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PROVINCIAL lite

THE MAGAZINE FOR EAST KENT CRAFT AND ROYAL ARCH

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EDITORIAL



It's great that we're getting back to normal: holding Lodge and Chapter meetings, dusting off our Ritual Books (or scripts, if you prefer), ramping up our charity work and generally mixing and mingling as we social animals like to do.

Flick through our pages and you'll have a taste of the many and varied things we as Masons get up to. There's also the lovely story of nine-year-old Oliver Twyman, who is busy baking and selling cakes to raise money for our 2025 Festival. I wonder if he does mail order ...

It's important to spread the news and show the world the good things that we as Freemasons are doing. Our governing body The United Grand Lodge of England thinks so, too, and has formalised this by authorising Provinces to establish the post of Grand Communications Officer. Our Provincial Grand Master Neil Johnstone was pleased to appoint Paul Gear as his first PGCO this April. Paul will report to Assistant Provincial Grand Master Richard Wingett and has been made a member of the Provincial Executive.

For many years, all our big Provincial meetings have been held at the Winter Gardens, Margate. Not any more: the Provincial Officers' Mess in March was held at the Maidstone Masonic Centre, and the annual Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in April was at the Kent Showground, Detling. The PGM told me he was impressed with the facilities at Detling, but would not be drawn on whether it would become our permanent home-from-home. Time will tell.

Happy reading!

John Ray

Email: editor@theprovincial.org

THE ADVENTURES OF DOMINIC DUGGAN

Dominic Duggan is Master of Gravesham Lodge No.5337. On waking up one morning not so long ago it suddenly occurred to him that his fiftieth birthday was just around the corner. "Time to do something really different while I still can," he thought - so he went online and booked himself on to a 10km Tough Mudder. As you do.

According to Wikipedia, "Tough Mudder is an endurance event series in which participants attempt ten-to-twelve-mile-long obstacle courses. It was co-founded by Will Dean and Guy Livingstone. The obstacles often play on common human fears, such as fire, water, electricity and heights".

Hmm. Did that put doughty Dominic off? Not a bit of it! This would be his first-ever obstacle course, let alone a long-distance run - and in early October 2021 he successfully completed this self-imposed challenge. During the gruelling run he kept asking himself why he was there, cold, wet and tired - and also pondered why, if he was doing it, he hadn't thought of being sponsored.



Dominic (left) with work colleagues and another competitor

Just over a month later, around the date of his fiftieth birthday, our hero revisited his earlier inspiration and booked himself on to another event. This one was called the Dirty Rotten Scramble. What?

"A series of brutal (but FUN!) homegrown OCR's and Trail Runs designed to push you to the absolute limit." <u>Dirty Rotten Scramble (scrambleevents.co.uk)</u>

OCR: that's Obstacle Course Race. It sounded just the ticket.

The Event will take place on Saturday 25th June 2022 at Hole Park Estate, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 4JA. Dominic's nineteenth wedding anniversary is only three days later. No doubt his wife Joanne is thrilled about that!



This time Dominic is planning things in far more detail. As for sponsorship, he has asked the East Kent Province's Communications Team to help him promote his challenge, which will be exclusively in aid of the Province's 2025 Festival. He will hand all the money he raises to one of the 2025 Festival's Executive Team at a future Lodge meeting.

Would you like to support Dominic and the 2025 Festival? Here's the link to our intrepid hero's *Just Giving* page. He's hoping that both individuals and Lodges and Chapters will contribute and help the Province towards its fundraising target – a whopping £3.5 million.

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dominic-duggan1?

<u>utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=dominic-duggan1&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=58980927014b441e883497231a64d834</u>
Thank you.

And there's more.

Dominic has already decided to plan a third gruelling challenge later in 2022 with his work colleagues at Stortford Interiors (UK) Limited. They have been extremely supportive both at work and in the mud.

Are they inspirational or just completely mad? Who cares?

What matters is that Dominic is prepared to make a difference - not just for himself but to the one, ten or maybe a hundred people who will benefit from his commitment to and support of our 2025 Festival appeal.

Have you got a story to tell? Are you challenging yourself or your Lodge or Chapter to achieve a milestone in fundraising? Why not share your story with us, your Masonic family?

CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE AND THE CANTERBURY FOOD BANK



Many Masonic Lodges have lists of local charities that they support – and the Christopher Marlowe Lodge No.8014 is no exception.

Among the personal charities that Peter Lapage chose during his recent term as Lodge Master was the Canterbury Food Bank.

Canterbury Food Bank began as a community project developed by a group of local churches in 2011. Its activities are delivered by a small team managing a large group of dedicated volunteers. It provides three-day food parcels to individuals and families in short-term financial crisis across Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay and surrounding villages.



Serving Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay and villages

In 2021 it distributed over 66,000 meals, feeding some 3,000 children and 4,300 adults. Volunteers worked a total of 15,000 unpaid hours.



Contributions to the charity, no matter how big or how small, are always most gratefully received. In our picture, Peter hands a cheque for £100 to fundraiser Molly.

"JUST ASK" APPLIES WITHIN FREEMASONRY TOO

It seemed only the other evening that four Companions from Belvidere Chapter No.503 were huddled in a corner of Temple 2 at Maidstone discussing the parlous state of the Chapter: thirteen members, of whom only six were active — and not enough to be able to hold a Festive Board. There seemed to be two options: return their Charter, or fight. They chose the latter. A few words in the right quarter, and just a few weeks later thirty-four Companions attended the Chapter's first Exaltation in several years, including an official visit by Deputy Grand Superintendent John Baker himself, complete with escorting party led by Ian White, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.



Front Row [L-R]: Jim Tynan, John Baker, Clive Woodrow, Malcolm Thornhill, Lee Jeffery, Chris Doll and Graham Chapman. Behind Clive is APGM Richard Wingett

Granted, the Chapter had to improvise extensively on the night. Several people from other Chapters stepped in to help. Director of Ceremonies David Preston was unable at the last minute to attend, but Treasurer Phil Sayer and Provincial DC Ian White helped by covering the role, both in the Temple and at the Festive Board. And Malcolm Thornhill of Monckton Chapter No.9236, bless his heart, agreed to act as Z – the equivalent of Master in a Craft Lodge – despite not knowing the Belvidere Ritual!

And the even better news is that there are now more Candidates waiting to join.

