



Autumn 2020 Issue 21

The Cambridgeshire Mason

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Above: Wearing suitable face shields and being properly distanced, are from left to right: WBro. Bob Kidger (treasurer), WBro. David Cameron (acting as JW), WBro. David Adams (Worshipful Master), VWBro Pat Kilby (SW) and WBro. Danny Ellis (Secretary). Also in attendance was lodge member, WBro. Cliff Brown, who acted as Tyler and representative for the March Centre, to complete the maximum of six.

THE CURRENT FACE OF FREEMASONRY

How we all long for the happy Lodge meetings, the comradeship, the friendly and warm masonic handshake, the banter at the festive board and the joy of welcoming new members to our wonderful organisation. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has taken this away from us for now, but those wonderful times will return.

For now, it is vitally important that Cambridgeshire Freemasonry is kept alive and moving forward, while observing the Government rules and advice regarding the pandemic. It is also essential for Lodges and Chapters to maintain programmed meetings by a quorate approach and the continued circulation of a summons for each regular meeting. All instructions to manage this have been circulated by the Provincial Grand Secretary, who will also issue a dispensation to meet elsewhere if a centre is closed. Cambridgeshire Installed Masters Lodge No. 7429, following all the external and internal guidance, had a meeting on Friday 2nd October at the March Masonic Centre by special dispensation.

The meeting was extremely well presided over by the Worshipful Master who after opening the Lodge dealt fully with all agenda items. The other four members took various roles to ensure proper adherence to masonic protocol. The full meeting lasted 45 minutes to complete and after closing all departed in perfect harmony.

Our thanks go to the Trustees of the March Masonic Centre, who, having completed a well thought-out risk assessment coupled with a well-defined operating procedure, are allowing meetings to take place. We were all impressed with the precautions to keep us safe with more than adequate antibacterial wipes and hand gel being available and notices to keep us within the bounds of safety.

Please keep yourselves safe and let us keep Freemasonry in our wonderful Province of Cambridgeshire as active as possible until we can all meet again in a safe and harmonious environment.

Pat Kilby, DepProvGM

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER & GRAND SUPERINTENDENT...



When I penned my last note for the March edition, the future looked so bright and exciting with promotions and appointments on the horizon; our forthcoming annual meetings in Craft and the Royal Arch and the possibility of three lodge consecrations, not to mention a burgeoning Light Blues Club and healthy progress on Festival 2023. Then 17th March arrived and the whole world changed in so many ways.

How much we miss our meetings, festive boards, friends, companionship, special events, and the general fun of being a freemason. BUT it is not all gloom and out of the depths there have been some remarkable stories illustrating the strength and underlying nature of our great institution.

Whether it be through funding the provision of PPE at the height of the shortages; delivering hot meals or food parcels; visiting or phoning the lonely and vulnerable; supporting young carers; providing funding to air ambulances; joining in on projects with neighbouring provinces; working from our homes; adopting Zoom and finding different ways to love and protect family and members in our local communities.

It has been tough, it has challenged us in ways we could never have imagined but I think we have learned new skills and adapted to a new way of surviving the lockdown and gradually expanding what we do as conditions eased. Freemasonry remains a central tenet in our lives.

We have also seen great initiatives such as the Second Rising, followed by Descensus Aquarum's Third Rising and I should acknowledge the First Rising from UGLE - perhaps where Cambridgeshire leads, others follow!

The MCF has provided huge support to support key Covid projects and many causes in this Province have benefited. The Provincial Executive has met regularly, and Zoom has facilitated this as well as providing a tremendous medium for lodges and chapters to meet and engage socially.

The suspension of masonic activity was lifted in July and whilst the normal summer recess meant there were fewer meetings, we have now arrived at one of our busy seasons with the resumption of meetings and impending installations. I understand that the recent Government imposed limit of six means it is hugely frustrating that we cannot meet as we would like. UGLE has produced a number of solutions from adapted rituals, to information on holding shortened meetings, procedures to allow Masters and Principals to continue in office as well as ways Lodges and Chapters can temporarily suspend meetings for three months.

No one solution will work for all, but at least we have the opportunity and the tools. I urge you all to consider what works best for you and apply it. I also appreciate the frustration caused by some masonic buildings being unwilling to open. However, we must appreciate that some committees are likely to be more reluctant than others, indeed we were all 'taught to be cautious' and, therefore, we must also be considerate and tolerant of other brethren's views and opinions. This is a time to remember we are all brothers and must work together for the common good not point scoring or engaging in needless argument. No -one should feel under any pressure to attend or put themselves at risk and protecting the vulnerable is imperative.

Now, I am sure masonic gardens have been well cared for, sheds, garages and lofts tidied, painting and DIY opportunities exhausted as we have sought to occupy those long days. I now challenge you over these shorter days and longer nights to use those operative skills speculatively by applying them to DIY improvement in your lodges and chapters.

As meetings recommence, we have the opportunity for Zoom meetings and get togethers. Let us focus on reaching out to members and encourage them to join us and celebrate those great days we used to enjoy in lodges and chapters. Bring them back and strengthen the bonds between you. At 9 o'clock please remember absent brethren and those no longer with us. We have lost many in recent months but whilst they have left us physically, we all have strong memories of many great times together and we should celebrate these.

