

PROVINCIAL



THE MAGAZINE FOR EAST KENT CRAFT AND ROYAL ARCH



Warming the winter months with the Freemasons

FREE CAR STICKER INSIDE

Editor's Notes



Welcome to issue 71 of *The Provincial*.

This time last year we had little idea of what was coming. Like the pantomime demon, COVID-19 crashed on to the stage with a roar. It has dominated our thoughts and actions ever since.

In November 2020, Collins Dictionary gave us their top Word of the Year, 'Lockdown', closely followed by 'furlough', 'key worker', 'self-isolate' and 'social distancing'.

Freemasons are a resilient bunch. We may have had our meetings disrupted, but we have found new ways of keeping in touch — via Zoom, Teams and other online social media.

And we have continued our charitable work, for which we should be immensely proud. If you read the online COVID-19 magazine from our Provincial Grand Master, Neil Johnstone, you will have got a flavour of the activities we have been up to and of the thanks we have received. Thoughts to warm your heart through the winter.

Our Executive Team have been as busy as ever, steering our ship through these uncharted waters and offering their experience and advice along the way. In this specially enlarged issue, I've asked them to give us their thoughts on where we are and the way ahead. Read on!

John Ray, Editor

Christmas Message From Our Chaplain

Howard Pashley writes:

We were beginning to get back to normal. We were beginning to make plans. But, as a church friend of mine always used to say, "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans".

In early November I said goodbye to my Wednesday walking group (the Slow Six, as opposed to the Famous Five or the Secret Seven) and cancelled our proposed pre-Christmas lunch.

On the Tuesday I attended the gym for the last time that month, although I had provisionally booked in for the first Thursday in December. Perhaps more importantly, on the Sunday I received Communion for the provisional last time, and the previous Sunday I celebrated the "Holy Mysteries" for the provisional last time.

Being "a man under authority" I followed the government guidelines and the instructions of my bishop that the church would be open for private

prayer but not for sacraments — sacraments apart from funerals, that is.

My bishop suggested that we might spend more time during that second Lockdown in praying and fasting, an idea that was not to be dismissed.

As Masons we've generally not been able to attend our meetings or our Festive Boards, so we had to make a virtue out of a necessity and cut down (not out) on our eating and drinking. There were health benefits for our immune systems and our pancreatic functioning.

But we didn't forget the exercise, did we? I couldn't go to the gym, but I was still able to go for a walk, even if it wasn't with the "Slow Six".

But Christmas teaches us that "the people who dwell in darkness have seen a great light". We shall get through this crisis, and we shall all meet again. And, God willing, we shall all be slimmer and healthier.

Amen.

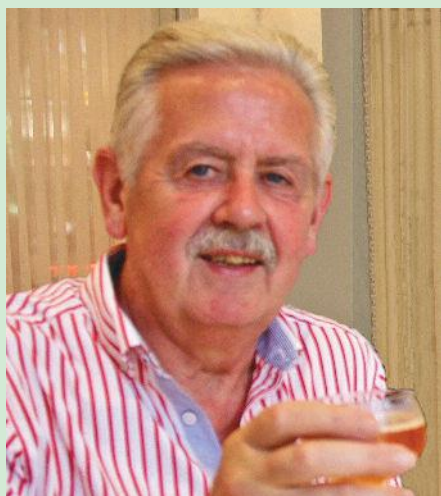


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A Message From Our Provincial Grand Master Neil Hamilton Johnstone



Brethren and Companions

It is at this time each year that I reflect upon how much has happened over the previous twelve months. On this occasion the most appropriate word that my

wife Margaret and I could find to describe the past year for us, our families, Freemasonry and indeed the world in general is 'extraordinary' — a year in which so many have experienced challenges and tragedies that have tested them in so many different ways. Our hearts go out in particular of course to all who have suffered the loss of a loved one for whatever reason, and our thoughts will be with them especially at this Christmas time.

It has, however, also been a year that has demonstrated the value and underlying principles of Freemasonry and the positive effects it has, not only within our memberships but also within our communities. I am enormously proud, as we all should be, of the ways in which the Freemasons in our great Province of East Kent have responded so willingly and effectively to those wide-ranging challenges to the health, welfare and wellbeing of others that have been presented by the pandemic we are currently living with.

It is so disappointing that our meetings and social contact were suspended or severely limited during the larger part of 2020: but it is abundantly clear that the spirit of Freemasonry continues, despite our not being able to meet each other in person. Indeed, I have seen those principles with which we are all so familiar extend further and further, as evidenced by the exceptionally good work undertaken to support those whose lives have been affected, sometimes quite dramatically. I am in the privileged position to see the beneficial effects and hear first-hand how the Province of East Kent helps so many people. I have been able, on your behalf, to visit and talk with many of the causes we have been supporting during this year, and I can assure you that every one of them is grateful for what you, as Freemasons of East Kent, have done and will continue to do for them.

We have always said that our charitable efforts are best measured by the impact they have on individuals in making a positive difference to their lives. It has been very clear to me that we continue to achieve that goal. We have detected that there is now a much greater understanding of the aims of Freemasonry within our communities and we have certainly generated more interest in it through our recent local, and indeed national, charitable activities. I record here my sincere appreciation to all who have been instrumental in somewhat difficult circumstances in identifying and providing support to so many local organisations and individuals.

On a personal note, having now been Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent for a little over two years, I am delighted with the progress being made in taking the Province forward even through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of our Lodges and Chapters have taken advantage of technology to keep in touch with members, families and, very importantly, those who are waiting to join Freemasonry when circumstances permit. You will have seen and, hopefully, experienced virtual meetings ranging from social gatherings and quizzes to talks and information sharing and much more besides. That has been a new concept for many of us and has provided a very effective tool with which we can keep in touch with each other, and especially with those who might otherwise have found themselves even more isolated.

I am confident that 2021 will see our lives settle down again and we will soon be able to enjoy each other's company and re-invigorate our Lodges and Chapters. I have every expectation that we will be able to pick up the postponed events for the 2025 Festival which will undoubtedly provide opportunities for the fun and enjoyment that we have missed this year. More importantly, it will enable us to honour the commitment we have made to support both the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity and the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which, as we have witnessed, have reacted so quickly and effectively during this unprecedented time of need for so many.

Christmas is always a time for hope and the New Year a time for renewed energy in all that we do.

I trust also that it will once again be a time of peace and enjoyment for you and your families and that as we move into 2021 you will all share my sense of optimism and confidence that a happy and healthy future lies ahead.

Margaret and I send our very best wishes to you all at this very special time of year.

Togetherness And The CEKFC Help Seven-Year Old Bunty



Bunty with her father Dean

Bunty Stalham is a seven-year-old Ramsgate girl who has the incurable condition Neurofibromatosis, which causes tumours to form on nerve tissue that eat away at bone — in Bunty's case, her left fibula (shinbone). Despite numerous operations at Great Ormond

Street over the years to save her shinbone there was no other option but to remove the lower limb.

An appeal to raise £20,000 was launched to obtain an 'Activity' prosthesis from the United States which had attachments allowing her to carry out different activities. The prosthesis had additional fittings which would enable it to grow with Bunty over the next few years.

To assist in raising funds, eight members of Union Lodge No.127 under the leadership of Charity Steward Phil Redman took part in a sponsored 'Great Union Marathon'.