Matt Jury of Saint Augustine Chapter No.972 stood in as 1st Asst Sojourner and was very helpful to Acting Principal Sojourner John Ray with some of the perambulations that had not been rehearsed.

There may have been a fair bit of reading, but the "multicultural" team held it together and gave new recruit Lee Jeffery an excellent start on his journey in the Holy Royal Arch.

Happily, there were by then three or four other Master Masons waiting to join, so the Chapter's future would seem to be assured.

The moral of the tale is this: if you're in trouble, say so. Belvidere Chapter did that, and just look at the response! Full credit to Province and all those who rallied round.

2025 FESTIVAL UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER 2022

15th Mav

Group Seven Walk
Flyer and entry forms on website

28th May

Festival Ball Sold out and waiting list

26th June

Boat Race

Flyer and entry forms on website

16th July

Garden Party & It's a Knockout Flyer and entry forms on website

23rd July

Hog Roast

Flyer and entry forms on website

Website: https://2025festival.co.uk/festival-events/



Come and have fun and support the 2025 Festival. Monies raised will go towards our target of £3.5 million.

Many more Events are in the pipeline. Keep visiting the 2025 Festival website for details.

FANCY A SHOT?

Roger Wilkes writes:

The East Kent clay shooting section is back with a bang! After a very quiet two years thanks to COVID, 2022 has seen many Provinces hosting events in an attempt to "catch up". We have already travelled to Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Suffolk and Essex Provinces and have had some success. Following a trip to Sussex we will host our own "Annual Shooting Challenge" in May, at which up to nine Provinces visit us to compete for the annual trophy. In June we travel to Norfolk where our East Anglian brethren are hosting the Annual National Masonic Championships; and shortly after that event we will be taking part in the annual Kent Police Charity Shoot held each year at Paddock Wood. As well as these inter-Provincial shoots we have our own monthly club shoots on Sundays at various locations in the Province, where we hone our skills and enjoy each other's company.



Rob Styles, Union Lodge No.127

There's plenty in the pipeline too. In October, we travel to Bedford to compete against the DSG, a group of Disabled Shooters whom we support through charity donations via the National Masonic Clay Shooting Association where our Past Chairman, Nick Jenkins and Secretary Roger Wilkes are Treasurer and Secretary respectively. We continue to support several charities and in the past few months we have donated more than £3,000 to worthy causes. We have bought a defibrillator, donated to Abigail's Footsteps, a child bereavement charity, and to Ronald McDonald Housing, a charity that supplies housing for parents of children in hospital.

The club is in its fifteenth year and has enjoyed a great deal of success - and long may it continue. For details of the club and how to join please contact me at

eastkentclays@gmail.com or phone me on 07768 123449.

FROM FACEBOOK TO FLIGHT SIM: DEAL AIR CADETS TAKE TO THE SKIES

Paul Gear, Provincial Grand Communications Officer and a member of the Lord Warden Lodge No.1096, writes:

2235 (Deal) Squadron RAF Air Cadets have a target. It's not a military one, but they need new equipment – in the shape of high-powered PCs that are capable of running the latest Flight Simulator software.

Says Training Officer Ken Gilbey, "We train our cadets to an extremely high standard which enables them to have the knowledge and confidence to continue flying long after they leave us, either in the Aviation Industry or just enjoying flying as a hobby. Our eventual aim is to raise enough money to purchase ten new PCs".

Back in January, Ken wrote a post in the Deal Community Facebook Group asking if anyone could help contribute. Their current computers are out of date and cannot run the latest version of Flight Simulator. The 2020 version allows Air Cadets to simulate flying a real aircraft – a single-engine Cessna or the latest F35 fighter jet – from the comfort and safety of the Squad Room before transitioning to a real aircraft.





Picture: Grob G-115E Tutor T1

The Cadets' project is ambitious and long term. The machines cost around £1,300 each. The Squad would like to purchase three of them initially, building on their flight simulator suite to ten machines eventually.

"The Cadets have started a Crowd Funding page. People are being kind and generous, but we have a long way to go to reach our first goal."

This is where I stepped in. I saw the post on Facebook and approached Ken. I said I would do my best to help raise enough money for one PC. I approached the five Lodges (Lord Warden, Downs, Wellington, Globe and Laurel, George Hamilton) and the Granville Chapter at our centre in Sondes Road, Deal, and asked if they would be willing to donate £100 each, giving a total of £600. I would then apply to the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity (CEKFC) for match funding.

The CEKFC kindly agreed to do so, and we received the cheque for £1,200. In all, thanks to a personal donation, we were pleased to present Flying Officer Stuart Gemmell, Officer in Charge, pictured, with a cheque for the full £1,300.



If you would like to know more about Deal Air Cadets, please visit their website at: https://www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets



FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE!

FUN FOR ALL AT GODMERSHAM PARK

The 2025 Festival Events Team are pleased to announce two great Events, "It's a Festival Knockout" and the "Garden Fest", to be held on Saturday 16th July 2022 in the gardens of Godmersham Park, Canterbury CT4 7DT. There will be stalls, a food court and licensed bar – and free parking. The Events are linked and are open to all Brethren, Companions, Friends and Families.

It's A Knockout

Entry fee for a team of 10 people is £300. For spectators it's £5 each, payable at the door (children aged 16 and under FREE). The competition is open to everyone. Why not approach your local clubs, pubs and work colleagues and make up a team? Prizes for first, second and third places and for the best and wackiest dressed team! The Event starts at 1000 hrs and finishes at 1400 hrs. On your own? Please book in via the 2025 Festival Website and we will try to find you a team to join in with. All teams and spectators will also receive free entry to the Garden Fest.

For further information on booking, please contact Steve Spicer on 07720 264981, or email him at itsaknockout2022@gmail.com

Garden Fest

Starting at 1400 hrs and concluding at 1800 hrs. Admission £10 per person (free for children aged 16 and under). Lots of stalls and entertainment! See our poster for more details. Make it a family fun afternoon in the Heart of Kent and help us support the Province's 2025 Festival.

