

# PROVINCIAL lite

THE MAGAZINE FOR EAST KENT CRAFT AND ROYAL ARCH

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

## AUTUMN 2023 ISSUE



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## EDITORIAL

'Tis the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness – and the time for most of us to plunge back into the hobby that inspires and guides us – our Freemasonry.

We may have been taking a break from regular Lodge and Chapter meetings, but we have still been very active in so many ways, as a glance through these pages will show.

One of the biggest Events has been the introduction of the new Visiting Officers scheme, which takes effect this Autumn. From now on, each Lodge and Chapter has its own VO who will be permanently assigned to it and who will be on hand to assist and advise when called upon. Regard him as a “best buddy”.

The guys on our front cover may look like an invading horde of Norsemen, but they are only taking part in an Axe-Throwing Competition. Phew! Read about it in the magazine.

As always, our focus is on the East Kent Province's 2025 Festival and the immense benefits that the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) can bring to so many people's lives. Heather Gear knows all about this. Read her report on how the MCF has helped her.

Another big item for 2023 is the Members' Pathway, now an integral part of the United Grand Lodge of England's seven-year Strategy to revitalise and re-enthuse our love of the Craft. Steve Salisbury looks in depth at the Learning and Development side.

Do you find it difficult to attend Lodges and Chapters that meet in the evening? If so, have a look at our feature on Daytime Lodges.

As always, we have lots of reports on fundraising activities and support for local Charities – our bread-and-butter work, but something of which we can all be especially proud as Freemasons.

We have one very sad item to report: the death of our former Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent Michael Robin Bailey. Michael was our PGM/GS from 2004 to 2011 and remained active in the Province ever since, having continued as Lodge Organist right up to the present year. Many of you will have known him well and will mourn his loss. Rest in peace, Sir!

**John Ray**

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



## MASONS PROVIDE COLD COT TO HOSPITAL'S BEREAVEMENT SUITE

Roger Wilkes writes:



Abigail's Footsteps was launched in 2010 by parents Jo and David Ward following the death of their daughter Abigail Ward who was stillborn at forty-one weeks' gestation. Its mission is to provide healthcare professionals with bereavement care training and support to ensure that bereaved parents receive the highest standard of care, following the death of a much-loved baby.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> April, Assistant Provincial Grand Master Richard Wingett represented the Province with Roger Wilkes and Bernie Connolly from the Provincial Clay Shooting Team when they went to see first-hand the Cold Cot that the members of the Shooting Team had donated through fundraising. They were greeted by members of the Charity as well as by members of the Bereavement Team.

The Cold Cot is in the Bereavement Suite at Medway Maritime Hospital. Roger Wilkes, Secretary of East Kent Masonic Clay Shooting Team, commented: "I have to say that it is one thing to be able to fund-raise and donate a Cold Cot, but it is indeed very special to see it in place and to understand the back-story of why it is important and how it helps bereaved parents".

So: what is a Cold Cot and what is a Bereavement Suite? To hear and see first-hand, please watch this short video: <https://youtu.be/e39VsjuYC1c>. You may also want to see the Charity's website for further information: [www.abigailsfootsteps.co.uk/professionals/bereavement-suites/](http://www.abigailsfootsteps.co.uk/professionals/bereavement-suites/)

Added Roger, "Today is a very special day for us to see and understand the outstanding work that both Abigail's Footsteps and the Bereavement Team undertake. It is a sad and sobering thought as to why it is needed and we as members of the Provincial Clay Shooting Team and the Province of East Kent are immensely proud to help where we can".

Abigail's Footsteps and the Hospital Bereavement Team rely heavily on charitable giving in providing this service to help those in need and expressed their gratitude for the donation of the Cold Cot.





## **ADAMS 158 IS 225**

Henry Ryan, Charity Steward of the Adams Lodge No.158, writes:

In February we celebrated the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Adams Lodge at the United Masonic Centre in Sheerness, Kent.

We had tremendous support from our members and guests. From the money raised, we were able to present a cheque for £700 to Jim Jeves from the Sheerness branch of Age UK.

The support that Jim and his team give to our Island community is astounding. They provide meals, trips, help and advice and so much more, especially important for the elderly in these difficult times.

Jim also told me that anyone from the age of fifty can use the Charity's facilities.



Jim Jeves [left] from Age UK receives the cheque from Henry Ryan

## ANOTHER FIFTH WEDNESDAY



Jim Mason writes:

Members of Union Lodge No. 127's Lodge of Instruction (LOI) demonstrated their Axe-Throwing skills when they visited the local venue in Edgar Road, Margate, on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May.



Sixteen Brethren, from Entered Apprentice to Master Mason, plus three Past Masters and three potential new members, attended the Event.

After a warm-up session of knocking six-inch nails into a block of wood to get hand/brain and eye coordination, the lads were split into three throwing areas where the competition really began.

Ashley Parsons (pictured, right) was crowned 'Champion' of the evening, having managed to get the most axes on target and stay there.

After over an hour of engagement the lads joined each other for a beer and pizza on the premises.

Why the title "Another Fifth Wednesday"? Four months of the year contain five Wednesdays. On such a day the LOI meets socially outside of the Lodge, and we have a rest from the learning environment.

Our next Fifth Wednesday is in November, when we hope to learn about 'Bowls' and indulge in a 'Fish and Chip' supper - oh, and a beer.



Happy Days!

Other pictures show some axe-throwing and of course the motley crew that made for a very enjoyable evening.





The Warm-up



All safe for throwing



The Motley Crew



## FATHER-IN-LAW ICES THE CAKE



Matt Jury, Master of the Ardea Lodge No.6717, writes:

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June, Ardea Lodge hosted their annual Ladies Festival at Quex Park in Birchington. It was a beautiful summer evening. Our glamorous guests arrived - and the evening was already beginning to look a success. First stop was at the pagoda in the Manor House gardens, a perfect backdrop for photographs.



Back row Left to Right: - Lee Harrington, Daniel Jury, Matthew Jury, John Harrington, Joshua Jury.  
Front row Left to Right - Rachel Harrington, Kelly Jury, Linda Harrington, June Jury. Photo by David Gore.

Next, it was off to the Dining Room where Kelly and I entered to lovely applause from our Guests and family. We were seated by a beautiful fire hearth that thankfully was just on show for the evening and not lit. Our Lodge Chaplain Rob Jeffries offered a prayer before the meal.

The festivities had begun. We had plenty of fun when taking wine with everyone. As I looked around the room, I was delighted and honoured that so many people had come to support us. Some who could not make the evening had been kind enough to donate raffle prizes nevertheless.



My father-in-law John Harrington delivered the first speech of the evening, which was to the Ladies and in particular to his daughter Kelly. It will have been the icing on the cake for Kelly to have her own father doing this. If you know John, you will understand that he keeps you on tenterhooks: he tends to go off-message when delivering a speech, and you wonder what on earth he will say. On this occasion he kept to his script, concluded to rapturous applause as he presented Kelly and the other Ladies with their gifts.

Kelly engaged the room with her charming words and as you would expect, lifted the evening explaining why her chosen charity was the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF), and gave an insight into what the Charity did and how people had benefitted. To laughter, she also reminded me that I had once told her that joining Freemasonry would only mean that I would be out about seven times a year. As any Mason will tell you, my estimate was a little wide of the mark!



My two older boys were sharing their first Masonic Ladies Festival with us. My Mum, who had celebrated her ninety-third birthday just four days before, was also there. She has been my rock and biggest supporter throughout my life. And, of course, I pay tribute to my gracious and understanding wife who, as many of you know, is always by my side.

With the pleasantries concluded, our D.C introduced our entertainment for the evening — Plastic Orange. The customary raffle raised £870. Gifts donated by our sponsors and sold at Auction raised just over £1,000. Kelly and I are most grateful for everyone's generosity.

A special thank you to those that assisted in the Event (no names - you know who you are) and to our Guests and Friends who made the evening one that we will never forget.

The final amount raised was a fantastic £2,000, which will be presented to the MCF via our Lodge's 2025 Festival account.





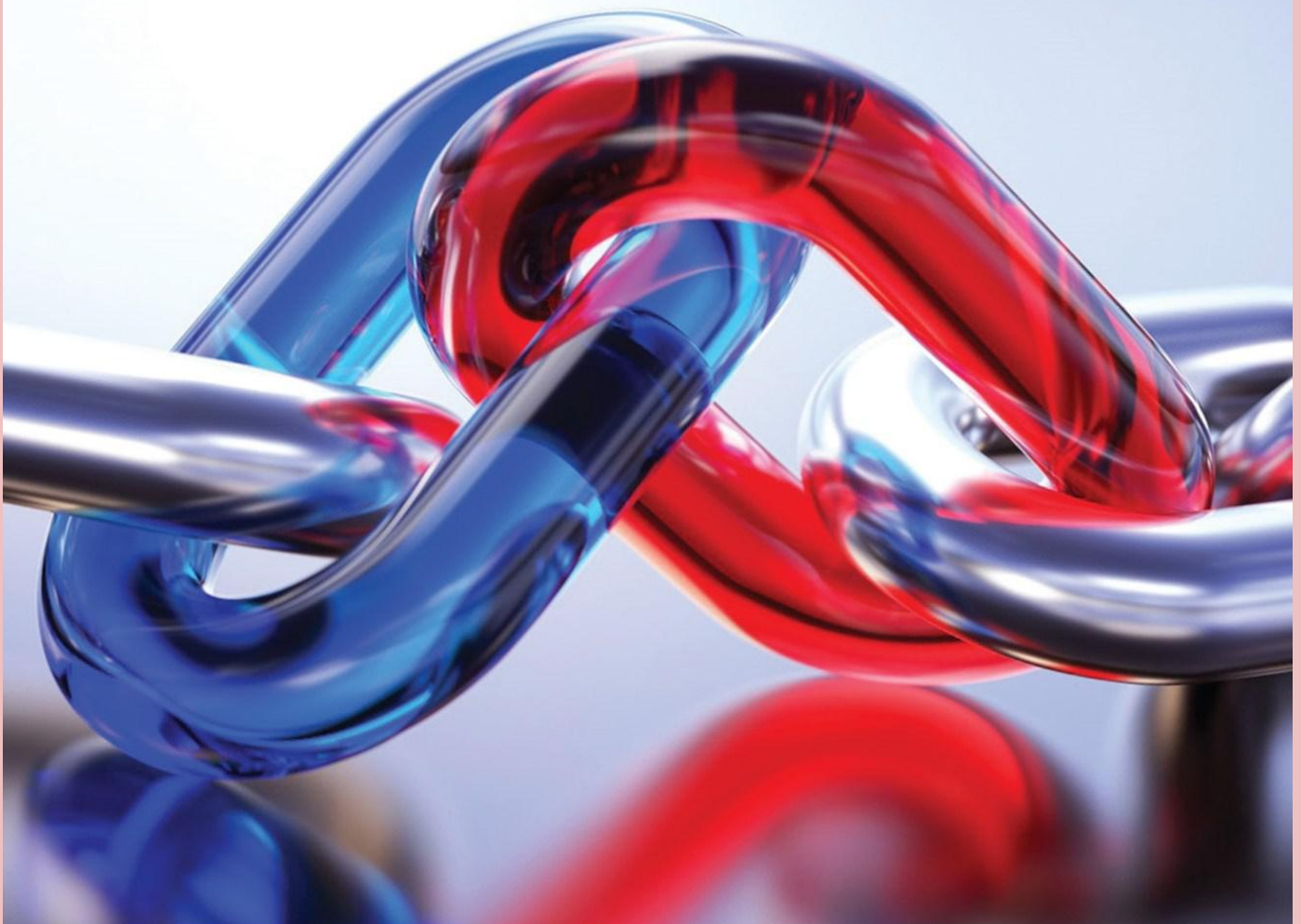


UNITED GRAND LODGE  
OF ENGLAND



SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER  
OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS  
OF ENGLAND

One Journey  
One Organisation



## INCREASING YOUR MASONIC KNOWLEDGE: STEVE SHOWS US HOW

Steve Salisbury writes:

Recent research indicates that Ritual and Masonic History form top priorities for a large section of our membership.

I am delighted and privileged to have been invited to develop the Learning and Development strand of the Members' Pathway within the Province, focussing on the **Engage** keys.

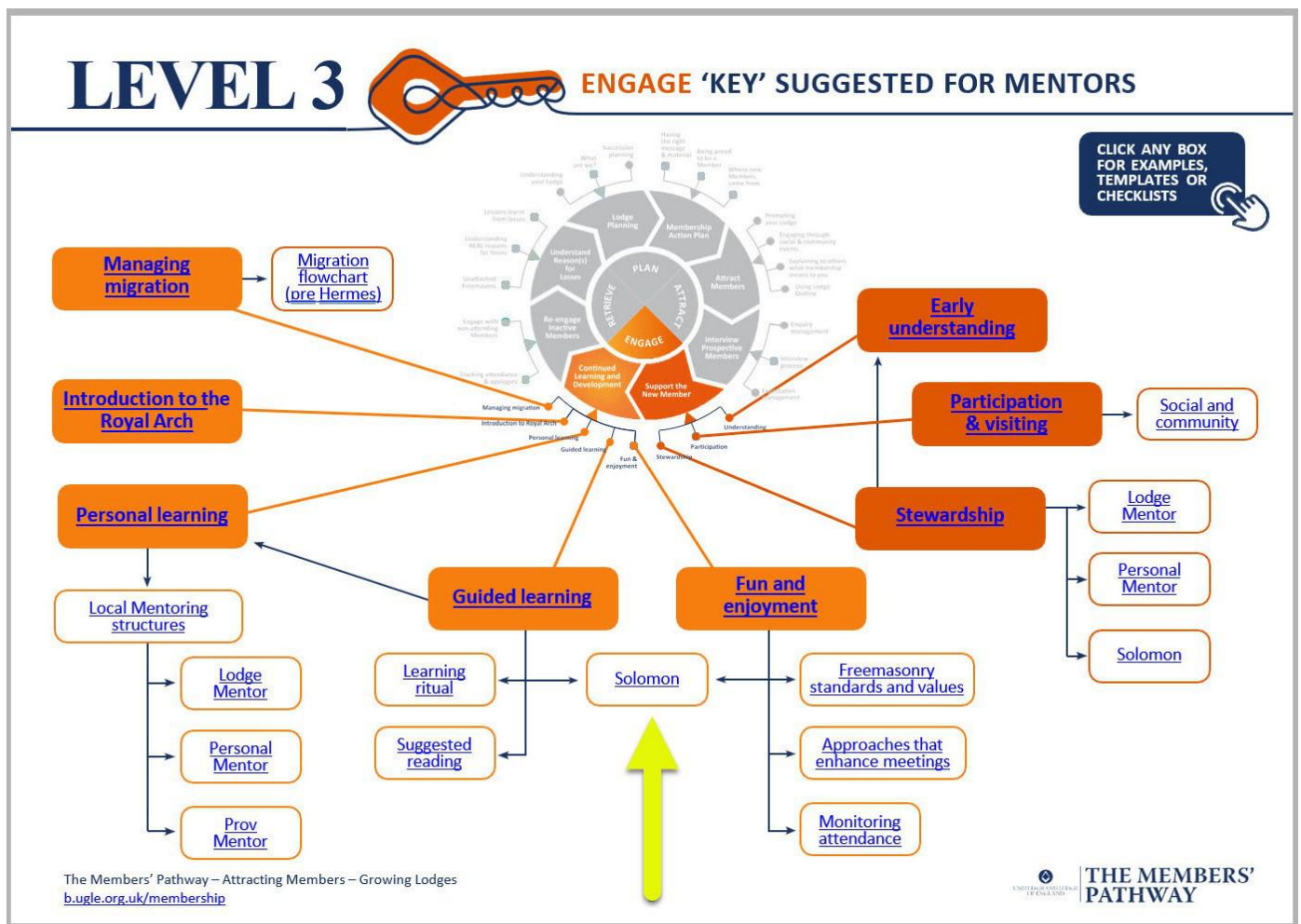
The scope is endless and exciting. We are currently completing a programme of activities and opportunities for everyone to **engage** with this inspiring component in our "daily advancement." There are scheduled webinars, seminars for various offices, delivering ritual opportunities and lots of fun. The inevitable shift in some of the thinking should only see positive benefits for us all.