They all pledged to walk the full distance (26.2 miles or 55,500 steps) or a half-marathon (13.1 miles or 27,750 steps) over a period of seven days. Sponsorship came from other Lodge members, their families and friends.

The COVID-19 Lockdown was no barrier: in fact, it gave the lads the opportunity to increase their general fitness levels, as we were all being urged to do.

Funds raised by the Lodge members totalled £1,500. Bunty's father Dean, who is a community artist and runs the Stretch Outsider gallery in Margate, contacted the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity (CEKFC), which matched the £1,500 and allowed Union Lodge to top up to the £20,000 required.

Bunty has now been to America where she has been measured for the prosthesis and will shortly be able to lead a more active life.



Lodge Master, Jim Mason, presenting the cheque to Bunty

The Life Of Brian



"Yes, but — apart from designing web sites, social media strategies, developing news stories from around the Province for both Craft and Chapter, liaising with the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity, the 2025 Festival, United Grand

Lodge, other Provinces, publications including The Provincial, providing media training and organising press days and of course managing 'Send in Blue' — what have the ~~Romans~~ Communications Team EVER DONE FOR US?"

The answer is rather complex: in a nutshell, what we do is inform, express feelings, imagine, influence and meet social expectations in a world that today is hungry for more digital communication — and demands it NOW, with growing impatience! New technology is always a great challenge as well.

It amazes us at how fast it grows and how it enables us to be better and quicker at what we do in a world of instant readiness.

Yes, we have had an awful year in Masonic Terms — but, as we move into 2021, with the potential of Freemasonry returning to normal, the future will start to look bright; but, of course, we all have the responsibility of 'turning the lights on' if we are to succeed.

It's time to consider where digital communications are heading and how we can leverage the direction to stay ahead of the curve, drive more engagement and influence for the better. This means that the Communications Team is going to be really busy on your behalf. We will try and bring you as much fun as possible as we move forward together.

In the meantime, may we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year?

Richard Wingett and the Communications Team

Don't Forget We Are A Masonic Family



**Duncan Rouse,
Provincial Grand
Almoner, writes:**

Freemasonry has done much to support our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, as you can read here and elsewhere. Not so much however has been said in the public domain about

what we have done to help our Brethren and the wider Masonic family. This is not because the support mechanism has shut down during the Pandemic: it is largely because we have to respect confidentiality and abide by the General Data Protection Regulation. Our support systems in the Province and the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) are still very much up-and-running.

If Brethren or family members require assistance, they can get in touch with their Lodge Almoner or with me on 01580 852232, email Duncan.rouse3053@gmail.com. We will be happy to advise and help as appropriate. Our Visiting Volunteers are unfortunately not able currently to carry out personal visits to help complete applications to the MCF, but they can still maintain contact and give advice over the phone.

You can also get in touch with the MCF directly. Although the staff have been working from home, the MCF Helpline has remained open: phone 0800 035 60 90, or email help@mcf.org.uk. If the phone line is busy and you are asked to leave a message, be assured that they won't take long to respond. Apart from certain medical assistance, the range of support available from the MCF remains unchanged. Subject to standard assessment, Brethren and their families can access financial support for daily living expense grants, grants following an accident, redundancy or personal crisis, and funeral bills and minor home repairs.

Help is also available for families with children in full-time education by way of essential costs for education or training, and scholarships, travel grants and student accommodation.

The RMBI Care Homes remain open, of course, offering nursing, residential, respite and dementia care.

In terms of medical help, the MCF decided at the beginning of December that they could provide a full service for all kinds of medical support. This decision is under constant review and may change in the light of the COVID-19 restrictions applying from time to time. The MCF counselling care line is also still fully operational and can be accessed via the MCF Helpline.

The above is a summary of the support available from the MCF. In these uncertain and challenging times however, it is also most important that we remember the values and ethos that underpin our Fraternity: the support we can all offer to our fellow Brethren and the wider Masonic family. Regular contact in this context is key. You will already be aware of the message that was communicated at the onset of the first Lockdown: that we all need to act as Almoners, by ensuring that contact is made and support is available to combat loneliness and isolation.

While some of our Brethren are suffering financial difficulties, we should also reflect on the fact that some may also be financially better off due to reductions in expenditure — and not just expenditure related to our curtailed Masonic activities. I was most heartened recently when I heard that one of our Lodges was considering establishing a hardship fund to help those members having difficulties in things like payment of Lodge subscriptions.

In these times we must not forget we are a Masonic family.

Christmas Photo Puzzle

Richard Wingett has sent us this photo. Three questions:

- Where in the county is it?
- What is its official name?
- What is its nickname?

Answers on back page.



From Fireman to Provincial Grand Almoner



Paul Settle MBE, Holy Royal Arch Provincial Grand Almoner, writes:

As we entered the second period of COVID-19 Lockdown, the Deputy Provincial Grand Superintendent, John Baker, suggested that “the life and thoughts of the Provincial Almoner and the link with the Fire

Brigade” might be an interesting topic to examine. So: here goes!

On leaving secondary education I was initially with the City of London Police cadets and subsequently served as a Constable at Wood Street ‘nick’.

After a while I took the decision to join the Fire Service, walking through the hallowed portal of the Southwark Training Centre as a recruit fireman with the London Fire Brigade in May 1973. A period of training both practical/physical and theoretical ensued. Its purpose was to try and imbue the attributes needed to be an effective professional fireman. These are highlighted by the terms ‘Perseverance, Dexterity, Tact, Explicitness, Gallantry, Observation, Loyalty, and Sympathy’ and are the terms associated with the eight-pointed star that is used by all Fire Services.

Having completed the demanding twelve-week course I was posted to operational duties. At this period of my career, I was only thinking about ‘Fire’. Little did any of us realise the range of peacetime emergencies that would follow my next twenty-eight years ‘under the blue light’. Almost immediately, London was rocked by an explosion at the Old Bailey, resulting in damage and injury to people and buildings alike. The doctrine of the perpetrators was to last for many years and affect life in London. As this doctrine passed, so matters moved to other ideologies with similar effect on the population and the emergency services.

Other major events involved aircraft, road traffic, mainline and underground railways and the collapse of a building. They all had had a huge effect on the those with whom I worked. Sometimes this was because of our direct involvement. Often it was because of the impact on relations and friends. I also remember those colleagues who lost their lives doing the job we all loved.

As well as carrying out normal operational duties, I became involved in other areas of the UK with Fire

Prevention advice and enforcement (or Fire Safety as it is now known). I also worked with the Police — using some of my former experiences and knowledge — and the Ambulance Services, as we all endeavoured to work more closely and offer benefits to each other. Later still, I moved on to Strategic Planning. Throughout my career, relationships with the public and other organisations had been a daily need.



I have restricted my comments to these generalities, rather than describing specific incidents, to illustrate a general background that I believe has enhanced my Masonic life.

I joined Freemasonry in East Kent just as I was about to retire from the Fire Service. I think I settled into Masonic life very quickly. Why? Because I soon discovered that apart from the general social nature of Lodges (in all their forms), a basic set of Tenets, summarised as ‘Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth’ had evolved to stimulate the way in which we can all develop ourselves and face life generally. I have continued to learn and involve myself with many aspects of the brotherhood, many of which only manifest themselves as my ‘time in’ progresses.

As an organisation Freemasonry is continually developing and must meet and adapt to ever-changing situations, none more so than the general health crisis currently prevailing. Overriding this is the need for empathy and compassion, as well as the provision of quantifiable assistance to our Brethren.

