



Summer 2024

**THE ONLINE MAGAZINE FOR THE MASONIC
PROVINCE OF EAST KENT**



EAST KENT
FREEMASONS

COMPANION ORDERS,
DO YOU KNOW WHAT
THEY ARE?

DO YOU HAVE
DIFFICULTY LEARNING
RITUAL?

AROUND
THE
PROVINCE

Guest Editor

Andrew Notley

Assistant Provincial Grand Master,
Communications

Trevor Carter

Provincial Grand Communications
Officer (Craft)

Paul Gear

Provincial Grand Communications
Officer (Royal Arch)

Paul Goodwin

Deputy Provincial Grand
Communications Officer

Sam Watson

Contact us on
news@ekprovince.co.uk



**Cymon Williams of Gore Court Lodge No 8231,
completing the 2024 London Marathon**
(see article on page 28)

Front Cover: The three Jays: James Rowan, Joe Gibson and Jake Rowan, the three youngest officers of Rochester Castle Lodge No 9260. Shown outside the Provincial Office in Whitstable. (See article on page 28).

Contents

7

Meet the New Members of the Executive

We introduce the new members of the Provincial Executive

10

Community Engagement - A Bursary Scheme

A new initiative for young people in Kent

12

Archway Principles in Practice

Read how 'Shape, Grow, Involve and Enjoy' helped one Royal Arch Chapter

18

Companion Orders

What do you know about the Rose Croix?

23

Alms Across the Provinces

See how an Almoner helped his compatriot in another Province

25

Around the Province

Brief reports from around the Province

32

Companion Orders

Mark Master Masons, want to know more?

34

Do You Have Difficulty Learning Ritual?

Some useful guidance from the Provincial Grand Mentor.

37

Going for Gold

Kemsley joins Team GB for the Winter Invictus Games

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the new-look Summer 2024 edition of Provincial Lite.

I would first like to add my thanks to John Ray who successfully managed both formats of the Provincial magazine – digital and print – for seven years. Throughout that time he worked hard to keep us informed for which we will always be grateful. John has not completely retired however as he will continue to contribute articles to the magazine.



As a former Provincial Website Manager, I have been invited back from retirement to oversee this issue of Provincial Lite pending the appointment of a permanent magazine editor. Please see our advert for this important role on page 38.

The Provincial Communications Team have chosen an online desktop publishing system for the magazine which we are using for the first time. It permits shared access to the publication and therefore supports a team approach to the design. To that end I am grateful to Paul Gear and Paul Goodwin, Provincial Grand Communications Officers for the Craft and Royal Arch respectively, for their help in putting this together.

As we enter the last year of the 2025 Festival, there is an interesting article on the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) and its Mission for Mental Wellbeing. There is also a report on this year's Festival Ball which has helped to raise more funds for the MCF.

Following on from the launch of Archway we include an article about Reculvers Chapter No 4123 and how they used the principles of Archway to revive their chapter.

There are also articles on two Companion Orders – Rose Croix and the Mark Master Mason's Degree

It is often said that, as Freemasons, we are all Almoners and there is an excellent example of two masonic provinces working together from our Provincial Grand Almoner, Nigel Fitz.

Learning ritual is very much part of the masonic experience but for some, it can prove to be very challenging. We include a very useful article about learning conditions and what can be done to help.

As an example of our service to the local community, the Masonic Provinces of both East and West Kent, in conjunction with the Kent Museum of Freemasonry, have established a new bursary scheme for young people. It will assist students at the University of Kent and also young people in the Scout Association.

The Cymbolick Penalties, remember them? Well they're marking their retirement with a new album to help raise funds for the 2025 Festival. Read more about them in this issue.

My thanks go to all those that have contributed to this magazine and I wish you all a restful break while you recharge your batteries ready for the new masonic season. There is much to look forward to in the coming months as you will find in this issue of Provincial Lite.

GUEST EDITOR

Andrew Notley

Upcoming Events

Full details and to book all events visit the Provincial Website

www.eastkentfreemasons.org/events/

3rd August Sheerness Freemasons' Summer Spectacular
OASIS Academy Sheerness

11th August Hog Roast
Join the Provincial Grand Master at the annual Hog Roast

17th August BBQ Party
In aid of the 2025 Festival, with live music.

1st September Go Kart Endurance
Buckmore Park

8th September A Day at the Races
Union Lodge, 9 Westbrook Avenue, Margate.

14th September Boot Fair
Ashford Masonic Centre

14th October Demonstration of the First Degree
Dover Masonic Centre

20th October Group 7 Walk
A walk from Dover to Sandwich in aid of the 2025 Festival,

25th October David Graeme Golf Trophy
Weald of Kent Golf Course

2nd November Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity Awards
Canterbury Cathedral

Are you IT Savvy?



Do you have experience with databases or CRMs?
Then your provincial membership team needs you!

The Provincial membership team manages enquiries from independent routes and distributes them to numerous membership advisers and lodge membership officers throughout the province. We have recently improved our structure and flow of information, and now we need your expertise to help update our Database and CRM platforms to enable us to provide tailored reporting on the success of our membership operations with a platform that also supports multi-user access with different levels of permissions.

If you are an IT wizard and would be interested in helping us and the Province, please contact:

Steve Wyatt - Provincial Membership Officer - Phone: 07969 058951

Email: Membership@ekprovince.co.uk

or

Nigel Mann - Deputy Provincial Membership Officer - Phone: 07807 100790

Email: Deputymembership@ekprovince.co.uk

New Appointments

Several new appointments were made this year to the East Kent Provincial Executive and here we introduce them to you.

Assistant Provincial Grand Master Peter Rhodes

Peter Ronald Rhodes is a Sussex lad, born in Bognor Regis in 1961. He moved to Kent while a teenager and now lives in Upchurch with his wife Shirley. They have two children, Rebecca and Edward.

Peter was initiated in The Royal Kent Lodge of Antiquity No 20 in 1995 and served as its Master in 2003 and 2016; he was also Director of Ceremonies for nine years. He is a member of Kent Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge No 5866, the Spirit of Rugby Lodge No 9922 (of which he was a Founder) and the Millennium Lodge of Charity in East Kent No 9730.

Peter was Editor of the Provincial magazine for five years before being appointed as Provincial Grand Charity Steward in 2018. He was delighted to have been promoted to Assistant Provincial Grand Master in April this year.

Freemasonry is very much in Peter's blood, for there are many Masonic connections in his family. His late father, Philip, was well known to many as he played the organ for several Lodges, Chapters and other Orders.

Says Peter, "My wife Shirley is very patient and understanding and particularly supportive of my masonic activities". In his spare time, he likes to follow sport and is an occasional golfer: how successfully, he doesn't say!



3rd Provincial Grand Principal Graeme Wyles



Graeme John Wyles was born in Perth, Scotland, but now lives in Maidstone. He was initiated in 1977 in Kirkliston Maitland Lodge No 482 (Scottish Constitution) in which he is a Life Member. He joined Douglas Lodge No 1725 in 1992, was its Master in 2001 and is currently its Chapter Liaison Officer. Receiving Provincial Honours in 2013, he is a Past Provincial Deputy Grand Registrar.

In the Royal Arch Graeme was exalted in Maides Stana Chapter No 7868 in 2006, was its First Principal in 2012 and its Treasurer from 2014 - 2021. Previously an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals from 2020, Graeme was appointed Past Grand Standard Bearer in Supreme Grand Chapter in 2023.

New Appointments

Prov. Grand Charity Steward Colin Barden MBE

Born in Dartford, but now living in Shorne, Colin Alan Barden was invested as a Member of the British Empire in 2000. He was initiated in the Per Mare Per Terram Lodge No 3699 in 1999, was its Master in 2008 and is currently the Lodge Secretary. He is also a member of the Kent Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge No 5866, Northfleet Lodge No 4149, the Millenium Lodge of Charity No 9730, a petitioner for the East Kent Motorcycle Lodge and was Senior Provincial Grand Warden in 2023.

In the Royal Arch, Colin was exalted in the Per Mare Per Terram Chapter No 3699 in 2001 and was its First Principal in 2010. He was promoted to Past Provincial Grand Sojourner in 2023.