The Members' Pathway will by now be well known to most of us in the Province:





At its core is the member-centred focus on making understanding accessible. We do this by directing a Brother or Companion to the support materials he requires at the **best time** for him to be able to **best utilise** the available materials.



**Solomon**, our Grand Lodge database (arrowed), is a vast repository of Masonic History and Ritual. It is an excellent starting point. Every new member should be encouraged to register. It is really simple to do so. Based on many of the platforms for university studies, it allows newer members the opportunity to progress at their own pace, resulting a pleasurable journey of discovery.

Whether you are newly initiated or just keen to rekindle your daily advancement in Masonic knowledge, it seems the perfect time now to revisit how to use Solomon. Here goes!

Solomon is a virtual learning environment designed to provide a greater understanding of the ritual, symbolism, history and traditions of Freemasonry. It is accessible online and contains a searchable repository of Nuggets, Papers, Presentations, Demonstrations, Q&As and Quizzes.

These can be used for personal study or shared in Lodge, Chapter, or in a Lodge/Chapter of Instruction. It is free and open to anyone, accessible via your laptop, tablet or smartphone. Simply register, enrol on relevant modules and then browse, search and download any material you need. If you change your mind, you can un-enrol from modules: it's up to you.



The main subject areas in Solomon are First Degree, Second Degree, Third Degree, Royal Arch, Installed Masters, Lodge Matters, About Freemasonry, and Masonic History.

This breadth in itself demonstrates the broad applicability of its contents.

One of the most popular aspects of Solomon is the 'Solomon Live' initiative. This is a monthly live segment, often interviewing a prominent Mason. Many informative and interesting topics are covered: in September the Grand Director of Ceremonies is holding one on 'The Theatre of Freemasonry', looking at Ritual and ideas on successful Lodges of Instruction.

We encourage all Freemasons to sign up to Solomon and take advantage of the material available. As most Masonic Centres are equipped with Wi-Fi, and some even provide screens and projectors, there may be opportunities for using it in new ways. Here are some suggestions.

### **Lodge Mentor:**

When a ceremony is worked in the Second or Third Degree, the Lodge Mentor or his nominee could leave the room with the Junior Masons not entitled to be there and use Solomon to develop their understanding and interest in Freemasonry. In a broader context, Solomon could also be invaluable to Lodge Mentors in fulfilling their responsibilities in the 'Engage' section of the Members' Pathway.

### **Personal Mentor:**

Between meetings, use the resources of Solomon to ensure that the Mentee is growing in understanding and remaining engaged with Freemasonry and the Lodge. Perhaps you could meet in a pub, coffee shop or on Zoom and work through a Quiz?

### **Royal Arch Representative:**

The Royal Arch Rep could use the material in Solomon to help him foster curiosity in members joining the Royal Arch; or perhaps inspire a short talk in their Lodge promoting members to join?

### **Lodge Almoner:**

As the Officer in charge of retaining members of Lodges, you can use Solomon alongside the Lodge Mentor to keep members engaged and excited by their Masonry and promote it as a resource to housebound members or those otherwise unable to attend.

### **Yourself!**

I am confident that every Freemason can find something either useful or interesting (or both!) in Solomon and that this resource, alongside the broader resources of the Members' Pathway, is a great way to keep us all engaged with Masonry and, more importantly, get as much interest and enjoyment as possible from our Masonic activities.

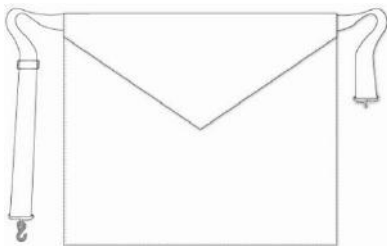
You can set up an account using the link or QR code below. There is more guidance on this on the next page. Don't worry: Solomon does not reveal any of the 'Masonic Secrets'- and you can safely use the platform at any stage in your Masonic journey by selecting only those modules that apply to you.



### How to Register

Simply go to [solomon.ugle.org.uk](https://solomon.ugle.org.uk) and fill in your details. Once you have received the confirmation email, log in, select your first Module, and Enrol. You can then begin your journey of Masonic Learning and Understanding.

### A selection from Solomon



If you are brand new to Solomon then these sections will be of use:

[How to use Solomon as a Virtual Learning Environment](#)

[Information for users and self enrolment for brothers](#)

### Ideas especially designed for the Lodge Mentor:

[Mentor's Corner; Some Quizzes](#)

### Personal Mentor:

All of Solomon could be of interest to your Mentees, but the [Lodge Matters section](#) might be a good starting point to help them begin to develop their Masonic knowledge.

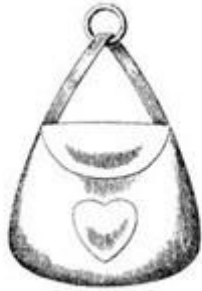


### Royal Arch Rep:

Links that will help Brethren decide whether the Royal Arch is for them. A full month must elapse anyone qualifies to become a Companion of the Royal Arch Chapter, and we urge you to consider this [important point in your journey](#). At that time you will be conducted through the final stage and welcomed into our Order; thereby 'completing the Square'.

A [series of Nuggets](#) used to 'trail' the next step in a Freemason's journey and helping a Brother to become a Companion of the Royal Arch.

### Lodge Almoner:



Links an Almoner could suggest to brethren who cannot attend, to help maintain or rekindle their masonic interest:

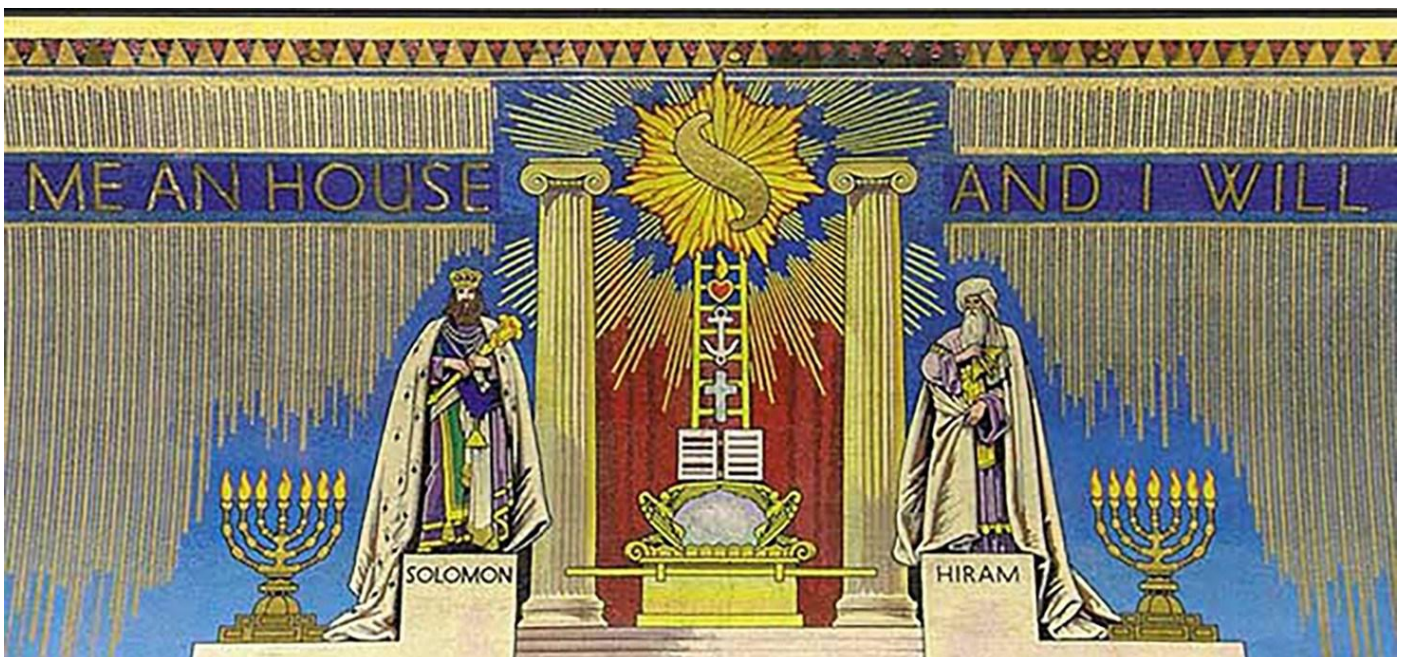
A [series of nuggets](#), papers, presentations and demonstrations which can be used to explore Masonic history. They can be used within a Lodge, or to initiate discussion with a group or with an individual; or simply read to make a personal advancement in Masonic knowledge. The choice is yours!

[Interesting nuggets](#) and links to learn about speculative masonry including clothing and artefacts, the rituals, jewels, regalia and tools.

### and finally ... [Yourself!](#)

In addition, to supplement Solomon you may wish to visit the **Museum of Freemasonry** at Freemasons' Hall, London, which, true to the spirit of the Pathway, has already introduced some late-night sessions to accommodate the modern and employed new member.

I look forward to sharing with you this segment of our Masonic journey.





## COLIN RIDES HIS LAWNMOWER INTO THE FINALS!

Last year Colin, North, business owner and Charity Steward of the Septem Lodge No.7788, drove a ride-on mower from Land's End to John O' Groats and raised lots of money for charities, including around £10,000 for the Masonic Charitable Foundation.



Now BBC Radio Kent have made him one of four finalists in his category for their annual “Make a Difference” Awards, the winner to be announced at their Gala at the Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham, on Monday 14th September.

Pictured is Colin (on the mower) with David Withers of Iseki.



## INTRODUCING THE NEW THIRD PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL

EComp Joseph Ian White **PGStB** 3rdPGPrin



Ian White was born in Hammersmith in 1960 into a show business family. His father was an Opera Singer with the Royal Opera Company as well as being an actor and a stage show producer. His mother was a Ballerina with the Royal School of Ballet. He has several other relatives who are actors, singers or journalists both in the UK and in the USA. He is classically trained as a pianist and plays and composes for the electric guitar.

He was named Joseph Ian White in memory of his late grandfather; however, he has always been known by his middle name, 'Ian'.

Ian is married to Sharon and they have a daughter and a son, both of whom are currently at University.

His daughter is following in Sharon's footsteps, training as a nurse, and his son as an Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineer.

He started his working career in HM Customs & Excise followed by various roles within the Civil Service and Local Government. He has owned several businesses, including sports equipment supply, engine reconditioning/replacement, Data Recovery company and IT Consultancy, specialising in Application Design, hardware supply and Geographical Information Systems. He retired in 2018, fortunately just before the onset of the Covid Pandemic.

Ian was sworn in as a Justice of the Peace for the County of Kent in 1992. He is currently chair of both Adult and Youth Courts in East Kent.

Always keen on keeping fit, Ian ran a Judo School for underprivileged children during his late teens and early twenties. He has been a long-distance runner and is still a keen cyclist.

Other interests, predominantly Masonic, now fill his spare time.



Ian was initiated into the Union Lodge No.127 as a Lewis in 1981, five days after his twenty - first birthday, and became Master in 1992.

He was exalted into Reculvers Chapter No.4123 in 1985, and was elected MEZ (Head of the Chapter) in 1997.

He served as Director of Ceremonies and Preceptor in both Lodge and Chapter, a role that he developed further at Provincial level in both Craft and Royal Arch.

Ian has some very clear views on the importance of the Royal Arch and its place in Freemasonry in general. Here is what he told us:

“For me, the Royal Arch answered the questions that had been raised in the three Craft Degrees but had remained unanswered there. It also helped me understand the spiritual side of Freemasonry, an aspect that I have personally always valued and respected. The all-encompassing criterion that a belief in a Supreme Being is the only requirement for membership is important to me, no matter what a person’s colour, creed or religious background may be. I have had the pleasure and privilege of witnessing Obligations taken on the Old and New Testament, the Koran and the Guru Granth Sahib. It’s clear to me that the sincerity and value of the Obligation was greatly enhanced by the use of the appropriate Volume of the Sacred Law.

“My own Exaltation, some thirty-eight years ago, emphasized and instilled in my mind the fact that Royal Arch Masonry is the Supreme Degree and therefore the ‘pinnacle’ of Freemasonry. I can also remember a senior member of my own Chapter, after he delivered the Mystical Lecture, emphasizing that being a Royal Arch Mason is something very special. I still strongly believe that, but feel that sadly some Brethren have lost sight of the value and importance of Royal Arch Masonry.

