

Issue No 8

Autumn 2022

# PROVINCIAL lite

THE MAGAZINE FOR EAST KENT CRAFT AND ROYAL ARCH

[www.eastkentfreemasons.org](http://www.eastkentfreemasons.org)



**AUTUMN 2022 ISSUE**

Photo: Val Ray



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## EDITORIAL



“It never rains but it pours.”

Perhaps that’s a rather inappropriate aphorism, considering that we’ve just had one of the driest summers ever recorded. Never mind: I was musing over the fact that it’s been one thing after another this year, what with war, weather and now whacking great increases in the price of goods and utilities. Many of us, no doubt, are looking at the economic future with a degree of foreboding. Some of our Brethren and Companions may be finding things very difficult.

It is precisely in this kind of situation that Masonic Charity comes to the fore.

Assistant Provincial Grand Master Duncan Rouse sent an email to us all recently outlining all the avenues of support that are available to “poor and distressed Freemasons”. The information is so important that we are including it in this magazine too.

On a brighter note, it’s been a typically eventful summer with many social and sporting activities, many of which have helped to raise money towards our 2025 Festival. Please continue to tell our Communications Team what you’ve been up to. The more we spread your news around, the more we can show the world what a great bunch of people we are.

Happy reading!

**John Ray**

Email: [editor@theprovincial.org](mailto:editor@theprovincial.org)

## A BEM FOR REG

Kelvin Curtis of the Gravesham Lodge No.5337 writes:

Reg Butcher had a special visitor at the Wombwell Care Home, Northfleet, on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August: the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Lady Colgrain. She was there to present Reg with the British Empire Medal, awarded to him for services to Marine Conservation in the City of London.



Reg, a long-time President of the Kingfisher Angling and Preservation Society and twice Master of the Gravesham Lodge, was surrounded by friends and by staff members as Lady Colgrain read out the Citation.



Reg Butcher with Lady Colgrain



The Kingfisher Angling and Preservation Society has long been associated with the Port of London Authority in its efforts to clean up the River Thames in the City. Reg, a former Master Butcher and a Freeman of the City of London, worked tirelessly with the Society for some fifty years and is justifiably proud of its achievements.



Pictured here is Reg with Kelvin Curtis, Peter Bearman and John Houseman – all four being Freemen of the City of London!

OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD	
All Awards and Accreditation notices   WW1 notices   WW1 medals   Resources	
<b>Notice details</b>	<b>British Empire Medal</b>
Type:	Civil Division
State	<b>Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood</b>
> British Empire Medal	St. James's Palace, London SW1
Publication date:	02 June 2022
1 June 2022, 22:57	THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of the Celebration of Her Majesty's Birthday, to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Civil Division) to the undermentioned:
Edition:	B.E.M.
The London Gazette	<b>Reginald BUTCHER</b>
Issue number:	For services to Marine Conservation in the City of London.
63714	
Notice ID:	
4085245	
Notice code:	
1130	
	<a href="#">BACK</a>





The obverse  
and reverse of  
Reg's British  
Empire Medal



Reg Butcher with his brothers and sisters

## ARE YOU READY FOR CHAPTER?

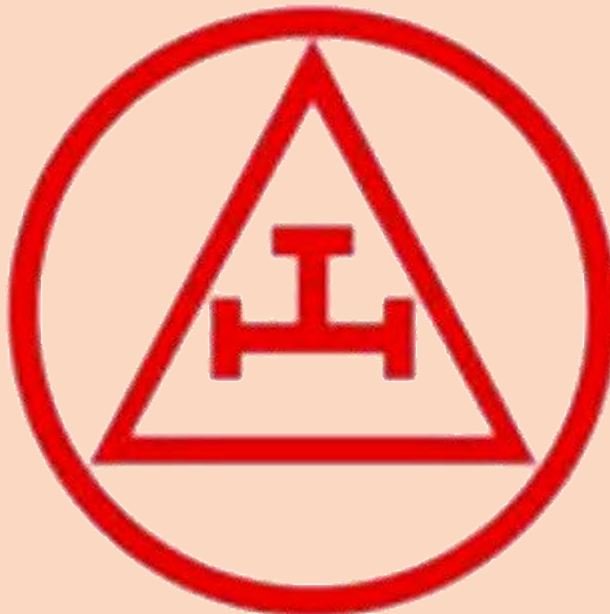
Chapter, or the Holy Royal Arch, is the logical next step once you have become a Master Mason. Sometimes it is referred to as “the fourth degree”. Some of the information you learn in the Third Degree is incomplete. Let Chapter finish the story for you. And, once you have been exalted into the Holy Royal Arch, you will find that other doors are open for you to progress further if you want.



**Put some colour into  
your masonry  
Join a Royal Arch  
Chapter.**



Contact your CLO  
or  
Pat King  
[patrickking@sky.com](mailto:patrickking@sky.com)





## CLAY SHOOTING WITH THE COPS

Roger Wilkes reports:

Members of the East Kent Masonic Clay Shooting Club entered the annual Kent Police shoot on 21<sup>st</sup> July at the West Kent Shooting School, Paddock Wood.

County Constabularies from all over the south of England take part in the Event. East Kent Masons have also been doing so since 2009. There are always lots of guest teams from the very many clay shooting clubs throughout the south of England.

The weather was wonderful and the competition good.

There are three categories in the shoot: one for police teams, one for guest teams and one for all-comers. This year eleven guest teams and seven police teams took part. The competition was shot over twelve stands with either eight or ten clays per stand, making a total of 100.

East Kent Clay Shooters scored a first: we won the guest team category and came fourth overall in the combined category.

This was a cracking result for the Club and a boost for the future, as we have a visit to Suffolk, a return shoot with Essex Masonic Clay Shooters and the Home Counties Inter-Provincial Shoot to look forward to.



Steve Ball shooting, with the rest of the Team awaiting their turn





Mick Daly (left) and Nick Jenkins





Nick shooting, Mick observing





Steve Ball and Rob Styles talking to the Stand Referee



## A VETERAN ON A BIG MISSION



Kemsley Whittlesea is a member of the Chillington Manor Lodge No.4649. He is also an Army Veteran and a man with a big mission – to help improve the lives of fellow Veterans and their families.

Kemsley served in the Army for fifteen years but was unfortunately medically discharged in 2018. From the moment he left, he determined to help the much-needed veteran charities, one of which was **Walking With The Wounded**.

Walking With The Wounded not only helps veterans and their families with things like employment, housing and medical matters but also encourages and helps them give back to the communities that they live in to make positive changes and acquire a sense of belonging and purpose.



One of the first missions that Kemsley undertook was 'The Walk of America', an expedition that took place between June and September 2018 and comprised six wounded veterans (three US and three UK) walking 1000 miles in twelve weeks visiting different areas of military interest around the states from west to east coast. It was supported by patrons Prince Harry and the then Second Lady, Dr Jill Biden.

The walk created a platform to tell the stories of our wounded and their individual journeys from injury to the present day and more specifically provided a platform to engage in a wider conversation around mental health. Crucially the expedition also gave the ability to raise vital funds for veterans on both sides of the Atlantic with the poignant background of the centenary commemorations of WW1, a conflict which saw British and American soldiers fighting so valiantly side by side.

Jill Biden kept in touch with Kemsley and his fellow walkers. In June 2021 they received a call from the White House asking if they and the CEO of Walking With The Wounded could meet her and President Joe Biden for a private meeting at Heathrow before they departed in Air Force One.



