

# PROVINCIAL



THE MAGAZINE FOR EAST KENT CRAFT AND ROYAL ARCH

*Happy Christmas*

2025  
Festival



**Masonic**  
Charitable Foundation

Cover design: Matt Jury/Richard Wingett

## Editor's Notes



### Welcome to issue 72 of *The Provincial*.

Twelve months on from our last Christmas issue, what has changed?

Quite a lot! COVID-19 has continued to have a huge impact on our lives, but we have been fighting back, thanks to a brilliant programme of

vaccination and a population that has largely exercised common sense.

In Freemasonry we have taken a hit in many ways. Lodges and Chapters only began getting back to normal this autumn. Whilst many have done their best to keep active, charitable contributions have

sometimes slipped back. As you will read in the magazine, our Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF), which we help to fund via our 2025 Festival, has given us additional grants to help us continue to do what we do best - help those in need in our fraternity and in the community generally. There is a clear message we need to get across: by setting up a Regular Promise to Pay (RPP) to the 2025 Festival, we can each help maintain a regular and vital flow of income into the MCF. And if you want to see what the MCF has done for just one family in our Province, read the powerful and uplifting story from Les Wills.

There have been changes in our top team. Phil South is our new Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Mark Costelloe and Duncan Rouse have been invested as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, and Nigel Fitz has taken over as Provincial Grand Almoner. Mark, Duncan and Nigel have all contributed articles to the magazine. Let's wish them all power to their collective elbow!

**John Ray, Editor**

## Photo Competition - Autumn & Winter

**Peter Floyd writes:**



We love to see and enjoy good photographs.

Those of us who live in Kent are well able to appreciate the beauty of our lovely County - in all seasons.

And it's so much easier to take a good photo nowadays, especially with a mid-range or top-range mobile phone, many of which can rival some of the dedicated cameras.

Why not have a go and enter our photo competition "Autumn and Winter"?

The competition is open to all members of the Province of East Kent. The winning photographs will be published on the home page of our

Provincial Website and in *The Provincial* or *The Provincial Lite* magazine.

The judges will be looking for creative images, good use of light, correct exposure and good composition, making use of the rule of thirds. Photographs must be in focus and in landscape format. Pictures can be black-and-white or colour. Images must be submitted as JPEG files, with an Image resolution of not less than 300dpi. Make sure this resolution is set correctly in your editing software. Picture size must not be less than 2000 pixels along the top. If you are using a camera phone, make sure the resolution is set to high. We regret that pictures that fail to meet the above criteria will have to be excluded from the competition.

Each entrant may submit two photographs. Once the entry period has closed, the Communications Team will judge the winning entry along with the runner up. Closing date for entries is 28th February 2022. Winners will be notified by email no later than 31st March 2022. All imagery must be the exclusive work of the submitting photographer. By entering this competition, you hereby grant the Province of East Kent exclusive licence to use your photographs for online and printed media. Please give your picture a file name e.g:- yourname\_lodgename\_title\_where taken. Please also let us have your email address and your phone number.

Send your entry to:  
[peterfloyd.photography@gmail.com](mailto:peterfloyd.photography@gmail.com)

# A Message From Our Provincial Grand Master Neil Johnstone

## Brethren and Companions

Another year has passed - and it has yet again been an unusual year for us all. Meetings of Lodges and Chapters have been interrupted - but reflecting on this past year proves the point I have frequently made - Freemasonry has not been disrupted. We have cause to be proud of all that has been achieved during some trying times especially in respect of supporting our local communities. Our charitable aims and purpose have again been at the forefront of our activities. I thank each of you for your commitment and involvement, whether that has been at a personal level or through your Lodges and Chapters. Your commitment translates into such a significant difference that we have made - and will continue to make - to the lives of so many individuals in need: which is a particularly poignant thought at this time of year.

You will know from the various circulations through our Communications Teams what those achievements have been. Freemasons of East Kent have, as usual, risen splendidly to the demands and challenges that we have experienced again this last year. I am sure I speak for us all when I also say a huge thank you to the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity (CEKFC) and the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) for the magnificent part each has played and the various ways in which they have responded so quickly and effectively when required. And now would be an opportune time to gently remind ourselves that both will need our continued support in respect of the commitment we have to our £3.5m target for the 2025 Festival for the MCF, and for the ongoing success of the CEKFC of which we are all justifiably very proud.

I have been delighted to see that our meetings are gradually getting back on track. Not least amongst those have been the Initiations and Exaltations for which the potential Candidates have been waiting for so long. I would like to extend a personal welcome to those recent Initiates for whom

this will be their first Christmas message. I wish you continued happiness and enjoyment in your Freemasonry and look forward to meeting you in due course.

As well as reflecting on the past we must always look ahead, and I am certain that we can do this with a sense of optimism. From the conversations I have had with our Brethren and Companions I detect an overwhelming desire and intent to return to our meetings in the way that we would all wish. There is a well-founded recognition that our membership will continue to strengthen. I am sure we all look forward to seeing our Brethren and Companions progress through their Degrees and Exaltations into the Holy Royal Arch. At the same time, we will all return to what we have missed for so long - the opportunities to share in the camaraderie of not only the meetings and ceremonies, but also the enjoyment of the Festive Board, that essential element of Freemasonry.

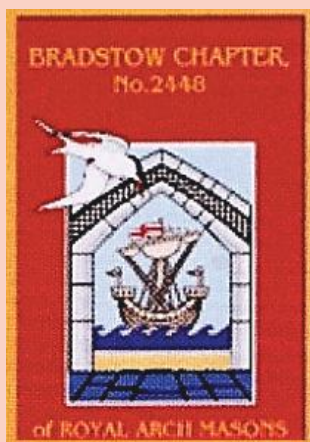
Brethren and Companions, thank you for your perseverance and resolve during the past twelve months which I have absolutely no doubt will continue and will carry us forward into a very positive future. Your commitment to this wonderful organisation we call Freemasonry is clear, and your individual support for and through your Lodges, Chapters and the Province of East Kent assures us of a buoyant and sustained 2022 and beyond.

Personally, and on behalf of my wife Margaret and the Provincial Executives, I wish you, your families and loved ones a very peaceful and happy Christmas in the expectation that the New Year will bring increased pleasure for us all and in our Freemasonry.

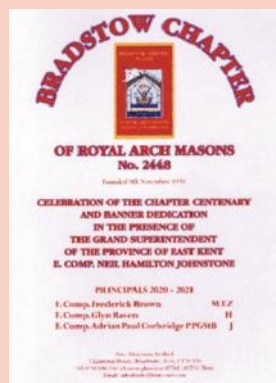
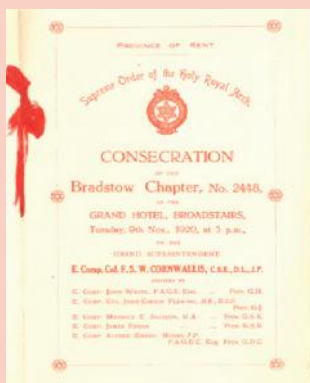


# Bradstow Chapter 100 Not Out!

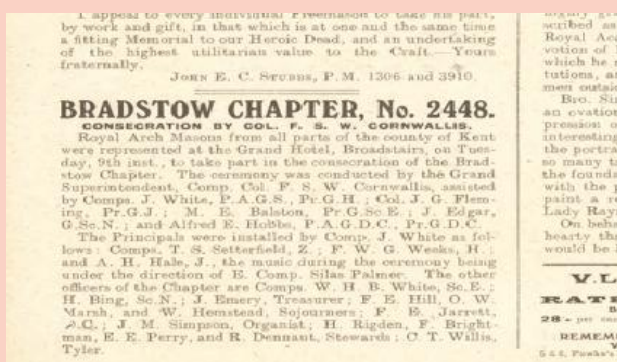
Chris Sanford, Provincial Communications Officer  
Holy Royal Arch, writes:



It was a privilege to watch Bradstow Chapter No.2448 at Broadstairs celebrate their 100th Anniversary on the 15th November 2021. They dedicated a new banner and received their Centenary Warrant from the Grand Superintendent Neil Hamilton Johnstone who was accompanied by his Provincial Executive.



Bradstow Chapter was consecrated on the 9th November 1920 at the Grand Hotel, Broadstairs, where eighty-eight members and guests including the fifteen founders watched the Consecration ceremony by the then Grand Superintendent Lt.Col Fiennes Stanley Wykeham Cornwallis CBE DL JP.



There were fifteen founders: each of the founders had a part to play in the development of the Chapter and each had his own story to tell, like the First Assistant Sojourner Oliver William Marsh, whose father, a bathing machine operator, tragically drowned while trying to save the life of a swimmer in 1903.



