

PROVINCIAL lite

THE MAGAZINE FOR EAST KENT CRAFT AND ROYAL ARCH

www.eastkentfreemasons.org

SPRING 2021 ISSUE



READY, STEADY, GO? SEE INSIDE

Photo: Val Ray

EDITORIAL



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Welcome to Issue 5 of The Provincial Lite.

"Spring is sprung, the grass is riz" ...

'tis the season of lawnmowers, warmer, longer, sunnier days, barbecues, family get-togethers. Or so we hope. Hard to believe that it is a full year since the first COVID Lockdown, when so much of our social activity was compulsorily curtailed.

As for Freemasonry, we had to suspend our Lodge and Chapter meetings, and, most unfortunately, much of our charitable work. Quickly we learned how to overcome the constraints, by organising online meetings through such systems as Zoom and Teams. Our very own Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) released huge sums of money to help us continue helping others.

We soon learned, too, that you could run fundraising events online. Septem Lodge ran an online raffle and raised a lot of money for our 2025 Festival. And we have a new venture, a Virtual Theatre, which opens this summer with "An Evening with Ranulph Fiennes". Read about both of these Events, and much more, in this magazine.

Now that vaccination against COVID-19 is proceeding apace, we can start anticipating a return to better times. Our Provincial Grand Master Neil Johnstone wrote to us all recently saying that he had no doubt that we were "all looking forward to the time when we can welcome new members, undertake ceremonies, return to our Centres and enjoy each other's company once again". Amen to that!

John Ray

Email: editor@theprovincial.org



PROVINCE OF EAST KENT

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Neil Hamilton Johnstone.

Provincial Grand Master

9th April 2021

Dear Brethren,

It is with much sadness that I write to you further to the passing of Brother, His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh to the Grand Lodge Above.

Our thoughts and sympathy are with Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal family at this trying time.

Brethren I would request, as a mark of respect, that at your first meeting that actually takes place after the end of the Suspension on the 17th of May 2021, that black ties are worn.

Secretaries are also requested to ensure that an In Memoriam box is printed in the summons for the first meeting called after the suspension is lifted.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Neil Hamilton Johnstone
Provincial Grand Master

EKP's PHOTOGRAPHERS SHOW OFF THEIR TALENTS

Towards the end of last winter, East Kent Province's Photographics Manager Peter Floyd decided that it was high time to cheer us all up with some great photos. And what better way to get some really special ones than with a competition?

Peter had no particular theme in mind. Photos had to have been taken in or near our Province of East Kent. They could be seasonal photographs, pictures of villages or well-known landmarks – but not pictures of Freemasons, Masonic Centres, cheque presentations or Masonic functions. As the winning photograph, chosen by the Province's Communications Team, was to be published on the Provincial Website, submissions had to be of the highest quality.

Many Masons rose to the challenge. As you scan through the magazine, you will find many of the ones that caught the judges' eyes.



This is the winning entry, from Alan Leigh of the Commemoration Lodge No.5329: Red Hut at Rye Nature Reserve. Among the judges' comments: "The composition is good: well balanced, uncluttered, clear focal point, the diagonal formation of the clouds draws your eye in, and the red of the roof retains your interest".

HOLY ROYAL ARCH: HEARD OF IT BUT WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

I would be surprised if you hadn't heard about the Holy Royal Arch - or Chapter, as we often call it. You may have also heard that there is a unique connection between that Order and the Craft. Have you ever wondered why this should be? What is so special about the HRA that it alone of all the other Degrees should be governed from Great Queen Street and share the same High Rulers as the Craft?



HRA is often referred to as the completion of a Brother's journey in the Craft. Although more than a third of the Brethren in East Kent are members of the HRA, this unusual relationship is not always well understood. Rather than being seen as an intrinsic part of the whole, it is often side-lined as 'another degree'.

Over the last year we have given a lot of thought as to how we might remedy this situation and widen everyone's understanding of where the HRA developed from and how and why it fits in with the Craft.

The Provincial Executive has put together a presentation that delves into the HRA's history from the early 1730s and its place in the creation of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813. We plan to offer this as part of the Red Table evenings that we hope will take place throughout East Kent over the coming months. We have made it applicable to both members and non-members of the Degree.



Please get in touch if your Lodge or Chapter might be interested in learning more about this and if you might like us to work with you in arranging a Red Table. You can contact any of us via the Provincial Office or of course your Chapter Liaison Officer.

I am sure that we are all looking forward to the relaxation of the Covid restrictions and being able to meet again in person rather than via the 'ether'. Please stay safe and keep well. I look forward to seeing as many of you as I can in the not-too-distant future.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Pat King, Provincial Second Grand Principal

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Many of our Lodges and Chapters have interesting, even exotic, names. But what do they mean, and why were they chosen?

In Part 1 of this series we featured Agricola, Ardea, Artifex, Athelstan, Commemoration, De Shurland, Entente Cordiale and Erclai. Here is another selection of some of the more intriguing and fascinating examples, from E to P. My thanks to the Secretaries and Lodge members for the information.

ESSETESFORDE



Essetesforde lodge No.9746.

The Essetesforde Lodge, which meets in Ashford, Kent, is a relatively 'new' Lodge having only been in existence for twenty years. At the time of planning the creation of the Lodge one of the Founder Members, the late Dr WE (Teddy as he was known) Church, undertook to research the history of Ashford. He found that although there were several names for Ashford in earlier times, Essetesforde was the most prominent - and the common factor in all the names was that they referred to a tree, or a group of Ash trees, near to a ford in a river or stream. After discussion with other Founder Members the name of Essetesforde was chosen.

The Lodge Banner, which is on permanent display in the Ashford Masonic Centre, reflects the history of the name of Essetesforde.

The Lodge, which meets in the afternoons, has become known more by the Ritual it uses than its name, as the Tracing Boards are drawn by hand on boards on the floor of the Lodge as the opening ceremonies are conducted. Meetings, other than Installation, are followed by a 'self-service afternoon tea', which encourages those present to socialise easily. All these attributes have been well received, and it is appreciated by many that the whole meeting and Festive Board are over by 6pm!

Information supplied by Fred Keeler, Lodge Secretary

GLOBE AND LAUREL

Globe and Laurel Lodge No.4657.

As a result of the gallantry displayed by the Marines in the combined operation to capture *Belle Île* off the coast of Brittany in 1761, the Corps was authorised to adopt the Laurel Wreath that now encircles the Globe emblazoned on their Colours.

The Crown and Crowned Lion show that the Marines are a Royal Corps. This distinction was granted to them by George III in 1802 as recommended by the First Lord of the Admiralty, Admiral of the Fleet the Earl of St. Vincent. Referring to this afterwards Earl St. Vincent said, "In obtaining for them the distinction 'Royal', I but in-



efficiently did my duty. I never knew an appeal to them for honour, courage or loyalty, that they did not more than realise my highest expectations. If ever the hour of real danger should come to England, they will be found the Country's sheet anchor".

In 1827 The Duke of Clarence, later William IV, presented Colours to the Royal Marines Divisions at Woolwich, Chatham, Portsmouth and Plymouth and, "Due to the greatness of the number of actions to be considered, and the difficulty of selecting amongst so many glorious deeds such a portion as could be inserted in the space", said that "His Majesty chose as their badge 'The Great Globe itself'." He further directed that "Whatever King or Queen they might serve hereafter, though the cypher of the reigning Sovereign must appear on the Standard in those of the Royal Marines the cypher GR IV was forever to appear". His Royal Highness added that the single battle honour "Gibraltar" was to be worn in memory of the achievements of the Marines there. At the same time the motto "Per mare per terram" was approved, as being the most appropriate to their roles afloat and ashore.

Information supplied by Bill Howie, Lodge Secretary.

LIBERTAS SECUNDA

Libertas Secunda Lodge No.6433

From time to time before the Second World War some of the Brethren of the Lodge of



Freedom No.77 considered founding an offshoot to their Mother Lodge. They were deterred only by their reluctance to have their Masonic energies diverted from the Lodge they so deeply venerated.

Towards the end of 1946, however, Lodge No.77 had increased its membership to such an extent that it was denying many Masons the opportunity to progress at a reasonable speed to Mastership. A new Lodge was definitely needed. The final incentive came from Grand Lodge itself, which declared that it favoured the formation of new Lodges rather than increasing membership of existing ones.

Two fundamental objects were kept firmly in mind by the Founder Members: firstly, the desire to perpetuate the “Freedom” Ritual in their Ceremonies, and secondly that the Title, Banner and Crest of the new Lodge should indicate its heritage and reflect the period of its foundation.

As the earliest Lodge in Gravesend, Lodge 77 became the parent of many new Lodges, but these all use the “Emulation” form of Ritual and neither in their titles nor in their design of Crest did they indicate their parentage.

The Title “Libertas Secunda” (Second Freedom), while being topical, is also an indication of the source of adoption. The date 1751 implies that the Lamp, emblematically lit by the Lodge of Freedom No.77, commemorates the abolition of slavery in that year; and the “liberated slave”, taken from the central feature of the Banner of Lodge 77, connotes this “first freedom”. The broken chain encircling the Globe refers to the freeing of the world by the United Nations from a more recent tyranny. The Motto “Labor ipse voluptas” (Work itself is a pleasure) signifies the delight found by the Brethren in the Ceremonies of the Craft, where all, despite the variety of their daily avocations, can unite in the one “grand design”.

From a document supplied by Peter Bearman, Lodge Secretary.

MAEIDES STANA

Maeides Stana Lodge No.7868



Maeides Stana Lodge takes its name from the Anglo-Saxon name for Maidstone - and is thought to refer to a meeting place. Saxons in 975 referred to the area as 'de maeides stana' and 'maegdan stane', which is thought to mean 'stone/meeting place of the maidens': this could be referring to the nearby megalith Kit's Coty House.

The name developed further after being recorded in the Domesday Book as Medestan/ Meddestane, then into Maidstone in 1610.

Maeides Stana Lodge was consecrated in 1963.

In May 1962 the application to form a new Lodge in Maidstone was submitted: "The name we are desirous of adopting is: *De Maeides Stana Lodge*". We explained that this was the old Saxon name for Maidstone, taken from the Book of Saxon Charters edited by W. de Grey Birch.

