



The Cambridgeshire Mason

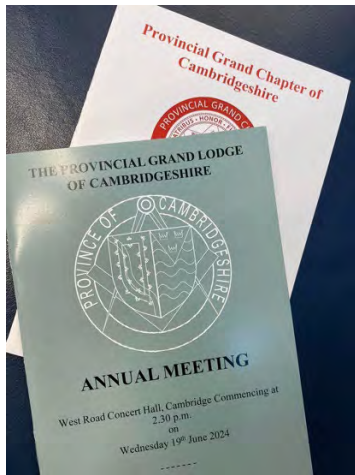
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Annual Provincial Meetings



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Highlights from the Provincial Grand Masters Address



Brethren,

I am pleased to see so many here today filling this hall and celebrating another year of progress and success in this Province. To all our visitors I extend a warm welcome and I hope you will enjoy the day – your support makes it that much more special.

The Pro Grand Master's Strategy is starting to yield results as we all embrace the challenges it presents. With "one journey, one organisation" laying a clear path for us to build an integrated organisation fit for the 21st Century and, more importantly, one fit to develop and grow, not just survive. His leadership has been truly inspirational. It is crystal clear that the Craft and the Royal Arch are inextricably linked for the future complementing each other with their respective strengths. What better than to continue to hold both Provincial Meetings on the same day at the same location thereby reinforcing the link?

Whilst we don't have a membership challenge deficit to address, we still have work to do to sustain, if not improve, our position. If each Lodge were to show net growth of just 2 members each year that would represent some 5% growth. We have shown over the last three years that we can grow overall by an average of one member so I would like each Lodge to endeavour to have achieved a net growth of two members by this time next year. It's something I think we can all achieve especially by paying due attention to reducing resignations something I want as a particular focus over the next 12 months. If we concentrate on encouraging back those Brethren who have stayed away or are out of the habit of attending, it is an easier way of avoiding membership losses.

Brethren, in some ways we are all membership officers and what is more we should relish this role of growing the Order. Encouraging friends, making introductions, supporting the exhibition trailer at local events, Masonic Centre open days, White Table evenings to introduce freemasonry at convivial dinners are all there as suitable enablers. We must encourage newer members and aspiring brethren to want to be involved and have a strong reason to continue to belong. We must be much less critical and demanding of those who, perhaps we perceive, don't appreciate or can't satisfy the standards and commitments expected 40 and 50 years ago. Open criticism in Lodge is unacceptable and in the 21st century we should aim to embrace the best of 21st century attitudes and behaviours. - especially inclusiveness and tolerance.

We are building a living organisation to thrive another 300 years or more not a museum of dinosaurs. I am so pleased and encouraged by the enthusiasm and efforts of the Light Blues, whilst the buddy initiative involving newly initiated Brethren in early Lodge visits has proved so successful and I know all the Rulers enjoy attending on those evenings. The Light Blues deserve our respect, support, and gratitude but most importantly our continued encouragement.

Congratulations are due to W Bro's David Parker and Mark Shields on their first appointment to Grand Rank as well to W Bro's David Blair, Paul Gillingwater, Dan Heath and John Hammond on their promotions. At Provincial level may I also congratulate all those who have today been promoted or appointed to new ranks and responsibilities. They are all well-earned and thoroughly deserved and I am sure it will encourage you to continue to serve your lodges, this Province and the Craft even better.

I have already said a lot about VW Bro Pat Kilby who is retiring after 6 hugely successful years as my Deputy and four as Provincial Secretary. He will be a huge loss and deserves all the accolades, but I also know that he is a reliable brother whom I am sure will be more than willing to help us from time to time in the future. Pat – thank you again and enjoy your free time – the Province has taken far too much of it over the last 10 years or so.

I am delighted that we shall be holding, another Festival of Carols on Friday 6th December at Ely Cathedral where I hope we shall exceed 2022's fantastic sum of £30,000 for the Ely Cathedral and another local charity, once again demonstrating freemasonry's commitment to our local community.

On 23rd July, W Bro. George Brennan will once again be organising a PSA testing day at Bateman Street, and I encourage all those who have not taken the test recently to sign up. It is such a sensible step to catching a potential problem early and thereby, hopefully, ensuring a cure.

Brethren thank you for your loyalty, friendship, and support. I am so proud to lead Cambridgeshire and to share with you in its success. May the Great Architect be with you, and all those you love, now and always.

Dazzling Delivery for Logistica



Logistica Lodge No. 9804 celebrated a double ceremony of Passing for Bro. Noli Shelala and Bro. Theo Runham in April. The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro. David Blair, was present at the meeting and ensured the evening was eventful by accepting the gavel from the Worshipful Master W Bro. James Utting and delivering the ceremony himself.

Bro. Shelala has been notable as an Entered Apprentice following his initiation by W Bro. Tony Kirby in September 2023. He embarked on an ambitious journey of Masonic learning and development and in just over two months from his own initiation, impeccably delivered the Charge after Initiation at various meetings across the province. In total, Bro. Shelala has delivered the Charge to ten candidates while still in his white apron. Logistica Lodge is genuinely proud of Bro Shelala's advancement and word-perfect rituals. We hope his achievement to be inspirational for all newly initiated members in our Lodges.

