

PROVINCIAL



THE MAGAZINE FOR EAST KENT CRAFT AND ROYAL ARCH



ROSEWOOD MEETS THE MFC: see inside

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Cover Photo: Julian Friel

Editor's Notes



Welcome to issue 73 of *The Provincial*.

I'm always amazed at the panoply of life that Freemasonry comprises.

We have rich and poor, young and old, active and not-so-active. Almost every trade and profession is represented. Whatever

the subject, whatever the skill, we all know someone who knows it or does it.

With such seemingly infinite variety, we have one thread that binds us together. Ask any Mason or Companion: the answer you will get is charity.

Just flick through this magazine and see some of the great things we do to help support our fellow citizens. Barrie Silman walks many miles to raise money for Cancer Research; the Masonic Fishing

Charity gives youngsters with learning and other difficulties a lovely day out; the Friends of Duke of Kent Court help fund our regional Masonic Care Home; and our sporting clubs provide entertainment, fun and support for various local schemes.

As you will read, we are also very active in raising funds for our own Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity and the national Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Charities are facing major challenges. No sooner is COVID under control than we face rising interest rates and huge hikes in the costs of energy and commodities generally. There is a risk that charities will suffer a sharp downturn in income.

As Freemasons, therefore, we must do all we can to safeguard the level of contributions. If you haven't yet done so, please help if you can by setting up a Regular Promise to Pay (RPP) to the Province's 2025 Festival. This will ensure a regular flow of funds and enable the MCF to continue its wonderful work.

Happy reading!

John Ray, Editor

50 Years Of Peter's Achievements

Tony Watkins writes:

On the 5th October 2022, twenty-five members and guests of Corinthian Chapter No.1208 attended the Installation meeting held at the Masonic Hall, Dover.

Deputy Grand Superintendent John Baker (pictured, left) presented Peter Brooshooft with an HRA Fifty-year Certificate in recognition of his long and distinguished service to Freemasonry.

John gave a glowing and comprehensive account of Peter's achievements within the Craft and HRA and included many anecdotes of his personal friendship with Peter. Colleagues past and present congratulated Peter and paid tribute to his hard and dedicated work.

Interestingly, Corinthian's records show Peter's father, F H Brooshooft, was Past First Principal in 1951 and 1952, with Peter being Past First Principal in 1982.

At the same meeting the Deputy Grand Superintendent also presented one of our newest Exaltees, Joshua Stephens, with his Supreme Grand Chapter Certificate.

A memorable evening for the recipients and the assembled Companions.

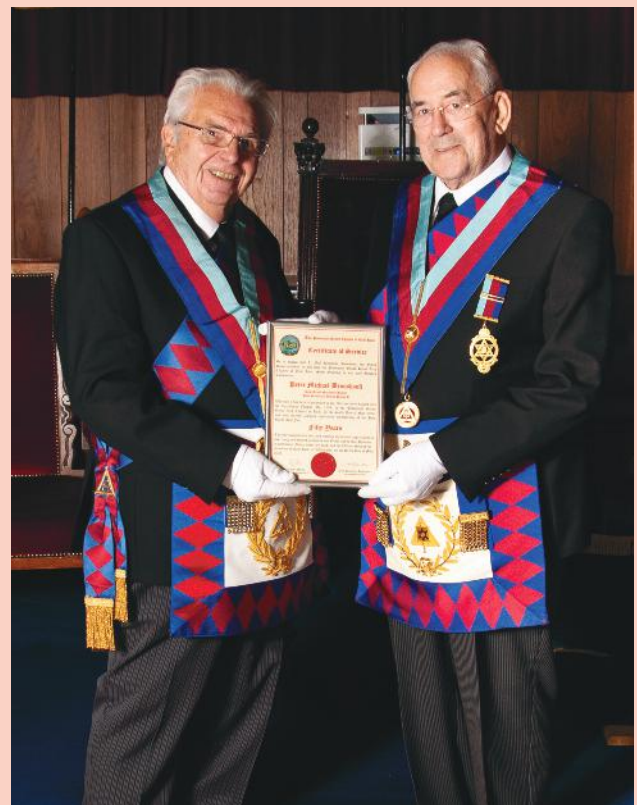


Photo: Keith Heard

A Message From Our Provincial Grand Master Neil Hamilton Johnstone

Brethren and Companions



It is a real pleasure at last to be able to reflect on a normal Masonic year.

Our Lodges, Chapters and Masonic Centres have been open for “business as usual”. In the course of the past twelve months, I have

again been able to attend Centenary celebrations within the Province, to have presented well-deserved Long Service Certificates to some of our Craft and Holy Royal Arch members, and to have visited Lodges and Chapters to meet many of you and join in the enjoyment of your meetings.

It has been a year of gentle change and progress. We have been following the relaunched Membership Pathway, a vital document that shows us how to welcome new recruits into Freemasonry and to ensure that their journey into the fraternity is as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

Assistant Provincial Grand Master Richard Wingett and his team are doing sterling work in refurbishing and reorganizing the Kent Museum and Library in Canterbury. It was a great pleasure for me to be able to welcome Brad Billings, Grand Master of Texas, and to see the progress that has already been made. You can read about the visit in this magazine.

We are now roughly halfway through our 2025 Festival, in which we hope to raise £3.5 million for the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF). In October we issued the East Kent 2025 Mid-Festival Booklet, which sets out what we have achieved so far and what we can all do to help us reach our target. Many of you, I know, have been very hard at work organising fundraising Events.

I have attended several and am most grateful for what you are doing. There are of course other ways in which you can support the Festival. They are shown in the Booklet. One of the simplest and most effective is to set up a Regular Payment Plan. By this means you can ensure that your money will go straight into the MCF's account and be redistributed at once. Assistant Provincial Grand Master Mark Bassant and his team call it the “revolving door principle”: our contributions are used immediately to help those in need and do indeed change lives for the better.

And please don't forget that we also have our own excellent local charity, the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity. Many of the schemes we support can benefit additionally from “Match Funding”, in which the CEKFC will match the funds raised by your Lodge or Chapter.

Of course, these are challenging times for all of us, with big increases in the cost of everyday items and the pressure on mortgage interest rates. The effects are being felt everywhere, not least in the charity sector, unfortunately at a time when income for them is more important than ever. I would also stress the importance of each of us keeping in touch with our Brethren and Companions over the coming festive period and beyond, given that times are likely to become more testing for some.

My thanks go to all the members of the Provincial Executives, both Craft and Chapter, who have worked tirelessly to help ensure the continuing success of our Province.

On behalf of myself and my wife Margaret, I wish you, your families and loved ones a very peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Support Your 2025 Festival: Have You Signed Up Yet?