In October 1962 J.W. Stubbs, Grand Secretary, advised that the "De" in the name was only a preposition and not really a part of the Saxon name for Maidstone. The Founders therefore dropped it, having considered meanwhile the alternative "Lodge de Maeides Stana". There are no records to explain the final removal of the "De".

The following month the Grand Secretary stated, "The M.W. The Grand Master is pleased to accede to the prayer of the petition for the proposed Maeides Stana Lodge No.7868".

The Lodge meets at the Maidstone Masonic Centre. It practises the Stability Ritual.

Information supplied by Paul Routley, Lodge Secretary.

NORE COMMAND

Nore Command Lodge No.9199.

When the foundation of the Lodge was mooted in 1986, several suggestions were made regarding its name.



It was felt that the Lodge name should reflect its location. The Isle of Sheppey and Queenborough Lodges already existed, so Harry Sellen suggested that a name reflecting the Island's naval history and heritage might be appropriate. After some discussion, the name Nore Command Lodge was chosen.

The Nore is a sandbank at the mouth of the Thames Estuary. It marks the point where the River Thames meets the North Sea, roughly halfway between Havengore Creek in Essex and Warden Point on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent.

Until 1964 it marked the seaward limit of the Port of London Authority. As the sandbank was a major hazard for shipping coming in and out of London, in 1732 it received the world's first lightship. This became a major landmark and was used as an assembly point for shipping. Today it is marked by Sea Reach No. 1 Buoy.

The Nore gives its name to the two anchorages: the Great Nore, used by the Royal Navy's North Sea Fleet, and the Little Nore, lying between the wreck of the ammunition ship the Richard Montgomery, which sank in 1944, and Garrison Point, Sheerness, used by ships awaiting passage to Sheerness, Ridham and Chatham.

It was the setting for the notorious Nore mutiny during which, in June 1797, the lightship was briefly extinguished by the Brethren of Trinity House to foil the attempts of the mutineers to take the rebel ships out of the Thames. The lightship was moved two miles to the east in 1925 and was replaced by a light buoy in the 1970s.

The Nore Command, the administrative area of Commander-in Chief, Nore, had various appellations between 1695 and 1971, after which, following the closure of Chatham Naval Base, it was replaced by that of Flag Officer, Medway .

From the earliest times, the sea areas covered ran from Shoreham on the south coast to Great Yarmouth, but during World War One, with the increased importance of the Dover Straits as a means of combatting the threat of invasion as well as the importance of supplying the armies on the Western Front, the Dover Strait became a separate command, and the sea area of the Nore then ran from North Foreland (Ramsgate) to the Humber.

Information supplied by Malcolm Brooks and Paul Pavitt.

PER MARE PER TERRAM

Per Mare Per Terram Lodge No.3609.

Founded in 1912, the Lodge name is taken from the Latin motto of the Royal Marines Corps and is believed to have been first used by the Corps in 1775. The motto translates into English as “By Sea By Land” and describes the Royal Marines’ ability to fight both on board ships of the Royal Navy as well as ashore in their many engagements.



The Per Mare Per Terram Lodge was originally set up for non-commissioned Officers of the Royal Marines based in Chatham Dockyard. There are several Lodges with the same name and background in the United Kingdom.

The Lodge Banner contains the cap badge of the Corps which includes a reference to Gibraltar. It was during the War of the Spanish Succession that the most historic achievement of the Royal Marines took place - the capture of the mole during the assault on Gibraltar (sailors of the Royal Navy captured the Rock itself) in 1704.

Information supplied by Colin Barden, Lodge Secretary.

“Beach Huts”

by

Andrew Berry



THE THIRD PROVINCIAL GRAND CHALLENGE



Graham Chisnell (pictured) writes:

Provincial Grand Challenges are a means to connect Brethren during Lockdown in a fun and engaging way. We have now concluded our Third Provincial Grand Challenge. Members of the Education and Welfare Support Group would wish to thank everyone for their participation and positive comments on this and previous Challenges.

The Third Provincial Grand Challenge asked Masons to create an acrostic phrase based on a Masonic word. [An acrostic is a poem, word puzzle, or other composition in which certain letters in each line form a word or words.]

This Challenge was not easy - it wouldn't have been a challenge otherwise! The judging panel extend their congratulations to all participants for the varied and skilfully crafted submissions received - even those responsible for a slight "blurring of the rules"!

Eight winning entries were selected, one from each of the Province's geographical Groups. Each winner received a Certificate of Commendation signed by the Provincial Grand Master and additionally had the sum of £50 donated in their name to the Province's 2025 Festival.

Entry No. 1: Ian Rowan of Rochester Castle Lodge No.9260

Entry No. 2: Ron Carter of Per Mare Per Terram Lodge No.3609

Entries Nos. 3 and 4: by far the most prodigious puzzlers within the Province were Melvin Hopper and Brian Yates of Queenborough Lodge No.3893. The judging panel thought it appropriate to award a prize to each in recognition of their multiple entries and enthusiastic contribution.

Entry No. 5: Dennis Harrild of Stanley Wykeham Lodge No.6599

Entry No. 6: Andrew Murray of Invicta Lodge of Ashford No.709

Entry No. 7: Brian Wash of Wellington Lodge No.784

Entry No. 8: Colin Aris of St John's Thanet Lodge No.2753

The eight winning acrostic phrases and other entries are available in the YP2 "Your Province" website to download as a flip book.

Entry No 1		Entry No 2	Entry No 3	Entry No 4
E - Exciting N - New T - Talent E - Expectations R - Regarding E - Erudite D - Discourse	A - Actually P - People P - Purely R - Relaxed E - Even N - Normal T - Though I - Incantations C - Can E - Entangle	W - When I - Instructed S - Simply D - Don't O - Open M - Mouth	M - Masons E - Enjoy R - Ritual I - If D - Delivered I - Instructively A - And N - Naturally	F - Fred R - Realised E - Every E - Evening M - Meant A - Another S - Session O - Of N - Nightly R - Ritual. Y - Yabbadabbadoo!
Entry No 5		Entry No 6	Entry No 7	Entry No 8
C - Coronavirus O - Occasioned L - Lodges U - Using M - Meetings N - Not S - Scheduled		P - Peter I - Is L - Learning L - Lots A - About R - Ritual S - Signs	P - Personally R - Receiving O - Our V - Visitors I - Is N - Normally C - Considered I - Important A - At L - Lodge	R - Ritual E - Excellently G - Given A - Always L - Leaves I - Initiates A - Astounded



Photo: Ken Gregory



Photo: Doug Priest

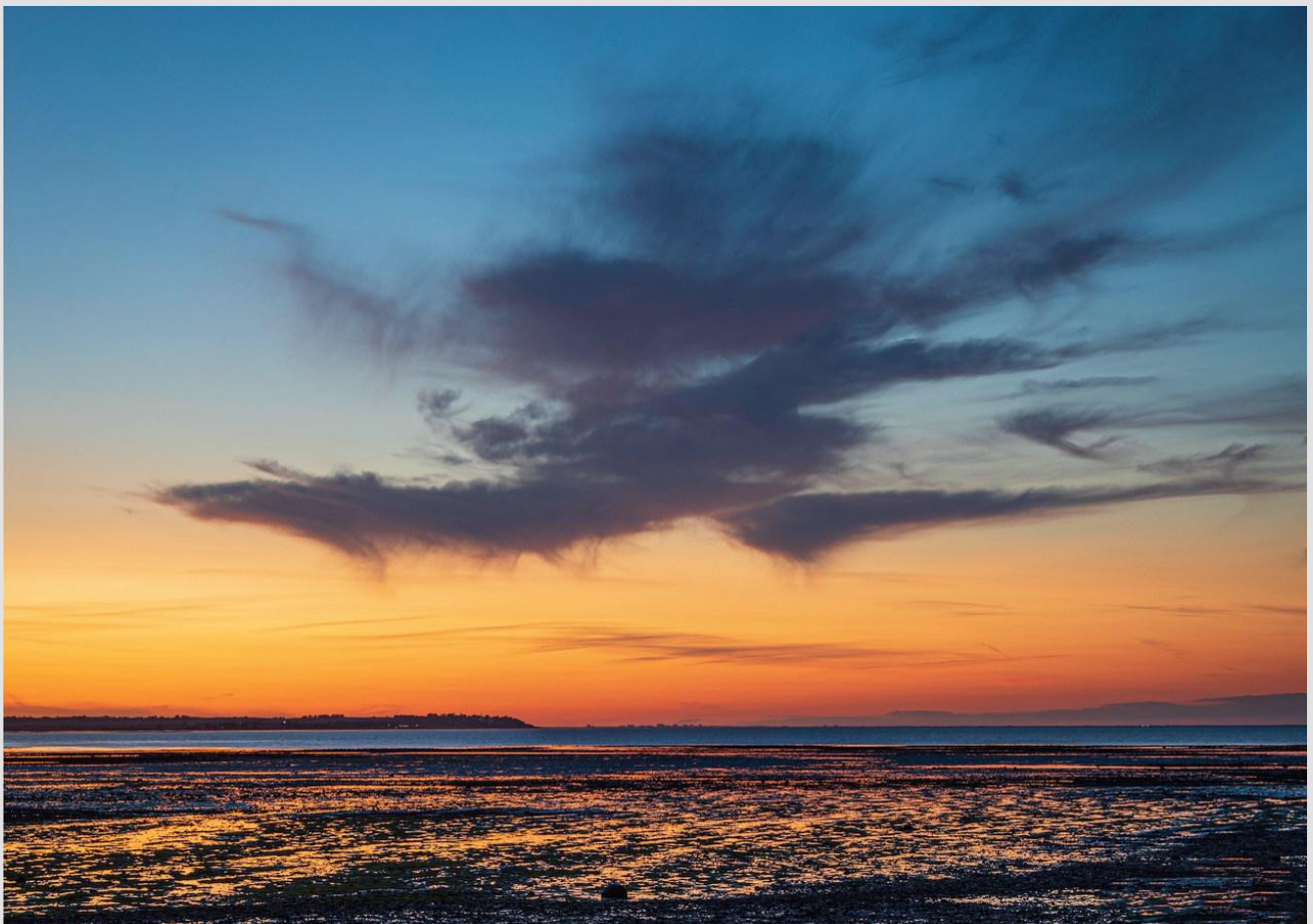
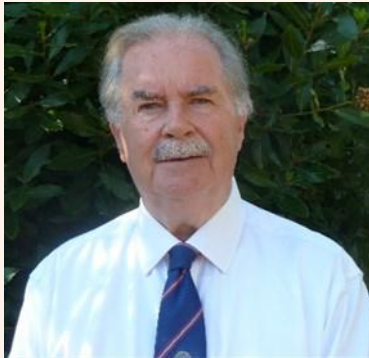


Photo: Phil Nacci



Feel proud to be a Royal Arch Mason

by Terry McGlone
3rd Provincial Grand Principal



Resuming our Masonic lives later in the year is fast becoming a reality. I look forward to seeing you in the Autumn.