Pantomime Stars support Local Charities



Charities in Cambridge have once again benefited from funds raised through pantomimes performed by Cambridgeshire Freemasons. The last 18 years have seen twelve pantomimes, performed at Masonic Centres in Cambridge and Newmarket, which have raised a total of £33,000.

One of the three charities which received funds from this year's performance of Aladdin was Cambridge Aid, who provide a point of last resort for those in desperate financial need within Cambridge and its surrounding villages. Other charities receiving funds were Red2Green and Bare Necessities.

Joel Limmer, Chairperson of Cambridge Aid, explained: *"We offer financial help to individuals and families in need, whilst the referring organisation may be dealing with the underlying causes of distress. The grants give comfort, provide basic essential needs, and help to maintain dignity. This amazing donation will enable to continue with our charitable work."*

Freemason Mark Long, pantomime director and leading dame added *"Our pantomimes put the 'fun' into 'fundraising' and I believe that is why our long-running productions have such a keen cast and crew and are enjoyed by so many, we are already planning for next year"*.

A Note on the use of Mobile Phones in Meetings

Mobile Phones and especially the taking of photographs within a ceremony is strictly prohibited. The booklet 'Information for the Guidance of Members of the Craft', published by the United Grand Lodge of England, states 'Disciplinary action is likely to be taken against the Brethren concerned in cases of failure to comply with the policy in respect of photography or the use of social media'.

Oktoberfest... in March!



The four Lodges of Ely; St. Audrey, St. Ovin, The Porta and Descensus Aquarum, once again joined forces to present an extraordinary evening of entertainment and fundraising. After turning Hiam's Sport Club in Prickwillow into a German Bierkeller, we proceeded to hold a traditional Oktoberfest... in March!

With Brockwurst, Bratwurst, Strüdel, Black Forest Gateau and many other German delicacies on the menu a veritable feast was enjoyed by our hundred or so guests, many of whom were dressed for the evening in Lederhosen shorts and Dirndl dresses which added authenticity.

To add to the atmosphere the guests were entertained by the very lively Cambridge based Authentic German Oompah band; Oompalievable, with music, dancing, and games galore. Every ten or fifteen minutes the band would break into a song called Ein Prosit, an essential and traditional Oktoberfest song.

The lovely Helga (aka Doug Black), who spent much of the early part of the evening preparing and cooking our feast, was very pleased to welcome both our Deputy Provincial Grand Master and our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, who, along with our other guests, enjoyed good food, good music, and good companionship.



The evening, attended by members of several Cambridgeshire Lodges with their families and friends, raised over £1,750.00 which will be donated to local charities.

An Olympian Task?

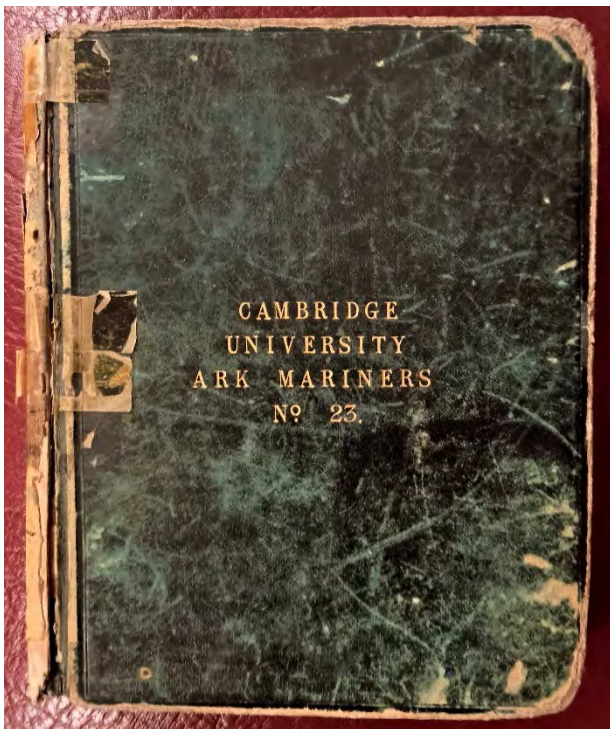
If any members within the Province are planning to attend the Olympic Games in Paris this summer, Freemasonry Today will be interested in featuring their stories in the September issue. Please submit your text and images to comms@pglcamb.org.uk

150 Years of University Royal Ark Mariner Masonry

“Isaac Newton University Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 112, Warranted 29 April 1874”

So, it is written on every summons for Isaac Newton University Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 112. With the recent successful sesquicentenary of Isaac Newton University Lodge of Mark Master Masons only two years past (delayed 2 years by COVID) and the mechanisms and requirements still fresh in mind, the likelihood was that the process could simply be repeated to gain a sesquicentenary warrant for our RAM Lodge. All we needed to do was give evidence of continuous meeting since the Consecration.

And so, the earliest Lodge minute book was located at the back of a dusty cupboard at Bateman St. Curiously, the cover is emblazoned “Cambridge University Ark Mariners No 23”. No mention of Sir Isaac or our familiar number, 112.