“The UGLE/SGC ‘Strategic Road Map - 2022 and Beyond’ is an integrated plan that requires the Craft and the Royal Arch to work seamlessly together. That strategy is being driven forward by our newly appointed Pro Grand Master/Pro First Grand Principal, who has a clear focus on encouraging every Province to meet its ‘Membership Challenge’, something that fits perfectly with my responsibility for recruitment as well as my hope and vision for the Royal Arch in East Kent.

“Our Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent has been a leader in promoting the concept of what is now referred to as ‘seamlessness’ and is fully committed to the maxim of ‘One Journey, One Organisation’. Over the next few months, we will be rolling out a variety of initiatives to support Lodges and Chapters with respect to Membership; and we shall be reinforcing the fact that Royal Arch Masonry is an integral part of Craft Masonry, and that a Brother has not completed his Masonic Journey and can never really understand the beautiful Tenets of the Craft until he has progressed through the Royal Arch.

“I feel very honoured and privileged to have been appointed Third Provincial Grand Principal this Spring and am greatly looking forward to visiting the Chapters within the Province in this new capacity. It’s certainly very different from my previous role as Director of Ceremonies!”

### **The other new Chapter Executive Officers:**



**Paul Pavitt**

Provincial Grand Director of  
Ceremonies (PGDC)



**Andrew Berry**

Provincial Assistant Grand  
Scribe E (PAGSE)



**Dennis Fordham**

Provincial Grand Membership  
Officer (PGMO)



**Chris Sanford**

Provincial Grand Communications  
Officer (PGCO)



**Miki Smith**

Provincial Grand Charity  
Steward  
(PGChStwd)



## SEPTEM BAT AND TRAP CHAMPS

Bat & Trap is a medieval pub game, mainly played in Kent and involving teams of up to eight. You can find a description of how it is played at <https://www.topendsports.com/sport/list/bat-and-trap.htm>



Tension mounts – we think!

Take the 2023 round of the annual competition between teams from Ardea Lodge No.6717 (Herne Bay) and Septem Lodge No.7788 (Dover), add a big splash of summer sunshine, combine it with entertainment from singer Millie Coppin and a spectacular BBQ – and you have a great day out.





Two teams from each Lodge took part in the knock-out competition which resulted in a win by Septem A. Matt Jury (pictured, in the blue T-shirt), Master of Ardea Lodge, presented the trophy to team captain Peter Sparrow.



This was followed by a convivial evening where Freemasons and their friends raised the magnificent sum of £674, allowing each Lodge to present £337 to the Province's 2025 Festival.

Said Matt: "My special thanks to Septem's Kevin Kemp and his partner Anita for allowing us to use the Red Lion pub for this event. Thanks also to all those who contributed and supported this wonderful afternoon of fun and friendship. We look forward to the re-match next year!"

## HOW TO VISIT WITHOUT GETTING INTO TROUBLE

*David Graeme, Provincial Grand Secretary, advises us on what to do if we want to visit Lodges while away on business or on holiday.*



With summer over, and many of us thinking about where we might go abroad next year, I thought it might be timely to give a short overview about visiting foreign Lodges and reinforce some of the points made in our booklet “Information for Guidance of Members of the Craft”.

With well over two hundred Grand Lodges recognised as being regular by UGLE, more Brethren than ever are taking the opportunity whilst away on business or on holiday to have an ‘evening off’ from colleagues or family to visit a local Lodge under a recognised Grand Lodge.

**The best way to do this is to plan ahead and early, via an Enquiry to the Provincial Office.** Visit requests for a meeting “next week” or without specific dates in mind will have to take their turn in the queue of work, so please give us as much notice as possible and be as specific as you can!

The first thing to remember is that UGLE’s protocol on visiting Lodges abroad does not permit Brethren to contact non-UGLE Lodges directly.

It may seem tempting to save time and get in touch directly with a Lodge in the town being visited — especially if, as many of our own Lodges do, it has its own website where there is usually a message of welcome to a Prospective Visitor and an email address or Enquiry Form. But this can often lead to trouble. Here’s why.

Firstly because, as mentioned above, it is a breach of Masonic Protocol.

Secondly because the Grand Lodge to which the Lodge belongs may be irregular and unrecognised by UGLE.

Thirdly because the Grand Lodge to which the Lodge belongs may insist that ‘their’ Protocol is followed and send the Enquiry direct to the Grand Chancellor’s office at Great Queen Street.

All three can lead to embarrassment and, in certain cases, censure for the Brother — who after all, only wanted a visit!



If this all sounds rather dramatic, here's an example of how it should be done. We'll use our closest neighbour, France, where UGLE recognises the National Grand Lodge of France/*Grande Loge Nationale Française* ("GLNF") alone.

Brother John Bull, as we'll call him, a member of East Kent Province, plans to be in Paris for a long weekend and decides to tack on an extra day for sightseeing. He arrives on Friday and plans to leave early on the following Tuesday. He calculates that he may be available to visit a Lodge on the Monday evening.

1. He writes to the Province explaining this and asks if there is a Lodge that works in English and meets on the Monday.
2. The Province checks with the Grand Chancellor's office in London which confirms that whilst there is no Lodge meeting in English in Paris on the Monday, there are several meeting in French and one that is meeting in English on the Saturday.
3. The Province informs Bro Bull, who decides to change his schedule to go to the Saturday Lodge working in English.
4. The Province relays this to the Grand Chancellor's office, which passes on Bro Bull's name and rank to the GLNF, who inform their Lodge Secretary in Paris.
5. GLNF simultaneously passes the meeting time and venue of the Lodge to the Grand Chancellor's office, which writes to the Province giving these details.
6. The details are passed onto Bro Bull by the Province together with a reminder that he will need to take a Clearance Certificate from his Lodge(s) together with his Grand Lodge Certificate.

This latter point is an important one. It is not normal for Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts to travel to foreign Lodges as they do not have a Grand Lodge Certificate; but some Grand Lodges will accept a visit if the Brother's desire to travel is supported by his Lodge and he has a Letter of Endorsement from my Office.

There is regular Freemasonry with at least one Lodge that works *in English* in these European countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

Follow the guidelines above and you should have a smooth and trouble-free Visit. But do bear in mind that nearly all overseas Lodges have summer recesses too!

## EKLBB GO PAINTBALLING



East Kent Light Blues Brothers headed off to the Outdoor Pursuits venue at Newington on the 29<sup>th</sup> July for a spot of paintballing. And they had a great time.



Steven Ford writes:

A fantastic day was had by the eighteen Brethren and Guests who attended our Paintball Event. Two of our 'non-Mason' guests showed an interest in joining the Craft, which put a smile on our faces too! Beer and Food were enjoyed after the shooting. All agreed that they would love to attend a similar Event next year.

### Ball Usage Record:

L Rubens 1600, J Stephens 1500, B Collieran 1500, Zak 1300, R Lammin 1300, S Collieran 1200, S Morgan 1000, D Clarke 1000, N Marshall 900, N Booth 900, D Morgan 800, R Carroll 700, Kyran 700, S Dawson 700, S Ford 600, M Brown 500, Joe 500 & Steve 500.





## MARGATE MASONIC CENTRE OPEN DAY



Members of the four Lodges at the Margate Masonic Centre came together on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August for the second Annual Open Day. They were joined by members of Royal Navy Lodge No.429, Emergency Services Lodge No.9676, the East Kent Light Blues Brothers and the Order of Women's Freemasons.

It was a brilliant day with a constant flow of members of the public coming in to see what Freemasonry was really about. During the day the local radio station Academy FM recorded a number of interviews with Brethren and the public: it was broadcast on the following Monday.

There were displays from each of the Lodges represented together with regalia and information regarding the Masonic Charitable Foundation and the various roles and principal Offices. In the Meeting Room, Brethren occupied the various chairs and were able to talk confidently about their place.



The public were still coming in when the Event was due to close, so it was extended for another thirty minutes to allow the final guests to have a look around.

A follow up information night was held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August, where there were presentations on subjects such as the History of Freemasonry and what Freemasonry means to the Brethren, followed by a Festive Buffet, where the attending public were able to ask questions on a one-to-one basis or look around the Centre again.

Thanks must go to Nigel Mann of the Provincial Open Day Advisory Team for the support given during the planning of and delivery of the Open Day.

## THE MCF AND ME

Heather Gear, from Deal, recently received a replacement knee in surgery made possible by the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF). Here is her story in her own words:



My husband is Paul Gear, Provincial Communications Officer for East Kent. He has been a Freemason in the Lord Warden Lodge No.1096 for about twenty years. I have participated with him in lots of Events over the years to raise money for the MCF. I honestly did not think I would ever need them. In my mind they helped 'other people'. How wrong I was!

My story starts about seven or eight years ago when we were taking our caravan and dog down to Devon to meet up with some friends. Halfway there we stopped overnight and, as I was helping to set the caravan up, I twisted my knee. The pain was horrendous, and my knee blew up like a balloon. I thought that, by resting it and applying some ice, it would be better in a few days. Little did I know that I had torn the meniscus on my right knee. (The menisci are two C-shaped pieces of soft cartilage found on both sides of the knee).

Fast forward a few weeks: we were back home; I saw my GP and received some physio which didn't help. I was then referred to an Orthopaedic surgeon and ultimately received a meniscectomy (where the surgeon cuts away the torn part of the meniscus). Soon afterwards, though not fully recovered, my knee was much improved. Ever positive, I embraced my new ability to walk without crutches or a walking stick and got on with life.

Later that year our first grandson was born, and Paul and I loved our weekly grandparents' daycare. I honestly didn't notice the decline in my knee, it just sort of crept up on me over time. Seven years after my meniscectomy, the bone-on-bone rubbing finally left me in so much pain that I knew I'd have to go back to the GP. Late last year I was sent for an MRI scan and an appointment to see an Orthopaedic Surgeon. During the consultation it became apparent the only outcome for me was a new knee, but with an NHS waiting list of almost a year!

My journey with the MCF started there. As a proud Scot, I don't like asking for help - but the thought of being in so much pain for another year left me with no option but to apply to the MCF.



After the initial contact, when we were advised that all cases were assessed on an individual basis and were means-tested, we received a lovely visit from Philip Hadden, an MCF Visiting Volunteer. He walked us through the forms to be completed and explained that it could take up to eight weeks to process our application. Sure enough, nearly eight weeks after submitting the paperwork, we received an email letting us know we had been successful. Three weeks later I was admitted for my operation.

Looking back, my reservations about asking for help seem totally irrational. Philip and the staff at the MCF were so kind and understanding. The whole process was very smooth, and not once did I feel as though I should not be asking for help.



As I write, I am now three weeks post-op and am doing really well, walking without crutches or other aids and keeping up with my exercises. Although there is still some discomfort it is nothing compared to the pain I was in previously. You might think it a cliché, but I do feel as though I have got my life back. I still have a way to go before I am properly fit again but I can walk without pain!

Paul and I attended the recent 2025 Festival Ball and, although I couldn't dance on this occasion, it really brought home to me the difference you all make

in your fundraising for the MCF. For example, the amount raised at the recent Ball could be the equivalent of paying for a knee or hip replacement.

To me the word 'charity' does spring Dickensian England to mind, but it is so much more than that. By fundraising for the MCF, you are helping others towards better health.

I cannot thank you all enough for supporting the MCF, which in turn supported me and gave me my new bionic knee.



Grandparent daycare has now resumed!



## MASONIC FISHING CHARITY EVENT

Richard Dixey reports:

The eagerly awaited Masonic Charity Fishing Event at our new venue, Cottington Lakes, near Deal, finally arrived on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June. We were allocated a Lake known as 'Windsor'. As usual, the Marquee had already been set up, offering us a great vantage point overlooking the whole of the Lake.



Three local schools attended the day, with a total of nineteen Students plus their Carers. We are most grateful to all the Anglers who turned up to ensure it was a 'one angler to one student' arrangement: this allowed us more than ever to dedicate ourselves to helping everyone enjoy the day and learn about the fine art of angling.

The school buses arrived around 9.30am. Julian Friel did a roll call of all the Students and Anglers, then we were off to our new experience. The weather was very hot and with pretty much zero cloud cover, so hats, glasses and lots of sun cream had to be applied during the course of the day.

As with most venues, the small, silver fish are always obliging - and lots of 'tiddlers' were caught from the very start. The bigger fish were a little more wary but, nonetheless, one or two were caught by the fortunate few – or the 'more skilled' as they liked to remind us!!





David Alexander (Chairman), Peter Brooshooft (Past Chairman) and Assistant Provincial Grand Master Duncan Rouse were in attendance, strolling around the Lake with words of encouragement for everyone involved.

Lunch arrived - and for many it was a relief to be out of the sun for while! Once everyone had eaten, we were all back behind the rods for another session at this lovely venue.

At 2.30 we gathered for the Presentation. David Alexander said a few kind words then handed over to Duncan Rouse to make the presentations of a medal and certificate to each Student for 'Angling Ability'. A representative of the School then delivered words of thanks to our Charity, which were very well received by all the Anglers and Helpers.



So - another successful day came to an end. The equipment was cleared away, everyone said their goodbyes - and all looked forward to the next Event, a much-anticipated return to Chart Hill Lakes, near Chart Sutton, on the 13<sup>th</sup> July.

We are always looking for more Anglers, so would love you to join us. All tackle is supplied (but you can bring your own if you want). If you are interested, please contact Keith Heard at: [Ekmfc\\_casters\\_helpers@outlook.com](mailto:Ekmfc_casters_helpers@outlook.com)

## DAYTIME LODGES

Most Lodges and Chapters throughout the world meet in the evening. Traditionally, you would attend the formal business in the Lodge or Chapter Room and then retire to the Festive Board, with a substantial meal. If all went well, the meeting would be over by 10pm, but sometimes much later.

This lifestyle suits many Masons, but there are some who find the schedule incompatible with their working life or their digestion – or both! If that is you, you might like to know about the East Kent Province's rare birds – the Daytime Lodges.

Say hello to **Essetesforde** and **Renham**!

### ESSETESFORDE LODGE NO.9746, ASHFORD



Essetesforde is an ancient name for Ashford and refers to a tree, or a group of ash trees, near to a ford in a river or stream - hence an ash tree is the prominent feature in the Lodge Banner as illustrated here.