Finally, I hope that many of you will recognise that there are massive parallels between my working life and my Masonic life — personal development, meeting challenges expected and unexpected, organisational development and, above all, helping friend and stranger alike without fear or favour.

I would ask you to look for similar parallels in your own life and consider how you could bring this to your Masonic performance.

East Kent Masonic Clay Pigeon Shooting Society

Roger Wilkes writes:



Nick Jenkins (centre with sling) at our presentation of African Drums to the Holding On Letting Go charity at Demelza House

The society held its 2020 AGM in the summer, albeit by Zoom, and we had a change of Chairman. Outgoing Chairman Nick Jenkins had served in the post for five years and as stipulated in our constitution the time had come for him to step down. We were very sad to see Nick go, as he had been an inspirational officer to the group as well as being the Treasurer of the National Association of Masonic Clay Shooting Societies, a post he still holds. He had seen us through lots of competitions where we had hosted several visiting Provinces as well as visiting many. He had led us to donate many thousands of pounds to local charities and seen us through the first stages of this current awful pandemic where clay shooting was only able to be resumed for a short while.



Nick Jenkins and Rob Styles presenting gardening equipment to the Dandelion Trust at East Farleigh



Nick Jenkins making our donation of clothes, toiletries and drinks to the Chernobyl Children's Charity. Our new Chairman, Bernie Connolly, is on the left

The new committee also had some problems to deal with, especially the postponement of the National Masonic Championships and International Masonic Championship until the following year.

Anyone who would like to try the sport or maybe come along and join us is very welcome. We have several lady members, but we would welcome some younger members too, as in all Masonic competitions there are Ladies and Colts trophies as well as the usual Masonic ones. If clay shooting interests you please contact Roger Wilkes on 07768 123449 or eastkentclays@gmail.com



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The Provincial Grand Challenges

There Was A Young Fellow From Kent

Assistant Provincial Grand Master David Alexander writes:



As you may be aware, the principal players in the Education and Welfare Support Group are the Provincial Almoner, Provincial Mentor and the Provincial Education Officer, all of whom are

supported by a number of invaluable co-opted members, including some very dear Royal Arch colleagues. Our principal role is accurately described by the Group title. We do however involve ourselves in other collaborative tasks, which during the periods of Lockdown have included the two Provincial Grand Challenges. The first Challenge was a test of Masonic knowledge, aimed to involve a wide variety of Lodge members of all levels of experience, which in addition to proving to be a great deal of fun was a tremendously successful bonding exercise.

The 2020 Provincial Grand Challenge Mk II was more of an individual effort, still with the potential for a great deal of fun, to create a Masonic limerick. It was extremely gratifying to receive so many entries, over 120 in total. The Challenge has closed: all of the entries have been collated and put before the judging panel, who have had a wonderful time reviewing all of the entries. Inevitably they have had to make some very difficult decisions.

In congratulating all of those who “rose to the Challenge”, the panel want to mention especially the efforts of those who submitted the best entries from each of the Provincial Groups, and particularly to extend their congratulations to Andy Mahoney of the St Mary’s Gillingham Green Lodge No.6499 on being the most prodigious limericist. See the list of winning entries in the table below.

An electronic “flip book” containing many of the entries which had been received was distributed to all members. You can also find it in the education section of our members’ only website “Your Province — YP2” or via this link:

issuu.com/eastkentfreemasons/docs/provincial_limericks_fv

Finally, may I draw your attention to the words on the winners’ certificates signed by the Provincial Grand Master:

“May this certificate serve both as a reminder and an example of the way in which the Freemasons in East Kent came together during the Covid-19 Pandemic and resulting suspension of Masonic activity”.

WINNING ENTRIES BY GROUP

Group 1	Ian Blowers	Macartney Lodge No.3283
Group 2	Andy Mahoney	St Mary’s Gillingham Green Lodge No.6499
Group 3	Mark Lawson	Honor Oak Lodge No.1986
Group 4	George Baldwin	Graveney Court Lodge No.8637
Group 5	Mike Grigg	Stanley Wykeham Lodge No.6599
Group 6	Barry Willson	Setech Lodge No.8185
Group 7	Jason Kemp	Septem Lodge No.7788
Group 8	Roger Odd	Old Ruymian Lodge No.8391



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A walk in search of the Royal Arch...



Terry McGlone, 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, writes:

During these dark and troubling times, I conceived the idea of doing something completely different from my natural inclination — exercise. Surely one might assume that this activity should be part of one's personal armoury of self-preservation and a healthy lifestyle? Alas, these aspirations have, to a large extent, passed me by — and the words 'couch' and 'potato' have assumed a special significance. But these past months have provided an excellent opportunity to reflect on my situation and consider alternative pathways. My daughter came up with the idea of walking the Viking Coastal Trail, a thirty-two-mile route through Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate, which she had completed on several occasions.

"Don't worry, Dad!" she said, "we can do it in bite-size chunks. Our first section will take us from Reculver Towers to St Mildred's Bay, Westgate". "How long is that stretch?" I asked. "About seven miles," she replied. I dwelt on that thought for a while, but, in the interests of family unity, did not comment. So, we did it, on a bright and beautiful morning in October — and we finally reached our goal.

I did not realise it at the time, but, on reflection, the experience bore a comparison to my Masonic journey: the initial internal search for something else to move you forward in life; the acceptance of a friend's advice to consider Freemasonry as a fulfilling and worthwhile expansion of our experience; the excitement and anticipation of taking one's first step; and all the wonderful stages following on from that first step.

Walking beneath the cliffs along a beach, in places which I had not previously visited, provided a different perspective from a view through a car window. I recalled my own Masonic life: like this walk, I have enjoyed its many surprises and delights. But tackling a long walk (at any stage of your life) can be daunting; similarly, in Masonry taking on a new office or learning new ritual is

equally challenging. But the sense of achievement upon the successful completion of those challenges is a commensurate reward for the diligence and perseverance of the Brother.

There will undoubtedly be key moments in the walk that will bear a special significance for the individual, for example, seeing in the distance the journey's end and the relief and sense of satisfaction that comes as a result. A similar feeling of expectation and pride must surely ensue when a Brother attains the Master's chair. Those years of attending Lodge of Instruction will have paid off with the words of the redoubtable Preceptor ringing loudly in your ears, "At every opportunity get your head in the book!" A marvellous year will follow when you will meet new friends, visit Lodges and attend social gatherings. "Can it ever get better than this?" might be a reasonable question.

Upon the completion of our walk I felt a warm glow of satisfaction and achievement, and as I was drinking my well-earned pint in a lovely pub garden, my daughter offered an unexpected suggestion. "You've done really well Dad. I'm very proud of you. I've researched some new routes and our next venture will be to do a circuit of the Thanet villages. I will let you know when we will start."

So, like the question posed earlier, another walk will certainly be different and rewarding. Having achieved so much in Craft a Brother might wish to further his Masonic experience and become a member of the Holy Royal Arch. It is a wonderful and colourful order and has a marvellous story to tell. But don't take my word for it: ask your Lodge's Chapter Liaison Officer — and start a new journey in your Masonic life.



