event closed on a powerful note. Musician Jason Nembhard delivered a heartfelt performance of his original song Boomerang, written in support of Prostate and Breast Cancer Research. His final rendition of Kingston Town by UB40 brought the day to a perfect close, uniting the crowd in celebration and song.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all who made this unforgettable day possible. From stallholders and performers to marshals, organisers, and, of course, the welcoming hosts at Godmersham Park. Together, you all created not just a garden party, but a true celebration of community and hope.

One of the quiet heroes of the day was the Order of Women Freemasons, who ran the orangery and provided much-needed refreshments. The cakes, baked with love by Linda and a wonderful team, were nothing short of divine. Their contribution reminded everyone of the power of service, community, and kindness.

The program was brimming with engaging activities for all ages. Children giggled at coconut shys and bouncy trampolines while adults enjoyed browsing stalls, chatting and laughing.

A Japanese Sword Arts demonstration added a touch of tradition and discipline, captivating audiences with its grace and precision. There were raffles set up as well as various masonic social groups and even some other companion orders on display to tempt would be members.



The Golden Retriever Display Team going through their paces



The Southern Golden Retriever Society Members



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF EAST KENT FREEMASONS




2025 FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

JOIN US TO MARK THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2025 FESTIVAL



NOVEMBER 29TH 2025
LEAS CLIFF HALL, FOLKESTONE, KENT.

DOORS OPEN 5PM | SEATED 18:20
CARRIAGES MIDNIGHT



AN EVENING OF DINING, CELEBRATING AND DANCING
DANCING TO THE SOUNDS OF THE
PWB
SWING & DANCE BAND



Vulnerable children in Sheerness will receive help and support thanks to East Kent Freemasons

1,800 vulnerable children from families facing socio-economic challenges in Sheerness, will receive help and support thanks to a grant from East Kent Freemasons and the MCF to Seashells Children and Families Centre.

The £50,000 grant will support Seashells 'Bridging the Gap' project, which will focus on children aged under five years old and their families to improve health inequalities and break the cycle of poverty with early interventions. The project will deliver family activities, parenting courses, health and well-being programmes and home visits at no cost to ensure families get the support they need, while prioritizing family engagement and active participation.

The funding will make a significant difference in the lives of children and family in Sheppey by providing specialise assistance through the centres Early Childhood Development Co-ordinator. The practitioner will work directly with children and families, helping them to achieve developmental milestones, improve early learning outcomes and enhance health and wellbeing.



Photo by Mark Howells



Colin Barden and Peter Rhodes with staff

The grant will allow for Seashells to host daily play activities to support children's learning and development, and six major family fun days each year, to promote key messages within the community, engaging over 150 families at each event. The broader goal is to increase vaccination rates, support school readiness and improve health & development outcomes for at least 65 per cent of the children we serve, allowing them to reach their full potential. Ultimately Seashells will act as a one-stop hub where families feel supported, children thrive and create a lasting impact for generations to come.

It is estimated 12.7 per cent of children under 16 in Kent, live in absolute low income families. Sheerness specifically ranks first among Kent for the highest number of children living in absolute low income families, contributing to a cycle of disadvantage that affects children's health development and education.

The Masonic 'Man Shed'

Brotherhood, Bacon Sandwiches, and Community Spirit

Tucked away on the quiet stretches of Romney Marsh, something truly heartwarming has been growing. Born from a simple idea in late 2024, the Masonic Man Shed has become a beacon of warmth, camaraderie, and community.

Spearheaded by Willy Leach of Romney Marsh Lodge 4743, this initiative began with a heartfelt purpose: to support older Brethren who find it difficult to attend evening Lodge meetings, especially during the darker, colder winter months when driving becomes a challenge.



*Doug Smallman,
Romney Marsh Lodge Almoner*

Rather than letting these valued members feel left out, Willy decided to bring the Lodge to them during the day, with no pressure, just friendship, conversation, and a good cup of tea.

Held monthly, the Masonic Man Shed offers not only a chance for old friends to catch up but also a safe and welcoming space where support is on hand if needed. With car shares making attendance easier and bacon sandwiches adding to the appeal, it's no wonder the initiative is going from strength to strength.

Doug Smallman, the Lodge Almoner and one of the project's strongest advocates, puts it best: "It's about keeping our Brethren connected. The tea and bacon sandwiches help, but it's the friendship that keeps them coming back."

On April 24th, the group welcomed a guest speaker, Liz Taylor from the Romney Marsh Hub, who opened their eyes to the remarkable services her organisation provides.

From Tai Chi classes and Blue Badge applications to warm meals and a volunteer-run taxi service called the Marsh Bee, the Hub has become a community cornerstone. Liz's passion was contagious and encouraged the those attending to help by raising money.

The Lodge rallied together and helped raise £3,000 to support the Romney Marsh Hub, a heartfelt gesture that exemplifies the Masonic values of charity and brotherhood.

Fast forward to 26th June, and the Man Shed was buzzing more than ever when 26 members gathered to hear a talk from Worshipful Brother Wayne Cook, a man with a lifelong passion for the First World War.

Having visited the Menin Gate every year since 1973, except for Covid, Wayne captivated the room with stories from the trenches and moving reflections on those who served.

Of course, no Man Shed meeting would be complete without the post-talk tradition: bacon sandwiches and mugs of tea, enjoyed over cheerful conversation. As the laughter fades and the tea mugs are emptied, it's clear the Masonic Man Shed is more than just a meeting, it's a movement.

A reminder that with a bit of warmth, a dash of kindness, and a plate of bacon sandwiches, friendships can be sustained and no one need face life's winter alone.

So, here's to the Masonic Man Shed! May it continue to brighten lives, one gathering at a time.



Man Shed members

A Brotherhood of Friendship

25 Years and Still Going Strong!

Can you believe it? The year 2000, the dawn of the new millennium, was 25 years ago! But for one remarkable group of friends, it feels like just yesterday.

Back then, a unique bond of brotherhood was forged among the Masters of Masonic Lodges in Maidstone and West Malling. What started as camaraderie grew into something far more enduring: a true family of friends. United by shared values and a spirit of togetherness, they became affectionately known as the Maidstone & Malling Millennium Masters (MMMMs). And it didn't stop there, for their wives and partners, equally warm-hearted and close-knit, joined the fold as the Millennium Mistresses. Together, they became the MMMM&Ms - a title worn with pride and smiles.

Over the past 25 years, they have supported each other through life's ups and downs, celebrated countless milestones, and created a lifetime of memories. Though some beloved friends have now passed to the Grand Lodge Above, their presence is still felt in every gathering, every laugh, and every shared toast.

To mark this extraordinary silver anniversary, the MMMM&Ms recently enjoyed a joyful weekend in Hythe — filled with love, laughter, and reflections on a journey that has stood the test of time.

And now, with hearts full of hope and hands held tight, they look ahead. Here's to friendship, to unity, and to a golden celebration in another 25 years!



Members of the MMMM&Ms

Join Us for the Inaugural Trafalgar Night Dinner!



Mark your calendars for the enchanting evening of Saturday, 25th October 2025, as we gather to enjoy an Inaugural Trafalgar Night Dinner! Embracing the cherished spirit of "Pickle Night," this affair promises a night brimming with merriment and celebration in tribute to Admiral Nelson and the gallant Royal Navy.

The evening's bounty will benefit the Royal Navy Royal Marines Charity, and the 2025 Festival.

Immerse in Naval Tradition: Relish a sumptuous feast accompanied by spirited sea shanties and the revered "Passing of the Port" ceremony.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, 25th October 2025

Betteshanger Country Park, near Deal
£55 per person free welcome drink

Do not let this extraordinary celebration slip away!

To reserve your spot, kindly send your details to Paul Gear
treasurer@lordwardenlodge.org.uk.

Join us for an unforgettable evening steeped in tradition and community spirit!

We eagerly await your presence!

For further details, visit: <https://lord-warden-lodge-1096.sumupstore.com>

We are very grateful to Betteshanger Country Park for providing the venue for free.

A Legacy of Love

Honouring Wendy with Compassion That Endures

It's often only in life's most difficult moments that we truly see the beauty of compassion and for Worshipful Brother and Excellent Companion David Hopper, that moment came when his beloved wife, Wendy, needed end-of-life care.

During those tender final days, the Heart of Kent Hospice became a sanctuary of comfort and love, wrapping Wendy in care and dignity, and offering David the kind of support only a hospice can provide.

Deeply moved by their kindness, David found a heartfelt way to give back. At a recent Sunday lunch hosted by the Malling Abbey Royal Arch Chapter 1063, he pledged the entire proceeds of £250 to the very place that had been there for Wendy and for him.

It was more than a donation. It was a gesture of gratitude, a way to honour Wendy's memory, and a tribute to the quiet heroes who serve others at life's end.



David Hopper presenting the cheque in memory of his wife

David's gift is a reminder that love doesn't end, it ripples outward, touching lives and giving hope, even in the face of loss. Through his generosity, David has helped ensure that others will experience the same warmth and dignity when they need it most.

Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity



Rebecca Bunn, Peter West and Chic Cameron

On 1st July, a uplifting moment took place in Canterbury when Peter West and Chic Cameron of the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity (CEKFC) visited the Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Group at the Neighbourhood Resource Centre in Thanington. Their purpose was a generous one: to present a donation that would secure the group's meeting space for the next one to two years. Thereby, helping to maintain this lifeline for those living with the progressive lung disease, pulmonary fibrosis.

Founded in 2019, but briefly paused during the pandemic, the group resumed with fresh energy in 2021 and continues to grow. Led by dedicated Respiratory Nurses Rebecca Bunn and Merlyn D'Cruz, the group offers emotional support, practical advice, and a place for members to connect and share experiences.