Together with Graeme Wyles, Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, and Paul Settle, Provincial Grand Almoner, I have been looking at all aspects of Membership Retention. Our Retention Plan is in place and, in early March, we began to bring it to life.

Our Retention planning is very much focused around working with Chapters. Our first step has been for Graeme and me to contact all Scribes E in our Province. As this goes to print, we have almost completed this part of our Plan. Our thanks to the Scribes for the time they gave us.

The discussions with the Scribes were both productive and enjoyable and created the opportunity to not only share our thoughts and plans for Retention but to hear news from Chapters. We intend to maintain this two-way dialogue.

At the same time, we have been working on the introduction of a series of Forums involving three Companions. The Forums are badged “**Listen & Learn**” – and that is precisely what we want to do: listen to the views of Participants in relation to various topics that are key to our Retention planning and then use that learning to adjust our planning appropriately. Our intention is to run the Forums via ZOOM, starting during April.

So, I truly believe that **working together, listening to and learning from each other** helps us to create an environment enjoyable for all where a Companion can feel proud of being a Royal Arch Mason.

Terry



Working together, listening and learning

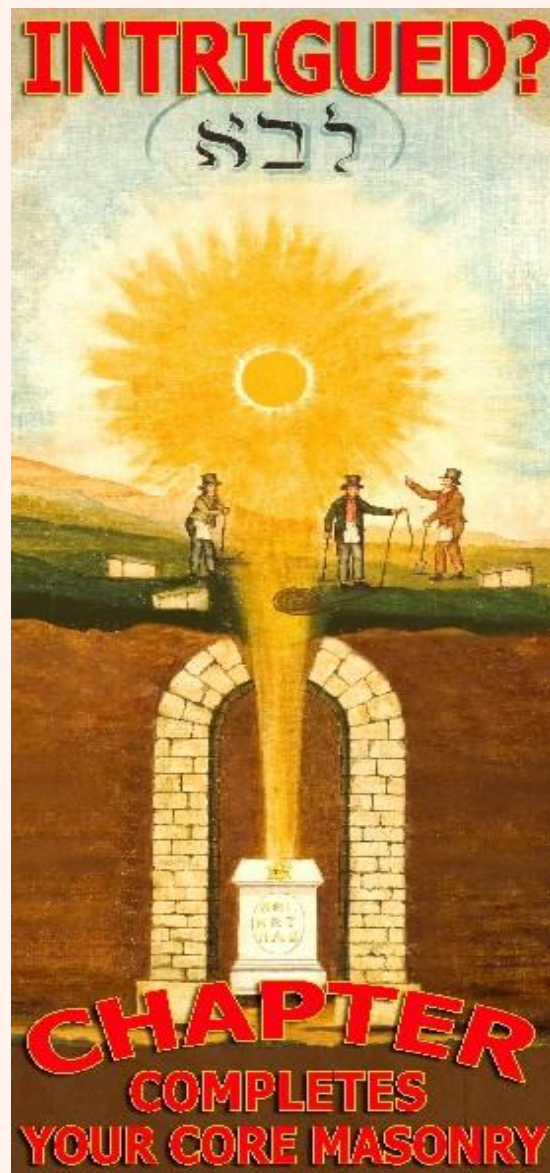


Photo: Jeffrey Shedden



Photo: Ashley Brewin

Thinking about joining the Holy Royal Arch?



What is this Royal Arch? In what sense can it be the completion of pure ancient Freemasonry? On the story level, the Third Degree does not provide the ultimate. We do not receive the *Genuine Secrets* of a Master Mason. We are left with 'Substituted Secrets', which are provided until 'time and circumstance' restore the *Genuine ones* to us. The 'Genuine Secrets' (in several parts) are discovered within the Royal Arch. Are they worth finding? Well - that is a judgement best left to you.

You will never know until you penetrate beyond the veil

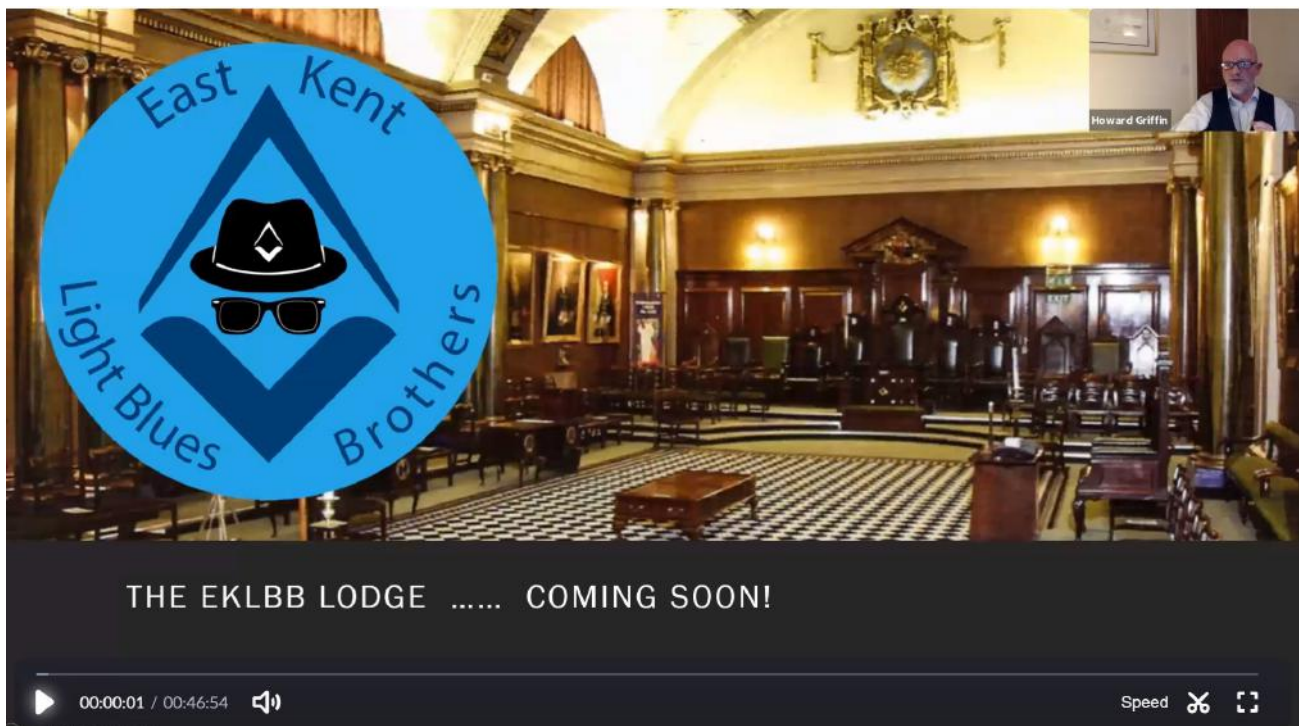
**To join now, email Pat King at patrickking@sky.com
or to re-join, email Terry McGlone at terry.mcglone@sky.com**

EAST KENT LIGHT BLUES BROTHERS GO VIRTUAL

Virtual Lodge of Instruction is part of the Provincial Learning and Development Programme, led by Provincial Education Officer Graham Chisnell, and provides a platform for Masonic learning and development. The sessions have been running since March 2020, from the start of the pandemic lockdown, providing a space where Brethren can meet, albeit virtually, while there are no regular Lodge meetings.

Graham led the session in March 2021, where he welcomed Chair of the East Kent Light Blues Brothers, Howard Griffin, to speak about the formation of the group. Three members of the EKLBB, Andrew Berry, Neil Marshall and Steven Ford, were invited to be placed under the spotlight to speak about their perspective on Freemasonry in the 21st Century. All three spoke eloquently about their experience of the EKLBBs and their journey into Freemasonry.

Howard explained why the EKLBBs were set up and how the group had grown since its inception, with over 220 members currently registered. Graham asked Howard and the EKLBBs about their journey into



Freemasonry. It was clear that there was a key role played by Lodge Mentors in ensuring the new Mason felt welcomed into his Lodge. EKLBBs were also sure that connecting with a group of Masons beyond their Lodge through the social events on offer had brought a greater sense of belonging in the Fraternity, as Brethren built friendships with other Brethren beyond their Mother Lodge. This had led to Brethren visiting Lodges both within their Groups and beyond. It was so heartening to see the EKLBBs thriving and strengthening the fraternal relationships across the Province.

The Light Blues Brothers stated that for Freemasonry to remain relevant in the 21st century it had to remain open-minded. The future was indeed Light Blue!

Graham leads the Virtual Lodge of Instruction every third Thursday of the month from 7:00pm-8:00pm. Future sessions will include a focus on specialist Lodges in East Kent, the First Degree Tracing Board and Masonic memory techniques when learning Ritual. Brethren can sign up to attend the sessions online by following this link:

<https://eastkentfreemason.blogspot.com/2021/03/learning-and-development.html>

If you are a Light Blue Brother and would like to get involved in EKLBBs, please contact the chairman Howard Griffin at chairman@eklbb.org.uk.