Investment in business is encouraged for future prosperity and now is the time to start thinking about initiates and new members. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master is encouraging us to use this time to best effect, so we have strong pipelines next year. We also have many men, who having read what freemasonry has done in supporting our communities in recent months, are keen to find out more or join. Please encourage them and welcome these approaches.

We shall be holding abbreviated meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Chapter meetings at the end of October but with only six allowed it will be difficult. I am sorry the new appointees and promotees will not get their moment this year, but I am determined to see if we can recognise them at future meetings. I expect by the time normality returns, we shall have lost the best part of a year or even more, so I expect most 2020 active appointments will roll over for a second year. This will be confirmed later this year or in early 2021.

Our Festival 2023 has now raised over £550,000 towards our target and the last six months have slowed momentum with many special initiatives and events being cancelled. There is still the best part of three years for us to regain our mojo and reach the target of £900,000 whilst, more importantly, having fun doing it.

The Festival of Carols at Ely Cathedral in December this year has been cancelled but we have rebooked for December 2021. A number of dinners, balls and centenary celebrations have been postponed but these and the impending prospect of three new lodges being formed and then consecrated, lead me to believe there is a strong shining light at the end of this dark Covid tunnel and one we can anticipate with excitement.

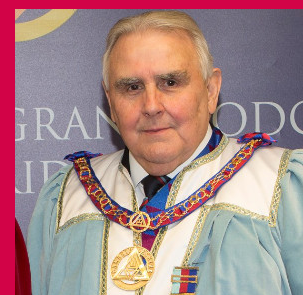
I started this foreword remembering what we would be looking forward to in 2020. Well brethren and companions, those items and events are still there to be enjoyed, it just may be a little later than we had originally anticipated. I am fully convinced that normality, and not just a threatened 'new normal', will return and we shall again enjoy again those meetings, festive boards, fundraising, social events, special meetings and one-off events.

Remember freemasonry was suspended, not cancelled, and gradually it will return. It might take more time than we would like but we know the value of patience and we must exercise that quality for a little longer.

Brethren and Companions, we continue to need to fight Covid 19 and its repercussions but collectively the Province continues to demonstrate its quality and depth and I know we shall return stronger.

Please enjoy this latest edition of The Cambridgeshire Mason.

Bill Dastur



GLASS HALF FULL OR GLASS HALF EMPTY?

As the Provincial Festival 2023 has completed 30 of its 60 months, the money raised for the Masonic Charitable Foundation has reached a "marvellous milestone" of £503,350 towards the £900,000 target. As Provincial Grand Charity Steward, WBro. Paul Gillingwater PAGDC says – "Is the glass half full or half empty?"

"Those brethren among us that are pessimistic will, of course, claim it is still half empty with a long way to go with much to be done," he said. "True, there is much still to do, but those of our Brethren, including myself, having a more optimistic approach, believe in having the glass at over half full is a marvellous milestone to have reached."

Taking into account the cancellation or postponement of planned events due to the Covid-19 pandemic, he added: "We should congratulate ourselves collectively for the achievement reached, in a short period of 30 months. Impacted more recently by being in an unprecedented and unique period of masonry, members are indeed to be congratulated and, more importantly, sincerely thanked for placing the appeal in the current position."

This is reflected by the fact that the Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent, his deputies and members of the Provincial Executive have collectively presented 25 honorific 'gongs' to lodges and chapters on the Province, and to 12 of the 14 Royal Arch Chapters. The tally is one platinum award, three gold, five silver and 15 bronze. Two of the chapters reached their goals during the lockdown period.

More recently the festival appeal received a welcome boost of just short of £25,000 as a result of generous donations from lodges, chapters, members and their families responding to the MCF Covid-19 Community Fund – donations that all counted towards our Festival fund.

"With a further 30 months or so of the Festival remaining, even with the experience and effect of the shortfall of many of the planned fundraising events for 2020 being cancelled or postponed, I continue to remain ever the optimist, in these challenging financial times, that our members will continue to top up the glass by every innovative manner you can find to provide valuable support to our Festival 2023 Appeal, supporting the important work of the MCF. Our charity supporting you," said WBro. Gillingwater.

Turn to page 4 for details of a simple and easy way to donate alms towards the Festival.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE FESTIVAL 2023

DIGITAL ALMS

We're excited to announce a new service, DIGITAL ALMS is now available and being piloted in our Province.

MAKING CHARITABLE GIVING EASIER

This new method of donation is a **cashless alternative** to donating **Alms** in masonic meetings. You have the ability to donate Alms before, during or after a meeting by using any digital device. **Digital Alms** donations in your name are credited to our Relief Chest Fest2023 along with any applicable Gift Aid.



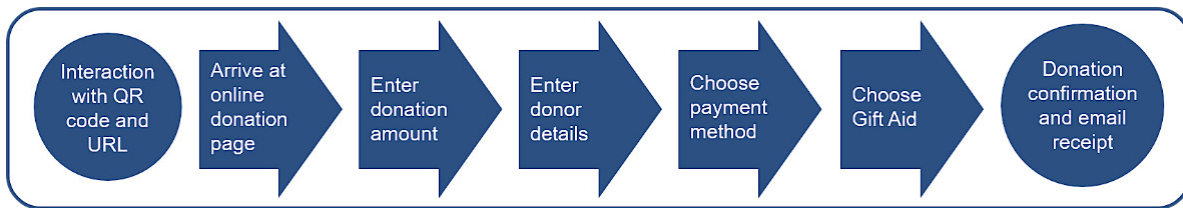
Digital Alms will enable Brethren and Companions to donate cashless **Alms**, before, during or after a meeting and even when being absent, owing any to current Covid-19 attendee restrictions.