Indeed, the very first but undated minute is headed “University Ark Mariners No 23” and refers to the then-recent takeover of RAM by Mark Grand Lodge, which event dates to 1871. This takeover was not universally welcomed.

There had been several attempts to form a separate RAM Grand Lodge and the fact that our Ark Mariner Lodge was originally numbered 23 indicates that the Lodge may have been part of just such an alternative Grand Lodge. Records show that when Mark Grand Lodge assumed control, 28 RAM Lodges were in existence. That the RAM degree had been increasingly worked in Mark lodges might have been a driver for the takeover at a time when the tribulations of setting up Mark Grand Lodge (1856) were recent memory. In the end, Mark Grand Lodge purchased the rights to the RAM degree outright in 1884 and the receipt is still retained at Mark Masons Hall.

That earliest Lodge minute book record describes in its first record the meeting of 4 brethren – Bro’s Walker, Caldwell, Miller, and Wace – and the “advancement” of several Mark Masons from Isaac Newton Mark Lodge into the RAM degree. The senior candidate was Bro. Cuthbert Edgar Peek, of Pembroke College.

Peek was a student of astronomy and surveying and later as a FRAS, he set up an observatory in Rousdon, Devon, in 1884. In 1876 he is recorded as being installed as Commander of the RAM Lodge now described in the minutes as ‘Isaac Newton University Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 112’. The old records tell us that three meetings occurred in 1876, but then.... nothing for 9 years.

Our 1874 warrant names five brethren as petitioners. Bros Bryan Walker, Robert Caldwell, Robert Miller, and Frederic Wace, together with Roger Birdwood. Who were our illustrious predecessors? All were University men.

Rev Bryan Walker was made a fellow of Corpus Christi College in 1866, having gained his MA that year. He was ordained deacon in 1868 and priest (Ely) in 1870. He was Rector of Landbeach, Cambridgeshire, 1871-87. Bro. Walker died on Aug. 16, 1887, aged 47, at Landbeach rectory.

Dr Roger Birdwood was born in India in 1851 and studied at Kings College gaining B.A. 1873; M.A. 1881; M.B. 1887; M.D. 1889. MRCS 1877. He was Medical Superintendent of Park Hospital, Hither Green, in 1909. He was Sometime General Superintendent of smallpox arrangements of the Metropolitan Asylums Board and Medical Superintendent of smallpox hospital ships, South Western Fever Hospital and North Eastern Fever Hospital, in 1884. He was House Surgeon of Gravesend Hospital, Kent and served as Civil Surgeon in the Galeka and Zulu Campaigns. Bro. Birdwood died in 1924, aged 72, at Twickenham.

Robert Kalley Miller was born in 1842 at Kilmarnock. He studied first at Glasgow University then Peterhouse, becoming a Fellow in 1867, Bursar, 1876-84. He was Esquire Bedell, 1870-3 and Professor of Applied Mathematics at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, 1873-5. Bro. Miller died in 1889, at Melbourne House, Tunbridge Wells.

Frederic Charles Wace was born on June 17, 1836. He was a Fellow of St Johns College, 1860-75, Senior Proctor, 1873-4 and Esquire Bedell, 1877-93. He was Mayor of Cambridge, 1890-1; Alderman of Cambridgeshire. County Council, 1889-93. Bro. Wace died Jan. 25, 1893, in Cambridge and is buried at Cherry Hinton.

Robert Townley Caldwell was born in 1843, in Barbados. A Corpus Christi man, Fellow, 1865-1906. Bursar 1871-99. Tutor, 1879-92. Master, 1906-14. He was called to the Bar, 1874. On the South Eastern Circuit. As bursar of Corpus Christi, he is said to have shown great business capacity in the management of the estates and finances of the College; as Master, he carried through many needed reforms. More of Bro. Caldwell later, but he died Sept. 8, 1914, in Scotland, as the result of a motor accident.

After the 1876 Lodge meetings, our next chronological record is that an emergency meeting of the RAM Lodge was summoned on 11 March 1885, and Bro. Cuthbert Edgar Peek is still listed as Commander, although he does not seem to have been present that day and his successor, Bro. CAC Jones, was installed in his stead. Charles Alfred Jones of St Johns College was both a Priest and teacher and Chaplain of St John's College, 1861-2. After the Installation, the main business of 11 March was the admission of 20 candidates. All proposed by Bro. FC Wace and seconded by Bro. RT Caldwell. Indeed, one of the candidates, Bro. D Hall, had summoned the meeting and was immediately appointed Scribe on his admission that evening. Nothing changes! Bro. Wace was appointed Treasurer, and remained so until 1891, the year he passed away.

I promised more of Bro. Caldwell – is that name familiar? After that 1885 meeting he is not listed in Lodge office again. Perhaps some explanation is that it is the same RT Caldwell who became Provincial Grand Master of the Craft Province of Cambridgeshire in 1891, until his death in 1914. His name is of course preserved in the Caldwell Lodge which meets at March.

Our continuous history really begins from that emergency meeting in 1885, and so as we cannot prove continuous working since 1874, we do not qualify for a sesquicentenary warrant – YET. As to why the Lodge did not meet between 1876 and 1885, we can only speculate. It is notable I think that the status of the RAM degree under Mark Grand Lodge jurisdiction was ratified formally in 1884, the year before, by their purchase of all rights to the degree. The earlier takeover of the RAM degree by Mark was not universally welcomed and perhaps this caused umbrage in senior University Masonic circles, finally settled by the sale. We can only speculate.