**First Assistant Sojourner -  
Oliver William Marsh (40)**

Born in Thanet in 1881, the son of a bathing machine operator. He was trained as joiner but following the tragic death of his father who was trying to save the life of a swimmer in 1903, he became responsible for the bathing machines, although in later years he returned to carpentry. The family also had properties in London where he met and married Eleanor Margaret and they had one son. They lived in Kings' Avenue Broadstairs. He passed to the Grand Lodge above in 1964. He was initiated into the Bradstow Lodge on 27th December 1911, was WM in 1921 and was exalted in the Alfred Wootton Chapter No 127 in 1920. He became First Principal of the Bradstow Chapter in 1926.

The range of occupations and professions of the founders is rich and diverse. It is little wonder that having such an interesting and talented group of people would prove to be very influential in inspiring potential candidates to join the Chapter. These Companions certainly set the bar high but those who followed in subsequent generations proved to be equal to the task.





The Founders undoubtedly played a crucial role in setting the direction of the Chapter. Over the last century there have been momentous occasions that have had an impact on the Chapter members and their families' lives, set against the backdrop of national and international events. The end of the First World War, a global conflict, on 11 November 1918 would have brought immense relief to the families and individuals who survived. Imagine the joy and excitement that must have been apparent at the consecration of the Bradstow Chapter on Tuesday 9th November 1920 at the Grand Hotel, Broadstairs. The Grand Hotel was an imposing structure overlooking Louisa Bay and a suitable setting for the Companions to enjoy a remarkable ceremony presided over by the Grand Superintendent. The occasion was a landmark event in the history of the Chapter and those who had attended would surely have reflected on the day's proceedings with happy memories and considerable pride.

The Oration on that day by the Third Provincial Grand Principal was entitled "On the Nature and Principles of the Institution", offering Companions an uplifting and thought-provoking discourse on a subject that is as relevant today as it was a century ago. Unfortunately the oration given by John Gibson Fleming is no longer retrievable, but one of the key and fundamental building blocks of Freemasonry is the permanency of the institution and the principles it espouses.



The Second World War again proved to be a challenge for thousands of Freemasons and their families, who served and endured through hardship and suffering.

Although there have been remarkable changes in our social history over the last hundred years, one constant theme that navigates its way through the passage of time is the steady influence of the founders of the Bradstow Chapter and the determination of their successors to continue to preserve and maintain those excellent virtues espoused so nobly by their predecessors.

Against the backdrop of the ravages of the Spanish flu epidemic, which claimed 50 million lives worldwide, two World Wars, and the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Chapter has maintained a respectful and unflinching regard to the principles of Freemasonry.

As the Chapter emerges from the Covid pandemic it can look forward with hope and optimism to a brighter tomorrow. The Officers and Companions of the Bradstow Chapter will look to the future, set out their plans to make new history for the next one hundred years and embark on the next part of their journey together, in the knowledge that they are supported and encouraged by the Grand Superintendent and Executive. There should be no doubt in anybody's mind that the founders and former Companions of the Bradstow Chapter No.2448 would be proud of what they have achieved and would gladly raise a glass as they wish Bradstow Chapter well for the future.

**Chris Sanford JP,PPGReg.**

**Provincial Communications Officer HRA.**

My Thanks go to Peter Dickinson the Scribe E of Bradstow Chapter and to the 3rd Grand Principal Terry McGlone for the use of his oration.



## Charity Stewards Breakfast

**Matt Jury writes:**

Saturday 30th October 2021: miserable and wet outside but brighter and much more pleasant inside the Chatham Masonic Centre, where eighty Charity Stewards joined Provincial Grand Master Neil Johnstone and the Masonic Charitable Foundation's Head of Fundraising Paul Crockett for a fantastic full English breakfast followed by some very interesting facts and figures presented by Paul on behalf of the MCF.

Anyone still hungry? There were statistics galore for us to digest. Among them:

The MCF had handled £100 Million generated by Freemasons to help some 3,000 charities. This worked out at £50,000 per day, £34.00 per minute, £13,000 per lodge or £450.00 per member.

In response to 50,000 enquiries, 32,000 grants had been made, on average four per Lodge covering counselling, mobility equipment and medical treatment.

In the past five years or so £45 Million had been raised by the MCF, achieved thanks to our continued support. During the pandemic RPPs (Regular Payment Promises) had kept the flow of money coming in.

Neil Johnstone congratulated all at the meeting for braving the weather and giving up their time. He urged us to encourage our members, Lodges and Chapters to succeed in reaching their targets through hard work, asking for assistance from the Provincial Charity Team if needed, and to remain positive in their endeavours. Together we would change lives.

It is extremely important, Brethren and Companions, that we continue to support the MCF through our 2025 Festival. We hope that more and more of us will be encouraged to sign up to regular giving.

To donate, please click on this link:

[donate.mcf.org.uk/donate/?festivalId=15089](https://donate.mcf.org.uk/donate/?festivalId=15089)

Your Provincial Charity Team is here to help - so please contact us for any advice or assistance.

## EKLBB Grand Prix - Buckmore Park



The East Kent Light Blues Brothers (EKLBB) took to the track of Buckmore Park Karting circuit on Saturday 16th October to race for the inaugural EKLBB Grand Prix.

Thirty-nine Members and guests lined up to tackle the 1200m track once driven by the likes of Jenson Button and Lewis Hamilton.

The event was a ninety-minute enduro, the winner being decided by the most laps completed.

Members were greeted by the team at the Park and kitted out with their race suits. There followed a safety briefing by the race director. The thirteen Teams could then "bid for grid" by making a voluntary donation to the Province's 2025 Festival appeal in exchange for moving up the grid in the race.

Representing the Province were the team of David Graeme, Mark Costelloe and Mark Bassant: their desire for pole position saw them make a generous

donation in exchange for the front row. Their time at the front lasted for nearly three corners of the first lap, after which they slipped substantially down the grid!

Each team of three drivers was obliged to change drivers at least three times during the ninety-minute race - so there was frantic strategic planning going on up and down the pit wall.

The afternoon ended in a mixture of victory and humiliation: Team 8 received a black flag penalty after a some aggressive on-track overtaking manoeuvres. How very un-Masonic of them!

The winners were Team 6 - Ed Felton, Oliver Marshall and James Colton (pictured) - who completed 100 laps in the ninety minutes. Second came Team 12 and Third was Team 9, both completing ninety-nine laps.

The event was an excellent chance for members of EKLBB, prospective members and guests to be able to relax and enjoy the fellowship.

Another winner of course was the 2025 Festival, thanks to generous donations totalling £360 plus Gift Aid contribution.

A huge thank you also goes to Buckmore Park for hosting the Event and to Andrew Berry, Fraser Gregory and Mark Prince from the EKLBB committee for taking care of the admin.

## Light Blues Go Clay Shooting

Paul McGuirk writes:



East Kent Light Blues Brothers had a day out at Dartford Clay Shooting Club in September.

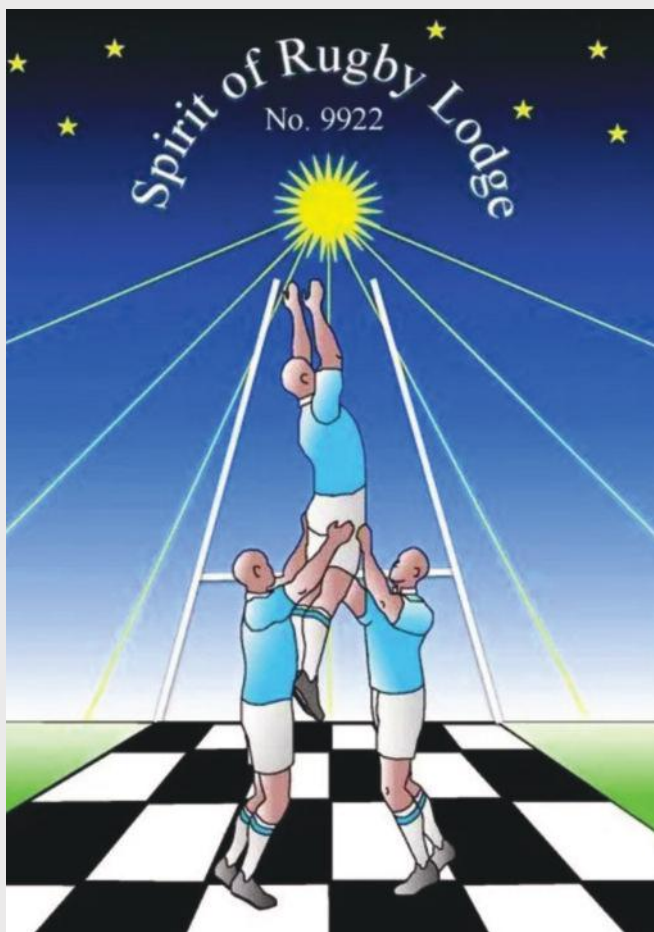
Hosted by the Masonic Clay Shooting Team, twenty-four EKLBB members and their guests were given a guided explanation of the sport and the activities of the club.