Kemsley and fellow veterans Kevin Carr and Johnny Burns with the President and his Lady at Heathrow

Through Walking With The Wounded, Kemsley has been heavily involved with 'Team Rubicon', now re-named **RE:ACT DISASTER RESPONSE**. Throughout the pandemic he has been volunteering with RE:ACT. In the Spring of 2020 he was helping identify bodies and toe-tagging in the temporary mortuaries to relieve the strain on the NHS. He helped for a couple of months in the British Legion Care Home in Aylesford due to the lack of staff, and then carried out door-to-door testing with Kent Emergency Services when the South African variant hit.



Throughout this time, he has carried on raising awareness and fundraising for Walking With The Wounded, for example by doing their 'Walking Home for Christmas' challenges. In November this year he and partner Zeinia Bell (pictured above, with Kemsley) will be doing a 100 km trek off the beaten track through the desert in Jordan to raise much-needed money for the charity again. If you would like to support Kemsley and Zeinia, please visit their fundraising webpages at:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kemz](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kemz)  
and  
[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Zeinia-Bell](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Zeinia-Bell)

You will find a charity pot at the bar at the Maidstone Masonic Centre.  
Kemsley is also happy to be contacted at [kemsley45@hotmail.com](mailto:kemsley45@hotmail.com)



## MALCOLM BROOKS GETS TOP AWARD



At the Quarterly Communication meeting at Freemasons Hall in June, Malcolm Brooks (pictured), Grand Tyler and a member of the United Service Lodge No.3124, was ceremonially awarded **The Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry.**

The Order of Service to Masonry is the highest honour the Grand Master can confer on any member of the Craft. Instituted in 1945, it is in the personal gift of the Grand Master and is an acknowledgment of exceptional services to the Craft.

The Order is limited to twelve holders. It confers no precedence on them but entitles them to place the letters OSM after their names, preceding the initials of any other Masonic rank they may hold.

The jewel itself, worn from a dark blue collarette, is of silver-gilt, being a double-circle with a pair of compasses extended on the segment of a circle and the letters O S M; beneath it is the motto "*In Solo Deo Salus*" "In God alone is our safety". (see below)

The limit of twelve members has never been increased and there are twelve jewels only in existence, each of which must be returned on the death of its latest recipient. The jewel allocated to each recipient is recorded in a small notebook and it is the recent custom to give each recipient a list of the previous holders of the jewel with which he has been invested.

Malcolm Brooks was promoted to Past Deputy Grand Sword Bearer in both Craft and Chapter this year after holding the Grand Tyler and Grand Janitor posts for fourteen years, clearly with distinction.

He is a member of the United Service Lodge No.3124 and Adam's Chapter No.158, amongst others, in the Province of East Kent.



East Kent Provincial Grand Master Neil Johnstone commented, "This is a very fitting honour bestowed on Malcolm and I am sure that you too will be proud of this achievement".



## MANOR OF GILLINGHAM REVISIT NORMANDY

Terry Perkins writes:

Manor of Gillingham Lodge No.3983 led a second visit to Normandy at the end of June to commemorate the two World Wars.

We travelled down on the Friday and stayed at the Hôtel La Glycine in Bénouville near Caen.

We visited the Museum adjacent to Pegasus bridge (pictured below).



On the Saturday we travelled up to the Church in Sainte-Mère-Église where the American Paratrooper is hanging from the Steeple. We also visited the USA beaches of Utah and Omaha, calling into Arromanches-les-Bains at the Gold beach. We hope to visit the other beaches, Juno and Sword, next year.

We had a meal in the Les 3 Planeurs restaurant in Bénouville on Saturday. The restaurant (pictured) is adjacent to the Pegasus Bridge. The bridge obligingly opened to let a large Cargo ship through while we were dining!







On Sunday we went into Bayeux for Lunch and to visit the famous Tapestry.

On the way home along the coast we called in at Asnelles just outside Arromanches to visit the Museum and Memorials with a wonderful view up on the cliffs across the Channel.



There were forty-six of us altogether: two members of Manor of Gillingham Lodge and friends, and others from several Lodges in Kent.



## FISHING IS BACK – BUT WHO BENEFITS MOST?

Fishing is a wonderful sport for people of all ages. East Kent Freemasons not only enjoy it themselves but reach out to those less fortunate and give them the opportunity to mix socially and acquire new skills.



Richard Dixey (pictured) writes:

East Kent has its own Branch as part of the National Masonic Fishing Charity. It operates independently, managing its own fundraising and events.

Youngsters aged eleven to eighteen who are disadvantaged, have suffered a trauma or have physical, learning or behavioural difficulties are primarily those who benefit from the interactive fishing and countryside experience. With our assistance they can try something new and become more confident. Fishing helps those who are socially challenged to meet and interact with others, whilst offering those with physical disabilities the chance to participate in a sporting experience that may not normally be available to them.

Local Schools that cater for special needs pupils, especially those who are otherwise unable to take part in team or individual sports, will often have a curriculum project focussing on sporting achievement. Our Fishing Day fits the bill very well.

Our Branch comprises a Committee, to ensure the running and management of the Events, and Anglers and Helpers. The whole team contributes to the enjoyment of the

Students and Carers. We hold four Events each year, currently at Horsham Lakes, Monk Lakes, Chart Fishery and Longshaw Lakes. We are eternally grateful to all our hosts for their generosity in supporting us.





We provide a breakfast of tea, coffee and bacon rolls for the Anglers and Helpers. The Students usually arrive at about ten o'clock. We fish until midday and break for hotdogs and burgers. The schools often stay on for an hour or two after Lunch. Then comes the Finale when the happy and excited students receive their Certificates of Angling Ability and their Medals from a distinguished visitor.

It really is a great day out for everyone involved. The delight on the students' faces is a sight to behold and very humbling.



APGM Mark Costelloe with one of the guests at The Lakes

We are always looking for more Anglers to join us. If you are interested, please contact [keithheard44@hotmail.com](mailto:keithheard44@hotmail.com) or come along to our next Event to see for yourself. We shall be at Longshaw Lakes, CT3 4ND, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September. All tackle is provided but, if preferred, you can bring your own. Therefore, the only requirement is that you must be prepared to enjoy yourself!

Please take a look at our reports in this magazine, on the East Kent Freemasons Website, or visit <https://eastkentfreemasons.org/the-masonic-fishing-charity/> for more information.

Tight Lines!





*Birchington*



*Westgate*



*Margate*



*Broadstairs*



*Ramsgate*

## **A GRAND RESULT FOR GROUP 8**

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April Lodges and Chapters of Group 8 joined forces to support financially the local charity 'Hygiene Bank'.

The support came in the form of a Charity Quiz - the first to be held in the Group and an opportunity for the Group's membership to jointly raise funds for a very worthwhile cause.

Meeting at the Margate Masonic Centre and dining on a fish and chip supper, teams including one from the Hygiene Bank took part in the 'Chairman's Challenge'. Having the charity taking part was clearly an extra incentive towards fundraising.

Some of the Lodges fielded two teams, which meant that competition was really tough; but the combined efforts made for a very enjoyable evening with plenty of friendly inter-Lodge banter.

Winners of the evening were the Union Lodge No.127's 'B' team. They will hold the trophy for the next twelve months.

The non-masonic team winners were the Hygiene Bank themselves (how fortunate!) and were presented with bottles of wine.

As a result of a thoroughly enjoyable and light-hearted evening the Group was able to donate £1000 to the charity.