An important message from Assistant Provincial Grand Master Mark Bassant and Provincial Grand Charity Stewards Peter Rhodes (Craft) and John Gallagher (Chapter):

In his Christmas Message with this issue, Provincial Grand Master Neil Hamilton Johnstone encourages us all to support the 2025 Festival and highlights the importance of signing-up to a regular payment promise. You will also have recently received a letter from the PGM accompanying the East Kent 2025 Mid-Festival Booklet, which summarises what we are doing and have done, and shows how you can set up a Regular Payment.



If you have not received the letter and Mid-Festival Booklet, please contact Peter Rhodes by email at peterrhodes361@gmail.com

Membership, Mentoring And Marketing Update

Mark Costelloe, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, writes:



At the beginning of 2022 the Provincial Membership team launched the restyled Members' Pathway. Since then, it has been a delight, in my travels around the Province, to witness so many of our Lodges that have embraced the principles of the Pathway. Having formed

Lodge Membership teams, many are on the road to increasing their numbers by simply interacting more with the local communities in their area. For example, as Group 8 Chairman Jim Mason points out elsewhere in this magazine, holding a quiz on Masonic premises on behalf of a local organisation seeking funding has proved effective in raising awareness of our charitable endeavours and by extension attracting new members.

The Provincial Membership team are now working very closely with a minority of Lodges who are struggling for any number of reasons to embrace the concept. I would like to assure any Lodge that finds itself in that position that it merely has to ask for assistance - and assistance will be forthcoming.

Our Provincial Membership Challenge is to increase our membership by way of initiations and re-joiners and decrease our losses in terms of resignations. A combined effort in both areas will prove successful in the long run. In real terms if we were to increase our overall membership in the year by just forty people we would be in the positive and not the negative. It can be done, Brethren, if we all pull together.

With this in mind, our Provincial Grand Master has given the green light to form our own East Kent Marketing Team. With the assistance of a professional marketing adviser, Karl Bowman and Steven Ford, working with our Provincial Communications Officer Paul Gear, have created a bespoke campaign aimed at both a male and female audience. Currently this targets Facebook and Instagram users in East Kent. We are also

looking at various other ways to increase our visibility. I am pleased to say that applications and expressions of interest to join are up and that this team and its new approach are certainly making a difference.

Our Provincial Grand Membership Officer Stephen Wyatt has been extremely busy as a result of the campaign. I would like to express my thanks to him and the team of Provincial Membership advisers and Lodge Membership Officers who have worked tirelessly to ensure that these valuable new members are placed in the correct Lodges and supported thereafter.

In October our Provincial Grand Mentor Graham Chisnell held a very successful and well-attended Mentoring seminar. Participants were treated to a wide range of mentoring inputs together with presentations from the East Kent Light Blues Club and the new Light Blues Lodge 'Old Roffensians'. Both the Club and Lodge continue to prosper and grow in numbers. They provide valuable opportunities for our new members to interact and enjoy all that is on offer within our wonderful organisation.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year and I look forward to enjoying your company again very soon.

Mark Costelloe APM



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Young Ross Joins The Union

Ian White writes:

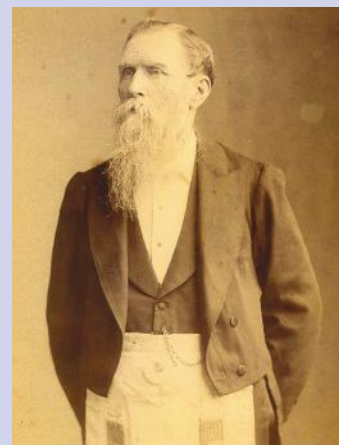
You have to be at least eighteen years old to become a Freemason.



At a special Meeting on the 7th September, Lodge Master Daren Templeman very kindly stepped aside to let Ian White initiate Ian's eighteen-year-old son Ross. This was a milestone for Union Lodge, as Ross was the youngest member in its 259-year history.

Ian White is the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies of the Provincial Grand Chapter of East Kent. His father-in-law and Ross's Grandfather, Bob Dew, was well known in the Province, as he invariably accompanied Ian when travelling the Province on official duties. Alas, Bob is no longer with us. However, he still played a part in young Ross's initiation, helping to complete the Application Form as Ross's Second.

Ross is at least a fifth-generation Freemason. His Great Great Grandfather, William Pierpoint Lawrence, his Father, two of his Grandfathers, two of his Great Grandfathers, his Uncle and three of his Great Uncles were all Freemasons.



William Pierpoint Lawrence



The Lodge was honoured with the attendance of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Phil South (pictured, right), who was accompanied by virtually all the Provincial Craft and Royal Arch Executive. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master also took the opportunity to present the Provincial Grand Master's Meritorious Award to Union Lodge member Vic Voss (pictured, left).

Dave Gets An Unwanted Musical Accompaniment

"Make sure your mobile phone is switched off or on silent" says the DC at Lodge meetings. That includes the Festive Board, of course – except when it doesn't.



Dave Horne of the Garden of England Lodge No.6583 was replying to the Toast to the Guests and Visitors at a recent Duke of Kent Lodge Festive Board when someone's phone started playing a bright little tune VERY LOUDLY. The errant Brother had first to realise it was coming from near him, then to realise that it was HIS phone, then to rummage in his bag or pocket to find it, then to switch it off – no, correction – to ANSWER the call and tell the caller loudly where he was and what he was doing. Dave had meanwhile decided NOT to sing along to the tune and brought his reply swiftly to an end. Ho hum!

East Kent Clays Support Abigail's Footsteps

Roger Wilkes writes:

Abigail's Footsteps is a Kent-based charity that supports those affected by infant bereavement – still birth or infant mortality. It provides 'cooling cots', where parents can spend a few hours with their child before saying a final goodbye. They also offer training for midwives and nursing staff in the care and counselling of bereaved parents, a service that until recently was somewhat underdeveloped.

East Kent Clay Shooters and the erstwhile Lodge of Friendship and Service No.6584 raised £2,500 to purchase an Abi cooling cot. The Shooters, represented by Bernie Connolly, Martin Lane, Gary Cordier and Roger Wilkes, gave the cheque to Abigail's Footsteps at the charity's gala night at Rochester's Corn Exchange in September.

A fine dinner was enjoyed, with excellent entertainment from the Jersey Boys and a Take That tribute act. More money was raised through an auction of items ranging from holidays to a flight in a Spitfire. It was a great evening supporting a very fine and worthy charity.