Generations Of Companions

Ian White JP, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Holy Royal Arch, writes:



Ian White being congratulated by his father Stanley at Ian's Installation in 1992

I was fortunate enough to join Freemasonry, as a Lewis (the son of a Mason), at the earliest opportunity allowed at the time without special dispensation. I turned twenty-one years old on the Friday and was Initiated into the Union Lodge No.127 in Margate the following Wednesday. It is hard to believe that it will be forty years ago next March.

Like all Initiates, you accept whatever is going to happen with excitement and a fair amount of trepidation. My father gave nothing away prior to the ceremony and I confess that I did not have a clue what to expect before the event — and understood very little about what had happened at the end of it.

What does stick in my mind is the age gap. It was pointed out to me at my Initiation that the next youngest person present was exactly twice my age. I really did feel like the 'boy' of the Lodge. However, I was treated with all due respect and I have no adverse memories of being treated as anything but an equal. This meant a lot to me.

One very valuable life skill Freemasonry provided was the confidence and ability to talk in public, no matter the size, rank or importance of the audience. I hope that this will encourage any new Masons, especially the younger ones who are reading this, never to hesitate in taking the opportunity to accept an invitation to 'Respond on behalf of the Officers' or 'Propose a Toast to the Visitors'. Despite how it may feel at the time, on such occasions you will be amongst friends who will be encouraging you and who will understand how you feel, having been there themselves. The experience may just turn out to be one of the many privileges afforded you by Freemasonry that turns out to be golden.

I am so pleased that I joined the Holy Royal Arch early on in my Masonic career and did not wait until I had attained the Chair in the Lodge. It provided the answers to so many of my questions.



The next family generation will be my son, Ross. He has voiced an interest in Freemasonry for a few years now and was delighted to hear that the age of joining has been reduced to eighteen. He is currently sixteen and the plan is for him to be Initiated into the Union Lodge in 2022.

I wish you all well and look forward to being able to return to what I love about Freemasonry the most, which is travelling the length and breadth of the Province as the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies of the Holy Royal Arch and meeting you all.

Please take care.

**CO-ORDINATORS
WANTED**

**CHAPTER
ALMONER**

We're looking for Companions who would be interested in taking on the role of Chapter Almoner Co-ordinator, in particular in Groups 3 and 7. Experience as a Chapter Almoner is not necessary. Could you help by taking on such a role?

If you enjoy working as part of a team, have facilitation skills and would like to be involved in Masonic activity beyond your own Chapter, this could be just the job for you.

For further information and/or and to discuss further, please contact Paul Settle, Provincial Grand Almoner e-mail paul.settle@btinternet.cpm

A Daily Advancement



Graham Chisnell, Provincial Education Officer, writes:

Freemasonry is not compulsory! Whilst it means a variety of things to different individual members, there is a not unreasonable expectation that membership of it should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Our members can rightly expect to be **STIMULATED**, have their **INTEREST** aroused, feel **ENGAGED** with what's going on, be **INFORMED** and feel **SUPPORTED**.

The Province of East Kent has a long tradition of promoting an understanding of Freemasonry, in order that a member may feel supported, confident and contented as he progresses on his Masonic journey. This tradition has continued in recent years under the aegis of the Provincial Education and Welfare Support Group, comprising the Provincial Mentor, Education Officer, Provincial Almoner and a member of the Royal Arch Executive. This group was instrumental in the initial concept and subsequent development of our members' only website *Your Province*. From the outset, through its 'Education' menu, *Your Province* has promoted the concept of 'Learning and Development', to interest and inspire our members.

Developing an interest in Freemasonry helps both Brethren and Companions to build a deepening connection with the Masonic ceremonies and ritual. There is always something new to learn, whether you are an Entered Apprentice or a Provincial Grand Principal.

I urge you to do two things. Firstly, to log into *Your Province* and register, this is a simple process and will grant you access to a wonderful repository of information in the Education section. Secondly, to commit some time to becoming familiar with the contents.

Have a look at three sections in particular on *Your Province*: the Provincial Preceptor's Podcasts and the Education Downloads — Craft and Royal Arch.

Initiates Guidance Handbook

Food For Thought - Sources of Information

Provincial Preceptors Podcasts

Education Downloads - Craft

Education Downloads - Royal Arch

UGLE - Communications Support Toolkit

UGLE - Masonic Website Guidelines

Photographic Submission Guidelines

In the Provincial Preceptor's Podcasts section there are nine podcasts, for both Craft and Chapter. The first series of these podcasts explores the furniture of the Lodge Room. I would encourage any Brother interested in joining the Holy Royal Arch to listen to the second podcast in the Chapter series.

The Education Downloads sections for Craft and Royal Arch contain a range of Masonic Nuggets. These are bite-sized information bursts about a range of Masonic topics. The Masonic Nuggets are grouped into Masonic Degrees so you can focus your studies on the Degree of interest to you. You are encouraged to use these Nuggets in open Lodge to deepen the interest and engagement of your fellow Brethren and Companions.

2018 witnessed the launch of 'SOLOMON', Grand Lodge's on-line searchable repository of learning and development material, which sets out to explain the ritual, symbolism, history and traditions of Freemasonry. You are strongly recommended to register for access, as this has a bewildering host of information about Masonry.

Finally, let me lay down the gauntlet to you all. As Freemasons, we are charged with engaging in a daily advancement of Masonic knowledge. I encourage you to visit *Your Province* and explore the many resources therein in order to build the foundations of your Masonic knowledge to strengthen your understanding of our ritual and heritage as Freemasons.

Three Events For East Kent Golfers



2020 was a pretty successful year for East Kent golfers, despite having to observe all the relevant COVID-19 restrictions including the social distancing rules. Catch up with them here and on their Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/ekmgas

Paul McGuirk reports:



Matt Mitchell (left) receiving the Geoffrey Gordon Dearing Bowl from former Assistant Provincial Grand Master Peter Rodd

27th August: Weald of Kent

The relaunched East Kent Masonic Golf Association held its second event of 2020 at the Weald of Kent Golf Club with a field of sixty-three players and two tournaments — the Geoffrey Gordon Dearing Bowl and the William Blay team tournament.

The weather held out until around 3pm, the last eight groups having to contend with heavy rain for the final part of their round. That said, everyone finished, and some good scores came in.

William Blay Team Event:

This was open to individual Lodges and Chapters, with teams of four. Winners were Maeides Stana Lodge No.7868 — Chris Metherell, Keith Miller, Gerry Miller and Bob Appleby.

Geoffrey Gordon Dearing Bowl:

This was an individual event, won by Matt Mitchell with 44 points. Runner up was the previous year's winner, Daren Horne, with 42 points. Third was Bob Appleby with 40 points.

11th September: Dale Hill



EKMGA were back in action at Dale Hill in early September to defend the Sureken Silver Salver in the annual competition against Surrey Masonic Sports Association. The day was bright and twenty-two guests and visitors from EKMGA welcomed the thirteen Players from Surrey. The results were tight: it was a closely fought contest, the secretaries having to go over the last card three times, only to find the match tied at 8½ points each team. This meant that EKMGA, the current holders, retained the trophy, which was presented to captain Peter Mackay (pictured, right) by Nick Gras, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Surrey.

Stableford competition

The success of the EKMGA in 2020 attracted lots of players, so a Stableford competition was added to the fixture. EKMGA captain Peter Mackay also received the winner's prize with 38 points. Roy Croucher was runner-up with 35, and Steve Butwell was third with 33.