Photograph shows Group 8 Chairman Jim Mason with Liberty Jones (Thanet Coordinator, Hygiene Bank) and in the background Group Charity Coordinators Ray Hazelton (left) and Nigel Mann (Chapter), Quizzers on the evening

The Hygiene Bank brings communities, businesses and thought leaders together to tackle hygiene poverty by giving access to products and being a voice for change.

### Their Values:



**We challenge injustice:** It's not right that anyone should experience hygiene poverty. We take action by raising awareness to drive meaningful change.

**We foster wellbeing:** Everyone deserves to be able to care for themselves and their families. We know access to hygiene products is key to anyone's health and wellbeing.

**We are compassionate:** We stand alongside those in crisis. Our purpose is to ensure no one is held back from participating in society because of hygiene poverty.

**We are community:** We believe in building stronger, resilient communities by working together to shape a more just society. [www.thehygienebank.com](http://www.thehygienebank.com)



## GOLFING NEWS



From our Golfing Correspondent Paul McGuirk

### **LIGHT BLUES BROTHERS HAVE ANOTHER INTRO**

Fourteen members of the East Kent Light Blues Brothers rolled up at the glorious North Foreland Golf Club in Broadstairs on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May for the group's second Introduction to Golf day.

Fortified by bacon rolls and coffee, they collected their equipment and assembled on the putting green. This involved instruction on the basics and then a chance to practise.



Next, they split into two groups and were shown the intricacies of chipping and other techniques on how to get their ball from around the green to be close to the hole. A trip to the driving range allowed them to see the basics of a good connection and how to drive the ball further.

Later they assembled on the first tee of the Northcliffe course - a gentle introduction to golf that allowed them to try their newly acquired skills. However, it wasn't long before they were all asking for lessons on how to get out of bunkers!

High time then to retire to the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole (the Club House) for a drink or two.





The winner for the day with 75 shots gross was Paul Parker (pictured right with Andrew Berry, Vice Chairman of the East Kent Light Blues). Insisting he had never won any sporting trophy in his life, he was overheard calling home and asking his wife to urgently clear a space on their mantelpiece!

Other awards were given for second and third place; nearest the pin on the fifth and eighteenth holes; and "Most golf played on the day". To save blushes, we've pictured all the recipients together: Steve Quayle, Joseph Ezenwoke, Paul Parker & David Lanckmans.



## **WILLIAM BLAY TROPHY**

The annual inter-Lodge golfing tournament for the William Blay trophy was this year held at Tenterden Golf Club on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

William Frederick Blay was Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the East Kent Province from 1927 to 1946, and this prestigious trophy has been contested each year since 1949. The valuable Trophy will shortly be exhibited in the Province's Museum and Library at Canterbury.

Forty members and guests attended Tenterden Golf Club and were met with a warm welcome and glorious weather. Of the forty players, eight Lodges each submitted a team of four. In a change to the usual format, the rules were relaxed so that Lodges could be included even if they had not been able to field a full team. Others were also invited to take part individually.

East Kent's captain Daren Horne took to the tee to launch the Event. Dressed in his new, brightly coloured captain's shirt and cheered on by the waiting crowd he launched his ball with a firmly struck number six iron but, alas, failed to hit the first green. Never mind – we were off!

In the clubhouse afterwards, Daren welcomed everyone back, and we were greeted with a light lunch. The collection raised £178 for the captain's charity 'Dandelion Time' who offer help to children with challenging emotional issues often resulting from trauma, violence, or serious health issues within the family.



Individual Winner Nigel Turner (right) with Daren Horne





Event results:

**Individual Winner** - Nigel Turner, United Service Lodge No.3124 with 42 points

**Runner Up** - Steve Young, Prince Edwin's Lodge No.125 with 41 points

**Third Place** - Gordon Brown, Malling Centenary Lodge No.8068 with 39 points

**William Blay Team Event**

**Winners:** Prince Edwin's Lodge No.125 (pictured above) with 136 points

**Runners UP:** Malling Centenary Lodge No.8068 with 134 points

**Third Place:** Douglas Lodge No.1725 with 124 points

## GEOFFREY GORDON DEARING BOWL

In July the East Kent Masonic Golf Association visited the Weald of Kent Golf Club for the annual contest for the Geoffrey Gordon Dearing Bowl. Geoffrey Dearing is a former Provincial Grand Master and currently has a senior role to play as President of the Board of General Purposes at Grand Lodge in London.



Geoffrey Dearing teeing off



Overall, thirty-four Masons from across East Kent took part in this year's event. We were also delighted to be joined by several guests and prospective members.



One of the highlights of the day was for Phillip Playle (pictured) from United Service Lodge No.3124 who scored a 'Hole in One' on the tough, par five, 6<sup>th</sup> Hole. Honouring the tradition of buying everyone a drink, this turned out to be an expensive day for Phil!

The main competition was won by Keith Miller of the Malling Centenary Lodge No.8068 with a score of 39 points. Paul Ames from the Erasmus Wilson Lodge No.1464 came a close second.



Daren Horne, Keith Miller and Geoffrey Dearing

The Best Guest for the day was Paul Knight who had been invited by members of Douglas Lodge No.1725.

The charity collection raised another £198.50 for 'Dandelion Time', captain Daren Horne's chosen charity of the year.

## GROUP 8 HELP FUND A NEW PATH LAB

A new unit dedicated to Medical Research has opened at the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital (QEQM) in Margate Kent.

The Clinical Trials Unit's purpose is to provide high quality support in running clinical trials in line with international regulatory standards, from the planning stages right through to analysis and reporting. Until now, anyone eligible to participate in many of the leading clinical trials would have had to travel to London or Brighton - an impossible journey for the sickest patients.



Jessica Evans, Colorectal Consultant Surgeon and Director of Research & Innovation at the Trust, effectively heads up the new CTU. It was she who first approached Ray Hazelton, Group 8 Craft Charity Coordinator and Charity Steward of the Trinity Lodge No.7021 at Margate.

Jess had received help from Freemasonry in the past: during her training at the Royal Marsden Hospital, she had been lucky enough to have been awarded a Royal College of Surgeons research fellowship **that was funded by Freemasons!**

The CTU itself was funded by donations to the East Kent Hospitals Charity. It was hoped that the CTU could include its own Pathology area: Ray was asked if local Masons could help raise the £22,000 required to equip it.

Accepting the challenge, Ray became the driving force behind the fundraising initiative. He worked tirelessly to encourage Lodges to make the initial donations and communicated updates on a regular basis.



Ray takes up the story:

A Group 8 Charity Stewards Zoom meeting was arranged, at which Jess Evans gave a short presentation. This had the desired effect: a Barbecue, a Barn Dance, a Sponsored Walk,

Bike Rides and Personal Donations raised thousands of pounds. Sixteen of the seventeen Lodges and six Chapters in the Group donated the lion's share of the money. With the support of their Charity Stewards, most donated £250, but some were able to raise several times that amount. Fundraising during a Pandemic created its own unique problems, but Freemasonry rose to the challenge. The **Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity** and the **Masonic Charitable Foundation** both stepped in to help, by means of match funding.



Ray Hazelton (left) talking to members of the hospital team

By the summer of 2022, the target had been hit.

The Clinical Trials Unit was officially opened on June 23rd.