Nonetheless it is appropriate on the 150th anniversary of the issuing of the Lodge warrant to remember not only those Brethren whose names appear on it as petitioners - Walker, Caldwell, Miller, Wace and Birdwood, but also the essential contributions of Bros Wace and Caldwell in the 1885 revival. Without doubt in my mind, they saved our Lodge in that emergency meeting in 1885.

W Bro. Chris Ansell, RAMGR - Commander of the Lodge 1990, 2019

Discover More about the Royal Arch...

The Ceremony of Raising implies that there is more to learn, for it urges us to lift our eyes beyond our civil duties and routine existence. The Royal Arch develops this theme because it teaches us that the true secrets of a Freemason are to be found within ourselves.

Within English Freemasonry there exists an indissoluble link between Craft Freemasonry and Royal Arch Masonry. Together they constitute "pure Ancient Masonry", as defined in the preliminary declaration of the Act of Union that in 1813 created the United Grand Lodge of England.

When a Freemason has attained the rank of a Master Mason he is then entitled, after a period of one month, to be exalted into a Royal Arch Chapter to complete his journey in pure and Ancient Freemasonry.

To discover even more, either talk to your Lodge's Royal Arch Representative, email Jon West - provgscribee@pglcambs.org.uk or chat to anyone wearing one of these Royal Arch jewels:



“

I like the Royal Arch because it's like finding the missing piece of a jigsaw puzzle: without it the picture is not complete.

”

Steve Napier, Etheldreda Chapter (Wisbech)

'Canter'brigia Lodge supports disabled riders



The College group of the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) received a boost to their funds recently following a donation of £800 from the members of Cantabrigia Lodge. Service being such a core principle of Freemasonry the RDA was an easy pick for Oliver Parr a member of Cantabrigia Lodge and a professional in the horse industry. Oliver is aware of the costs faced by the RDA. *"It's not just the cost of the horses but paying for their insurance, buying their tack and rugs, the extras such as physio treatment and vet visits, and I am really pleased to assist our local RDA with their work,"* he said.

The Cambridge College RDA provides riding lessons and equestrian activities for young, disabled adults and is run entirely by volunteers. It offers regular, weekly lessons to riders aged between 16 and 30 which are suitable for people with all types of disabilities, including physical, sensory, and learning disabilities, with many riders having more than one type of disability.

Gillian Newsum, Chairman of the RDA College, said *"The riders gain enormous benefits from the physical exercise, the contact with horses (they love stroking them as well as riding them), the social contact with other disabled riders and the confidence they gain from their achievements. All our coaches and volunteers are trained to help riders to have fun and progress whatever their disability, some of whom use specially adapted equipment to help them ride safely. For many, it is the highlight of their week."*

There are normally 5 students in a group lesson and the cost of the purchase, and maintenance of the horses, is covered by the RDA. *"We are constantly raising funds to cover the considerable costs of providing these activities. The £800 is a real boost to our new horse fund"*.

The horses live at the College of West Anglia in Milton on full working livery where they are also used in Equine and Horse Care courses. They have a varied workload, encompassing all kinds of ridden activities, and take part in lessons in stable management and equine anatomy and physiology. It was while Oliver was undertaking studies at the College that he came to see the positive impact of the RDA.

More Pantomime stories...



So nice to see this on our Facebook feed...

“Back in January, the Cambridgeshire Freemasons hosted their annual pantomime, and we were one of three charities to receive £1000. We got to meet the masons (sadly not in fancy dress) when they visited our barns to see the work we do in action.

Well, we couldn't believe our ears when they told us they had a bonus donation to their pantomime charities, so we have just received an extra £300 from them! Every penny counts this year more than ever before. We are so lucky to have great supporters in our local businesses and community groups.”

As a reminder, you can find us on the following channels - please follow, like, share and comment:

Facebook	CambridgeshireFreemasons
Twitter	@CambsMasons
Instagram	Cambridgeshire_Masons
LinkedIn	Cambridgeshire Freemasons

Buddies Scheme success at Stone Cross Lodge



Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704 held an extremely successful 12th Cambridgeshire Light Blues Buddies meeting in April. In attendance were eleven members from seven different Lodges. The image shows all the buddies along with the Provincial Grand Mentor, the Worshipful Master and both Wardens of Stone Cross together with Cambridgeshire Light Blues reps and Masters of visiting Lodges.