Prov. Grand Chapter Comm's Officer Paul Goodwin



Paul Eric Goodwin was born in Canterbury but now lives in the Ashford area. He was initiated in Ashford Lodge No 8945 in 1992, was its Master in 2002 and is the Lodge Treasurer and Chapter Liaison Officer. He is also a member of the Kent Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge No 5866. His Craft Provincial rank is Past Provincial Grand Registrar.

In the Royal Arch he was exalted in Invicta Chapter No 709 in 2001, was its First Principal in 2009 and 2013 and is currently their Treasurer. He was promoted to Past Provincial Grand Sojourner in 2022.

Paul brings his experience as a digital marketer to the Provincial communications team and aims to increase the profile of the Royal Arch in East Kent.

New Appointments

Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies Graham Cuthbert

Born in Medway, but living in the Ashford area since 1971, Graham Robert Cuthbert was initiated in the Manor of Chatham Lodge No 4688 in 1987. In 1990 he joined the Ashford Lodge No 8945 where he has been Master three times. He is also a Joining Member of the Wakefield of Hythe Lodge No 6059 and a Member of East Kent Masters No 3931.

In the Royal Arch he was exalted in 1988 into Royal Kent Arch Chapter of Antiquity No 20 and joined Castle Chapter No 1436 in 2024.

Graham's previous provincial appointment was as Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, in which office he served from 2022 until 2024.



Prov. Grand Chapter Mentor Peter Bearman



Born in Manchester but now living in Gravesend, Peter John Bearman was initiated in the Libertas Secunda Lodge No 6433 in 2000 and was its Master in 2008. He is also a Joining Member of Mid-Kent Masters', East Kent Scriveners' and East Kent Masters' lodges.

Peter was exalted in Beamish Chapter No 3869 in 2006, was its First Principal in 2014, 2015, 2019 and 2020 and is now its Scribe E. Peter is also a Joining Member of Gravesham Chapter and Mid-Kent First Principals'.

In the Province of East Kent Peter holds the rank of Past Provincial Grand Registrar in the Craft and Provincial Grand Sc N, before his appointment to Provincial Grand Mentor, in the Royal Arch.

Further details of all these newly appointed Brethren and Companions, together with all members of the Provincial Executive, can be found in Your Province (YP2), the online portal for East Kent Freemasons.

Community Engagement – Helping Young People

*Article and
Photos:
Richard Wingett*



Peter Hazelwood (centre) with Hilary Eldridge, Lady Melville DL and Dr. Bashir Abbu-Manneh from the University of Kent. Shown holding the Gift Agreement.

The University of Kent, the Kent Scouts, and the Kent Museum of Freemasonry in Canterbury are thrilled to announce the Dr Teddy Church Bursary Fund.

This distinguished award honours Dr Church, a Freemason, devoted GP, and avid collector of Kentish history, genealogy, and heraldry.

Dr Church dedicated his life to service, significantly improving the lives of countless patients as a GP. His true passion, however, was delving into Kent's rich history. Through careful collecting, he built an impressive library on these subjects, which he generously bequeathed to the Kent Museum of Freemasonry.

The Bursary was inspired by Peter Hazlewood, a trustee and

Development Manager at the Kent Museum of Freemasonry. It is generously funded by the Provinces of East and West Kent and the Museum itself.

The Bursary aims to support young people. In East Kent, it will assist students embarking on their academic journey at the University of Kent. In West Kent, it will help families purchase Scout uniforms and fund attendance at Scout camps.

The University of Kent

The Dr Teddy Church Bursary will establish an annual history prize, continuing Dr Church's spirit of giving. For the next five years, the prize will recognise outstanding academic achievement in history among first-year students at the University of Kent.

The £500 prize will be divided, with £300 for the first prize and £200 for the second. This Prize not only honours Dr Church's legacy but also encourages future historians.

The University of Kent deeply appreciates the Kent Museum of Freemasonry for establishing this award and believes the Dr Teddy Church Prize in History will inspire students for years to come.

The Dr Teddy Church Bursary Fund



Alan Noakes MBE, Assistant County Commissioner for Kent Scouts (left) with Peter Hazelwood and the Gift Agreement.

The Scout Association

The Bursary will support the five Scout groups in West Kent, helping families afford Scout uniforms and enabling Scouts to attend camps that would otherwise be unaffordable.

The Scouts have a long-standing relationship with the Freemasons of East and West Kent, both of whom have many Scouting associated Lodges. In January 2022, a team of ten Scouts, eight from Kent and two from Scotland, sailed to the Antarctic Peninsula as part of the REQUEST2021 Antarctica Project, commemorating the 1921-1922 Shackleton-Rowett "Quest" Expedition.

This adventure, proudly sponsored in part by the Freemasons of East and West Kent, made dreams come true for ten young people, highlighting the spirit of adventure and conservation of the project.

Canterbury's Medieval Pageant

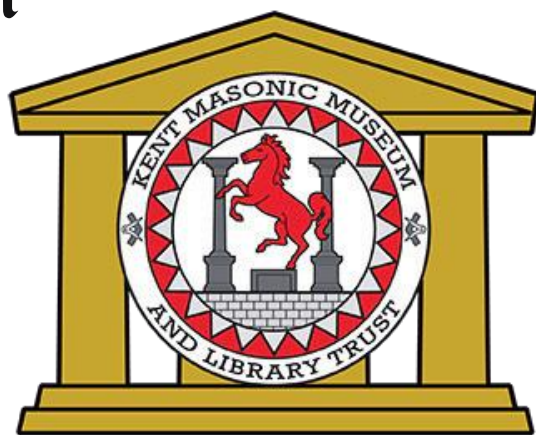
More from Richard Wingett

The Kent Masonic Museum and Library opened its doors on Saturday 6th July to participate in Canterbury's Medieval Pageant.

This marks the third year of the museum's involvement in the pageant with 400 visitors on the first occasion and just over 500 on the second. This year there were more than 700 visitors, making it the fourth most visited attraction in Canterbury on the day.

This achievement is a testament to the success of the Community Engagement strategy and made possible by the wonderful volunteers who helped on the day.

The pageant was covered extensively in the media, including TV and radio, and attracted visitors from across Kent and beyond.



The event was also supported by the Sheriff of Canterbury and her Consort who both wanted to come back to the museum, but without their chains of office!

Additionally, the museum provided overnight storage for some of the City Council's equipment, ready for the parade which assembled outside.

HOW THE ARCHWAY PRINCIPLES WERE USED TO REVIVE RECVLVERS CHAPTER

Following on from our report on the launch of Archway in the Spring issue, Reculvers Chapter No 4123 used its key principles to revive their chapter.

Contributors:

*Mark Costelloe and
Paul Goodwin*

The chapter, which was consecrated in 1926, meeting in the Margate area, had recently been in decline and, with just six active members in December 2023, was seriously considering its future. Ian White, the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, and a Past Principal of Reculvers Chapter, sought advice from Steve Wyatt, the Provincial Grand Membership Officer in the Craft and a member of the chapter. How could they reverse the trend and grow the chapter?

The light-bulb moment came when Steve was ordering a bottle of fine whisky. It led him to suggest a special-interest chapter with whisky as its special interest. Research showed that no other such special interest existed in East Kent nor indeed in Supreme Grand Chapter. Ian White was keen on the idea, shared it with his fellow members, and they agreed to explore it further.



The next step was to find a sponsor, with the English Whisky Company in Norfolk being the first choice. They had a brand called Chapter and they also had a connection with Freemasonry having produced the Tercentenary Whisky for Grand Lodge. The Sales Manager at English Whisky loved the idea and offered support.

Further consultation with the chapter members revealed that one individual didn't like whisky but suggested making it a Dining Chapter as well. It was then discovered that Reculvers Chapter had once been a Dining Chapter and, with their caterer keen to support them, the idea was adopted. On receiving approval from the Provincial Grand Chapter of East Kent, the next step was to launch the new-look chapter.

Adverts were placed, Brethren and members were canvassed and a list of Joining Members, Exaltees and guests was compiled.

The first meeting of the revived Whisky and Dining Chapter was held on 28th March 2024 and the sponsor provided two bottles of superb whisky, one of which had just won the World Whisky Award.