Rebecca's application to CEKFC highlighted the group's essential role in the community, prompting the charity's trustees to act. Peter West explained that the CEKFC is proud to support grassroots organisations making a real difference. "It's part of our mission to reach out to those working tirelessly to help others," he said, and the Trustees were delighted to support such an inspiring initiative.

As Peter and Chic departed, they knew that through the generosity and kindness of Freemasons, a vital community group will continue to thrive, bringing comfort, connection, and hope to those who need it most.

Building on the Third Pillar: Community Engagement in Action

Article: Wayne Smith

Community engagement is not just charity - it is how Freemasonry makes itself visible and relevant in the modern world.

When the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) launched its Strategy for Freemasonry 2022 and Beyond, three central pillars were identified: Thriving Membership, a Coherent Organisation, and Engaged in Our Communities. The last of these, often referred to as the “Third Pillar,” is not a mere afterthought. It is a defining feature of who we are as Freemasons. Service, after all, has been at the heart of our fraternity for centuries.

Service has always been central to the fraternity, and the Third Pillar Review has sought to examine how Freemasonry can modernise, strengthen, and make more visible its support for communities at both local and national levels.

The message is clear: Freemasonry must remain a force for good in society. This means not only continuing financial support for charities, but also ensuring that members engage visibly and meaningfully with the communities in which they live.

Why Community Engagement Matters

The Review confirmed what many already know, that Freemasons take the greatest pride in their local achievements. Lodges and Chapters have long supported causes from foodbanks to prostate cancer testing, from youth organisations to veterans’ support. These efforts are inspiring, but the Review highlights the need to recalibrate. More resources should be allocated locally, where Provinces can respond to community needs directly and effectively.

This shift ensures balance, continuing to support Brethren in need while expanding help for non-masonic causes that raise visibility and trust. For Freemasonry to thrive, its charitable work must be both relevant and seen.

Local Voices, Local Action

At its heart, the Third Pillar is a bottom-up approach. Members value contributions made in their own communities, where small acts, like opening a hall for local use or supporting a cadet unit, have outsized impact. Such visible service builds trust and strengthens bonds between Freemasonry and society.



Building on the Third Pillar... continued

The Review therefore encourages Provinces to adopt their own community engagement strategies. Recommendations include: establishing local charities, auditing members' skills, and promoting halls as community assets. Units are empowered to innovate, with guidance and best practice available to support new initiatives. Crucially, Freemasons are urged to share their stories more openly.

In East Kent, the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity (CEKFC) already plays this role, coordinating support for local causes and aligning with provincial strategies.

The Armed Forces Covenant: A Living Commitment

A strong example of this ethos in practice is East Kent's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant (AFC). Signed in November 2022, the Covenant pledges fairness, respect, and practical support for service personnel, veterans, and their families. This is not a symbolic gesture. Lodges are working with Cadet organisations, opening Masonic centres for events, supporting training programmes, and offering work placements through Brethren in business. Some Lodges are even adopting cadet units, reflecting shared traditions of service and discipline. An Armed Forces Committee now coordinates remembrance events, veterans' breakfasts, and partnerships with service charities. These grassroots activities demonstrate Masonic values in action, aligning naturally with the ethos of the Armed Forces.

From Strategy to Practice

The Third Pillar Review sets out practical steps to embed community engagement across Freemasonry:

- **Local Autonomy** – Provinces will retain more funds to respond quickly to community needs.
- **Skills and Assets** – Members' professional talents will be mapped, and Masonic halls promoted as community hubs.
- **National Forums** – Leaders from each Province will meet to share good practice.
- **Partnerships** – Charities such as CEKFC and the Masonic Charitable Foundation will provide expertise and ensure compliance.

These reforms empower Units to act creatively while maximising the impact of resources and ideas.

The Road Ahead

Progress will come gradually through small but meaningful changes. Units are encouraged to try new approaches, share experiences, and make themselves visible. Non-financial contributions (eg time, skills, venues) are often as valuable as money. A strong local presence benefits communities and enhances Freemasonry's profile, helping attract and retain members who want to belong to an organisation making a visible difference.



Building on the Third Pillar... continued

Conclusion

For over 300 years, Freemasonry has balanced inward support with outward service. The Third Pillar reminds us that outward service is not optional - it is central to our purpose. By engaging with communities, opening our halls, empowering members, and supporting groups such as the Armed Forces, Freemasonry modernises its traditions and secures its relevance.

The strength of Freemasonry lies not only in ritual and fellowship, but in consistent service that touches lives beyond the Lodge room. The Third Pillar calls us to make that service visible for the benefit of our members, our neighbours, and the future of Freemasonry itself.

Five Ways to Engage Locally

- **Open Doors** – Use halls as community hubs for charity events, youth groups, or health initiatives.
- **Support Cadets & Veterans** – Partner with service groups: offer venues, mentoring, or adopt a unit.
- **Use Members' Skills** – Audit Brethren's talents and connect them with local needs.
- **Collaborate with Charities** – Combine fundraising with hands-on service.
- **Be Visible and Proud** – Share successes through media and community networks.

Introduction to Building Together

What is Building Together?

Building Together is the harmonisation of both the Members' Pathway and Royal Arch Archway. Building on these two successful programmes.

Who is the event for?

The event is aimed at current or prospective members of Lodge and Chapter Membership and Management teams. This is likely to be (but not exclusively) Mentors, Membership Officers, Almoners, Secretaries or Scribes and those with a general interest in the future of our Lodges or Chapters.

The Provincial Grand Master invites Lodge and Chapter Membership teams to attend one of the Introduction to Building Together events in October to find out how this initiative can be used to strengthen Lodges or Chapters today and for the future.

Book your place

18th October 2025 - Spitfire Ground, Canterbury

<https://eastkentfreemasons.org/events/introduction-to-building-together-canterbury/>

25th October 2025 - Maidstone Masonic Centre

<https://eastkentfreemasons.org/events/introduction-to-building-together-maidstone/>

BETTESHANGER COUNTRY PARK, SANDWICH ROAD, DEAL, KENT, CT14 0BF

working in collaboration with

East Kent Freemasons

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or kevin_kemp@septem7788.co.uk | 07721 579718

Carless Pub-Talk Cost Pride

Article and Photo: Ian Rowan

So, there we all were, a few merry 'jars-in' to a post Lodge of Instruction catch up and some bright spark said, "We should all do a challenge for fundraising".

As men of a certain age and stature, we ruled out several daredevil and ironman type challenges rather quickly and then someone quipped we need to do something sitting down. One drink rolled into another and now here we are cycling across England next month. Not the sitting down challenge we hoped for!

Well I say we, but of the original eight only two refused to capitulate to the realisations of sobriety, so my mate Rob Ruzs from United Engineers lodge 3862 and myself Ian Rowan of Rochester Castle Lodge 9260 are the two last men standing (as is so often the case) and in a months' time we will find out just what we have let ourselves in for !

The journey has some familial resonance for myself, as my Dad Harold, who was Worshipful Master of Calpe lodge 325 in Gibraltar in 1943 (like ritual isn't tricky enough to learn without a world war on the doorstep) was born in the North East coast on Walney Island close to our departure point at Whitehaven and mum (a Sergeant in the Wrens also stationed in Gib) was born in Sunderland, where we will hopefully end up after three days in the saddle wondering what our inducement might be to journey from West to East?

The journey is a little over 150 miles split into three days, each taking about six hours of riding. Day two is the apex (in many ways) as we travel over the top of the Pennines and despite many a lovely family holiday in the Lakes, I don't remember it for its constant sun and dry weather more "on a good day you can see xyz from here" being repeated as we stood on yet another foggy mountain pass viewpoint.

So I expect hills, more hills, rain, fog and the occasional break in the weather so we can see another endless hill in front of us, what fun.



Ian and Rob

We are hoping to raise funds for the Masonic Charitable Foundation, (MCF) and cancer research. Having both lost our fathers to cancer and being two years in remission myself it seemed like a good way to remember not only them, but everyone who encounters this horrible disease as well as giving a positive message for all those in recovery and remission. There is increasingly a bright future even though everyone's life changes after the C bomb is dropped!

I can't pretend that I feel its going to be easy, I'm over sixty, over 18 stone and seemingly over enthusiastic after a few beers!

But with all the love support and kindness we have received so far and what I hope will be a strong following wind pushing us along, I am sure we will give it a good crack and come out on top!

If you or your loved ones have been affected by Cancer, you have our heartfelt sympathy and best wishes for the future and there is a future. If you would like to contribute to attempting to extend a few peoples futures by donating to research to find a cure for this terrible disease or to support one of the hundreds of charities provided for by the MCF the please use the qr code to be directed to our givestar donations page.

Our challenge takes place on September the 6, 7 and 8th you can follow and donate with this link.

Thank you in advance x



30th April 2025 – A Day to Remember!

Bryan Baird meets the King

Article and Photo: Jim Mason

On 30th April 2025, Bryan Baird stood in Buckingham Palace not just as a cancer survivor, but as a quiet hero. Proof that ordinary people, when fuelled by compassion, can do extraordinary things.



Bryan Baird and Tina Seymour

On a warm spring day at Buckingham Palace, Bryan Baird, a retired firefighter from Kent and testicular cancer survivor, experienced a moment of profound recognition at the *'Royal Community Reception'*. Dressed smartly and smiling brightly, Bryan was honoured not for titles or fame, but for his years of selfless service following a personal battle with cancer.

Since being declared cancer-free in 1987, Bryan has dedicated his life to helping others, particularly through his work with Hope for Tomorrow, a cancer charity that brings treatment to patients via mobile cancer care units. For the past 12 years, Bryan has driven the East Kent unit "Caron," named in memory of Caron Keating, daughter of the charity's patron Gloria Hunniford.