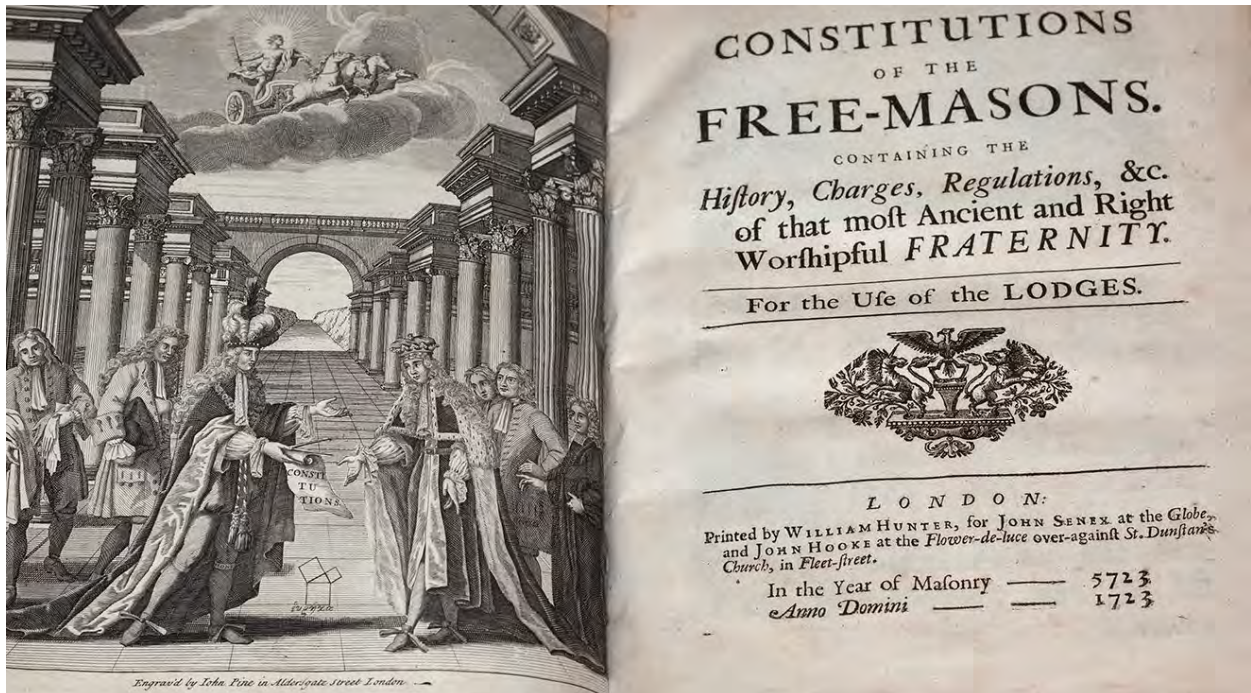
Thirkill Member celebrates 100th Birthday

Congratulations to Bro. Doug, whose 100th birthday was marked with festivities and cake at Thirkill Lodge in Cambridge earlier this year.

A fine Festive Board thanks as ever to Housdens Outside Catering who also provided the photograph!



Inspiring words from the Pro Grand Master



“The 1723 Constitutions encapsulate the Enlightenment values on which Freemasonry, as practised by the Regular Grand Lodges represented in this room, is founded. These values are themselves centred on notions of human happiness, intellectual enquiry, self-improvement, and the pursuit of knowledge for itself based on reason, and with ideals including liberty, religious tolerance, constitutional government, and a meritocratic society. These values are farther underpinned in our Freemasonry by belief in God, according to our own Faith: they are surely as relevant today in 2023 as they were in 1723.”

Grand Celebrations for Grand Officers



At the Annual Investiture at Grand Lodge in April, Cambridgeshire Masons celebrated the promotions of David Blair, Paul Gillingwater and Dan Heath and the first appointments of Mark Shields and David Parker. The Provincial Grand Master, Deputy GM, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master and a considerable retinue were delighted to dine on the excellent food offered at The Oxford and Cambridge Club.

The same but not as we know it – a visit to Norfolk!



St. Audrey Lodge had their first exchange visit to St. Winnold Lodge No. 3955 held at Downham Market Masonic Hall. A total of ten Cambridgeshire Masons crossed the border and were made very welcome.

The ceremony was a double initiation and was conducted excellently by Worshipful Master Peter Allen, a past master of Gray Lodge N. 4334 in Cambridgeshire. The visit was organised by W Bro. David Watson from St. Audrey Lodge and W Bro. Clive Oldham from St. Winnold Lodge.

The visitors did have to sing for our supper, as is traditional in Norfolk, and this was received with great applause.

Saint Andrew celebrates Saint George



Members, friends, and family of St Andrew Lodge 4087 sat down to an excellent Sunday Lunch to commemorate St. George's Day in April after an excellent lecture on the history of St. George by Kevin McKeivitt. The food was prepared by Tim Smith and Graham Turner (who have done this duty for the last 21 years!) The event raised £700 towards our Worshipful Master's chosen charity- The Young Peoples Counselling Service.

50 Years for Ely Freemason



W Bro. David Blair, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, was delighted to present a certificate to W Bro. Alan Hunter, as Past Master of Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655 in Ely. He was accompanied by the current Worshipful Master, W Bro. Freddie Lawes

441 Regalia Repatriation



Following the receipt of a letter offering the repatriation of regalia, W Bro. Mark Duncan, Provincial Grand Charity Steward for Buckinghamshire, requested to attend our meeting in April so that he could present to the Lodge a Past Master's Jewel that had come into his possession as described below. W Bro. Duncan described how he had come into possession of the regalia of W Bro. A. A. Francis, Master of 441 in 1961.