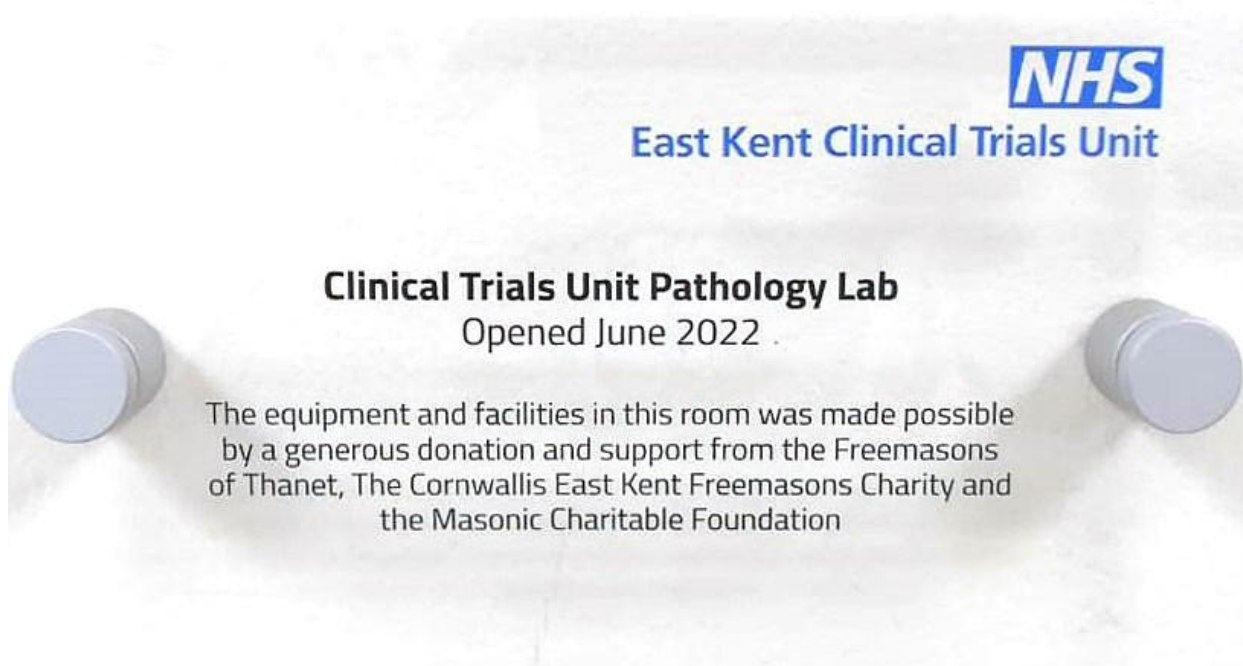
Said Ray, “The CTU will be providing real benefits to the people of Thanet, East Kent and beyond for years to come. The CTU can improve outcomes for so many now and in the future and provide hope for some of the sickest patients. With the hard work and support of Freemasons in our Group, the Province and Masonic charities we have played our part in making it happen. Thank you all”.

Because of time and diary restraints the formal cheque presentation could not be made until the 28<sup>th</sup> July. On that day some of the Group's Charity Stewards were able to tour the CTU, see the Pathology area and meet Jess Evans, members of her team and the East Kent Hospitals Charity representatives, and see how the money raised had been spent.

Jim Mason, Group 8 Chairman, and Ray Hazelton were among those who attended the official opening and the cheque presentation. Here is Jim's report:

On the 28<sup>th</sup> July Jess and one of her team showed us around the facility. It comprises a four-bedded Ward with dedicated Nurses Station, a generous Consultation Room, the Clinical Preparation room, Offices and the new Pathology Lab. itself. Most of the physical floor-space had come from part of a ward long since closed and most recently used to store discarded equipment of all sorts and the bins!

The Pathology Lab. (the bit that we paid for) has three refrigerators, one set at 4°, another at minus 20° and the third at minus 80°. There is also a "fume cupboard" which allows the researchers to work with blood, tissue, and other samples without fear of infecting themselves. The donations also paid for a refrigerated centrifuge which allows the researchers to separate a sample based on density. Secure storage, computers and an advanced air-conditioning system designed to keep the ambient temperature at optimum are also provided.



With no Clinical Trials Unit or Pathology Lab. the samples would have had to be sent to other centres up and down the country, with some going as far as Leeds. The ability to handle samples on site allows the Unit to be far more agile and for a greater range of complex studies to be undertaken.

Jess gave us an example. A colorectal cancer patient at a similar facility where she had previously worked was not responding to conventional medication. The CTU there was able to prescribe an experimental treatment from one of the drug companies and to progress it as it was being monitored by the Pathology Lab. The total cost of this individual's treatment was estimated at £6.5m and the cost was borne exclusively by the drug company. The patient had now been clear of cancer for nearly eight years.



The CTU at Margate has now welcomed its first patients. Our charitable donations have already started to make a difference.

I was truly amazed by what I saw and what I heard during my visits. An old storage area had been transformed into a state-of-the-art facility for the benefit of all our communities and by all attending the QEQM. The combined efforts and enthusiasm of the Group's Craft and Chapter Charity Stewards in encouraging their members to support this initiative is testament that **'by working together we can make that vital difference'**.



Pictured (L-R): Nigel Mann, Maurice Kennett, Jessica Evans, Ray Hazelton, Frank Stocks and Jim Mason

Jess had faith in our organisation anyway, but said she was surprised how we had managed to raise so much money during a Pandemic in such a short time. The Charity Stewards concurred. They were proud and pleased to have been able to help - and in near unison replied, "It's what we as Freemasons do".

In gratitude of our support a plaque is sited at the entrance indicating that the Pathology Unit was constructed from donations from the Freemasons of Thanet, the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity and the Masonic Charitable Foundation. A brilliant Group effort! A comment from Jess sums it up best:

**"Patients are already benefitting from our efforts. But the people who will thank you the most are the patients we will never see".**

# WILL HE? WON'T HE?

## A CHAT WITH GEORGE

**Graeme Wyles, Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, writes:**

I was about to pounce.

Well, not 'pounce', exactly: more like 'leap into action'.

It's probably best if I explain.

"I Appoint you our Chapter Liaison Officer," said our Worshipful Master. "Your role is to help Brethren understand the clear and historical link between Craft and The Holy Royal Arch and to encourage them to think seriously about progressing their masonic journey through Royal Arch membership."

Thus, here I was, preparing to speak to George, our newly invested Junior Deacon, about the Royal Arch. I had bought him a beer. It was at least twenty minutes before dinner. The raffle tickets had been purchased. We had plenty of time for a chat.

"I suppose you want to give me the spiel about Chapter," he said. "I won't be forced into anything, you know."

"Quite right," I responded. "It's important that you take time to think about it, to consider whether this is the right time to move on from what you've experienced and learnt in Craft and explore ways in which it might be possible for you. No hard sell from me. What I do want to do, though, is help you make an informed decision."

Let's just say: 'he seemed sceptical'!

He fixed his eye on me. "A lot of people I've been speaking with say it's a waste of time, that I won't enjoy it." I looked straight back at him and simply asked, "When you were contemplating coming into Freemasonry, did everyone think it was a good idea? Were there people who tried to influence you, to encourage you to think again? Presumably you took everyone's views on board and then made your decision. I really can't see that this is any different."

"That's fair. But look, I've just been Invested as Junior Deacon. If I'm going to do anything, I'd like to wait 'til I've been through the Chair."



"Ok. Well, two thoughts," I replied. "I'm quite sure you will enjoy going through the various Chairs and be a good Master of our Lodge. However, I also think that the knowledge you will get from being a Companion in The Royal Arch will help you get more from your route to the Master's Chair.