At that meeting, ballots were held for nine joining members and three new members were exalted, including Ian White's son, Ross. Each chapter member had the opportunity to purchase a special snifter glass engraved with the chapter crest and their name. The meal and whisky were outstanding.



Ian White and his son Ross



Steve Wyatt prepares to serve the whiskies

A guest at the meeting suggested they should pair a fine wine with the main course. The chapter agreed to this idea and so it is now a Whisky Appreciation, Dining and Wine Chapter, thanks to another sponsorship from Laithwaites Wines.

At their next meeting in June, which was attended by the Deputy Grand Superintendent John Baker, the evening was rounded off with a blind tasting of two fine whiskies followed by an excellent four-course meal, all the trimmings, two fine wines and a glass of port.

The four key principles of Archway were employed in changing this chapter's fortunes:

SHAPE – The chapter built on its past and looked to its future.

GROW – More people were attracted to help them on their journey.

INVOLVE – Their members and some guests helped to shape the changes.

ENJOY – Their Festive Board is now a highlight of the evening.



Left to Right: Jeff Tiley (Dep Prov GDC), John Baker (Dep GSupt), Gerry Stupple (Dep Prov GDC), Adrian Corbridge (Acting 2nd Principal), John Newland (1st Principal), Pat King (3rd Principal), Ian White, (2nd Prov GPrin), Dennis Fordham (Prov Memb Officer), Paul Pavitt (Prov GDC), Peter Bearman (Prov G Mentor)

The MCF's Mission for Mental Wellbeing

It has been well-documented that mental health issues are on the rise across all age groups, which is something the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF - the Freemasons' charity) is working hard to tackle.

The MCF can help Freemasons and their families access mental health support if they're feeling down, have symptoms of depression, anxiety, stress or other mental health concerns. This includes widows and partners of Freemasons regardless of gender, as well as children, step-children, and grandchildren of Freemasons aged between 5-17 years old.

The mental health support service offered by the MCF is delivered through an experienced and independent provider and gives access to fully trained and qualified mental health practitioners, ensuring that they receive the highest quality of care.

Children and Young People



A recent study found that young people, aged 16-24 are the most affected by mental health struggles, with nearly a quarter (23.5%) describing their mental health as either bad or the worst it's ever been (source: Forth with Life).

Anna, aged 20, reached out to the MCF as she was struggling to manage her anxiety, and as a result was struggling to complete her university coursework. After an initial assessment where it was found she was unable to address her negative thoughts and emotions, she was offered a course of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT).

After 12 sessions, Anna has made significant progress and has learnt to manage her worry and anxiety. She is so glad she reached out to the MCF for support and found that the sessions massively helped her self-esteem and confidence, and taught her to understand herself more.

Steven, aged 13, also turned to the MCF for support after he began to struggle with his anxiety when at school. In his initial assessment, Steven was lacking in confidence and self-esteem and was referred to the MCF's external provider for six sessions of counselling. With their help, Steven challenged his thoughts and noticed his mood improved and anxiety quickly became more manageable.

He also learnt to feel more comfortable reaching out for support and has since adapted the tools he learnt in counselling to better manage his wellbeing and feel less isolated.

Isolation in Later Life



Latest figures show that around 1.2 million older people experience loneliness in the UK (source: Age UK). Thanks to a £1 million partnership with Age UK, the MCF has supported over 10,000 older people experiencing loneliness across the country. More than half (56 per cent) of older people who had originally reported often feeling lonely, now reported lower levels.

Bereavement can have a significant impact on mental health, so it makes sense that widows and widowers frequently show a higher proportion of depression and symptoms of PTSD on average. This can be because many live by themselves, will face isolation, and will often withdraw socially.

The MCF supported Bill, an 88 year old Freemason, who struggled with loneliness since his wife, Nancy, passed away. He told the MCF, “I’ve never experienced anything like the help and the wonderful feeling I’ve had dealing with the Foundation. I can’t say thank you enough.”

Could the MCF support you or someone you know?

Those seeking mental health support should contact the MCF’s Enquiries team who will provide the details required to access the service. 0800 035 60 90 / help@mcf.org.uk

If you are experiencing thoughts of self-harm or suicide, it is essential that you seek immediate assistance. Please reach out to the charity [Mind](#), who can provide the necessary support to ensure your safety.

Learn more about the MCF’s access to mental health support service: <https://mcf.org.uk/get-support/freemasons-and-families/health-and-wellbeing/>



The Masonic Charitable Foundation is the national charity of Freemasonry under the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE).

UGLE is the governing body of Freemasonry in England, Wales, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and some Districts overseas.

© 2024 Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Charity Number 1164703 Company Number 09751836

FESTIVAL BALL 2024

It was a "Hard Days Night" but it all "Came Together" to "Help" raise funds for the 2025 Festival.



It has been some time since we were here in Maidstone, the room looked fantastic, and the stage was set for the evening's entertainment. More about that later.

Our guest compere, Lewis Fuller of **"Britain's Got Talent"** fame, gave the opening Grace and we all sat down to enjoy the festival banquet.

After the meal the Provincial Grand Master delivered the Toast to The Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent.

The mic was then passed to Paul Crocket, Head of Fundraising for the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF).

He gave an inspiring speech and one that held the attention of everyone in attendance. One comment that really shook us all, was, *"Since the formation of the MCF in 2016, an average of £50,000 has been donated every single day"*. This really blew our minds, and had my guests talking. An unbelievable amount of money that comes from events like this, and our Lodges and Chapters.

Paul Crocket, Head of Fundraising for the MCF

"All Together Now", summed up the evening of the 15th June 2024, at the Mercure Great Danes Hotel, Maidstone.

With a packed foyer ready to enter the Festival Banquet, the atmosphere was "Flying". The Provincial Stewards of 2023 were "Here There and Everywhere", (alright, I will now stop with the song titles, it was a "Hard Night"!)

The guests waited in anticipation for the arrival of our Provincial Grand Master and his wife.

The wait was over and, led by Paul Routley, Chair of the 2023 Board of Provincial Grand Stewards, the Provincial Grand Master Neil Hamilton Johnstone and his wife Margaret entered the Banqueting Room.



“SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE MCF IN 2016, AN AVERAGE OF £50,000 HAS BEEN DONATED EVERY SINGLE DAY”



Fully fed, entertained and worn out from the successful evening, the guests started leaving for home, with smiles on their faces and goodbyes said, another successful Ball hosted by the Provincial Stewards was over.

At the time of reporting, the evening had raised over £18,000.

The Provincial Grand Master, the President of the Board of Stewards 2023, and everyone involved in making this such a great evening, thank you all those that attended, supported and contributed to the evening.

See you in 2025!

Article and photos by Paul Gear,
Provincial Grand Communications Officer

The Counterfeit Beatles

The main entertainment for the evening, was a band called the “Counterfeit Beatles”, and what a band! Giving us two sets of songs, a wardrobe change and lots of famous hits, All You Need is Love, Hey Jude, Let it Be, and many more.

THE GRAND DRAW!

So, with the band taking a break, it was time for the Grand Draw, a chance to win, a 7-night P & O cruise to the Norwegian Fjords.

Drum Roll.....

Grand Draw (Norwegian Fjords cruise) - Mae Bonner

Mae, our worthy winner, with the joy and excitement of winning written all over her face, joined the Provincial Grand Master and his Wife Margaret to collect her top prize. (photo below).



COMPANION ORDERS

WHAT ARE THEY?

Alongside the Craft and Royal Arch are many other Masonic Orders and here Roger Waltham, the Inspector General for the District of East Kent, introduces one of them - the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Rose Croix

The Companion Order of Rose Croix is open to Master Masons of any Faith. It is a beautiful Order, which greatly encourages a fraternal bond of compassion, care, and friendship. The ritual delivers a very wonderful experience for the candidate through a meaningful journey from darkness to light.

Here in the District of East Kent a mindset is encouraged to endeavour to always deliver GOOD RITUAL, GOOD FELLOWSHIP, and GOOD FOOD at every meeting of a Rose Croix Chapter. This ensures the enjoyment and engagement of members so that they always look forward to the next meeting.

Members Attend Because They Enjoy and Value It

The following explains more about this very happy and friendly Order

Rose Croix is the name of one of the Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, an Order of Freemasonry as old as the Craft itself. It has its own governing body called The Supreme Council and its own headquarters building referred to as the Grand East, which is situated in Duke Street St James's in London.