Donations of Digital Alms are made through a members' own device connected to the internet, and using any modern browser such as a smartphone, Ipad, tablet or computer.

How it works Scan QR code or 'click' on the **URL <https://gtap.uk/fest2023>**
 Device opens the unique donation page, assigned to our Festival 2023 Relief Chest.
 Select or enter donation amount - Enter donor detail. - Pay - using Card or either **Apple Pay** or **Google Pay**, (both are enabled on the payment page.)
 Confirm gift aid - Request email receipt **Its all done and your Digital Alms - Donated.**

For further Assistance Email digital-donation@festival2023.org

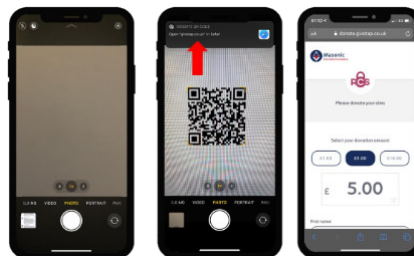




How to scan a QR code

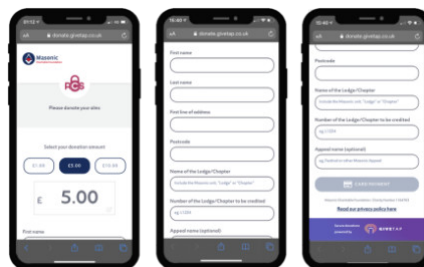
Most smartphones today are able to scan a QR code with its own camera app.

- Simply open the camera.
- Point the camera at the QR code at a distance where it is clearly visible on the screen.
- Align and focus between the guides shown on the screen. Click the QR alert action on screen to open the Digital Alms link on the browser.



Entering Donor Details

When the member arrives at the donation page, they are presented with a choice of what amount they would like to donate. They are able to select a pre-configured amount or enter their own by tapping within the number field.



Members will always be required to enter their lodge and chapter name and number. This is particularly important. The donation will then be credited to the named lodge or chapter for honorific purposes.

PLEASE PREFIX THE NUMBER WITH L (Lodge) C (Chapter) ie; L7429 or C7429

For further Assistance Email digital-donation@festival2023.org



THE PROVINCE OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE

In Masonic terms, you don't have to be the biggest to be the best. The Province of Cambridgeshire is a small one as far as numbers are concerned with just over 1,800 members in 30 Lodges.

That brings many advantages. In a very large Province, unless attending a Provincial Grand Lodge, some Brethren might go their whole Masonic career without seeing the Provincial Grand Master and could not possibly envisage ever speaking to him. Fortunately, that is not the case in Cambridgeshire.

The Provincial Grand Master and his Deputy are familiar visitors to all the Lodges in the Province. They are known by all the Brethren and all the Brethren are known to them. This creates a wonderful family atmosphere which is regularly proven when raising charitable funds as everybody pulls together to support the Province of Cambridgeshire.

The relatively short distances between each centre obviously helps cement that camaraderie. For instance, being a member of one the largest Provinces, Essex, which has over 300 Lodges or indeed Metropolitan Grand Lodge which has close to 1300 Lodges, it must be much harder to make new and long-lasting Masonic friends.

Although now part of Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire was a separate County when in 1840 they masonically aligned themselves with Northamptonshire. The Masonic Province of Northants & Hunts now has Ramsey (virtually in the centre of the current legislative County of Cambridgeshire) as its most easterly point, with Daventry as its most westerly. To get from one side of the Province to the other, it is a far from easy journey. Imagine what it must have been like in Victorian times? The geography made it quite difficult for travel with very poor roads, even with the advent of that new-fangled transport system; the railway.

When in 1840, Northamptonshire combined with Huntingdonshire to form the Province of Northants and Hunts, the Lodges existing at the time of this combination were Pomfret Lodge No 360 Northampton, Socrates Lodge No 373 Huntingdon, St Peter's Lodge No 442 Peterborough, Lodge of Fidelity No 445 Towcester, Lodge of Perseverance No 455 Towcester and Lodge of Merit No 466 Northampton. However, after a few years the latter moved to Oundle in 1856 and then to Stamford in 1865 (where it still meets); albeit it is in Lincolnshire. St. Ivo Lodge in St. Ives, Huntingdonshire was consecrated in 1897

Freemasonry in those times was, of course, quite different to today; it would however, have been so much easier to get to Cambridge at the time. In that same year 1840, there were just three lodges in Cambridge, no other Lodges in what is now the Province of Cambridgeshire existed.

These were Scientific, now No. 88 from 1760 (although warranted in London in 1754), The Lodge of Three Grand Principles No. 441, warranted in 1836, and Cambridge New Lodge (later the School of Plato Lodge) which met from 1793-1859.

There had been others. Four had come and gone in Cambridge by 1809; Lodge at the Black Bear 1749-85, University Lodge 1763-80, Lodge at the Rose Tavern 1772-80 and Social Lodge 1797-1809.

Three had been fairly short lived in Wisbech; Lodge at the Spread Eagle 1761- 69, Lodge at the Club Inn 1764-1811, both in Bridge Street, and the last being the Lodge of Benevolence 1796-1825.

