



The Cambridgeshire Mason

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Certificate of Merit for Fenland Mason

A Brother at the heart of revamping the Masonic Hall at March has been awarded the Certificate of Merit for distinguished services to Freemasonry in Cambridgeshire.

At the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge on 22nd June, WBro. Brian Sutton PPSGW, of Caldwell Lodge No. 3201, was praised for leading the building work at March and for being a huge supporter of charitable efforts. He is chairman of the March Masonic Benevolent Fund, the trustees of the town's Masonic Hall, and a member of the Province's Masonic Building Fund committee.



Having been Worshipful Master of Caldwell Lodge in 1994, WBro. Sutton has held many offices in the lodge and progressed through various provincial ranks, starting as Provincial Grand Steward, eventually becoming Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 2019.

Afterwards, a surprised and delighted WBro. Sutton said his award was testament to the support and efforts

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. William Dastur said that although WBro. Sutton describes himself as a 'poor and distressed builder', he was in fact 'the great architect'.

during the building work of the members of Caldwell and Stone Cross Lodges at March.

Cliff Brown

Closing in on the target

Nearly £800,000 had been raised towards the Province's Festival 2023 target of £900,000. The fund has also been boosted by a £15,000 donation from the Province of Suffolk.

By 1st May, 19 lodges and all 14 chapters had achieved honorifics. So far, Platinum awards have been achieved by the Lodge of Three Grand Principles Lodge No. 441 and Alma Mater Lodge No. 1492, with Gold awarded to Gray Lodge No. 4334.

The fifteen other lodges have gained Silver or Bronze. Eight further lodges are progressing towards their Bronze honorific.

In the Royal Arch, there have been three Platinum awards, going to Euclid Chapter No. 859, Kynaston Chapter No. 5810 and Probity Chapter No. 7333, with Gold honorifics to St. Etheldreda Chapter No. 2107, St Andrew Chapter No. 4087 and Gray Chapter No. 4334.

Cliff Brown

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Our Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent says...

Brethren,

Welcome to the latest edition of The Cambridgeshire Mason, which follows our recent Provincial Craft and Royal Arch meetings. We had great attendances at both, confirming that brethren are keen to get back to normal but also that Covid and its knock-on effects are at last receding, despite the newspapers continuing to report new variants, most of which, thankfully, are progressively weakening in their impact. It was also a delight to dine and entertain our guests in Queens' College again.



We are all membership officers and mentors, to some extent, and we should willingly embrace that challenge. I was particularly impressed with our stand, shared with the Lady Freemasons, at the recent Cambridgeshire County Day. Brethren including many Light Blues were on hand to explain what freemasonry is, its inclusiveness, diversity, universal appeal and why it is relevant and attractive in these times. They had many enquiries including younger attendees and former freemasons who had lost touch with us.

I am sure most of you know that the Queens' College bursar is the Deputy Grand Master and a member of the province through his membership of Alma Mater Lodge. On behalf of the whole province, may I say how thrilled and delighted we all were to learn that he is to be the next Pro Grand Master and he will be installed in September at Quarterly Communications of UGLE. He deserves our congratulations and full support and, I know, we are in for an exciting and challenging few years as he has already started to share his strategy through to 2029. Watch this space - we are in for a great journey!

One of his priorities and one equally important to this Province is that of membership in the Craft and Royal Arch. Over the last few years or so we have rolled out the Membership Pathway under VWBro. Pat Kilby's leadership. We now have a new Provincial Grand Membership Officer, WBro. Ed Williams, and a new Provincial Grand Mentor, WBro. David Fountain, to support him and I know this will be an exciting time for us. In the Royal Arch an embryonic membership project called Archway also promises new thoughts and ideas and should be with us sometime in 2023.

However, it is not just attraction but also engagement and re-engagement on which we must also concentrate. We have the summer to consider how to make our lodge 2022/23 programmes interesting and engaging so as to attract new and experienced brethren alike whilst, hopefully, bringing back those brethren who have stayed away under Covid.

We now have some 15 months to achieve our Festival target and I urge you to make one last push over the summer and next season to ensure that Cambridgeshire succeeds in punching above its weight and proving what a strong reliable partner, we are to the MCF - your charity.

With many initiations in the pipeline, a Centenary celebration in November at Gray Lodge, the consecration of Hutchinson Master's Lodge in late 2022 or early 2023, and two banner dedications we have an exciting period ahead of us.

I am encouraged not only by what we have achieved, despite the pandemic, but also should achieve in the next few years. The opportunities for progress and growth are immense whilst in our lodges we must encourage the return of those brethren who have stayed away.

Brethren, may I wish you a glorious summer and urge you to recharge your batteries for the new season which may seem far off now but will soon be with us.

Bin And 2.

Justin Curtis - Provincial Senior Grand Warden

Justin is a born and bred Cambridge man, who has been working in Saffron Walden for the past 20 years as a commercial analyst in the building society industry. Married to Sharon, they have just celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary. He has four stepchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Introduced to Freemasonry by his godfather, WBro. Jim Whitehead PJGD, Justin was initiated into the Gild of St Mary Lodge No. 7288 in April 1999 and served as its Master in 2006. He has served as Almoner, Charity Steward and Mentor of his lodge, and on the CMBA since 2008. A founder member of the Cambridgeshire Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards No. 9927, he was appointed as its Junior Warden in 2021.

Justin was appointed Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works in 2013 and promoted to Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in 2019. Justin is proud to be appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden exactly 30 years after his mentor, WBro. Whitehead.