The Rose Croix degree is the 18th of the 33 degrees of the Rite, all of which are working degrees. With 33 degrees available, the ritual reflects aspects of Craft Masonry, the Royal Arch, and other Companion Orders in its workings.



Individual Rose Croix Chapters are permitted only to perform the 18th degree ceremony, referred to as the Perfection of a Candidate, as well as the Annual Enthronement of the equivalent of the Worshipful Master, who is called the Most Wise Sovereign.

There are over 30 Supreme Councils around the world, all of which are in amity with each other.

Membership is open to Brothers of any Faith, who have been Master Masons for six months or more and who are willing to join the Order through a degree ceremony based upon a journey from darkness to light, represented by the story of Jesus of Nazareth from Good Friday to Easter Day.

The first three degrees of the Order are deemed to be equivalent to the three degrees of Craft Masonry. The Intermediate Degrees, from the 4th to the 17th inclusive, continue the teaching of symbolic masonry and are conferred by name immediately before the 18th degree (Rose Croix) ceremony commences. Amongst those Intermediate Degrees are clear connections with the Royal Arch and other Companion Orders.

If he wishes it, a member of a Chapter will be invited to progress through the offices of the Chapter, leading to the Most Wise Sovereign's Chair, after which he may be recommended for appointment to the 30th Degree.

The 30th Degree ceremony is carried out at the Grand East and is performed personally by members of The Supreme Council. Over time, further meritorious service may even reward a Brother with appointment to the 31st and very occasionally even the 32nd degree, again performed by The Supreme Council. Such further appointments are extremely limited and, unlike other parts of Freemasonry, are not allocated and awarded each year.

The 18th Degree ritual is performed by Chapters in a sincere and a particularly dignified manner. The DC does not carry a wand nor lead members by the arm. The gavel is used very sparingly during meetings and not used at all at the meal afterwards, when Toasts are few in number and responses are kept very short.



The ceremony of Perfection is a metaphor, extolling the principles of goodness and the journey from darkness to light. It culminates in words which clearly reflect the combined ethos of all Faiths, by encouraging members in the love and care of one's fellow man.

Before a Chapter meeting is closed there is a secular feast of fraternal affection, which is based on eastern and western traditions of hospitality and friendship, and which very clearly symbolises the universality of the Order.

Rose Croix is a very lean organisation! The Supreme Council delegates authority to Districts through an Inspector General, who has an executive team of just one other, named the District Recorder. Most Districts reflect the geographical boundaries of the Craft Provinces, which is the case for East Kent.

The Inspector General for East Kent is Very Illustrious Brother Roger Waltham 33°. There are 21 Chapters meeting in the District with a membership of around 550. At the time of this publication the District of East Kent is the joint 2nd largest District in the Order under The Supreme Council of England, Wales and its Districts and Chapters overseas.

Rose Croix is a very happy and friendly Order.

*For further information contact:
The District Recorder, Trevor Youens
recorder@eastkentrosecroix.org*

Or visit the website via the QR code



<https://eastkentrosecroix.org>:



East Kent Masonic Golf Association

**"We welcome all freemasons and their guests through their love of Golf.
It's a relaxed fun environment welcoming all standards of golfer."**

By Paul McGuirk

Who can play? All East Kent Freemasons and their guests, especially potential members. We welcome all standards of golfer with prizes on offer for all abilities. All we ask is that you respect the pace of play on the day.

Do I need a handicap? Certainly not! It's a fun and friendly society designed to be relaxed. On your first event, you will be asked for a guide to your handicap and this is adjusted for future events.

What does it cost to join? There is no joining fee, however, you may wish to purchase an EKMGA golf shirt costing £30.

When and where do you meet? Events are held from March to October. We try and play a mixture of courses from the higher end to shorter or more budget conscious courses.

What's the format? All events include a social Stableford. In addition we may play another province. Each event starts with a breakfast meeting, 18 holes of Golf and often a light lunch with prizegiving.

How do I book in? Simply use the link on the website or email golf@ekprovince.co.uk We will confirm your booking and ask you to pay online in advance of the event to secure your place.

MALLING CENTENARY LODGE NO 8086 WIN THE WILLIAM BLAY TROPHY



May saw the annual tournament for the inter-lodge competition trophy at West Malling Golf Club where seven teams contested for this prestigious trophy.

William Blay was a Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Province of Kent prior to the province being split into East & West Kent. This prestigious trophy, which is housed in the museum at Canterbury, has been contested each year since 1949. Richard Watts Lodge provided great support with two teams and were joined by teams from Malling Centenary Lodge, Maeides Stana Lodge, Spirit of Rugby Lodge, Weald of Kent Lodge and Royal Navy Lodge.

William Blay Results:

Winners: Malling Centenary Lodge No 8068 - 101 Pts
Runners Up: Richard Watts Lodge No 8534 (2) - 96 pts
Third Place: Richard Watts Lodge No 8534 (1) - 96 pts

Individual Results

Dave Berwick, Queenborough Lodge No 3893 - 42 Pts
Nigel Mann Royal Navy Lodge No 429 - 37 Pts



Light Blues Brothers

*Report by Peter Stewart, Nigel
Mann and David Morgan*



The East Kent Light Blues Brothers is the provincial club for every Brother, newly initiated or experienced that has not yet received Provincial or Grand honours.

Established in 2020 and attached to the Old Roffensian Lodge No 8006 in Rochester, its membership is open to all masons throughout the province who are still a 'light blue', Brother or Worshipful Brother.

With a full schedule of activities and social gatherings it allows for brethren of all lodges to come together, make new friends and try new experiences. One of their more recent activities was a day where the brothers were given a taste of gliding.

On Friday the 28th of June, those brothers who would dare to touch the eagles' reach, gathered to take to the skies with nought but the wind to sustain them.

Nigel Mann loved the event and thoroughly recommended every brother to try it if the opportunity arose; even though his instructor was, apparently, a frustrated stunt pilot!

David Morgan was even heard to say he was thinking of taking up gliding as soon as the opportunity presented itself, it was so well received.

Whilst the above two endorsements of the event were overwhelmingly positive, there is one further story that should be included about Peter Stewart.

Peter, you see, had a problem with heights; an odd situation to be in considering his career in the Royal Air Force! Peter had flown whilst on duty of course and while on holiday too. However the fear of heights was always there. When the Light Blues Brothers suggested a day gliding, Peter was determined to go. In his own words: "I would hate to shuffle off this mortal coil with regrets of things I wished I had done..."

He approached his new wings with a little trepidation, noting that the plane had the appearance of the toys he made out of balsa wood as a child. However his biggest worry was that there was no engine. The usual manner of propulsion was missing, and he had to quell that all too common fear of heights. Getting strapped in, his pilot was heard to say "just taking up the slack, we'll be off in a minute".

That minute came and went and soon Peter was hurtling across the grass, heart in mouth and stomach doing the acrobatics that Nigel's pilot from earlier seemed to want to achieve.

As quickly as they started across the grass, there was utter silence. Peter was airborne; he was soaring through the blue expanse of heaven. He realised that his pilot, Richard, was pointing out local landmarks, but had been lost in a silent magical peace. All too soon the glider was being lined up for its landing. Richard the pilot landed better than Peter had experienced on many state-of-the-art jets and the experience was over. Peter's closing statement was "the glider experience is one I'll remember for a long time".

It is experiences like this that add a depth to the membership of the East Kent Light Blues Brothers, and one that adds a different dimension to membership of the Craft. The club tries to have an active calendar, with the following events scheduled in the near future: A social breakfast in Gravesend on the 17th of August and attending the Daniel Spencer Memorial Cricket event on the 18th of August.

If you are interested in joining the East Kent Light Blues Brothers, you can contact Stephen Ford at membership@eklbb.org.uk or join online at www eklbb.org.uk.

The membership fee is a very reasonable £10 for a lifetime membership.



OLD MANWOODIAN LODGE HITS DOUBLE FIGURES

*Report by Steven Murray, Secretary of
The Old Manwoodian Lodge. No 7636*

At the Old Manwoodian Lodge No 7636 on the 11th May, the Brethren were pleased to welcome the ninth and tenth new Initiates into the Lodge since December 2021.