Each member was given a detailed explanation of the various guns, a guide on how to aim and shoot the clay, and a practice session with twenty-five clays. The results were, let's say, mixed!

No worries: there was the opportunity to catch up with other members and exchange banter over a light lunch.

EKLBB would like to thank Martin Lane and the East Kent Masonic Clay Shooting Team for their time in arranging this function which everyone enjoyed.

## Free Beer For Rugby



Mike Lawson writes:

At the Spirit of Rugby lodge No.9922, our main charitable purpose is supporting grass-roots rugby.

We had raised £5,000 which we wanted to donate to the local rugby fraternity.

How were we to ensure that the money generated the maximum benefit?

Our solution: we commissioned the brewing of more than 2,000 bottles of our own IPA.

Over the next few weeks, we'll be donating six cases of our beer to each of the twenty-seven rugby clubs in East Kent. The idea is that they can sell it in their clubhouses, keep 100% of the sale price and invest that money where it's needed most.

At the same time, we get to tell our story and promote Freemasonry on the label.

Beer - Rugby - Freemasonry: it's a Win/Win/Win!



# David Graeme Trophy - Golf Season Finale

Paul McGuirk writes:



Greeted with cold autumn conditions, East Kent golfers headed to Sheerness Golf Club on the 15th October to contest this year's Season Finale - The David Graeme Cup.

The Event was a chance for the Light Blues, led by captain Daren Wilcock, to gain their revenge at the competition first played last year. The Dark Blue team were captained by Derek Reed.

The Event was well attended with a field of thirty-six players. We were honoured to receive David Graeme who greeted the teams and players on the first tee.

To ensure everyone was able to compete in the competition, all players would play their own individual game and the winner for the David Graeme trophy would be decided on the best average Stableford score.

After the round we were greeted by a lunch of Steak and Ale with an unexpected bonus of treacle sponge and custard - a welcome mistake by the venue!

## THE RESULTS WERE:

Winner: David Berwick  
(Queenborough Lodge No.3893) 38 points

Runner Up: Derek Reed  
(Lodge of Friendship and Service No.6584) 37 points

Third Place: Nigel Turner  
(United Service Lodge No.3124) 37 points

## THE DAVID GRAEME TROPHY

### Dark Blues Team

Total points 467 scored by 16 players: average 29.18

### Light Blues Team

Total Points 390 scored by 13 players: average 30

**LIGHT BLUES THEREFORE WON THE TROPHY.**

# Our New 500 Club Is Launching!



With the full support of the Provincial Grand Masters across the County of Kent the Association of Friends of Prince George Duke of Kent Court are launching an initiative to ensure that they can continue to enhance the quality of life of the residents of 'the Court'.

## SO WHAT IS IT?

A 500 Club is where any individual, Lodge or Chapter subscribes to a number (or numbers) which will be entered into a draw at regular intervals with cash prizes allocated depending on the number of subscribers.

## WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

Due to COVID we have lost the opportunity to raise income from our two annual 'Fairs' and it is unlikely that we will be able to hold them in the same form, if ever.

Therefore we need to guarantee continual funding if we are to maintain our support of the Home and improve the wellbeing of the residents.

So we are encouraging every Lodge and Chapter in the County of Kent and our supporters and friends to join our 500 Club which will ensure our future income and give us the ability to continue supporting those who need it most.

## WHO SHOULD JOIN?

Simple! Anyone who wants to ensure that the Association of Friends can continue improving the life of the residents at Prince George, Duke of Kent Court. We will be delighted to welcome our supporters, their family and friends together with Lodges, Chapters and all other Masonic Units.

This might be our only chance to make a lasting improvement in the lives of those we care about.

It's a small price to pay to ensure that those who may have nobody else can continue to feel that they are still loved and are not forgotten.

**PLEASE join our 500 Club TODAY**  
**Don't just look the other way!**

Full details are available on our website  
[www.friendschislehurst.org/500club](http://www.friendschislehurst.org/500club)

## Fifty Years For Eddie Cloake



### Barry Devereese writes:

Every year we celebrate our brethren in Freemasonry who have been with us for fifty or sixty years or more.

Eddie Cloake of the Commemoration Lodge No.5329 joined this elite group in October.

Eddie started his Masonic journey in 1971, quickly absorbing the guiding principles of Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Charity.

He became a Steward in 1973. The Festive Board was held in the Temple, which meant that after the Meeting the Stewards had to put away the Lodge furniture and prepare the tables - and then restore things when the dining had finished!

He was elected Master in 1980 and again in 2007. After spells as Assistant Director of Ceremonies and Director of Ceremonies, he served as Charity Steward in 1997 with a focus on raising money for the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys via the 2004 Festival. Commemoration Lodge contributed £52,703 and received the highest award - Platinum. Eddie's contribution to Freemasonry was recognised in 2006 with promotion to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Registrar.

He has proudly introduced eight candidates to Freemasonry, five progressing to become Master and one being the current Senior Warden. His grandson was initiated in 2017 - and Eddie at the age of 82 took part in the Ceremony by presenting the Working Tools.

Eddie has contributed a great deal to Freemasonry. He says it has given him the opportunity to meet like-minded people who have become lifelong friends. He continues to enjoy his membership and takes great pride in being a Freemason.

Barry Devereese (pictured, left) visited Eddie at his home in October. Here he is presenting Eddie with his Fifty Year Certificate. Members of Commemoration Lodge gave Eddie an engraved gavel and plinth.

## Gone Fishing



### Steve Allan of Balmoral Lodge No.7118 writes:

The East Kent Branch of the National Masonic Fishing Charity held their late summer competition at Sam's Lakes in Headcorn on the 26th September 2021.

This was my seventeenth year of organising this event: we only missed last year because of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

In a normal year we would have eight to ten teams taking part, but due to the current situation we were reduced to four.

Nevertheless, we had a really good day - and the weather was kind too. Winter 2021-2022. My thanks to all the teams for taking part and for their continued support in raising money for charitable causes over the years.



**The winners: Wellington Lodge No.784**

**2nd place: Bredenstone Lodge No.8093**

**3rd place: Balmoral Lodge No.7118**

**4th Place: Per Mare Per Terram Lodge No.3609**

# A Lot Can Happen In 12 Months

Duncan Rouse writes:



This time last year as your Provincial Grand Almoner I wrote a brief article to let you know about the work of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. I talked of the support the MCF could provide despite our being in the middle of a Pandemic and approaching the onset

of another lockdown, wreaking havoc with the Festive holiday plans of many of us.

A year later we are still learning to live and deal with the Pandemic but are better placed now given that most of us have been afforded greater protection against COVID thanks to the vaccination program.

In the past twelve months I have moved on from my job as Provincial Grand Almoner and am very honoured to have been appointed an Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

With a portfolio comprising Welfare and Support, Learning and Development, and Recovery of Members, I have close contact with our new Provincial Grand Almoner Nigel Fitz (see his report in this magazine) as well as our team of Visiting Volunteers who all do such a wonderful job.

The Learning and Development Team has bidden farewell to Graham Chisnell, who is now Provincial Grand Mentor in APGM Mark Costelloe's team.

From the excellent work that Graham has done over the past few years as our Provincial Education Officer I have no doubt that he will prove to be an excellent Provincial Grand Mentor. I am really delighted to welcome Roger Gabriel into the fold as the new Provincial Education Officer. Roger has worked closely with Graham particularly over the past year: you may have seen the two of them in many of the Zoom events they organised. Roger has a background in Education and will most positively take forward Learning and Development in our Province.

Steve Salisbury and his dedicated Team continue to look after Recovery and Retention of Members. As things start to get back to normal the work of his Team is going to be crucially important to ensure that our existing members remain engaged and are happily enjoying their Freemasonry. Their effectiveness depends on their receiving prompt information to allow them to contact any brother who has resigned or may be thinking of doing so.

Elsewhere in the magazine you will read about the plans for roll-out of the "members pathway" which is being managed by APGM Mark Costelloe. My Team will also have a vital role to play in this important project and we will be out on the road with Mark and his Team over the coming months. This coupled with the most welcome resumption of our Lodge and Chapter meetings means that we will also have a busy twelve months ahead of us.

May I wish you and your family a very happy and healthy New Year?

## Lunch For The Loyals

Kevin Stones writes:

Ever since it was founded in 1992, the Lodge of Loyalty No.9494 has held a very popular anniversary lunch at the Trattoria Romana in Ashford. This year was no exception. Those who dined at the October get-together raised a magnificent £150 to go towards the East Kent Province's 2025 Festival.