In the Royal Arch, Justin was exalted into the Chapter of Pythagoras No. 88 in 2001 and served as MEZ for two years (2011/12), after which he became Scribe Ezra, a role he retires from in 2022. He is also a founding member and past Zerubbabel of the Cambridgeshire Meridian Chapter No. 8374. Justin was appointed Provincial Grand Sojourner in 2015 and promoted to Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in 2019.



Justin is also active in Mark Masonry, being advanced into York Lodge No. 334 in 2007, attaining the chair in 2016 and now lodge secretary. He was appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary for the Mark Province of East Anglia in 2021. He is also a Past WCN of the York Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner No. 334. Justin is a member of Three Virtues Rose Croix Chapter No. 973, having attained the 30th degree in 2019.

Justin's passions outside of Freemasonry are his family, rugby (which he played for 25 years) and the Shelford Feast (he is the current chairman), a charitable organisation in his village which in nearly 30 years has raised over £350,000 for local charities.

Michael Humphrey - Provincial Junior Grand Warden

Michael, a Lewis, is an engineer/farmer in Gorefield, near Wisbech. He is married to Marie and celebrates a Golden Wedding anniversary in August this year. They have one son, Simon, a Professor of Materials Chemistry at the University of Texas at Austin, and CTO of Lantha Inc, while daughter Krystal works on the family farm where she manages her growing flock of sheep and increasing Alpaca herd. They also have three grandchildren in the USA.

Michael was initiated into the Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125 in 1990 and served as Master in 2007. He is a founder member of the Fenland Farmers' Lodge No. 9933.

In the Royal Arch, Michael is a member of the Etheldreda Chapter No. 809 and was MEZ in 2018. Michael's first provincial appointment was in 2014, to the office of Provincial Grand Standard Bearer. He was promoted to Past Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2019.



Away from freemasonry and family, Michael has served his community as a Parish Councillor since 1991, over 20 years as chairman, and was elected to Fenland District Council in 1995 serving as its chairman from 2011 to 2013. He is still active on both councils and is secretary for the village charity responsible for Gorefield Community Hall & Sports Pavilion.

Provincial meetings return to Cambridge

Brethren from the Province and guests were back at West Road Concert Hall in Cambridge on 22nd June for the Cambridgeshire Provincial Grand Lodge and Chapter meetings.

Attended by about 300 brethren, it was the first provincial meeting at West Road since 2019, with the annual event held at Wisbech St. Mary in 2021 and a 'rule of six' meeting at Newmarket in 2020. A capacity 250 dined at Queens' College after the two meetings.



The Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent, William Dastur, appointed or re-appointed the active provincial team and appointed or promoted other members to past rank.

In his welcome and address to Brethren and Companions, the key theme was the strategic imperative of attracting new members and better engagement with the existing membership, which, he said, "remains as crucial and significant as ever and needs to dominate our thinking and strategy over the next few years."

Communicating this and our achievements in the community, he added, reinforces the powerful message that Freemasonry is such an important force for good in the modern and changing world. He also praised the success of the Buddy Scheme, set up by the Cambridgeshire Light Blues. Full reports and the addresses by the Provincial Grand Master will appear in the forthcoming yearbook.



With the province currently working towards its Festival 2023 total, RWBro. Ian Yeldham, the Provincial Grand Master for Suffolk, handed over a donation of £15,000 from our neighbouring Brethren.

It was announced that the provincial meetings in 2023 will be at West Road on 22nd June, while the provincial visit to Supreme Grand Chapter will be on 9th November.

Cliff Brown





News in brief

Logistica Lodge No. 9804, which meets in Newmarket, donated £500 to the Macmillan Nursing Unit at West Suffolk Hospital. The donation was made by Mrs Jill Brown in memory of her late husband WBro. Peter Brown, who was one of the Founders of the lodge, Chairman of the Newmarket Masonic Club for over 20 years and a long-serving Club Steward. The Funds were raised at an entertainment and supper evening organised by the lodge's Worshipful Master, WBro. Cameron McKechnie.



The David Kenneth Williamson Lodge No. 9938, the Installed Masters' Lodge for the Universities Scheme, donated £350 to our Festival 2023, at its meeting on 7th May held at Bateman Street, Cambridge. A double Raising was performed for Bro. Huw Williams, of Cantabrigia Lodge No. 3532, and Bro James Sinclair, from Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859. Current floor officers include RWBro. Sir David Wootton, Assistant Grand Master, as Senior Warden, and VWBro. Dr. David Staples, Grand Secretary, as Junior Warden.



After an extended residence with the Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859 at Cambridge, the David Kenneth Williamson loving cup has gone to the heart of England. The cup is part of a long-standing tradition of the University Scheme to promote visiting between its member lodges. It was handed over to Concordia Lodge No. 5131 (Staffordshire) at a recent meeting of Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859.



Six Royal Engineers were on parade to see WBro. Mark Shields carry out his last initiation as Master of St Ovin Lodge No. 7774. WBro. Shields' father served with the Royal Engineers. The Sappers, who have a combined service of 148 years across the globe were Bros. Doug Black, Steve Handscomb, Andy Swift and Terence Parsons, of, St. Ovin Lodge No. 7774; WBro. Andy Wilson, Porta Lodge No. 9511 and Bro. Andy Grannell, Royal Engineers' Lodge No. 2599.