But Bryan's role goes far beyond that of a driver. He offers companionship, comfort, and emotional support to patients undergoing treatment, often becoming a trusted presence during some of their toughest days. "I'm a friend, a listener, and sometimes just a hand to hold," he reflects.

On April 30th, 2025, Bryan and his wife Tina attended a Royal Community Reception at Buckingham Palace, hosted by Their Majesties The King and Queen. Accompanied by Tina Seymour, CEO of Hope for Tomorrow, and fellow team members, Bryan represented the countless volunteers across the UK quietly transforming lives.

While honoured by the royal recognition, Bryan remained focused on the cause. "Today wasn't just about me," he said, "it was about the patients, the nurses, and the community behind this work." Hope for Tomorrow, which receives no government funding, partners with nine NHS trusts and operates 14 mobile units nationwide. Last year alone, "Caron" supported over 3,500 patients, easing travel burdens and reducing hospital pressures.

For Bryan, the palace visit marked a meaningful milestone — but his mission continues. His story is a powerful reminder that ordinary people, guided by empathy and resolve, can achieve extraordinary impact.

A Century Under Wing

A Celebration for Sir Joseph Williamson Lodge

Article: Jamie Baker



Russell Race, Matthew Bampton and Provincial Grand Master, Neil Hamilton Johnstone

On March 23rd, 2024, a momentous occasion unfolded at Gundulph Masonic Hall in Rochester, as Sir Joseph Williamson Lodge No. 4605 gathered to mark its Centenary. It was a day filled with reverence and reflection while looking ahead with hope.

From the early hours, anticipation filled the air as members, guests, and dignitaries assembled. Among them were the Provincial Executive and the Provincial Grand Master, Neil Hamilton Johnstone, who enjoyed the rare chance to attend in a more relaxed role.

The ceremonial honours were carried out by Right Worshipful Brother Russell Race, standing in for the Most Worshipful Brother Jonathan Spence DL, Pro Grand Master and Lodge member, who was away on Masonic duties.

The programme began with a poignant historical reflection. Worshipful Brother David Branch shared a touching update from the newly revised centenary history, sparking moments of nostalgia and admiration. Following this, Worshipful Brother Ray Boast recounted the Lodge's founding moments through highlights from the original consecration minutes, deepening the sense of heritage shared by all present.

A significant moment arrived when the Centenary Warrant was formally presented to Worshipful Brother Matthew Bampton, the Centenary Master. Accompanied by the Escorting Director of Ceremonies, Worshipful Brother Edward Goodchild, and Assistant Grand Secretary, Worshipful Brother Shawn Christie, this symbolic gesture marked a bridge between generations, honouring the past while welcoming the future.

The Provincial Chaplain, Worshipful Brother Howard Pashley, delivered a powerful oration that reminded all present that the Lodge's legacy is not only in its documents or rituals, but in its people.

Special recognition went to Worshipful Brother Edward Goodchild and Provincial Director of Ceremonies Andy Stevens for their composed leadership throughout the day.

One of the most moving contributions came from Worshipful Brother Ron Martin, affectionately known as the Lodge's 'Grandfather', who sponsored the restoration of the Honours Board. The finishing touch, the restoration of the Lodge Crest, was completed by 81-year-old Worshipful Brother David Baker, whose family ties to the Lodge span generations.



Members of the Sir Joseph Williamson Lodge, No.4605 on their Centenary

The Forgotten Hero Behind a Tattered Certificate

Article and Photos: Brian Mayhew

Roughly 30 years ago, I was browsing an old estate auction when I came across a collection of dusty vintage newspapers. I bought them on a whim, imagining a lazy afternoon flipping through headlines from a bygone era. But what I found tucked between the fragile pages was no ordinary artifact.

There it was! An ornate Grand Lodge Masonic certificate from Egypt, half written in English, half in a flowing Arabic script. The paper was aged, but its significance radiated through the creases and faded ink naming a Brother who was received into Freemasonry in 1926. Intrigued, I had a copy made and, feeling it deserved more than a drawer in my study, I gifted the original to the Masonic Museum in Canterbury.

And then... I forgot about it. Until now.

Recently, I stumbled across that old copy and, on a whim, I looked up the name inscribed in elegant script: **Theodore Bogdanovitch**.

What I uncovered was nothing short of cinematic.



Theodore Bogdanovitch



The Grand Lodge Certificate of Theodore Bogdanovitch

Theodore was born on 1st April 1900 in Strumica, now part of North Macedonia. His life was marked by war from the start. As a teenager, he served in the Serbian Army during World War I and was wounded in battle. With his father dead and his mother vanished during the chaos, young Theodore had no ties left in Serbia. When the Serbian Guard was disbanded, he turned east, seeking a new life.

In 1924, he joined the Palestine Gendarmerie under British command, part of the British Mandate in the Middle East. He quickly made himself indispensable. By the time the Gendarmerie was reorganized, Theodore had mastered five languages: English, Greek, Turkish, French, and Arabic. He was promoted to Mulazim (Lieutenant) in the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force.

But it was in 1939 that his story truly became legend.

The Forgotten Hero... continued

During an Arab revolt near Zema, Jordan, the now Brother Theodore Bogdanovitch led a mechanized troop to intercept a band of armed raiders. He found them entrenched in a wadi, an unforgiving dry riverbed. Under a storm of gunfire, he led a flanking attack, using light machine guns to suppress enemy fire.

With remarkable courage and clarity, he led his men directly into the fray, driving the raiders back and into the path of reinforcements.

An excerpt of the citation reads:

His dogged determination to defeat the band, his complete contempt of personal danger, and the tactical skill he displayed, were an inspiration to his men, and contributed in no small measure to the success of the action. This officer has, on many other occasions, displayed outstanding qualities of leadership and loyalty

Theodore was awarded the *Empire Gallantry Medal of the Military Division* on 30th June 1939, though only held the medal for just over a year, as it was exchanged for the newly created *George Cross*.



The George Cross

Theodore went on to serve in the Second World War, and was made a naturalised British subject in 1944. He visited England just once, to watch the Coronation in 1953.

Theodore retired from the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force in 1947 with the rank of Major and moved to Cyprus, where he took a security job in a mining company.

On 20th April 1956, Brother Theodore Bogdanovitch was assassinated at his home by Cypriot terrorists of the EOKA, who were fighting against the British involvement in Cyprus. EOKA began a campaign of insurrection and his murder was part of it.

Brother Theodore was buried in the English Cemetery in Nicosia.



The grave of Brother Theodore Bogdanovitch

His seven medals: *George Cross; Trans-Jordan Frontier Force Long Service and Good Conduct Medal; 1939-45 Star, Defence Medal 1939-45; War Medal 1939-45; General Service Medal with clasp "Palestine"; and, QEII Coronation Medal 1953*, were presented to the Gordon Highlanders Museum in Aberdeen by the executors of his will, as he had no living relatives to bequeath them to. The Gordon Highlanders were the regiment he was working with closely at the time of death.

It turns out that the unassuming Brother whose name I'd almost missed on a long-forgotten certificate had helped shape our shared National history. In that single discovery, I found not just a piece of paper, but a portal into the past and the extraordinary life of a forgotten hero.

And to think, it all started with a pile of newspapers.

East Kent Clay Shooting Club to Expand its Activities

*Article and photos:
Roger Wilkes*

Interested individuals, including masons, non-masons or family members, are encouraged to get in touch with Roger Wilkes at eastkentclays@gmail.com or 07768 123449.



East Kent -v- Essex

Roger Wilkes, Secretary of the East Kent Clay Shooting Club, has announced proposed plans to broaden the club's offerings beyond traditional clay pigeon shooting, with a focus on incorporating air rifle shooting and potentially other projectile-based disciplines.

This initiative comes in response to the increasing cost of living, which affects the affordability of all leisure activities, including those linked to masonic interests like clay shooting.

The proposal, which is set to be confirmed at the club's upcoming AGM, aims to take advantage of the facilities already available at many local shooting grounds in Kent, such as Sandwich, Hawley, and Outdoor Pursuits in Sittingbourne, all of which feature air rifle ranges. Several club members already engage in air rifle shooting, and the addition is seen as a natural extension of the club's activities.

One of the key goals of this expansion is to boost membership by appealing to a broader demographic. The club intends to welcome not only freemasons but also non-masons, women, and juniors. This mirrors the inclusive approach adopted by other provincial clubs, many of which have specific categories and awards. Importantly, Roger emphasizes that this expansion will not detract from clay shooting but will serve to enhance the overall offering and attract new interest.

The club has a small but active group currently involved in air rifle shooting, who are well-placed to provide advice on equipment, target types, and shooting techniques. Air rifle shooting includes engaging formats such as spinning and self-reloading targets, in addition to standard paper targets, adding variety and appeal to newcomers.

Regular monthly shoots continue to be held on Sundays, using various clay shooting venues in and around Kent. More dedicated competitors also participate in national and international registered events, often shooting several weekends each month.

It is anticipated that air rifle shooting will follow a similar pattern, with the added benefit of more frequent access thanks to indoor or covered ranges that operate year-round regardless of weather conditions.

Interested individuals, including masons and their friends or family members, are encouraged to get in touch with **Roger Wilkes** at eastkentclays@gmail.com or **07768 123449**.

The club highlights that this expansion is not just about sport, but also about community and connection, reminding all that "It's Good To Talk!"