In 1765 there was the Lodge in the Isle of Ely (the only example of an Atholl or Antients Lodge in the Province), St John's Lodge, 1773-1794 in Newmarket and a previous St Andrew Lodge of Moral Reformation 1761-1828 in Whittlesey.



Sir Sampson Gideon, Lord Eardley, ProvGM for Cambridgeshire (1796-1825), also held the same position for Huntingdonshire; but not Northamptonshire. At a meeting of Socrates Lodge (warranted September 1823), Huntingdon, in March 1825, a communication from Grand Lodge was read out informing the Brethren that 'in consequence of the death of Lord Eardley, the late ProvGM for the County, the Deputy ProvGM, the Rev. G.A. Browne has been appointed to that office'; the latter also representing Cambridgeshire from 1825-1844. So it looks like we were joined by the same ProvGMs at some early date; albeit not officially.

At that time, a Provincial Grand Master does not seem to have required any Officers, nor to have any duties other than to constitute Lodges and act as a Masonic authority. A DepProvGM in those days was also very different from today. The Rev. G.A. Browne is more commonly referred to as 'Acting'. Lord Eardley did not get involved with Cambridgeshire Masonry as there is no record of him visiting any Lodge in the area, whereas Browne most certainly did. His memorial plaque in St. Andrew's Church, Chesterton, describes him as Acting Provincial Grand Master. He was also appointed Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch for Cambridgeshire in 1810 and Suffolk in 1825. Added to which, he was made Deputy or Acting ProvGM of Suffolk at the start of 1830.

At a meeting of that same Socrates Lodge in November 1836 the following was minuted: "it was resolved that the members of this Lodge learn the probability of the ProvGM establishing a Provincial Lodge for the counties of Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Suffolk". The Province of Suffolk was loosely instituted in 1772 so maybe Lord Eardley and particularly the Rev G.A. Browne had similar loose control over all three Provinces.

That joint working had obviously not been a success because the Freemasonry Quarterly Review of March 1844, not long after Northants joined with Hunts, stated: "At the Installation meeting of Scientific Lodge, the ProvGM Thomas Hall (1844-1873) announced his intention to hold a Provincial Grand Lodge." Apparently this wasn't well received with the statement "that although Masonry flourishes here to a great extent owing to the number of members of the University who are enrolled in it, most are here for a short time, as such, their absence deprives Masonry of the materials for a Grand Lodge, absolutely necessary to render it effective for the Craft and imposing to the Initiated."

This is possibly part of the reason Huntingdonshire formally went with Northants. It was an established Masonic Province, with possibly more potential, not being based around the University and therefore a much more inviting prospect. Every Province has to have its borders though and to offset the loss of Ramsey,

Huntingdon and St. Ives, Cambridgeshire is fortunate that Newmarket is with us rather than Suffolk. It could so easily have been quite a different Province to the one we have today.

Another advantage of being small is that we have one particular long-standing tradition in Cambridgeshire in which we take great pride. The ruling Masters of every Lodge within the Province are invited to every Installation meeting during their year of office, ultimately creating further long-lasting camaraderie.

Affectionately referred to as 'The Circuit', they serve to support the ProvGM, his Deputy and the Provincial Grand Wardens to make every such Installation an occasion to remember. The Provincial Grand Sword Bearer and the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies or his Deputy are also visitors to Installations in their official capacities as escorts to the ProvGM and the DepProvGM.

Every Lodge history is inextricably linked to the history of the Province it is located in and Grand Lodge in general. Edicts are passed from Grand Lodge to the Provinces to the Lodges to the Brethren. As society changes, so is there a need for the rules and regulations to keep pace; well almost... **Continued on Page 8**

As mentioned previously, a number of early Lodges came and went. The current Lodges that were formed in Cambridge are:

1754: Scientific Lodge No. 88

1836: Lodge of Three Grand Principles No. 441

1861: Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859

1884: Alma Mater Lodge No. 1492

1911: Cantabrigia Lodge No. 3532

1939: Kynaston Lodge No. 5810

1953: Gild of St. Mary Lodge No. 7288

Installed Masters Lodge No. 7429

1964: Virtute et Fide Lodge No. 7959

1974: Nourse Lodge No. 8590

1998: Cambridgeshire Meridian Lodge No. 9687

2016: Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge No. 9927

Old Leysian Lodge No. 4520 was originally warranted in 1939, but met in London until relocating to Bateman Street in 1994, which, by coincidence, is of course directly opposite the Leys School. Scientific No. 88 was also first warranted in London, but in 1760 moved to the Three Tuns Inn, Peas Hill, Cambridge.

Although the Lodge split the following year (the other Lodge never received a Warrant), the Warranted Lodge has met at many different venues in the City before moving to Bateman Street.

1760: Three Tuns, Peas Hill

1774: Black Bear Inn, Sidney Street

1791: Eagle and Child, Benet Street

1814: Black Bull Inn, Trumpington Street

1816: Crown and Woolpack, Sidney Street

1818: Union Tavern, [unknown]

1821: Greyhound Tavern, St. Andrew's Street

1828: Hoop Inn, Sidney Street

1830: Red Lion Hotel, Petty Cury

1956: Dorothy Restaurant, Sidney Street

1968: Freemasons' Hall, Bateman Street

The Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859 was formally consecrated as Lodge No 1161 at the Red Lion Hotel, Petty Cury, Cambridge. Before this, Scientific Lodge No. 88 was the usual place for University men to join.