The Clay Pigeon Shoot by St Audrey Lodge No. 2727 saw 30 shooters from around the province, including freemasons and guests, enjoying bacon rolls followed by 50 clays and ending with a BBQ and raffle. £555 was raised with £335 going to replace a specialised pushchair used by a local child who has a rare chromosome mutation. Winners are (l-r): Ian Collins - highest scoring Ely freemason; John Walsh - last year's winner; John Deadman - highest scoring mason; Sharon Bishop - overall lady winner; John Prime - overall winner.

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Cambridgeshire support for Sine Nomine

A number of Cambridgeshire Brethren attended the first regular meeting of Lodge Sine Nomine ("Without Name") No. 10000 to witness a sextuple initiation.

The ceremony took place on 17th June in Lodge Room No. 10 at Great Queen Street, London, with Brethren attending from across the world and many members acting as either additional stewards or presenting parts of the ritual. Upon closing the lodge, brethren were treated to a sparkling wine reception followed by dinner in the vestibules of the Grand Temple, with senior brethren providing an impromptu tour of the Grand Temple to the Initiates.

Almost uniquely, Lodge Sine Nomine has "unattached" status being directly administered by UGLE, and it deliberately includes members from across the worldwide English constitution, with joining members from as far afield as Sri Lanka and Singapore. It aims to be a beacon for "Masonry done really well", in terms of impactful ceremonies, minimal administration, shared ritual, and friendly senior members who actively encourage and mentor the newer ones. Given its global membership it will inevitably showcase different ways of working, allowing brethren to take good ideas back to their lodges, with the added authority of "well, this must be okay as it's what they do in Lodge 10000".

Several Cambridgeshire brethren were fortunate to be Founders of Sine Nomine, with more being among the 88 joining members at this meeting. Members now include several current and Past Masters, along with more junior brethren, from Lodge of Three Grand Principles No. 441, Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859, Alma Mater Lodge No. 1492 and Kynaston Lodge No. 5810.

WBro. Simon Cooper, who is Inner Guard, commented: "It was wonderful to have so many Cambridgeshire brethren attend the ceremony as either members or guests and we look forward to hosting many more at this rather special lodge in future."

WBro. Richard Brindle added: "I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to become a joining member of Lodge Sine Nomine. To be able to meet and get to know so many different people from within our constitution is something I wouldn't normally have the opportunity to do. It was brilliant to see brethren from Cambridgeshire in attendance, and is something I hope will continue."

Simon Cooper



United Services Lodge No. 10010 Consecration

The latest addition to Cambridgeshire's Craft Province, the United Services Lodge No. 10010, was consecrated on 14th April at the Sports and Community Centre, Wisbech St Mary, and attended by a total of 136 participants and visitors.



The Consecration proved to be an outstanding event, with 29 of the 31 Founders present. The ceremony was led by the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. William Dastur, supported by his provincial team.

The first Master, WBro. Tony Mason PAGDC, was installed by the DepProvGM VWBro. Pat Kilby PGSwDB, after which the meeting concluded with propositions for three initiates and the promise of many joining members.

The Alms collection raised £724 for the Festival 2023 and the raffle achieved £765 in aid of the MCF Ukraine Appeal.

Membership of the lodge is open to those who have served the Sovereign, full or part-time, in the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force and Reserve Forces, Police, Fire, Ambulance and Prison Services, and adults of the Cadet Forces.

The lodge's regular meetings are on the fourth Monday in September (Installation) and the fourth Wednesday in November, February and April at the Masonic Hall, Newmarket. The next regular meeting will be the Installation on Monday 26th September. All visitors will be warmly welcomed. Contact the Secretary, WBro. Jon Cooper:

L10010.secretary@pglcambs.org.uk.

Dougie Black





Honour in Germany for Fenland Mason

A Fenland Freemason's efforts to embrace and assist his new lodge overseas has been awarded Grand Rank in the Grand Lodge of British Freemasons in Germany.

Now a member of Saxony Lodge No. 842, WBro. Andrew Pugh PPDepGDC, was invested as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies on 7th May by MWBro. Jeremy David Stevens, Grand Master of the GLBFG. The GLBFG is part of the United Grand Lodge of Germany and recognised by UGLE.

Andrew, who is a member of Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704 based in March and its Master in 2010, is a former chairman of March Masonic Benevolent Fund, the trustees of the town's Masonic Hall, and, as such, was an early driving force in the refurbishment of City Road premises.



A former Army serviceman, Andrew moved to Bergen, Celle, in Lower Saxony, in March 2020, just as the UK entered the Covid lockdown. Having attended some local Masonic meetings, in March 2021 he became a joining member of Saxony Lodge, which meets at Celle. One of the 18 lodges making up the GLBFG, the majority are situated around the old British military garrison towns. This Grand Lodge along with four others make up the United Grand Lodges of Germany.

"Saxony Lodge is lucky to have a dedicated core of brethren to keep the lodge moving forward," said Gary Wormald, Secretary of Saxony Lodge and Assistant Grand Master of GLBFG. "Andy fitted right in, not only did he bring a different view on the age-old question of recruitment, retention and charity drives but he wasn't shy in rolling up his sleeves and actively assisting wherever he could. His experience has certainly benefited Saxony Lodge. He has taken on ritual within the lodge and has taken part in installing boards, which has enabled him to visit lodges within our Grand Lodge."

His travels gave him the opportunity to meet the Grand Master MWBro. Jeremy Stevens, who was impressed with his drive and commitment and how he has broadened the experience in Saxony Lodge. The past masters of Saxony Lodge wanted to show their appreciation for the way he had embraced and assisted the lodge and, to the delight of the brethren, Brother Andy was promoted to Past Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies. He received the honour at the Annual Communication at Bad Iburg.