East Kent -v- Sussex

A Successful Cruise and a Generous Spirit



The Kentish Lady on the River Medway

On August 9th, 2025, two Masonic lodges, Gundulph Chapter No. 1050 from East Kent and The Hundred of Axstane Lodge No. 7722 from West Kent, came together for a memorable summer event. What began as a simple idea after a festive board developed into an enjoyable river cruise aboard the wonderful *Kentish Lady*, bringing together not only Chapter members, but also their families and friends.

Departing from Maidstone Town Centre, the Kentish Lady carried its guests along the peaceful River Medway, passing through Farleigh Lock and beneath the graceful arches of Farleigh, Barming, and Teston bridges before turning at Teston Lock. The journey offered stunning views and a chance for everyone to relax, share stories, and enjoy one another's company. A highlight came as the boat glided through the picturesque East Farleigh Lock, adding a special charm to an already delightful day.



Navigating East Farleigh Lock

The atmosphere was filled with laughter, conversation, and fellowship, and, in true Masonic spirit, it also became an act of generosity. Through the efforts of all involved, £406 was raised for The Wisdom Hospice in Rochester, an organisation dedicated to supporting individuals and families facing life-limiting illnesses.

Much of the day's smooth success was thanks to the dedication of Martin Lakin, whose careful coordination ensured every detail was taken care of. His efforts allowed everyone on board to simply enjoy the moment.

It was a day of sunshine, smiles and community spirit. Proof that charity can make waves far beyond the river.



"All aboard!"



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AROUND THE PROVINCE

Sir Edward Elgar Lodge No. 9837 - MUSIC MATTERS “Playing with Numbers”

The Sir Edward Elgar Lodge No. 9837 continued its tradition of combining Freemasonry with music at the Elgar Master’s Annual White Table evening, held on the second Tuesday of June. This year’s event, titled “The Hidden Mysteries of Numbers in Music – Playing with Numbers,” was a lively and engaging presentation led by Ruling Master Worshipful Brother Nigel Sanné. Known for his work on the Music section of the East Kent Provincial App, Nigel brought a blend of humour, musical insight, and entertaining storytelling to the evening.

He began by recounting how, at the age of seven, a piano mysteriously arrived in his bedroom courtesy of “Father Christmas” (delivered with the supposed help of PG Tips chimpanzees! – it was 1964). His early fascination with the keyboard was tempered by a dislike of formal lessons and sheet music, though he managed to achieve Grade 2 before stopping. This anecdote set the tone for an evening that was both personal and educational.

The core of the presentation explored the relationship between music and numbers, demonstrating how notes can create consonant or dissonant sounds. Nigel used humour and real-time examples to keep the audience entertained – particularly with a dissonant chord that raised more than a few eyebrows.

He involved nine lodge members, affectionately described as “*good men and true*,” who helped visually illustrate the lecture by waving flags at key moments.

This interactive approach made the experience as visual as it was auditory. Technical support was provided by WBro Fred Ayling and Bro Antonino Surace, who handled the video production. Fred’s commitment to securing a working screen—after a comedic mishap with an overseas supplier—ensured the presentation went ahead smoothly.



Nigel Suranne with flag wavers



Nigel keeping the audience spell bound

Meanwhile, WBro Graham Mitchell, the lodge’s organist, helped demonstrate the concept of sonority by clustering piano notes to highlight emerging patterns and relationships in sound.

Improvisation, referred to by the Worshipful Master as “noodling” (a cheeky contrast to “canoodling”), formed a major theme of the evening.

Sir Edward Elgar Lodge No. 9837... continued

A standout moment featured young guest Irene Surace, who accepted the challenge to learn to improvise in just three minutes. Her confident performance earned warm applause and embodied the spirit of joyful spontaneity.

The evening's finale was a musical journey through time, using a repeating 7-note sequence (G – C – F – Bb – Eb – A – D) to travel from Baroque (honouring J.S. Bach) through to Classical, Romantic, and Jazz styles—skipping over the more chaotic modern avant-garde. The session between Nigel and his Senior Warden, Jake Jackson, was entirely improvised. No sheet music, just shared intuition and musical conversation between friends.



Irene Surace and Nigel Sanne



Jake Jackson and Nigel Sanne

In addition to its entertainment and educational value, the evening raised a total of £320 for *Momentum*, a charity that supported Nigel's wife, Stephanie Sanne's (Nigel's wife) great-niece during her battle with cancer. The funds will hopefully be match-funded through the Cornwallis Fund, doubling their impact. In all, the evening was a harmonious blend of music, humour, friendship, and charity, and an embodiment of Freemasonry's highest values.

The Lodge welcomes to future events both music lovers and the curious alike. To do so, please contact secseel9837@gmail.com or the Membership Officer, Fred Ayling, at fredayling9837@gmail.com.

Turning Grief into Giving: A family's tribute brings help to others

On the 21st February 2025, the family of Ann Walden and members of The Gravesend Lodge of Freedom No. 77 were welcomed to Darent Valley Hospital to present a cheque to the Hospital's Pine Therapy and Cancer treatment unit. Ann, the wife of Brother David Walden, was cared for on Pine Therapy before her passing in March 2024, and her family wished to give back in appreciation.

Despite personal loss, David continued his Freemasonry journey and became Master of the Lodge in September 2024. David and his son-in-law, Steve, organised a Christmas Ball in December 2024 at the Masonic Hall in Gravesend, raising £1,000 for the hospital's Cancer Fighting Fund. The donation was received by Senior Sister Victoria Gerard, who expressed heartfelt thanks to David, his family, and the Lodge for their generosity.



David Walden and Steve, present the cheque

AROUND THE PROVINCE

Hands across the sea

Article and photos: Tony Hancock

For nearly half a century, a special bond has flourished between two Masonic lodges from different corners of Europe. Romney Marsh Lodge 4743 and Loge Oostmaaslaan 950 in the vibrant city of Rotterdam, Netherlands, have shared a remarkable journey of fellowship, tradition, and enduring friendship. Next year marks an extraordinary milestone: 50 years of this twinning, a golden jubilee that promises to be a celebration to remember.

This year's visit to Holland was one of the most memorable in recent times. A group of 25, comprising 16 Brethren and 9 Ladies, embarked on the journey across the Channel. It was one of the largest delegations in years, made even more special by the inclusion of four new members experiencing the tradition for the first time. Spirits were high as the group arrived at the hotel by mid-afternoon on Friday, ready for a weekend rich in fraternity and culture.



That evening followed the cherished tradition. As the Brethren attended a meeting at the Dutch lodge, the Ladies were warmly welcomed and entertained by their Dutch counterparts. Later, the whole group reconvened at the festive board for an evening of shared stories, laughter, and deepening bonds over food and wine.

Saturday brought a touch of Dutch culture as the hosts guided their guests through a local art museum, inspiring quiet reflection and lively conversation. The afternoon was left free for personal adventures, with some exploring the historic streets of Rotterdam, while others simply soaked in the atmosphere at a leisurely café. That evening, everyone was treated to a delightful dinner at a charming local restaurant, where the wine flowed, the food was exquisite, and the conversations deepened the ties between the two Lodges.

On the Sunday, the farewell gathering, was held at the home of one of the Dutch Brethren and all were treated to tea, coffee, and delicious cake. There, stories of past visits were recalled, and plans for next year's celebrations began to form.



Hands across the sea... continued

The generosity of the Dutch Brethren was, as always, humbling with everything except travel and accommodation had been provided by their gracious hosts.

But next May, the tables will turn. Romney Marsh Lodge will proudly host the Dutch visitors as the twinning enters its 50th year. It's more than just a return of their hospitality, it's an opportunity to honour half a century of shared tradition, mutual respect, and cross borders brotherhood.

The Lodge is already buzzing with plans to "up their game" and make the golden anniversary unforgettable.

As a personal highlight, I was honoured to be the initiate during this year's meeting. It was a deeply meaningful experience that added another layer of connection between the Lodges.



Watch and Ward Chapter Goes from Strength to Strength



Tony Weller, Darren Quin, Paul Beck, Andy Jefferson and Lee Pillar

On Saturday 5th April, a warm spirit of celebration filled the Franklin Rooms as the Watch and Ward Chapter No. 8809 once again welcomed a new companion into its ranks. In what marked the second consecutive exaltation, Brother Andy Jefferson was ceremoniously exalted into the Holy Royal Arch.

This memorable occasion echoed the success of January's convocation, when Brother Darren Quin joined the Chapter.

A clear testament to the Chapter's growing stature and esteem, the January meeting was graced by the presence of the Deputy Grand Superintendent and his escorting officers.

April's convocation carried further cause for pride, as the Chapter presented a generous donation of £1000 to the 2025 Festival. This act of benevolence, following a £2000 donation earlier in the year, earned the Watch and Ward Chapter the distinguished Platinum award. An honour symbolic of their commitment to charity and fraternity.

With plans already in motion to welcome more candidates and joining members in 2026, the future shines brightly.

For those seeking companionship, tradition, and a thriving Masonic experience, this Chapter is truly going from strength to strength. For further information, please contact Chapter Liaison Officer, Stuart Naylor.

AROUND THE PROVINCE

Windmill Lodge Honours Nolly Harvey

Contributor: J. Cameron-Potter.

On Tuesday, 8th July 2025, the spirit of generosity and remembrance shone brightly as members of Windmill Lodge gathered to honour the memory of Worshipful Brother Arnoldus Franciscus Johannes Harvey, affectionately known as Nolly.

In a touching ceremony, they presented a £2,000 cheque to the Eleanor Hospice in Gravesend, a place close to their hearts and the hearts of Nolly's family.

The donation, a tribute to Nolly's legacy, was further uplifted by contributions from fellow Craft Lodges meeting in Gravesend, reflecting the deep respect he inspired across the Masonic community. Nolly's family stood proudly alongside Lodge members, sharing in a moment filled with gratitude and love. This generous gesture ensures that Nolly's memory lives on, bringing comfort and care to others through the hospice's vital work.