"The other thing is that joining Chapter doesn't require you to progress immediately. That decision rests entirely with you. You are more than welcome to sit with your friends and experience the workings of your new Chapter and, indeed, see for yourself the amazing Exaltation Ceremony which brings a Brother into The Holy Royal Arch."

He thought for a moment. "

What made YOU join Chapter?" he asked - which was not an unreasonable question. To give myself a bit of thinking time, I bought him another beer.

"Well," I said, "I can only speak personally. You know if you've been reading the first book from The Lord of The Rings or watching the first series of Line of Duty on TV, and you reach the end of the last chapter or watch the final episode, you've enjoyed it and you want more. You look forward to the next part, which moves things forward. Well, for me, that's like Freemasonry. I wanted to join the Royal Arch because I felt it was the next logical step for me. It followed on, simply and naturally, from everything I'd enjoyed in Craft."



"Why 'the next logical step'?"

"You're making me work hard here, George!

"The UGL Book of Constitutions is quite specific - Antient Masonry consists of three Degrees and no more, viz the Entered Apprentice; Fellow Craft and Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch. Having achieved the first three, why would I not want to embrace the latter?"

"Moreover, think about the exchange between the Worshipful Master and the Senior and Junior Wardens during the Third Degree Closing, where the genuine secrets of a Master Mason are being sought. Why wouldn't I want to explore whether there might be a continuance and, indeed, if this brought some sort of completion?"

However, George wanted more.

"Was it the end? Is there completion? Surely nothing can ever be said to be complete?"

"Did I find Completion? No. At least not initially but, as with most things, you tend to take out what you put in. Over time I was able to interpret the story unfolding in the Exaltation Ceremony which, for me, brought a satisfactory conclusion. Again, for me, it completed that part of my masonic journey. So - yes, I did find an ending which made sense of things."

"A different topic," he said. "Tell me what the difference is between Holy Royal Arch and Chapter."

I smiled. "A more straightforward one. Thank you. The answer is 'none'. Chapter is the generic name and the Holy Royal Arch the formal name. Just as Craft Masons meet in a Lodge, so members of the Holy Royal Arch meet in Chapters."

"I know that Craft has a long history. What about Chapter?"

Looking at my watch while also looking to see if the Director of Ceremonies was likely to call us to Dinner, I thought there just might be time.

"Well, there is some debate as to the precise origin of the Royal Arch. That said, there are records showing that from the early eighteenth century Craft Masons were practising Royal Arch ceremonies. Indeed, the Royal Arch Degree was held in the highest esteem with Conferment of the Degree being considered the highest privilege that could be obtained by a Mason. Supreme Grand Chapter as we know it was established in 1817. So, yes, the Royal Arch enjoys a long history - and you, my friend, have the opportunity to be part of its future."

With that, the DC demanded we take our seats.

"Thank you," said George as he moved towards the Dining Room. "I enjoyed our chat more than I imagined I would!"

I wondered to myself:

**"Will he? Won't he?"**

**More from George in the next issue of The Provincial Lite**







# CALLING ALL ANGLERS

**The East Kent Branch of the Masonic Fishing Charity** seeks enthusiastic and competent coarse fishermen to assist with its work in providing a countryside experience for disadvantaged young people.

**Patience, Passion & Persistence** are the hallmarks of any committed angler. Have you got what it takes to join our friendly and welcoming regular team who inspire youngsters from within our local communities? We usually meet four times a year (April, June, July and September) at fisheries around the Province.

For more information or to register your interest, contact the team at [ekmfc@btinternet.com](mailto:ekmfc@btinternet.com)

Tight lines and best wishes from Keith, the Davids, the Pats, Julian, Gerry and Richard

## SEASON'S OPENER – AT HORSHAM FISHING LAKE

Richard Dixey reports:

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 – and a lovely bright morning at Horsham Fishing Lake, Upchurch, for our first Masonic Fishing Charity event since September 2019.

The Anglers and Team arrived a little late after some traffic delays, but keenness and bacon rolls, tea and coffee soon got us ready for the off.

Chairman David Alexander and Past Chairman Peter Brooshooft were among those busying themselves preparing for their Guest Students, who arrived at ten o'clock full of excitement. Briefings to Anglers and Students were given, Anglers were allocated to Students, and it was "all systems go". Pretty soon there were squeals of joy all around the lake - some from the Students too!







And another fine catch!



Time flew as it always does. Over a lunch of burgers and hot dogs, the Students compared notes of their catches. The usual “fisherman's tales” were in full flow - “it was **this** big”; “I lost a record size fish”; and so on. After lunch, we were all back behind the rods for Part Two. In no time at all, it seemed, we were back at base for the finale - a presentation of Certificates for “Angling Ability” and Medals. Assistant Provincial Grand Master Duncan Rouse was our Distinguished Visitor, who, assisted by Gerry Stupple, made the presentations.



APGM Duncan Rouse (left) with Gerry Stupple and happy Student

The Students had clearly had a super day. It was rewarding for the MFC team to receive so many thanks from the Carers and Teachers, who told us just how much all their Students looked forward to the Event each year.



## TOP OF THE CHARTS AGAIN

Richard Dixey writes:



Our third and much-anticipated event of 2022 was held at Chart Fishery, near Chart Sutton, well known to all of the Anglers as one of the more prolific fishing venues - and we and the Students were not to be disappointed! The Venue had been closed to the public for a while and had had very little fishing pressure over the last couple of years, hence the eagerness of everyone to get started.

On a wonderfully fine 14<sup>th</sup> July, Anglers arrived and selected their pitches. After the welcome bacon rolls and tea we waited for our guests. The schools arrived at about ten o'clock. Anglers were allocated to students - and we were off! The hot weather fortunately did not interfere with the fishing as sometimes is the case. At the Briefing, we had been reminded to wear our hats, drink plenty of water and not to spend too long in the sunshine.

The Students were catching good size fish from the very first cast, mainly Carp from 2lb to 10lb in weight: but with the water positively 'boiling' with fish, it was more difficult NOT to catch anything! That's fishing sometimes ... okay, but not often!.



After Lunch, a feast of burgers and hot dogs, we all gathered to receive our distinguished visitor, Assistant Provincial Grand Master Mark Costelloe. A very enthusiastic Gerry Stupple began to announce the first of the recipients for their Certificates & Medals but was quickly reminded by Mark that he, Mark, would like to commence proceedings with a few words!



The Students waited patiently and excitedly for their names to be called, then beamed with delight at the cheers and applause they received from all present. The day seemed to pass too quickly, but the thrill of the fishing will live long with the Students, Anglers, Helpers and everyone who took part. We all left with good fishing memories of a beautiful summer's day and with the added bonus of a suntan!

Our sincere thanks to the Owners of Chart Fishery for again allowing us to hold this wonderful event on their waters.





## SEPTEM AND SPINOZA: ANOTHER EPIC TRIP

Septem Lodge No.7788 and the Spinoza Lodge No.50 of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium are good friends. For a few years now Septem members have been attending Spinoza's annual Installation Meeting. They missed last year because of the COVID Pandemic, but on the 6<sup>th</sup> May this year they set out to make up for lost time.

Kevin Kemp reports:

### **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Nineteen intrepid East Kent Freemasons, six of whom were making this trip for the first time, set off to re-connect with the Brethren of the Spinoza Lodge No.50, of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium, on their sixth annual visit for their Installation meeting. The trip had obviously been missed in 2021 due to the lockdown, but all of us were excited to be going once again.

Getting there wasn't without a few problems. We met up outside the Dover Masonic Hall, one of the four cars being twenty minutes late owing to traffic. As the cars were being loaded, one of the members discovered he had left his suit at home.