RAMBLETHON

Promoted by Minnis Bay Lodge 8496



**SATURDAY
26 JUNE 2021**

This year's charity walk will, where possible, be across the rural public footpaths and bridleways around Thanet. Despite only being a distance of twenty one miles, the circuit calls for strong, supporting walking boots or shoes. A start time of 8am is envisaged with a finish around 3 or 4pm. It will start and finish at the Masonic Hall, Sandles Road, Birchington.

Participants are free to choose their own charity or just do it for self satisfaction.

The £10 entry fee, is payable in advance to allow for catering. It covers the rental of the venue and the wonderful finger buffet afterwards. Guests are welcome to meet the walkers on their return, but if they wish to partake of the buffet a charge of £7 per person applies, booked and paid for in advance only. The Hall bar will be open for cheap drinks from around 2.30pm in readiness for the walkers' return.

For further details or to book for the event please contact John Matthews on:-
Mobile: 07711 873770 or Email: j.a.w.matthews@gmail.com

ACORNS AND OAKS: HOW TO MAKE YOUR LODGE GROW



Assistant Provincial Grand Master Mark Costelloe writes:

In 1716, four Lodges met at the Apple Tree Tavern in Covent Garden and agreed to meet again the next year to form a "Grand Lodge". These four Lodges, the Goose and Gridiron, the Crown, the Apple Tree, and the Rummer and Grapes held an assembly at the Goose and Gridiron, in St Paul's Churchyard, on 24th June 1717.

From small acorns do mighty oaks grow. With the passing of time, just over 300 years, we as Freemasons have adapted and moulded our wonderful society to meet the needs of our members in an ever-changing and challenging world.

In the 1920s our membership in England and Wales was roughly 200,000. In the 1970s this rose to around 300,000. Since that period there has been a steady decline in numbers and so we find that in just fifty years we are reduced by a third to roughly 200,000 once again.

The COVID pandemic has given us time to reflect and take stock, not only of where we are now but also of where we want to be in the future. If we are to reverse these trends it is imperative that we adapt once again, in order to meet the needs of our current and future membership.

How, I hear you ask, are we to do this? Well Brethren, the 'Members Pathway' provides the solution. It gives us the DNA, the building blocks required to secure our future. We just need to embrace it.

Consider then your 'Lodge Profile' as the acorn from which your Membership will grow. From this one important document will spring your 'Lodge Plan': a Vision for the Future, not a reflection of the Past, not what you were as a Lodge but what you are now and – critically - where are you going.

This Plan cannot be the brainchild of any one person. Each Plan will be different from another and requires a 'buy-in' from all Lodge members. Fundamental questions need to be answered to put that Plan in place – and, more importantly, to put it into action.

Ask yourselves these questions:

1. What is the make-up of our Lodge?
2. What are our members' hobbies and interests?
3. How can we raise our Lodge profile in our local community?
4. What contacts do we have in the community?
5. Whom do we support from a charitable perspective?
6. Would we be better working with one or two charities to raise our profile?
7. Do we have a Lodge website? What about an open Facebook page?
8. If someone is interested in Freemasonry, how do they know we exist?
9. What's our USP – our Unique Selling Point? Why us?
10. Where can we look to engage and maximise the opportunity to attract new members? How can we do this? Who will do it?
11. What changes would our current members like to see? Have we asked them?
12. What is our Succession Plan within the Lodge? Who would like to do what and when?
13. We know there will be a UGLE Marketing Campaign in the autumn: are we as a Lodge match-fit?
14. If potential Candidates are directed our way, are we ready?
15. Should we appoint a small committee to interview potential Candidates? What questions shall we ask to make sure they are right for our Lodge?
16. Do we have a Lodge Membership officer? Lodge Mentor? Do we understand their roles? How can we support them going forward?

Once you have answered these questions you will have the basis of a Lodge Plan. It is an evolving document designed for continual review. Most importantly it will give you the focus required to define the destiny of your Lodge.

The Members Pathway will be re-launched across all Provinces in the autumn of 2021. Help will be on hand for every Lodge that wants it - but it is up to each Lodge to take control of their future. If you sit back and wait for the miracle to happen, you do so at your peril. Your Lodge Plan is your acorn.



Brethren: it is time to plant that oak tree.

THE FIRST ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS IN KENT

An edited Extract from 'Royal Arch Masonry in Kent 1778-1977' written by Ernest Dudley Yarnold Grasby, MD, FRCOG, who was at the time Deputy Grand Superintendent of East Kent (1977-1981)



Records exist of only four Royal Arch Chapters in the County of Kent in the 18th Century: the Holy Mount Moriah Chapter No.36, the Concord Chapter No.38, the Hope Chapter No.49 and the Hermes Chapter No.77. There were however Military Lodges in Kent holding meetings under what were known as Ambulatory Warrants and these, it is known, were practising Royal Arch Masonry as early as 1769 and before our first Grand Superintendent was appointed in 1778.

The Holy Mount Moriah Chapter No.36 was founded under a Warrant dated June 1783, granted to George Washington, Edward Crowhurst and William Cachet to meet at the Sun Tavern (later the Sun Hotel) in Chatham on the 4th Sunday in January, February, March, October, November and December. The last Exalte was John Freer on the 29th October 1819.



The Royal Kent Chapter No.20 also met at Chatham, but there is no date of Consecration - if indeed Chapters were Consecrated in those days; nor is there any evidence or date of a Warrant, although Chapter Warrants were first issued in 1769. However, there is a list of nine Petitioners and names of Exaltees, most of whom were from the 'Royal Kent Lodge of Antiquity No.20', for the years 1817, 1818 and 1819. The last entry was that of John Freer, Surgeon, exalted on the 29th October 1819, the same name as that of the Exalte in the Holy Mount Moriah Chapter on the same day!!!



The Royal Kent Arch Chapter of Antiquity No.20 was a new Chapter under a Charter dated 7th May 1845. Only one of the nine Petitioners was from Lodge No.20. The others came from Madras (1). Gravesend (5), Scotland (1), and Plymouth (1), but the Exaltees came from Lodge No.20. The Chapter meets in Chatham to this day. Although it cannot claim direct descent from the Holy Mount Moriah Chapter of 1783, the association with the original Chatham Royal Arch Masons must have been long and continuous.

The Chapter of Concord No.38 was founded in October 1783 and met on the second Sunday in each month at the Sun Tavern in Canterbury. The Warrant was granted to William Apps, Thomas Lowen and Edward Smith, and the first fifteen names are those of Brethren from the Industrious Lodge No.31 of Canterbury. The Jewels on the Collars of the Officers of the Bertha Chapter No.31, whose Warrant is dated 1877, are considered to have belonged to the Chapter of Concord. The Royal Arch Banner, on loan to the Museum, can certainly be dated to the latter part of the 18th Century and in all probability belonged to the Chapter of Concord.



The Chapter of Hope No.49 was founded in 1787, the founders having applied for a Constitution or Warrant on the 13th October 1786. The Chapter, now known as the St George's Chapter No.140, possesses what must be extremely rare: ALL the Minute Books since its Foundation and a complete record of its activities. Although it now meets at Freemason's Hall, it originally met at the King's Arms, Back Lane, Deptford, and remained a Kent Chapter until 1913.

The Hermes Chapter No.77 has the distinction of being the oldest Chapter now in Kent. It first met in Grays Thurrock, Essex, moving to Kent in 1815, where it has been ever since. The Warrant, dated the 28th October 1798, was granted to George Downing, 'Z', John Burch, 'H', and Christopher Cuppage, 'J', to meet at the King's Head, Grays, Essex. George Downing was the Provincial Grand Master of Essex at the time, and there appears to have been no other Founder! From its Foundation the Chapter was closely associated with the then Lodge of United Friendship No.6284 and with the Lodge of Freedom No.77, both of Gravesend, and exalted many of its Brethren. It was not surprising therefore, that in 1815 the Chapter moved across the water to Kent, to meet at the George Inn, Gravesend.



Tragedy struck the Chapter in 1847 when the Warrant, records and much regalia were destroyed by fire and the Chapter had to petition Supreme Grand Chapter praying that a Charter of Confirmation be granted. The minutes of Grand Chapter record that the request was granted and a new Warrant, dated 5th May, 1847, was supplied.

In 1863, with the renumbering of Lodges and Chapters, the Hermes Chapter and the Lodge of Freedom both received the new number 77, which they retain to this day.

The Chapter held an Emergency Meeting in 1870 to discuss the formation of a Provincial Grand Chapter for Kent – the summons calling this meeting is the first still extant in the Chapter's records – and Hermes took an active part in its Inauguration.

Hermes has met at Sidcup for many years and is now in the West Kent Province although it is associated with East Kent – a relatively small matter when the great antiquity of these distinguished Masonic bodies is remembered, and a sure indication of the harmony that happily exists within our two Provinces.



WHAT HAS THE CEKFC BEEN UP TO?



Steve Salisbury (pictured) writes:

Whilst we have been away from our normal routines for over a year it is reassuring to know that the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity has not slumbered. Indeed, the Charity has been responding in as little as two hours to the needs and petitions we received for help. During the eye of the Pandemic several organisations have benefitted in what has been the cruellest of times.

Last year, Provincial Grand Master Neil Johnstone and the CEKFC made available over £50,000 to be distributed equally across the eight Groups within the Province. Each Group was tasked with supporting local organisations responding to the needs of others during the Lockdown measures. This local knowledge led to us supporting a wide variety of beneficiaries including foodbanks, counselling services, Porchlight and other homeless organisations, the Samaritans, the Salvation Army, Mind centres, PPE manufacturers and a whole host of others all committed to serving local communities the best they could in the circumstances.

Just before Christmas CEKFC responded rapidly to a petition from the Salvation Army to help them provide food and drink for European lorry drivers stranded on the M20. News of this act reached Estonia, the home country of several of the drivers, where candles were lit in thanks. On the next page is the full story as featured in *Freemasonry Today*.



PSA HOME TESTING

PSA Testing (to screen for prostate cancer) is an important step for all men over forty years old. Because the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity values the welfare and health of its members, it has negotiated a significant reduction and a subsidy to allow home testing kits for this year. Several Brethren have benefitted from an early diagnosis and treatment as a result of testing days. The last event took place in 2019 where 268 members were tested and thirteen red results were recorded and treated. In the period of the lockdown, technology moved on and The Doctors Laboratory (TDL) developed in conjunction with The Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) a 'Home Testing' Kit, which is available now for all men over forty who wish to have the test. Contact the CEKFC for further information.