"This appointment came as a shock; I wasn't expecting anything. Along with four other local masons, I've recently been working with the local authorities to help the Ukrainians with their refugee status," said Andrew.

Cliff Brown

Matched Funding boost from Bethel Scheme

This year, the City & University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust is repeating its matched funding, known as the Bethel Scheme, and has increased its maximum assistance to £300.

When your lodge chooses a local good cause to receive a donation, the Trust will match the donation up to £300. Lodges can apply for matched funding before 16th December by contacting WBro. Jim Whitehead (jmw859@binternet.com).

The Trust has also made the following grants: £3,000 each to the Arthur Rank Hospice at Home charity and the Red Hen Project, £2,000 each to Addenbrooke's Robot appeal, Cambridge Deaf Association, Cambridge Foodbank, Care Network, Centre 33, Food Cycle, Homestart, Jimmy's, Lifelites, Magpas and Winter Comfort, £1,000 to Marie Curie and Prostate Cancer UK, and £500 to Cambridge College Riding for the Disabled Association.

Jim Whitehead

Assistance for Facet and Light Project

Fenland Farmers Lodge No. 9933 has donated £650 to both Facet, a charity based at Marwick Centre, March, and The Light Project at Peterborough.

The money was raised in WBro. Steven Keen's year as Worshipful Master and was presented by WBro. David Fountain and WBro. David Watson.

Facet provides training and day-centre care opportunities to adults with a range of disabilities. It also encourages and supports independence. Facet has a shop to sell a mix of crafts and plants, as well as selling donated items, which give work experience to the students.

The Light Project works in partnership with and alongside church communities, civic powers and community groups, helping the homeless in and around Peterborough. It provides support and friendship and a place to stay. The focus is on sustainable living within the community and offers residents services such as healthcare, support in job searches and benefit advice.

David Watson



Ely donation helps community growth

On Wednesday 25th May, 2022, WBro. John Sinclair and WBro. David Watson visited Branching Out, Littleport, to see the impact of donations totalling £1,150 from Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655, St Audrey Lodge No. 2727, and The Ely United Lodge of Instruction. They were met by operations manager Joshua Hunt, who introduced them to some of the staff and the adults they support.

Branching out provides very valuable support to adults with learning difficulties for a variety of different causes, many on the autistic spectrum. The dedicated and enthusiastic team gives the adults the opportunity to have a sense of achievement through their small market garden, plant beds and vegetable patch, where they undertake the planting and caring of seasonal plants, selling them at the gate and in their charity shop in Littleport.

They also learn cooking skills and use the workshop facilities where they make items such as upcycled furniture, bug hotels, bird boxes, and many arts and craft objects. This gives great opportunities for those that attend to have aims, ambitions, interests and ability to achieve in a safe and caring environment. The donation will help Branching Out to continue improving its service and increasing the activities and projects.

"All of our staff, volunteers, and the adults we support really appreciate this kind donation and will benefit massively from it. Thank you to the Ely Freemasons who organised the donation and came to visit the site this week to meet our staff and talk to some of the adults we support," said Mr Hunt.

Jon Cooper

For more information visit branchingoutuk.com



New Knight Masons Council at Cambridge

A new Council of the Order of Knight Masons is to be founded at Cambridge and will meet at Freemasons' Hall in Bateman Street.

The Most Excellent Great Chief is head of the Order, the current holder of this office being Most Excellent Sir Knight Bernard V.A.P.J. Woods.

The Order of Knight Masons is a Chivalric Masonic Order and members meet in what are known as Councils of Knight Masons, governed by the Grand Council of Knight Masons based in Ireland.

Formed in 1923, it embraces the Degrees of Knight of the Sword, Knight of the East, and Knight of the East and West - three Degrees of high symbolic, philosophical and moral value. These Masonic Degrees continue the story of the efforts to build the second Temple in Jerusalem, and in an Irish context completes the Masonic legend of the Temple. It is a growing Masonic Order that is enjoyable and exhilarating and completes a journey for many Masons and the life of Zerubbabel that is only partially touched on in the Royal Arch Degree.

Councils of Knight Masons are presided over by an Excellent Chief, together with two other senior officers, namely the Senior Knight and Junior Knight. There are, however, also to be found a Senior Warden and a Junior Warden who are lower in officer rank, along with a Captain of the Guards and a 2nd Captain of the Guards. Finally, there is a Director of Ceremonies, a Priest, Scribe and Treasurer.

A member of the order is called a Knight Mason and has the prefix of "Sir Knight". In England, membership is open to Master Masons who are subscribing members of the Craft, a Mark Lodge and a Royal Arch Chapter. A Knight Mason wears a red apron, red sash, together with a belt, frog and sword, and the jewel of the Order.



He has held Office since 2008 and is the ninth Great Chief. He has held progressive senior offices in the other branches of Irish Freemasonry, including that of Senior Grand Warden in the Grand Lodge of Ireland. He holds membership of several Masonic Orders in England.

The number of Councils continues to grow and in 2020, the Most Excellent Great Chief created the provinces of England & Wales (South) and England & Wales (North). In the former, there are currently Councils meeting in London, Gillingham, Plymouth, Southend-on-Sea and Sutton.

The Order continues to flourish in the South with enquires to form new Councils in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Oxfordshire and Wales.