The National Clay Shooting Association had already attended a presentation at the House of Lords where they donated £1,000 to this very worthy charity. Through the generosity of our members, the local team continues to support Abigail's Footsteps and other charities such as Holding on Letting Go (another bereavement charity), Demelza House, Great Ormond Street Hospital, Wouldham Youth Club and Rochester Veterans Club. We enjoy our clay shooting: to be able to help others while doing so is an added bonus.



Pictured: Roger Wilkes at the charity gala

A Close Call For East Kent

Roger Wilkes writes:

There's long been a friendly rivalry between Essex and East Kent clay shooters.



On the 1st October eleven Essex men crossed the mighty Thames to do annual battle with twelve of the home squad. We met at the Hawley Clay Shooting Ground, a small venue close to Dartford and the Queen Elizabeth crossing.

You've got to get your strength up for such occasions. The very welcome "Chuck Wagon" fed us bacon rolls and copious cups of tea and coffee.

And so to the main event. Andy, the ground owner, had arranged ten stands. Each shooter was faced with ten clays, either as a simultaneous pair or one following the other, simulating live game shooting.

We were split into five squads. The strong wind proved challenging! Two hours of shooting, good-natured banter and a great deal of laughter later, we all returned to the "Chuck Wagon" for a nutritional top-up.

The scores were in – and it proved a victory for East Kent, who got home by the very modest margin of eight clays. Never mind – a win is a win.

Here's to the next enjoyable outing with our colleagues from across the Thames!

Frank Knocks Them Out At The Royal Lancaster



[L:R] Paul Graeme, Mark Bassant, Frank Bruno, Kevin Stones, Richard Wingett

Kevin Stones, actor and Master of the Lodge of Loyalty No.9494, organised a Grand Order of Water Rats tribute to boxer Frank Bruno at a Luncheon at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London. The lunch was held on the 24th October, when Freemasons from East Kent had the opportunity to meet the ex-World Heavyweight Boxing Champ for a chat and a photo.



[L:R] Tim Pierpoint, Paul Graeme, Kevin D. Stones, David Graeme, Richard Wingett, Phillip Hartley-Barkas, Paul Bohill

EKLBB Retain The David Graeme Trophy By A Whisker

Paul McGuirk writes:

We don't usually talk about giants and minnows in Freemasonry, but it is tempting to use the term when speaking of golf. The 'giants' would be the Officers of the Province of East Kent, the Dark Blues – so named after the colour of their masonic aprons. The 'minnows' would be the East Kent Light Blues Brothers – masons who had yet to receive Provincial Rank.

The David Graeme Trophy competition, now in its third year, gives the minnows the opportunity to teach their 'superiors' a thing or two.

Sheerness Golf Club was the venue for this year's event. Nineteen players took part. East Kent Masonic Golf Association's captain Daren Horne teed off first for the Dark Blues team. Leon Zacharow and Paul Routley jointly captained the Light Blues.

The competition was settled by average Stableford score for each team. The results were very tight. Assistant Provincial Grand Master and East Kent Light Blue ambassador Mark Costelloe came home with the best individual score: 39 points. Brian Ball from the Light Blues' team came in a close second with 38 points.

The overall results were very tight too. The winners were the Light Blues, who retained the Trophy with a combined score of 321 points from their ten Players, averaging 32.1 points. The Dark Blues team with their nine players scored a total of 282 points, averaging 31.3 points.

The afternoon was completed by a light lunch and the prize-giving. Paul Routley (pictured, right) accepted the Trophy on behalf of the Light Blues from EKMGA captain Daren Horne.



The "fine bucket" collected £137, bringing the total raised that season by the EKMGA to £1,017. The money is being donated to Dandelion Time, a nature-based charity dedicated to giving early support to children who have suffered from trauma such as domestic abuse or neglect.

A Happy Lodge Trip To France

Gordon Brown of the Malling Abbey Lodge No.1063 writes:

Malling Abbey Lodge has organised trips abroad for members, wives, partners and friends since 2013 - a good way to get everyone together and a consistently good recruiting platform!

In Autumn 2022 we visited the Loire Valley in France. Pictures show Chateau Chenonceau; Leonardo da Vinci's study in Chateau Clos Luce in Amboise; the group sampling several wines; and a group photo outside the coach.



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Your Chapter Liaison Officer

Just Another Lovely Evening At LOL

We all like to read about heroic events and unusual happenings – the very stuff that Editors thrive on. But it's the regular events, the gentle and traditional routine, that form the mortar that binds the bricks of Freemasonry together. Here's a typical, heart-warming example.

Kevin Stones, Master of the Lodge of Loyalty No.9494, writes:

It was a joyous occasion on Thursday 6th October as the Lodge of Loyalty, Ashford, received Assistant Provincial Grand Master Richard Wingett accompanied by his Director of Ceremonies and a goodly number of the Active Provincial Officers.

They were there to witness the Ceremony of raising Brother Morgan Moray from the Second to the Third Degree, making him a fully-fledged Master Mason.

The Ceremony had been well rehearsed and thus ran very smoothly. Everyone seemed to enjoy it, even our Director of Ceremonies! The Festive Board was, as ever, a jolly affair. Our raffle and basket collection **raised over £200 towards the Province's 2025 Festival**, thanks in no small part to Richard's 'gentle coaxing'!

I'd like to thank Richard and his Team most sincerely for taking time out to join our meeting and to give us an evening that we shall long remember with pride.



Morgan Moray (centre, front) with APGM Richard Wingett on his right and Kevin Stones on his left

Chapter's First Provincial Grand Mentor



Paul Settle MBE writes:

Thank you to everyone who has given me their support over the past six years in my role as Chapter's Provincial Grand Almoner.

This year the Holy Royal Arch has introduced the role of Mentor. Our own Provincial Grand Superintendent Neil Hamilton Johnstone has

been gracious enough to appoint me to that office. Thus, you might call me the Emeritus Almoner!

The role is in its early stages of development and will rely on good communication and interaction with the Principals and their Assistants and with our new Provincial Grand Almoner Nigel Fitz.

In some respects, the Province of East Kent has a head start on many others, for we began to develop the concept through the Almoner & Membership role in our Chapters some years ago.

I look forward to continuing to visit Chapters and encourage Officers to develop their skills and knowledge. I am sure that your co-operation with me will continue just as it did in my previous role.

With very best wishes

Paul Settle MBE PGStdB ProvGMen

Rosewood And The Masonic Fishing Charity



The Masonic Fishing Charity's aim is to bring an interactive fishing and countryside experience to people with special needs.

It runs fishing events, inviting participants with special needs to come and join in. This includes anyone over eleven years old with mental or physical disabilities or who has suffered trauma or other major challenges.