FMT Freemasonry Today Volunteers Driving Forward to Help



The Salvation Army has been working with the emergency services to provide welfare support for a number of stranded lorry drivers caught up in severe traffic delays at Dover and the surrounding areas.

As the situation unfolded and with many lorry drivers unable to return to their loved ones for Christmas, the Freemasons of East Kent were delighted to supply an early Christmas present of £1,000. This money was donated to the Salvation Army local South East team who have already been supplying food boxes to the stranded lorry drivers.

The Head of Group 7, Stephen Salisbury, which covers the Dover area, aware of local masons' concern for the drivers, was quick to react to support the Salvation Army in their work of supplying food and said:

'The money is part of a Relief Fund provided by the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity. The money will help to sustain the Salvation Army in supplying food parcels to the stranded lorry drivers especially over the Christmas period. In these difficult times, we are only too pleased to be able to help and support our local communities and of courses people who find themselves in need'.

Mark Bassant of the Cornwallis Charity said:

'Day to day, Freemasons are among the biggest charitable donors in the UK. East Kent has nearly 6,000 members and 30 centres from Gravesend to Margate and across to New Romney; and whilst the lorry congestion is now ended, it is nice to know that we were able to help in the relief operation'.



Monday, 15 February 2021

Deal Freemasons funding free cooked meals for those in need

You often get more done if you pool resources. Back in April last year, Colin Tonks, Almoner and Charity Steward of the Wellington Lodge in Deal, Kent was thinking along those lines. The COVID-19 pandemic was creating difficulty and hardship in the area and demands on the local food bank were growing fast. The food bank was providing tins of food and other ingredients, but more was needed. People wanted ready meals.

'What if we all got together and got something going for local people?' thought Colin.

Freemasons in Deal and Sandwich were contacted and responded immediately. Caterers at Masonic Centres were feeling the pinch under COVID-19 restrictions, but Deal's Terry Price, Catering Manager at River Catering, was ready to cook and was provided with the necessary funds. Local farmers C J Bean & Sons were happy to supply vegetables for free. The Deal food bank initiative was born. Twenty nourishing meals of bangers & mash and cottage pie, each with a healthy dollop of vegetables, were cooked, frozen, packaged up and delivered to Deal Food Bank twice a week from April to October.

Following their success, in the autumn Deal Freemasons dug deep into their pockets again and turned their attention to Linwood Under Fives Playgroup, Victoria Memorial Hospital and local charity United Families, funding and providing frozen ready meals to all three organisations – and they still do so today.

Says Colin, 'We are particularly keen to see that children are well provided for and we will continue to give as much as we can and obtain extra funding if possible to help us meet our goal.'

Tenterden Town, Kent
& East Sussex Railway,
by C Burnikell



Canal, by David Hare

SHENANIGANS AT THE EAST KENT PROVINCIAL BAKE-OFF

It's here – the inside, irreverent, story, revealed by **Terry Perkins** (who else?).

When a certain Hillbilly (aka Tony Kitchen) who happened to reside in the Stockbroker belt of Selling in the heart of the Garden of England suggested a Masonic Bake-Off to a group of Masons wandering around aimlessly at home, the Gauntlet was well and truly flung down and fire burned in the well-formed bellies of numerous Paul-Hollywood-aspiring Pastry Chefs.

As you might expect, **Tony "Vic Sponge" Kitchen** was heavily involved. His wife Tina took up the challenge of judging the entries – her methodology, it is alleged, being similar to an assassin on speed with a tongue as sharp as the razor wire around Piers Morgan's abode. Needless to say, her verdict would be final, despite several embarrassingly blatant attempts at downright grovelling by some of the contestants for her much-coveted High Marks.

Trevor "Chef de Cuisine" Carter delved into his French "Faire la Cuisine" but unfortunately his offerings were akin to a Barbecue Catastrophe - despite his having the advantage of residing within the French Quarter of Sittingbourne and being influenced by some of our former EU partners and La Manche neighbours. He was sadly lacking any Blanc, Christophe or Ducasse influence and struggled with his supposed speciality, a Flan Parisien (Custard Tart to you and me) which originally had a crust but which was hastily removed costing him the chances of any Entente Cordiale. Alas, it was far from a French Classic.

Then there was **Bob "Bodger" Davidson**, likened to a sparrow on a railway line, here one minute, gone the next. We all had high hopes of Bobby. He had one decent attempt but having devoured that with some gusto it was rumoured he couldn't take on any more ballast and was never seen again.

As you may know, I am a pretty modest chap. Nevertheless, I am obliged to tell you that I entered the fray being an expert in Pastries and ran away with the first two Bake-Offs, enhancing the Perkins Patisserie reputation. Mind you, the nearest I'll get to anything Michelin is washing the wheels on the Motor.

Finally, as Bradley Walsh might say, "if you think you're good enough, come and have a go". Look out on our Province's Facebook site for future Bake-Offs. All entry money goes towards the Province's 2025 Festival. You can't be fairer than that!

Here, for your exclusive use, and never published before, is the Recipe for one of my winning entries: Walnut Cake. Note that the ingredients are in imperial measurements: they always taste better that way.

Ingredients

4 oz Margarine, 3 oz Sugar, 1 tblsp. Golden Syrup, 2 Eggs, 6 oz SR Flour, 1 tblsp. Milk, 2 oz Chopped Walnuts.

Mix Margarine, sugar and syrup until light and creamy.

Beat in the eggs with a little flour.

Gradually add remaining flour, milk and nuts.

Spread mixture into greased and floured 7-inch cake tin.

Bake in moderate oven (325-350 F, gas mark 3-4) for about 1 hour.

When cold, slit and sandwich with coffee butter, decorate top with white glacé icing and half nuts.

Butter icing

2 oz Butter or Margarine, 4 oz sieved Icing Sugar, Flavouring and Colouring as required.

Cream fat, gradually add icing sugar and cream.

Add Flavouring and Colouring.

If you've got it right, it should look like this. **Bon appétit!**



SIXTY YEARS FOR ROGER HAMMOND

Have a look at page sixteen of last December's Provincial Magazine (issue 71) and you will see that sixty-three Long Service Certificates were issued for the twelve months ending 31st October 2020. This is the highest number your Editor can recall, and a positive reflection of the longevity of our fellow Brethren and Companions.



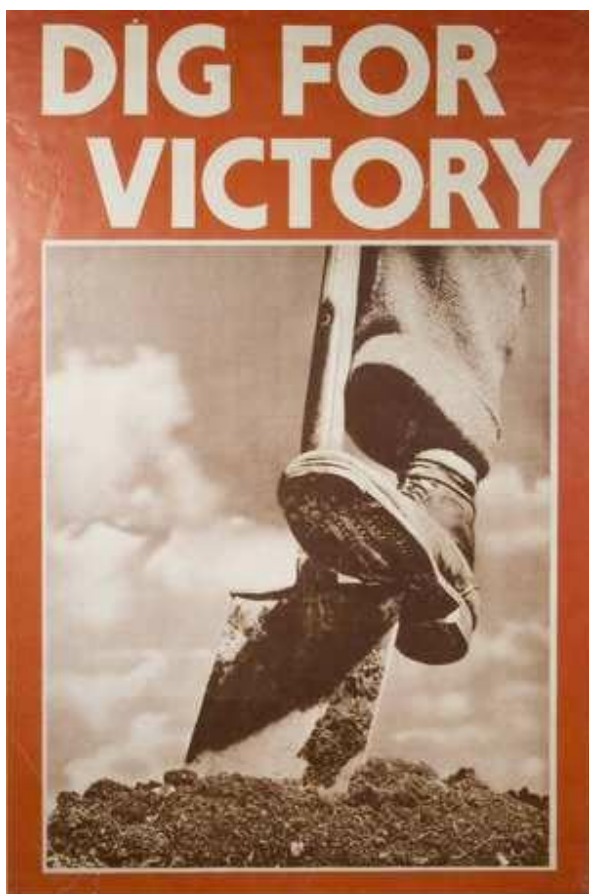
Behind every entry in the list there is a man who has already lived a long life and doubtless has many a tale to tell. So, rather than concentrate on his Masonic career, Roger Hammond (pictured) of the Macartney Lodge No.3283, who has been a Freemason for over sixty years, gives us a little insight into the background that shaped him.

In his early years Roger lived with his parents above a Radio and Bicycle shop run by his uncle. Roger's mother worked in the shop. Roger's father had a pilot's licence, and in 1939 applied to join the RAF. Unfortunately, he failed the medical because he had to wear glasses. Instead, he got a job in the Ex-

perimental Department of Essex Aero, based in Gravesend.

Shorts of Rochester were building the Sunderland Flying Boats but were having problems getting them in the air with a full tank of fuel. A full load of fuel was essential – therefore the aircraft themselves would have to be lighter. The fuel tanks were made of aluminium, but valuable weight savings were made by constructing them in Elektron. Roger's father discovered a method of welding them without setting fire to the material.





Roger's father was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1943, aged 33. Shortly afterwards Roger, his mother and sister Jennifer moved to Watling Street in Dartford. Their large garden was planted out with vegetables as part of the national Dig for Victory campaign.

Sometime later, Roger's maternal grandparents came to live with them. Roger clearly remembers their arrival: Grandad, an asthmatic, covered in soot, and Grandma nursing a sore back: an incendiary bomb had dropped down their chimney and caused a door to hit Grandma in the back.

Grandma and Grandad both died the following year, so the family, struggling financially, let the house out and moved back to the flat above the shop. At that time there was a shortage of prams, so they employed a Green Line bus driver to restore old prams in between his shifts. Roger ad-

mired his expertise and would watch him for hours. The driver and Roger's mother eventually married.

Roger decided to follow in his father's footsteps and become a welder. He learnt his trade from the son of a friend of his father and finished his Apprenticeship at the age of twenty-one. His step-father had a Garage which his mother now ran.



Roger had learnt Servicing and Vehicle Body Work at college, and now worked at the garage. He remembers a friend coming in with his new vehicle which

he had damaged and wanted repaired before his father found out! Roger obliged. He enjoyed doing it and decided that body work was much more interesting than servicing!