And that wasn't all. Restaurant proprietor Kenny had heard that Lodge members Des Coates and Brian Cuthbertson were celebrating sixty and fifty years respectively as Freemasons and presented each of them with a voucher for a free lunch.



[L:R] Val Coates, Des Coates, Brian Cuthbertson, Barbara Cuthbertson

## Like Father, Like Son



**Chris Doll writes:**

It's something special when a Mason initiates his own son into Freemasonry. It's something extra special when a Past Master installs his own son as Master.

The Hundred of Hoo Lodge No.8986 was very pleased to welcome Assistant Provincial Grand Master Mark Costelloe to its annual Installation Meeting on the 28th September. This was Mark's first official visit as APGM - and what a good start! Accompanied by Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Andy Stevens and his team of Stewards, Mark was there to witness Robert Jackson (pictured, right) install his son Dan into the Chair of King Solomon.

## Freemasons Sign Armed Forces Covenant

Freemasons led by Grand Master the Duke of Kent signed the Armed Forces Covenant during a ceremony at Freemasons' Hall in Covent Garden on the 20th October this year.

By signing it, the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) will be able to demonstrate its support to members of the Armed Forces in a number of areas, including education, family wellbeing, getting a home, starting a new career, access to healthcare, financial assistance and discounted services.

It will ensure that members of the Armed Services community have the same access to government, commercial services and products as any other citizen.

Freemasonry has a strong Armed Forces background through its Military Lodges. Important Armed Forces personnel over the centuries include Admiral Sir Peter Parker, Francis Rawden-Hastings, 1st Marquess of Hastings, Captain Robert Falcon Scott, General Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum, Lieutenant Elias Henry Jones, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Cyril Louis Norton Newall, Commodore Wilfred Henderson and Thomas William Gould VC.

The Duke of Kent himself has a longstanding relationship with the military. In 1955 he graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as a Second Lieutenant, the beginning of a military career that lasted more than twenty years. He was promoted to Captain in 1961 and, after having served in Hong Kong, was promoted again to Major in 1967. Three years later he commanded a squadron of his regiment serving in the British Sovereign Base Area in Cyprus. He also served in Northern Ireland, before being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1973. The Duke

retired from active service in 1976. He was subsequently promoted to Major General in 1983 and to Field Marshal in 1993.

Speaking after the ceremony, the Duke said, "It is my great pleasure to sign the Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of the United Grand Lodge of England. This document represents part of our ongoing commitment to support active and retired military personnel. We are proud of our long-standing relationship with the Armed Forces and we will continue to promote their welfare, support, and respect amongst all our members".

Dr David Staples, UGLE's Chief Executive, said: "It is a great honour to be able to sign the Armed Forces Covenant. From its earliest foundations, Freemasonry has always had a strong relationship with the Armed Forces. Today, we want to thank those brave men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting our country and the people who live here. They deserve all our thanks, our respect and this is one of many steps we aim to take in helping both active and retired members of the Armed Forces and their families."

On the same day that the UGLE signed the covenant at Freemasons' Hall, heads of Freemasonry in the Isle of Man, Cheshire, East Lancashire, West Lancashire and North Wales also made their commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant. This is in addition to Staffordshire and Yorkshire North and East Riding regions. In total twenty-four Provinces including East Kent have either signed or will sign the Covenant. The Masonic Charitable Foundation and the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI) will also sign the covenant in December 2021 at their AGM.

# 2025 Festival: Facts, Figures And The Future



**Masonic**  
Charitable Foundation

## Matt Jury writes:

What an extraordinary couple of years we have had. A COVID curveball has been pitched to everyone. It has hindered every business, caused disruption and heartache throughout the world and in many instances altered our home lives.

The MCF unfortunately has been no exception. Apart from the obvious challenges of home working, COVID-safe visiting to the most vulnerable and maintaining eighteen Care Homes in a safe way, the MCF's income has taken a massive hit.

Rent from property investments and a dramatic reduction in income from gift aid envelopes are just two of the adverse factors that they have had to contend with.

That said, the trustees took the view at the outset that COVID-19 was a once-in-a-lifetime event and on behalf of Freemasonry the MCF would be prepared to ramp up support and protect not only the Masonic families that would inevitably be affected by COVID-19 but also those charities that did so much to help local communities - but might not have the reserves to maintain their important activities or even survive.

Yet through the continued support of Regular Promises to Pay and past funds that have been donated by Masons such as us in East Kent, they have continued to support those in need. They:

- **GAVE Each Province £10k to be used to support local charities and initiatives.**
- **GAVE £1million to UGLE which was divided equally between the ten Regional Groups of Provinces for more focused initiatives that would support our communities and the vulnerable within them.**
- **SET ASIDE £100k to support COVID-19 initiatives within the overseas Districts.**
- **LAUNCHED the COVID-19 Community Appeal In conjunction with UGLE through the Relief Chest Scheme and pledged to match fund this, pound for pound, up to £1million. (Freemason's COVID-19 Fund)**
- **PLEDGED £1M to support major initiatives being led by national charities including Age UK and Mind.**

In response to COVID-19, MCF have provided an ADDITIONAL £3.6 million funding to support local and national charities. The MCF also provided additional support for the Masonic community: in the first four months of lockdown the MCF awarded 1,900 grants totalling just over £4 million. In the second half of 2020 and throughout 2021 this support has continued, and a great many lives have been favourably impacted by what has been done.

The biggest single form of income for the MCF has been through Festivals. Some £45 million has been raised by this means over the past five years.

Every Festival Province, including East Kent, has of course seen a reduction in donations - not least through a lack of Gift Aid Envelope collections. Provinces that have a high level of members donating through Regular Promises to Pay (RPP) have been able keep a good level of funds coming in throughout lockdown. This demonstrates how important it is for as many members as possible to take out an RPP.

Interestingly in a recent survey, up to quarter of the answers from Freemasons indicated that they would not be against setting up a Direct Debit if they were asked or were helped to do so. To this end the MCF and our Province are happy to support and encourage Charity Stewards who would like to hold a Direct Debit Drive in their Lodges/Chapters.

According to the survey, some respondents said that they or someone close to them had received help from the MCF or one of its legacy charities - and that is why they donate.

Indeed, on average five grants per Lodge have been awarded, reinforcing the idea that we all know someone who has received support. You may not know that they have done so, but you will know them.

## WAYS OF DONATING

Please contact your Lodge or Chapter Charity Steward to find out how you can give regularly under the RPP scheme. There are other ways in which you can donate, including:

- **via Gift Aid Envelopes**
- **by texting EASTKENT2025 to 70500 to donate a fiver**
- **via the MCF website at [www.mcf.org.uk](http://www.mcf.org.uk)**
- **or by pointing your camera at this QR code:**





## Fundraising - What impact could your donation make?

By committing to a donation of £300.00, and thereby becoming a Festival Steward, we can make a difference to someone like Sally. Sally is a full-time mum who lives in Wiltshire with her four-year-old twins, Ted and Alex, and her partner, Neil. After a premature birth, Ted developed cerebral palsy which means that he can't walk or stand unaided. Sally's father is a Freemason and got in touch with the MCF to see if we could support the family in any way.

Ted now has an Upsee mobility harness that we part funded and which allows him to walk with the help of his Mum - meaning he can put his wellies on and enjoy the great outdoors with his brother! And now that Ted can stand, he loves to open gates and cupboards - such a common thing for a four-year-old to do but a real novelty for him!

The cost of that mobility harness is covered by qualifying as a Steward of our Festival. A small act of generosity by us as members, impacting massively on the life of a little boy with cerebral palsy, and of course that of his family as well.

## Helped By The MCF AND OUR 2025 FESTIVAL



**Georgina with her children Cody and Crystal.**

Most of our readers have heard of the MCF, and of our 2025 Festival which is the means by which we - and other Provinces in their turn - provide the funds. Indeed, the Masonic Charitable Foundation is funded entirely through the generosity of Freemasons and their families and is one of the largest grant-making charities in the country. It seeks to help "build better lives by enabling opportunity, advancing healthcare and education and promoting independence".

What does that mean in practice?

**Les Wills of the St Lawrence Lodge No.3350 can tell us. He writes:**

Georgina had been in increasingly severe pain, with a condition - gallstones - not finally diagnosed for some six years. As well as dealing with the pain, she had to change rental accommodation frequently and therefore place her children into different schools, with all the disruption that that entailed.

My wife and I supported her financially and emotionally as much as we could, but we did not have the accommodation to house them for long. Eventually, after several visits to A&E, Georgina received the correct diagnosis - but was told there were 500 or more people ahead of her and that she would have to wait at least two years for an operation.