The Most Excellent Great Chief has appointed the following for the Province of England & Wales (South): Provincial Grand Superintendent, Nigel Willows (pictured left); Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent, Simon Mighall; Provincial Grand Scribe, Raymond Ellis and Provincial Grand Treasurer, Michael Squires.

Anyone interested in becoming a Founder of the prospective Council in Cambridgeshire should contact Dr M. C. Black:

mc.black@hardknott.org

M C Black

Assistance for Rowan arts project

The Province of Cambridgeshire Charity for Care & Relief awarded a grant of £1,000 to the Rowan Humberstone charity to support its work to improve the lives of adults with disabilities.

Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. John Sherriff, and Provincial Grand Charity Steward, WBro. David Cameron, visited Rowan on 19th April to see the work done.



Rowan is a registered charity in Humberstone Road, Cambridge, providing an arts centre and forest school for approximately 80 adults with learning disabilities. Students can specialise in one area or join several different workshops. Each workshop is dedicated to help the students express themselves through artistic creation.

Rowan relies on external fundraising to cover half its costs, especially for materials for the workshops, and this is one area where the £1,000 grant from Care & Relief will be applied. The next Open Day (entry is free) at Rowan is on 16th July, when there will be six studios and a pop-up shop stocked with original art made collaboratively with adults with learning disabilities.

David Cameron

For information visit www.rowanhumberstone.co.uk

Help spread the message

Volunteers are sought to help staff the Cambridgeshire Freemasons' publicity caravan at local events. The unit has already made a successful appearance at the Soham Carnival, at Ely's Jubil-Eel Day and the Cambridgeshire County Show Day at Newmarket's famous July Course.

On 4th September, the caravan will be at the Armed Forces Day in March, and on 10th and 11th September at Haddenham Steam Rally and Horse Show.

"We have a team of brethren who are happy to assist with the logistics and to help with some of the manning of the unit, but some local lodge involvement and knowledge is essential to the good running of the unit," said WBro. Jon Cooper, Provincial Information Officer.

Anyone interested should email WBro. Cooper: jonandsally2000@yahoo.co.uk

Jon Cooper



Faith, unity and zeal...

Dan Heath takes a look at the Red Cross of Constantine, perhaps the least known of what has been described as the three great pillars of Christian Freemasonry.

The Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St John the Evangelist has a long and distinguished history. The eminent and prolific masonic luminary Robert Wentworth Little, writing as Grand Recorder in 1868, claims its origins go back as far as the 1780s, and there are records to support the working of a variety of Orders containing the name 'Red Cross' dating from 1770.

In addition to Little, other names now well-known to masonic historians appear in the Order's history. Charles Shirreff, the ubiquitous Thomas Dunckerley and Waller Rodwell Wright all make an appearance and are worthy of further exploration in their own right.

For the purposes of this article, I will focus on the relatively modern structure of the Order, dating from circa 1865. That said, as with many masonic Orders, it has experienced several redevelopments in the intervening years. The Order, one of the Christian Chivalric Orders of Freemasonry, consists of three degrees: Knight of the Red Cross of Constantine, supplemented by two Appendant Orders (Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and Knight of St John the Evangelist); Eminent Viceroy; and Most Puissant Sovereign.

The story of the Knight of the Red Cross of Constantine commences in a Conclave, where the candidate is installed as a Knight-Companion of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine. It is based on the legend of Roman Emperor Constantine the Great's conversion to Christianity, when Constantine and his army were preparing for what we now know as the Battle of Milvian Bridge (Northern Rome, Italy, 312 AD) against his rival Maxentius.



One evening, as he and his army were marching towards Rome, Constantine, meditating on the future battle, prayed that he would be granted inspiration and wisdom. At that moment, as the sun was setting, there appeared in the heavens a pillar of light in the shape of the cross with an inscription thereon.

Constantine commanded a standard to be made bearing the image of the cross, which would lead his army into battle. Outnumbered roughly two to one, Constantine's army fought valiantly and defeated Maxentius in a decisive victory that saw Maxentius killed in battle. Constantine was duly proclaimed 'Augustus Maximus' (senior Augustus).

This provides the foundation for the ceremony and offers and opportunity for the Conclave Orator to deliver an interesting lecture described as the 'Legend of the foundation of the order'. Having taken this ceremony, the Knight-Companion is invited to attend a meeting when the Appendant Orders will be conferred. This is usually done by a specialist team, either at a regular meeting or at a meeting convened by the Division (Province).

APPENDANT ORDERS

The Appendant Orders consist of two ceremonies – Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and Knight of St John the Evangelist – conferred at the same meeting, beginning in a Commandery and ending in a Sanctuary.

The ceremony of Knight of the Holy Sepulchre has its origins in the search by Constantine's mother, Helena (later St Helena), for the true cross at Golgotha and the subsequent construction of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, consecrated in 335 AD.

The masonic narrative is founded on the story of a select and devoted band of knights who commit themselves to guarding the Holy Place and relates to the circumstances of Christ's crucifixion and subsequent resurrection.



...the Red Cross of Constantine

The ceremony of Knight of St John the Evangelist is based on the failed attempt by Emperor Julian the Apostate to rebuild the Temple at Jerusalem in 360 AD and includes the remarkable discovery made among the ruins. As the candidate progresses through the ceremony, he gains enlightenment as to the Christian aspects of the Craft and Royal Arch ceremonies.

The Degree of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Appendant Orders are recognised as being interrelated but independent of each other and have two very distinct certificates with a great deal of detail and imagery on each.