However, it was the Lodge of Three Grand Principles, the first Cambridge Town Lodge, which supported the petition to establish INUL and is therefore the Mother Lodge of 859.

During the years after the First World War, the INUL had three consecutive years 1919 - 1921 when more than 60 new members joined each year and had a membership of nearly 600 at the end of the decade. Members began in day clothes and changed into evening dress for the dinner.

Alma Mater started its meetings in 1884 in Bletchley, halfway between Oxford and Cambridge Universities. They held 20 meetings there, all on Saturday afternoons at times depending on the railway timetable, but the average attendance was about six.

There were no Initiations, just 16 joining members all from Isaac Newton University Lodge. Following a disagreement with Apollo Lodge in Oxford, a year later the Lodge moved to the University Arms Hotel, Cambridge. In general, Isaac Newton University Lodge is for Undergraduates and Alma Mater for Graduates.

When in 1891, Col. Robert Caldwell was Installed as the ProvGM, there were just six Lodges in the Province of Cambridgeshire with an overall membership of 385.

It was Caldwell who, in 1907, introduced the system where Provincial Grand Chapter met on the same day as Provincial Grand Lodge and which continues to this day.

The Warranted dates of the other 16 Lodges in the Province of Cambridgeshire:

Chatteris

1921: Gray Lodge No. 4334

Ely

1898: St. Audrey Lodge No. 2727

1961: St. Ovin Lodge No. 7774

1975: Descensus Aquarium Lodge No. 8655

1993: The Porta Lodge No. 9511

March

1906: Caldwell Lodge No. 3201

1948: Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704

2010: Fenland Meridian Lodge No. 9858

Newmarket

1885: Etheldreda Lodge No. 2107

1945: Granta Lodge No. 6179

1971: St. Wendred Lodge No. 8374

2005: Logistica Lodge No. 9804

Whittlesey

1920: St. Andrew Lodge No. 4087

2016: Fenland Farmers' Lodge No. 9933

Wisbech

1860: United Good Fellowship Lodge No. 809

1945: Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125

TAKE THE FOURTH STEP IN MASONRY - INTO THE ROYAL ARCH

Grand Lodge has said that no Master Mason can consider his Masonic experience complete until he has been exalted into the supreme degree of the Royal Arch. The speed with which you take that step is entirely up to you and should not be rushed, but at least think about it.

You may also have seen the Provincial tri-fold information leaflet which takes readers beyond the three degrees of the craft to the Fourth Step – Chapter. This should be available from your Lodge.

With face to face contact still difficult, it is worth highlighting the substance of a talk I give, in my role as Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra (the role of secretary) about Chapter to encourage you to consider taking a step beyond the Third Degree, if you have not already done so.

In your copy of the Book of Constitutions, it says in the preamble that "Pure and Antient Freemasonry consist of three degrees and no more, viz, the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch." The Book also contains the Regulations of Supreme Grand Chapter. However long you have been a Mason, whether it be months or years, this key sentence clearly tells you that after you have taken your three degrees in craft masonry there is the potential for more to come and discover, to complete that journey. That "more" is the Holy Royal Arch, which is a separate degree and is open to men of all faiths.

If you are an Initiate, you are doubtless still reflecting on the start of the journey you embarked upon and wondering what lies next. That will be revealed as you take your second and third degrees. I will not speculate on those, indeed I encourage you not to, but definitely encourage you to look forward to them, but so far it has been a physical journey.

The basic ceremony of the Royal Arch is called an Exaltation and is quite a dramatic presentation of its principles. Many who have experienced it say that it is the most dramatic of all masonic experiences after your initiation. This is followed, possibly over the period of a year, by three lectures in which the history, symbols and principles of the Royal Arch are explained. The allegory is based on the Old Testament record of the return to Jerusalem from Babylon to rebuild the city and temple. In this journey the candidate makes several discoveries that emphasise the centrality of God to man's life and existence without crossing the bounds of religious doctrine. This leads the candidate to consider the nature of his God and his personal relationship with Him, irrespective of his religion.

In the craft, the candidate is presented with very practical principles and tenets which, if practiced, will give him hope of a life pleasing to his God, and of service to his fellow man. However, there is a spiritual aspect to our nature. While the Third Degree introduces and contemplates this idea, it becomes the central message of the Royal Arch.



In the craft, the candidate is presented with very practical principles and tenets which, if practiced, will give him hope of a life pleasing to his God, and of service to his fellow man. However, there is a spiritual aspect to our nature. While the Third Degree introduces and contemplates this idea, it is the central message of the Royal Arch.

Pure and Antient Masonry is a journey of self-knowledge and discovery. The Royal Arch completes the practical lessons of the craft by contemplating your spiritual nature. This, I must stress, does not replace but reinforces and supports what you learn from your religion.

Therefore, the Royal Arch is considered a logical next step once you have completed your three degrees in the craft. Exaltation is a beautiful, enjoyable and meaningful ceremony and leaves candidates with a lot to think about. The Royal Arch meets in Chapters, which are attached to one or more lodges at all our Masonic centres in Cambridgeshire.