Having discussed the situation with my Lodge Almoner and others, I decided to contact the MCF. I did so and explained the situation to Lauren Moulds, my case handler, and within a couple of days my daughter had an appointment to be assessed at a private hospital in Canterbury. She had the operation at the end of October.

I truly believe if the MCF had not helped she would not have made it to Christmas.

Because the children had missed so much school, the MCF supplied a laptop to each child with the appropriate school programs and a printer, financial help with day-to-day living for the children, and assistance to buy new school uniforms and so on. I am so grateful to MCF's Lauren Moulds and to Victoria Le Fevre, case manager dealing with the finances, who was also in constant touch. Their caring approach and the advice they gave me ensured that the whole case went smoothly, without a hitch.

My daughter is now recovering from the op, living a normal life pain-free, the children now feel included in school society, they can attend after-school activities - and their schoolwork has come on leaps and bounds thanks to the computers. The family are now living a normal happy life thanks to the MCF. Georgina has had her faith in people restored. Her gratitude knows no bounds.

Brethren and Companions, do not feel ashamed or uncomfortable to ask for help from the MCF. it doesn't matter if you have given over twenty years to Freemasonry as I have or whether you are a newcomer to the Craft. If you need help, apply. Once your application is approved, everything moves very quickly.

My family and I will always be grateful to the MCF for the kind and inclusive way in which we were treated, I can't praise them enough for the caring way in which my daughter's application was processed.

# Membership and Mentoring

## Brethren and Companions

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

For just over 300 years, we as Freemasons have had to adapt and mould our wonderful society to meet the needs of our members in an ever changing and challenging world.

The pandemic has given us time to reflect and take stock, not only of where we are now but also of where we want to be in the future. And so we find we must adapt once again in order to meet the needs of our current and future membership. This does not mean however that we should neglect our core traditions and values: it simply means that we should look to improve how we communicate our presence and openness to attracting members within our local communities.

Over the past twenty months we have demonstrated that the Freemasons of East Kent are visible and are here to support them. We have gained greater publicity, local media references and Facebook coverage. Supported by our Communications team and our new Provincial Mentor Graham Chisnell, Lodges are now creating their own websites to increase visibility. These websites not only list a Lodge's or Chapter's unique composition and detail its rich history but also provide testimonials from charities and individuals who have received their assistance. Each website signposts to our award-winning [www.JustAskOne.org](http://www.JustAskOne.org) website which maximises our opportunity to attract new members. As an organisation we have just completed national and local marketing campaigns: as a result, we have received many more enquiries from members of the public. In response our **Members' Charter** has now been published which details our openness and commitment to attracting and retaining future membership.

Most Lodges have now registered a profile or outline detailing their unique selling points. Lodges and Chapters have placed adverts in area publications, have posted flyers in local shops and as part of Lodge plans have been interacting with sports and social clubs, military and civil service retirement agencies and much more.

The net result is that this Province has attracted well in excess of 300 Initiates-in-waiting. Our team of Membership Advisers led by David King and Stephen Wyatt have been working tirelessly in the background. Our Lodge Membership Officers and their coordinators have also been nurturing and

supporting these patient candidates. We must act to ensure that **Lodge membership teams** - Membership Officer, Mentor and Almoner - work with key Lodge Officers such as the Master, Secretary and Director of Ceremonies to provide the on-going support that each new member will require if they are to remain part of our extended family throughout their lifetime.

**So - what is the Members' Pathway?**



**The Members' Pathway provides an overall framework to help Lodges:**

- **Plan** and development membership.
- **Attract** and welcome new members.
- **Engage** with new and existing members to reduce losses through resignations, cessations and exclusions.
- Find ways to **retrieve** those who have drifted away, to re-ignite their interest and re-join.

These are indeed exciting times. The Members' Pathway is currently being re-launched across all Provinces. Here in East Kent a number of presentations will take place from early 2022. It is essential for each Lodge - and indeed for Freemasonry in general - that **Membership teams** attend these instructional sessions and implement the important messages that they contain. Please book in as a team, take the messages back and collectively drive your Lodge/Chapter forward to secure its future.





Let's applaud the contribution and impact that our Club for new and young Masons, the East Kent Light Blues Brothers, has had in galvanising and retaining our membership. With over 240 current members and with 300 candidates-in-waiting the Club has the potential to double in size over the next couple of years. Under the leadership of Club President David Graeme and Chairman Howard Griffin a dedicated committee has worked tirelessly throughout lockdown to provide EKLBB members with many online activities. More recently events such as golf days, clay pigeon shooting, go-karting and greyhound racing have been well supported and provided a welcome return to normality.

The Province is looking forward eagerly to the formation of the **Old Roffensians Light Blues Lodge** in June. This, together with other themed Lodges already in existence in our Province, provides even more enjoyment and value for our membership. Nor have our University Lodges been idle: they have many members-in-waiting. We appreciate that some men will leave and spread their wings after a few years, but we take comfort that they will continue to enjoy and expound the values of Freemasonry around the world.

Our Group Chairmen and their Co-ordinators have continued to work hard throughout the pandemic. Their skills as co-ordinators both in Craft and Chapter have certainly been tested! Our Province could not have co-ordinated the help and much-needed support that has been provided to the people of East Kent without their leadership and dedication. The same can be said of the many unsung heroes within our Lodges and Chapters, to whom we are equally indebted.

Let us take pride in what we have achieved, Brethren and Companions, but more importantly let us now look forward to working with each other in peace and harmony and above all let us have some FUN - we surely deserve it!

## INTERESTED IN JOINING FREEMASONRY?



Find out more or  
apply now online at:  
**JUST ASK**  
[www.justaskone.org](http://www.justaskone.org)

## Scout Band Plays Elgar - For Elgar



### Graham Kayem writes:

Members of the Sir Edward Elgar Lodge No.9837 were delighted to return in true musical form on the 16th November with a super *White Table* meeting at the Maidstone Masonic Centre, Tovil.

With some fifty people attending - brethren, their ladies and other guests - the highlight of the evening was a magnificent Brass performance by the 1st Whitstable Scout Group Band. They had celebrated their Centenary in 2019.

Following a delicious dinner everyone settled down to enjoy the concert. Included were such classics as Edward Elgar's *Salut D'Amour*, Stevie Wonder's *You Are The Sunshine Of my Life* and Jeff Lynn's *Mr Blue Sky*. The Band also featured some excellent solo pieces and enjoyed some enthusiastic audience foot tapping and clapping.

Lodge Master Maxwell Dale said, "I am delighted that we can at last celebrate and fully enjoy once more our love of music. Thanks to the Pandemic our activities have been delayed, but for the Sir Edward Elgar Lodge they are now well and truly back".

*Sir Edward Elgar* is a non-progressive Lodge. It meets three times a year: at Canterbury in February for Installation and in June for the Master's White Table; and at other Centres around the Province in November, reflecting the Lodge's *wandering minstrels* persona.

From Composers to Tubas, the restoration and making of the Hurdy Gurdy, Bagpipes and the Hammond Organ, Lodge musical meetings have included many talks, lectures and performances; *Desert Island Discs* with two of our Provincial Grand Masters, the hosting the Prestonian Lecture 2010 "Music in Masonry and Beyond", a piano recital of Elgar's music, quizzes, a jazz trio and 'big band'. The Lodge has something for everyone and is proud to call its Ritual 'Enigma'.

# Long Service Congratulations

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

## CRAFT 70 years

|                              |       |          |       |
|------------------------------|-------|----------|-------|
| W Bro Trevor William Kemsley | PPJGW | Agricola | L4501 |
|------------------------------|-------|----------|-------|

## CRAFT 60 years

|                               |                   |                   |       |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|
| W Bro Noel Alfred Brian Grout | <b>PSGD</b> PPSGW | Universal         | L181  |
| Bro Raymond John Farrant      | PPGStB            | Chillington Manor | L4649 |
| W Bro Desmond Hugh Coates     | PPGSwdB           | Stour             | L2305 |
| W Bro Arthur Jack Cornwell    | PPGSwdB           | Fraternitas       | L6046 |
| W Bro Richard Willson         |                   | Hoo St Werburgh   | L4829 |
| W Bro Anthony Taylor          | PPSGW             | Lewises'          | L1209 |
| W Bro Keith Tony Fred Catlin  | PPSGW             | Lodge of Freedom  | L77   |
| W Bro David Sutter Conway     | PPGSuptWks        | General Gordon    | L4292 |