[Note: In Stableford, a player scores one point for a bogey, two for par, three for a birdie, four for an eagle and five for an albatross. You win a competition by scoring the most points overall. On an amateur level, if a player takes six shots on a par-four hole but is entitled to a shot because of his handicap, his net score is five.]

16th October: Broome Park

Dark Blues v Light Blues

EKMGA linked up with the East Kent Light Blues Brothers to launch the inaugural "David Graeme Cup" at Broome Park.

Final result: Dark Blues 15pts, Light Blues 11 pts.



David Graeme launches the event in an explosive manner, thanks to a little theatrical help from Assistant Provincial Grand Master Mark Costelloe. See what we mean at:

youtu.be/CO-AKLisNoA



2021 SEASON PROPOSED FIXTURES LIST

25th March: Sheerness Golf Club

22nd April: Chelsfield Lakes

14th May: Tenterden Golf Club

May: Get Into Golf Beginners Day at North Foreland Golf Club

24th June: Birchwood Park Golf Club

23rd July: Faversham (Belmonte) Golf Club

19th August: Sene Valley

17th September: TBA (Weald of Kent or West Malling)

15th October: Broome Park

A "Declaration Meeting" For Allington

Freemasonry is flexible and adaptable. It would not have thrived for over 300 years without being so. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly presented a challenge — and Allington Lodge No.7086 was ready to face it.

Allington's annual Installation Meeting was held as usual at the Maidstone Masonic Centre, Tovil, on the 28th October. At that time, there was a national "Rule of Six" in force, which meant that no more than six Lodge members could attend. Perhaps it should have been called the Declaration Meeting, as the Master, Paul O'Neill, continued in office, as did almost everyone else.

Tireless work behind the scenes by the Lodge Secretary, Michael Dawson, a comprehensive risk assessment circulated by the Director of Ceremonies prior to the meeting and a well-prepared Masonic Centre guaranteed a smooth and COVID-safe meeting.

Paul expressed his thanks, on behalf of all the Brethren of the Lodge, to the members of the Management Committee of the Tovil Centre who through their hard work had made the use of the Centre and Lodge Room possible by ensuring it was COVID-19 compliant.



(L-R) Peter Hazlewood, Peter Delo, Paul O'Neill, Tim Baldwin, John Hall and Michael Lofthouse



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www.justaskone.org

Kent Freemasons Give £20,000 To Help Young Carers In The County



East Kent and West Kent Freemasons have clubbed together and donated £20,000 to Kent Young Carers.

Kent Young Carers is a county-wide service for youngsters aged five to eighteen who are caring for a family member with a long-term illness, disability, mental health problems or a substance misuse issue. See their website at:

www.imago.community/Children-and-Young-People/Kent-Young-Carers

As well as providing one-to-one support and liaising with schools and the community generally, KYC organises days out for the children. West Kent's Provincial Grand Master Mark Estaugh joined them on a very wet 27th October at Bowles Rocks, near Tunbridge Wells. East Kent's PGM Neil Johnstone had somewhat better luck when he popped along on the 28th.



The weather may not have been as hoped, but that certainly didn't dampen the spirits of the Young Carers. Their parents were happy, too:

"Just wanted to say a big thank you from H & S and of course myself. We really appreciate all of your and your colleagues' hard work that went into making today possible"

"Thanks Jo, T had an amazing time, especially loved the rock-climbing J"

"Thank you so much to you and all your team for having T today. He hasn't stopped talking about it and is very proud he climbed the rocks! A dirty, tired and happy boy is going to bed tonight and it's been so lovely to see him like that! Thank you J"



East Kent's Provincial Grand Master Neil Johnstone with some of the young carers

Thank You For The Music

Members of Group 7 of East Kent Freemasons in Dover have donated £5,598 towards the purchase of a Jukebox for Harmonia village, a home-from-home for thirty people living with dementia.

The village comprises six houses that look and feel like everyday homes, equipped to meet people's special needs, with the added peace of mind of care available twenty-four hours a day by the on-site staff. Their team of highly skilled nurses and carers are on hand to support residents and guests to live as independently as they want to.

The village hub is a welcoming community for both residents and visitors, with an exciting programme of daily activities and a café serving home-made food.

For people needing respite care or a break away from home, the village's guest house is a welcoming and supportive place to stay that can be tailored to people's individual needs.

A major review in 2017 confirmed that "among sensory simulation interventions, the only convincingly effective intervention for reducing behavioural symptoms (specifically agitation and aggressive behaviour) was music therapy". A second review that year showed "music intervention significantly reduces agitated behaviours in demented people".



L-R: Rupert Williamson, Carrie Mandeville and Mike Goodwin

Said Danielle Neligan, Fundraising and Development Officer:

"We are very grateful for the joint working and match funding from the different Lodges that enabled this donation. Particular thanks to Mike Goodwin for coordinating this.

"East Kent Hospitals Charity holds and manages the funds given to the hospitals and this includes Harmonia village. Your donation will allow us to purchase the jukebox which will benefit the residents and visitors to Harmonia".

East And West Kent Help Kent Association For The Blind

On a rainy day in October, East and West Kent Provincial Grand Masters Neil Johnstone and Mark Estaugh presented a cheque for £1,500 to the Kent Association for the Blind at their offices in Maidstone.

Said Lauren Wilsher, KAB Fundraising Manager (Events and Community),

"We are so delighted to have the support from the East Kent and West Kent Masons and thank them wholeheartedly for their donation of £1,500. Their generosity will enable us to increase our befriending and counselling support services for people across Kent who have a sight impairment. These services are especially needed right now, where isolation and loneliness are unfortunately a big issue at the moment".



L-R: Mark Estaugh and Neil Johnstone, suitably 'socially distanced', with Lauren Wilsher of KAB and Mark Bassant, East Kent Assistant Provincial Grand Master, wisely under cover!

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 60 years

W Bro Thomas James Allsworth	PPProvAGDC	Isle of Sheppey	L6769
W Bro Alan William Hill	PPGReg	United Service	L3124
Bro Reginald John Hopkins *		Lodge of Peace and Harmony	L199
W Bro Tony Cartali Brooks	PJGD PPJGW	Union	L127
W Bro Gary Homer Chapman	PPGSuptWks	Allington	L7086
W Bro John Robert Wray	PPGSwdB (Essex)	Royal Military	L1449
W Bro Ronald Alfred Edward Martin	PPJGW	Sir Joseph Williamson	L4605
W Bro Robert Harry Nott	PSGD PProvGChStwd(W Kent)	Prince Edwins	L125
W Bro Andrew Harold Osborne	PPGReg	Athelstan	L4024
W Bro Dennis Frederick Wadhams	PPDepGReg	Peace and Unity	L4101
W Bro Brian Mitchell Jackson	PPGStB	Artifex	L4555
W Bro Roger Benjamin Nettleton Hammond	PPGReg	Macartney	L3283
W Bro Alan Richard Thornhill	PPGReg	Lodge of Harmony	L133