Newly made Brothers, Keith Simpson and Chris Ockenden, joined our other two Entered Apprentices, Jon Cavell and Richard Harris, along with six other Brethren who all rose to become Master Masons in the last three years.

The Lodge only meets four times a year, so has been doing double ceremonies to move our newly made Brothers through the ranks at every meeting since the end of 2021.

At the end of the meeting the Lodge gave Notice of Motion for two more candidates to be balloted for at the next Regular Meeting. It is hoping to have initiated a dozen new members by the end of 2024.

The secret of success is a combination of a very active local Membership Officer, Adrian Ponting, a friendly and welcoming set of Brethren, and an active connection to the school that bears its name.

Alms Across the Provinces

Nigel Fitz, Provincial Grand Almoner, writes:

As Provincial Grand Almoner I regularly receive requests from other Provinces to enquire on a Brother or a family member who lives in East Kent. In these cases we confirm their masonic connection and do all we can to make contact.

Here is one such example.

On this occasion I received an email from the Provincial Grand Almoner of Nottinghamshire regarding the health of an elderly Aunt who had sadly just lost her son a couple of days ago. He had been contacted by a local mason, on behalf of a family member, to see if any masonic contact could be made with an elderly Aunt, living in our Province, who was a widow of an East Kent Freemason. The family who are spread across the country were concerned for her health at this difficult time and would appreciate it someone could reach out to give her some support.

It was soon established that masonic connection was through a Past Master of the George Hamilton Lodge No 3452 in Deal. Contact was made through the Lodge Almoner who responded to my email immediately. He advised that the Lodge had been in touch with Dorothy, aged 92, twice in recent weeks and had invited her to the Lodge's Widows lunch. However she is now housebound and was unable to attend but the Almoner promised to keep in touch and to arrange a visit soon.



This update was immediately relayed back to the family and the local Provincial Grand Almoner. He in turn passed on his sincere thanks to all those involved in East Kent for their swift response. He thought it wonderful that Dorothy is still being looked after by members of the George Hamilton Lodge and was relieved to know that she has the support of her friends in the local masonic community.

This is a great example of what the Lodge Almoner does behind the scenes and unknown to most other Brethren and Companions. I would like to give a huge thank you and 'shout out' to WBro Ken Hannah, a stalwart of the George Hamilton Lodge, for being there for one of our widows. It's a great tribute to him for his care and compassion which often goes unnoticed. Not this time Ken - you are a star and we thank you for all the work you do for your Lodge and its members.

The Cymbolick Penalties

A NEW ALBUM TO HELP SUPPORT THE PROVINCE OF EAST KENT 2025 FESTIVAL



What's been happening with the band since we last reported on them in 2021?

While no longer performing in public the band has spent hours in the studio where they have recorded some of their music. A collection of these recordings has been chosen for a limited edition to be released in September to help raise funds for the 2025 Festival. The tracks are a mix of covers and original numbers, many of which the band played during their earlier live performances. Several guest musicians and vocalists from the East Kent Masonic community are featured - Steve Povey, John Gallagher, Ian White, Kelvin Pratt, the Provincial Choir, members of the Sir Edward Elgar Lodge, wives and other family members, are amongst those included.

The inspiration for the album's title, **In Search of the Lost Note**, came from a painting by Hazel Christine - Alan Kilburn's wife and a talented professional artist - and her artwork will feature on the album's cover. There will also be some sleeve notes giving more information about the tracks and the performers.

These CDs are being produced this summer ready to be given to the Masonic Province of East Kent who will use them to raise funds for its 2025 Festival in support of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Details of how you can obtain a copy of this limited edition will be announced at the beginning of September.

Please give them your support as this will be their swansong.

Who Are They?

The Cymbolick Penalties are a band of former professional and semi-professional musicians - all East Kent Freemasons - who came together in 2010 to provide live music for the production of *Aladdin*, the provincial pantomime held that year.

Afterwards the band continued to rehearse and went on to play at various masonic fund-raisers.

They recorded their first CD in 2012, copies of which were sold to raise funds for the 2014 Festival. The band continued to play live at the provincial pantomimes and at many other charitable events.

They went on to record *The Poppy Song* for the World War I commemorative exhibition at the Kent Museum of Freemasonry in 2018 and an original song called *Helping Hands*, written and composed by the band, for the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity.

In 2020, recording remotely during lockdown conditions, and then back in the studio when permitted, they produced a video album which was used by the Kent Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre for their online Music Shack festival.

Band members are Jake Jackson - bass guitar and vocals, Alan (Pinki) Kilburn - lead guitar and vocals, Graham (Fingers) Mitchell - keyboards, Roger Waltham - guitar and Andy Notley - drums. They are occasionally joined by Steve Povey - saxophone, guitar and vocals.

AROUND THE PROVINCE

Do you have anything to report?



Hythe

BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

Wakefield of Hythe Lodge donated £1,000 to the British Heart Foundation from their annual Ladies Night Dinner Dance. A further £1,000 was given to Prostate Cancer UK.

Canterbury

STREAM WALK COMMUNITY GARDENS

Graystone Lodge presented a cheque to the local community garden to cover the cost of installing an underground water pipe to the rear of the garden and tea-shed facility.

The photo shows Charity Steward Laurie Shore and Tim Todds presenting the cheque to the Gardens Chair, Veronica Wheatley.

The garden supports people's well-being and encourages children to visit. They also have a Dodgers shed for woodworking, a way of getting men together.



AROUND THE PROVINCE



Margate

VISIT TO GRAND LODGE

Jim Mason of Union Lodge reports: Fifteen members of the Union Lodge of Instruction demonstrated their 'Daily Advancement of Masonic Knowledge' by visiting the museum at United Grand Lodge and taking advantage of a guided tour on Saturday 8th June.

The trip was organised by Lodge Mentor, Daren Templeman, and the group included a prospective new member who fitted in well.

The tour began at 11 am and many questions were put to our guide which were ably answered in a first-class manner.

After visiting the shop in Grand Lodge, we lunched at the infamous Shakespeare taking in a few 'libations'. This was followed by a short walk to Covent Garden where we sat in the sun watching some street performers. Back at St Pancras, with an hour to wait for the train, we had a bite to eat before setting off for home.

A long but very pleasant day where we were able to advance our masonic knowledge and relax in each other's company. A thoroughly enjoyable experience had by all.

Broadstairs

DEFIBRILLATOR FOR HILDERSTONE COLLEGE

Royal Navy Lodge No 429 in Ramsgate received a request for help from Hilderstone College in Broadstairs who had been raising funds for a new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to be located on their campus.

The lodge had recently enjoyed a presentation on the use of defibrillators and were aware they should be deployed within three to five minutes of collapse.

As the next nearest public AED was some ten minutes away from the college, Hilderstone's request was a cause that the Lodge was keen to support. The college had covered the £1,000 cost of the AED but needed a further £400 for the secure box needed to house it. Lodge members voted to support a donation of £200 and then approached the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity to "match-fund" this donation, which was duly granted. The photo shows Royal Navy's Charity Steward, Nigel Mann, with Tracey and Rosie from Community Lifesavers, presenting the cheque to Jonathan Hume-Almeida and Martin Millbank from the college.



The new defibrillator will serve the local community including the schools, church, public house and other businesses that are within two minutes from the college. The lodge hopes that it will never be needed but are reassured that it offers a potential lifeline to anyone within this radius.

AROUND THE PROVINCE



Chatham

10TH MEDWAY SEA SCOUTS

When Robyn Murdo-Smith became Master of St George Abadan Lodge No 6058 he was asked to choose a local good cause that would benefit from some help from the lodge. Robyn was not a resident of the Medway Towns but, as a keen kayaker, Venture Scout and recipient of the Queen's Scout Award, he chose the 10th Medway Towns Sea Scouts based in Chatham.

Coincidentally it transpired that the group scout leader's late father had been a regular guest at St George Abadan and this cemented the plan.