Continued overleaf →

One day, another Green Line bus driver came to visit Roger's stepfather. Says Roger, "they went into a huddle to discuss what he had come for. It turned out he wanted to change shifts, to enable him to go to his 'Lodge Meeting'. My stepfather of course agreed. After the other driver had left, I asked who he was and he replied, 'he is a Mason'. At the time I did not know what a Ma-



son was. Later on, we discussed it indoors. My mother said, 'they do a lot of Charity Work'. I thought no more about it.

"The next week he came again. I asked, 'do you want to see my Dad?' He said, 'No - it is you I want to speak to'. His name was Charles Foreman. Meanwhile my mother had told me that my father had been for an interview with the Masons when we lived at Dartford. I presume this was just prior to his accident. Charles asked what I wanted to do in my life. I told him, 'Get married, have children, expand my Business and join Masonry'."



Charles asked Roger what he knew about Masonry. The answer: nothing. Roger understood that his father had been interviewed, and "what was good enough for him was good enough for me". The next week Charles was accompanied by one Ernest Herbert. Ernest told Roger that Charles was prepared to propose him into their Lodge, Macartney No.3283 in Gravesend, and that he, Ernest, would second him. Roger went to the interview in best bib and tucker and was duly accepted. He was initiated into the Lodge in 1960.

Roger has since proved to be a valuable member of the Lodge, having served twice as Master and five years as Secretary. He was also Chairman of the Gravesend Board of Directors for some fifteen years.

From Grand Lodge:

"One of the oldest social and charitable organisations in the world, Freemasonry's roots lie in the traditions of the medieval stonemasons who built our cathedrals and castles.

"Membership is open to people from all backgrounds and the organisation's aim is to empower members to be the best they can be – it's about building character, supporting members as individuals and helping them make a positive contribution to society."



Photo: Doug Priest

NUMBERS UP FOR SEPTEM LODGE

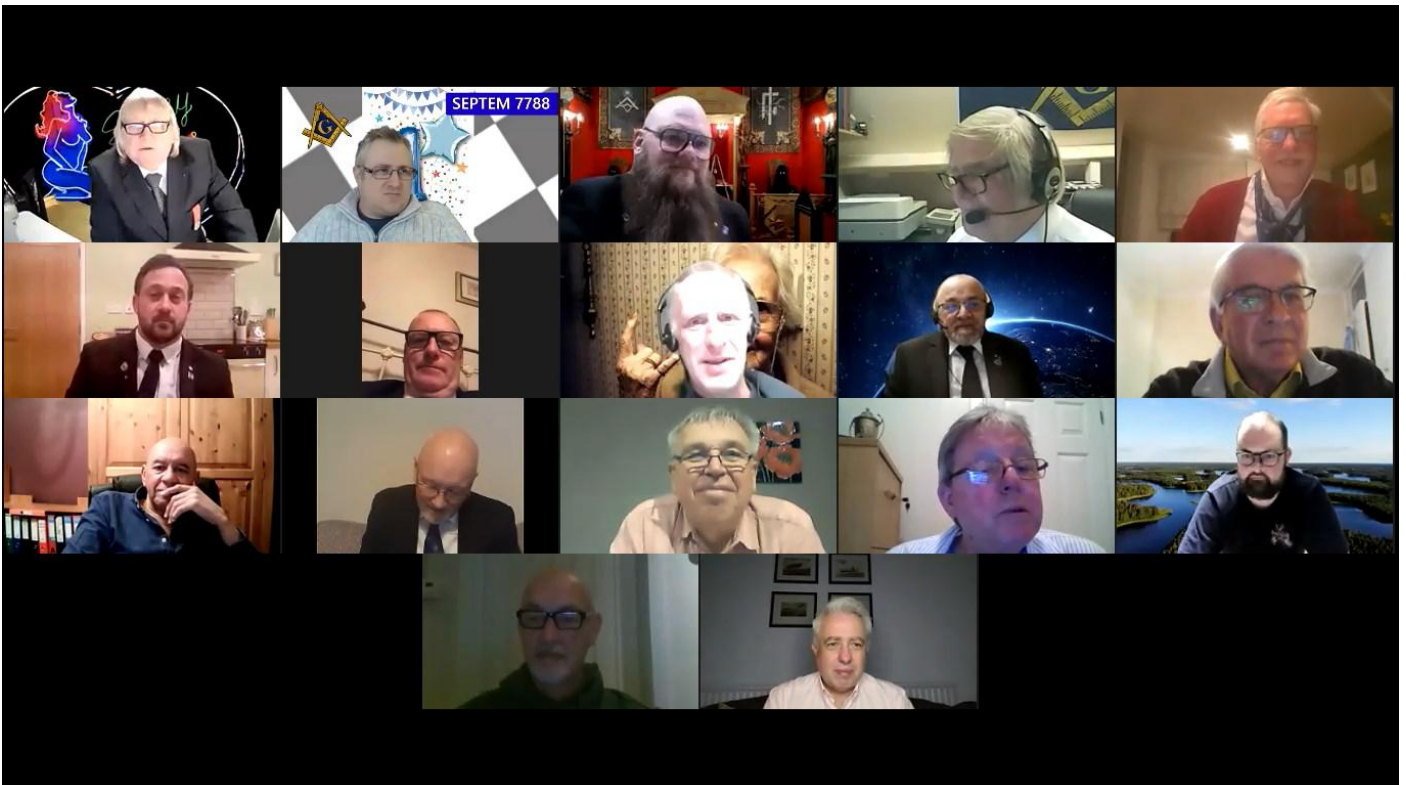
Freemasons like to have FUN. And we're nothing if not an inventive bunch.

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

During their 50th weekly Zoom Social meeting, Members of Septem Lodge asked if they could do something special to celebrate the First Anniversary of those meetings.

They decided that it would be great idea to hold a 'Virtual' Raffle with members donating prizes and purchasing tickets. Kevin Kemp became the co-ordinator of the event and invited John Miller to be the event organiser. Both Kevin and John then began scratching their heads as to how a 'Virtual' raffle would work.

Kevin e-mailed the Members of the Lodge as well as a couple of regular Visitors to the Zoom calls to see if they would be willing to support the event by donating prizes. Within a couple of days, to their surprise, as many as eighteen prizes had been donated. The Brethren had been extremely generous: all that was needed now was to sell tickets.

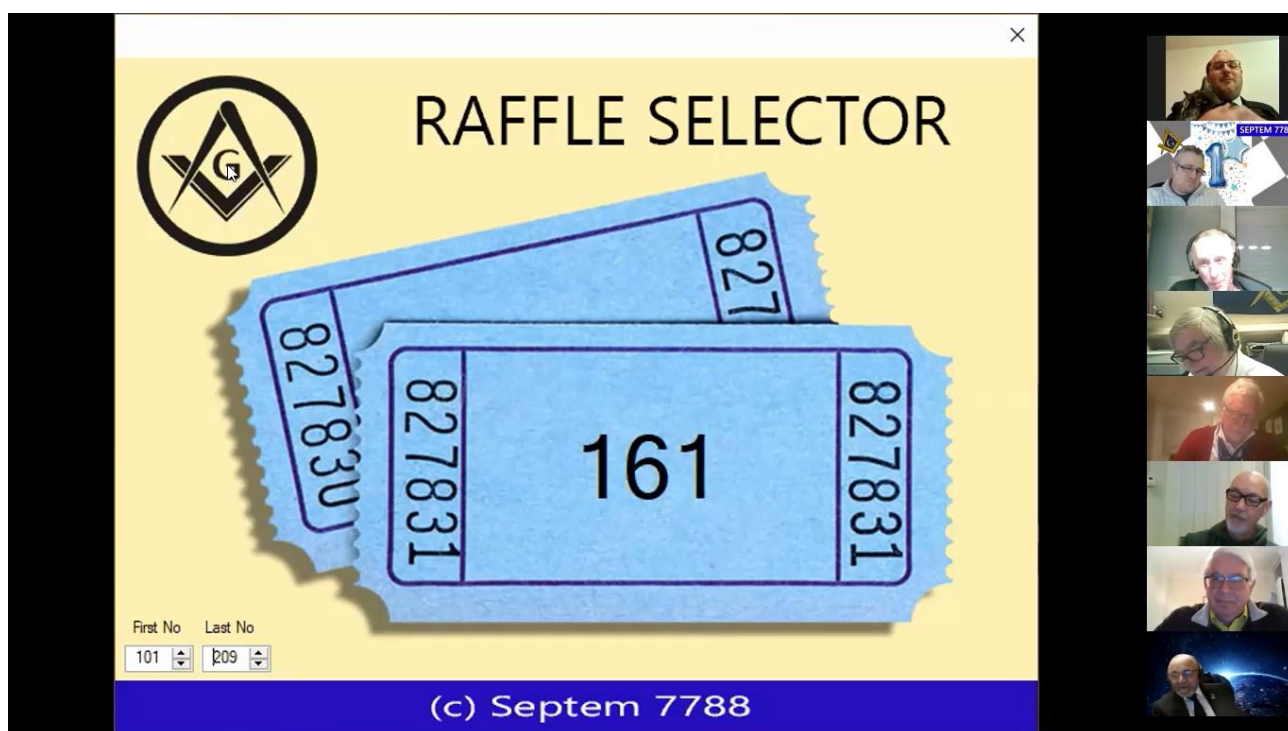


It could be YOU. Or possibly HIM. Surely not that chap in the centre of the third row? On the other hand ... The tension mounts.

Kevin had a bright idea: how about an automatic ticket generator? The screen could be shared live during the Zoom call and the automatic ticket generator could draw the winning tickets.

But where to get an electronic ticket generator? Up stepped young Jason Kemp. Jason wrote some computer code - and the ticket generator was born. All that was needed now was to input the number of tickets sold, the starting number and the end number, and one click would enable the winning ticket numbers to be randomly generated. John would be responsible for allocating the number on the tickets and allocate the prizes while Kevin would share his screen so that all the Brethren on the call could see the winning numbers being drawn.