Explaining that the actual regalia had not passed the test of time too well, W Bro. Duncan then revealed there was also a Past Master's Jewel, which has the inscription on the reverse side, 'Presented to W Bro. A A Francis by the officers and Brethren of the Lodge of the Three Grand Principles, January 1962'. W Bro. Duncan believed the jewel to be made of gold as it is quite heavy and appears to bear hallmarks. There is also another which may be a charity jewel, on which is engraved on the rear, 'Bro J W Pretty'. As there is no date or any other inscription, he believes this jewel is also produced from gold as it is also hallmarked.

W Bro. Duncan then further explained that he would like to return these items to our Lodge, being the permanent property of the Lodge. Added to these two Jewels are various ritual books etc. More revealing was that there is also present a document naming all Lodge members and their addresses for the year 1966. It appears that we had 119 members, giving the date of them being initiated as well as the date they became Master Masons. Curiously it doesn't list their passing date, however it does give the year they went into the chair, W Bro. Francis is number 49, showing he was initiated on 5th May 1947, Raised May 3rd, 1948, and Worshipful Master in 1961.

W Bro. Duncan then further revealed two copies of a summons from January and September 1966, naming all past masters from 1836 to 1965 including W Bro. J. W. Pretty recorded as your past master in 1931 as engraved on the jewel.

The Lodge of The Three Grand Principles is and always will be most grateful for the return of these items as they are a very valuable part of our Lodge history and potentially Cambridge Social history.

Fundamental Lodge laying foundations for the future

Good to see that Fundamental Lodge, one of the younger Cambridgeshire Lodges, is gaining momentum. Their last meeting was an excellent and well-run initiation ceremony with some very impressive ritual and an equally entertaining festive board. With the prospect of another initiation in October, it's looking good for the new Masonic year.



Gild of Holy Trinity trio triumph on the tee



Congratulations to Bro's Simon Johnson and Adam French from the Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125 who, assisted by Bro. Andy McDonald, came top of the leader board at the recent Cambridgeshire Masonic Golf Association Championship, held at Girton Golf Club. The presentation was made by Provincial Grand Master Bill Dastur.

Promotions at Supreme Council 33°



At the Supreme Council 33° of the Ancient & Accepted Rite Higher Degrees meeting held at Duke Street in London on Tuesday 19th March, two eminent and well-known craft masons of the Cambridgeshire Province were honoured with promotions into the 32° of the Ancient & Accepted Rite.

Although an active member of the Cambridge & Isle of Ely District Rose Croix Chapter No.1157, Ill. Bro. David M. Blair, received his promotion via Oxford & Cambridge Chapter Rose Croix No.45 of the St. John Group of London Chapters.

Ill. Bro. Paul C. Gillingwater, a Past Sovereign of The Octagon in Ely Chapter No.1076 and a joining member and Past Sovereign of Icenis Chapter No.1126 and Director of Ceremonies of Cambridge & Isle of Ely Chapter No.1157, together with 19 other brethren were two candidates from the District receiving the Degree known as "Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret".

Bro. David and Bro. Paul were well supported by a number of Brethren of the District including The Inspector General, V.Ill. Bro. Justin Curtis 33°. Following the ceremonies, dinner was taken at Mark Masons' Hall, a short walk away in St. James Street, with the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Order presiding together with attendance of members of Supreme Council, all of which concluded a memorable day.

Further information about the Order can be obtained by contacting the District Recorder on districtrecorder@candioferosecroix.org

Ill. Bro. Brian Elliott 30° - District Recorder

Rose Croix Districts Annual Service of Thanksgiving



The Cambridge & Isle of Ely District Rose Croix has been in its present form since 1998 now under the leadership of its 3rd Inspector General, V:III:Bro. Justin Curtis 33°. However, Ancient & Accepted Rite masonry existed in the area long before that when from 1874 Eastern Central District was formed by Supreme Council. East Anglia District succeeded it in 1926. With the growth in the Order flourishing, 1976 saw East Anglia further sub divided with the formation of the District of Norfolk & Isle of Ely and the District of Suffolk and Cambridge. However, the 1998 re-structuring brings us up to date by the formation of the District of Norfolk, the District of Suffolk and the District of Cambridge & Isle of Ely.

Because of those valuable historic ties, the 'family' of Rose Croix Masonry in East Anglia is a very close one. Since 1998 each district has hosted in turn an Annual Service of Thanksgiving. This year it was the turn of Norfolk, and the service was held as a Choral Evensong on Sunday 7th April at Wymondham Abbey, just a few miles west of Norwich. Supported by eighty Brethren, wives, and partners of all 3 districts it was a most uplifting and enjoyable event rounded off with afternoon tea in the Preceptory.

The Abbey at Wymondham is one of the grandest religious buildings in East Anglia. It is a magnificent example of a Norman church, originally established in 1107 as part of a monastic foundation. It was later enlarged and embellished with a particularly fine angel roof. The unusual twin towers are a prominent local landmark. At the east end of the nave the magnificent great gilded screen (reredos, with tester and Crucifixion figures) shown in the photograph, is a memorial to Wymondham people killed during the Great War. Its famous designer, Sir Ninian Comper, based it on medieval screens. It features several saints with connections to the Abbey, including Patrons Our Lady and St Thomas Becket. The screen was constructed in stages and finished in 1934.