On behalf of the lodge, Robyn chose to generously donate his kayak to the sea scout troop and a date was arranged for the handover. On Friday 21st June 2024, Robyn - supported by lodge Treasurer David Hiscock and Director of Ceremonies Roy Coenye - presented the boat to Scout Leader Martin Yorke. The event took place at Yalding following a joint paddling session on the River Medway by scouts from 10th and 38th-40th Medway Towns. In all, forty young people were there developing their paddling skills and increasing their self-confidence on the water. It was a great sight!

Gillingham

SAINTS V GREENS

At the regular meeting in April of All Saints Lodge No 5383, their Daughter Lodge - St. Mary's Gillingham Green No 6499 - made their annual visit.

The plan for this occasion was a masonic / general knowledge quiz. Two teams of ten were arranged from each lodge and Peter Martin, Secretary of All Saints, was the Quiz Master.



After much thought and digging deep into those "little grey cells", St Mary's Gillingham Green were victorious by a narrow margin of two points. A Golden Spoon, made and donated by Spencer Everett of All Saints, was then presented to Graham Elder, Master of St Mary's Gillingham Green.

The challenge now stands for an annual quiz which All Saints hope they can win back the trophy next year. The Brethren then retired to a hearty and enjoyable Festive Board.

Report by Peter Martin

AROUND THE PROVINCE

The Great Group 3 Cycle



Taking a tour
of our 3
Masonic
Centres

Wigmore - Sittingbourne - Sheerness

All proceeds are going towards
the Group 3 2025 Festival target!



To take part please contact Cymon Williams on
07931816817 or at cymonwilliams@hotmail.co.uk

Sittingbourne

GROUP 3 CYCLE RIDE

Following on from his success in the London Marathon, where he raised £1,500 for the MCF, Cymon Williams of Gore Court Lodge No 8231 and the Group 3 Charity Coordinator, has arranged the Great Group 3 Cycle Ride, in support of Group 3's 2025 Festival objective.

Ten Riders have so far agreed to take part and will ride between the Masonic centres of Wigmore, Sittingbourne and Sheerness. The route is approximately 20 miles.

A target of £1,000 is the aim which with your kind support they should be able to reach. The link (QR Code) is on the poster for donations.

Please support this event. If everyone in Group 3 donated £1 each, they would hit their target.

If you would like to take part and ride, please see contact details on poster. All are welcome.

Sunday 8th September 2024

Rochester

THE THREE JAYS

In April, Jake and James Rowan and Joe Gibson, the three youngest officers of Rochester Castle Lodge No 9260, took part in a three-day fund-raising run from the Provincial Office in Whitstable to Rochester Castle via Maidstone.

Jake and James Rowan are both 'Lewises' who followed their father, Ian, into Rochester Castle Lodge and are now Junior and Senior Deacon respectively. Joe Gibson, a Lodge Steward, works with Jake and they have all been friends for a long time.

For James to run anywhere is something of a minor miracle and testament both to the skills of the NHS orthopaedic surgeons in Pembury and the National Orthopaedic Centre in

Stanmore. He was also determined not to be defined by a life-changing injury. At the age of twenty-one James damaged his knee in an accident in the Peak District. There followed several years of treatment, reconstructive surgery and physio to save his leg and to get him walking again. This run was going to be a challenge for him but he would be supported by his two fellow brethren.

Early on Thursday 25th April, they set off from Whitstable and ran through the Kent countryside to Sittingbourne, a distance of just under fifteen miles. There, members of St Michael's Lodge No 1273 opened the centre and welcomed the runners with refreshments (for which the three Jays were very grateful). On the 26th, they ran twelve-and-a-half miles from Sittingbourne to the Maidstone Masonic Centre in Tovil. On the 27th they ran the shortest, but steepest leg from Tovil to Rochester, via Boxley Hill. Thanks to all their sponsors they have raised £900 so far towards their target of £1,000 for the 2025 Festival. Here's a link for further donations:-



James, Joe and Jake - The Three Jays

<https://donate.givetap.co.uk/f/masonic-charitable-foundation/e2025-east-kent-2025-festival/rochester-castle-9260-festival-fundraisers>

AROUND THE PROVINCE



Deal

IVY WARD DONATION

A group of Masonic Lodges in Deal came together to present a £2,100 donation to the family of four-year-old Ivy Ward. Ivy suffers from a rare chromosome abnormality requiring significant care and specialised equipment.

The donation, made possible by the support of the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity, will help cover the costs of Ivy's care and improve her quality of life.

This act of generosity highlights the masonic commitment to charity and community support, with the lodges emphasising their long-standing tradition of helping those in need within their community. A big thank you to Colin Tonks for arranging the donations and the presentation event.

Ramsgate

THE OLD ROMANTICS LODGE

On Sunday, June 23rd, Vic Voss' home played host to a gathering of nearly thirty people for a unique celebration. The occasion marked the first anniversary of *The Old Romantics Lodge*, a fraternal group sponsored by the Old Ruymian Lodge No 8391 and the Skilled Archer Conclave No 284.

A humorous and light-hearted ceremony saw the installation of new lodge officers, each bestowed with a playful title, such as 'Lodge Temple Builder', 'Bell Ringer', 'Carriage Driver', 'Lodge Nurse' and 'Tooth Puller'.



Amidst the jovial atmosphere, a poignant moment unfolded when Frank and Jackie Stocks shared their family's journey with their eleven year-old granddaughter, Ellie, who suffers from Mabry Syndrome. The couple explained how the Masonic Charitable Foundation had granted £30,000 towards the cost of all the specialised equipment needed for her, including a sensory room. Their heartfelt story highlighted the charity's commitment to making a positive impact on the community.

The afternoon was rounded off with more camaraderie as members enjoyed a barbecue, held two raffles, and engaged in lively conversation. A "Guess the Number of Dragons Eggs" game added to the festive mood. The event culminated in a group photograph captured by Peter Preidel of the Skilled Archer Conclave, serving as a lasting memento of the day.

The gathering was a resounding success, raising £450 for charity, which will be shared between the Old Ruymian Lodge and the Skilled Archer Conclave.

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT IN EAST KENT

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



Dedicated Team Works Tirelessly to Support East Kent Veterans

A committed group of Freemasons is working diligently behind the scenes to deliver the Armed Forces Covenant to all members of the East Kent community. Veterans Peter Marno, Kemsley Whittlesea, David Tyler, Chris Falcke, and Paul Gear are at the forefront of this initiative, collaborating to create a comprehensive framework of support for both veterans and serving personnel in the region.

To date, the group have organised two breakfast meetings, and taken part in the Armed Forces Day in Chatham, plus a visit to the Royal Engineers Museum. But we do not intend to stop there.

As a group, we will be speaking to local ex-services breakfast clubs around our province, in order that we may be able to offer help and support. David Tyler is taking the lead on this, and he hopes to report back with news soon.

We are also bringing on board Brother Tony Finch, although not yet an East Kent Mason, he has a wealth of experience working with the NHS, and liaising with the Ministry of Defence and other charities.

Breakfast and other gatherings will be arranged within the province, at a local level.

We hope to hold a large social event so that funds can be raised for military charities.

It is important that, as a group, we continue to support our veterans, especially during times of remembrance, so, we hope to be able to promote Freemasonry throughout the Province, whilst paying our respects during the Armistice and other commemorative events.

To achieve this goal, the team is focusing on several key areas:

- Setting up a dedicated area on the Provincial Website, where veterans can find useful links.
- We have already created the East Kent Military Masons (EKMM) Facebook page, which continues to grow.
- Supporting Provincial Initiatives - actively participating in and contributing to provincial and major events like Armed Forces Days, Not Forgotten Association activities, and Remembrance celebrations.
- Building local connections - organising and hosting regular social gatherings such as breakfast meetings and coffee mornings to foster camaraderie and support among veterans.
- Enriching Veterans' Experiences - planning and executing visits to museums, service, and ex-service sites to provide opportunities for education, reflection, and shared experiences.

These initiatives are never at the detriment of other Freemasons, and we will never promote one over the other.

This dedicated team is making a significant impact on the lives of veterans in East Kent, and their efforts exemplify the Masonic commitment to serving the community. We therefore encourage you, if you haven't already, to join the group.

To contact us and join the group please email one of the following:-

afc@ekprovince.co.uk

afc_contact@ekprovince.co.uk

We cannot do this without your help and support. Please keep an eye out for future emails, breakfast meetings and trips. One idea is to hold a regimental style dinner. Watch this space.