So, on Friday evening, 12th March 2021, Members and Guests entered the Zoom meeting and joined in the fun.



The system worked so well that the Lodge decided to use it in future at the Festive Board. It would make the whole raffle process quicker and more efficient, especially with the sale of laminated tickets.

The Lodge would like to extend its thanks to all who donated prizes for this raffle, as well as to all who supported the raffle by purchasing tickets.

Septem Lodge Members are proud to announce that the raffle raised £545 which will go towards the Lodge's contribution to the Province's 2025 Festival.

FREEMASONS TAKE LEAD ROLE IN NHS FRONTLINE WORKERS' DAY

The inaugural celebration of NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day is set to take place on Monday 5th July 2021 - and Freemasons will be playing a leading role in the Event!

The United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) is inviting our 200,000 members to fly specially designed flags at 10am on that day, to celebrate the NHS, social care and all those who work on the front line and who have saved so many lives during the pandemic. The celebration will also remember those workers we sadly lost.



Also playing a major role will be the Cadet Forces, English Heritage and the Women's Institute. A £5 donation from every flag and length of bunting made will be equally divided between NHS Charities Together and the National Care Association.

Freemasonry for Women and the Order of Women Freemasons have also joined UGLE in this initiative, as we aim to set a record for the number of flags raised simultaneously across the country.

At 11am there will be a minute's silence to remember NHS workers and all those who have died from Covid-19. The day continues with a toast to the NHS at 1pm, raising a cuppa to the NHS during afternoon tea at 3pm, followed by an address to the nation at 6pm.

At 8pm, the Freemasons will join the nation in an evening clap for NHS workers, while church bells will ring seventy-three times to celebrate the seventy-three years of the NHS. Closing the celebrations at 9pm, there will be a "timetotoast" for all NHS workers.

Bruno Peek, pageant master to the Queen and creator of NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day, said: “We are delighted that Freemasons, whose members come from all walks of life, are playing such a high profile and active role to start this special day of celebration and commemoration of those within the NHS, Social Care and on the Frontline who undertake so much for us all, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week and fifty two weeks a year, without any thought of their own safety.”

UGLE’s Chief Executive Dr David Staples said:

“We are facing the greatest global pandemic in living memory, and the NHS has never been so tested in its history. Its staff have been stretched beyond comprehension over the last year and they deserve our gratitude, our applause and all

the support we can give. We are encouraging not only our 200,000 members, but the entire population to celebrate the day honouring and remembering the NHS workers with a complete programme of events on 5 July.”

We in East Kent are preparing our own plans for the 5th July, with our Group Chairmen acting as the focal points - about which more anon. Meanwhile, if you would like to buy a flag, you can get one from JW Plant Ltd at this address:

<https://www.nhsfrontlineday.org/merchandisers/j-w-plant-co-ltd/>





Pinetum, by Andy Mahoney



Autumn Floor, by John Harrington

SURPRISE EASTER DELIVERIES



Like many of us, Middleton Manor Lodge No.6337 in Sittingbourne are always looking for ways to offer support to local Charities during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

With Easter approaching, they set their sights on the Swale Community and Voluntary Services (SCVS) Befriending Scheme, which offers support and friendship to people who are housebound or lonely. The charity had had to curtail its usual activities because of the Pandemic. Lodge Charity Steward Tony Lawless contacted the Scheme's Co-ordinator and said that Middleton Manor would be happy to purchase and deliver Easter Eggs and Cards to members of the Befriending Scheme.

As a result, on Thursday 1st April 2021 five Lodge volunteers in conjunction with SCVS delivered some fifty eggs and cards to people throughout Swale.



(L-R): Tony Lawless, Bob Thorne, Andy Symonds, Alan Day and Paul Davis

MEMBERSHIP / MENTORING AND RETENTION

Assistant Provincial Grand Master Mark Costelloe writes:

I'M THE GUY

- *I'm the guy who asked to join your organisation.*
- *I'm the guy who paid his dues to join.*
- *I'm the guy who stood up in front of all of you and promised to be faithful and loyal.*
- *I'm the guy who came to your meetings and no one paid any attention to. I tried several times to be friendly to some of the others, but they all had their own mates that they talked to and sat next to.*
- *I sat down several times but no one paid any attention to me. I hoped very much that somebody would have asked me to take part in a fund-raising project or something, but no one saw my efforts when I volunteered.*
- *I missed a few meetings after joining because I was sick and couldn't be there. No one asked me at the next meeting where I had been. I guess it didn't matter very much to the others whether I was there or not.*
- *The next meeting, I decided to stay home and watch TV. The following meeting I attended, no one asked me where I was when the last meeting was held.*
- *You might say I'm a good guy, a good family man who holds a responsible job, loves his community, and his country.*
- ***You know who else I am? I'm the guy who never came back!***
- *It amuses me when I think back on how the senior members were discussing why the Lodge was losing members.*
- *It amuses me now to think that they spent so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time.*
- *All they needed to do was make me feel needed, wanted and welcome!*

Author Unknown

Every Freemason has his own experience as to how he discovered Freemasonry and can recount his initial experiences and impressions. A familiar scenario will probably sound like this one:

I was taken, having had my clothing rearranged, and a blindfold placed over my eyes. A grasp of my elbow and a steadying hand conducted me into and led me around the Lodge Room. I had heard stories about riding goats and obstacles to trip over on the way but none of these things happened. Finally, the blindfold was removed, and once your eyes become adjusted to the bright light (and you put your glasses back on if needed) some familiar faces are visible sitting there in strange regalia. John and Jim, Peter and Ron, I never knew they were Freemasons.

Carrying on through the ceremony various members of the Lodge presented different speeches to me. They did these from memory obviously but they made them sound like they came from the heart. Impressive? Don't remember too much of what was said as the incredible ceremony was essentially a blur. When I got home and was asked what had happened to me I had to say – no idea! I was certainly conscious of being the V.I.P. of the moment. I went into the Festive Board where there was a lovely meal. A long list of toasts and speeches followed. There was even one to me. I did make a reply but it was certainly not as good as words of the toast that I was replying to. What a great introduction to Freemasonry. What a great organisation to be a member of!

The question is often asked, what is one thing new members fear most? The answer has to be the fear of speaking in public. From later experience I soon discovered that Freemasonry provides the opportunity and environment to overcome these fears. The learning of Ritual and presenting it in a Lodge Room is great training and builds confidence. Festive Board toasts and replies also build up the ability to speak in public in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. Although I have seen it happen subsequently, I was never pushed into learning or delivering Ritual until I told my Mentor that I was ready to have a go at something – short at first but as my confidence grew and I was praised for my efforts I ended up doing some of the really long stuff like the Tracing Board.

I very quickly discovered that learning ritual was quite easy, and I soon became comfortable with it as I practised with my Mentor. He made sure that I had the opportunity to visit other Lodges and watch both experienced ritualists and also newbies like me put the learning into practice. In talking with others, I realised that while I did not have too much difficulty, for others learning Ritual is hard work and demands a lot of time and even sleepless nights trying to get it to stick in their minds. The worst part is that, despite all the effort, on the night we all forget bits, miss a word or two and might even require prompting. This can be discouraging for a new Mason if he does not get a pat on the back. If however you are told you did well in spite of the prompting and then get asked which Charge you would like to tackle next or repeat you get a real buzz. Having a good Mentor near you at the time helps as well.

I have certainly gained a sense of pride in both the Lodge and myself through the smart dress, regalia, furniture, discipline and respect of the members for each other. The modern Lodge Building plays an important part in conveying the image of Freemasonry. Over time, advancement through the Lodge by accepting Lodge Officers' roles and ultimately the Master's Chair makes possible a steady path for personal development for those who choose to go down that path.

Specific charges in each of the three Degrees such as Working Tools, Tracing Boards, and particularly the long Charges at the end of each Degree are certainly thought-provoking for anyone with an inquiring mind. They contain wonderful and powerful messages for enlightenment in themselves. For many of us they can provoke a desire to learn more about their history and the role that Freemasonry has played over the centuries in making good men better. My Proposers and Mentor all provide me with opportunities to continue learning as I progress down the Masonic Journey which is now very much part of my life.

I am often in awe of the older Freemasons who have achieved fifty, sixty, seventy years' service to Freemasonry when I look at the Aprons and Collars they wear. Many of these men are more than happy to share their experiences with me when I ask them questions. My own Mentor is a sixty-five-year-old man; however, I find that I also learn heaps by talking with other younger guys who are just a bit further ahead than me down the exciting journey we have all embarked on.

Some of these long-serving men are not always able to attend regularly, or participate often, but they value their Freemasonry, pay their subs, appreciate what Freemasonry has done for them over the years and have enjoyed what they have done and continue to do for Freemasonry. The best of them are not the loud ones who take every opportunity to tell you how good they were when they held a high office or "ran the Lodge for years". It is the quiet well-spoken ones who impress me the most.

Before I finish this I want to thank the really important people who have invited me into Freemasonry and have continued to guide me as I move along this amazing pathway :

My Proposer

My Secunder

My Membership Officer

My Mentor

Without their ongoing encouragement and support I might well have become one of those who fell by the wayside because once a Brother achieved the status of a Master Mason all the obvious caring stopped.



21 Jessops Riverside,
Brightside Lane,
Sheffield, S9 2RX
0114 261 7800
info@supportdogs.org.uk
www.supportdogs.org.uk
Reg. Charity No. 1088281

Thank you! You're amazing!

Dear Peter and members of Province of East Kent,

Thank you so much for your choosing to give a wonderful donation of £1,250 to us to enable our continued work with people in Kent. It is incredibly kind of you and your support means so much to us.

What would we do without incredible supporters like you?

We are a charity that relies on donations like yours and we are already putting it to good use, training life-changing specialist assistance dogs to improve life for those affected by autism, epilepsy, and disability.

By supporting us, you've done something really special. You have enabled a child with autism to be matched with their 'best friend', a support dog who will be their safe place in a world they find frightening. An adult with epilepsy will now be able to live their life without the fear and danger of their unpredictable seizures. Disability will no longer define lives, rather people will live with dignity, independence, and confidence.