*Family and Lodge members presenting the cheque
Family and Lodge members presenting the cheque*

Generous donation in memory of Ann Walden



David Walden and Steve presenting the cheque

On 21 February 2025, the family of Ann Walden and members of the Gravesend Lodge of Freedom No. 77 visited Darrent Valley Hospital's Pine Therapy and Cancer Treatment Unit to present a cheque in Ann's memory.

Before her passing in March 2024, Ann received compassionate care on the Pine Therapy Unit. Grateful for that support, her husband, David Walden, who was installed as Master of the Lodge in September 2024, along with his son-in-law Steve, organised a Christmas Ball at Gravesend's Masonic Hall in December 2024.

Their event raised £1,000, which was donated directly to the Pine Therapy Unit and was received by Victoria Gerard, the Senior Sister. Victoria and the entire unit expressed profound thanks for this "fantastic gesture," with the Darrent Valley Hospital Charity adding their own gratitude to David, his family, and Lodge members for their generosity. This tribute beautifully honours Ann's memory and helps transform the loss of a much loved wife into a gift of hope.

AROUND THE PROVINCE

Group 8: “Murder Mystery Evening”

Article & photos: Jim Mason, Group 8 Chairman



The Murder Mystery cast

The performers stole the show with polished, Oscar-worthy performances - after only three rehearsals! Meanwhile, Brad Doulton and Nigel Mann presided over a swanky raffle, ensuring plenty of prizes and laughs.

Many were dressed in the fashion of the day while others took a casual option. They were joined on the evening by the Deputy Lieutenant of Kent Clive Stevens, accompanied by Brigitte, along with APGM Graham Chisnell and his wife Lucy, who brought friends from ‘Hellfire Corner’ to join them. After a very enjoyable evening, two sharp-witted teams cracked the case, earning rousing applause.

Thanks to this spectacular night, the group gifted **£500 to OASIS** (supporting domestic abuse survivors across Kent) and set aside **£900 for 21 Together**, to be presented later in the year.

The atmosphere was electric, with laughter and a sense of togetherness. It was more than a fundraiser; it was a celebration of creativity, theatre, and entertainment.

Truly a night to remember!



Whilst pondering the social events for group 8, the Charity Coordinators, Paul Chute and Nigel Mann, had picked up from general conversations that the membership needed something new to whet their appetites. The ‘run of the mill’ Quiz and Race Nights along with Bingo and Beetle Drives were not attracting the audiences that they did in the past.

Never afraid of a challenge, the duo got their heads together and, led by Paul on this occasion, rallied the Committee of Coordinators into performing a ‘Murder Mystery’. With 2025 marking 80 years since the ending of the Second World War. The theme was set: the late 1940’s.

On a sizzling 28th June evening, 85 avid mystery solvers descended on the ‘air conditioned’ Pavilion at Broadstairs. A feast awaited them with Prawn Cocktail, Chicken in Mushroom Sauce and Cheesecake. They then dug into their detective work, with wigs and cocktails in hand.

The cast consisted of: Jim and Polly Mason, Ray and Tracy Hazelton, Maurice and Jean Kennett, Hannah Bates, Paul Chute, Tim and Sarah Davies (Author and Director).

AROUND THE PROVINCE

A Swashbuckling Night at Romney Marsh Lodge

Article and photo: John Harrison

Ahoy there shipmates! For the final Lodge of Instruction of the year, Romney Marsh Lodge 4743 set sail on a most unorthodox voyage, the initiation of an Entered Apprentice Smuggler!

The lodge transformed into a den of nautical mischief, led by the fearsome but charming Dr. Syn (alias Worshipful Master Shane Cooley), with his crew of scurvy brethren at the ready.

The unsuspecting candidate, Brother Paul Giles, was made to walk the plank, much to the roaring amusement of all hands on deck. Brethren and visitors alike were decked out in full pirate regalia, echoing hearty **Aaaaaarghs!** throughout the lodge as the ceremony unfolded.

Once safely back onboard, Brother Giles was presented with his new working tools: a 24-inch dipstick, a trusty common cudgel, and the mighty spoke shave. And it was all accompanied by a rousing final **Aaaaaaargh!**

With the ritual complete, the crew gathered in the galley for a hearty banquet of fish and chips, washed down with grog, sea shanties and laughter. The night hit full sail with a splendid solo performance by our very own Director of Ceremonies, Captain Cook (aka Steve Harris). And a jolly good night it were, with merriment flowin' like rum in a storm.

One for the Ship's Log, me hearties.



The Shipmates of the Romney Marsh Lodge

AROUND THE PROVINCE

A Summer Celebration of Friendship

Article and photos: Derek Lindars

On a golden summer evening, the Deal Masonic Hall came alive with warmth and laughter as 27 ladies gathered for a special "Strawberry Tea." These remarkable women share a unique bond because each one is the widow of a Freemason from one of the five Lodges that meet in Deal.

In a touching tradition that began many years ago, the Lodges joined forces to honour their late brethren by caring for the ones they left behind. Through generosity and teamwork, they created the Deal Masonic Widows Club so that friendships are nurtured and memories are cherished.

The 27th July gathering began with a cheerful sherry reception, followed by a delightful spread of finger sandwiches, fluffy scones with clotted cream and jam, delicious cakes, and bowls brimming with fresh strawberries and cream. The hall buzzed with joy as old friends embraced and conversations and laughter bloomed.



Ladies enjoying their Strawberry Tea

The ever popular raffle brought joy and excitement to all, sparking smiles throughout the room as lucky winners claimed their prizes. With each ticket drawn, the air was filled with anticipation and celebration, creating a heartwarming atmosphere of community spirit. The raffle raised an impressive £130, every penny of which will go towards funding future gatherings of the Widows Club, ensuring more cherished moments and lasting connections for its members.

Before the evening came to a close, the ladies were treated to a preview of the next social event, sparking fresh excitement. With hearts full and connections renewed, they made their way home, grateful for an evening of companionship.



The Deal Masonic Widows Club is more than a tradition, it is a celebration of enduring love, shared stories, and the strength of community. And with each gathering, it grows even stronger.

AROUND THE PROVINCE

Charity Quiz Doubles in Size and Spirit

Bradstow Chapter 2448 held their second annual Charity Quiz at the Broadstairs Centre on Saturday, July 12th, and the evening was a resounding success. Spearheaded by Phil Powell, Group 8's Chapter Liaison Coordinator, the event is designed to bring together Chapter members, friends, family, and Craft Lodge brethren for an evening of light-hearted competition - all in the name of charity.



Bradstow Chapter quiz participants

The initiative aims to strengthen bonds within the Masonic community while raising funds for a selected cause. This year saw six teams, representing five of the Group's six Chapters, taking part. Laughter, friendly banter, and a classic fish and chip supper created a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all involved.

Attendance in 2025 doubled that of the previous year, a testament to the growing popularity and community spirit the quiz night has inspired. The evening's efforts, combined with last year's, have enabled Bradstow Chapter to donate over £300 to the local Riding for the Disabled centre—enough to sponsor “a farrier for a day,” helping to care for the centre's horses.

This generous sum is in addition to the charitable giving Bradstow Chapter and other Group Chapters contribute throughout the year.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who supported the event and especially to Phil Powell for his leadership and enthusiasm.

What will next year bring? One thing's certain, the bar has been set even higher, and the camaraderie continues to grow

AROUND THE PROVINCE

A Cracking night of Soul and Motown

Article by John Ray

On the 12th of April, the Maidstone Masonic Centre was buzzing with energy, laughter, and classic rhythm as nearly one hundred Masons and guests gathered for an unforgettable evening of Soul and Motown. The event, hosted with warmth and flair, featured a delicious three-course meal that set the perfect tone for what was to come.

The night's highlight was a sensational performance by Jason Nembhard, former lead singer of the legendary group The Drifters. With smooth vocals and timeless charm, Jason took the audience on a musical journey that spanned the golden years of Soul and Motown. From heartfelt ballads to toe-tapping hits, his presence lit up the room and had everyone swaying, singing, and reminiscing.