You can also book your tickets for the Garden Fest in advance:

Cheques payable to 'Freemasons Fete & Social Club' should be sent to Robert Curtis at 85 Queenborough Road, Sheerness, Kent ME12 3DB (phone 07836 259824)
Bank transfers to HSBC, Sort Code 40-41-41, Account No. 31405594 (please confirm to robert at robertcurtis67@hotmail.co.uk once payment has been made)

For more details on this and other Events, please visit the 2025 Festival Website at: https://2025festival.co.uk/festival-events/

YOU CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL

EAST KENT SUFFERS NARROW LOSS OF THE RUSSELL RACE TROPHY

Paul McGuirk writes:

The East Kent Masonic Golf Association attended the first inter-Provincial match of the year, hosted by Met Grand Lodge Golf Society at Old Fold Golf Club in Barnet on Friday 25th March. Fourteen of our own members attended to compete for the Russell Race Trophy.

The event is named after Russell John Race, who began his Masonic career in East Kent and is now the Second Grand Principal in Supreme Grand Chapter and High Sheriff of Kent. This was the fifth time the fixture had been played. Until now, East Kent had always held the trophy.

Arriving early, the newly appointed captains met and drew their teams for a match-play competition. In total, there were seven matches.

Unfortunately, East Kent were unable to hold the trophy for a fifth successive year, MetGL winning by four games to three. The results were (Met GL names first):

Godfrey Sheldon/Anil Dhiri **lost** to Nigel Mann/Terry Hall 3&1

Steven Polloch/Eric Mould **beat** Chris Metherell/Ian Tremelling 3&2

Kevin Jones/Bon Hancock **lost** to Daren Horne/Derek Reed 6&5

Barry Neil/John Bennett **beat** Paul McGuirk/Leon Zachrow 2&1

Mick Fox / Gary Beckwith **halved** with Jeff Neil/Chris Pascall

Roy Nelson/Nick Jenkins **beat** Dave Berwick/Fraser Gregory 7&6

John Massmann and Saing lin Choo **halved** with Paul Ames/Roy Butler



EKMGA captain for 2022, Daren Horne (right), presents the Claret Jug to Met GL captain Kevin Jones

2022 SEASON LAUNCH - AND A WIN FOR GARY

Paul McGuirk (pictured) writes:

New Captain Daren Horne launched the East Kent Masonic Golfing Association's 2022 season with a competition at Littlestone Warren Golf Course on Thursday 28th April. Following the narrow defeat against Metropolitan Grand Lodge, this was the first opportunity for the players to get together for the new season.

Thirty-four players and guests watched as the 2021 Captain Derek Reed presented a unique EKMGA polo shirt to Daren – and insisted that he wore it for the upcoming season!

Despite some barracking about the out-of-bounds area on the left, Daren took to the tee and sent his drive right down the middle of the fairway, to rapturous applause. Next to the tee was the new vice-captain, Leon Zacharow, who was less fortunate (ahem!) and sent his shot hard to the left and into the middle of the driving range. Whoops!

The competition itself was hard fought, with Paul Routley holding the clubhouse lead with 42 points until virtually the end. The results were:

Gary Williamson (Ashford Lodge No.8954) 43 points

Paul Routley (Maeides Stana Lodge No.7868) 42 points

Keith Hodgson (Weald of Kent Lodge No.1854) 40 Points

The Average number of points for the thirty-four players was 33.

For the 2022 Season, the EKMGA will be adjusting handicaps based on the member's average score at each Event. There will also be adjustments of 2.0 shots, 1.5 shots and 1 shot for the top three players respectively at each Event.



Winner Gary Williamson (above) and runner-up Paul Routley (below) receiving their trophies from EKMGA Captain Daren Horne





HOGI ROAST

Our PGM RW Bro. Neil Hamilton Johnstone would like to invite you all to the Province's first Hog Roast in aid of the 2025 Festival.

23rd July 2022 at 13:00

Little Fowle Hall Oast, Lucks Lane

Paddock Wood, TN12 6PA

Tickets: £18.00 per person

(under 12's £5.00)



Major Quiz! Please bring a team along ∞ Games & Raffle ∞
 Cash Bar; including Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks ∞
 Hog will be professionally cooked and served on site with vegetarian options ∞

Secure your tickets now!

euk.com	
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heque to Provincial Ex	vents No2.
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Events No2. Please us	se your name/Hog as the
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IN THEIR MEMORY

Peter Dickinson writes:

On the 13th November last year, on the morning of their Installation Meeting, members of the Kingsgate Lodge No.4882 planted a tree in memory of all those who had passed away during the COVID pandemic, including Lodge members J T Baker and C W Barber. Appropriately the sapling was an acacia.

The tree was planted at The Garden Gate Project, a Charity on the Broadstairs/Margate border, which uses gardening to help those with mental health problems. The Kingsgate Lodge has long been a supporter of this local Charity and in return is able to hold its annual summer barbecue there. Those at the planting ceremony included members of the Lodge and other local Lodges, their wives and the widows of those who had died. Each person present was invited to state the names of those no longer with us, while adding soil to the base of the tree.

Later in the day at the Installation Meeting The Lodge raised £233 and donated it to the Garden Gate Project. They in their turn would take care of the tree, so that at each barbeque everyone will be able to admire its growth and remember absent friends and brethren. Pictured right is the sapling tied to its support post, and below Trevor Greves [R] presenting the cheque to Tim Clarke, the Charity's Joint Manager.





LOYALTY FATHER AND SON INITIATED TOGETHER

We like to hear of interesting and unusual Events in East Kent Province. Sometimes a Lodge has a really special evening with much to celebrate.

Kevin Stones (soon to be Master for the fifth time) writes:

Members of the Lodge of Loyalty No.9494 in Ashford will always remember Thursday 3rd February 2022: a father-and-son double initiation and a 50 Year presentation.

David Head and his son Joshua were both well known to the Lodge. They had attended many Lodge socials and had been waiting patiently 'in the wings' throughout the COVID pandemic to be initiated into Freemasonry.

Lodge Master Brian Cuthbertson kindly stepped aside to allow David's and Josh's proposer, Nick Hawley, to take the Chair for the evening.



Pictured [L-R]: David Head, Nick Hawley and Josh Head

All the rehearsing and practising paid off, with the joyous 'Double-Header' ceremony [LOL - Ed.] greatly enhanced by the splendid choreography.

To cap things off beautifully, former Assistant Provincial Grand Master Charles Boxer presented John James West with his '50 years in Freemasonry' Certificate.