## CRAFT 50 years

|                                               |                         |                               |       |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Bro Richard Redman Geering                    |                         | Invicta Lodge of Ashford      | L709  |
| W Bro Alfred Edward Cole                      | PProvSGD (West Kent)    | Erasmus Wilson                | L1464 |
| W Bro Ian William Wright                      | PProvGChStwd            | Prince Edwin's                | L125  |
| Bro Rodney Harold Hoyle                       |                         | Reculvers                     | L4123 |
| W Bro Peter Charles Cusack                    |                         | Old Roffensian                | L8006 |
| Bro Ronald Anthony Jones*                     |                         | St Andrew's                   | L3948 |
| Bro Alan Curtis Baker                         |                         | Royal Military                | L1449 |
| W Bro Ralph Edward Snell                      | PProvGSwdB              | Lodge of Freedom              | L77   |
| Bro Michael Joseph Tidd                       |                         | Gundulph                      | L1050 |
| W Bro Peter John Tyler                        | PPJGD                   | St George Abadan              | L6058 |
| W Bro John William Lord                       | <b>PJGD</b> PPGReg      | Erasmus Wilson                | L1464 |
| W Bro David James Llewellyn                   | PPSGD                   | L8047 - Dickens               | L3266 |
| W Bro Derek Herbert Fairbrother*              | PProvSGD                | Chantry                       | L6454 |
| W Bro Rodney Edward Weeden*                   | PPAGStB                 | Hoo St Werburgh               | L4829 |
| W Bro Grahame Stanley Jack Hammond Whittlesea | PPSGD                   | United Industrious            | L31   |
| W Bro Michael George Lofthouse                | SLGR                    | Allington                     | L7086 |
| W Bro Ross Patrick O'Brien                    | PPGSwdB                 | Christopher Marlowe           | L8014 |
| Bro Leslie William James Kirby*               |                         | Royal Military                | L1449 |
| W Bro Ronald Charles Boyce                    | PPJGW                   | Kingsgate                     | L4882 |
| W Bro Alan John Bee                           | PPSGW                   | Erasmus Wilson                | L1464 |
| W Bro Nicholas Dixon                          | PPDepGReg               | Bredenstone                   | L8093 |
| W Bro John Oliver Austin*                     | PProvJGD                | St George's                   | L4387 |
| Bro Leslie Joseph Hulbert                     | PPGStB                  | Allington                     | L7086 |
| W Bro Howard Francis Doe                      | PPJGD                   | Dickens                       | L8047 |
| W Bro Alun Llewellyn John                     | PPJGW                   | Porta Sapientiae              | L9429 |
| W Bro Michael Harold Homard                   |                         | Malling Abbey                 | L1063 |
| W Bro Roger John Cork                         | PPGSwdB (S,Wales)       | Pharos                        | L6967 |
| W Bro James Otway*                            | SLGR                    | Duke of Kent                  | L5818 |
| W Bro Brian Dennis Cuthbertson                | PPGSwdB, W.Kent         | Lodge of Loyalty              | L9494 |
| W Bro Tony Charles Robson Lewis               | <b>PGStB</b> PPGSwdB    | Macartney                     | L3283 |
| W Bro Roger Alfred Thomas Hoare               | PPDepGSwdB              | Brownrigg Lodge of Unity      | L1424 |
| W Bro George Edgar Birchall                   | PPGReg                  | Royal Kent Lodge of Antiquity | L20   |
| W Bro Michael James Pearson                   | PPAGDC                  | Weald of Kent                 | L1854 |
| W Bro David James Bardrick                    |                         | Graystone                     | L1915 |
| W Bro George Robert John Clifton              |                         | Middleton Manor               | L6337 |
| W Bro Christopher Cyril Daniels               | PPGReg                  | Pentangle                     | L1174 |
| W Bro David Keith Slater                      | PPGSwdB                 | Pharos                        | L6967 |
| W Bro Edmund Stanley Cloake                   | PPGReg                  | Commemoration                 | L5329 |
| W Bro Charles Edward Boxer                    | <b>PSGD</b> PPAstProvGM | Invicta Lodge of Ashford      | L709  |

## CHAPTER 50 years

|                                 |                                 |                                               |       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------|
| E CompDerek James Robin Doughty | PProvGSoj                       | Royal Engineers Chatham                       | C4465 |
| E CompLeslie Stanley Foreman    | PProvGSN                        | McCartney                                     | C1967 |
| E Comp Terry Freestone          | <b>PGStB</b> PProvDepGReg       | Granville                                     | C1096 |
| Ex.Comp Alan George Borer       | <b>PAGDC</b> PPDepGReg (Sussex) | Commemoration Chapter of East Kent Principals | C5329 |
| Comp Alfred James Smissen       | PPAGSj                          | Military Jubilee                              | C2195 |
| Ex.Comp Gerald Trevor Owen      | PPAGDC                          | Adam's                                        | C158  |
| Comp Derek George Goddard       |                                 | King Edward VII                               | C3252 |

\* Deceased as of 31st October 2021

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

# Caring And Compassionate:

## The Role Of The Almoner And The Masonic Charitable Foundation

**Nigel Fitz, Provincial Grand Almoner, writes:**



I was delighted to take on my new Role as the Provincial Grand Almoner for East Kent. I'll admit that it was an aspect of the welfare side of Freemasonry that I once knew very little about.

The Provincial Almoner's Team and our national charity the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) work closely together to provide care, advice and financial assistance to those in need across the Province.

As we are getting back to attending Meetings, I'm talking a great deal to our Lodge and Chapter Almoners. They have played a crucial role in ensuring that brethren and their families have not been forgotten. I'm thanking them for their efforts in maintaining this essential contact in the last eighteen months. I have heard many examples of ways in which the Almoner has made a real difference to people's lives by simply making a telephone call, offering to do essential shopping, keeping them abreast of Lodge news and acknowledging any special events like wedding anniversaries and birthdays.

The Province has a Local Group Structure that includes Group Almoner Coordinators who are also Visiting Volunteers (VVs). Following the relaxation of Government rules, the VVs are making visits once more to those brethren and families who have asked for support. They work closely with me and the MCF and help families complete the documentation that the MCF needs to decide whether it can grant assistance. The MCF have a dedicated team of professionals who approach every application caringly and compassionately.

If brethren or their family members do require assistance or advice, please start by contacting your Lodge or Chapter Almoner - or you can contact me on 01304 823413, email [nigelfitz@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nigelfitz@hotmail.co.uk).

A note for our Almoners:

It has become a tradition for Craft Almoners to have a yearly get-together. The next one will be a Breakfast Meeting, on **Saturday 12th March 2022 at the Maidstone Masonic Centre, Tovil**. Provincial Grand Master Neil Johnstone and members of the Executive will be there. I do hope all Almoners will make every effort to attend. It is a great opportunity to meet colleagues from across the Province and to share and learn from each other's experiences.

## The Kent Museum of Freemasonry



**Chris Doll writes:**

The Kent Museum of Freemasonry whilst temporarily closed has been undergoing some remedial works and updates, in addition to a deep clean. The team are now busy

working to put the Museum & Library together to showcase some more exciting exhibits and we aim to reopen in Spring 2022. Before we can welcome back our many visitors from both within the organisation and members of the public, the team of volunteers are undergoing their refresher training to provide a safe and exciting place for our visitors to enjoy the exhibits that represent the joy that Freemasonry brings to us all.

Many of our previous stewards are looking forward to returning but we would warmly welcome some new faces from across the two Provinces the Museum represents.

Please contact David Tyler at [david.jf.tyler@btinternet.com](mailto:david.jf.tyler@btinternet.com) to arrange an initial discussion about the role. If you feel you can't commit to being a Steward, the team would be very grateful if you were to consider supporting the Museum via the Patronage scheme either as an individual or Lodge. Why not do both?

Annual membership is available from only £25.00 and includes benefits such as:

- **VIP invitations to the Museum for guided talks and tours**
- **A regular free newsletter**
- **Early notification of special events**
- **Exclusive lapel pin for individual patrons**

Help us to Preserve the Past, Engage the Present & Secure the Future.

# Our Commitment to Diversity



## 4 x 3 + 50

### Chris Sanford writes:

In Pentangle Lodge No.1174 we understand that encouraging a diverse, equal and inclusive culture is essential to an expanding, creative and active Lodge. We value diversity and celebrate all backgrounds regardless of age, ethnicity, race, colour, disability, religion, faith, culture or sexual orientation. We recognise that individuals from certain groups have historically experienced barriers to membership. We are committed to advancing in all aspects of equality and offer every member of our Lodge an equal chance to learn, do better and move forward.

Aiming to move forward quickly after returning from Covid, Pentangle Lodge, performed two double Third Degree ceremonies at its 8th October meeting, creating four new Master Masons who had been waiting patiently to progress. The four candidates were all of different backgrounds ages and diversity, as you will see later. We also had time to present a 50 Year Certificate to one of our members. Hence 4 x 3 + 50.