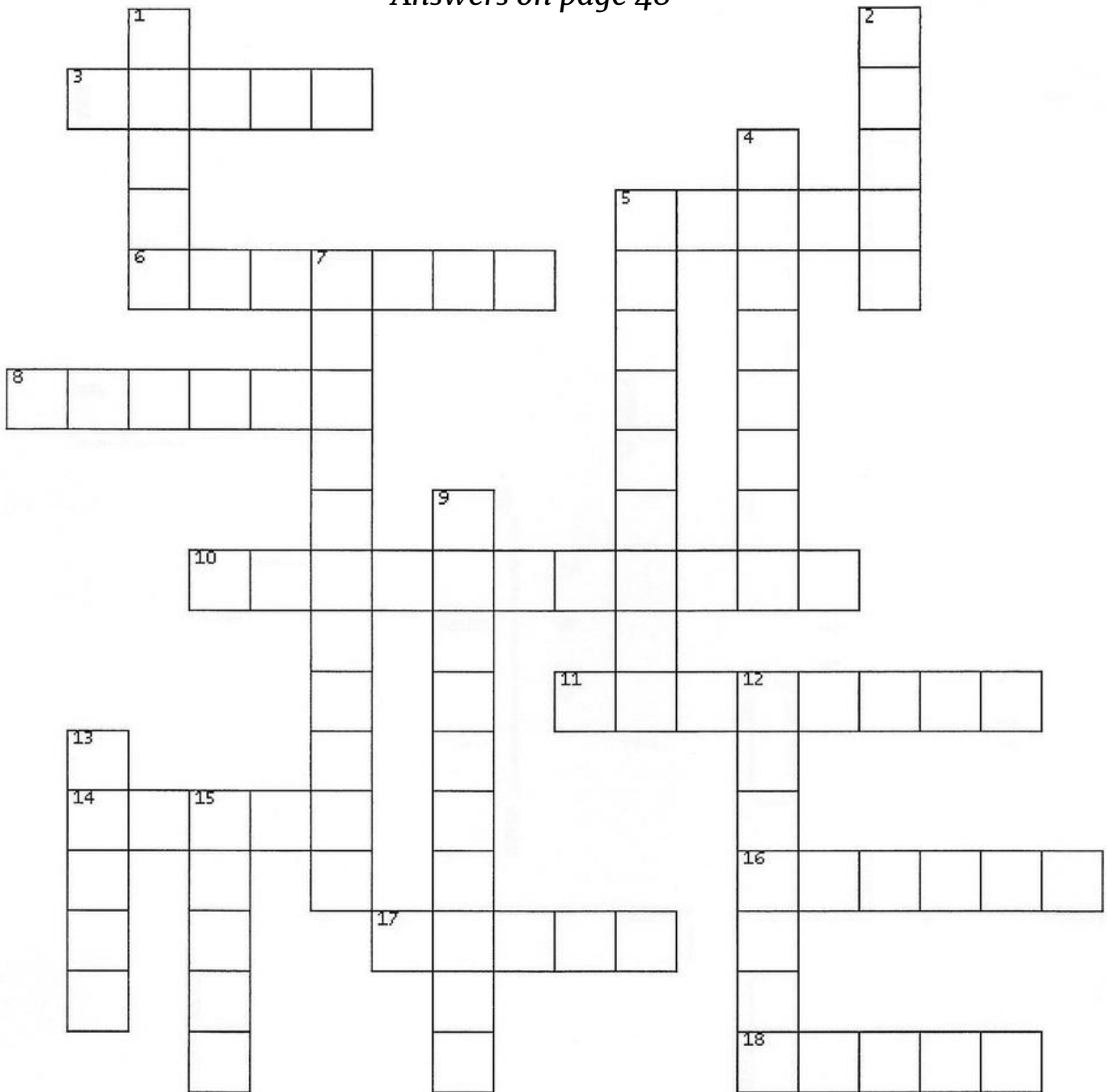
Jahson with Cheerleader Keith Kirby

What made the evening even more special was its purpose: fundraising for the East Kent Province's 2025 Festival. Thanks to the generosity of attendees and the selfless dedication of Jason—who graciously donated his time free of charge—a fantastic total of £1,000 was raised toward the festival's charitable goals.

This vibrant celebration of music and brotherhood was more than just entertainment; it was a testament to the spirit of giving and camaraderie that defines the Masonic community. As the final notes rang out and the last course was cleared, guests departed with full hearts, full bellies, and cherished memories of a cracking good night.

Cryptic Crossword

Answers on page 48



ACROSS

- 3. Architectural style representing the west
- 5. Queen who visited King Solomon
- 6. Square and...
- 8. Rough...
- 10. Masonic Bard
- 11. Derived from the Greek word meaning "earth" and "measurement"
- 14. And there was...
- 16. The father of geometry
- 17. That great light
- 18. Hand grip

DOWN

- 3. Second order of architecture
- 2. An intruder
- 4. When the sun is at its highest point
- 5. Name in handwriting
- 7. Walk about
- 9. The Widow's son
- 12. Where were you first prepared to be made a mason
- 13. A line attached to a piece of lead
- 15. Used to maintain order



EAST
DONE
31ST MAY/1ST JUNE

SOUTH
DONE
10TH AUGUST

NORTH
14TH SEPTEMBER

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THE COIN AMNESTY

Turning Loose Change into Big Change

Article: Nick Price

During 2024–25, Brother Nick Price, Charity Steward of Crane Lodge No. 2660, launched a delightfully creative fundraising scheme called the “Coin Amnesty.”

With warm humour and gentle coaxing, he invited members to empty their pockets, jars, and even shoeboxes of forgotten loose change. What started as a small idea quickly snowballed into a coin cascade.

By the campaign’s end, the lodge had gathered nearly 15 kg of coins, a remarkable 50% above the 10 kg target, turning spare change into a substantial charitable gift.

Individually trivial, collectively significant, the coins bolstered Crane Lodge’s generosity toward local causes.



As Nick observed, “charity doesn’t always require grand gestures. A little from everyone becomes a lot very quickly.”

Inspired by the success, Crane Lodge introduced Stage 2: a light hearted guessing game. Members may place a small wager to estimate the final total, with the closest guess winning a premium spirit.

This simple yet innovative approach has captured attention from Charity Stewards beyond Crane Lodge, and Nick is delighted others are “stealing” the idea.



Brethren of Crane Lodge

For advice or enquiries about this innovative approach, he warmly invites contact at charity2660@gmail.com.

It’s a wonderful reminder how community spirit, a dash of humour, and shared purpose can make everyday contributions extraordinary.

A HELPING HAND FOR HOOVES AND HEARTS

A solution for a charity's IT disaster

At Leybourne Grange Riding Centre for the Disabled (LGRCD), every moment matters. With over 5,500 riding lessons delivered each year, the Centre brings joy, confidence, and therapy to children and adults with severe sensory and learning challenges. But behind each carefully planned ride is technology: the computer system that schedules every lesson and matches every rider to just the right horse.

So when the old computer gave its final wheeze, it wasn't just a technical hiccup, it was a potential pause in delivering life-changing experiences.

The Centre, like many charities, operates on tight margins. Every pound goes directly to providing its vital services

A new computer? Simply not in the budget!

But sometimes, the community steps in exactly when it's needed most.



Local rider showing how it's done

Enter the generous members of the Malling Abbey Lodge and Chapter 1063, based at the West Malling Masonic Centre. Recognising the importance of the work done at LGRCD, they quickly voted to fund a brand new computer system. Within a week, the new technology was in place, ready to support the smooth running of bookings and horse allocations.

Jo Fletcher, the Centre's manager, couldn't be more thrilled and explained how the new system will make operations more efficient and help ensure that every rider continues to receive the personalised support they need.

"This upgrade means we can focus more on the people and horses that make this place so special," Jo said.

It's more than just a computer. It's the promise that the Centre can keep doing what it does best: changing lives through the healing power of horses.

If you'd like to support the Centre or know someone who might benefit from its incredible services, visit: www.lgrcd.org. Every bit of help keeps the magic alive.

OPERATIVE MASONS

A Hands-on Masonic Experience

Article and photos: Robyn Murdo-Smith



Taking a well earned break from their work

The Brethren worked in a spirit of Love and Harmony, guided expertly by course leaders Hannah and Paul. They learned centuries-old hand tool techniques—how to properly grip and angle chisels, how to control the maul, and most importantly, how to truly feel the stone. Beyond skill, the experience fostered a deep connection to the past. Portland stone, dating back millions of years, links today's Freemasons with their operative forebears, both symbolically and tangibly.

The visit also featured another fraternal gathering at All Souls Lodge, adding a social and ceremonial highlight to the trip. Those considering a similar experience are advised to coordinate their visit with one of the Lodge's regular Friday meetings - though it's best not to drive afterward!

More than just an enjoyable weekend, the trip proved to be a powerful team-building exercise, reinforcing brotherhood and deepening Masonic ties. Lodges in East Kent interested in organising a similar event are warmly encouraged to contact Worshipful Brother Robyn Murdo-Smith at robynmurdosmith@gmail.com.

In July 2025, four Brethren from St George Abadan Lodge No. 6058, led by Worshipful Master Robyn Murdo-Smith, travelled to Portland Bill, Dorset, for a unique two-day intensive course in traditional stonemasonry. They also attended a regular meeting of All Souls Lodge No. 170 in nearby Weymouth, where they were warmly welcomed by their Dorset Brethren.

Inspired by that trip, the Lodge returned this year under current Master Tony Jacobs. For Tony, it was a personal initiation of sorts for he chiselled his own rough ashlar, symbolically marking his operative journey in Freemasonry. Each visiting Brother undertook a personal stonemasonry project: some refined previous pieces, while others crafted new works including a Knights Templar plaque, a ritual cube, and a slab featuring the Five Noble Orders of Architecture.



'On the tools' as an operative mason



THE LIGHT BLUES BROTHERS



Soaring Forward: The East Kent Light Blues at the Battle of Britain Memorial

This year's AGM was held at the thought-provoking Battle of Britain Memorial in Capel-le-Ferne, Folkestone. It is situated on the world-famous White Cliffs and stands as a monument to the aircrew who flew in the Battle of Britain.

The Light Blues were very honoured to be hosted by the walking oracle that is Malcolm Triggs, who filled our minds with fascinating, though at times sombre, information. His team then filled our stomachs with bacon rolls and coffee before giving us a tour of the memorial and letting us loose in the Scramble Experience.

Article and photos: Steve Colleran



Working away in the background is the Comms Team, forever busy updating our social media platforms, sending emails and keeping the website full of future events and all the relevant information, especially when booking tickets, as many events sell out fast.

This memorial is purely a charity and only survives through people visiting and using the facilities. If you fancy a day out, pop along, you won't be disappointed. You might even find a family member's name etched on the memorial's wall of remembrance.

The Events Team is at the forefront of keeping the Light Blues entertained, with many events in the pipeline, including paintballing, curling and not forgetting the ever-popular Wetherspoons social breakfast.



As with all AGMs, there is a protocol to follow and, as is the case, an agenda. The Light Blues as a club are going from strength to strength, with membership maintaining healthy growth.