MALLING ABBEY DIGS DEEP FOR SPADEWORK

Gordon Scott Brown writes:

If you're raising money for a local charity, Spadework at Offham near West Malling is a great choice. David and Lynda Nunn certainly thought so.



Spadework is a Charity created in 1984 that provides care, support and meaningful opportunities for over 115 adults with learning and other disabilities. Its aim is to support trainees to develop their personal skills through social interaction

with the community and experience of working in a commercial environment as they help to run the plant nursery, garden centre, farm shop and café. Spadework is open seven days a week.

David was Master of Malling Abbey Lodge No.1063 last year, and Lynda's Ladies Night was so successful that a cheque for £2,000 was presented by David (pictured, third from right) to Kris Healey (in beanie hat), Chief Executive Officer of Spadework, just before Christmas.



QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

SEND US YOUR BEST PHOTOS

Peter Floyd writes:

The nation will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee from the 2nd to the 5th June this year – and the Provincial Communications Team would like to see your best pictures.

Send us your photos of Events that you attend, whether public and community activities or your own private parties. The photos best capturing the essence of the celebrations will be displayed on the East Kent Province website and in *The Provincial* magazine.

Ideally, your photos should be in landscape format. If you are using a smartphone, make sure that Resolution is set to High or Maximum.

You may submit up to four photos. Please let us know when and where they were taken, adding your own name and Lodge/Chapter name and number.

Please email the photos to peterfloyd.photography@gmail.com

WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING TO CELEBRATE?

Matt Jury writes:



What will your Lodge/Chapter be doing? Have you planned an Event to share in this celebration? How did the planning go? Your Provincial Communications Team would love to hear from you. Please contact me at socialmedia@ekprovince.co.uk.

FREEMASONS DONATE £500,000 FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

From the Masonic Charitable Foundation's website:



Thousands of Ukrainian refugees as well as displaced people still inside Ukraine will be given help and support, thanks to half a million pounds raised by Freemasons across England and Wales.

The money is being directed to charities working on the ground in Ukraine, as well as organisations helping refugees in neighbouring countries including Poland, Moldova, Romania, and in the UK.

The £500,000 was raised in less than three weeks to mid-April and the total is still growing as Freemasons continue to dig deep to help the refugees.

The war in Ukraine has created by far the largest refugee crisis in Europe since the Second World War, and more people are fleeing Ukraine for countries to the west every day.

The chosen charities, each of which will receive £100,000, are:



The UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) – which could help setup a 'Blue Dot Hub' to provide a safe space for up to 5,000 children and families on the move every day. Blue Dot Hubs offer critical services such as childriendly spaces, mother and baby facilities and a crucial family reunification support.



Plan International UK – which could help set up 55 temporary learning spaces in Poland, Moldova and Romania, so children can learn and play in a safe space away from the war.



The Refugee Council – which could help to fund two full-time therapists to provide specialist therapy for hundreds of traumatised refugees.



British Red Cross – to fund work with hundreds of Ukrainian refugees in the UK to help them overcome loneliness and isolation and to offer other practical support to help ease them into life in Britain.



UK for UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency – which could help provide essential repairs to severely damaged homes in Ukraine that have been damaged by shelling and conflict.

Freemasons contributed to the grant through the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which is funded by Freemasons, their families and friends, from across England and Wales.

Editor's Note: Members of East Kent Province are contributing both directly and via the Province's 2025 Festival.

THE MEMBERS' PATHWAY: WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Graham Chisnell, Provincial Grand Mentor writes:

mentor@eastkentfreemasons.org



As the Members' Pathway rolls out across the Province of East Kent we are starting to see a real thirst for Freemasonry from both existing brethren and companions as well as potential candidates. I have had the privilege of working alongside the formidable Members' Pathway team, led by our APGM Mark Costelloe and assisted by APGM Duncan Rouse, Provincial Grand Membership Officer Steve Wyatt and his deputy Membership Officer Trevor Carter, the Provincial Grand Almoner Nigel Fitz, and on behalf of the Royal Arch, Roger Gabriel as Education Officer and the Deputy Grand Superintendent John Baker.

The Members' Pathway team have delivered five face-to-face launch events in Canterbury, Margate, Maidstone, Sittingbourne and (by the time you read this) Gravesend.



The Members' Pathway is available to all Brethren and Companions through a central website, bUGLE. Click on this link to be taken to the site. As you can see, the Members' Pathway is more of a continuous cycle than a single destination. The cycle has four key phases; **Plan, Attract, Engage and Retrieve**. Each phase contains important steps that can help plan for the future, draw great men to our door, build and maintain their interest once initiated and support them throughout their masonic journey.

The Lodge Membership Officer is key in coordinating the **Attract phase**, and I would highly commend you to think about appointing a Lodge Membership Officer to support this phase in the Members' Pathway.

The **Engage phase** is coordinated by the Lodge Mentor and encourages the mentoring of brethren by both Lodge Mentors and personal mentors to support our brethren to build masonic knowledge and interest in our ritual, ceremonies and fraternity.

The **Retrieve phase** rests with our Lodge Almoner who supports a wider team across the Lodge in both retrieving brethren whose attendance has wavered as well as supporting the wider roles of support for brethren and families.

Finally, the **Plan phase** sits with brethren such as the Lodge Secretary, DC and Preceptor, as a planning team who think about the strategic future of the Lodge. None of these phases sits exclusively with them: my advice is to be playful in approaching how you use the Members' Pathway and involve brethren who show an interest or have a talent to bring to the cycle to life for your Lodge.

The Members' Pathway launch events across our Province have been well attended. There is a real excitement about the positive impact the Pathway will have on the future of Freemasonry in East Kent. There are encouraging statistics for our Province: over 150 new initiates since September 2021 with an average age of 35 years. This is really encouraging for our Province, our Lodges and our Chapters. I am sure you will agree that we would like this momentum to continue.

Where next?

The Members' Pathway team will be supporting you through a range of learning and development events. We are planning *Preparing for the Masters' Chair* webinars and seminars, advising on learning ritual, holding Almoners' breakfasts, Mentors' and New Masons' breakfasts and Lodge Planning workshops. As we build confidence together, we will listen to you and support you in your own journey through the Members' Pathway.

Over to you.