The Lodge was consecrated in 2001 as an 'afternoon Lodge' as it had been identified there was a need to cater for those Brethren who found it difficult to attend evening meetings because of their diet or dislike of driving later in the day — and thereby no longer sharing the companionship with friends.

The membership of the Lodge comprises a mixture of men both retired or working, some relatively new to Freemasonry and others widely experienced in the Craft, all working together as a team.

The Lodge meets at the Masonic Centre, North Street, Ashford, Kent, on the fourth Wednesday of February, March, September (Installation Meeting), October and November each year; all meetings start at 2pm and finish by 6pm with the exception of the Installation Meeting which concludes before 8pm.

Essetesforde Lodge is well known within the Province for its variations on the Emulation Ritual, some of which are:

The Volume of the Sacred Law is presented and explained prior to opening the lodge.

The Lodge is one of very few in the UK that draws the Tracing Boards 'freehand' on the floor of the Lodge Room whilst the Degree is being opened. An example is shown on the next page.



Giving an explanation of the Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Charge to the Candidate is delivered in each Degree.

Variations in the 'floor-work' in the Third Degree.

Valedictory (Long Closing) is used.

There is a Ritual Book available to all members.



The Festive Board which follows the Installation Meeting is similar to that of most other Lodges, but the Festive Board that follows the other meetings is a 'self-service afternoon tea' where everyone is encouraged to collect their food, sit anywhere in the Dining Room and move around freely as and where he wishes. This style of 'dining' has proved to be an excellent way for Brethren to meet more of those present, particularly Guests and senior members who might otherwise have been sitting at a Top Table.

Lodge members place emphasis on making the Lodge friendly and welcoming to all. There is a 24-hour Council Managed Car Park about five to ten minutes' walk away. Access to the Lodge is easy for all, with a Chair

Lift from the Ground Floor to the Dining Room. Catering is first-class.

The emblem of the Lodge is the Trowel, the symbol of 'Love and Affection' which Guests and Visitors will receive in full measure in this unique and happy Lodge.

For more information please contact :

Peter Willis, Lodge Secretary, on 01233 610047 [herbertsassistant@gmail.com](mailto:herbertsassistant@gmail.com) or

Mick Smith, Membership Officer, on 01795 667976 [mikitravis@gmail.com](mailto:mikitravis@gmail.com)

## RENHAM LODGE NO.8211, SITTINGBOURNE

Renham is a Daytime Lodge that meets in the Masonic Centre, Sittingbourne. The Centre is located in the middle of town with excellent public transport links. There is a secure private car park, conveniently located next to a public car park with capacity for overflow. Additionally, the Centre has a comfortable Lodge Room, a hospitality area with a Bar, excellent on-site catering and the all-important air conditioning.

The Lodge meets four times a year. The Installation meeting is held on the last Saturday in April and starts at 10.30am. The remaining meetings are on the fourth Thursday in September, November and February, all starting at 11am. At the lunchtime Festive Board, Masons enjoy a hearty four course meal followed by the traditional toasts. The meeting generally finishes at around 3pm, with the opportunity to get home in time for the sports results, evening social events or a quiet night in.



Renham Lodge's Barry Tucker and Peter Harkin

These morning meetings have proved ideal for those who prefer to travel in daylight hours, have an inclination for early Masonic business and a preference or dietary requirement for lunchtime dining.

Renham was consecrated on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1968, meeting in the evenings. The idea to form a local Lodge was inspired by some Rainham residents who met and socialised during the 1960's in the Smallholders Club, Wigmore. It transpired that many shared common interests as they were practising Masons. The concept became a reality and the Renham Lodge was formed, Renham being the early 12<sup>th</sup> Century name for Rainham.



Many of the Founders were ex-service personnel who favoured high standards. Originally meetings were held in Rainham, then at the Balmoral Hall, Gillingham, and following its closure at Sittingbourne. It was here that the decision was made to change to a Daytime Lodge. Today the Lodge has around twenty-two members, an experienced and friendly team from a variety of different backgrounds. It is also the Mother Lodge of our Provincial Grand Master, Neil Hamilton Johnstone. Overall, they are a great bunch, keen to explore future opportunities, develop the Lodge's potential and have some fun along the way.

Renham has an established social committee and a proactive WhatsApp social group. It encourages family engagement, welcoming their ideas, contribution and enthusiasm. Its most recent social event, a sunny July BBQ Day, was well attended and enjoyed by family and friends.

If you are interested in joining the Renham team, wish to attend one of their meetings or would just like to find out a bit more about them please contact:

Lodge Secretary:	Tony Bishop <a href="mailto:bish6282@outlook.com">bish6282@outlook.com</a>
<u>Lodge Membership Team</u>	
Almoner :	Philip Lumley <a href="mailto:lumleys@fowlehall.freeuk.com">lumleys@fowlehall.freeuk.com</a>
Membership Officer :	Barry Tucker <a href="mailto:tuckerbaz6@gmail.com">tuckerbaz6@gmail.com</a>
Mentor:	Peter Harkin <a href="mailto:peter.t.harkin@btinternet.com">peter.t.harkin@btinternet.com</a>



The Lodge Room at the Masonic Centre, Sittingbourne

Both Essetesforde and Renham believe that a Daytime Lodge offers an alternative opportunity for current Masons, keen to remain active despite personal circumstances changing, who can appreciate the benefits of a daytime venue. If you are commuting and seeking a local facility as retirement approaches, you may find that a Daytime Lodge is just the ticket!

## HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Richard Wingett writes:



Canterbury's Medieval Pageant and Trail returned to the city on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July for plenty of medieval mayhem. The Kent Museum & Library of Freemasonry were once again delighted to be asked by Canterbury City Council to be part of the Medieval Pageant Trail. The doors were opened at 10am and some of the Museum & Library volunteers then joined the Medieval Pageant procession from the Westgate Towers through to the High Street. Along the way they handed out 'flyers' directing onlookers to the Museum & Library.

569 people visited the Museum & Library. 175 children had their faces painted by two very talented Face Painters brought in specially for the day. The community engagement was a real pleasure to see - which also led to several people expressing their desire to join Freemasonry. Their details are now with the Recruitment Team.





Among those present on the day were members of the Kent Family Research Society, Canterbury Historical Society, Jacqueline Langdon-Bassett Grand Inspector for the East Kent Order of Women Freemasons, our own Deputy Provincial Grand Master Phil South and the Lord Mayor of Canterbury Councillor Jean Butcher and the Lady Mayoress Di Baldock.



Said the Lord Mayor, "The Museum & Library is indeed a very special place to visit with many interesting things to look at. I would recommend that everyone should visit".

Following a buffet lunch, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress were presented with finely engraved Firing Glasses by which to remember the day and a cheque was presented to the Lord Mayor to go towards her chosen charity, the Pilgrim's Hospice.

Richard Wingett, Chairman of the Trustees, was delighted with the way things had gone. "What a fantastic day! It's a testament to the hard work of the team and to everyone involved. The Museum had a real buzz to it with so many visitors coming to see us."



If you would like to get involved by becoming a volunteer or indeed sign up as a patron, please get in touch – and, by the way, you do not need to be a Freemason!

<https://kentmuseumoffreemasonry.org.uk/contact-us/>

## **VISITING OFFICERS – HEADING YOUR WAY**

You may have heard that the East Kent Province is adopting the concept of Visiting Officers. So: who are they, why are they being appointed, and what will they be doing?

For many years now the Provincial Grand Master has appointed senior Brethren, usually Grand Officers, to represent him at Lodge Installation meetings – the meetings at which a new Master is installed. The Rep, as he has been known, would be welcomed into the Lodge and would sit immediately to the right of the Master in the Lodge Room. He would NOT be offered the gavel – that was done only on official visits by the PGM himself or by his Deputy or one of his Assistant PGMs, known informally as the “chains” because they wore their chain of office.

The Rep might have been asked to present a Grand Lodge Certificate to a new Mason, but his only other role in the evening would have been to give a brief reply to the Toast to the Province at the Festive Board. His reply would have included an update on Provincial matters and most likely an exhortation to continue contributing to the 2025 Festival. After the meeting, he would report back to Province, covering any issues that Lodge members had raised.

The following year, another Rep would have attended in the same way.

Late last year, the United Grand Lodge of England announced a new seven-year Strategy, with the emphasis on the Membership Challenge – a challenge to everyone to help recruit new Members to the Craft and engage and retain them along with existing Members. Accordingly, UGLE has issued a revised Members’ Pathway. The document contains “practical ideas drawn from the experience and successes of Lodges over recent years in engaging Members, ensuring meetings are well planned and enjoyed by all, stemming losses and growing memberships”.

It has long been thought that an annual visit with a different Rep each year does not allow the Province and the Lodge to communicate and interact as effectively as they could. The PGM has now appointed a team of Visiting Officers, usually Grand Officers, who have been assigned to Lodges on a semi-permanent basis. The VO will not only carry out the role of the PGM’s Rep but will attend at least one other meeting of the Lodge during the year and be available generally to assist, encourage and advise. He is to be thought of as a Friend of the Lodge: not there to interfere, but to help the Lodge to follow the guidelines of the Membership Pathway when asked. He will also have a direct link to the senior Officers in the Province – which could prove useful!

VOs are also being appointed to Chapters, for which a similar Pathway called Archway is being developed.



## NEWS FROM "THE COURT"



Mike Bowyer-Jones, Chairman of the Association of Friends at the Prince George Duke of Kent Court, writes:

The Association of Friends believes that an active mind and body will help the Residents avoid mishaps and tumbles that can be so debilitating to our senior members. We therefore support regular music therapy: it stimulates memory and strengthens the chest and core muscles. Our "fun fit and fabulous" exercises may be performed sitting or standing: they enhance balance and general flexibility whilst promoting a feeling of well being when the body releases endorphins.

In addition, the Friends support Traditional and National days as well as other Events throughout the year.

"So what can I do to help?" you may be asking.

Well - all this costs money. By supporting our 500 Club, for just £50 per year, whether a Lodge, a Chapter, individual members, relatives or members of the public, you have a chance to win £1000 from our Prize Draw whilst supporting our wonderful Home.



By joining the 500 Club you enable us to forecast our income and obtain more competitive prices by block booking entertainment and other expenses in our Residents' Calendar.



We also have Thursdays and Saturdays available for sponsored Coffee Mornings at which Lodges and Chapters can serve coffee and cake to the Residents, chat with them and really brighten their day. Members of the Association and staff will be present to assist you, so all you have to do is turn up.

Remember: this is OUR Masonic Home and any one of us may have cause to call upon it for assistance for a loved one or even for ourselves.

Our thanks as always for your continued support.

Contact Details:

Association of Friends: [aofpgdkc@gmail.com](mailto:aofpgdkc@gmail.com)  
500 Club: [aof500club@gmail.com](mailto:aof500club@gmail.com)

# ~SEPTEMBERFEST~

## FAMILY FUN DAY

**Owl House Stables**

Station Rd, St Margaret's at Cliffe, Dover CT15 6HN

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**2 PM - 10 PM**

Bouncy castle - Raffles

Face embellishments

Classic & military vehicles

Live entertainment

Coconut shy - Tug-o-war

Barrel of booze - Craft & Bric-a-brac

Fish 'n' chips & BBQ - Stocks

Beer tent - Fun games

Refreshments - Cakes

**Entry Fee:  
Charitable  
Donation**



**Fund raising for  
charitable causes**

Scan here  
to Donate



Hosted by Group 7  
East Kent Freemasons



**Book your Boot fair pitch for just £10**

Alex Coppin - 07766 001676 - alexcoppin254@gmail.com

James Wright - jamesrichardwright.1982@gmail.com

Book your  
pitch here





## JAMIESON JOINS THE PRIDE PARADE

He may be — is — straight, but on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, Jamieson Stenhouse of the Downs Lodge No.6855, representing the United Grand Lodge of England, was proud to march alongside the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF), the Order of Women Freemasons (OWF), and the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons (HFAF) at London's Pride Parade 2023.



UGLE was “thrilled to participate” and to “reinforce our unwavering commitment to inclusivity. By supporting London Pride 2023, we aimed to shine a light on the inclusivity that lies at the very heart of Freemasonry”.

Said Jamieson, “It was a great day. The weather was lovely and we were happy to give away tote bags showing our support for the LGBTQIA+ community”.



## CONSECRATION OF A NEW LODGE?

Indeed! Kevin Stones fills us in:



Early Spring 2022. I was just having a weekend lie-in when the phone rang.

“Hello” says I.

“Hi Kev, Steve Simmons here,” says he.

“Bro what can I do for you?” says I.

“Do you fancy Consecrating a New Lodge?”

Was I dreaming? Did I really hear that word ‘Consecration’ again? My life flashed past me, as I’ve already been there and got the Founders T-shirt - twice in fact.

“Steve, I need a bit more than that, mate.”



The photo shows Steve Simmons (Primus Master) right of centre; on his left in the white shirt Michael Salter (Junior Warden designate); and Kevin D. Stones (Senior Warden designate) standing far right.

So, my old buddy Steve Simmons of the Stour Lodge No.2305 at Ashford goes on to explain his idea to me. I really should have known better — but as a Friend in need is a Pain in the... — is a Friend Indeed, I didn’t cut him off but listened intently and, as I said, I had been a Founder of two Lodges here in East Kent: between us we obviously had enough knowledge and experience to know what we were getting ourselves into, but we still did it!



Steve was already a Founder and Past Master of the Queensman Lodge No.2694 in London

Flattered that Steve *obviously* needed my expertise and as the old smoothie had now *persuaded* me, I could hardly say, “thanks but no thanks”, could I? That was until I realised exactly what he wanted from me. Too late now. I’d agreed and found myself being proposed as Senior Warden Designate and the Consecration and Festive Board Planner and Dining Steward.

Well - the idea grew and grew and on paper it seemed a very much needed Lodge and a viable idea, especially as the Consecration announcement would coincide with the Provincial Grand Master signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant.

The call therefore went out to any Brother interested in becoming a Founder of a new Lodge, any Brethren serving or retired, any Rank, from the Army, Royal Navy, RAF, Police Force, Fire & Rescue, Ambulance Service, HM Coastguard, Prison Service and in fact any Brother who had worked for the ‘Crown’: “Come and join us!”

The response was fast and enthusiastic, more than thirty-five Brethren of all ranks, from Grand Officers to Master Masons and every office in between wishing to be Founders.