As the Light Blues Constitution demands, those who have been lucky enough to receive a Provincial honour must move on. So, this year, our Chairman Andrew Berry, who has worked tirelessly for the club, and our Events Team Leader Mark Prince are stepping away.

But with sorrow comes happiness, as we elected Steven Ford as our new Chairman and Andy Yeates as the new Events Team Leader.

All members of the committee work very hard as a team to continue moving the East Kent Light Blues forward in a manner all our members can be proud of.

If you are interested in joining this vibrant social club and enjoy a breakfast or a few beers, please visit www.eklbb.org.uk and sign up for the pittance of £10 to become a member.



THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

*Paul Gear, Provincial Grand Communications Officer
and an Armed Forces Veteran, writes:*



The team is working hard and has been out and about at various Military Events. The team continues to evolve and build new partnerships and connections.

One area that the team has been working hard at, are the breakfast clubs in our area, we are looking to support them and interact with the visitors to these events, in now way is this a take over, but a way of offering help and a support for these worthwhile events. One such event was the Kent & Medway Armed Forces Covenant Conference.

Service Champion Training

Open to anyone, this is a 6 hour online course, at the end you will have a vast knowledge of what is open to ex servicemen, this is useful not only to us vets, but lodge and chapter almoners or anyone who comes into contact with veterans. If you know any local organisations or clubs, why not arrange a group event? Contact me for info.

Beacon Alerts

These alerts can be found on Facebook or whats-app and are for anyone to sign up to. We as a Province are looking to see how we can automate the system. Here is what the alerts are about.

"Beacon Alert" is the name we give to the public appeal for information, when a member of the armed forces, and emergency services communities goes missing and is at risk. Through the power of social media, our alerts reach hundreds of thousands in hours, increasing the chances of a safe return". taken from <https://beaconalert.co.uk/>

Cadet Unit Adoption

With cadets units in most towns around East Kent, the funding for such units is varied, with the Army getting fully funded by the MOD, the Naval and Air Cadets miss out greatly. So why not group together with other lodges and chapters and adopt a cadet unit, many cadets cannot afford to buy their own boots, or fund the annual camps. Lets make a difference. Contact Tony Read via apgm@ekprovince.co.uk

Remembrance Day

This years Remembrance day is fast approaching, Do you march or support such an event?

Perhaps you could join up with other lodges or chapters and don your collars, medals, berets and march as an East Kent Freemason.

The East Kent AFC Team is headed up by APGM Wayne Smith

With: Peter Marno, Kemsley Whittlesea, Paul Gear, David Tyler, Mike Gee and Ivor Winham, Tony Finch – leading Service Champion training and Tony Read heading up Cadet Unit Adoption.



Can you offer some help?

We are not looking for full time helpers, but anyone that can offer some of their time, it be could at an Armed Forces Day, a breakfast club, or helping out on the team.

The Museum & Library: Where Aprons Tell Stories and Every Day's a Discovery

By Richard Wingett

Chairman of the Board of Trustees



Visit the Museum at St Peter's Pl, Canterbury CT1 2DA (Website <https://www.kentmuseumoffreemasonry.org.uk>)

Let's start with a standing ovation for our volunteers—because frankly, they're the heartbeat of the Museum & Library. Not only are they dedicated and hard-working, they're also a brilliant bunch of history-loving legends. Thanks to their tireless efforts, the museum isn't just surviving—it's thriving. We owe them more than just gratitude; we owe them our success.

Over the years, we've proudly flown the flag for Kent Freemasonry, writing articles for the Provinces and Grand Lodge that showcase the Museum & Library as a beacon of heritage. And guess what? That beacon still burns bright. Visitors continue to arrive from all corners of the globe, and our guestbook reads like a love letter to curiosity. Even better—our visitor numbers are climbing, and the trend is upward.

Why the Buzz?

Museums should never be dusty archives—they should be immersive, intriguing, and just a little bit magical. They should spark wonder, stir questions, and leave you itching to return. And that's exactly what we aim for. One of the most common reactions we hear is: "Wow, this is so interesting!" But here's the twist—some Freemasons pop in once and think they've seen it all. Not so fast! Our displays are constantly evolving. If you visited last year, today's museum will surprise you all over again.



The Library: A Treasure Trove of Rare Reads

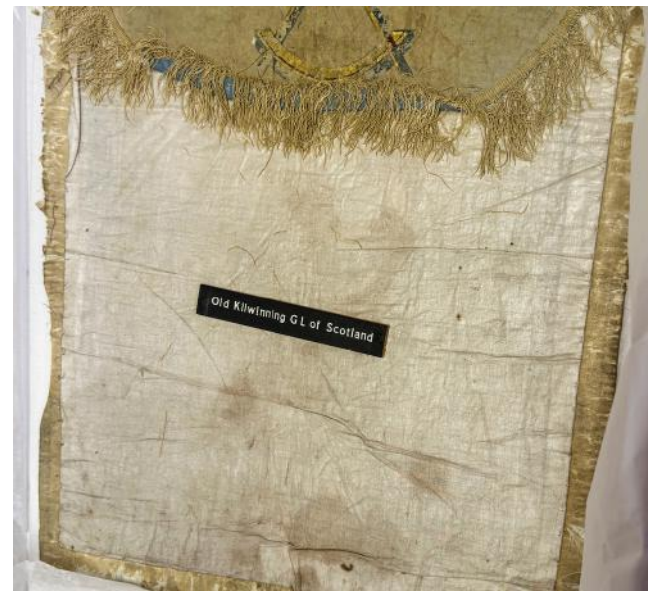
Tucked inside the Museum is our Library—a sanctuary of rare and remarkable books. Access is restricted to protect the collection, but we've scanned nearly 1,000 volumes using a digital book scanner. Why? So we can share them online and generate income through digital sales.

We're also teaming up with the Kent Family History Society to dive deeper into our holdings. Right now, our catalogue lists author, title, and year—but what's *Third Kentish Patchwork* by Robert Goodsell (1970) actually about? That's the kind of mystery we're solving.

Masonic Aprons: Threads of Time

We're currently curating a dazzling display of Masonic aprons from around the world—some centuries old. One standout? An apron dating to circa 1730, believed to be among the oldest in the UK (and possibly the world). It's not just fabric—it's a fragment of global Masonic history. Some might say, "It's just a bunch of old aprons," but academically, they're gold dust. Each one tells a story of ritual, rank, and regional flair.

Within our collection of aprons, we have an apron from the Old Kilwinning Grand Lodge of Scotland. This is both very interesting historically and quite exciting.. (picture right)



The Old Kilwinning Grand Lodge refers to the historic role of Lodge Mother Kilwinning, located in the town of Kilwinning, Ayrshire. This lodge is widely regarded as one of the oldest—if not the oldest—Masonic lodges in the world, with origins traditionally traced back to the building of Kilwinning Abbey around 1140.

Lodge Mother Kilwinning: A Grand Lodge in Its Own Right

Before the formation of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1736, Mother Kilwinning operated as a de facto Grand Lodge, issuing charters and warrants to other lodges across Scotland and even abroad:

- It granted the first known lodge charter to Canongate Kilwinning No. 2 in Edinburgh in 1677.
- After being denied recognition as the oldest lodge in 1736 (due to lost records), it seceded and resumed acting as a Grand Lodge.
- It later re-joined the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1807, bringing its daughter lodges with it.

Unique Status

- It holds the number 0 on the roll of Scottish lodges—often referred to as “nothing” rather than zero.
- The lodge is still active and maintains its own museum, meeting room, and rich ceremonial traditions.



Historical Significance

Mother Kilwinning is steeped in legend and lore, including:

- Claims that European stonemasons founded the lodge while building Kilwinning Abbey.
- References in the Second Schaw Statutes of 1599, which gave the lodge authority to test the skills of masons across Scotland.

Friends & Patrons: The Heartbeat Behind the Heritage

We've given our support scheme a fresh new look—and a fresh new name: Friends and Patrons. Why the change? Because we believe the Museum & Library belongs to everyone who treasures history, mystery, and a good story well told. By opening the scheme to the public, we're inviting more people to be part of our journey—and helping to keep the doors open for generations to come.

Why It Matters

This isn't just a membership—it's our lifeline. The Friends and Patrons scheme provides the Museum & Library with its annual income, helping us preserve rare artifacts, enhance displays, and welcome visitors from around the world. Every contribution, big or small, keeps the lights on and the stories flowing.

TEDDIES FOR LOVING CARE

Article by: Paul Routley

In 2001, the wife of an Essex Freemason was rushed to hospital following an allergic reaction which had closed her windpipe, for which she received emergency treatment followed by an extended stay in hospital. Both he and his wife found the episode very distressing. They were, however, very impressed and thankful for the swift treatment received by the A&E staff.

Wanting to do something useful to say thank you, the Mason discussed ideas with both the hospital and his Lodge. As a result, "Teddies for Loving Care" was born. The idea being that when emergency medical staff are treating a distressed child they can give them a teddy bear. The gift of a bear calms a child down and helps the medical staff give effective treatment more efficiently, this in turn gives some relief to the parents and siblings of the child.

What started as a "one off" donation of bears to the hospital soon grew and through the generosity and kindness of Essex Freemasons, during 2002 Teddies for Loving Care – or TLC - was launched at all A&E Units serving Essex. This proved a resounding success.

It was not long before the word spread and TLC Essex was instrumental in supporting other Provinces in setting up their local TLC initiative. In 2019, TLC Essex decided to set their focus locally and handed the reins over to the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) to continue to offer support to the TLC charities.

Since 2019 TLC has gone from strength to strength with the charities increasing from 33 to 54 including 47 Provincial TLC charities plus TLC Metropolitan Grand Lodge. Districts include in Cyprus, Gibraltar, Hong Kong and New Zealand. TLC has also been going strong in Ireland for 12 years, and Scotland started trialling the scheme in the last year.