The Rosewood Schools provide education and support to youngsters with special needs. On the 8th September a party from the Canterbury school, led by Kelly Holden-Smith, arrived at Longshaw Fishery in the school's minibus, to be greeted by members of the Masonic Fishing Charity. The weather was awful, with persistent rain, but that did not dampen the mood of the youngsters.



The MFC provides a fisherman or helper for every participant, usually on a one-to-one basis. The fishermen will try to involve their charges in all aspects of fishing, to have a go at casting, retrieving, hooking and landing the fish. Afterwards, the fish are returned to the water.



Soon everyone was out at the lakeside and getting down to some serious angling. Longshaw is well stocked with fish, especially carp, and today they were happy to appear, with many being caught and landed. Time for a photo showing their catches!



By lunchtime the rain had stopped, and the sun was out. The youngsters tucked into a meal of burgers, sausages and vegetarian food. East Kent MFC Chairman David Alexander then welcomed Provincial Grand Master Neil Hamilton Johnstone as the "A-lister" who, with Event Organiser Gerry Stupple's help, presented each young guest with an attendance certificate and medal.



Mark Hamer, Inclusion Manager for Canterbury, was very appreciative of the day's Event: "I'd like to thank you so much for today. It's been absolutely fantastic." Speaking of the youngsters, he added, "We've seen the enjoyment on their faces and the difference that this actually makes, which is very heart-warming for us".

MCF And East Kent's 2025 Festival

Freemasonry's Masonic Charitable Foundation receives and spends many millions of pounds each year on providing support to people all around the world. The Province of East Kent is very active in this work and is currently midway in its 2025 Festival, in which its target is to raise £3.5 million for the MCF.

Here is an extract from the MCF's Impact Report, October 2022:

Our income comes from the generosity and efforts of Freemasons, their families and friends, past and present, and we work hard to make sure that we spend these donations as efficiently and effectively as possible.

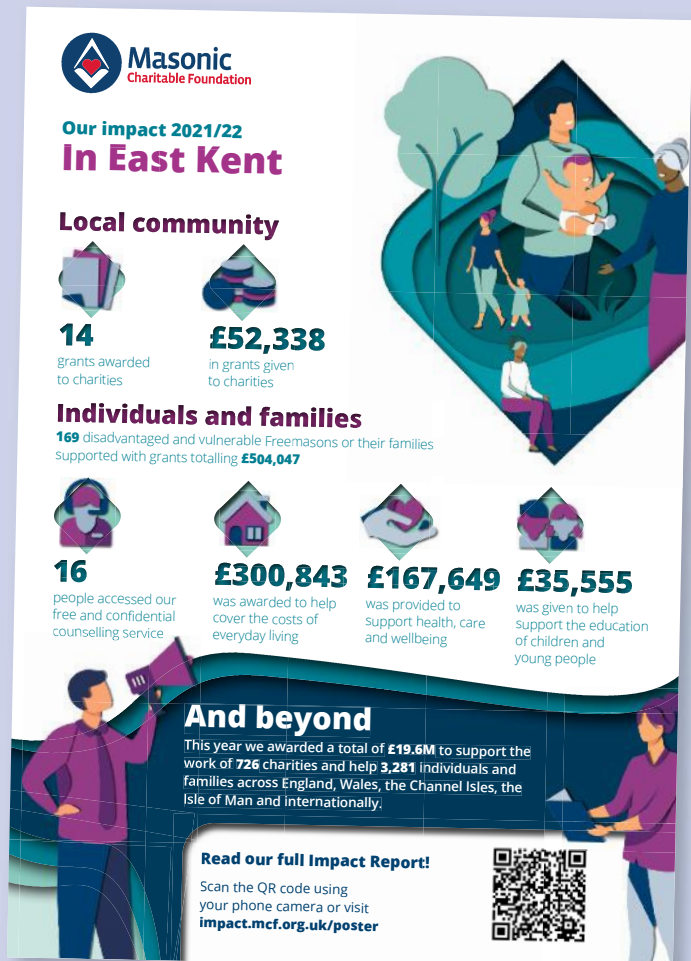
Around **54 per cent** of our income comes from the contributions of today's Freemasons, the majority of which is raised through festival appeals, a unique fundraising system where Freemasons in selected Provinces focus their collective efforts on raising funds for the MCF over a period of five or six years.

A further **18 per cent** comes from legacies and the remaining **28 per cent** comes as income from assets that have built up over a long period of time from the generosity of previous generations.

For every £1 spent, 87 pence was paid out in grants and support services for individuals and their families facing difficulty, and charities that work directly with vulnerable and disadvantaged members of society. Only seven pence of every pound represents the costs of generating funds, which includes investment management fees, property costs and fundraising. The remaining six pence is spent on the administration required to deliver our life-changing work.



The MCF's Impact Poster, reproduced here, shows the many ways in which the Charity has helped our local communities in East Kent.



“Over The Greater Part ...”

Spotted by Kevin Stones of the Lodge of Loyalty No.9494 on his travels through Queensland, Australia:



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To find out more
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What's In A Name?

Many of our Lodges and Chapters have interesting, even exotic, names. But what do they mean, and why were they chosen?

In the Provincial Lite electronic magazine, we have been running a series featuring various Lodges in East Kent with an interesting story to tell. Here are two examples: Ardea and Essetesforde. My thanks to the Secretaries and Lodge members for the information.



ARDEA

Ardea Lodge No.6717

In 1885 Ethelbert Lodge No.2099 was founded and remained the sole Lodge in Herne Bay for many years. A proposal to form a Kent Coasters Lodge in 1920 was unsuccessful. Eventually, in 1948, the Ardea Lodge was founded. The formation of the Lodge is attributed to A Wells, a highly active mason in every sense, who was ADC and Preceptor of Ethelbert Lodge. Together with FP Butler he realised that with the return of members from war service and the large number of Candidates, progress would be slow. Ethelbert's membership had almost doubled from 65 in 1939 to 127 in 1947. Accordingly, the new Lodge was Consecrated in December 1948, with Deputy Provincial Grand Master Wing Cd. BW Noble OBE PGD officiating. Nearly three hundred brethren attended.

Among the items discussed by the intended founders was a name. The Heron was suggested as it had strong associations with the town, but it was considered rather hackneyed. Ridley was also considered. Bro Wareham suggested that Ardea, the Latin for Heron, might be the answer, and this was agreed unanimously. The Heron can be seen in the Lodge badge. It was also agreed that Emulation Nigerian ritual be adopted and strictly observed, and a copy of the Ritual is preserved in the Lodge archives.