As you progress there are many other orders which will be mentioned, but the Royal Arch is the recommended next step to take. Every member of the Provincial Grand Master's Executive is a Royal Arch Mason and he himself is head of the order in Cambridgeshire and called the Grand Superintendent. Each Lodge has a Royal Arch Liaison Officer, so if you are interested, please do talk to them.

Edmund Brookes

THE ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND, THE PROVINCE OF EAST ANGLIA

The Royal Order of Scotland is essentially Christian in character. As with Craft Masonry, its exact origins and its ritual are shrouded in antiquity. It differs from modern Craft Masonry and does not fit into any sequence with other Masonic Orders.

It will come as no surprise that the Order is governed from Edinburgh, where its Grand Lodge is situated. Subordinate to this are Provincial Grand Lodges throughout the world, however there are no Private Lodges.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of East Anglia meets on three occasions in the year; Colchester in April, Newmarket in May and Lowestoft for the Installation Meeting in September. The Province encompasses Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and North Essex as far as Chelmsford.

Qualification for membership requires that a potential candidate must have been a Master Mason for five years and upwards. In practice each Province lays down its own requirements, for example some demand that a candidate has attained 30 degrees in the Ancient and Accepted Rite. In East Anglia candidates are usually limited to brethren who have been Master Masons for at least five years and have shown a keen interest in Freemasonry beyond their Craft lodge.

The Province of East Anglia usually 'Advances & Promotes' two candidates per meeting and entry may be protracted as there are about 200 Craft Lodges from which to draw new candidates.

Documentary proof in the archives of Grand Lodge gives rise to the assertion that, with the exception of the Craft, the Royal Order of Scotland is the oldest unchanged ritual of speculative masonry, for there is written evidence that a number of Lodges of the Order were active in London as early as 1741 and the ritual has never been changed.

When the first Grand Lodge of the Order was formed in Edinburgh in 1768, the King of Scots was made the Hereditary Grand Master.

There are two degrees conferred – the order the Heredom of the Kilwinning and Knighthood of the Rosy Cross.



Left: A Royal Order of Scotland breast star. **Above:** Full ROS members' regalia.

The Wardens undertake some of the most lengthy and difficult ritual in Freemasonry and the Provincial Grand Master plays a full part, although he is usually assisted by the Deputy and Substitute Provincial Grand Masters and Past Holders of those officers.

In the first degree, the candidate is invested with a white apron edged with crimson and a sash or baldrick of a similar colour. This is worn over the left shoulder and under the right arm. The apron is later replaced, and the candidate is invested with a green sash or baldrick. This is worn over the right shoulder and under the left arm. There is a breast jewel of seven stars and an armband of thistle green edged with gold and which bears the motto *Virtue et Silentio*.

In these degrees, Masonry is depicted in a purely Christian aspect. A large part of the ritual is couched in quaint old doggerel verse and is worked mainly by question and answer, as in the Craft Lectures, but embracing elements and references found in many other degrees.

This Order will be of interest to brethren who profess the Christian Faith and who have maintained a dedicated & genuine interest in Freemasonry over several years. Details for the current Provincial Grand Secretary, can be found on page 178 of the Provincial Yearbook.

ROSE CROIX

(THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE)

IN CAMBRIDGE AND ISLE OF ELY

As Inspector General, I have the great honour and privilege to lead Rose Croix, or the 18th degree of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for England, Wales, and its Districts and Chapters Overseas, in Cambridge and Isle of Ely since March 2008.

The District was formed in 1998 from the two Districts of Suffolk and Cambridge, and Norfolk and Isle of Ely to become the third. Our first Inspector General, and my immediate predecessor, was Deryck Gent 33°.

We are governed by a nine-man Supreme Council of high-ranking Freemasons. The Order dates from the Grand Constitutions of 1786 and was introduced to England and Wales by Robert Thomas Crucefix in 1845 with a patent from the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

A Rose Croix ritual was performed by a Knights Templar Encampment in Bristol (Baldwyn Chapter, Time Immemorial) some time before the Order was founded in England and Wales. It is a very unusual Chapter in that it practices ritual based on both Knights Templar and Rose Croix.

The Order can only be joined by personal invitation; every Candidate must sign a declaration of belief in the Christian Trinitarian Faith; this rule encompasses the whole of the British Isles. In the majority of Supreme Councils around the World, the Order is "universal" (i.e. a belief in a Supreme Being). For example, a Brother who has allegiance to the Supreme Council of India (universal) may visit our meetings but cannot join one of our Chapters. The rule is that, with very few exceptions, a Brother may have allegiance to one Supreme Council only.

The headquarters of the Order is 10 Duke Street, St. James's, London, just down the road from Fortnum and Mason. All London Rose Croix Chapters meet at the Duke Street building, which is also used by other Masonic Orders.

There are 33 degrees in the Order. The first three are considered equivalent to the first three degrees of Craft Masonry. Although there are rituals for all the degrees the first ritual a Candidate undergoes is the 18th degree. The 30°, 31°, 32° and 33° are all conferred by Supreme Council, nearly always at Duke Street. The 30° is conferred upon members who have passed through the chair of their respective Chapters (Enthronement). The 31° and 32° are restricted to Brethren of note who have given a high level of service to the Order. The numbers are limited by a fixed quota (not annual). There are more 31° than 32°. Anyone bearing these ranks are Brethren of the highest trust and who have given high service. The 33° is limited to Inspectors General, members of Supreme Council, and very senior Freemasons. Our Grand Patron is HRH The Duke of Kent 33°.