We started late afternoon for the first Ceremony, raising Troy and Ben to become Master Masons. After a tea break, we did the same for Keith and Dave. Shortly afterwards, Chris Daniels was presented with his 50 years Long Service Certificate.

Chris was initiated into Pentangle Lodge in October 1971 - exactly fifty years before our meeting. He became Master of Pentangle lodge in 1980, received Provincial Honours and was promoted to Past Provincial Grand Registrar in 1989. Chris also joined the United Industrious Lodge No.31 and became its Master in 1985. Both his father and grandfathers were Freemasons and members of Pentangle Lodge. Away from Freemasonry, Chris is a retired solicitor and former Clerk to the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue holding the post for many years. He is a former Deputy Town Clerk of Deal (his father had been the Town Clerk earlier) and a Deputy District Judge.



Chris is married and has a stepson who lives in Vermont and with whom he remains in weekly contact. Chris continues to be a keen and regular Anglican churchgoer. He visits our Lodge whenever his health allows.



## ← Introducing our four new Master Masons:



Troy was born in Grenada, a beautiful small island located in the south of the Caribbean Islands. From a very tender age, he became very passionate and enthusiastic about understanding the way machines and

the world operate. He had always wanted to learn more so he could enhance the society he lived in.

In 2018, he began the pursuit of a full-time four-year Master's degree at the University of Greenwich's Faculty of Engineering and Science. He is currently in the postgraduate component of my degree and is eager to embark on his career as a professional mechanical engineer. He joined Pentangle lodge three years ago as a university student member.



On leaving High School in 1977, Keith spent twenty-six years in the Armed Forces serving in a variety of countries with the Royal Engineers, leaving as a WO1. Keith has over twenty-five

years' experience in Health, Safety, Quality and Environment within the construction industry and holds a Chartership in Project Management. Having enjoyed the comradeship of the Military, Keith started his journey in Freemasonry in October 2019 and achieved his Third degree in October 2021.



Ben worked in childcare and education covering roles such as nursery nurse, baby room manager, deputy manager, teaching assistant and cover teacher. He has worked with children with complex needs and adults with

learning disabilities to engage and actively participate in their daily lives. He is now a full-time student studying Speech and Language Therapy at the local campus: he finds it incredibly rewarding as he gets to help give a voice and ways to communicate in the world to those temporarily or permanently without one, as well as preventing aspiration (sucking food into the airway, for example) by helping people to eat and drink safely who can no longer chew and swallow safely. Joining Freemasonry as a student has added to his education and says that Pentangle Lodge "has such a great group of guys".



Dave is fifty-six years old and has been married for thirty-five years. He has three sons and eight grandchildren. He is a company director within the construction industry. Dave has

known about Freemasonry for a long time, but only joined in 2019. He says, "it has been worthwhile and an education".

Pentangle Lodge is sure that its new Master Masons will be as committed as all its members are to creating a dynamic, all inclusive, happy Lodge.



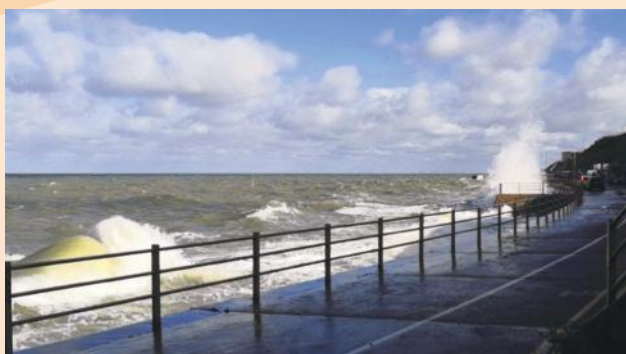
**INTERESTED IN  
JOINING  
FREEMASONRY?**

Find out more or  
apply now online at:  
**JUST ASK**  
[www.justaskone.org](http://www.justaskone.org)

# Provincial Investiture Meeting 21st October 2021

## John Ray writes:

It seems ages since we were all in Margate. I stepped off my train and skipped gaily through the station exit. Okay - I walked steadily out into the fresh air. And boy was it fresh! It was blowing a gale and the sea was whipped up into a frenzy of white horses and crashing waves. I hoped that this was not a portent of things to come! I battled my way along the promenade, around the back of the Turner Contemporary and along to the Winter Gardens. Waves were crashing over the sea wall and drenching many of the cars in the car park.



But, once inside, I found that all was calm and serene. The stage was set, the Provincial Banner and the rostrum were in place, and fellow Freemasons were milling around, some at the bar - washing down an excellent lunch following the Chapter meeting in the morning - or meeting and greeting in the main hall. Provincial Grand Organist John Fry was checking that his kit was in order; Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Andy Stevens was discussing one or two final points with his Deputies Tim Pierpoint and Graham Cuthbert; and Martin Summers, former Provincial Junior Grand Warden, was wandering about, seemingly happy that he had nothing to do on this occasion!



At 1454 hrs - doubtless spot on schedule - he's excellent at this - Andy Stevens took to the

microphone and went through the usual preamble, including the instruction to turn our mobile phones off or the Provincial Grand Charity Steward would be pleased to take a special donation from us if ours rang. Being tight-fisted chaps, we all complied. And, while I'm on about Andy: how on earth does he remember all his lines? Quite remarkable.

This year, the carousel (where those receiving appointments or promotions would be escorted to and from their seats and presented to the PGM) would be different: brethren were asked to bring their seat place-cards with them, and because of COVID there would not be any handshaking.

Talking of COVID, I noted that no one was wearing a mask.

At 1501 hrs the Grand Officers paraded in, followed by Past Senior Officers and finally the Provincial Grand Master Neil Johnstone himself, accompanied by Assistant Provincial Grand Masters Mark Bassant and Richard Wingett. "Where are the other APGMs Mark Costelloe and Duncan Rouse?" I wondered. Ah, of course, they hadn't been invested yet.

The Choir gave a beautiful rendition of "Be Still, My Soul".

The PGM then opened the Provincial Grand Lodge and introduced and welcomed the small group of very senior brethren, among them John Bonomy and the President of the Board of General Purposes Geoffrey Dearing.

Next, the PGM thanked Peter Williams, who was stepping down as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, for his long and distinguished service. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies assembled an Escorting Party, with APGMs Mark Bassant and Richard Wingett at its head, to go out and fetch Phil South (pictured), who was then presented to the PGM. Provincial Grand Secretary David Graeme - what a clear voice he has! - read out the PGM's statement appointing Phil as his new Deputy. As is customary, we all then formally saluted the new Deputy.



A quick glance at my watch: it was 1548. The PGM praised David Alexander and David Graeme, who had both stepped down as APGMs but were now doing equally excellent work in the Province in general and as





head of the Secretariat respectively. Time to invest their successors as APGM. Mark Costelloe had been appointed in 2020 and Duncan Rouse in 2021 but owing to the COVID pandemic had already taken up their posts without having been formally invested. The two Escorting Parties were headed by Mark Bassant and Richard Wingett.



It was a surprise and a delight to see a Master Mason in Duncan's Party: Daniel Kimmons (pictured), a member of Crane Lodge No.2660. Duncan tells me that Daniel is very dedicated and keen

and is also part of Mark Costelloe's Membership Team interviewing potential candidates.

Once the new APGMs had been invested and saluted, the PGM greeted the new appointees to Active Office, among them David Graeme as Provincial Grand Secretary and Nigel Fitz as Provincial Grand Almoner. Once all the other Active Officers had been appointed or re-appointed, it was time for The Carousel - the Promotions and the first Appointments to Provincial Rank. Usually there is thunderous applause - well, loud thudding of gloves - as favoured brethren ascend to meet the Chief, but this year the balconies were empty, and those of us in the cheap seats - about ninety of us - did our best to make some noise but couldn't quite match the buzz of previous years.

At 1654 hrs the Stewards resumed their places. It was now time for the PGM himself to address us.

Neil was delighted to have been able to invest his new APGMs at last. They had been doing their new jobs but had not been able to wear their collars until now. He paid tribute to David Alexander and David Graeme again and assured us that David Graeme was enjoying his new job as Secretary - so far. He reminded us of the good work the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity and the Masonic Charitable Foundation were doing in the Province. He urged us to renew our efforts to make up the ground we'd lost regarding our 2025 Festival because of the COVID pandemic. As for organising today's Event, the A Team had "surpassed themselves again". And it was wonderful to hear the Provincial Choir again after such a long time.

And so to Apologies - a few - and to Any Other Business - there was none. The Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer at 1718 hrs. As a fitting finale, the Choir sang "Land of Hope and Glory".



There was just time for me to say goodbye to a couple of friends before setting off for the railway station. Thankfully the wind had dropped a little and the tide had gone out. The setting sun was bathing the scene in a glorious orange hue. I stopped to take a photo. It had been a good afternoon, despite the stormy start. The wheels of the Province were turning smoothly, and so would be those of my train in a few minutes. All seemed well with the world.