CRAFT 50 years

W Bro Philip Charles Bennett	SLGR (London)	Royal Engineers	L4465
W Bro Terence Herbert Dray *	PPDepGReg	Hoo St Werburgh	L4829
W Bro Peter Cajetan Seymour Marno	PAGDC PPGSuptWks	Douglas	L1725
W Bro Christopher Robert Maxwell Talbert	PPGReg	Bradley	L7929
W Bro John Palmer	PPProvAGDC	Valley of Elham	L6649
W Bro Ronald Hopper	PGStB PPJGW	Norman	L3502
W Bro David Richard Perryman	PPGSwdB	Libertas Secunda	L6433
W Bro Malcolm Fryer Elliott *	PPGReg	Saint Michael's	L1273
RW Bro Russell John Race	PMetGM PDepProvGM	City of Rochester	L7941
Bro Trevor Brian Hayman		Bradstow	L2448
W Bro Frederick Thomas Pope	SLGR (London)	Trinity	L7021
W Bro Keith Arthur Foxwell	PPJGD	Lodge of Freedom	L77
W Bro William Alexander Shanks	PPDepGSwdB	Weald of Kent	L1854
W Bro Brian Card	PPGSuptWks	Chillington Manor	L4649
Bro James Eric Taylor	PPAGDC	St George Abadan	L6058
W Bro Gerald Trevor Owen	PPJGD	De Shurland	L1089
W Bro Rodney George Sparkes	PGStB PProvJGW	Dickens	L8047
W Bro John Tyas	PPJGW	Gillingham Lodge of Benevolence	L184
W Bro David Albert Gigney	PPGSuptWks	Manor of Gillingham	L3983
W Bro John Albert Morris	PGStB PPSGW	St Lawrence	L3350
Bro Anthony Raymond Thorn		Sir Edward Elgar	L9837
W Bro Richard Parks	PPDepGReg	Castle	L1436
W Bro Peter John Homewood	PPGStB	Richard Watts	L8534
Bro Leslie William Pope		Ethelbert	L2099
VW Bro Peter David Williams	PSGD DepProvGM	Loyal and True	L4050
W Bro Colin Kinnaird Walker	PPProvGStwd	General Gordon	L4292
W Bro Edward Button	PPJGD	Lodge of Peace and Harmony	L199
W Bro Keith St John Peebles	PPDepGSwdB	Dane John	L8810
W Bro Joseph Aidan Manning	PPJGD	King Edward VII	L3252
W Bro Ronald Sydney Miles *	PPJGW	Beacon Court	L1967
W Bro James Edward Blunt	PAGDC PProvJGW	Ashford	L8945
W Bro Robert Mark Geering	PPGReg	Invicta Lodge of Ashford	L709
W Bro Peter John Ebdon	PPGReg	Old Manwoodian	L7636
W Bro Roger Stride	PPGSuptWks	Beamish	L3869
W Bro James Richard Charles Hill	PPAGDC	Porta Maris	L4287
W Bro Raymond Edward Roy Walters	PPGReg	Old Harveans	L7243
W Bro Norman John Head	PPGSuptWks	St Mary's, Gillingham Green	L6499
W Bro Malcolm Morris Smith	PAGDC PPGChStwd	Per Mare Per Terram	L3609
W Bro Ivor John Wallace Disbrey		Setech	L8185
W Bro Stanley William Clover	PPGSwdB	Gillingham Lodge of Benevolence	L184
Bro Bernard William Sorger		Beamish	L3869
W Bro Ralph Lewis Weston	PPDepGSwdB	Valley of Elham	L6649
W Bro Brian Whiting	PPDepGSuptWks	Snar Gate	L6770
W Bro David Lloyd Dobby	PPJGD	George Hamilton	L3452

CHAPTER 50 years

E Comp Michael Robin Bailey	PGSwdB PGSupt	Norman	C3502
E Comp Cyril Francis John Orchard	PGStB P2ndProvGPrin	Prince Edwins	C125
E Comp Peter Michael Brooshooft	PGStB PProvGSE	Corinthian	C1208
E Comp Norman Frederick Stephney	ProvGStB	Per Mare Per Terram	C3609
E Comp Nigel Graham Shotton	PPGSoj	St Michael's	C1273
E Comp Rex Ian Ledger	PPProvGStB	Brownrigg	C1424

* Deceased as of 31st October 2020

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

Once, Twice, Three Times A Lord



Councillor Patrick Anthony Todd is Lord Mayor of Canterbury.

Not for the first time, not for the second time, but for the third time.

Equally important, he is a member of the Graystone Lodge No.1915 in Whitstable (he was Master in 2002) and of Ardea Lodge No.6717 in Herne Bay.

East Kent's Phil Heath, Matt Jury and Peter Floyd popped round to see him in October to learn a bit more about the man, his life and interests.

Pat left school in 1964 and joined the Police Cadets. He spent most of his career as a Police Officer, eight years in the Traffic department and the rest in General Duties and Schools Liaison. Retiring in 1998, he quickly became involved in local politics in the Canterbury area, serving as a Councillor for the Chestfield Ward. He has been a member of Canterbury City Council since 1999 and has been Lord Mayor in 2006, 2010 and 2020.

Pat and Barbara married in 1970 and have two children, Heather and Andrew. Heather works in retail; Andrew is a Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding Officer for the Second Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, in Brunei.

Pat is currently President of Whitstable Rugby Football Club and the manager responsible for the well running of the Upper Tier at Twickenham Stadium, the home of English rugby. Another of his interests is youth and community work. Having retired as the student welfare manager at Herne Bay High School, the space this left in his life allowed him to become a trustee to Hi Kent, the County's Deaf Charity, to go with his Governing roles at St Edmunds School Canterbury and Chaucer College.

He also enjoys fishing and is currently the Health and Safety Officer for the Province of East Kent's Fishing Charity.

A very affable character, Pat's philosophy in life is "let's all get on with each other".

"I am [...] of the belief that people should work together for the good of all and my dislike of political nit-picking remains unabated."



Photos: Peter Floyd

Chapters Of Fun



L-R: Gordon Scott Brown, Keith Miller, Derek Tompsett, Dan Brown, Ian Bonneywell and Chris Metherell.
Photo: Sharon Smith

2020 was certainly a stop/start year for Freemasonry. Along with most of us, **Malling Abbey Chapter No.1063** were keen to get cracking with their meetings. The chance came in October, when the Lockdown was eased but a Rule of Six was in operation. Could it be done? Of course it could — but with plenty of changes to the usual routine. Normally you need more than six to run a Chapter meeting, but everyone carried out multiple roles and kept changing places, with lots of mirth and amusement — not that you could see behind the masks, but the twinkling in the eyes and the guffaws were enough!

Says Scribe Gordon Scott Brown, “the business got done in a safe and secure way, and a meal was had in a nearby restaurant afterwards. This truly shows that Masonry can rise to challenges and survive during these difficult times. We would be happy to be contacted by other Chapters to show how we achieved the meeting”.

King Edward VII Chapter No.3252 were faced with the same situation in September at the Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside, Gillingham.

It was a bit different from their normal meeting: they entered the building one at a time wearing face masks and using hand sanitisers and, of course, keeping social distancing. The six attending (maximum allowed at that time) were Barry Cleaves, Allan Shepherd, Ken Quarrington, Clive Lang, David Hope and Graham Pover.

The Chapter was opened formally, everyone standing two metres apart as recommended.

The Principals dispensed with robes and sceptres and collars, and only the minimum essential floor furniture was laid out.



After business was done, Graham Pover took photographs as a record of this first meeting after the first COVID-19 Lockdown — an item to be included in the Chapter's History. Director of Ceremonies David Hope was the only person to handle Chapter furniture and equipment — and he ensured it was adequately wiped and cleaned before and after use. You won't find that in the DC's Handbook!