A name was needed for the new Lodge. Following our first Founders meeting we decided on the ‘East Kent Combined Services Lodge’.

We submitted a formal Petition to the United Grand Lodge of England, Grand Lodge Certificates were examined, Detling Showground was sourced and agreed upon for the Consecration, officers were nominated, sponsorship sought, a few hiccups were encountered and dealt with, but finally we were rewarded for all our hard work and to our great relief were granted a warrant by Grand Lodge and given our Lodge Number: 10038.

We extend our sincere thanks to those who have guided and advised us on our journey.

We are now dotting the I’s and crossing the T’s and we, now thirty-three proud Founders, are looking forward with excitement to the Consecration of our new East Kent Combined Services Lodge No.10038 by the Provincial Grand Master at the Clive Emson Hall, Detling Showground, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – and you, dear reader, if you are a Mason, are invited to join us on the day.

Please feel free to use the Booking Form on the next page and consider supporting us and your Province at this most auspicious Masonic Event.

# East Kent Combined Services Lodge No.10038 Consecration Booking Form

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Clive Emson Conference Centre. Kent Showground. Detling. Maidstone. ME14 3JF

There is ample parking, please follow the Showground signs.

Brethren, You are invited to help us celebrate the Consecration of our New Lodge.

Please complete this Consecration Meeting and Festive Board Booking Form below

**Important. Please be seated in the Temple by 2.30pm.**

**Meeting will start at 3pm Prompt. Full Dress Regalia.**

The Consecration is conducted in the third degree Master Masons & above only are permitted at the Ceremony, however Entered Apprentices & Fellow Crafts are welcome at the Festive Board.

## **Menu**

Chicken Liver Parfait with Sweet Onion Jam & Toasted Ciabatta

Wild Mushroom Arancini with Hazelnut Crumb and Blue Cheese Sauce (V)

## **Main**

Roast Beef with a Yorkshire Pudding & Jus.

Baked Aubergine topped with Ratatouille, Sunflower & Pumpkin Seeds, Gremolata (V, VG)

Served with seasonal vegetables & Dauphinoise Potato,

## **Dessert**

Banoffee Pie & Dark Chocolate Shard.

Dark Chocolate & Coconut Pot with Fresh Fruit & Mango Gel (V)

**All Bar purchases will be Card only.**

**£45 per meal.. Cut off date 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Festive Board will commence at 6.30pm**

Bacs Transfer Preferred please. Important Reference your Name.

Account Name: EKCSL

Account type: NatWest Business Current Account

Account number: 56957696 Sort code: 60-01-21

Chq payable to 'EKCSL' post to K.Stones, The Old Cottage, George Alley, Deal, CT14 6EJ

email [kevinstones@gmail.com](mailto:kevinstones@gmail.com) Mobile 07905433301

W.Bro.Kevin D. Stones PPJGW Dining Steward

-----  
Your Name W.Bro/Bro..... veg ( )

contact number..... Lodge Name .....

( ) I will attend the meeting and festive board and request a meal

( ) I will bring a guest/s as below and request meals.

My Guest W.Bro/Bro.....veg ( )

My Guest W.Bro/Bro.....veg ( )

My Guest W.Bro/Bro.....veg ( )

( ) I will attend the Consecration Meeting, I do not require a meal





# The Royal Arch



Join Now

Contact Dennis

Speak to your Lodge Chapter Liaison Officer or  
email the Provincial Grand Membership Officer

Dennis Fordham

[dnfordham@aol.com](mailto:dnfordham@aol.com)

## ALL JOURNEYS START WITH A SINGLE STEP

Ron Stronach, Charity Steward of the King Edward VII Lodge No.3252, had been looking for a local Charity that was worthy of support. On the Province's Facebook page, he noted that a member of Honor Oak Lodge No.1986 had sponsored one of the children supported by the Charity Step and Learn.

Step and Learn is a small local Charity that helps children with Cerebral Palsy and other motor issues to learn through play and prepare to cope with adult life. Based in Gravesend, it offers its service free of charge to those who need them, attempting to make a way of life available to the children so that they may continue to learn with their parents even when at home and away from their personal practitioner.



[L:R] Mark Lawson (Honor Oak Lodge), Patrick Barden (Chairman of Step and Learn), Brian Ross (Master of King Edward VII), Ron Stronach (Charity Steward), Lisa Todd, Caiden and Reese Todd, and staff members

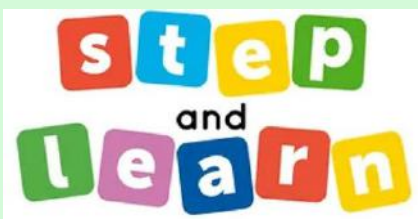


On the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023, members of King Edward VII Lodge held a lunch at Upchurch Golf Club in aid of Step and Learn.

At the lunch, members of the Lodge and their guests held a traditional raffle, raising £200 for the Charity. This donation meant that the Lodge was then able to sponsor twin boys Caiden and Reese.



[L:R] Patrick Barden (Chairman of Step and Learn), Brian Ross (Master of King Edward VII), Ron Stronach (Charity Steward)



A small Lodge by their own admission, King Edward VII are nevertheless hoping to continue assisting the Charity. You can find more about Step and Learn on their website at

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

## THOUGHTS OF A NINETY-YEAR-OLD MASON

Ray Horton, Past Provincial Deputy Grand Registrar, is ninety.

He is a Past Master of the Lord Warden Lodge No.1096 at Deal and was until recently its Lodge Mentor.

Kevin Stones writes:

Ray was born in 1933, lived in Maidstone and later moved to Deal, and has been happily married to his dear Sheila for many, many years. Ray worked for Kimberly Clark at Larkfield for thirty-eight years and was a Superintendent – nowadays he'd be known as a Manager. His favourite colour, he laughed cheekily, is Dark Blue.

I caught up with Ray at his bungalow in Deal and spent a wonderful hour chatting to a most convivial, pleasant and gentle man, a devoted Freemason.

*Ray, tell me, how did you hear about Freemasonry and what attracted you to find out more about joining a Lodge?*

My father-in-law Bill was a Freemason and lived at Chatham where he practised his Freemasonry. Bill was reluctant to propose me, a Maidstone man, into a Chatham Lodge. He didn't want me driving over Blue Bell Hill to meetings and Lodge of Instruction in the winter rain and snow. Instead, he contacted two Brethren he knew from Garden of England Lodge No.6583 which then met in Bower Terrace, Maidstone, so I joined there. Arriving at the Lodge Room, I noted big timbers shoring up the front and back of the building. Seemingly a Brother had been employed to re-roof the building but replaced the slates with tiles, which were much heavier and had caused the walls to buckle under the weight – hence the timbers.

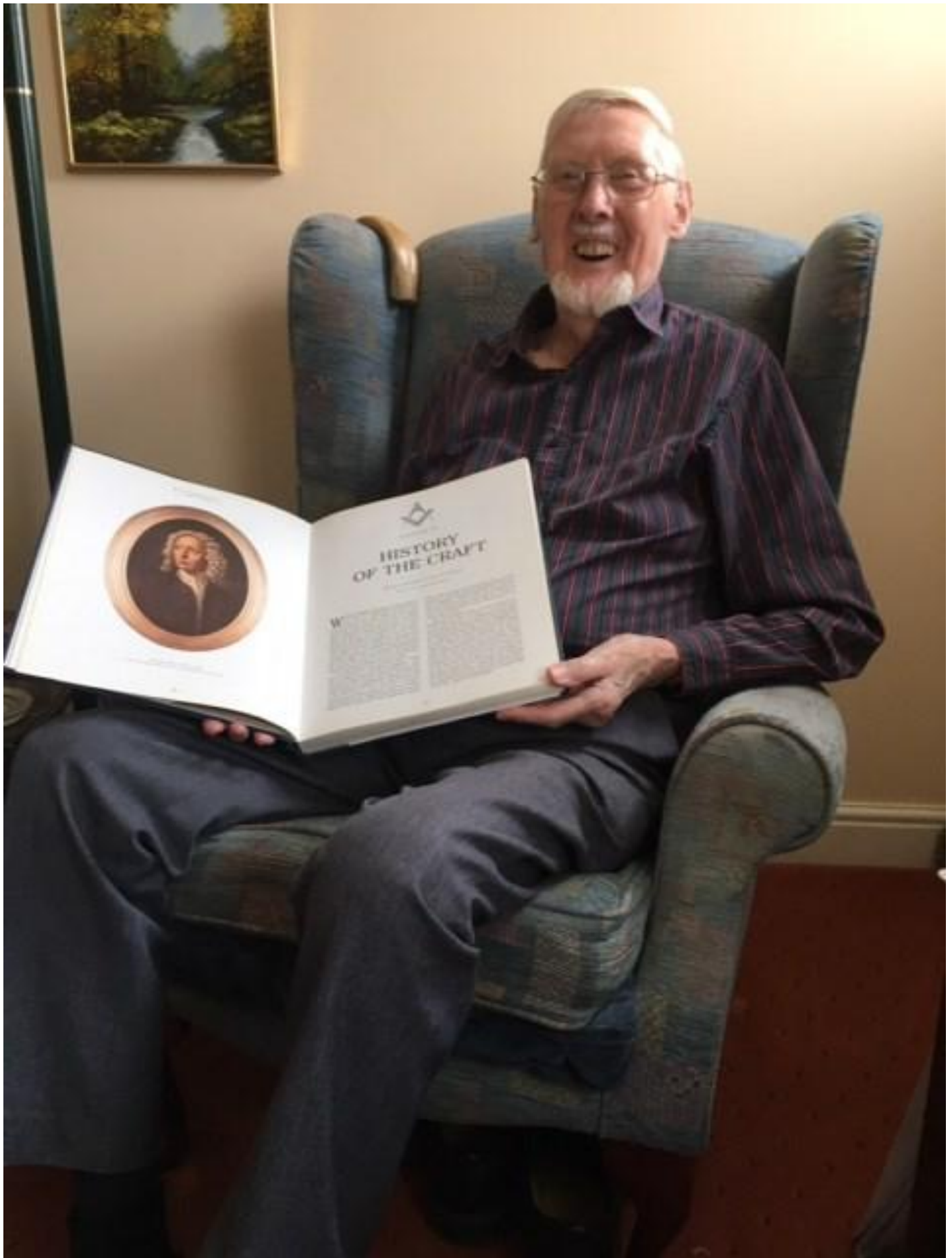
*When did you become a Freemason?*

I know exactly: 6pm Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 1974 — forty-nine years ago – although I can't recall the Festive Board main course!

*Tell us how you feel about the Brotherhood of Freemasonry: what does it mean to you?*

To me it means I'm a member of the most excellent Fraternity in the World and I absolutely love my membership, every minute of it.





*Was Masonry more secretive in your earlier years in the Craft?*

Yes, it was. It is a good thing that we are now more open and inclusive. I wasn't perturbed that I was known to be a Freemason back then by work colleagues and friends. I recall how stuffy it was in the earlier years, with businessmen in a haze of blue smoke as they smoked their cigars and quaffed their brandies at the Festive Board. Yes, I remember those days.

*I know you recently proposed a candidate into Freemasonry, Do you recall how many men you have introduced into the Craft during your membership?*

I have recently put a Candidate into my Lodge, yes – but after forty-nine years I can't remember now how many I've proposed or seconded.

*How do you think Masonry has changed since you joined in 1974?*

Well as I said, it's become more open, more inclusive and I don't mind whom I tell I'm a Freemason: it is such a wonderful fraternity and I'm so pleased to be a member. People should know what good charity work we do. We are now more diverse with membership from all sections of society. This a good thing.

*Tell me what it meant to you to finally reach the Master's Chair.*

It meant an awful lot to me, because I was finally going to become the *Master* of my Mother Lodge, the Garden of England Lodge. For my Installation Festive Board my dear wife Shelia made me a big cake with a Master's Apron draped over it made of icing sugar. I had a wonderful time as Master, with support from all the members. We had eight meetings during my year and I initiated, passed and raised many Candidates and Installed my successor.

At the time I also joined the Scouting lodge, the Fleur de Lis Lodge No.8969, because I ran the St Paul's Boy Scout Troop at Maidstone.

*How strong do you feel the bond or friendship is between yourself and the Brethren of your Lodge?*

There is a very strong bond. The Brethren will contact me when I'm unwell and also did so on my birthday when I turned ninety. Sadly, my younger brother died recently, and I had calls from Brethren sending condolences, which was nice.

*Being as old and experienced as you are, what advice would you give to a young man who is considering joining a Lodge, or a young Mason who has just joined?*



I would say as I always have: “Buddy it is the most wonderful fraternity in the World and I’ve loved every minute of it. If you have any doubts at any time, just persevere, stick with it and speak with your Lodge Mentor or Proposers. It does get better and better and better”.

*I believe you are a volunteer at the Sandwich Windmill. What has volunteering to work for a Charity given you?*

It has given me so much satisfaction and so many friendships. I would wholeheartedly recommend anyone to do voluntary Charity work. My work is so worthwhile along with others’ in keeping the White Mill going. I’ve made twenty-five friends whom I’d never have met if I hadn’t volunteered over twenty-three years ago. I was chairman of the Trust for seven years.

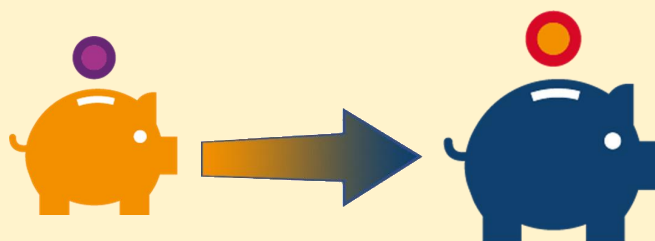
Coming towards the end of my chat I ventured, *“Ray, you have remained a Loyal Mason for nearly fifty years, and that means a great deal to the Province. In my opinion your Loyalty is to be considered an inspiration to our younger Brethren. You have achieved so much in your long life. And I’m sure we all wish you many more happy years in Masonry”.*

Ray, humble as ever, merely replied quietly, “Thank you”.

## DID YOU KNOW?



Does your Lodge or Chapter have funds intended for the **2025 Festival** sitting around in the Lodge’s Relief Chest? Did you know that by transferring them to the E2025 Festival Relief Chest you can attract “Notional Interest”?