ESSETESFORDE

Essetesforde Lodge No.9746

The Essetesforde Lodge No.9746, which meets in Ashford, Kent, is a relatively 'new' Lodge having only been in existence for twenty-one years. At the time of planning the creation of the Lodge one of the Founder Members, the late Dr WE (Teddy as he was known) Church, undertook to research the history of Ashford. He found that although there were several names for Ashford in earlier times, Essetesforde was the most prominent - and the common factor in all the names was that they referred to a tree, or a group of Ash trees, near to a ford in a river or stream. After discussion with other Founder Members the name of Essetesforde was chosen.

The Lodge Banner, which is on permanent display in the Ashford Masonic Centre, reflects the history of the name of Essetesforde.

The Lodge, which meets in the afternoons, has become known more by the Ritual it uses than its name, as the Tracing Boards are drawn by hand on boards on the floor of the Lodge as the opening ceremonies are conducted. Meetings, other than Installation, are followed by a 'self-service afternoon tea', which encourages those present to socialise easily. All these attributes have been well received, and it is appreciated by many that the whole meeting and Festive Board are over by 6pm!

An Echo From The Past For Military Jubilee Lodge

Phil Heath writes:

Military Jubilee Lodge No.2195 was consecrated in Dover on the 25th March 1887.

Thanks to its geographical position, Dover has been a military town from its earliest times. It is hardly surprising, therefore, to find that the Army has played a considerable part in the history of Freemasonry in the town.

The Lodge was set up for military servicemen and took its name from Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in that year.

Not long ago, a photograph of the officers and members of the Lodge, some in military uniform and some in masonic regalia, came to light on an auction site. The photo, measuring 26cm x 20cm and taken in 1909, was purchased for the Lodge.



Officers of the Lodge in 1909 were: Master J T Blount, Immediate Past Master E B Day, Senior Warden R Port, Junior Warden Captain Fitz-Gerald Gabbett, Treasurer J Rose, Secretary W A Barnes, Senior Deacon J Smith, Junior Deacon R Jackson and Director of Ceremonies F W Foster.

Being a military Lodge, its members came from all over the United Kingdom and beyond, joining from local barracks in Dover and Shorncliffe and from the Duke of York's Military School.

At one time, the Lodge had more than 500 members and carried out first, second and third degree ceremonies in the same evening. Among the honorary members of the Lodge was Lord Cornwallis, Provincial Grand Master of Kent.

One outstanding member of the Lodge was W B Traynor VC. He received the Victoria Cross in 1901 for the most courageous exploits in the face of the enemy during the Boer War.

Only a few years after the photograph was taken, thirteen members of the Lodge were killed in action during the First World War.

The Lodge still has members who have served in the military, although these days its recruits come from all walks of life.

Twenty-first-century technology allows us to colourise the original black and white photo, bringing our former brethren more to life.



If you have information about any of those in the photo, the Lodge would love to hear from you.



The Military Jubilee Lodge was founded in 1887 as a permanent lodge to serve military personnel stationed in the town and is the third oldest lodge in Dover. Although it has long ceased being a lodge exclusively for serving military personnel the Lodge retains many of its military traditions.

The Lodge prides itself on its ritual, conducted with military precision.

Bums On Seats: New Initiative Pays Dividends

**Jim Mason, Group 8 Chairman,
East Kent Freemasons, writes:**

Cheerful Sparrows is the chosen charity of Daren Templeman and his wife Melanie for Daren's year as Master of Union Lodge No.127 in Margate. Members of the Cheerful Sparrows joined the Lodge members on Saturday 22nd October for a fund-raising quiz evening.

Run of the mill, you might think - but this was an event with a difference. It was a 'Bums on Seats' night.

'Bums on Seats'? What's that all about?

The idea is to invite a charity of your choice to support, and to use your Lodge Centre's facility. Your Lodge/Chapter supplies the venue; the Charity supplies the 'Bums on Seats', the raffle prizes and the food (usually an American supper, or it could be Fish and Chips, for example). The Charity gets the profits of the evening in general, and the Centre gets the profits from sales over the bar.

At Union Lodge's event, the Charity was represented by thirty of their supporters and the Lodge by twenty-four of their members and families. The Lodge ran a Quiz and manned the Bar.



Charity members sold raffle tickets and organised raffle prizes, and some were donated by Lodge members.

The result:

The charity is now £545 better off.

Relationships between Freemasons and the public have been enhanced.

We all had a good time.

The Centre was used, and the Centre's Bar took some money.

And:

Union Lodge now has a Joining Member. A Mason who lapsed for a few years has decided to return - purely because he enjoyed the evening and the interaction. The Lodge may get some new members too, judging by the comments made by visitors, many of whom had not really appreciated what our fraternity was doing. They were now asking all of the right questions.

The Charity's organisers were amazed at how much money could be raised at such an event. Their functions usually realised £100-150, and here everyone was seen to be having a good time and helping to raise much more.



Long Service Congratulations

The Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent, together with the joint Executives, offers warmest congratulations to the following Brethren and Companions for their long Masonic service, along with sincere thanks for their valuable contributions to Freemasonry in general and to this Province in particular:

CRAFT 70 years

W Bro Colin Arthur Shaw	PPGSuptWks	Staplehurst	L8145
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CRAFT 60 years

W Bro Roger Cicero Bickerton*	PPProvDepGSwdB	United Industrious	L31
W Bro Geoffrey Leonard Manicom Palser	PPProvGSdB	Staplehurst	L8145
W Bro Norman Charles Sherwood	PPProvJGW	Weald of Kent	L1854
W Bro Lionel Howard Geoffrey Goodsell*	PPProvSGW	Rochester	L3494
W Bro Charles Frederick Parfitt	PPGSuptWks	William Russell	L3103
W Bro Roger Frank Read	PPJGW	Queenborough	L3893
W Bro David Hitches	PPJGW	Graveney Court	L8637
W Bro Alan Charles Finney	PPGReg	Globe and Laurel	L4657
W Bro Barry Kenneth Woolmer	-	Brownrigg Lodge of Unity	L1424
W Bro Stuart William Peter Higham	PPProvGReg	Marsh and Weald Masters'	L9291
W Bro Duncan Thorburn Burns	-	Pentangle	L1174
Bro Brian Edward Allsworth	-	Rochester	L3494
Bro Peter Caswell Newton	PPAGPurs	Downs	L6855
W Bro Alan Thomas Prior	PPGSwdB	Downs	L6855