For 2025, the Service of Thanksgiving will be hosted by the District Cambridge & Isle of Ely and will be open to all Masons whether of the Order or not. Watch out for further details.

Brian Elliott - District Recorder

St Andrew Lodge Celebrates Double Jewel Return



St. Andrew Lodge officers and junior Brethren completed a very successful year with a very polished Initiation ceremony and fun-packed festive board. The evening was further enhanced by the presentation of a 1921 Founders' jewel to Gray Lodge IPM W Bro. Neal Cozens. The jewel was one of two Founders' jewels donated by Angela Shelton, the wife of the late W Bro. Geoff Shelton. It was the express wish of Angela that the jewels were returned to their respective Lodges. At a previous occasion Ailwyn Lodge at Ramsey (part of Provincial Grand Lodge of Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire) also benefited with the other Founders' jewel. Both jewels are over 100 years old and both Lodges, with their recipients, were highly delighted to receive them.

Full House at United Good Fellowship Installation



W Bro. Barry Lambert was installed into the Chair of King Solomon in fine fashion at the Lodge of United Good Fellowship Lodge No. 809. Judging by the number of Brethren at the Festive Board he is a popular choice! The meeting was made special by the attendance of W Bro. Bob Hammett, Provincial Junior Grand Warden.

Descensus Aquarum Lodge shows its Pedigree!



Another thrilling night at the Descensus Aquarum Race Night with several Horse Owners celebrating in the Enclosure and with the Tote enjoying a quiet celebration with the result. It was truly a night of fun, with a choice of Meats or Scampi & Chips in the basket, the refreshment bar open and a splendid evening for racing on both the flat and jumps. It was also clear to see that race sponsors also gained a great deal of publicity.

About 50 racegoers graced the stands, and betting must have been heavy as when each race came into the last furlong, noise was raised to a crescendo, as punters cheered their choice to the winning post. Many were celebrating their winners late into the night. The total raised was £1735 which will be donated to Children with Cancer UK

TLC for Teddies Cheque Presentation



The final figure is a massive £10,000 for TLC for Teddies. Well done to last year's Provincial Wardens W. Bro David Broker and W. Bro Bob Hammett for their fantastic effort in cycling to each of the Masonic Centres.

The Cheque presentation was completed at the Provincial meeting.

Full report on page 24.

Caldwell Lodge Donation Supports Young People



Following a successful race night Caldwell Lodge donated £600 to Young People March (YPM) an organisation for young people in March and the surrounding area.

YPM aim is to provide a safe and positive environment in which all young people in the area can access the opportunities to enhance and facilitate their successful transition from childhood to adulthood by promoting sports, arts, dance, socialising, health, and wellbeing and much more.

Commenting on the donation Jayne Manders, centre manager said,

“The staff, volunteers, and members would all like to thank Caldwell Lodge for their generosity. It is always special to have local people donate to our cause and even nicer when they take time out to get to know us and find out what we do. The young people who attend on our Tuesday group have expressed they would like to put the money towards some new gaming consoles”.

Cambridgeshire Masons Put their Best Foot Forward

Scientific Masonic Lodge, which meets in Cambridge, was delighted to donate £800 to the Blue Smile charity following a recent social dinner-dance held at Madingley Hall. The high point of the evening was dance instructor Lesley Collier guiding keen couples in ballroom dancing, to the delight and entertainment of all. Lesley has been a supporter of Blue Smile for the past ten years and was pleased to attend the presentation.

Blue Smile provide specialist arts-based therapy and counselling in local schools, supporting children with mental ill health. On receiving the donation, Anne Kent Taylor, the charity director, said:

“We are so grateful to receive this generous donation from Scientific Lodge, it will enable more children in Cambridgeshire primary schools’ access to specialist support, helping them come to terms with difficult experiences and feelings, enjoy happier childhoods and build brighter futures”.

The donation from Scientific Lodge was supported by match funded by the City & University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust.



Picture, from left to right Scientific Lodge members Tony Barrios and Roy Moyser together with Anne Kent Taylor and Lesley Collier.

Provincial Communication Officers Report



Just as there is so much planning and effort that goes on behind the scenes to make a Lodge or Chapter meeting so successful and enjoyable, so there is a huge amount of activity that makes Cambridgeshire such a wonderful province for Freemasonry. The comparison to a swan gliding serenely across the water, with its legs paddling energetically out of sight beneath the surface is well applied.

The output of our hard-working Communications Team is a case in point in two ways. Over the last year you may have seen stories from our press team in the local press, both online and in print. There have been interviews on local and national radio, regular provincial newsletters and a full-page article in Freemasonry Today. Our web site continues to be a hub for demonstrating how we put the core values of Freemasonry into practice while providing

information to existing members, attracting prospective new members, and maintaining a reputation for openness. Our yearbook is a comprehensive guide to freemasonry (and so much more) in Cambridgeshire and East Anglia while our social media channels share our enjoyment of what we do to an ever-increasing audience.