This is a great incentive for your Lodge or Chapter to transfer any funds intended for the Festival from your Relief Chest into the Festival Relief Chest, so you can help contribute to that growing figure.

Please talk to your Lodge or Chapter Charity Steward TODAY and see whether your Lodge can help unlock these much-needed potential funds.



## MAC HITS SEVENTY-FIVE



MAC means Malling Abbey Chapter, of course. What else? And this year it celebrated its seventy-fifth birthday. Here's Gordon Brown's report:

Malling Abbey Chapter No.1063 received its Charter in 1948. The Consecration Meeting took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November that year, in the presence of the Provincial Grand Superintendent, the Lord Cornwallis. The Warrant to commence the Chapter was read. As was customary, the Grand Superintendent scattered Corn as the symbol of plenty, poured wine as the symbol of joy and cheerfulness, then sprinkled salt as the symbol of friendship and fidelity.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> April this year, John Kennet Baker, Deputy Provincial Grand Superintendent, attended the Chapter meeting as its Special Guest to celebrate the anniversary.

Michael Lofthouse gave an interesting and humorous explanation of some of the events that had taken place locally in 1948, including Brother Winston Churchill (pictured below) visiting the Kent Agricultural Show held at Mote Park, and West Malling Parish Council being preoccupied with issues such as potholes that needed repairing. (*Plus ça change ...!*)



Extremely heavy snowfalls across Kent caused substantial drifts. Frosts were severe, with temperatures dropping to as low as - 18C in some places. 1948 marked the closure of the East Kent Light Railway, which had been opened in 1911 to connect collieries in the newly discovered Kent Coalfields.



Nationally and internationally, it was quite a momentous year. John Stockham highlighted some of the key events. Our King, Charles III, was born in that year. The US and UK began a massive airlift of food, water, and medicine to the citizens of West Berlin following the Soviet Blockade. Mahatma Gandhi was murdered. The NHS was created. The World Health Organization was established. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) was founded. The Treaty of Brussels, signed by Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, created a collective defence alliance, which led to the formation of NATO. And the Summer Olympics, also known as the Games of the XIV Olympiad, were held in London.



As usual for Mallory Abbey, much fun, banter and good humour was on display. After the meeting and a champagne reception, forty-four Companions were treated to a meal of Stilton and Broccoli soup, Fish and Prawn Mornay; Lamb Shank and seasonal vegetables; Lemon Panacotta and cheese and biscuits with Port.

## **AND THE PROVINCE TURNS FIFTY!**

### **A Happy Anniversary to ourselves!**

The Province of East Kent reached its fiftieth anniversary this summer. On the 31st May 1973 the Province of Kent was divided into two Provinces, East and West Kent. Whichever is known good-naturedly as the "Dark Side" depends on your particular loyalty!

## ARTIST PRAISES CHARITY SUPPORTED BY THE MCF



Last year the Masonic Charitable Foundation awarded a charitable grant of £10,000 to Bright Shadow, a Charity based in the East Kent.

Bright Shadow supports people living with dementia through a number of creative activities to help them live well and thrive. The Charity's Zest programme offers a range of creative activities and inspiring resources for people living with dementia and their families and loved ones. [www.brightshadow.org.uk](http://www.brightshadow.org.uk)



We do not always hear from the people who benefit from the work of Charities such as Bright Shadow: but here is a wonderful letter that Bright Shadow have received from one of its beneficiaries, citizen artist **Gill Ashington**:



At the age of 48 I was given a frontotemporal dementia diagnosis. Which was immediately the reason for me having to be retired out of my job within the NHS in mental health. A job which I loved and meant more than just earning a living. This diagnosis was given to me over a video call, during covid. My new normal was never going to be the same!

On receiving a diagnosis, you feel useless. Things you can't do any more or people stop you from doing. Everyday stuff becomes challenging. People's attitudes towards you change. Like a second-class citizen. This doesn't just affect the person with the diagnosis either. It has a ripple effect to family and friends. Your social circle becomes smaller.

Expiry date approaching fast maybe. Life limiting? You're left with time. And that burning question, 'now what?'

I was told I could perhaps give out teas when the dementia cafes opened up again. I felt I was capable of more. Trying to access things, no joy, because I wasn't old enough!

I didn't fit anywhere. Then came Bright Shadow. Everyone involved treated me as an individual, with value and respect.

I had tried to do a photography course locally run by someone else, but not old enough.'



I was saying to Clare Thomas of Bright Shadow about my interests and this being one of them. Clare put me in touch with Jen Holland, a photographer within the Bright Shadow team. We had a discussion and started 1-1 face to face photography sessions. To build up my skills on taking better photos and using my tripod. More valuable to me than colouring in stuff with rubbish felt tips!

It got me out locally using my cameras, and mobile. I bought lenses. People of my age who are friends were keen to hear of the stuff I was doing. It certainly didn't feel demoralising to discuss what I'd been involved in.

I attended Zest sessions when resumed face to face, with my support dog. As well as online. I was able to feedback my thoughts on sessions. Again, my opinions were important.

I took part in the *Picture This* photography and writing sessions in Canterbury. Great setting - felt 'normal' as in a student building. It catered for all abilities. Each person attending had one to one support by volunteers and students. Best couple of hours in my week. And worthwhile, age appropriate and like we all mattered.



Bright Shadow is essential for people like me. Learning and being seen and valued are so important. Enabling those with a diagnosis to live with quality and dignity. We can be allowed to be ourselves in a safe and creative, warm environment. Carers, friends, and family can rest assured that the person will be ok for that time. Taking that pressure from those ripples I mentioned earlier.



Bright Shadow ticks all the boxes for being person centred. They have the potential to make huge differences to the quality of life of many people affected by dementia. Helping them keep going and live a full life. And everyone's potential can be reached with the support and backing. If you don't believe it, just take a look at my exhibition at The Beaney in Canterbury. I may have dementia but look what I've achieved! All thanks to the Bright Shadow team.

They believed in me.



Our picture shows Peter Rhodes (second left), East Kent's Provincial Grand Charity Steward, visiting the Charity. Said Peter, "It was a real pleasure to visit the Bright Shadow team at one of their sessions in Canterbury. It is always humbling and heartwarming to see the difference our donations make, and to see a Charity's invaluable work at first hand".



## LODGE ST GEORGE BAHRAIN HOSTS A LADIES' NIGHT WITH A DIFFERENCE



Clive Hallett writes:



On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June my wife Sue and I celebrated my year as Master of the St George Bahrain Lodge No.7389 with a Ladies' Night with a difference.

Fifty brethren, wives and guests went on a Dinner and Dance Cruise on the River Medway. Kentish Lady Cruises took us on a four-hour trip from the Undercliffe Boathouse in Maidstone, traversing the Medway between East Farleigh and Allington Lock.

The occasion was a great opportunity for new members joining our Lodge to bring their wives and partners to meet and enjoy the company of other couples and friends from Bahrain and Lodges from across East Kent. We were fortunate that the warm summer weather had just kicked in and we were able to see a glorious sunset on the first leg of the trip, while music requests were played by our DJ Colin.

It was great that the ladies from FFF Catering, our Lodge caterers, were able to join us for the evening – although it was not completely a night off for them as they used their charm to sell raffle tickets for us. They did a tremendous job raising £305 for Pilgrims Hospices and we would like to thank the local restaurants, shops and businesses in Ashford who generously donated the raffle prizes.

The evening was enjoyed by all in what may well become a regular summer event.



## MANOR OF GILLINGHAM VISITS WW1 HERITAGE SITES

Terry Perkins reports:

Manor of Gillingham Lodge No.3983 is renowned for its visits to WW1 heritage sites. This July we went to the American Sommepy Monument east of Rheims where, 105 years ago, the Americans had defeated the German army.



We also visited a Cemetery at Souain-Perthes-les-Hurons which contained 30,050 graves, and later that day the Pyramid Structure of the Ossuary of Navarin which contained the remains of 10,000 French Soldiers.

We stayed at the Hotel Bagatelle in Epernay for two nights. On the Saturday we visited various Champagne Houses on the Avenue de Champagne (pictured, below).





On the Sunday we had a tour by mini train around the Vineyards of Chamery near Rheims followed by a visit to the Caveau Champagne Lallement caves after which we all enjoyed a four-course meal.



We then journeyed home with the customary stop for Pimms on the way back to Calais. And we made sure we collected for a donation from the Lodge to the East Kent Province's 2025 Festival.



## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NUMBER THREE TO THE ROYAL ARCH



Throughout the ages the number three has been regarded as a spiritual and mystical number. Until the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century the Royal Arch had many overt references to Christianity - the Trinitarian Faith.

**Royal Arch Companions will recognise many examples, including:**

Three Principals who rule a Royal Arch Chapter severally and conjointly, each wearing a robe of a different colour - scarlet, purple and blue

Three Sojourners play a significant part in the Ceremony of Exaltation.

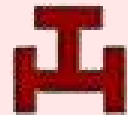
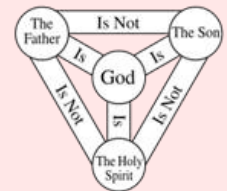
The Sacred Delta or Equilateral Triangle is an ancient symbol of deity and features frequently.

Three Lectures are delivered during the Exaltation ceremony.

There were Three Grand Originals.

A Provincial Officer in the Royal Arch wears a Breast Jewel with a tricolour ribbon.

The Triple Tau is the emblem of the Royal Arch.



### **Three is a sacred number in many religions**

The number 3 is mentioned 497 times in the Bible (the number 7 is mentioned 700 times).

In Genesis 1:13 "The Third Day" was the day on which the earth was caused to rise up out of the water; three days later the earth brought forth living creatures.

Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. According to the Jewish religion it takes three days for the soul to depart from the body, thus he could be justly have been said to have been raised from the dead.

Three wise men brought three gifts to the baby Jesus in the manger.

St Peter used the three-leaf clover to explain the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

"Jesus said to him I am the Way, the Truth and the Light; no one comes to the Father but by me" (John 14:6).

(The Moderns Grand Lodge was formed on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1717 on St John's Day)

Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of a whale.



A Muslim may divorce his wife by saying “I divorce you” three times.

In Hinduism, three Gods make up the one Supreme God, Brahman.

We have the three Jewels of Buddhism.

**The number 3 appears in many Fairytales:**

Three Wishes.

Three Bears.

Three Blind Mice.

Cinderella and the two ugly sisters.

The Genie of the Lamp gave Aladdin three wishes.

Three Billy Goats Gruff



**Almost everything in life has a beginning middle and end**

Birth life and death - this is analogous to the three Craft Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason.

Time is measured as past, present and future.

The Fleur de Lis with three erect petals (flower of the Lily or Iris) is a common ‘Heraldic Charge’.

The Rosetta Stone has three languages engraved on it.



**Three is often regarded as a lucky number**

Third time lucky.

Going once, going twice, sold!

Hip, hip, hooray.

On your marks, get set, go.

Only three primary colours are needed to mix most other colours.

Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded for achievement.



The old superstition of not walking under a ladder (a triangle appearing underneath it) stems from the ancient Egyptian belief that a triangle was seen to be perfect and complete and should not be broken.

Can you think of other examples?

## BRIAN, FLEUR DE LIS, SAWW AND A GRAND

Brian Ball, Master of the Fleur de Lis Lodge No.8969, set himself a personal challenge to raise £1000 for his local Charity in Marden, Kent: the SAWW.

Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide provides portable medical equipment enabling surgical procedures under the most challenging of conditions such as disaster or war zones where regular services no longer exist. Globally it also provides ongoing training and support to local units, to train, maintain and improve their own anaesthesia needs. These are often in remote areas where normal medical treatment is not available, such as Africa or the Far East.



Thanks to generous contributions from members of Fleur de Lis Lodge and the London Welsh Lodge No.2687, of which he was also Master, Brian was able to present a cheque for £1000 to Dr Roger Eltringham, Founder and Medical Director of Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide.

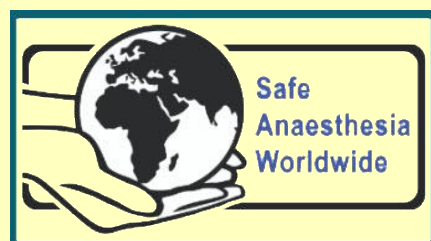
Pictured [L-R]: Brian Ball, Dr Roger Eltringham, Founder and Medical Director of SAWW, Anne Cox (his daughter) and Mike Cox (her husband) both Trustees of the Charity

Said Brian, "SAWW is a very worthy Charity making a great difference to those most in need of medical facilities. Basically, most surgical procedures cannot take place unless anaesthesia is available".

Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide

White Lyon House, Marden, Kent, TN12 9DR, United Kingdom.

Tel: [+44 \(0\)7527506969](tel:+44207527506969) Email: [info@safe4all.org.uk](mailto:info@safe4all.org.uk) Registered Charity Number [1148254](#)





## A BIT OF BANGKOK ARRIVES IN BIRCHINGTON

Minnis Bay Lodge No.8496 held another of its hugely successful theme nights on July 15<sup>th</sup>. The latest choice of cuisine was Thai food. These Events are proving to be extremely popular. The previous one was a French Night, all fifty places being sold in five days. The Thai Night sold out in two days!!



The Event was held at the Masonic Hall in Birchington. Members of other Lodges and non-Masons were there in strength.



The authentic Thai food was delicious and very professionally prepared by Noi Noomjaroen. Noi is a Thai lady who runs her own outside catering business called Yama Thai Kitchen.

The choice of dishes was impressive, with chicken, pork and beef being prepared in various ways. There were different types of spring rolls and king prawns with a host of wonderfully colourful rice and noodle accompaniments. The dining was arranged as a self-service buffet where you select what you want as you proceed past the long line of bains-marie: these keep the dishes at the right temperature ready for you to go

round again — if your stomach has the capacity!!

As usual, this was a Charity Event, with all the proceeds going to the Stroke Unit originally at Margate but now relocated to Canterbury, the chosen Charity for Lodge Master Keith Manning, whose mother was cared for by the Unit..

Apart from the traditional Raffle there were other spot fund raisers. On arrival everyone picked an envelope at random that contained their raffle tickets — but it also had a lucky number printed on it where the lucky person won a bottle of Amarula. Amarula is a South African liqueur made from the Amarula fruit that is unique to the region. There were lots of raffle prizes, many donated on the night. The fund-raising surpassed all expectations: the final figure was £572.