**The Top Team: [L-R] APGM Mark Costelloe, APGM Mark Bassant, PGM Neil Johnstone, DPGM Philip South, APGM Duncan Rouse, APGM Richard Wingett**

# Kent's Scouts Recreate Sir Ernest Shackleton's Expedition To Antarctica

Exactly one hundred years after Sir Ernest Shackleton's last expedition to Antarctica, Kent Scouts are returning, with help from the Freemasons in Kent.

Kent Scouts is one of the largest Scout counties in the UK, preparing 17,000 young people with Skills for Life supported by 6,000 adults. Four Explorer Scouts from Kent with their leaders have been selected to take part in this twenty-three-day expedition to Antarctica departing on the 30th December 2021.



The ReQuest2021 expedition will see ten Scouts sail this winter on the Bark Europa Tall Ship (pictured) from South America to Port Lockroy. There they will conduct personal research projects and present their findings on their return. Scouts back in Kent will join in the fun and adventure using "Antarctica in an Ice Box" activity packs.



East Kent Freemasons have donated £5,000 in sponsorship. Alan Noake, Kent Scouts project leader, said, "The team are immensely grateful to Kent Freemasons, who are now our biggest Sponsor, for

helping the project to inspire all Scouts to learn some important lessons of peace, environment and heritage from Antarctica".

A spokesperson for East Kent Freemasons said, *"This is another example of collaboration between our two great organisations, one which will have a lasting impact on the lives of so many young people".*

**East Kent Province's Group 8 have a special interest in the expedition. Darcy Holmes (currently studying at university for a MEng Degree in Aerospace Engineering) is an Explorer Scout from Ramsgate and part of the expedition.**



Victor Voss, a Past Master of Union Lodge No.127 and long-time Scout Leader, pictured here with Darcy, has a special personal interest in this project: expedition leader Alan Noake (District Commissioner for Dover and Deal) was trained by Vic in the early stages of his 'Scouting' activities,

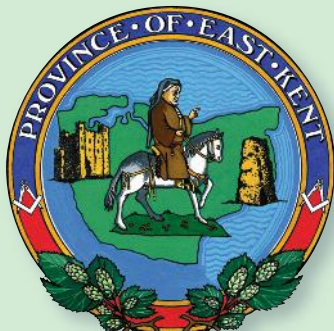
and it was through that training that he decided to go ahead with the expedition. Vic, for the Thanet area, was a District Commissioner responsible for the training of Adventure Scouts and is still a member of the Scout Association.



To mark the launch of the expedition Vic was invited to join the flotilla of six Scout Boats, led by the vessel The Lady Daphne which made their way on the river Thames from Greenwich under the famous Tower Bridge, which opened its spans for them to pass, and

then on to the Pool of London. Other dignitaries joined in the launch including The Honourable Alexandra Shackleton (pictured), Granddaughter of Sir Ernest Shackleton. Many of the Thanet Lodges have supported Darcy by obtaining equipment needed for her project and travel, and East Kent Province has done likewise on a larger scale.

# The Provincial Office



## Simon Jessup (pictured) writes:

Most of you will no doubt be aware that the East Kent Provincial Office is based at Estuary View Business Park, Whitstable. This short article aims to explain some of the workings, how it assists in the smooth running of all Masonic matters around the Province and its links with United Grand Lodge in London and with Provinces around the country.

All staff who work at the office are volunteers, giving one or two days per week managing the issues that arise. The team consist of The Provincial Grand Secretary who is the office manager, assisted by an Assistant for the Craft and a Deputy for the Holy Royal Arch.

There are a further eleven members covering Monday to Thursday and Fridays on an ad hoc basis. The office is usually manned between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. and the phone system operates between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. after which an answering system is in place.

A constant flow of work ensures that most days are busy. The activities covered are as follows.

Administration of daily post plus the huge quantity of emails sent in by Lodge Secretaries and Chapter Scribes relating to the activities of their units. This includes Summonses for forthcoming meetings and all relevant forms, namely, forms A to E for Lodge and Chapter installations. Additionally, any change to members' personal details is recorded on both local and national systems as each Lodge and Chapter has its own file held in the office. All forms relating to Dispensations, new members, resignations, deaths and much more are faithfully recorded.

On top of the more routine work, the preparations for managing Annual Festivals and the Honours System involves a huge amount of planning. It is pleasing for the Team that events normally pass off very smoothly.

The attendance of Representatives of the Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent at each Installation meeting or Convocation requires careful and detailed organisation.



The Representatives are provided with a great deal of information prior to their attendance to ensure they are conversant with the details of the Lodge or Chapter and its membership.

There is a constant flow of incoming telephone calls with queries about all aspects of work at Lodge and Chapter levels and

matters concerning the entire Province and beyond. Most regularly require research to resolve, all time-consuming.

To give you an idea of the workload, have a chat with your Secretary or Scribe E about the paperwork they submit to the office and you will quickly come to understand much of what goes on here at Whitstable. With almost 180 Lodges and 69 Chapters one can begin to understand the volume of paperwork.

Further work is undertaken on behalf of Grand Lodge with regular correspondence flowing between there and the Provincial Office.

Finally, we are here to provide help and support to Lodges and Chapters in any way possible and are happy to receive calls from anyone seeking advice and guidance. Many of the Team have been, and some still are, Secretaries and Scribes themselves and therefore understand the workload of these posts.

The Provincial Grand Secretary is the link between the Executive and the Office. He also deals with any sensitive issues that arise. To fulfil this role, he works closely with the Provincial Grand Registrar and the Provincial Deputy Grand Registrar, who themselves are part of the Team. They are in the office when necessary and work privately when required.

There is so much more that could be said about the workings of your Provincial Office: suffice to say, we are a happy bunch of individuals (usually!!) and are happy to help you and your Lodge/Chapter officers when we can.

Like all of you, we enjoy Freemasonry in general and the small part we play in working for the good of you all and the Province in general.

## Russell Race To Be High Sheriff Of Kent



East Kent Province is delighted to announce that Russell John Race, former Metropolitan Grand Master and member of the City of Rochester Lodge No.7941, is to be appointed as High Sheriff of Kent in March 2022.

The Office of High Sheriff is an independent non-political Royal appointment for a single year. The origins of the Office date back to Saxon times, when the 'Shire Reeve' was responsible to the king for the maintenance of law and order within the shire, or county, and for the collection and return of taxes due to the Crown. Today, there are fifty-five High Sheriffs serving the counties of England and Wales each year.

Whilst the duties of the role have evolved over time, supporting the Crown and the judiciary remain central elements of the role today. In addition, High Sheriffs actively lend support and encouragement to crime prevention agencies, the emergency services and to the voluntary sector. In recent years High Sheriffs in many parts of England and Wales have been particularly active in encouraging crime reduction initiatives, especially amongst young people. Many High Sheriffs also assist Community Foundations and local charities working with vulnerable and other people both in endorsing and helping to raise the profile of their valuable work. The High Sheriffs' Association adopted National Crimebeat in recent years in response to specific areas of need.

High Sheriffs receive no remuneration and no part of the expense of a High Sheriff's year falls on the public purse.

Read a full report in the Spring 2022 Issue of *The Provincial Lite*.



## 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. 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](https://yourprovince.org/yp2)

### Website and Mailing Services Manager

**Paul Gear**

[website@ekprovince.co.uk](mailto:website@ekprovince.co.uk)

### Press and Media Manager

**Phil Heath**

[comms@ekprovince.co.uk](mailto:comms@ekprovince.co.uk)

### 2025 Festival Communications Manager

**Matt Jury**

[mattjury@msn.com](mailto:mattjury@msn.com)

### Provincial and Editorial Manager

**John Ray**

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

### Provincial Education Officer\*

**Roger Gabriel**

[sec@ui31.co.uk](mailto:sec@ui31.co.uk)

### Photographics Manager

**Peter Floyd**

[pjfloyd4501@gmail.com](mailto:pjfloyd4501@gmail.com)

### Provincial Communications Officer HRA

**Chris Sanford**

[thesanfords@screaming.net](mailto:thesanfords@screaming.net)

### Instagram

**Mark Ravenwood**

[mravenwood1982@gmail.com](mailto:mravenwood1982@gmail.com)

\* Representative of the Education & Welfare Support Group

## The Provincial

### Editor

**John Ray** 01732 845704

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

### Editorial Board

**Peter Rhodes**

**Chris Sanford**

**Richard Seath**

**Phil South**

**Roger Waltham**

**Richard Wingett**

### Design

**Andy Snare** 07443 644313

[andysnare@gmail.com](mailto:andysnare@gmail.com)