CRAFT 50 years

W Bro Roger James Cole	-	Northfleet	L4149
W Bro John William Arthur McCully	PPProvGReg	Chantry	L6454
W Bro Paul Butler	PPProvJGD	St George's	L4387
Bro Terence William Young	-	Saint Michael's	L1273
W Bro John Sidney Freeston	PPProvJGW	Stour	L2305
Bro Peter Edward Jolin	-	Ardea	L6717
W Bro Ronald Reginald Pritchard	PPProvGSwdB	Durobrivae	L6956
W Bro Victor Albert Reed	PPProvGSwdB	Malling Centenary	L8068
Bro Michal Arthur Andrews	-	Commemoration	L5329
Bro Tony John Young	-	Saint Michael's	L1273
W Bro Anthony John Waspe	PPProvDepGSwdB	St Peter's	L4193
W Bro Hugh Richard Lawrence David Roach	-	Chantry	L6454
W Bro Robin Victor Harrison Wilsher	PPJGD	Valley of Elham	L6649
Bro Nicholas David Wright	-	Hoo St Werburgh	L4829
Bro Peter Ian Thomsett	-	City of Rochester	L7941
W Bro Colin Paul John Simmonds	PPJGD	Athelstan	L4024
W Bro John James De Rome West	-	Lodge of Loyalty	L9494
W Bro Eric John Head	-	Mid-Kent Masters	L3173
W Bro David Walter Miller	PPJGW	Sir Joseph Williamson	L4605
W Bro David Michael Kershaw	PPJGD PPGReg	Agricola	L4501
W Bro Brian Richard Ledger	PPGSuptWks	South Kent	L4303
Bro Raymond Frederick Arthur	-	Saint Michael's	L1273
W Bro Brian Perkins	PPSGW	Stanley Wykem	L6599
W Bro Paul Alexander Watkins	PPAGDC	Lord Warden	L1096
W Bro Philip Courtland Lumley	PPGSwdB	Renham	L8211
Bro Patrick Albert Lee	PPJGD	Windmill	L8683
W Bro John Webster Brymer	-	Weald of Kent	L1854
W Bro Martyn Robert Foxcroft	PPAGReg	Middleton Manor	L6337
W Bro David John Sims	PPAGReg	Athelstan	L4024
Bro Peter Colin Thomas	PPSGD	Reculvers	L4123
W Bro Alvin Lewis Michel Fenner	PPDepGReg	Sir Joseph Williamson	L4605
W Bro Tony Jepson	PPSGD	Bredenstone	L8093
W Bro Geoffrey John Estorffe	-	Duke of Kent	L5818
W Bro Derrick Munden	PPDepGSwdB	United Industrious	L31
Bro Allan Edward Joslin	-	Athelstan	L4024
W Bro John Mervyn Cooper	PPGStB PPJGW	Pharos	L6967
W Bro Derek Gerald Hobden	PPDepGSwdB	St George's	L4387
Bro Kenneth Bater	-	Athelstan	L4024
W Bro Richard Mungeam	PPGStB	Malling Abbey	L1063
W Bro Kenneth Frank Beckett	PPSGD	Douglas	L1725
W Bro Michael James Braun	PPJGD	Hoo St Werburgh	L4829
W Bro Anthony Michael Bentley	PPDepGReg	Gundulph	L1050
Bro James Gordon Craig	-	United Service	L3124

Continued →

W Bro Edward George Waterhouse*	PPAGReg	St Mary's, Gillingham Green	L6499
W Bro Philip Albert John Earwicker	PPGSwdB	Kingsgate	L4882
W Bro Alan David Hutcheson	PPSGD	Entente Cordiale	L9657
VW Bro Roger William Odd	PGSwdB PDepProvGM	Old Ruymian	L8391
W Bro Lucjon Leon Finnis	PPAGReg	Bredenstone	L8093
W Bro Brian Sidney Albert Everard	-	St George's	L158
Bro Alastair Leonard Ellis	PPGAlm	Beamish	L3869
W Bro John Bersey Geach	-	Minnis Bay	L8496
W Bro John Henry Vyse	PPProvGSwdB	St George Abadan	L6058
W Bro Peter William Patterson	PPJGD	General Gordon	L4292

CHAPTER 60 years

E Comp Robert Harry Nott	PGStB PProvDepGReg (E. Kent)	Prince Edwin's	C125
E Comp David Sutter Conway	PProvDepGSwdB (E. Kent)	General Gordon	C4292

CHAPTER 50 years

Comp Alfred James Smissen	-	Military Jubilee	C2195
E Comp Gerald Trevor Owen	-	Adam's	C158
Comp Derek George Goddard	-	King Edward VII	C3252
E Comp Malcolm Morris Smith	PGStB PProvGReg (E. Kent)	Per Mare Per Terram	C3609
E Comp Joseph Aidan Manning	PProvDepGSwdB (E. Kent)	King Edward VII	C3252
E Comp Roger Millington Arnold	PProvGSoj (E. Kent)	Peace and Harmony	C199
Comp Peter Noah Eastwood	-	Rose	C1622

* Deceased as of 31st October 2022

Note: Ranks are those obtaining at the time the Long Service Certificates were issued

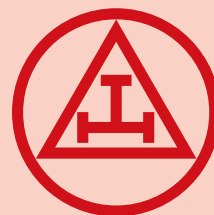
The Royal Arch Breast Jewel

You will have all seen a Royal Arch Breast Jewel, even if you're not a Companion of the Order.

At his Exaltation, a Royal Arch Companion is rewarded with the jewel of the order as "A mark of our entire approbation". It is an essential part of the clothing of every Companion and Rule 85 of the Royal Arch Regulations directs that it should be worn on the left breast taking precedence over all other Masonic jewels. It is to be worn not only within Royal Arch Chapters, but also in Craft Lodges as a visible sign of the indissoluble link between the Royal Arch and Craft Masonry.

The jewel is of gold and comprises two interlaced equilateral triangles, circumscribed by two concentric circles.

The ribbon of the jewel is tri-coloured for Grand Superintendents and Grand Officers (including Provincial Grand Officers and those holding London Grand Rank), crimson for those Companions who have been installed as Principals and white for all Companions who have not been installed as such.



Colours associated with Royal Arch

The three colours customarily associated with the Royal Arch are purple, crimson and light blue, but by long-established usage dark blue has replaced purple in the manufacture of regalia.



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“It’s A Way Of Life” Tony And Anne At The UMC

Tony and Anne Craig are down in the bar at 8.30 every morning.

By 11 o’clock the doors are unlocked, and the United Masonic Club at Sheerness is open for business.



It’s been the same for Tony and Anne for over forty years.

Tony’s first job was at the Victoria Working Men’s Club in 1974, bottling up and cleaning beer lines at weekends, when he was only twelve – “an old head on young shoulders”, they said.