MCF And The 2025 Festival



Mark Bassant, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and Peter Rhodes, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, write:

The recent COVID-19 News Special from the Provincial Grand Master illustrates how East Kent Freemasons have risen to the challenges created by the pandemic, providing much-needed assistance to those in need in our local communities. Grants totalling over £100,000 from the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) and the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity (CEKFC) have been used to fund food banks, face shields, electronic android tablets for hospitals and financial support for many good causes including Domestic Abuse and Young Carers Charities.



Every year, the MCF supports hundreds of local and national charities with funding that encourages opportunity, promotes independence and improves wellbeing for vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our local communities. Every

grant made, and every life changed as a result, is because of the generosity of Freemasons, their families and friends.

In conjunction with the MCF, we in East Kent Province are well into our 2025 Festival, a major

fundraising event in which we intend to raise £3.5 million by the end of that year. Over the eleven-year period between the end of the last Festival and the end of the current one, our Province will have contributed £3.5 million and have received back a whopping £6.5 million in grants. Quite a return!

Here's what the MCF have done for East Kent in the six months from April to September 2020:



Individual Grants:

73

Total Grant Amount:

£136,368

Charity Grants:

7

Total Grant Amount

£50,821

These grants would not be possible without the continued generosity of the Brethren and Companions within the Province in support of these charities, for which we are, as always, extremely grateful. The reduction in the number of meetings since March 2020 has however had a significant impact on charitable income: we would urge you to consider how you can continue making donations until we return to some sort of normality.

Please visit our website at www.2025festival.co.uk to see how you can donate to the 2025 Festival in support of the MCF. Setting up a regular payment is very easy — and we would encourage you to consider this method of giving little and often. Further details of the CEKFC can be found by visiting www.cornwallisekfc.org.uk. Should you require any assistance then please contact your Lodge or Chapter Charity Steward who will be pleased to help.

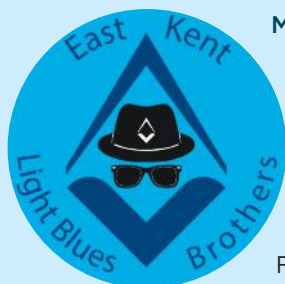


INTERESTED IN JOINING HRA MASONRY?

After Lockdown:
unlock the further teachings of Masonry!
Get 2021 off to a good start
by joining Chapter

To find out more
JUST ASK
Your Chapter Liaison Officer

East Kent Light Blues Brothers One Year On



Mark Ravenwood, EKLBB Deputy Chairman and Information Officer, writes:

The East Kent Light Blues Brothers are a group of over two hundred Freemasons from Kent who have not yet attained Provincial or Grand Rank — and who therefore wear light blue aprons rather than dark blue ones. Our modus operandi is to arrange and attend events that make being a Mason more than just charity and ceremony; to embrace and deepen the bonds of brotherhood; and to enhance the Masonic experience for new and young Freemasons.

So — who are we? Mostly, an enthusiastic group of amateurs with a range of professions and experiences, being ably looked after by our Chairman, Howard Griffin. (I'm still trying to figure out how I ended up as the 'Information officer' as I'm sure I said it was the one job that I didn't have the time to do!) Ian Thomas is our Treasurer: thanks to his hard work we now have a bank account. Andrew Berry is our Secretary. Neil Marshall oversees membership. Fraser Gregory arranges the events. I deal with most of the correspondence and publicity elements. That leaves the dozen more committee members who come up with ideas and share their contacts to help us arrange events (shout-out to Paul McGuirk for his Golfing expertise — not so much the playing, apparently, but arranging the events at least!).

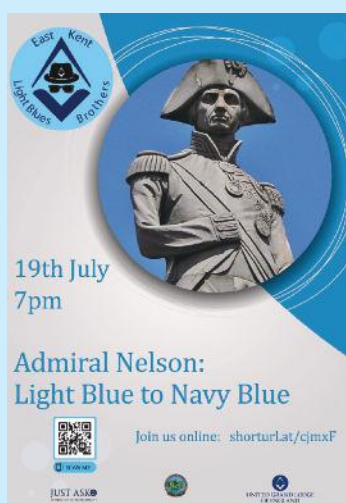
What is the point of the EKLBBs? I think that we all have own opinion on this one. The first few months of Freemasonry can be quite a challenging period for someone like me who didn't really know anyone before signing up. However, some of the Light Blues invited me along to a Go-Karting event and made me feel very welcome — my first real feeling of brotherhood within Freemasonry. When we choose to meet without our regalia, we are more than just a group of men who share a 'peculiar system of morality' — we are friends. So, the EKLBB for me provides the opportunity for us to build friendships beyond our Lodges and share our 'brotherly love, relief and truth'.

It was around this time, twelve months or so ago, that what would become the EKLBB committee met for the first time to plan for the coming year. We decided to run four major events in the coming year, little knowing what would happen next. Since the launch of EKLBB on 29th February 2020 the world has changed dramatically, and we have all had to adapt.

What have we achieved so far? The inaugural event hosted around a hundred Freemasons, but we now have well over two hundred members. You can sign

up via the website — www.eklbb.org.uk for a price of £10 for life membership (or until you gain provincial or grand rank). The website is due for an update in the near future, so keep your eyes peeled.

During the first Lockdown we ran online quizzes, Desert Island Discs and a lecture on Admiral Nelson. ➔



The Light Blues relaunch at the Curious Brewery in Ashford, 29th February 2020. Photo: Peter Floyd

These helped to keep brethren engaged and safe during a long period of separation. On our social media platforms, we encouraged members to donate food to shelters. We had many meetings to ask the question on everyone's mind: what could we do together at a time where being physically together was dangerous? Suggestions included bike rides, socially distanced meetings in the park, trips to the pub where we would wave to each other from separate tables — and so on.

As the first Lockdown loosened, we planned two golfing events — a 'Day for Beginners' and 'The David Graeme Cup', a Light Blues vs Dark Blues competition that you can read about elsewhere in this magazine. Sadly, the first event had to be postponed when the 'Rule of Six' made the morning training sessions a practical impossibility. We look forward to rescheduling this in 2021. I for one would like the opportunity to have a try at the Masonic pastime of golf without the pressure of more senior Masons wanting to play!

On the 20th November, in partnership with the Thornbridge Brewery, we offered a tasting experience with a professional beer sommelier via a Zoom meeting. Keep an eye out at masonicbeer.com for more events in 2021.

Coming full circle on my own masonic interests, we are hoping to offer a Go-Karting Experience early in the year, as well as clay pigeon shooting and more golf and music events. Details will follow as soon as we can be sure that the events are legal and safe to run.

Every Light Blue Freemason should be a Light Blues Brother!

Says Assistant Provincial Grand Master Mark Costelloe:

"It's a one-off £10 to join — and I hope to raise a glass with all members in Lodges when it is safe to do so. Wear your EKLBB badges with pride, Brethren!"

Forward With The Light Blues

To join, either point your smartphone camera at this QR Code or follow any of these links:



Website: www.eklbb.org.uk

Facebook: [Facebook.com/groups/eklbb](https://www.facebook.com/groups/eklbb)

Twitter: [Twitter.com/eklbb](https://twitter.com/eklbb)

Instagram: [@eastkentlightbluesbrothers](https://www.instagram.com/eastkentlightbluesbrothers)

Food For Thought: Sharon And Heike

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on jobs and the economy, as we all know. One of the industries hit hardest has been catering, with ever-changing restrictions making it difficult to adapt and plan ahead.