These preparatory ceremonies must be completed before attaining the Offices of Viceroy and then Sovereign of the Conclave, separate degrees conferred at the Installation meeting.

In the College of Priests-Mason the Viceroy elect is consecrated as Venerable Eusebius, an honour relating to Eusebius of Caesarea (c 260 AD to 339 AD) regarded as the 'Father of Church History'.

The Viceroy is effectively the second in command in the Conclave and should serve the office for at least one year before progressing to the Chair. This is achieved by being presented as Sovereign elect in a Senate of Princes-Mason and enthroned as Most Puissant Sovereign.

Thus, the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine may be seen as a masonic rite of complexity, enlightenment and spiritual development. Its ceremonies can be challenging, both to deliver and to understand, but they contain what has been described as some of the most beautiful and thought-provoking ritual to be found anywhere within the body of Freemasonry.

From a masonic point of view, they provide us with lessons of faith, unity and zeal, the watchwords of the Order, while historically they commemorate Constantine the Great – Emperor of York 306 AD – whose actions had an impact on European Christianity still with us today.

Who is in charge?

The Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign is Graham Leslie Flight, Knight Grand Cross of Constantine (G.C.C.) who is also the Most Illustrious Knight Patriarch and Grand Commander of the Appendant Orders. He is assisted by the Right Illustrious and Eminent Deputy Grand Sovereign, Peter Hawken MBE, G.C.C., and the Right Illustrious and Venerable Grand Eusebius, Timothy John Nicholas L'Estrange, G.C.C, who is also the Right Illustrious and Venerable Sub-Patriarch and Deputy Grand Commander of the Appendant Orders.

Provinces are known as Divisions and are ruled over by the Right Illustrious Intendent-General and his deputy. The Division of East Anglia's Intendent-General is Dr John Anthony Elmore and his deputy is Stephen Newman. Corpus Christi Conclave is based at Freemasons' Hall, Bateman Street, Cambridge, and St Huna Conclave at Chatteris, both meeting three times a year on Saturdays. Contact details can be found in the Red Cross of Constantine section of the Cambridgeshire Masonic Year Book.

Who can join?

The Order is open to Master Masons who are also Companions of the Royal Arch and are able to sign a declaration stating that they are a Christian who holds and professes a belief in the Christian trinitarian faith.

How big is the Order?

There are currently about 300 Conclaves in the Order across 31 Divisions and one Inspectorate, plus 15 Unattached Conclaves. They stretch from Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia through India and South Africa, up into Western Europe and then across to Brazil, Barbados and Jamaica. There are also several Sovereign Grand Conclaves in other parts of the world.



Ely help for residential home

Thanks to the generosity of the members of the Ely Lodges, a *Cercis Canadensis* 'Hearts of Gold' tree was planted in the gardens of the city's Lily House Residential Home.



Mrs Joanne Swift, the home's activities coordinator and wife of Bro. Andy Swift, of St Ovin Lodge No. 7774, invited Ely freemasons to a tree planting ceremony and garden party held in the home's grounds on 2nd June. A plaque to commemorate the planting was placed in position.

Sufficient funds have been donated by the Ely freemasons to allow additional planting to be carried out in the gardens. WBro. Martin Rose, of Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655, and his wife Brenda, attended the ceremony as the representatives of the Ely United Lodge of Instruction.

Jon Cooper

Lodge will remember war casualty

A founder member of Caldwell Lodge No. 3201 in March who died in 1917 after service in the First World War will be remembered at the town's Masonic Hall.

The idea to remember Brother George William Heath with a plaque in the hall was suggested by WBro. Andy Murfitt, Master of Caldwell Lodge. Hopefully it will be unveiled in time for Armistice Day on 11th November.

Brother Heath, who was a builder living in March, was initiated in the Lodge of United Good Fellowship No. 809 at Wisbech and became one of the founders of Caldwell Lodge, which was consecrated on 31st January 1907.

A married man describing himself as a Master Carpenter, Bro. Heath enlisted as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers on 4th December 1914, eventually being posted to the 79th Field Company RE in the 18th Eastern Division.

He was posted to France with the Division on 26th July 1915 and wounded on 17th July 1916 during the fighting around Trones Wood and Delville Wood on the Somme. Sent to hospital in England, he was discharged from the army as unfit for further service on 1st January 1917, but sadly died of an internal complaint, aged 43, on 27th January.

Cliff Brown

Supporting the local community

Since retiring from the Army in 2011, Brother Lt-Col (Retd.) Steven Handscomb and Brother Major Dougie Black MBE, of St Ovin Lodge No. 7774, have been involved in various community activities.

During the last five years, they have been supporting the Ely Foodbank by collecting donated food from local supermarkets and delivering it to foodbank distribution centres, including March, Chatteris, Soham, Cottenham, Waterbeach, and Burwell.

The Ely Foodbank has also been assisted financially with donations from St Ovin Lodge No. 7774 and the Ely United Lodge of Instruction. Over the last year, more than 8,330 people, of whom 6,785 were children, have needed the foodbank's support.

Steven Handscomb



Wisbech Freemasons encourage the spirit of adventure

Wisbech's Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125 donated £558 to the town's Air Training Corps to cover the cost of two new laptops. These computers will enhance the learning experience of the cadets of 272 (Wisbech) Squadron through online instructions and tests. There are currently 17 youngsters in the Squadron and with the end of Covid it is hoping to recruit more young people.