The Provincial Grand Master with Big Ted



With the support of the MCF new TLC Branding was introduced, along with a promotional video, a centralised website and other promotional materials (flyers, posters etc).

Today, TLC remains a locally managed initiative supported by the MCF, who work with the charities to provide central support and guidance on the effective delivery of TLC, legal compliance and increased visibility and recognition of the scheme.

<https://teddiesforlovingcare.org.uk/>

TEDDIES FOR LOVING CARE... CONTINUED

The Province of East Kent established its own branch of Teddies for Loving Care in 2002 and this has since grown to cover 11 Hospital A&E Departments across the Province. As well as supporting the Paediatric A&E department of William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, bears are provided to the Post Operative Paediatric department, providing comfort to children before and after surgery.

In addition, staff at the Maidstone and Medway SARC's unit (Sexual Assault Referral Centre) are extremely grateful for the relief our TLC bears bring, as is the Women's and Children refuge that we also support. Nursing staff at all of the units we support comment on the comfort the gift of a bear can bring to a child presenting at A&E, or going through a difficult time, and the assistance this gives to the staff treating them.



DURING 2025 TLC IN THE UK WILL DELIVER ITS 4 MILLIONTH DONATED TEDDY



We supply bears to the supported hospitals and units at the request of nursing staff, many of whom say that they don't know how they would get by without them. Funding for TLC is therefore very important – we are dependant on, and very grateful for, donations from individual Mason's, their Lodges and Chapters and the Cornwallis Freemason's charity

At its height – before the pandemic – **TLC East Kent were delivering over 1500 bears per month to the units supported.** Almost all of the funding for TLC East Kent comes through the generosity of local Freemasons. All of the staff are volunteers and all monies received goes on the purchase of Teddies. Since inception – TLC East Kent has donated circa 180,000 bears.

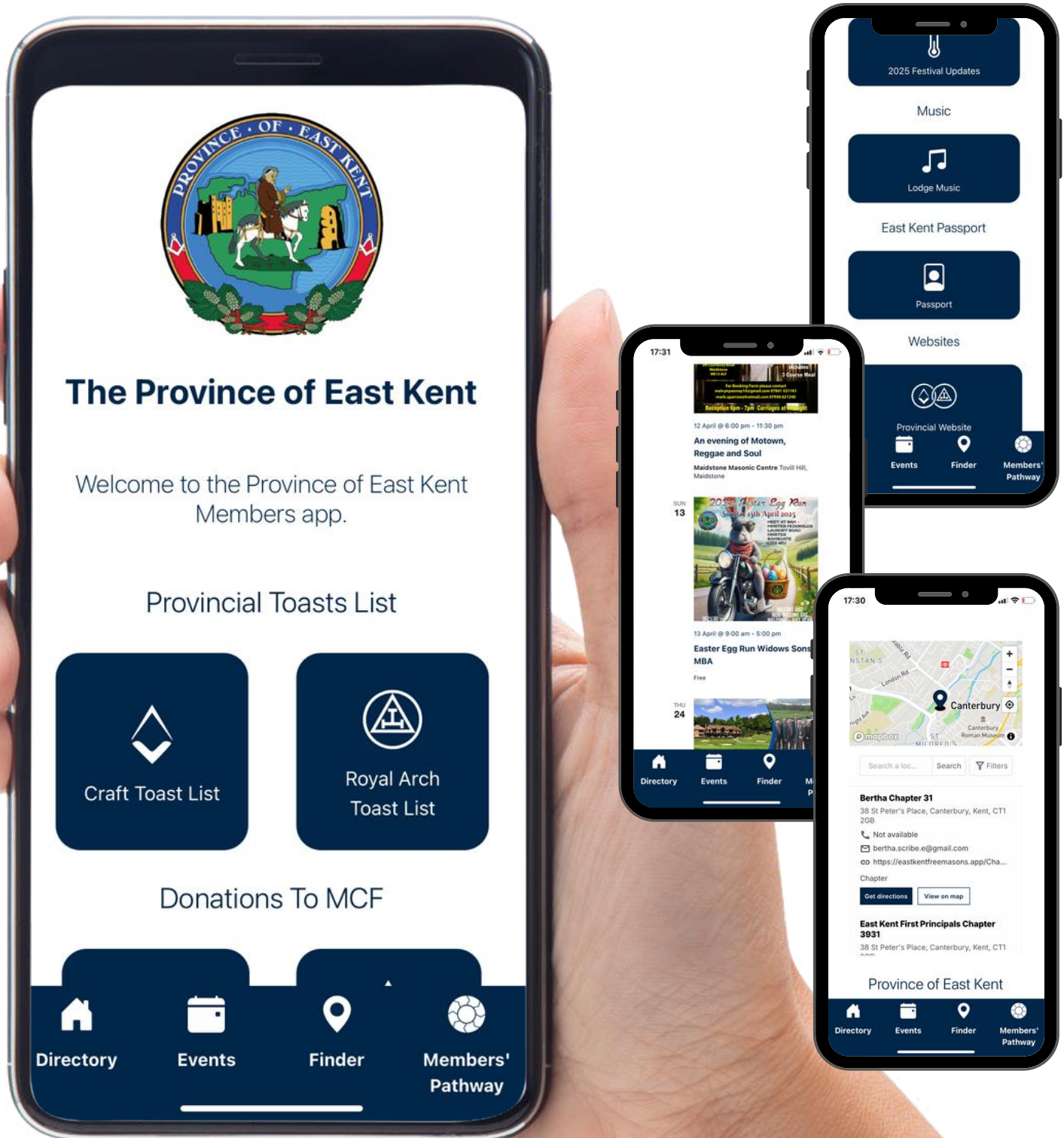
During 2025 TLC in the UK will deliver its 4 millionth donated Teddy – more news to follow on this..

Find out more about TLC: <https://teddiesforlovingcare.org.uk/>

Or contact TLC East Kent: tlceastkent@gmail.com

The Provincial App

Not only a First for East Kent, but a First for Freemasonry across the UK. The East Kent Provincial App continues to grow, with new features being added monthly. A comprehensive guide for downloading is available on the Provincial Website.



Click here to [Download the App](#)

Masonic Crossword Answers

ACROSS

3. Architectural style representing the west ----- Doric
5. Queen who visited King Solomon ----- Sheba
6. Square and... ----- Compass
8. Rough... ----- Ashlar
10. Masonic Bard ----- RabbieBurns
11. Derived from the Greek word meaning "earth" and "measurement" --- Geometry
14. And there was... ----- Light
16. The father of geometry ----- Euclid
17. That great light ----- Bible
18. Hand grip ----- Token

DOWN

3. Second order of architecture ----- Ionic
2. An intruder ----- Cowan
4. When the sun is at its highest point ----- Meridian
5. Name in handwriting ----- Signature
7. Walk about ----- Perambulation
9. The Widow's son ----- HiramAbiff
12. Where were you first prepared to be made a mason ----- MyHeart
13. A line attached to a piece of lead ----- Plumb
15. Used to maintain order ----- Gavel



**Cornwallis East Kent
Freemasons Charity**

2025 PGM's Charity Award Ceremony

Saturday 8th November @ 10.00am
Mecure Hotel - Great Danes Hotel
Maidstone, ME171RE

Free Buffet lunch for all attendees

To book: www.eastkentfreemasons.org/events
or scan this QR code:



15% discount for accommodation is available. Please quote ref: CONFB
when making your booking by telephone :
01622 528565



PGM Awards 2025

Book now via the
Provincial Website

Sat 8th Nov
Mecure Hotel
Maidstone

GLOSSARY

BRETHREN/BROTHER/BRO

A Freemason becomes known as a Brother on joining, e.g. 'Brother Smith', abbreviated to 'Bro Smith' when written.

LODGE

The basic unit in which Freemasons meet. To be regular it must have a Warrant or Charter from a Grand Lodge. It is sometimes referred to as a Private Lodge.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

The administrative body overseeing Lodges in a particular county or area. It is headed by a Provincial Grand Master (ProvGM).

CHAPTERS

Units in the Royal Arch, Chapters are presided over jointly by three Principals, and are organised as a Metropolitan area or in Provinces (roughly based on the old county boundaries), each with a local Grand Superintendent in charge.

UGLE

An acronym for the 'United Grand Lodge of England' - The governing body of Freemasonry in England, Wales, the Isle of Man & the Channel Islands; Grand Lodge is led by the Grand Master.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER

The Supreme Grand Chapter of England is the governing body of Royal Arch Masons in England, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Overseas, there are 32 Districts and four Groups.

TEMPLE

This is the lodge room in which we meet, also called the meeting room.

GRAND OFFICERS

Officers in Grand Lodge are called 'Grand', e.g. The Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer. After retiring from active positions they are called 'Past' Grand Treasurer etc.

GRAND MASTER

The most senior Freemason in the constitution, elected annually by Grand Lodge. The Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England is HRH The Duke of Kent.

INITIATION

The ceremony at which a candidate ('Initiate') is made a Freemason.

INSTALLATION

The ceremony at which a Freemason is made the Master of his Lodge.

ENTERED APPRENTICE

When you are first initiated into a lodge, you become an "Entered Apprentice".

FELLOW CRAFT

The next level in advancement, is that of a "Fellow Craft Freemason".

MASTER MASON

The final level is that of a Master Mason, succeeded only by that of the "Worshipful Master", who is in charge of the lodge for normally one year.

COMPANION

This is the name given to those who join the Royal Arch, the fourth step in Freemasonry, which completes a brother's journey.

The Provincial Lite

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