We went along to see Sharon Smith, Manager of Thyme2Dine based at the Maidstone Masonic Centre, to see what she had been up to and how she was coping.

Sharon started her catering business in 1988, focussing on weddings and parties and also providing food for the Masonic Centres at Hoo and Greenhithe. In August 2007 she was awarded the franchise at the Maidstone Masonic Centre, Tovil. As well as catering for Masonic Festive Boards, Sharon has an agreement to bring in as much additional business from outside parties as she wishes, and in the last few years has been working on a profit-sharing basis with the Centre. Chef Heike (pictured on the left with Sharon) has been with her for ten years, and they have used the same butchers throughout that time. *[Your Editor can vouch for the very high quality of the food.]*

2019 was a good year for Sharon and for the Centre, with bookings well up on previous years. 2020 was shaping up well too — until the Lockdown in March. Fortunately, Sharon was able to retain eight members of her team through the



Photo: Peter Floyd

Government's furlough scheme. When the Centre reopened in September and October, she was again able to take bookings for weekday lunches, and to offer an evening restaurant service, albeit on a reduced basis to comply with Government rules. At the same time, she and Heike began a takeaway service, providing hot and cold food for collection on Fridays and Sundays. The takeaway service has continued.

Let's hope that 2021 brings better times again for Sharon and all the other caterers in our Province.

A Membership Message



Mark Costelloe, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Membership and Retention, writes:

Well Brethren, I doubt that 2020 will be in the Top Ten of years to revisit, should time travel actually become a reality. It certainly was not the year that I was expecting as APGM for Membership! I have come to suspect that my predecessor David Graeme must have clairvoyant attributes. That said, whilst the year draws to a close and we remember dearly beloved friends and family members that have been affected by this pandemic, we can look back and draw positives and inspiration from the resolve and generosity of East Kent Freemasons.

This Province from a Membership perspective has much to look forward to. The future is far from bleak, I assure you. Our Membership strategy is working, and when we return to Masonic business as we know and love it we will have in the region of 400 Craft ceremonies to perform. Thanks to our hard-working Membership team, at least 140 of those are 'independent candidates' already placed with Lodge Membership Officers. This important role in nurturing our newest members has been recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England and is one that will, quite rightly, become a collared office in 2021.



East Kent are leading the way as an example of best practice with our restyled **JustAskOne.org** membership website. Thanks to the good work of our Communications Team and with input from the East Kent Light Blues Brothers, it has recently been awarded the UGLE Charter Mark in recognition of its innovative design. The website forms part of our membership strategy and empowers you, our members, to take ownership of recruitment.

To that end the Provincial Grand Master is pleased to supply all members with a JustAskOne car sticker, enclosed with this magazine. The QR code allows anyone who sees the sticker in a car window to quickly navigate to the website using their smartphone. It also sends a message to the public: "I am an East Kent Freemason, I am proud to be one, just ask if you are interested".

I hope you will join me in proudly displaying our logo in your car.

Our Challenge going forward is to remain in contact with existing and potential new members. They need to know that someone cares and that they are not forgotten. I would ask that you spare a thought in this festive season for the members in your Lodge or Chapter for whom you know that Freemasonry is their sole source of friendship. For some the festive board is a lifeline, the guarantee of a hot meal in the company of friends. Please pick up the phone; a simple call can make all the difference.

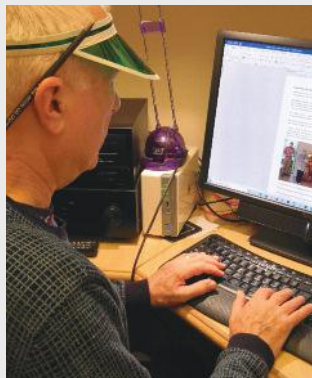
Finally, I would like to extend to you and your families my very best wishes at this festive time and I look forward to sharing your company in 2021.



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www.justaskone.org

Provincial News — And Where It Comes From



There's so much going on in Freemasonry. Much of it is humdrum and routine, albeit very enjoyable and satisfying. However, now and again something happens that other people, not directly involved, might like to know about. Here are some examples:

Lodge X has gifted something special to Charity Y.

A Mason has just been awarded a 60-year Long Service Certificate and has led a particularly colourful life.

A Big Event took place last week.

Grandfather, father and son attend the same Chapter meeting.

And so on.

In our Province, we use all the main outlets for News: radio, TV, websites, Facebook, Instagram, electronic media (The Provincial Lite magazine) and paper media (The Provincial magazine itself). We also send you personalised messages and news items via the marketing software sendinblue.

So — where does the News come from? Sometimes there are official pronouncements from Province, but the bulk of the News comes from members of Lodges and Chapters, i.e. YOU. The job of the Provincial Communications Team, led by Assistant Provincial Grand Master Richard Wingett, is to take the items of News, edit them and publish them via the appropriate media.

To make sure your News gets to the right people, we have set up a new channel of communication. Send your story to your local Group Chairman, and CC it to editor@theprovincial.org

We are always grateful to receive news items, and it helps us enormously if they are well-written to start with. Not everyone has that gift, of course, and we will certainly not turn any interesting item away: but, if you would like to give it your best shot, here, for your exclusive use as a Cub Reporter, is the East Kent Provincial Communications Team's "Quick Guide on How to Write a News Story".

Quick Guide On How To Write A News Story

Ask yourself: why would someone be interested in this?

It helps if you can grab readers' attention from the very beginning. Try to pick a feature from the story that would interest or intrigue them. "Joe Endsleigh has spent fifty years in Freemasonry — but there's something fishy about his past". Later, you explain that he was a trawlerman.

The Main Story

This is your report on what took place. Include plenty of detail — the Communications Team can edit it down later if necessary.

If you are suffering from "writer's block" and don't know how to start, simply write down the questions:

what? where? when? why? who? and how?

and answer them one by one.

Don't assume foreknowledge on the reader's part: explain any local terms, jargon or abbreviations. It's always great to have photos, especially if the story is about charitable giving and you can show what the money is being used for or the work being carried out by the recipient. Please make sure that everyone in the photo has given his/her permission to appear, and that you've told us, left to right, who's who.

Photos, by the way, should be separate, i.e. not embedded in the document. We prefer JPEGs at reasonably high quality: 3MB will do for a half-A4-page size.

Quotations are always good to have. What did Brother X or Charity Y have to say?

Closing sentence

A quotation can round things off nicely; as can the writer's own thoughts and opinions on the event: "It may have been cold and windy, but we all had a great time".

From the Rough to the Smooth

Don't worry too much about spelling, grammar or punctuation: the Communications Team will sort that out.

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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Wing Walking For Charity

April, James (pictured), David and Mick took to the skies at Headcorn Airfield on August Bank Holiday weekend.

All the money raised from sponsorship has been given to the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

If you like what we're doing and want to donate, here are two ways to do it:

Online at www.2025festival.co.uk, where you can choose between a one-off or, even better, a regular donation.

Text EASTKENT2025 to 70500 to donate a fiver



Photo: Peter Floyd

Christmas Photo Puzzle Answers

- Q. Where in the county is it?
A. Maidstone, A20, east of junction with New Cut Road
- Q. What is its official name?
A. It's an iguanodon
- Q. What is its nickname?
A. Spike



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 follow the link yourprovince.org/yp2

The Provincial

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