Keith and the Members of Minnis Bay Lodge thank everyone who supported the Event and look forward to seeing everyone at their next Event.



## BELGIANS, POLES, BRITS AND A FEW TEARS: SEPTEM'S LADIES' FESTIVAL



Kevin Kemp, Secretary of the Septem Lodge No.7788, writes:

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, 132 Guests made their way to Broome Park Golf and Country Club for a spectacular evening of tradition and festivities organised by Lodge Master Alex Coppin and his beautiful Lady Coralie, ably assisted by Kevin Kemp, Lodge Secretary, Graham Hogben, Lodge Treasurer, and Peter Sparrow, having his first ever outing as Master of Ceremonies.

Ten members of the Spinoza Lodge (No.50 of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium) with five of their wives (pictured here) were attending their very first Ladies Festival: they have nothing like it in Belgium– and they really enjoyed the whole experience.



The MC had been provided with a very strict timetable of events. He stuck to the plan, so that all of the normal formal items were ticked off on time. Following the Taking of Wine and Toasts came the Ladies' Song, performed superbly by Septem's Mike Scurfield.

Coralie responded to the Ladies' Toast and Song. Quickly discarding her prompt cards, she delivered a rip-roaring speech and had all the guests laughing. On a much more serious note, she then turned to her chosen Charity: Target Ovarian Cancer, which the Lodge had been supporting all year. She spoke briefly and emotionally about her sister who was there with us that evening and who was suffering from Ovarian Cancer and who, just recently, has lost her fight and sadly passed away. Coralie made us all understand the whys and wherefores of this deadly disease. Several of us were seen wiping tears from our eyes as she spoke.





Alex and Coralie have the First Dance

On a happier note, Ladies' Gifts were distributed by the Lodge Stewards who did a fantastic job on the night. They were led by Chris Curling and ably supported by Mariusz Owczarzak – who, by the way, had friends from Poland attending.

As Coralie finished her response, some of the young girls who had been serving us with food suddenly stopped what they were doing, the music struck up, and all of the Ladies in their spectacular evening wear were up singing and dancing with the girls. Not to be out-done, the men joined in, and for a good ten minutes we showed the Strictly gang how to do it.

John Miller and Peter Smithson Birch donated watches for a Charity Auction which raised over £800. Together with the Raffle, the Event raised over £2,100. With a further £1750 from other social events during their year, our President and his Lady had raised almost £4000 for their chosen Charity, a sum of which they can be immensely proud.

## OWEN AND STARKEY ARE WINNERS AT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

James Owen of the Chillington Manor Lodge No.4649 writes:

I was honoured and delighted to join forces with Starkey Hearing at the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin this June. My company Owen Hearing [www.owenhearing.com](http://www.owenhearing.com) supplies US-based Starkey Hearing products (among other products) and has had a close relationship with the company for fourteen years. We supplied 244 hearing aids free of charge to the athletes, plus education on the importance of regular hearing screenings, with the goal of making healthy hearing more inclusive of people with intellectual disabilities.

Each athlete was also given contacts that could help them in the future.



James Owen (front row, second left) with a group of Starkey Cares volunteers (in blue T-shirts), Moroccan athletes and their coaches



Everyone deserves hearing health, which is why we were honoured to partner with Starkey Cares and showcase our shared commitment to creating a world where people with intellectual disabilities have every opportunity to hear the world around them. Our participation in the World Games allowed us to show all Special Olympics athletes that we would take care of them and their hearing health, so they could continue to shine on and off the field!



James with Jayne Bryce – another audiologist, from Scotland – fitting a German Athlete

As the world's largest inclusive sports event featuring 7,000 athletes from 190 delegations, the World Games [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org) took place from June 17<sup>th</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup> in Berlin. The global event revolved around the common mission of celebrating the joy of sport and the power of inclusion through camaraderie, competition, and breaking down social barriers. With more than six million athletes and Special Olympics Unified Sports® partners in over 190 countries and territories and more than one million coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics delivers more than thirty Olympic-type sports and over 100,000 Games and competitions every year.



## SANDGATE MASONIC OPEN DAY

David Tumber of the Shorncliffe Lodge No.4330 writes:

Taking on the task of holding a Lodge Open Day at Sandgate on the 27<sup>th</sup> August seemed a little daunting at first. However, as things turned out, it could not have been easier.



After attending a 'Lodge Open Day' meeting via Zoom, I was given ideas on how the day could be run. I believe the Zoom meeting was recorded and is still available on YP2. The Provincial team provided me with a risk assessment of the things to consider on the day, but most importantly I was provided with pop up banners, handout flyers and a plethora of other information for visitors to look at. This was invaluable to us, as on occasions visitors were left to look around unaccompanied and learn for themselves what Freemasonry is all about. They also helped as prompts for the Brethren to spark up conversations with our Guests.



I decided to hold our Lodge Open Day on the same day as the Sandgate Food and Drink Festival, knowing that this would draw a lot of people to the area. The Sandgate Society were really happy to have us open and added our Event to their promotion flyers, which helped to spread the word. The Provincial team also provided Masonic Open Day directional boards, which we zip tied to many lampposts in the surrounding area, to help guide Visitors to the Centre and let them know we were open for business.

Our photo on the previous page shows Alan Leigh (centre) of the Commemoration Lodge No.5329 discussing a point with two of our Visitors.

On the day over eighty Visitors passed through the Centre, four of whom expressed an interest in joining. What I found most satisfying was actually getting the chance to explain to our Visitors what Freemasonry was, our involvement in charitable giving, and to dispel any myths or misconceptions they might have had about Freemasonry.

If anyone is thinking about holding a Lodge Open Day, I would strongly urge you to do so. It was great to build a better relationship with the local community —and it wasn't difficult to do.

Lastly, I would like to say a huge thank you to the Brethren who supported me on the day. I couldn't have done it without them. Take a bow, Alan Leigh, Chic Cameron, Peter West, Gary Gunner, Richard Aldridge, Richard Tumber, Richard Dixey, Tim Roots, Bob Hadlow and Steve Bingham!



## SEPTEM INTERNATIONAL VISITS CONTINUE

Kevin Kemp writes:

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023, sixteen very happy stalwarts of the Sep-tem Lodge No.7788 International Visiting Group boarded their mini-bus and took to the road again – this time to visit the Friedrich zur Vaterlandsliebe Lodge No.5817 in Koblenz in Germany.



After an early start, we drove by minibus to Folkestone, travelled on the Channel Tunnel shuttle to France and arrived that evening in Koblenz where our German hosts welcomed us with beers and a barbecue.



We were shown around the Lodge Building by the Senior Warden of the Lodge, Michael. We had a proper guided tour of all the rooms within the building. The Temple was set up very differently from the way that we are used to. Full explanations were given by Michael in extremely good English.



In 1933, known as the dark time by German Masons, the original Lodge building was seized and taken over by the German Socialist Party. Many Masons at that time were then persecuted for their membership. They never returned to the building: it was demolished during the war.

The tour completed, trip organiser Kevin Kemp presented some gifts to the members of Lodge 5817 - including a set of columns for the Senior and Junior Wardens' Pedestals, a Blue Ritual Book and an East Kent Provincial Tie. Kevin thanked them all for their warm welcome and for their help and guidance in making the visit possible.





The following day was the most important in the German Masonic Calendar: St John the Baptist Day. The opening ceremony at Lodge 5817 was quite different from ours, and naturally much of the meeting was conducted in German, with some translation into English. The main event was a lecture on the History of the Lodge, undertaken by a Past Master. He had very kindly taken the trouble to translate his piece into English and gave us copies of the document so that we could follow exactly what he was saying. Once this was finished, the Master presented every member and visitor with a freshly cut red rose, the symbol of St John the Baptist Day.

To get to the Festive Board we had to cross a public area and, according to custom, took off our regalia temporarily.

We had a fantastic meal and excellent company. We learned that the Lodge made its own wine with grapes from their own private Moselle vineyard: how's that for style?

After the meeting and Festive Board, we went back to our hotel to change and then made our way to a beer garden called the 'Deutsches Eck' (German Corner). Long tables and bench seats had been reserved for us and we enjoyed the company of the wives and families of our hosts. Plenty of food and drink was available throughout the evening.

On the next day we were met by our host and taken to our lunch venue, the Old Brewhouse. After lunch there was some time for taking in the local history and sights of Koblenz. Next, we made our way down to the quay to embark on a River Tour.



When we returned to the quayside, we had a little surprise for our hosts. In Septem Lodge we operate a light-hearted “fines” system. All members travelling get to decide where the fines money will go. After the Lodge meeting the previous day, it had been announced that the Alms collection which raised 350 Euros would be going to the family of a local volunteer fireman who had lost his life recently leaving behind a widow and children. After a consultation of all travelling members, it was decided that the fines collected would go to the same cause and so a further 550 Euros were donated to the family by our group.

The following day we had a pleasant but uneventful journey back to England.

I have now had the pleasure to have organised nine away trips. This one has been the easiest and best we have done to date. Thank you to all the Brethren for their support and company, and of course to our brothers in Germany and their families. Thank you to you all for your fellowship and friendship. We must do it again.



## GUNDULPH HELPS AVANTE

John Legg writes:

Care Homes are expensive places to run and are often in need of supplementary funding. In March this year members of Gundulph Lodge No.1050 in Rochester visited Avante Parkview Care Home in Bexleyheath to present a cheque for £350 donated by the Brethren to fund activities for the residents. The money has helped them to continue enjoying the daily activities and entertainment including music, singing, dancing and painting.

The cheque was presented by our Grand Officer and Charity Steward William Laidler, accompanied by Lodge Almoner Eddie Bates and Mike Ives, whose wife Irene is resident at the Care Home.

Irene moved to Parkview due to her condition (Frontal Lobe Dementia) that worsened during the early Spring. She has settled in well. Unfortunately, due to an eye infection she was unable to attend the presentation.



(L:R) Mike Ives, William Laidler and Eddie Bates, plus staff and residents of Parkview Care Home



Irene Ives enjoying a spot of painting



Avante Care & Support is a not-for-profit organisation that cares for and supports over 1000 older people through registered nursing and dementia care homes, home care and well-being support services. They have been providing care and support for over thirty years and are proud of what they do. They are also the largest registered charity in Kent.

They have ten specialist dementia and nursing care homes located across Kent, Bexley and Greenwich and also provide home care and well-being support services across Bexley and Swale.



## **“CONGRATULATIONS - AND THE WINNERS ARE .....”**

Kevin Stones PPGQuizM\* writes:

Now I know that quizzes aren't everyone's 'cup of tea': however, if you 'Pull the Right Secretarial Strings' you might just promulgate the idea of an Inter-Lodges Quiz Challenge or a 'Brain Buster' in your Masonic area - and that is exactly what I did.



I must say it was a very impressive turn-out.

Five Ashford Lodges mustered teams of six for the Pub Quiz Brain Buster at the Fox Public House, Ashford, on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June.



Pens and paper at the ready, only one hundred questions to go, and the 'cut and thrust' of inter-Lodge rivalry had begun. All the usual tricks were tried, including whispering loudly the odd incorrect answer to misdirect the opponents.

Thirsty and in need of some brain nourishment at the half-way marker we stopped for another pint and a sumptuous buffet. Time for the raffle, then back to the conflict.



Much joviality and fun all round. "Will you do another quiz, Kev?" Well, I might...

Together with the raffle, Invicta Lodge No.709, South Kent Lodge No.4303, Ashford Lodge No.8945, Stour Lodge No.2305 and Lodge of Loyalty No.9494 raised £321 towards the East Kent Province's 2025 Festival, the money being divided equally amongst the competing Lodges.



My grateful thanks and well done to all, some very creditable scores, 97 out of 100 being claimed by South Kent until a recount was demanded - and shown to be considerably less. Good try, Miki Travis.....

All in all it was a great effort and we had some wonderful camaraderie.



And the winners were..... Captain Cuthbert's Ashford Lodge Team A, seen here with their kindly donated prize - six bottles of wine.

Runners-up were Ashford Lodge Team B. Did the Ashford Lodges mark each other's paper? Hmm!

*\* [Editor's Note: this is a proposed new Provincial Grand Rank rumoured to be awaiting approval from Head Office. Don't hold your breath!]*



## SHROPSHIRE'S DEPUTY AND HIS GRANDFATHER

*Ed: Some years ago, I contacted Grand Lodge who kindly supplied me with details about my grandfather's membership of the Fraternity. Unfortunately, I did not discover that he was a Freemason until long after his death. Here's an altogether more interesting grandson/grandfather detective story with a link between Shropshire and East Kent's Lodge of Freedom No.77 – and it involves some very senior Masons!*

Ralph Cochrane (pictured) writes:



In January 2023 the Secretary of the Lodge of Freedom received an e-mail from Jeremy Lund, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Shropshire, enquiring about any details the Lodge might have regarding his grandfather, Archibald Kenneth Lund (known as Ken) who he believed had been a member of the Lodge. Paul Livett, Secretary of The Lodge of Sympathy No.483, did an Ancestry UK search and checked his UGLE record entry.

Research confirmed Ken's Certificate of Competency to trade as a Master Mariner:



Ken's Masonic record was as follows:

## United Grand Lodge of England Freemason Membership Registers, 1751-1921

Name:	Archibald Kenneth Lund
Gender:	Male
Initiation Age	26
Birth Year:	about 1895
First Payment Year on Register:	1921
Profession:	Master Mariner
Lodge:	Lodge of Freedom No.77
Lodge Location:	Gravesend

Further digging into the Lodge of Freedom Records showed that he was Initiated on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 1921, Passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> May and Raised on the 10<sup>th</sup> August. His Grand Lodge Certificate was Issued the following month, and he received it in June 2022.

He was a member for twenty-one years. Jeremy sent this photo of his grandfather:





Wrote Jeremy, “My grandfather Ken was a Merchant Navy man who became a River Pilot and lived in Pine Avenue, Gravesend. I never realised until very recently that he was a Freemason; my father certainly was not, though he received ‘the Visit’ from two eminent Brethren who did their best to persuade him.

“My mother (now 91 and born and brought up in Gravesend) remembers going to at least one Ladies’ Night, and receiving a typical gift which I am afraid she has not kept.