Your next step is to form your own Membership Pathway team within your Lodge. While it is up to you how to form this, a great place to start would be to involve the Lodge Mentor, Membership Officer, Almoner, Secretary and DC. Take a look at the Members' Pathway wheel and pick a place to start that will open a conversation about how you can take your Lodge forward and strengthen it for generations to come.

If you, or your Lodge, would like any support in your journey through the Members' Pathway, the Members' Pathway team would be delighted to hear from you.

BAKING FOR THE 2025 FESTIVAL

Nine-year-old Oliver Twyman is a Man with a Mission.

He's out to do his bit for his dad's Lodge – and it involves cakes, scones, sausage rolls and cheese puffs. Oliver bakes 'em.



Dad Sean is the senior Steward in the Stour Lodge No.2305 in Ashford. Oliver got to know that the Lodge wanted to raise money for the East Kent Province's 2025 Festival and came up with the idea of baking and selling cakes and other goodies.

He already had a good track record in fundraising. A pupil at the Phoenix Community Primary School in Kennington, he belongs to the RotaKids club.



RotaKids is a fun and exciting way for children aged 7-12 to make friends and get involved with important activities in the community, all while having a great time in the process.

RotaKids clubs are based in schools, youth groups or community centres. With the help and support from teachers, youth leaders and the local Rotary club, children can gain a valuable experience in helping others and learning interesting new things.

Oliver thoroughly enjoys raising money for charities. Among those that he has supported in the past are the supply of disaster shelters in 2020 and collecting for Children in Need.

He loves cooking: he bakes scones and sausage rolls which he sells to Lodge before members Lodge meetings. He made mince pies and sausage rolls for Lodge's Christmas the meeting in December 2021. Altogether he has raised over £500 for the 2025 Festival – a great achievement for someone so young.

What does Sean think of his son's achievements? "He's a conscientious boy who is always willing to help others. My wife and I are very proud of him."

A potential Charity Steward in the making?



Oliver with his dad Sean

We in the Festival Team are very grateful to Oliver for his kind support and dedication.

Have you got a story to tell? Are you challenging yourself or your Lodge or Chapter to achieve a milestone in fundraising? Why not share your story with us, your Masonic family?

IN DOVER A PICTURE PAINTS A THOUSAND WORDS

Charity Steward Tony Plummer (pictured) of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony No.199 in Dover paid a visit to the town's smART Project's Gallery recently. The Lodge has donated £3,000 to the project over the last two and a half years.



Dover smART Project is a registered charity supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people through community art projects, including young carers. The charity works tirelessly to raise awareness of young carers in the UK.



The Lodge, together with other Dover Lodges in the Province's Group 7 area along with matched funding from the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity in the past, has been supporting smART for some four years, especially during the last two years in the pandemic. Tony learnt that the project went into lockdown with fifty-eight young carers on its register but now has 163, the youngest of whom is only five years old. Throughout 2020 and 2021 each of the young carers has received desperately needed support, initially with weekly doorstep deliveries of care packages and, now that restrictions have been lifted, the resumption of weekly face to face sessions.

To date they have delivered 7,000 care packages, travelled 50,000 miles in Kent in the smART van and spent 11,856 hours preparing the parcels.



Tony was told that the pandemic had had a massive impact on these amazing youngsters, many of whom play a major part in helping to run a household in addition to the 'normal life' that children have to cope with.

The latest donation from the Lodge of Peace and Harmony has enabled the charity to have a smART Angel, who is there to counsel, listen, help and advise, at each weekly session.

Pictured left is Dawn Foulks from the Charity, who received the cheque from Tony from the Lodge.



ONE LUCKY WINNER WILL RECEIVE THE



£1,000

1ST PRIZE IN THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS 500 CLUB MAY DRAW



SO, IF YOU OR YOUR LODGE OR CHAPTER HAS ALREADYJOINED, IT COULD BE YOU!

LODGES, CHAPTERS AND INDIVIDUALS
THROUGHOUT KENT AND BEYOND HAVE
NOW JOINED AND IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO
TAKE PART IN OUR DECEMBER DRAW

WE STILL NEED MORE TO JOIN TO HELP
US CONTINUE WITH OUR WORK BRINGING
SMILES TO THE FACES OF THE RESIDENTS
AT PRINCE GEORGE DUKE OF KENT COURT

IF YOU COULD SEE THE HAPPINESS IT BRINGS YOU WOULD NOT HESITATE!

FULL DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT: www.friendschislehurst.org/500club

DUKE OF KENT COURT IS THE ONLY RMBI HOME IN KENT AND IS YOUR LOCAL RMBI HOME

PHOTO COMPETITIO

Peter Floy Many thanks to all who took part in our Photographic (



As usual, the quality of entries was very high, and the Communications Team ponder captured the sense of a bitterly co

N AUTUMN/WINTER

d writes:

Competition this year. The theme was Autumn/Winter.



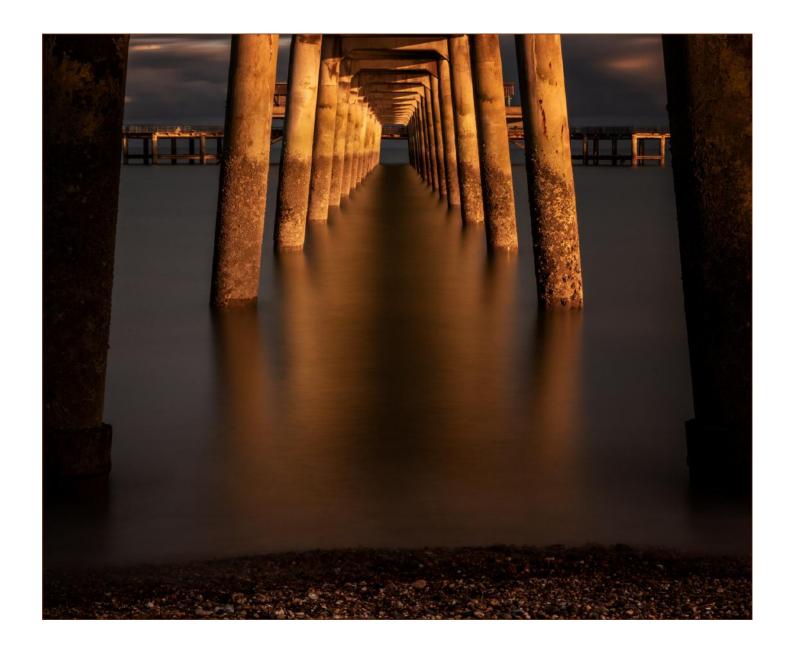
ed long and hard before making their decision. Pat King's winning entry '*Mote Park'* ld winter's day exceptionally well.