The 18th degree ceremony is a wonderful and solemn occasion. Very few Brethren will forget their entry into the Order. Indeed, to such a high regard is it held that many members will freely state that it is the last Order they will leave in Freemasonry.

Membership is by personal invitation. There are eight Chapters in our District, seven of whom "Perfect" new members. One may not join until one-year post raising to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. There is no obligation to be a Royal Arch Mason, although, the Royal Arch does help to give a greater understanding of the meanings of the "intermediate" degrees (4° to 17°).

The Covid-19 pandemic led our Rulers to take a decision to suspend meetings in England and Wales at the same time as the UGLE. In August, all members were sent a questionnaire to ask their opinions on restarting meetings. As a result, the decision was taken to keep the Order suspended until at least January 2021. In October, a member of Supreme Council met members of each district with the relevant Inspector General via Zoom. There was a question and answer element to the meeting. The "visit" was from John Boyington CBE, Grand Treasurer General H.E. 33° on Wednesday 14th October.

It is a measure of the caring and close relationship with which members of the Order are blessed that we hold the Order in such high estimation. You may find out more on pages 168 – 179 of the Cambridgeshire Masonic Yearbook 2020.

If anyone is interested in membership, please contact our District Recorder Ian Greig 31° ian@the-greigs.com

Our website is www.candioferosecroix.org.uk

V. Ill. Bro. Dr. Nigel Williams 33°

Inspector General of the District of Cambridge and Isle of Ely

THE ROLE OF THE PROVINCIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFICER



The Provincial Membership Officer (PMO) is part of the Members Pathway Team and leads on the Pathway's Steps 1 through 6. In Cambridgeshire, it is led by VWBro. Pat Kilby on behalf of the ProvGM. The key roles are the Secretariat, Membership, Mentoring and the Almoner. Like all Pathway key roles, there is a role profile and success measurement criteria for the PMO postholder. You can look Membership Officer up under "good practices" on the Pathway website.

I took office in 2019 and was pleased to have the opportunity to do so because membership (both new and retention) has always been a subject close to my heart. The first part of the role, which aligns with pathway step 1, is about strategy and planning. Just as Lodges need to plan for recruitment, retention, progression and succession, so the Province has to plan, take action, evaluate results and improve. This continuous improvement activity is undertaken by drawing upon the feedback from Lodge Membership Officers and the membership at large through the other Pathway team members.

Part of my job is also supporting the Lodge Membership Officers (LMO) in their role. The bulk of my work reflects Pathway Steps 2 through 6, which is concerned with how to identify and approach potential members, to respond to membership enquiries and help potential members to align with suitable lodges. Once this has been achieved and a good match has been made, the Lodge Membership Officer takes on the looking after of the potential candidate.

To attract new members, I work closely with the Provincial Communications Team to project Cambridgeshire Freemasonry and our message to where target members will see it. Using the extensive market research undertaken by UGLE gives us a clear view on how our target membership currently perceives us and the most effective language to use to attract them. You will probably have seen the changes in the way the UGLE website is structured and how communication has changed. This reflects the lessons learned from the market research commissioned by the Grand Secretary, VWBro. David Staples.

Future changes in Provinces generally, including the Cambridgeshire website, will also reflect these lessons. As the website is one of the principle tools for membership (for both new and existing members), I look forward to seeing new content and activity. Equally the use of social media to attract members is becoming established in the UK with early adopters achieving enviable success.

Cambridgeshire's communications team is in the process of developing this for our Province. This digital presence is vital for our future and I expect potential members to find us through this medium in the future. There is no substitute for the recruitment of new members by existing members and it is here that we all need to invest the greatest effort.

The Pathway offers practical advice on direct recruitment by Lodges and your Lodge Membership Officer has material to help you. For example, the briefing note for newer members on what we can say to prospective members has proved popular. If you haven't seen it, please do ask your LMO for a copy.

More direct action to help recruitment has included the deployment of our publicity unit, selected events and Masonic Centre Open days. The Masonic Centre Open Days, which will feature substantial promotion through both social media and traditional methods (press and posters), was due to kick off in Ely but unfortunately in the very week we started these activities we had to pause and then ultimately cancel them due to Covid-19.

I am keen to support those other centres who choose to have an open day, which are not intended to be low key but very public and highly promoted events. Ely's event was due to be opened by the Mayor and would have featured participation from local organisations who in turn endorse our institution in the eyes of prospective members.

The Province has provided new material to be used by any centre (and the publicity unit) when your lodge has a social or any event planned, at which members of the public will be present. You are welcome to use our new feather flags and banners to promote membership interest.

In conjunction with my colleagues in the Pathway Team, we are planning video conferences looking at Pathway in chronological sequence. Following some great sessions previously held on Step 6, we will work through the rest of the Members Pathway, thereby bringing the whole into perspective. Although these sessions are primarily for LMOs and Mentors, any member with an interest in our raise/discuss, then let me know and we can include it.

Currently I continue to process potential membership enquiries received via UGLE's promotional activities and their website. Normally I meet prospective members face to face and help them select a Lodge to petition for membership. Upon introduction, that Lodge's customs and process (hopefully influenced by Pathway recommendations) takes over. This means we have a few referred potential members waiting for informal meetings and formal interviews along with those candidates introduced by Lodge members, and it is important that we continue to communicate with them during this extended delay.