Ostend

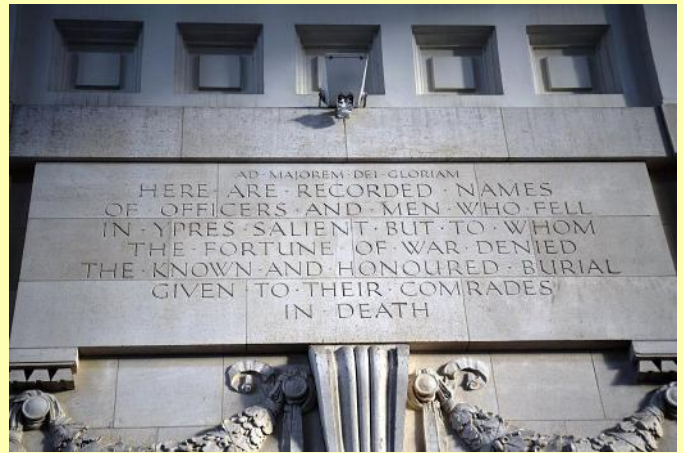
Making frantic telephone calls, he arranged for his wife to drive from Broadstairs to the Eurotunnel terminal. Despite this, we managed to get to the terminal and departure gates on time.

Once across the Channel we drove to Adinkerke, where we did some shopping and had lunch. Next, we made our way to Ostend where we booked into our hotel for the next two nights.

Although many of us had been on this trip before, we had never visited the Menin Gate.

As stated in Wikipedia, the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is a war memorial in Ypres, dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres Salient of World War 1 and whose graves are unknown. The memorial is located at the eastern exit of the town and marks the starting point for one of the main roads out of the town that led Allied soldiers to the front

line. "Menin" is the traditional name of the gate in this location of Ypres' city walls because it leads to the town of Menen. Designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and built by the Imperial War Graves Commission (since renamed the Commonwealth War Graves Commission), the Menin Gate Memorial was unveiled on 24 July 1927 in the village of Leper.



The Last Post Association, based in Belgium, are responsible for the Menin Gate and the evening tribute to the fallen. Trip organiser Kevin Kemp had contacted them and arranged for us to take part in the ceremony. Four of our party, dressed as Freemasons and wearing collars, laid a Wreath in memory of the Fallen.

The ceremony began with a bugle call, followed by the Last Post. Peter Guise (Master of Septem Lodge), escorted by Mark Bassant (Assistant Provincial Grand Master), David Graeme (Provincial Grand Secretary) and Kevin Kemp (Secretary of the Septem Lodge and an armed services veteran himself) laid the Wreath.

Every member of the party was visibly moved by the ceremony. The number of people who attended was amazing: from small children to older veterans, everybody came and paid their respects.



Many were not aware that the thousands of names engraved into the beautiful stonework of the Menin Gate represented those who not only had made the ultimate sacrifice but whose bodies had never been found; nor did they have a marked grave. Many published photographs will show you this, but the size of the Menin Gate, which is covered with names, is truly astounding.

The camaraderie at the Ceremony was unexpected and amazing. Many people came to us and shook our hands with a greeting of “Hello Brother”. Other Freemasons in the crowds of people came from Warwickshire, Suffolk, Norfolk and the Midlands. We only discovered after the ceremony that the first party to lay a wreath was from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion the Parachute Regiment - and it was the Dover Branch of the Parachute Association! As always, during conversations, one of the veterans became a potential new candidate to Freemasonry.

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

After a good night’s sleep and a hearty breakfast, we had the morning free to explore Ostende, then at 12:00 we met in the Lobby for our taxi drive to Gistel and the Hôtel Tenputte, where the Spinoza Lodge Installation was to be held. A large room on the ground floor of the hotel is permanently set up as the Temple for Spinoza. As we had plenty of time prior to the meeting, a local hostelry provided light refreshments and a spot of lunch. There we met some Freemasons who had travelled from Germany and were also going to the Installation.



Back at the hotel we were very pleased to meet our old friends, some of whom we had not seen for nearly two years but who still gave us that warm welcome that binds our Fraternity together. We formed up and were escorted into the Lodge, where we had the pleasure of observing the Installation of the new Master, Didier Verschure. The Ceremony was

conducted in the Flemish language, but we were still able to follow what was going on, thanks to the symbolism and ritual which were very similar to ours in England.



We had a superb meal at the Festive Board. Freemasons from Belgium, England, France, Germany and Holland all made short speeches. Peter Guise presented a certificate of Fellowship and Friendship and a Septem Lodge Past Master's Jewel to Didier. The jewel signified the special bond between the two Lodges. It was not to be worn in the Lodge but was

to be presented by the Newly Installed Master to the Immediate Past Master at the Festive Board. We have a similar arrangement at Septem Lodge, where a Spinoza Jewel is presented to the Master for passing on to his successor.

During the Festive Board there was a surprise for Colin North. Colin had given himself a challenge of riding a Lawnmower from Lands' End to John 'O Groats to set a new record for the Guinness Book of World Records and to raise much-needed funds for the Motor Neuron Disease, Kenward Trust and the East Kent Province's 2025 Festival. The members of Spinoza Lodge presented him with £400 as a donation. A visibly emotional Colin thanked the members of the Spinoza Lodge and gave a brief talk as to why he had chosen the three charities he was supporting. He was applauded enthusiastically.

The evening was not quite over. John Newman changed from his Masonic dress into a Pink Tutu and Wedding Veil with some additional makeup applied by the Septem Master Elect, Alex Coppin, to celebrate his upcoming wedding in July by completing the evening as his 'Stag Party'.

[Editor's Note: I'd hoped to include a photo of John in his tutu but was threatened with legal action. LOL]





Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022



Next morning, after a hearty breakfast we checked out of the hotel and made our way back to Adinkerke for some last-minute shopping and, most importantly, the trip's 'fines' meeting.

Our Fines Master was John Newman himself. He had been keeping notes throughout the trip. Every member of the party received a fine of some sort or another. It was hilarious but all taken in good part. The tour fines were as usual put into our Ruling Masters Charity. Unselfishly, Peter Guise gave up this tradition and was happy for the fines money to be given to Colin North and his epic Mower Ride, so a further £300 and €250 were donated to his Charities, making a grand total for the weekend of around £900.

Freemasonry, our Provincial Grand Master Neil Johnstone reminds us, should be fun. Well, this was definitely a fun-filled weekend! We had our serious moments, of course, but we were able to socialise, make new friends and cement old friendships. We will always remember this trip and all the new brothers we have met.

My thanks to everyone who helped to make this such a special trip: our Active Officers, Mark, David, our TV star Colin, Paul Bohill and his friend from Hull Andy Ward, our special guests Gerry and Arthur, and all the members of the Septem Lodge, especially our two newer members, Mariusz and Ian. You gave me very few headaches, got all the documents completed and made it so easy for me to organise. Gerry, if you make the trip next year, you will never have to wear a light blue tour jacket again.

Thank you all for being my brothers.

## RELIEF AND SUPPORT ARE HERE

Tricky times ahead.

You may have received an email recently in which Duncan Rouse, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, outlined the various sources of help and support that the Province can offer. In case you missed it, here it is again:



Dear Brethren and Companions

As we head out of our summer recess towards a resumption of our masonic meetings it is clear that a great number of us are going to have to face the challenges of the current economic reality of increased energy prices, cost of living rises and of course inflation. This situation may cause varying degrees of hardship for some, if not many, of our brethren and companions.