By the summer of 1980 Club Secretary Jeff Parker was wanting to steer the Masonic Club in a different direction. He advertised for a Steward: Tony applied and was accepted. He’s been there ever since.

All Stewards were part-time in those days: it was a handy way to top up one’s pension. Now, of course, it’s a full-time job.

The Club was built in 1906 on War Department land, at a total cost of £2,500, and opened in 1909. It used to have a reading room and games room, but these were removed in the 1970s to allow the Bar to be enlarged.

Tony and Anne were married at the St Henry and Elizabeth Catholic Church in Sheerness in 1981. They moved into the flat above the Club – and helped re-decorate it for free. They have two adult children – Katie and Charlie – and five grandchildren.



Anne does the cleaning and shares Bar duties with Tony. Tony works with Club Secretary Nicholas Murray regarding the general running of the Club. Currently the Bar stocks Foster’s, Whitstable Bay, Shepherd Neame, John Smith’s, Spitfire lager and Strongbow cider.

Six Lodges meet at the Club: Adam’s Lodge No.158, De Shurland Lodge No.1089, United Service Lodge No.3124, Queenborough Lodge No.3893, Isle of Sheppey Lodge No.6769 and Nore Command Lodge No.9199. Two Chapters meet there: Adam’s Chapter No.158 and United Service Chapter No.3124. Resident chef Larry Harrison – he’s been there for some twenty years – is in charge of catering and is renowned for his excellent meat pies. Tony himself is a member of the Isle of Sheppey Lodge and has been Master twice – in 1994 and 2006.

Among the challenges Tony and Anne have faced was keeping the Club open during rebuilding in the late 1990s. During the Covid lockdown they were on furlough but kept themselves busy by re-decorating!

Sheerness Masons have always been willing to help out as needed. Tony Friend of the Isle of Sheppey Lodge, for example, re-covered all the chairs. Malcolm Brooks, of the United Service Lodge and formerly Grand Tyler, organises Sunday Lunches, and Lee Havill has run lots of in-house social events including Tribute Nights. There are charity-run coffee mornings twice a month, and each year since 1986 the Club has held a children’s Christmas party. The big Christmas tree outside the building has become quite a local landmark.





The Bar has a maritime theme. A print of the Battle of Trafalgar signed by the present Lord Nelson was donated by the widow of Falklands veteran Nick Clements of De Shurland Lodge. Vince Poppy of the United Service Lodge has painted some of the other seascapes. There are also many artefacts and photographs, and a massive ship's wheel is mounted on one wall.



Not surprisingly, Tony has many tales to tell about the Club and its patrons. Happily, they have never had any real trouble to deal with – but some recollections always raise a laugh. Many years ago, Worthington's were doing some promotional work and gave the Club some Worthington T-shirts and boxer shorts. A rather staid and upright chap took some boxer shorts home. A couple of days later he walked into the Club wearing them and thinking they were short trousers!

One of the Club's more extrovert customers breezed in one day and said to Anne, "Where have you been all my life, darling?" – to which Anne replied, "Well, I wasn't born for most of it".

Another of the older members wanted to "join the Twenty-First Century", so he bought himself a mobile phone. The following day he came into the Club, sat at the Bar for a while, then said he was disappointed that no one was calling him. Not surprising, since the "phone" he had with him was his TV's remote control! He came in the following day with a big grin on his face and said he had found his mobile on top of the TV.

Says Tony, "We've really grown into this job. It's a way of life. It's full on, and you've got to want to do it if you are to succeed. You've also got to be an Agony Aunt. People tell you all sorts of things, but they know that anything they tell us won't go any further. And Anne and I never tell each other what we have heard".

And Tony's advice to anyone thinking about running a Masonic Centre? "Go for it!"



Memorable moments from 1953:
The Coastal Floods of February,
Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation, June.



The United Masonic Club viewed from the main road

Barrie Meets The Challenge

Ten Years ago, Barrie Silman of the Stella Maris Lodge No.7279 and Thanet Chapter No.429, underwent an operation on one of his knees to repair a shattered cartilage.

After eight weeks on crutches, he had to learn to walk again: he couldn't even get to the end of his road.

Barrie's surgeon advised him to exercise so that he could keep the muscles around the knee strong and thereby avoid an early knee replacement. He told him that, due to the nature of the injury and the surgery he had undergone, he would never be able to run again - the impact would cause further injury.

Was that the end of the matter? Not a bit of it!

'Tenacity' being Barrie's middle name he started power walking. At first, he did a couple of laps around the block. Those two laps eventually built up to a mile, and over the space of a few years Barrie was up to five miles a day.



Barrie at the finish of the 2022 Chiltern 50 km Ultra Marathon

Barrie's wife Nikki is a cancer survivor, but her sister Sharon died from the disease in 2017, leaving behind three teenage daughters. By this time Nikki was volunteering for a Cancer Research group called Connecting for a Cure. In 2019 Barrie, being stronger and fitter, decided he would walk an 'Ultra Marathon' (50km/31 miles) to help raise money for the charity.

COVID obviously delayed this, so he signed up for the Thames Path Challenge in 2021. Barrie's training involved walking up to twenty miles a day, two to three times a week. On that occasion Barrie finished the Challenge in eight hours forty minutes and raised nearly £3,400.

Never thinking he would do one of these walks again, he let his fitness slip a little. However, his many supporters had other ideas. They persuaded him to sign up for the 2022 'Chiltern 50km', another 'Ultra Marathon' Challenge. The training started again - up to twenty miles twice a week.

The course would be more demanding, with very steep hill climbs and descents, nearly all off-road through forests with loose stones, rocks, wood, tree roots and other obstacles. In September Barrie completed the challenge - but not without incident. At around the 40km mark he rolled his ankle on one of the loose stones on one of the descents and fell. At first, Barrie thought his ankle was broken, and didn't move for a few minutes. Eventually, he put some weight on it, and, with a few pain killers, continued the Challenge, finishing in a time of nine hours four minutes.

The total money raised was around £2,450, bringing his grand total to some £5,850, all of which is going to Cancer Research.

Barrie is extremely grateful to everyone for donating despite current financial pressures and is very humbled. He is now considering signing up for another Halloween Ultra Marathon in October 2023.



"Together we will change lives"

What's It Like To Be A Resident?

David Barber, Chairman of the Association of Friends, Prince George Duke of Kent Court care home, writes:



Staff members at Prince George Duke of Kent Court, in Chislehurst, recently took part in an innovative training programme called Experiential Learning where they had the opportunity to experience first-hand what it might feel like to be a resident in a care home.

They were presented with different simulated physical challenges, some fairly unpleasant, that residents face. They also had to try doing a crossword while wearing goggles to impair their vision and wearing gloves to simulate arthritis. The aim was to help give a better understanding of how residents should be cared for and develop a greater sense of empathy in their roles.