Beneath the water all those means of communication rely on the energy and commitment of a talented team who give their time freely and cheerfully. Behind the visible content of our web site Chris Ansell, who has been our amazing Web Manager for five years, manages the structure, functionality, system updates, analytics, cyber security and so much more to keep the site running so smoothly. He does this as well as being Provincial Communications Officer AND Web Master for the Province of Yorkshire North & East Riding. John Jones and Tim Shorey are another unseen but vital part of our web team. You will have seen a major change in our web provision which has been led by Noli Shelala.

The yearbook, such a rich and invaluable source of information on the Craft, the Royal Arch and so much more, is the result of many hours of information-gathering, report writing, formatting, editing, checking, and re-checking by Justin Curtis.

Our newsletters are lovingly created and curated by Andy Clifton and Tony Barrios, with articles gathered from their network of contributors, all keen for their stories and enjoyment to be shared. Tony, with his considerable experience with local press, is also responsible for all our press releases and an increasing amount of our social media. A big thank you must also go to our outgoing Instagram expert, Peter Crussell, who has built up our following in an impressive manner.

Despite all this amazing work we know we don't report everything that goes on, because we don't always hear about it. Please send us the news from your Lodge or Chapter: your donations; celebrations and events so we can share even more!

As a reminder, you can find us on the following channels - please follow, like, share and comment:

Facebook	CambridgeshireFreemasons
Twitter	@CambsMasons
Instagram	Cambridgeshire_Masons
LinkedIn	Cambridgeshire Freemasons

As ever, we welcome offers of assistance for any of the above – if you have experience with MailChimp, social media or desktop publishing (and time to help us) we would love to hear from you.

Teddies for Loving Care Charity



In a remarkable show of dedication and community spirit, Cambridgeshire Freemasons David Broker and Bob Hammett recently completed an 84-mile cycling journey between six Masonic Centres. This inspiring feat was undertaken to raise money for Teddies for Loving Care (TLC), a charity that provides comforting teddy bears to children in emergency care situations.

The challenging ride, which traversed scenic routes and connected various Masonic Centres, was met with enthusiastic support from local communities and fellow Freemasons. David and Bob's journey not only highlighted their commitment to the values of Freemasonry but also brought attention to the vital work of the TLC charity.

"We are incredibly proud of David and Bob for their dedication and perseverance," said Bill Dastur, the head of Freemasons in Cambridgeshire. *"Their effort embodies the spirit of Freemasonry, charity, friendship, and service to the community. The funds raised through this initiative will make a significant difference in the lives of many children who find themselves in distressing situations."*

Teddies for Loving Care has been a crucial source of comfort for countless children in Cambridgeshire, at Addenbrookes, Ely, Doddington and Wisbech Hospitals, providing them with teddy bears to ease their anxiety during hospital visits. The charity's work aligns closely with the Freemasons' longstanding tradition of supporting children's welfare and healthcare initiatives.

David and Bob expressed their gratitude to all who supported their journey, both through donations and encouragement. *"It was a challenging ride but knowing that we were contributing to such a worthy cause made every mile worth it,"* said Bob. *"We hope our efforts inspire others to support TLC and make a difference in their own ways."*

Pictured Bob Hammett Centre left and David Broker Centre right



PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING

DON'T GET CAUGHT BY THE NUMBER 1 MEN'S CANCER!

4pm - 8pm, Tuesday 23 July 2024
Freemasons Hall

Bateman Street, Cambridge CB2 1NA - Free parking on site



£10 per person (subsidised by the Cambridgeshire Masons)

Private event code for Masons to book this test is **cambridge**

◀ **Scan here to book your test** or visit chaps.uk.com/events

BOOK A SIMPLE PSA BLOOD TEST NOW

BOOKING INSTRUCTIONS

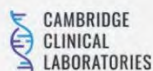


- YOU MUST book an appointment to be tested (no walk-ins)
- YOU MUST have your NHS Number to book an appointment
- YOU MUST book online at www.chaps.uk.com/events
- YOU MUST print out and bring your appointment confirmation

Important - When booking please ensure you give your full firstname/s do not use shortened names such as Bob or Andy etc. Please make sure it is your full given name. Please also ensure your NHS number is correct. Failure to do so will result in your sample being rejected by our labs.

We will be working with CCL at this event to trial Proclirix, a new generation blood test, that can be used in addition to PSA testing to help diagnose patients with prostate cancer. Although PSA is a good indicator, the Proclirix test, in addition to PSA testing looks at additional biomarkers present in the blood, that are involved in clinically significant prostate cancer.

If your PSA score is between 2-10 ng/ml, the Proclirix test can be carried out using the same blood sample that was used for the PSA test.



NB. PSA screening blood tests are for men aged 40-80 who are not already on treatment or under care for a known prostatic condition. Screening is strongly recommended for men of black African and Caribbean heritage and men with a family history of prostate cancer, breast or ovarian cancer who are at high risk from prostate cancer.

Event supported and sponsored by:



'The Cambridgeshire Mason' is produced in March, July September, and November by Editor Andy Clifton, with the assistance of: Tony Barrios, Justin Curtis, Brian Elliott, Michael Hinton and John Jones.

Please send any material to the Provincial Information Officer information@pglcamb.org.uk by the 21st day of the month preceding publication. The Editorial Board has accepted the information published in good faith and cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies.