Charity Matters

Some Recent Grants awarded by the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity (CEKFC)

The Evie Dove Foundation

Following the sad and untimely death of thirteen year-old Evie Dove, after a long illness, the Evie Dove Foundation was established in 2021 for the benefit of sick children and their families.

The Valley of Elham Lodge No 6649 committed £1,500 for the Foundation and this triggered support from Castle Lodge No 1436 and Castle Chapter No 1436, who pledged a further £500 and £100 respectively.

The CEKFC was able to match these contributions resulting in a £3,200 grant to the Foundation to help continue its vital work.



Kent, Sussex & Surrey Air Ambulance (KSSA)



KSSA launched an ambitious campaign to raise £1m to secure the future of their lifesaving helicopter service.

Previously they had leased their second helicopter but owning it outright would save KSSA almost half a million pounds a year.

Adams Lodge No 158 and Dane John Lodge No 8810 pledged £400 and £500 respectively and this was fund-matched by the CEKFC to make a total contribution of £1,800 to KSSA's 'Buy It For Life' appeal.

Kent Association for the Blind (KAB)

KAB had recently relocated their new Canterbury Sight Centre and were seeking support to furnish a small counselling room.

Face-to-face counselling has proven to be extremely important in helping people adjust to the emotional impact of their sight loss with referrals increasing by 24% between 2022 and 2023.

The CEKFC was pleased to assist with a grant of £301 to purchase chairs and other furnishings. Katherine Burr of the KAB is shown with two of her colleagues in the new facility.



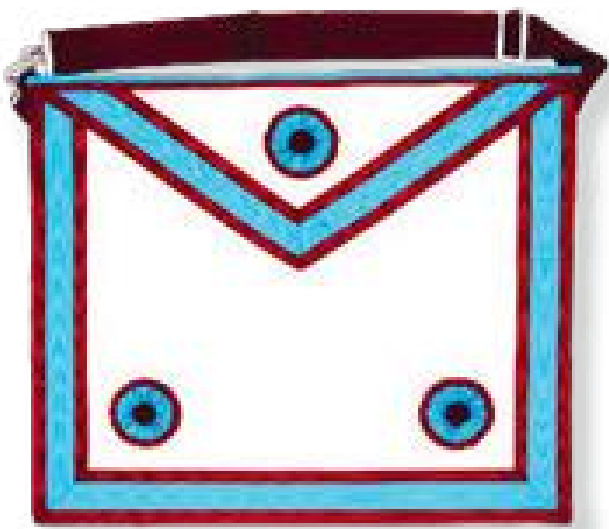
The Degree of Mark Master Mason

Robin Evans provides another article in our series about Companion Orders.

Ever heard another Mason discussing the “Mark” Degree and wondered what they are on about? It’s a fascinating, lively and friendly degree, with a relaxed informality that surprises many Masons. There is one ceremony where a Brother is ‘Advanced’ but it actually comprises two separate parts – the first where he is acknowledged to be a “Mark Man” and the second where he becomes a Mark Master Mason.

The “Mark” referred to is a specific symbol and takes us back to the original stonemasons who made marks on their stones to identify their work. Every Mason who is advanced to a Mark Master Mason chooses his own mark and this is unique to him.

The regalia is similar to that in Craft, with a white apron, blue rosettes but with crimson borders. Masters and Past Masters have silver levels replacing the rosettes. The jewel of the order is a keystone on a blue/crimson matching ribbon and has a mallet and chisel engraved on it (the working tools of the Order).



The Mark Master Mason's Apron

The history of the Mark Degree (as with much freemasonry) is not altogether straightforward. There is reputed evidence of the Degree dating back 400 years, but the earliest records in England are from 1769, worked in the Chapter of Friendship, Royal Arch Chapter No. 257 (formerly No.3) in Portsmouth. The first meeting of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons was held in June 1856.

The Mark Province of Kent was constituted shortly afterwards in 1872 at the Royal Hotel in Ramsgate. There are some 59 Mark Lodges in the Province of Kent, making it the second largest province in the constitution. It spans the whole length and breadth of the county and even has lodges meeting in St. James's in London.

Proof of the close connection with The Craft, the Mark Province of Kent is presided over by Peter Williams – a Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Masonic Province of East Kent.

Whilst chronologically the Degree follows the Second Degree in Craft Freemasonry, it effectively sits between Craft and Chapter but only requires members to be Master Masons in order to join. It is a bridge to other Companion Orders, such as Royal Ark Mariners and, when combined with Chapter, enables membership of a number of further Companion Orders in Freemasonry.

The message of the Degree is the contemplation of human strengths and weaknesses and is delivered by developing an understanding of the construction of King Solomon's Temple, the importance of the keystone and the work of the Overseers (who are not met in Craft Masonry – that privilege is reserved for members of the Mark).

The Degree is known as the Friendly Degree – for good reason, as you will find out in the ceremony should you choose to join us.



The diagram above shows the Mark degree below Craft, but inline with Royal Arch, and Royal Ark Mariners Degrees.

As a Craftsman you will be taught invaluable and practical lessons and how to apply them as you conduct yourself through life. You will also gain a clearer understanding of many of the terms, phrases and characters which have been introduced to you in Craft Masonry.

Ask any Mark Master Mason to describe the Mark Degree and they will invariably smile first and then tell you that it is the most friendly of Masonic Orders. Brotherly love is the keystone of Mark Masonry and you will find that genuine warmth of welcome is universal throughout Mark Lodges – there is no doubt that among Mark Master Masons you will ever find friends. Why not join us and find out for yourself?

For more information about this Degree, please contact Robin Evans at:

submissions@kentmarkmastermasons.org.uk
Provincial Communications Manager
Mark Province of Kent

The Provincial Directory



Your guide to quick links to all our websites.



LEARNING CONDITIONS

**Assistant Provincial
Grand Master Mark
Costelloe writes:**

The Lodge Mentor is key in coordinating the 'Engage' section of the Members' Pathway. Here, Graham has created an important piece of support material, which we hope will aid those Brethren with potential learning difficulties to learn and more easily remember masonic ritual which will ultimately enhance their enjoyment of it.'

CONTRIBUTOR

GRAHAM CHISNELL
Provincial Grand Mentor

Why are some Brethren and Companions reluctant to take up a floor office?

As a Director of Ceremonies, one of my main responsibilities is to empower Brethren to take on this rewarding challenge. However, the challenge for some is not as simple as mastering and delivering the ritual as they may have a diagnosed or underlying learning condition.

Learning and delivering masonic ritual is central to our ceremonies, and when done well, it significantly enhances our engagement and enjoyment in freemasonry. While some find learning and delivering ritual straightforward, others may struggle, particularly if they have conditions like dyslexia, autism spectrum disorder (ASD), or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

As the Provincial Grand Mentor for the Masonic Province of East Kent, I saw the need to offer guidance to our Brethren with learning conditions.

Let me begin with an important disclaimer:

- Not all adults with learning conditions struggle with learning and presenting ritual.
- Not all adults who find learning ritual difficult have a learning condition.
- Not all strategies to support learning conditions will work for everyone.

Here is an outline of how the Province of East Kent supports our

Brethren and Companions with learning conditions to help them gain confidence in learning and delivering masonic ritual.

Let's start by defining these learning conditions:

Dyslexia: For some, reading words on a page can be daunting, as they may appear jumbled or move around. Dyslexia affects information processing, making it difficult to process and remember information, impacting literacy and organisational skills.

ASD: Autism affects people in various ways, often causing difficulties with social communication (interpreting non-verbal gestures like tone of voice) and social interaction (understanding feelings or emotions).

ADHD: This condition can affect the ability to focus, pay attention, listen, and control impulses, often leading to restlessness and disruptive behaviour. How can directors of ceremonies and mentors support brethren and companions with learning conditions?

My solution was to create a supportive guide for mentors, personal mentors and directors of ceremonies to use with brethren and companions. Here are some top tips from the guide:

Dyslexia:

- Minimise distractions when learning ritual. Turn off technology and find a quiet space.
- Use multi-sensory learning: visual, aural, and verbal methods.