Activities are varied with all practical elements supported by training and supervision. These include aircraft recognition, camping, drill, first aid, flying, gliding, map reading exercises, shooting, sport and preparation for the various levels of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. WBro. Martin Holmes, of the Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125, accompanied by Bro. Peter Human, presented the cheque to Flight Lieutenant Anne Rose, watched by members of 272 Squadron.

The ATC provides young people between the ages of 12 and 18 with unique opportunities to challenge and develop themselves. Its aims are to promote and encourage a practical and theoretical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force; provide training which is useful in both civilian life and the services; encourage the spirit of adventure and develop leadership, teamwork and good citizenship.

Andy Clifton



Knights Templar mark retirement in style

The retirement of the Provincial Prior for the Knights Templar Province of East Anglia and his deputy was marked on 11th May when more than 60 Knights assembled at Cabbell Knights Templar Preceptory in Wroxham, not only to admit two new Knights but to present special gifts.

RE.Kt Colin Birkbeck, the new Provincial Prior, read a citation to RE.Kt Stewart Middleton, the Immediate Past Provincial Prior, before presenting him with a silver salver engraved with the names of every East Anglian Preceptory. There was also a floral gift for his wife Sally. RE.Kt Middleton, who had served the Province of East Anglia for over 11 years, thanked all the Knights assembled and those unable to attend for their generosity.

E.Kt John Rowell, the Provincial Sub Prior, then read a citation to VE.Kt William Jack Hagger, the Immediate Past Sub Prior, who had served the Province of East Anglia for the same amount of time as the Provincial Prior. He was presented with a special photograph frame by RE.Kt Birkbeck. He also thanked the Knights for their contribution toward the gift.

VE.Kt Peter Coles, the Provincial Vice-Chancellor, ably assisted in the presentations, co-ordinating each preceptory in their generous contributions towards the purchase of the gifts.

John Rowell



Farmers host museum visit and garden party

An amazing range of historic vehicles, bygones and assorted memorabilia were on show at the family garden party and museum visit at Engine Farm, Coates, on 5th June.

Hosted by Fenland Farmers' Lodge No. 9933, the event, which included a hog roast, showcased a huge collection of vintage engines and implements collected by WBro. Gordon Easton. Among the visitors present was the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. William Dastur.



"Unfortunately, due to the poor weather, there were not as many people as expected although those who attended enjoyed themselves immensely," said WBro. Danny Ellis, the lodge Secretary.

Cliff Brown

The event was a chance for people to reminisce about the exhibits or for younger visitors to see some historical items for the first time, as Gordon's daughter Ruth described:

"It showed the importance of restoring the history. You can hear the older generation saying 'I remember this, or we had one of those' but the reaction of one young girl seeing everything for the first time was just beautiful."



Mentor visits Cambs brethren in London

In his final weeks as Provincial Grand Mentor, WBro. Jon West found time after June's Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge to stay on at Great Queen Street, London, to see Cambridgeshire Brethren WBro. Graham Clapperton, Bro. Andy Sullivan and WBro. Cliff Brown, all of Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704, perform their first ceremony together as Master and Wardens of Royal Kent Lodge No. 15.

Also present were Stone Cross Junior Warden Bro. Clinton Elkin and Fellowcraft Bro. Josh Harris. The meeting was also attended by the Grand Master of Lithuania, his Grand Secretary, and accompanying brethren.

Cliff Brown



Marking the Diamond Jubilee

Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in style and raising £350 for charity were members and guests of Abbot Simeon Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1847.

The afternoon cream tea event, which is the first event hosted by the lodge in over a decade, was held at Ely Masonic Hall and attracted 46 people. Entertainment included live music from the 1940s onwards by Kathryn Buck. Of the £350 raised, £200 was given to the MCF Ukraine appeal.

Tom Jackson



'96 Masters support Deputy Provincial Grand Master

Friday the 13th may be unlucky for some but not for the regular Installation meeting of the Cambridgeshire Installed Master's Lodge No.7429.

VWBro. Pat Kilby, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, having completed his year as Master of CIML and due to install his successor, RWBro. William Dastur, Provincial Grand Master, called for support from some of his fellow Masters from the "class of 1996", when he was Master of Gild of St. Mary No.7288.

Supporting the inner workings of the Installation of the Provincial Grand Master were WBro. Brian Elliott, of Kynaston Lodge No. 5810, occupying the chair of Senior Warden, WBro. David Fountain, of Caldwell Lodge No. 3201, as Junior Warden and WBro. Vic Richards, of Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704, acting as Inner Guard, all of which truly demonstrates the continuing strong bonds of mutual support and friendship at the core of successful freemasonry.

The evening, attended by more than 70 brethren, including representatives from the Installed Masters Lodges of Norfolk, Bedfordshire, Suffolk and Buckinghamshire, saw the Installation undertaken in fine style by VWBro. Kilby.



Concluding the meeting in traditional style, the newly installed Master gave a very interesting talk entitled "Masonry and the man" regarding his early career and journey in freemasonry, which ended with some thought-provoking ideas for the future. All the brethren then enjoyed a superb champagne reception followed by the Festive Board.

Brian Elliott

Bronze award for Royal and Select Masters

Following generous donations to the Province's Festival 2023, a Bronze Honorific has been presented to University Council No. 26 of Royal and Select Masters.

The presentation at Freemasons' Hall, Cambridge, was made to Illustrious Companion Brian Thrower, thrice Illustrious Master of University Council, by WBro. David Cameron, Provincial Grand Charity Steward of the Cambridgeshire Craft Province. The Council has been given permission by R.III.Comp. Peter T. Coles, District Grand Master, for the Master to wear the Festival 2023 Honorific at its festive board.