In Second Place: John Harrington's 'Snow Mountain' uses the two con

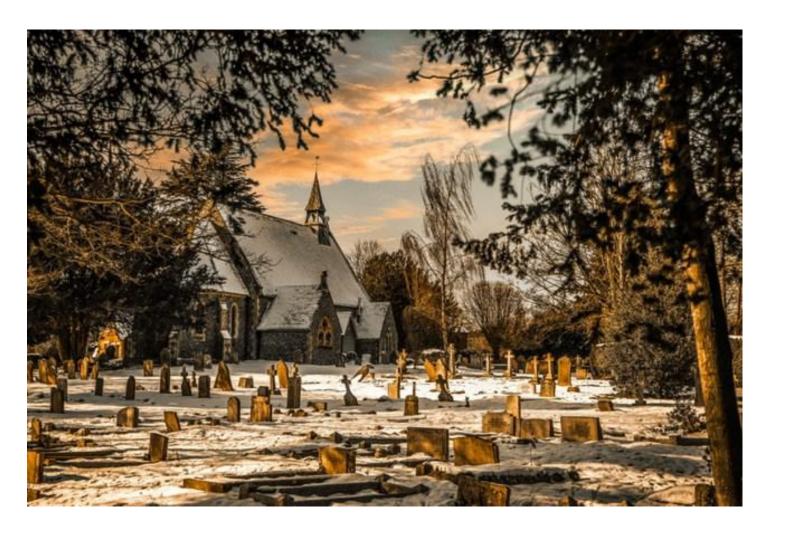


trasting themes, light and shade and warmth and cold, to great effect.



In joint third place, Graham Snowden's '*Under Deal Pier'* (above) captures the warmth of the setting sun's rays which help to emphasise distance and depth in dramatic form, while James Burchell's '*Shepherdswell Church'* (right) is a glorious mélange of winter colour that would grace any Christmas card.

We shall be running another competition soon. Please check the Provincial website and the Late Summer issue of *The Provincial Lite* for details.



PROVINCIAL OFFICERS' MESS 17 MARCH 2022

Well – you couldn't have asked for a better day. Wall-to-wall blue sky, hardly a breath of wind – outside, that is – and some of East Kent's finest and shiniest gathered for their twice-annual lunch and gossip. Yes, it was time for the Provincial Officers' Mess Lunch.

The Officers' Mess is open to all Craft and Chapter members who hold a Provincial Grand Rank and pay a small subscription. It meets twice a year, in the Spring and Autumn. Meetings are very informal – "jacket and tie" and no regalia – and allow members to have a lunch, which they pay for, to catch up with old friends and to hear what's going on at Province.



The previous meeting had been held at the Winter Gardens, Margate, way back in October 2019. COVID, of course, put a stop to it after that. So, we were all eager to resume.

Aha! But this time there was a big difference: no Margate. The *Winter Gardens* is being refurbished. It's not clear whether Province will hold meetings there again. So, a decision was made to up sticks and move to Maidstone, where the Masonic Centre had ample accommodation.

Sharon and her "Thyme 2 Dine" team had everything well organised. The garden was available. Several of us grabbed a table and sipped our ale in the lovely warm Spring sunshine, while others mingled around the bar and chatted. I checked in with the checkers-in. How many expected? A hundred and forty-four. Splendid!

At 1300 hrs precisely Provincial DC Andy Stevens called us to order for Grace, following which we sat down to our lunch of leek and potato soup; beef in red wine with mushrooms and vegetables; profiteroles; and cheese, biscuits and coffee: all supplied to the usual high standard at the MMC.

Mess Vice-President Phil South, our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, was in charge. He took wine with us all, then with Past President John Bonomy, current Mess Secretary David Graeme and our Speaker Roger Waltham.

Andy Stevens stood up and announced that some car keys had been found. "I'll bid a fiver!" someone called out. That tickled our Vice President (pictured).



One of my table companions, paying his first visit, remarked, "It just seems such a friendly atmosphere. Very noticeable."

Indeed. Margate was good, but the imposing grandeur of the Winter Gardens somehow imparted a formality that was completely and refreshingly absent at Maidstone. Good move, Province!

At 1430 hrs, on the dot, we said Closing Grace, and Andy Stevens introduced our Vice-President Phil South. Phil commented that it was our first meeting for over two years and was pleased to see so many of us there. Apologies for absence included that of our President and Provincial Grand Master Neil Johnstone, who was self-isolating prior to going on holiday – a condition imposed by the insurance company, apparently. COVID muscling in – again.

Next, our Vice-President was pleased to introduce Roger Waltham, Chairman of the Trustees of the Kent Museum of Freemasonry and a former Assistant Provincial Grand Master.



The Museum & Library, located in the heart of Canterbury and a renowned tourist spot in its own right, was forced to close in March 2020, thanks to COVID and the coincidental need to carry out some serious building maintenance and safety works.

In his Chairman's report in September of that year, Roger wrote that the Trustees were exploring how best to manage everything whilst those works were underway. "It is probable," he had said, "that the building will need to remain closed for a further six to nine months. It could, potentially, even be a little longer..." And so here we were, getting on for two years later! It had been a trial, for sure, but the Trust and the Province had been resolute in reaching a positive end-result that would provide a solid platform for the benefit of future generations. Roger was absolutely delighted to report that they were now hoping to re-open on the 27th April this year.

But there were considerable challenges still to be met.

Roger said the Trustees needed the help "of each and every one of us present today". In 2019 there were more than sixty Stewards in the team, who were magnificent in the way in which they engaged with almost 10,000 visitors annually, dispelling the myths and educating. quietly Due to the pandemic and the vulnerability



and advancing years of many of the volunteers, the number of Stewards had now dropped to around twenty.

To comply with current safety regulations and insurance requirements, the Museum needed three people to be on duty on each day of opening. With volunteers being asked typically to work one or two days a month, the shortfall was considerable. "If you do the maths, you will see that we are in very dire need of more volunteers."