Visual: - Draw images of important information. - Highlight key passages in different colours. - Use post-its in visible places. - Write sentences on flashcards and review them frequently.

Aural: - Record yourself reciting the ritual and listen to it. - Use apps like Speechify or MSWord's read aloud feature.

Verbal: - Understand the story behind the ritual. - Recite the ritual along with your recording and repeat it multiple times. - Practice singing the ritual if you remember song lyrics easily. - Attend lodge rehearsals to practice in a relaxed setting. To build confidence in the lodge room: - Breathe steadily to calm your mind. - Maintain a steady pace when speaking. - Familiarise yourself with the ritual's location and timing.

ASD

- Communicate your preferred learning approach to your director of ceremonies. - Learn ritual systematically to avoid feeling overwhelmed.
- Connect with a mentor who understands your autism.
- Learn lodge protocols to avoid surprises.
- Inform your mentor of signs of agitation so they can assist you.

ADHD

- Give learning purpose by understanding the ritual's story.
- Prepare by reviewing known information about the ritual.
- Practice movements linked to the ritual.
- Walk and read simultaneously if it's safe.
- Use coloured paper for reading text.



- Break down ritual into short sections and master each one before moving on.

As Provincial Grand Mentor, I have shared this guide with lodge and chapter directors of ceremonies and mentors to support brethren in overcoming their challenges.

I have also conducted online training sessions and aim to refine and disseminate this.

Above all, I encourage you to start the conversation about how we can best support all our brethren to engage in the full experience that Freemasonry has to offer.

Here is a link to a useful learning conditions guidebook:-
https://issuu.com/eastkentfreemasons/docs/learning_for_conditions_guide

ABOVE ALL, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO START THE CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW WE CAN BEST SUPPORT ALL OUR BRETHREN TO ENGAGE IN THE FULL EXPERIENCE THAT FREEMASONRY HAS TO OFFER.

The Masonic Fishing Charity



Catch the Smile

The third fishing event of the 2024 season took place on 11th July at the Chart Hill Lake Fishery, where we were so generously hosted by managers James and Jo Greenfield.

Mercifully, the weather was bright and dry, unlike the 12th whilst writing this report, when it was raining in biblical proportions - a typical English Summer in other words!

With all of the essential tasks completed and the team fortified with bacon butties and coffee, it was time to welcome our charges for the day. Nineteen students and accompanying staff from two Maidstone schools arrived and were greeted with the usual enthusiasm by the team.

The essential safety briefings having been completed, the youngsters were paired with their respective volunteers, all of whom were ready to share their extensive knowledge and skills. With guiding hands and quiet words of encouragement, it didn't take too long before the fish were biting.

Initially it was the smaller silver fish that obliged, followed by the larger varieties. Pat Todd helped his student to land a fine twelve pound carp, judged the best catch of the day.

Many of the successful catches of the morning were witnessed by our visiting dignitary, Assistant Provincial Grand Master Peter Rhodes, as he toured the lake meeting and greeting our guests.

The morning's activities concluded, the youngsters eagerly devoured a welcome BBQ lunch, whilst continuing to animatedly exchange "bigger and better" stories!

The afternoon session provided the students with a further opportunity to hone their skills, whilst continuing to enjoy the tranquillity of this beautiful part of the county.

All too quickly it was time to gather for the grand finale, the presentation of medals and certificates of achievement.

In thanking everyone, our distinguished visitor expressed the hope that the day had been an enriching experience for all. To loud cheers and applause each student was then invited to receive their medal and certificate.

The final event of the 2024 season will take place at Longshaw Lakes near Sturry, on 12th September.

Report by Richard Dixey.

The East Kent Branch of the Charity would be delighted to hear from any volunteer anglers who would like to assist in the work of this worthwhile cause. There is no requirement for volunteers to be Freemasons and we welcome expressions of interest from female anglers.

Contact Keith Heard at ekmfc_casters_helpers@outlook.com



GOING FOR GOLD

Kemsley Whittlesea, a member of Chillington Manor Lodge No 4649, is set to represent Team UK at the inaugural winter edition of the Invictus Games to be held in Canada in February 2025.

Kemsley was chosen by the Royal British Legion (RBL) to represent Team UK at the games – the first Invictus to include winter sports.

Established in 2014 by Prince Harry, the Invictus Games is an international adaptive multisport event for wounded, injured, and sick servicemen and women. It invites both veterans and serving personnel from twenty different nations, to compete in as part of their recovery journey.

Working with the Ministry of Defence, the RBL has put together a 64-strong team of veterans and serving personnel who have been affected in some way by their service, either physically or mentally.

Kemsley had a varied career in the Royal Signals serving as a Combat Driver Lineman including operational tours of Iraq and Afghanistan. Not long after signing up, he dislocated his shoulder during a climbing exercise in Germany, and had to have stabilisation surgery. While serving in Iraq, Kemsley had a variety of roles, including working closely with American troops. Sadly six of his American friends were killed in two brutal IED attacks in Baghdad shortly after Kemsley had left to join another unit. Whilst in Iraq, he also sustained another injury to his shoulder.

Over time, along with poor rehab, the joint deteriorated causing him to have three further surgeries, and eventually a medical discharge in 2018. In 2021, he injured his other arm, narrowly avoiding amputation.

Although he looks fit and healthy, living with his injuries is challenging and both arms have worsened over the last few months. His shoulder dislocates multiple times a day, sometimes trapping a nerve and leaving him in excruciating pain. He was worried that his injury might continue to deteriorate so wanted to take part in the Invictus Games while he was still able to at his current mobility level.



Kemsley Whittlesea

Kemsley has dedicated lots of his time to charity work over the years, and wanted to do something for himself. He hopes that being back amongst like-minded military people and discovering new sports will help him in his recovery journey. He hopes to compete in sitting volleyball, alpine skiing, snowboarding and skeleton.

We Need Your Help



Crafting a magazine entails considerable effort and expertise. Are you prepared to join our exceptional team in creating captivating online content and exquisite magazines? Our upcoming highlight is the "PROVINCIAL MAGAZINE" for the festive Christmas season.

Are you ready for this exciting endeavour?

If so, and you can spare a few hours a week.
Contact Paul on pgco@ekprovince.co.uk



EAST KENT
FREEMASONS

So Mote It Be

BY PAUL GEAR

PROVINCIAL GRAND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (CRAFT)

AND

PAUL GOODWIN

PROVINCIAL GRAND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (ROYAL ARCH)

Taking Communications into the Future

First a big thank you to our guest editor, Andy Notley. Amazing work, we couldn't have done this without him.

Communications Team Driving Positive Change

The communications team is excited to announce several key initiatives aimed at strengthening our province's online presence and enhancing communication across all levels.

A New Look and Feel

We are embarking on a comprehensive branding overhaul, which will be reflected across all our websites and social media platforms. This exciting development will create a unified and consistent brand image that better represents our province's values and mission.

Strengthening Our Online Community

To foster a more connected and engaged membership, we are merging our craft and chapter Facebook pages. This streamlined approach will create a central hub for sharing news, events, and fostering community interaction.

The Importance of Clear Communication

Effective communication is essential for the success of our province. We are committed to providing clear, timely, and informative messages to our members. To achieve this, we encourage open and regular communication between the communications team and all lodges and chapters. This is being adopted with the monthly "2nd Rising" newsletters.

Your News Matters

We want to highlight the fantastic work happening at the local level. We encourage all lodges and chapters to share news of events, milestones, and community involvement with the communications team. Your stories are vital in showcasing the positive impact of our organisation.

By working together, we can create a stronger, more unified province with a powerful online presence. We look forward to this exciting journey and appreciate your continued support.

The Communications Team will be producing the next magazine ready for Christmas. Submissions must be received no later than the 15th November 2024. No exceptions.

The next issue of the 2nd Rising will feature Education. If anyone would like to submit an article for our new **"Around the Province"** feature, or submit an article, please do, there is no restriction on who can send in an article. It is your/our Magazine and Newsletter. Please send articles and photos separately to:

news@ekprovince.co.uk

the Provincial lite

This publication is produced and published by the Masonic
Province of East Kent and remains their copyright.
11 Estuary View Business Park, Boormans Way, Whitstable, Kent
CT5 3SE

www.eastkentfreemasons.org