With this real possibility in mind, I thought it might be both opportune and helpful to remind you of the resources that are in place within our Province to provide relief and support to those who are in most need.



**Masonic**  
Charitable Foundation

### **Masonic Charitable Foundation.**

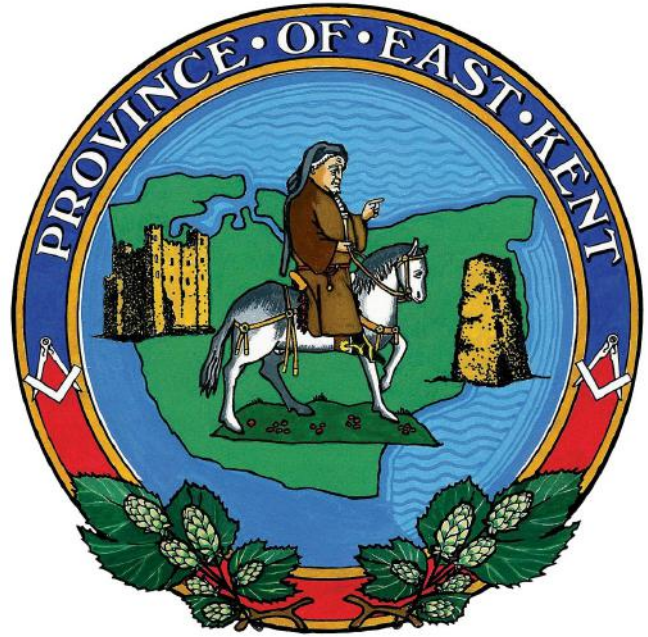
**(MCF)** – [www.mcf.org.uk](http://www.mcf.org.uk) This is our national charity and one of its main aims is to help Freemasons and their families and dependents in time of need and difficulty. Among the various types of support provided by the MCF are Daily Living Expenses Grants. These are of course means tested and can make a big difference to those in need of financial support. One of the reference points for the means test is the Minimum Income Standard which is published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Historically, the MCF review their assessment criteria on an annual basis, however this year, in the light of the current economic situation, the MCF have decided to bring forward their review by 6 months to ensure that, with effect from 1 October 2022, full account of today's economic reality is taken into consideration when looking to provide much needed grants.



**Lodge Almoner Accounts.** Some of our lodges maintain limited funds which can be used to bring urgent and quick relief to Brethren in difficulty.

**Provincial Grand Almoners Fund.**

The Province of East Kent also maintains a Provincial Grand Almoners Fund which can be utilised at the discretion of the Provincial Grand Almoner to provide fast and effective relief to those in most urgent need. This is usually, but not necessarily exclusively, an interim measure and is often used at the outset of an identified need prior to MCF support being available.



Brethren and companions and their families who are suffering can of course contact their Lodge Almoner who can in many cases provide advice, or at the least, direct them to the MCF, Provincial Grand Almoner or appropriate visiting volunteer. For those who for whatever reason, e.g. confidentiality, prefer not to contact the Almoner, a call can always be made directly to the **MCF on their helpline – 0800 035 60 90.**

**Please remember that these “safety nets” are in place and able to be accessed. All calls made, and information provided to the Masonic Charitable Foundation, Provincial Grand Almoner, Visiting Volunteers and Lodge Almoners are treated with the utmost confidentiality and compassion.**

With very best fraternal wishes

Duncan

Duncan Rouse

**Assistant Provincial Grand Master**

**Welfare and Support, Learning and Development and Retention**

## MARGATE OPENS ITS DOORS

Steve Wyatt, Provincial Grand Membership Officer and Secretary of Union Lodge No.127, writes:

The Masonic Centre based in New Cross Street Margate opened its doors to the public on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August for what I hope will be a regular Open Day.



The event, which I was pleased to organise, was developed for two reasons:

*to invite the public in to see exactly what Freemasonry is really about, to highlight our charitable fundraising activities and to dispel myths in relation to Freemasonry;*

*to encourage new membership.*

Brethren from other Lodges in Group 8 were there to support us, as were Lady Freemasons who talked to the partners of visitors about their work in the Community as well.

There were displays of Craft, Royal Arch and Mark regalia, together with various other appendant orders including Rose Croix, Athelstan, Alfred the Great, Knights Templar and Red Cross of Constantine.

Each display had a write-up and description of the Order together with some interesting facts.

From the moment the doors opened at ten o'clock there was a steady flow of visitors who were met by brethren, offered light refreshments and given a tour of the displays and Meeting Room. In total there were over 150 visitors with a group of ladies making a special journey from Canterbury just to speak with the Lady Masons.

This was a really worthwhile exercise. It became clear from the people I spoke to and from other feedback that the public really are unaware of the work we do in our communities. We certainly dispelled a lot of those myths.





So far, we know that we have two gentlemen who have been given a Form P as they will have sponsors, there are three Brethren who are from outside the area who wish to be joining members - and from the forty-seven follow-up packages handed out we are hopeful that we will get a good number of enquiries through the Just Ask One website.

I am very grateful for the support given by Lodges from Margate, Ramsgate and Birchington. My thanks go also to Assistant Provincial Grand Masters Mark Bassant and Richard Wingett and to the Lady Masons.

Feedback from the public was very positive:

“It was well organised and well attended in the short time I was there”

“Will you do it again, as there was so much information, I need to return to read it all?”

If any other centres would like advice on setting up an Open Day, I would be happy to share my learning points, loan equipment and pass information on to them. I can be contacted via my email: [membership@ekprovince.co.uk](mailto:membership@ekprovince.co.uk)



## A SNAPSHOT OF OUR PAST

*My visit to Cana Chapter, Colne, Lancashire.*

*One of the two oldest warranted Chapters still practising*



Dennis Fordham of the Invicta Chapter No.705 writes:

### So Why Travel to Lancashire just to Visit Cana Chapter?

Before the COVID pandemic, fellow Companion Clive Manuel and I researched and produced a Playlet called **'In The Beginning'**, a glimpse of the early years in Royal Arch Masonry based on the Cana Lodge or 'Chapter of the First Miracle, No. 5, (Coln)' in Colne, Lancashire. Cana is steeped in history, and many of its ancient traditions are still practised today, so it **was a must to experience first-hand.**

Cana's history goes way back before the formation of the first Grand Chapter of the Moderns in 1766. Prior to this it was operating under the 'York Old Charges or Constitutions' - handwritten charges that gave them their authority to meet as a Lodge and make Masons.

Colne's Old Charge, circa 1670, has been described as one of the title deeds of our fraternity and proof of our antiquity.

**Cana** was an Antient Lodge/Chapter. When the first Grand Chapter was formed in 1766, it changed its allegiance to the Moderns. In January 1769 it received one of the early Warrants issued by Grand Chapter: in fact, out of eight early Warrants issued at that time only five of those Chapters are still in existence.



Cana was the fifth Warranted Chapter. It bears the signature of Lord Cadwallader Blayney who was the Grand Master of the Premier Grand Lodge and first Grand Master of the first Grand Chapter.