Roger asked us to go back and talk urgently to our Lodges, Chapters, and Other Masonic Orders and do everything we possibly could to encourage members to become volunteer Stewards. All they needed to do was email him personally via the Provincial Office and he and his Team would get back to them from there.

And it wasn't just brethren that could volunteer. Wives, partners, friends and family were all just as valuable and just as welcome to be part of the Team.

The Kent Masonic Museum & Library Trust had been "doing a magnificent job as a shop window to our amazing fraternity". It showed our 300-year history to thousands of visitors every year from all over the world, explained the structure of the Craft, Holy Royal Arch and Other Masonic Orders, dispelled all those silly myths that existed out there, and clearly demonstrated our strong ethos of care for one's fellow man; support of those in need; and integrity and honesty: in other words, Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth!

Finally, to warm applause, Roger thanked the Vice-President for the opportunity to address us. If we could encourage others to join the team, it would help the Trustees enormously and enable them "to pass on this amazing resource from generation to generation".

Our Vice-President keenly endorsed everything that Roger had said and urged us all to take the appeal back to our Lodges and Chapters.



Pictured [L:R]: Provincial Director of Ceremonies Andy Stevens, Assistant Provincial Grand Master Richard Wingett, Second Provincial Grand Principal Pat King and Deputy Grand Superintendent John Baker

Next, another highlight of the day: the Mess Accounts. They looked very healthy – so healthy, indeed, that not only did we accept them but it was proposed that we donate £25,000 to the Province's 2025 Festival and £5,000 to our own Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity. Motion carried with enthusiasm!

Next, a few words from our Vice-President himself. Phil said that the Winter Gardens at Margate had always met our needs as a venue, but under the present circumstances we were having to move out and about: today's Mess was therefore here at the Maidstone Masonic Centre, and the two annual Festivals, Craft and Chapter, would be at the Kent County Showground at Detling. Regarding communications, he felt that, thanks to modern technology, there was no longer a need to update us in detail at Mess meetings, but the Province would be sending out a Questionnaire to get our opinion. Thanks to COVID, the Executive were working very hard catching up on Lodge and Chapter Centenary celebrations. He stressed that it was very important for Secretaries and Scribes to book dates well in advance. We were continuing to roll out the national communications system Hermes to all Lodges and Chapters. There would be an additional Members' Pathway meeting at Gravesend on the 7th May.

Finally, Phil reported that The Province was behind target on fundraising for the 2025 Festival. There was an eleven-year gap between the start of one Festival and the start of the next, and in an eleven-year period we had received some £6.6 million from the Masonic Charitable Foundation, as against our £3.5 million current contribution target — a substantial return on our "investment"! He stressed that the finest way to donate was a little and often. Charity Stewards could advise on how best to do this.

There being no other business – how our Mess Secretary David Graeme seemed to relish saying that! – Phil thanked the organising team for today's meeting, Trevor Carter, Provincial Senior Grand Warden, proposed a Toast to Phil congratulating him on his upcoming promotion in Grand Lodge, and Andy Stevens called us to order for the Executive to retire. It was 1455 hrs.

I do enjoy these Mess meetings. No pomp. No circumstance. No lines to learn. Just a nice, simple occasion to meet and greet, wine and dine. Long may they continue!

John Ray

Editor

SEEING THE DIFFERENCE

There are around 35,000 children and young people living with a vision impairment in the UK. So have a marked effect on their development.

The research carried out at Guide Dogs, both internally and in collaboration with external organisations, helps them understand the needs of their service users as well as taking care of the dogs.

Their two priority research areas are:

Canine science: to support the behaviour, health and wellbeing of their dogs

Human behavioural sciences: to support the emo-

tional wellbeing of their service users, and their family and friends.

John Mills of the Royal Navy Lodge No.429 in Ramsgate was so inspired by an informative talk given by Robin Evans in 2020 on the work it takes to train a guide dog that he decided he wanted Guide Dogs to be his charity of the year when he became Master in 2021.

His mission was to use the year to raise enough funds to name a guide dog and help fund this "fantastic charity". Shortly after he announced this ambition, the world was struck by the COVID pandemic and many of Freemasonry's activities came to a sudden halt.

Despite this hiatus, John and Lodge Charity Steward Nigel Mann set about the task of raising the funds. Members donated what would have been their normal dining fees; and, once lockdown measures were eased, John organised and ran a treasure hunt.



In Autumn 2021, the Lodge was able to add the proceeds of raffles and the money raised at a succ

It takes around fourteen months to train a guide dog. To find o

A DONATION CAN MAKE

me 80% of a child's learning takes place using vision, and every day they go without support can



essful Ladies Night, reaching a grand total of £2,850.

ut more, visit the website at https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/

COLIN GOES FOR GOLD – ON A LAWNMOWER!

"I'm quite excited!" said Colin North when I met him at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in April. "I've never done anything like it before."

Colin is Charity Steward in Septem Lodge No.7788 in Dover. He is also Managing Director of Bourne to Garden, a company specializing in Grounds maintenance for individuals and for industrial, sports and community areas.

Having turned fifty, Colin (pictured) was on the lookout for a mid-life challenge. His late father-in-law Mike Prout had served some forty-odd years in Septem Lodge before passing with Motor Neurone Disease in 2013, and Colin was looking for a novel way to pay tribute to him and to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association and other charities.



"As I own a company that used tractors and mowers all day long maintaining holiday parks, sports fields, community areas, schools and colleges across the South East, I did some research on mower challenges and discovered the current Guinness Book of World Records holder for this challenge covered an 874mile route in 2017 in five days, eight hours and thirtysix minutes with an average speed of 9 mph. This seemed a perfect fit - and "Bourne to Ride" was born!"

Travelling at a maximum of 12 mph, for up to twenty hours per day, Colin will be driving an Izeki ride-on mower from Lands End to John O' Groats. They will be setting out on Monday 27^h June and are aiming to reach their destination by Friday 1^{st} July. Rob Hindson will be driving a support van – or "race van", as Colin calls it, in which Colin hopes to get a bit of kip while backup driver Connor Langley, aged 25, takes the wheel.

Colin and his team want to raise £30,000 "but are hoping for more". They will be splitting the monies raised between three charities: the MNDA, the Kenward Trust (Kent's leading Alcohol & Drug Rehabilitation Centre based at Yalding) and the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF).