Christmas at the home - and our 500 Club

Christmas at the Home is a wonderful time when we ensure that every resident receives a personalised gift from the Association of Friends presented by Father Christmas to show that they are still valued and not forgotten.

This of course costs money and together with the Friends' other contributions to the Home during the year means that our funds are being depleted over time.



Lodges throughout Kent have joined our 500 Club - but we need more to join if we are to continue supporting the Home. Caring for our older loved ones is perhaps the greatest responsibility we have. Those who walked before us have given so much and made possible the life we all enjoy. Enquire if your Lodge or Chapter has joined and, if not, please make a point of encouraging them to do so.

If your Lodge or Chapter joins before the end of February 2023 you will be eligible to be part of the Spring draw. Your Lodge or Chapter could win £1000: one Lodge already has already done so, and another will win at our Christmas draw, which is being made by none other than East Kent's Provincial Grand Master Neil Hamilton Johnstone. So please visit our website.

PLEASE join our 500 Club TODAY

Don't just look the other way!

Full details are available on our website

www.friendschislehurst.org/500club

As many of our residents suffer from memory loss the following quote is most appropriate:

"Though those with Alzheimer's might forget us, we as Masons must remember them."



Texas Comes To Canterbury

On Sunday 4th September 2022, fifty Freemasons and their partners from Texas, USA arrived at the Kent Museum of Freemasonry in Canterbury, Kent. They were here in the UK on a Freemasons holiday visiting various sites and locations across the country.



In the party was Brad Billings (pictured, left), Grand Master of Texas and, at 38 years old, believed to be the youngest Grand Master in America. Provincial Grand Master of East Kent, Neil Hamilton Johnstone (pictured, right), greeted and formally welcomed everyone.

On their tour of the Museum the Texans were clearly very interested in the history of English Freemasonry. They were treated to a viewing of an original Anderson's 1723 Book of Constitutions and a Coles Book of Constitutions.



On display were some extremely rare artefacts including an Egyptian heavy Maul which has been confirmed by the British Museum as being genuine. It was found in a tomb in Luxor and is of phenomenal age, having been made at some time between 3000 and 2500 BC. It was probably used in the creation of the tombs and the pyramids.



Our visitors were also very taken with two English original bibles, one being a 1588 Breeches Bible and the other a 1728 King James Bible. When first printed, a stock of the King James bible was loaded onto the Mayflower and shipped to America.

The Texans completed their tour with a look at the Library. It is home to around 11,000 books on the history of the county of Kent with its heraldry and genealogy. A quick tour of the Canterbury Masonic Centre was followed by a fine English lunchtime buffet.

In Texas, the Grand Master, responsible for over 100,000 members, serves only one year in office. They do not have bars in their centres as alcohol is very much frowned upon. They do not allow Female Freemasons - although women can join the Order of the Eastern Star. The Grand Chapter of Texas Order of The Eastern Star is a fraternal organization composed of women with Masonic affiliation and of Master Masons. Their members "share a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being and promotion of the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth".



For further information on the Kent Museum and Library of Freemasonry, please visit the website at kentmuseumoffreemasonry.org.uk

The Battle For Hill 112

Fred Ross of the Lodge of Harmony No.133 writes:

One of the fiercest battles of World War Two is arguably one of the least known.



In 1944, men from the 43rd Wessex, 53rd Welsh, 15th Scottish and 11th Armoured Divisions finally took control of one of the most strategically important battlegrounds in northern France. It took ten weeks of fierce fighting and cost the lives of thousands of men - but taking and holding Hill 112 allowed the Allies to retake Caen and continue the liberation of Europe.

Albert Figg (pictured), a sergeant in the Royal Artillery during the struggle for Hill 112, was determined to honour his fallen colleagues. He retained vivid memories of what became known as 'Death Valley' up until his own death in 2017 at the age of 97. The Hill 112 Memorial Foundation is continuing the work he started, to turn the site into what is now known as Normandy's 'Hill of Peace' and to produce an educational film about the battle.



A viewing platform will allow visitors to Hill 112 to see the complete 360-degree vista to Caen and surrounding areas and show why it was so important in World War Two. The film will incorporate existing interview footage with veterans and will be a feature length production by award-winning documentary-maker Peter Williams. It will have a limited cinema release and will be made available to schools.

The Foundation needs to raise £200,000 to build the viewing platform, make the film and ensure the site can be maintained and improved in the future. While it is working hard to achieve grants from Trusts, Foundations and other sources, individual donations are valuable and very welcome.

I am a trustee of the Foundation. I have a thirty-minute presentation on Albert Figg and the work that we are continuing to do on his behalf. I should be most pleased to give the presentation to any East Kent Lodge or Chapter. You might like to consider this for an occasion when you do not have a formal Ceremony to perform. You can reach me at fredross246@btinternet.com or by phone at 01227 769275 or (mobile) 07803 149046.

‘Man Bites Dog’? No – ‘Sons Propose Father’

Andy Symonds reports:

“Dog bites man” isn’t news – but “Man bites Dog” certainly would be.

Here at Middleton Manor Lodge No.6337 we’ve done something similar and turned the tables – the Sons have proposed their Father.

Brad Kennett was initiated into Middleton Manor Lodge on the 11th October after having been proposed by his sons Damon and Lloyd. It would not be unusual for a Father to propose a Son, but for a Son to propose a Father – and his other Son to second the proposal – is very unusual indeed.

Ray LeMonde, who has been helpful to the Kennet brothers throughout their short Masonic careers, delivered the Ancient Charge to Brad in an exemplary manner.

All members and their guests enjoyed the momentous occasion and then tucked into a wonderful meal of stilton and broccoli soup, roast pork with all the trimmings followed by a Cheese Board and Coffee.

The raffle raised £120 for Charity.



Bro Brad with his sons Damon and Lloyd along with Lodge Membership Officer and Mentor Ray LeMonde

Communications Team

The East Kent Province’s Communications Team, headed by Richard Wingett, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, is here to help keep you informed about activities and events in the Province and to facilitate effective communication between Lodges, Chapters and the general public.

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pjfloyd4501@googlemail.com

Communications Officer for the HRA

Chris Sanford

thesanfords@screaming.net

And finally, Brethren and Companions: a reminder that the members-only portal “Your Province” – a.k.a. YP2 – is the principal source of information for all Craft and Royal Arch Freemasons in East Kent. This secure website is full of interesting material that will support all Master Masons and Companions irrespective of experience or rank.

To register, please visit the website at
yourprovince.org/yp2



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