“I was Initiated quite independently of all this, into King William’s (a school Lodge) No.3883 on the Isle of Man, where I was a teacher. At that time, I was a very similar age to that of my grandfather Ken at his Initiation. I moved to Shropshire in 1987 and am now privileged to be Deputy Provincial Grand Master in that Province.”

As a result of these investigations both Jeremy Lund and Paul Livett were sent an invitation to the Lodge of Freedom’s meeting on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 which they happily accepted. In addition, Phil South, East Kent’s Deputy Provincial Grand Master, was also invited and accepted the invitation to attend the meeting.




[L:R] Phil South, Colin Hampson (Master of the Lodge of Freedom), Jeremy Lund

The main business that evening was the Raising of Bro. Akaki Sidamonidze, which went very well — and the Festive Board was a great success. Jeremy replied to the Toast to the Visitors and thanked all concerned for a great meeting and the very warm welcome he had received from the Lodge members during his visit.



The two Deputy Provincial Grand Masters with Officers of the Lodge of Freedom No.77 and the newly raised Brother Akaki Sidamonidze



*The* PROVINCIAL  
GRAND LODGE  
*of* SHROPSHIRE

**Welcome to Shropshire Freemasonry! Thirty-six lodges are set among Housman's "blue remembered hills", where Thomas Telford's lodge (Salopian 262) still meets. A much more recent addition (Lodge 9897) is named after the great Iron Bridge which symbolises Shropshire's place as the cradle of the Industrial Revolution.**



## SUCCESS AT THE BAT AND TRAP

East Kent Province held its inaugural Bat and Trap Event on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July in the picturesque setting of Mersham, Nr Ashford, deep in the heart of the Garden of England. Members from around East Kent, along with family and friends, gathered in anticipation for what turned out to be a fantastic day of fun, laughter - and the usual English weather.







Sixteen teams of six players readied themselves for the start of the Event, family and friends giving the usual support and encouragement. The prize they were all playing for was the “**Duncan Rouse East Kent Masonic Bat and Trap Trophy**” – try saying that after a couple of sherbets! (Duncan Rouse is one of the East Kent’s Assistant Provincial Grand Masters.)











With the crowd and competitors totalling over 160, the games began. Bats and Traps were readied, Chief Umpire Kevin Kemp kept a strict eye on proceedings, whilst Jason Kemp kept score.











Soon the day had to come to an end.

**First Prize** went to Martello Lodge No 8712 Team members were: Paul Akast, David Mowl, Danny Hughes, Malcolm Smithers, Antony Clifford and Andrew Stevens.

**Runners up** were Lodge of St. George No. 7389 Team members were: Bill Watson, Phil Hindle, Malcolm Carswell, Clive Hallet, Paul Goswell, and John Banks.

**Third Place** went to Norman Lodge No. 3502 Team members were: Vince Howell, Trevor Youens, Carol Youens, Kevin Brett, Andrew Mcrow, and Hazel Mcrow.

Thanks go to the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Peter Rhodes, who presented the Trophy and medals to the winning teams.

Special thanks go to the helpers on the bar, BBQ and tea & coffee. Umpires: John Hockley the Landlord and a special mention to Kevin Kemp for supplying the Traps and Jason Kemp for keeping score.

We mustn't forget our host John Hockley and the organisers, Richard Dixey, Peter Herbert and Bob Hadlow. Well done, all!

**The real winners following the Event are local and national Charities, for the total raised as part of East Kent's 2025 Festival was an amazing £1430.**



## MUCH BONDING IN THE MARSH?



Paul Settle MBE of the Romney Marsh Lodge No.4743 writes:



General view of the New Romney Country Fayre. Photo by Susan Pilcher

Members of the Romney Marsh Lodge attended the New Romney Country Fayre on the 29<sup>th</sup> July where they were engaged in conversation with many passers-by. This allowed the message of what we are about to be generally promulgated. Four of our visitors also showed special interest and will be considered for membership.



Visitors and Lodge Members engaged in conversation at the Fayre



16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7pm

at

Tovil Masonic Centre Maidstone

## A PRESENTATION OF THE ROYAL ARCH

Curious to learn more and find out  
what it is about and how it relates  
to Craft Masonry?

Complete your journey



**INVITATION**  
open to all Masons

Book now

Email Dennis

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or Eddie

[eddiehalpin@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:eddiehalpin@blueyonder.co.uk)

Refreshments

Join NOW!

Contact **Dennis**

Speak to your Lodge CLO  
or email the Provincial  
membership Officer:  
Dennis Fordham

[dnfordham@aol.com](mailto:dnfordham@aol.com)





## **‘EXPLOSION’ AT ST GEORGE ABADAN CHAPTER**



Roy Coenye writes:

First, the bad news.

Like many Lodges and Chapters over the last few years, St George Abadan Chapter No.6058 has been faced with a membership crisis, many of its former leaders having to be recycled through the various offices. Attendance was down after the COVID pandemic, as several of our more vulnerable older members were dubious as to whether the pandemic was really over.

Now for the good news.

Persistence and dedication of regulars has finally paid off. On the very warm evening of June 22<sup>nd</sup> an unusual Convocation (regular meeting) took place. Never, since its formation in 1983, has such an occasion occurred.

St George Abadan Chapter's membership increased from thirty-one to thirty-six in one evening! A veritable 'explosion' for us!

We balloted for, and accepted, three joining members - and we introduced (exalted) two Master Masons, neighbours Adam Herbert and Charlie Twiner from St Andrews Lodge No.3948.

In a double ceremony!

The three joining members, Allen Williams, Mark Lawson and Keith Woollven, had chosen St George Abadan as their new Chapter after the closure of the General Gordon Chapter. Two of them were quickly pressed into service: Mark was immediately invested as Scribe N and Keith assisted as 2<sup>nd</sup> Principal for the evening.

Guest Danny Firth of the St Peter's Chapter No.4193 then gave an excellent lecture, after which we retired for a splendid Festive Board.

And the good news doesn't stop there: St George Abadan Chapter has two more Candidates in the wings for its October and January Convocations!



Pictured [L:R]: Mark Lawson (Joining), Charlie Twiner (Exalte), Keith Woollven (Joining), Jason Gooch (Z – 1<sup>st</sup> Principal), Alan Campkin (J – 3<sup>rd</sup> Principal), Alan Herbert (Exalte) and Allen Williams.

What Could East Kent  
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Ever wondered what  
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OFFER YOU?**





## A DOUBLE CELEBRATION AT ST GEORGE BAHRAIN

Barry Louder, Lodge Membership Officer, writes:

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Lodge St George Bahrain No.7389 had two important events to celebrate at its regular meeting,



Firstly, Deputy Provincial Grand Master Phil South was there to present a Certificate to Barry Macey for achieving an amazing sixty years in the Craft.



Secondly, we were delighted to initiate Matthew Simon Harrison into the Lodge.

A great evening was topped off by a splendid Festive Board.



**Trinity Mariners Lodge No.8406 at Dover** invite you to their  
Early Christmas Lunch on Saturday 19th November 2023.  
Doors open 1230 hrs, lunch served at 1300 hrs.  
There will be a General Raffle and a Spirit Raffle

# Christmas Menu

Tomato Soup

**Roast Turkey with all the Trimmings**

**Roast Potatoes**

**Roast Parsnips**

**Brussels Sprouts**

**Carrot and Swede Mix**

Christmas Pudding with Ice Cream

Cheese and Biscuits

Coffee and mints

Price £21 per person

For further details please contact Barney (Jamie Barnes):  
Phone 07878 314298 or Email [Barnes.j1@prontomail.com](mailto:Barnes.j1@prontomail.com)



## STEP AND LEARN: HALLIE MEETS No.184

Gillingham Lodge of Benevolence No.184 has been practising Freemasonry in Medway since 1787. Over the years they've raised many thousands for charity and given to many worthy causes.

On May 9<sup>th</sup> they continued that tradition by sponsoring sessions at Step and Learn for Hallie, a four-year-old girl from Gillingham with cerebral palsy.

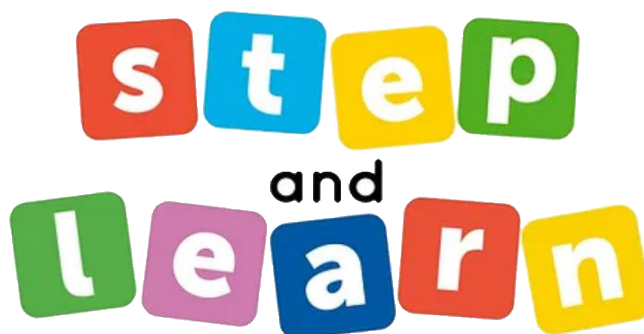
Hallie and her mum, Rachael, met the members of the lodge at the Franklin Road Masonic Hall shortly before the start of their meeting. Hallie was an immediate hit with the Brethren and was treated to a tour of the building including the Lodge Room. She tried out all the principal chairs for size and seemed very comfortable taking charge.

After the tour and a drink at the bar, Step and Learn Trustee and Treasurer Karen Parsler presented a sponsorship pack to acting Master, Peter Lacey. Among other things, the pack includes a detailed plan of Hallie's progress and targets at Step and Learn, so the Lodge can see a direct link between their Charity and a positive outcome for Hallie.

Lodge Secretary Paul Hooker said, "We're so pleased to be playing a part in Hallie's journey at Step and Learn. We're looking forward to receiving future updates as well as welcoming her and her family to our social Events".

Step and Learn Chairman Patrick Barden added, "Our work depends solely on charitable donations. Sponsorship plans like this really do help to ensure that children like Hallie continue to receive this vital therapy (which is not available on the NHS), free of charge".

Further info at [www.stepandlearn.org](http://www.stepandlearn.org)







## FREEMASONS HELP KIND-HEARTED COMMUNITY TO WELCOME UKRAINE REFUGEES

Mark Lawson writes:

When Russia invaded Ukraine last year it quickly became clear that a huge number of people would need help.

Michelle Henneker and others immediately started gathering donations of clothing, toiletries and other essential supplies from the local community.

Working under the name Sittingbourne & Sheppey Helping Ukrainians (SSHU), Michelle and her co-founders set up donation points at local schools and community halls, staffed by an army of volunteers who sorted and packed supplies ready for shipping to Poland where many Ukrainians sought refuge. As Ukrainian refugees started to arrive in the UK, SSHU changed its focus and created a hub where new arrivals could collect some of life's essentials, meet other Ukrainians and learn English.



[L:R] Brian Bucklan (Widows Sons), Andy Pilbeam (Widows Sons), Keith Whitby (Saedingburna Lodge) and his wife Joan

As Ukrainian refugees started to arrive in the UK, SSHU changed its focus and created a hub where new arrivals could collect some of life's essentials, meet other Ukrainians and learn English.

In late 2022, SSHU was looking for a venue for a Christmas party. East Kent Province's Trevor Carter stepped forward and offered the facilities at Sittingbourne Masonic Centre free of charge. The whole festive event was then funded by the Lodges, Chapters and other orders that meet at Sittingbourne and beyond.

On December 10<sup>th</sup> more than fifty refugees, along with dedicated charity volunteers, came together to celebrate. The food and drink were generously donated by Asda Sittingbourne, while Sheppey FM provided the music.

There were party games and prizes for the children, and the East Kent Chapter of the Widows Sons also graced the event, with the bikers proving to be a big hit.

To finish the day on a truly heartwarming note, each child received a present from Father Christmas himself, with the gifts kindly donated by Matalan.

After the festivities had concluded and all the party poppers had been swept up, there was still £1,000 left in the coffers. Eager to make the most of this surplus, Trevor Carter contacted the East Kent Cornwallis Freemasons Charity who agreed to match the funds.



[L:R] Trevor Carter, Michelle Henneker, Danielle Izzard and Isobella Henneker

On June 16<sup>th</sup> this year, Group 3 Chairman David Mantle was able to present a cheque for £2,000 to SSHU on behalf of Freemasons in Sittingbourne, Sheppey and Wigmore.

David said, "With the war still continuing and no end in sight, Group 3 will carry on raising money for Michelle and the Ukrainian families by arranging a race evening later in the year".



SSHU is now pursuing full charitable status and is organising a monthly Boot Fair to raise further funds for their cause. The Boot Fairs will be held at the Sittingbourne Masonic Centre, again free of charge to SSHU.



[L:R] David Mantle, Michelle Henneker and Noah Henneker



Michelle Henneker said, "I can't thank the local Freemasons enough. Their involvement has made such a huge difference."

If you'd like to get involved with Sittingbourne & Sheppey Helping Ukraine, please contact them at [Sittingbourne.sou@outlook.com](mailto:Sittingbourne.sou@outlook.com), or look for them on Facebook.



A winter scene with snow-covered trees and a wooden fence. The background is a soft-focus image of bare trees covered in a thick layer of snow. In the foreground, a wooden fence with a diagonal crossbar is partially visible, also covered in snow. The overall tone is peaceful and wintry.

## IN OUR CHRISTMAS ISSUE

The printed issue of the Provincial Magazine is published annually just before Christmas.

This year we'll be having a look at the marvellous work of our Kent Museum of Freemasonry at Canterbury. Now recognised as one of the main tourist attractions in the County, the Museum is much more than a collection of old documents and artefacts. Trustee Chairman Richard Wingett takes us on a fascinating journey around the building — and conjures up a few surprises along the way.

Have you heard of the Widows Sons? Why the strange title, what do they do, and what do they all have in common? Don your leathers and your goggles and join them on whistle-stop tour of East Kent.

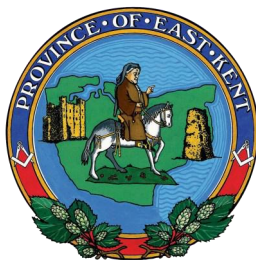
And there will be an interview with our Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent, Neil Hamilton Johnstone. Learn about the man, his life in the hot seat and his aims and aspirations for the future.

It's all here in your Provincial Magazine — the voice of Freemasonry in East Kent.

Warming the winter months  
with the Freemasons



# THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



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

Provincial Communications Officer: Paul Gear

Contact the Team at [news@ekprovince.co.uk](mailto:news@ekprovince.co.uk)

or us individually at:

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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 Provincial Website at [www.eastkentfreemasons.org](http://www.eastkentfreemasons.org) and click on:

**MEMBERS AREA**

THE MASONIC PROVINCE OF EAST KENT

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