Last year the MCF donated £21.5 million to people in need as well as donating over £51 million to charitable organisations. They have adapted and developed their range of support to help the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in society during the pandemic.



Colin North (on mower) and David Withers, the UK & Ireland MD for Iseki

To supply proof for the GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS attempt, the lawnmower will be fitted with a tracking system from Izeki Operations Centre who are able to track Colin's entire journey via software. The resulting data is the proof needed to verify Colin's route and travelling time as a GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS success. In addition, members of the public will be asked to complete a log, stating the time, date and observation location. The whole journey will also be streamed live online: details for the live link will be published nearer the date on www.bournetogarden.com

To donate, please either go to gofundme.com and search for Bourne to Ride or click on https://gofund.me/2e8249e6 or point your smartphone at the QR Code below:







HONOURS FOR EAST KENT AT SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER

John Baker, Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent, writes:

Many Companions from East Kent including Grand Superintendent Neil Johnstone attended the Annual Investiture meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter at Freemasons Hall on the 28th April. And those with associations with the Province were well represented among the appointments and promotions.



Nearest camera on left is Paul Settle (Provincial Grand Almoner), on his left Terry McGlone (Provincial 3rd Grand Principal), next to him Ian White (Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies). Facing us, centre, is Provincial Grand Superintendent Neil Johnstone, and on his left are Roger Waltham and Pat King (2nd Provincial Grand Principal).

Jonathan Spence was promoted to Pro 1st Grand Principal Designate. Russell Race was reappointed as 2nd Grand Principal. Malcolm Brooks and Barry Cleaves received promotions to **PDepGSwdB** and **PGStdB** respectively. Paul Settle was appointed as **PGStdB** and Tony Eldridge, Roger Waltham and Charles Cameron were appointed as **PAGDC**s.

The meeting was followed by lunch in the 'Vestibule' at Great Queen Street, at which fifteen Companions from East Kent were able to celebrate a most memorable occasion.

Why not join us for the next meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter on the 9th November this year?

OUR NEW PROVINCIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

At the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting at Detling on the 22nd April, Provincial Grand Master Neil Johnstone was pleased to appoint Paul Gear as his first Provincial Grand Communications Officer.

Paul, a former Royal Marine Musician and a member of the Lord Warden Lodge No.1096, is well known throughout the Province as our Webmaster, being responsible for running and maintaining the Provincial Websites. It is a challenging and time-consuming job, but one which Paul has carried out with enthusiasm for many years.

Paul is also a member of the Province's Communications Team. Reporting to Assistant Provincial Grand Master Richard Wingett, Head of Communications, his role as PGCO will be to maintain and improve the public perception of Freemasonry and offer effective Public Relations within the Province. He is a member of the Provincial Executive.





Aficionados of Rank might have spotted the emblem on Paul's apron. The bell recalls the job of the Town Crier, who in days gone by would announce the latest news to villagers and townspeople by ringing a handbell and yelling "Oyez! Oyez!" at the top of his voice.



SUNDAY 15TH MAY 2022 GROUP 7 2025 FESTIVAL WALK

Dover Masonic Temple to Sandwich Masonic Temple via St Margaret's and Deal Temples

A Walk for Masons and non-Masons alike, why not come and have a great day out walking between the Sandwich and Dover Masonic Temples. The walk is open to everyone, and will take a leisurely route across the White Cliffs, through the ancient highway, and through stunning countryside, all in the name of the 2025 Festival.

Walkers may walk one section or all sections, Lodges/Chapters may also enter relay teams if they so wish. Do as little or as much as you wish to do.

Supporting charity as well as staying fit and healthy!

All donations will be registered against individual Lodges/Chapters, helping you to achieve your Lodge/Chapter Festival Target.

We look forward to welcoming everyone on the day!



Marshalled Route

Open to Masons and Non-Masons

Walk as little or as much of the route as you wish

Remember! Be
Prepared for all
weather
conditions, better
to pack layers
than get caught
out. An umbrella
is a must!

DONATIONS

Please remember, all donations made to the event through your Lodge/Chapter can also count towards the Lodge's/Chapter's own target.

OUR 2025 FESTIVAL: HOW YOU CAN BEST HELP



As a Province, one of our most important tasks is to support our 2025 Festival, in which we have been challenged to raise the whopping sum of £3.5 million. The money goes directly to our national and international charity, the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF), and is then distributed to all manner of worthy causes including

Charities and our own brethren and their families.

In the first two years of our Festival, Lodges and Chapters and the Provincial Team had been using their skills, initiative and drive to run all kinds of Events. Unfortunately, our work has been seriously affected by the Pandemic, and we have been falling behind our projected target.

So – what is to be done? How can you best help?

There are lots of exciting Events in the pipeline, which will doubtless be well supported. But there is one way in which nearly all of us can help — and that is by making a regular financial contribution.

By setting up a Direct Debit, you can ensure that your money will go straight into the MCF's account and be redistributed immediately. We call it "the revolving door principle". No waiting until 2025: your contributions are used immediately to help those in need. And if you qualify for tax relief, the sums you contribute are increased in value by 25%.

We appreciate every donation, no matter how big or small.

To make a donation scan with phone camera to open or visit URL

https://gtap.uk/e2025

If you donate a total of £300 including Gift Aid or more over the period of the Festival, you qualify for a Festival Jewel. Please check with your Lodge or Chapter Charity Steward for further details.

By making a regular donation to our Festival, you will be expressing the "true characteristic of every Freemason's heart" – those vital words from your Initiation.

THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

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

Website and Mailing Services	Paul Gear	website@ekprovince.co.uk
Press and Media Manager	Phil Heath	comms@ekprovince.co.uk
Social Media Manager	Matt Jury	socialmedia@ekprovince.co.uk
Provincial and Editorial Manager	John Ray	editor@theprovincial.org
Photographics Manager	Peter Floyd	pjfloyd4501@googlemail.com
Communications Officer for the HRA	Chris Sanford	thesanfords@screaming.net
Instagram	Mark Ravenwood	mravenwood1982@gmail.com

And finally, Brethren and Companions: a reminder that the members-only portal "Your Province" – a.k.a. YP2 – is the principal source of information for all Craft and Royal Arch Freemasons in East Kent. This secure website is full of interesting material that will support all Master Masons and Companions irrespective of experience or rank. To register, please visit the website at *yourprovince.org/yp2*