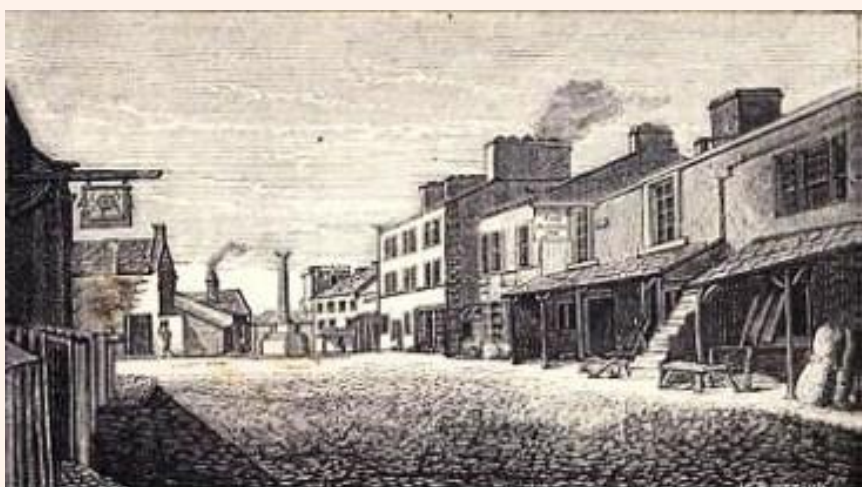
The 'Cana Lodge or Chapter of the First Miracle No 5', as it was then known, was Warranted on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1769 along with its sister Chapter 'The Bethlehem Lodge or Chapter of the Nativity No 4' at Burnley.

They are jointly the oldest English Royal Arch Warranted Chapters in the world, both celebrating 250 years in 2019.



After the formation of **Supreme Grand Chapter**, Chapters were no longer to be independently chartered, but were to be sponsored by a Lodge to whose Warrant the Chapter was to be attached. Cana Chapter had always been associated with the Royal Lancashire Lodge No.116, which was warranted in 1762 and, like Cana Chapter, met at the 'Hole i'th Wall Inn'.

It was a natural progression that Cana became attached to the Royal Lancashire: its number was therefore changed from No.5 to No.116, but it retained its original name.



Hole i'th Wall Inn' (left) Colne Lancashire 1636

In exchange for its new Warrant, Cana had to surrender its original to Supreme Grand Chapter.



Fortunately for them, a hundred years later, in 1884, it was returned to them and has been well preserved ever since. **Only two of the original Warrants issued survive today: Nativity and Cana.**

At the time Cana received its Warrant it was meeting at the Hole i'th Wall Inn', Market Street Colne, Lancashire.



**Hole i'th Wall Inn', as it is today  
now called Market Street Tavern**

The 'Hole i'th Wall Inn' was built in 1636 and as seen in the present-day image still retains its 17th/18th century character. It originally started trading not as a pub but as one of the very first off-licences, serving beer, which was brewed on the premises, and sold through what was literally a hole in the wall, hence the name. It is thought to be the oldest surviving meeting place for Royal Arch Freemasons. Masonic gatherings there ceased around 1797.

Cana moved several times before settling down a hundred years ago just a short distance from the 'Hole i'th Wall Inn' at 91 Albert Street.

During those pre-union times Cana had many traditions, its own ritual, its own tracing board and unique regalia and clothing, much of which has been preserved.

It ceased using its pre-union regalia, which is now preserved in the Manchester Museum. shortly after the union.





## My visit

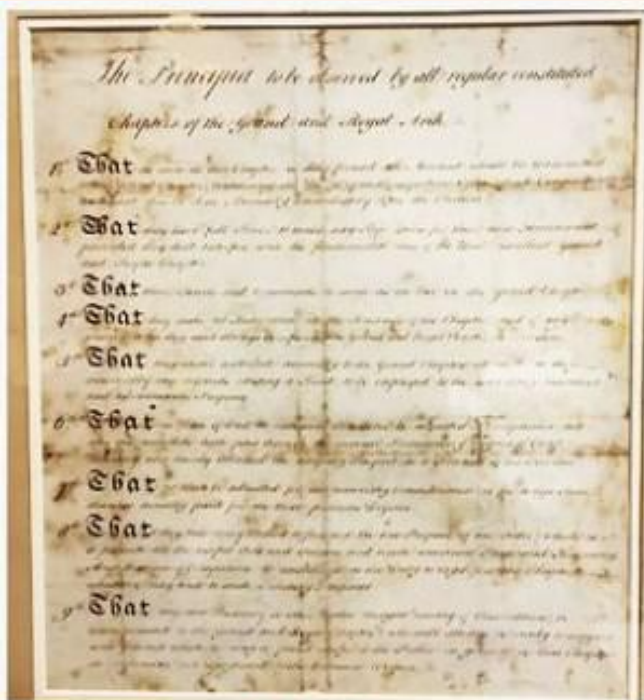


Present day Masonic Hall

Eddie Forkgen, my host, escorted me to the centre. There I was made extremely welcome by all. It was great to finally meet those with whom I had been communicating over the previous two years, particularly their Historian Robert Heap, also currently Head of the Chapter. Before the meeting he gave me a personal guided tour of the building, showing me many old Lodge and Chapter documents and objects, all epitomising the depth of history that was there.

On entering the Lodge/Chapter Room my first impression was it was more Lodge orientated, displaying a craft mosaic flooring; many of the items of furniture and jewels that we are familiar with in our own Chapters were absent.

The most striking object that drew my attention when entering was their type of Pedestal in the East. On the front was a duplicate of their ancient Tracing Board. On the top West side were two pillars supporting an arch containing seven candles in the form of a menorah - a multibranched candelabra symbolically when lit expressing Faith and Hope with its light. Light has always been a very important symbol in Christianity.



Principia  
Canas' rules and regulations

Each of the three Principals takes his Obligation on that Pedestal.

On display in the Lodge/Chapter Room were a number of early documents. The Warrant took pride of place, next to another extremely valuable document called 'Principia' - the oldest known copy of Grand Chapter Bye-Laws. It was the work of the same hand as produced their Chapter Warrant dated 1769 and may possibly have accompanied it.

**Principia** is a Latin word, meaning rules and regulations.

Also on display and worthy of mention were three very old hand-painted Royal Lancashire Lodge Certificates.



Left - James Bradley issued 24th June 1762 - one of the oldest Lodge Certificates in existence.

Richard Bradley issued 1764 - Right



Left - Henry Spencer The artist – Scribe's own Certificate issued 1765



*The ceremony I was privileged to experience was an Exaltation, performed to a very high standard, which, coupled with their different wording, movements and signs made it a most intriguing experience.*

### **Opening the Chapter**

*Their opening is highly unusual, very similar in many respects to craft masonry. Officers are requested to give their place ('situation') and their duties. The terminology was totally different from that found in normal Royal Arch ritual.*

The Exaltation ceremony that followed was certainly different: different wording, different floor work, different actions and signs keeping me on the edge of my seat wondering what was coming next!



The three Princixipals: Robert Heap (MEZ), Tony Hindle (H), Ian Salthouse (J)

After an excellent meeting we all retired downstairs to the Festive Board. Just as unusual as their opening, the normal questions the Principal Sojourner would be asked at the Festive Board by the 1st Principal as part of their closing ritual were given as would have been practised in early times. Along with the other Companions I was treated to a superb and delightful three course meal served by members of the Chapter, coupled with different traditions. Plenty of masonic banter rounded off for me an experience I will personally treasure.

## THE 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.

### Provincial Communications Officer      Paul Gear

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Press and Media Manager	Phil Heath	<a href="mailto:media@ekprovince.co.uk">media@ekprovince.co.uk</a>
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Communications Officer for the HRA	Chris Sanford	<a href="mailto:thesanfords@screaming.net">thesanfords@screaming.net</a>

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](http://yourprovince.org/yp2)