I would be delighted to talk to your members at any of your upcoming meetings and also invite you to our London showcase event to be held in November. As soon as we have further details of this I will send them through to you as this will be a wonderful opportunity for you to hear how your donation will change lives and meet some of those that your donation supports.

Everything we do at Support Dogs is only possible because of wonderful supporters like you. Your generosity means the world to us, the children, adults, and their families we support and the dogs we train.

Thank you

Tess Thompson
Community Fundraising Manager
Tess.thompson@supportdogs.org.uk

Click below to see a Thank You message:

<https://youtu.be/JOtXMtFSbME>

Honorary President: Angela Rippon CBE **Patrons:** Earl & Countess of Scarborough, Elaine Paige OBE

THE POWER OF THE SEA

Dramatic photos by Alan Leigh (top) and James Brady (bottom)



NEW TEDDIES FOR TLC

TLC (Teddies for Loving Care) are very happy to announce that the new TLC teddies with the little heart-shaped nose are now heading out across England and Wales.

They all feature one of the six classic TLC colours of soft pink, pale blue, lemon sherbet, bright green, lilac and post-box red. Each also has the perfect squidge for a cuddle that will bring comfort to a child who is having a difficult time. Children always get to keep their new bears and they often go on to become good companions.



The majority of TLC bears are sent to children's accident and emergency units to help calm distressed children or reward them for being brave. Receiving one of these colourful little bears can make a huge difference to a child's experience of visiting hospital.

These special teddies are all donated by local Freemasons who also volunteer their time to manage Teddies for Loving Care in their Province. So far almost three million teddies have been given out to children in need - an amazing achievement.



Paul Routley (pictured), TLC East Kent, said:

"TLC East Kent donate around a thousand teddy bears each month to Accident & Emergency Departments and Minor Injury Units in East Kent, for the comfort of distressed children. The last year has been a testing time for all hospitals with access severely restricted. However, throughout the Pandemic TLC East Kent has continued to meet its commitments and maintained the supply of Teddy Bears to the supported hospitals throughout the region."

"We are sure the new bear, with its heart shaped nose and smiling face, will be loved as equally as its predecessor."

The email address for TLC East Kent is: tlceastkent@gmail.com



The Premier Grand Lodge, which became the United Grand Lodge of England, was founded at the Goose and Gridiron Pub in London in 1717.

It has 48 Provinces across the country and more than 7,000 Lodges, with students over the age of 18 able to join one of the 85 University Scheme Lodges.

Freemasons use four important guiding principles to help define their path through life: integrity, friendship, respect and charity.

FREEMASONS RISE TO COVID-19 CHALLENGE WITH DONATIONS TOTTALLING £1M AND 18 MILLION HOURS OF VOLUNTEERING

Faced with the greatest global pandemic in living memory, Freemasons came together in 2020 and donated a total of £1m as well as their time to help those in need. This report shows what we have been doing nationwide and in our own area.

East Kent Freemasons were there to fund and help communities in various critical areas, including foodbanks, support for unpaid carers, personal protective equipment (PPE), supplies for hospitals and hospices, support for women's refuges, and funds for NHS workers, ambulances and equipment.

Nationally we worked eighteen million hours as volunteers in a range of different areas,

where there was a need, including driving vulnerable people to hospital, preparing meals, taking care of people at risk, organising care packages, producing scrubs, PPE and hand sanitiser.

At the start of the crisis in April 2020, some of us adapted our businesses' production lines to produce nearly 5,000 visors for use in healthcare settings. Since then, we have produced or procured tens of thousands



of pieces of additional PPE.

Meanwhile, to help protect women and children from domestic abuse, we donated more than £165,000 in 2020. The donation helped more than 2,000 women during the lockdown, who received more than 1,000 parcels containing essential items for women fleeing domestic abuse.

We also focused our efforts on hospitals and care homes, donating nearly 1,000 tablets to provide vital contact between coronavirus patients and their loved ones. The tablets were provided to more than 50 hospitals, care homes and hospices. In London, hospitals including The Royal London, Queen Mary's and St Thomas' received approximately 115 tablets; while in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, some 200 tablets were donated.

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Elsewhere, to support thousands of families struggling during the crisis, we donated 300,000 meals and thirty-eight tonnes of food to homeless people, women's refuges and vulnerable people, supporting more than 120,000 people in total. Moreover, £560,000 was donated to provide meals and help numerous foodbanks.

Dr David Staples, Chief Executive of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), said: "No one in this day and age should have to worry where their next meal is coming from. We are so glad that we were able to provide thousands of families across the UK with a hot meal or



food donations to help get them through this current crisis. Freemasons have achieved all of this in just a few months and have also given their time to produce and deliver food to the vulnerable."

The UGLE is also encouraging us to roll up our sleeves and volunteer to help vaccinate the population. "More than 18.5 million hours of volunteer work were undertaken by Freemasons. Now it is crucial that we help in every way we can to protect the population. If the NHS needs volunteers, then we are happy to emphasise the importance of this to our members," said Dr Staples.

He continued: "Our response to the Pandemic shows what Freemasonry is all about; supporting those in need, giving back to our communities and volunteering where it can make a real difference. Freemasons have been doing this for over 300 years and I am proud of the time and commitment that our members have given to support the nation in its fight against Covid-19."

Continued overleaf →

In addition to the £1m donated in 2020, UGLE have committed a further fund of £2.1m to support the ongoing Covid-19 crisis response. Of that £2.1m, £850,000 has been allocated to support homeless people through several charities with which UGLE partners. More than 40,000 homeless individuals are being provided with food and essentials, transport, help with accessing services such as counselling and healthcare, as well as employment and training opportunities.



Our East Kent Provincial Grand Master Neil Johnstone (pictured above with Young Carers) said: “Nothing could be more encouraging than to see our members come together to offer not only financial support and give their time to help where and when needed, but also in making a positive lasting difference to the lives of so many people”.



Masonic
Charitable Foundation

JUST TO SAY THANK YOU, FREEMASONS!

Although at the time of writing we are in Lockdown and Lodge meetings cannot be held, people and organisations still need our help. It's good to see that members are still supporting by giving to charities and the 2025 Festival.



"I just wanted to thank you and your colleagues at the Freemasons for your very generous donation towards protective equipment for our staff at Hawkinge nursery. As you know, Claire and her wonderful staff have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to continue to offer excellent childcare to our local families. This has now been extended into this 3rd period of lockdown, as early years nurseries remain open, in spite of primary and secondary schools closing.

Your very kind gesture will allow us to provide additional PPE for our staff that we have not done before, in particular face visors, but also other items of PPE. Kent County Council had previously indicated that they would financially support nurseries to cover some of the additional costs of purchasing PPE, but this support has not yet materialised and so your kind donation is a huge help.

On behalf of everyone at Hawkinge, many thanks to you all".

2025 FESTIVAL NEWS



Our 2025 Festival Team, headed by Assistant Provincial Grand Master Mark Bassant, have been beavering away, along with sponsors the Patriot Group, planning some novel and exciting Events for this Spring and Summer.

First up is the Great East Kent Boat Race



The race will start on **Sunday 2nd May 2021**.

It's a simple but hugely entertaining idea: you buy a little boat kit from us for a tenner, assemble it, paint it in your own favourite colours, and launch it from one of five beaches in Kent. We will then track all the boats, and the one that has sailed the furthest by the 5th May will win a prize of £100 for its owner. Second place will earn you £75, third place £50.

Full details, including how to assemble your boat, are on the Province's website, where you can enter the Event.

Second is An Audience with Sir Ranulph Fiennes

The Province of East Kent is delighted to present "An Audience with Sir Ranulph Fiennes" at our Virtual Theatre on **Saturday 26th June 2021**. Sir Ranulph Fiennes, British explorer, fundraiser, author and poet, has been described in the Guinness Book of Records as "the world's greatest living explorer".

The Event is scheduled to start at 7 pm and finish at 8.30 and will include pre-notified questions from the floor. Tickets will cost £25 per household or individual: Sir Ranulph has kindly agreed that all proceeds from the Event will go towards the Province's 2025 Festival.

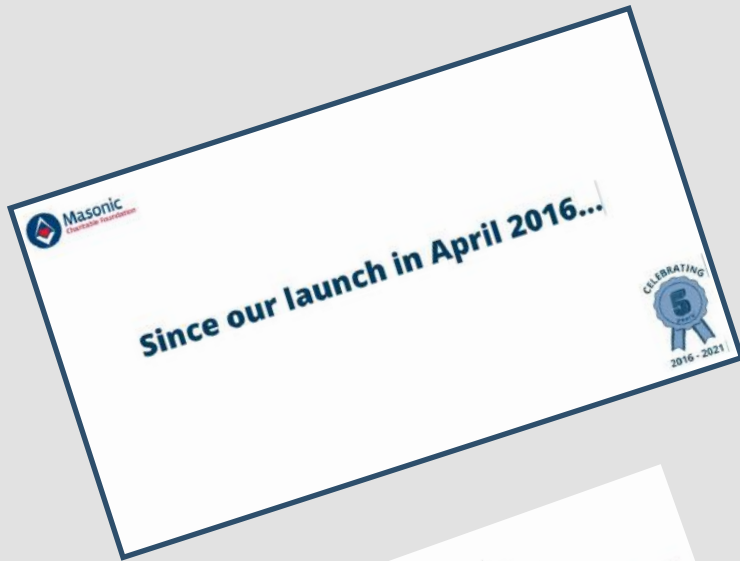


Third is A Virtual Casino "A Night in Las Vegas"



Scheduled for **Saturday 8th August 2021**, and with a first prize of a Weekend in Paris for Two, this is something you really don't want to miss! Further details nearer the date.

AND IT'S THANKS FROM THE MCF!



In East Kent Province, we want to raise the whopping sum of £3.5 million for the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) via our 2025 Festival. All the money we raise goes straight to the MCF for immediate distribution to charities and other worthy causes. No waiting until 2025. All contributions are welcome, no matter how large or small. If you are able to donate on a regular basis, that would be marvellous. Please visit our website at www.2025festival.co.uk and click on the **Donate** tab.

TOGETHER WE WILL CHANGE LIVES

THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

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

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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 follow the link <https://yourprovince.org/yp2>