The Order of Royal and Select Masters, also known as the Cryptic Degrees, is the only order to link the Craft, via the Mark Degree, with the supreme degree of the Holy Royal Arch. It is considered the summit and perfection of Ancient Masonry and without it the history of the Holy Royal Arch cannot be said to be complete. It goes some way to provide the missing link between Craft, Mark and the Royal Arch.

The Order consists of Four Degrees – Select Master, Royal Master, Most Excellent Master and Super Excellent Master. Any craft mason who is interested in becoming a Royal and Select Master should be a Royal Arch Companion and a Mark Master Mason.

University Council, which was consecrated in 1900, meets at Freemasons' Hall, Cambridge on the first Saturday in February (Installation), the Saturday after the fourth Saturday in May and fourth Saturday in October. Members meet at noon before lunch at around 12.45pm and the meetings start at 2.15pm. The admission fee is £32 and the annual subscription £40.

Anybody seeking further information should contact the Council Recorder, Dr MC Black:
recorder@uc26.org.uk

David Cameron

Province has link to Platinum Jubilee gift to Queen

A platinum and diamond brooch commissioned and gifted by UGLE to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was made by a Cambridgeshire Mason.

The design of the brooch is based on the badge of Navy Lodge No. 2612, which has for many years enjoyed close ties with the Royal Family. Consecrated in 1896, The Prince of Wales was proclaimed Navy Lodge's first Worshipful Master, remaining so until his accession to the Throne in 1901.



On 2nd December 1919, Prince Albert, Duke of York, was Initiated into Navy Lodge and became Worshipful Master in 1921, remaining in office until 1931. The Prince of Wales joined in 1920, serving as Worshipful Master from 1932 to 1937 and Prince George, Duke of Kent, was Initiated in 1928, having been proposed by his two brothers, and served as Worshipful Master from 1931 to 1932.

On 5th December 1952, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was Initiated into the Lodge and remained a member all his life.

The brooch, designed by Yasmin Lambert, and made in the workshop of Jonathan Lambert Ltd, by our own Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro. Jonathan Lambert, is set with 104 brilliant-cut diamonds and surrounding the Navy Lodge badge are 16 contemporary square and compass emblems forming the outer star.

The brooch was hallmarked as platinum in the London Assay Office using the commemorative mark issued to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

Brian Elliott

EVERYONE WELCOME!

KIDS GO FREE!
Adults £10

ELY FREEMASONS SUMMER FAYRE
IN AID OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE FREEMASONS FESTIVAL 2023

SATURDAY 16TH JULY

WATSON'S MEADOW, WISBECH ROAD, LITTLEPORT CB1 1GJ
From 12 noon with Opening Ceremony by the Provincial Grand Master at 1.00pm

Join us for a **FUN FAMILY DAY** filled with lots of stalls, live music, fresh food and drink, local entertainment, classic vehicles and much more!

Adults £10 each, children free! All proceeds to go to Cambridgeshire Freemasons Festival 2023.
For more info contact summer-fayre@elymasonichall.com or visit <https://elymasonichall.com/summer-fayre>

DOGS WELCOME BBQ & BAR!

SCAN ME!

Family Garden Party and BBQ
(With a Very Large Train Set)

Alma Mater and Gild of St Mary Lodges

Cordially Invite Everyone To A Slightly Steamy Afternoon

When: Saturday 20th August 2022 from 13:00 to 18:00
149 Shelford Road, Trumpington, Cambridge, CB2 9ND

Free Miniature Steam Train Rides for all

Lucky children will be allowed to drive the Eco-friendly Electric Train

Free Outdoor games

Charity Bar - Real Ale
Tombola - prizes welcome
All proceeds to Festival 2023

Tickets: £10 per person including free BBQ
Under 14's FOC, including free BBQ

Please book tickets with Edmund Brookes by email or phone:

Youngsters with cancer receive grant to fund specialist social worker at hospital

As many as 150 children and young people with cancer will receive help and support thanks to a grant of £74,000 from Cambridgeshire Freemasons, through the Masonic Charitable Foundation, to the Young Lives vs Cancer charity.

The grant will fund a specialist social worker based at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge to provide a tailored package of emotional, practical and financial support to young cancer patients and their families.

Their support will help young people and families overcome the challenges and fears they face during treatment and beyond. Young Lives vs Cancer social workers are there from the point of diagnosis to offer practical support and advice whether it's about school, relationships, mental health or life with cancer in general.



Young Lives vs Cancer supports children and young people across the East of England including Cambridgeshire, who have been diagnosed with cancer and being treated at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Every year, around 300 children and young people aged up to 25 years, will hear the life-changing news they have cancer.

Treatment often starts straightaway and can last up to three years. For a child or young person, it can have a significant impact on their education, social development and future prospects.

Julie Millar, Head of High Value Fundraising at Young Lives vs Cancer, said: "We're very grateful to Cambridgeshire Freemasons for their generous grant, which will make a huge difference to local children and young people with a cancer diagnosis.

Whether it's emotional support to them and their families, helping them to access essential benefits or making sure they continue their education during treatment, there is so much that can be done to make their lives better."

Jon Cooper

Support for Widows' club

At the Cambridgeshire Masonic Widows' Friendship Club's first meeting since the lockdown ended, WBro. Brian Sutton, of Caldwell Lodge No. 3201, based at March, handed over a £250 donation to the club. The meeting took place at Ely.

Brian Sutton



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