Reaching out to our existing members, especially those we are not seeing on video conferences, is also very important as a retention activity. If you have a question it is most welcome.

Great ideas are welcome too. Recruitment is our future so please do not hold back – your idea may be the one that makes the difference.

Contact me at membership@pglcambs.org.uk

Ian Hardman



CASH IN THE ATTIC IDEA RAISES FUNDS

An Ely lodge came up with a fundraising idea by making use of unwanted items tucked away in the homes, garages and sheds of its Brethren. Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655 created a 'Cash in the Attic' project with an auction house in Ely, in which members rummaged in their attics, sheds and the back of cupboards for items to sell.

Ely auction company, Rowleys agreed to sell these items without charging commission as part of its general auction on 26th September. It was the first time the Lodge held such an event, but it came about as an alternative fundraising activity while we were unable to hold any social events in the current situation.

Thanks to the help from Rowleys, and all the contributors, a total of £373 was raised for the local charity, Pos+Ability, which had to adapt its support considerably during the pandemic because its fundraising had been severely hit.

Pos+Ability is a small local charity offering exercise groups tailored to the needs of people with conditions that impact their mobility. Before lockdown there were eight groups in Ely, Soham, Littleport and Histon. Pos+Ability is positive about the abilities of all its clients and aims to build on that and increase their mobility, support independence, maintain cognitive skills, increase confidence and wellbeing, and decrease the risk of falls.

The majority of their clients have suffered a stroke and are living with the effects. They also have clients with Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, dementia, arthritis, COPD and heart disease.

Each of the exercise groups is fun and friendly, with plenty of chat and camaraderie. Clients often say that attending a session is the high point of their week. In addition, their carers can enjoy a regular two-hour break and meet other carers who understand the challenges and offer advice and support. Now Pos+Ability is keeping in touch with clients by phone and developing some extra online content to keep them moving at home.

It has not been an easy year for charities because many fundraising events have been cancelled. Of course, it still has obligations to meet, such as staffing and running costs. Even when they can get back to face to face services, there will be social distancing, PPE and extra hygiene requirements to meet, which will stretch budgets even further. This is why donations like so important.

Pos+Ability doesn't have the resources or profile of a national charity, but nor does it have the overheads because the organisers' homes are their offices. Every penny donated goes to helping local people live a better, more fulfilled life by keeping them active in their own community. After this success, the Lodge is considering ways to develop the idea of using auctions to raise money.

John Sinclair

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A PROVINCIAL GRAND SECRETARY

When someone very senior, no names mentioned, first spoke to me about the position of Provincial Secretary, I thought that having been Secretary of two Lodges for a number of years, I had a good idea of what was involved. I was wrong.

The role involves a myriad of subjects, most of which I didn't even know existed. That said, I have enjoyed every minute. The variety of tasks is extensive, but with that comes great satisfaction, especially with events such as the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge and particularly the move to West Road at the end of my first year in the role.



W.Bro Kevin Mader. ProvGSec

There is one area that is the same for a Provincial Grand Secretary and a Lodge Secretary. They both act in their own areas as 'the keeper of the rules'. We are governed by the Book of Constitutions and specific By Laws and it is incumbent on us all to be aware of and work within those rules.

What is actually involved? Certainly, too much to go into great detail about here, but put simply, anything that is required to administer the day to day operation of the Province. Every day, numerous enquiries arrive by phone, letter and email from Secretaries, members and indeed Grand Lodge; not forgetting the Provincial Grand Master and Deputy. The variety is endless.

Fortunately, I have help. W.Bro. John Jones, our Provincial Grand Registrar, has various roles including the Provincial Administration site, CambSec and our Provincial website. He will also be heavily involved with the introduction from Grand Lodge of Project Hermes. It should, ultimately, do away with all the form filling undertaken by Lodge Secretaries and hopefully make their job a lot easier. The Assistant Secretary, W.Bro. Andrew Badcock, is extremely supportive in so many areas and W.Bro. Colin Bell continues to be invaluable in keeping the registration information (Form Ps, Annual Returns and Installation Returns) flowing to Grand Lodge.

The Provincial Executive meet at regular times throughout the year with resulting minutes and actions. The agenda generally covers areas such as Festival 2023, Membership, Mentoring, Education, Communications, Finance, Care & Relief, Royal Arch, Ceremonial Matters, Provincial Grand Lodge, the various priorities for the year ahead including any specific issues and projects. Under the heading of the 'Covid-19 sub group', meetings are now being held almost weekly, albeit currently by video conferencing. For the annual Appointments and Promotions, a small committee of senior members of the Executive, headed by the ProvGM, meet on numerous occasions over several months to finalise the list.

Everybody involved, from the ProvGM down, is a volunteer and being the size that we are, it is much more personal than being part of a very big Province. Visiting is much easier and we all get to know so many in our Province, especially from the time someone joins the Masters' Circuit. This was highlighted by the fact that 350 attended our Provincial meeting last year, more than many much larger Provinces. Those who were there will have seen the number of visitors attending from other Provinces. Although we have reciprocal arrangements with other Provinces, some also pay extra for members of their own Province to attend. Being invited to other Provinces is without doubt an honour and one of the highlights of the position of ProvGSec. As with the Masters' Circuit, the ProvGSecs all sit together at the various Festive Boards following a Provincial meeting (colloquially known as the Secretaries Mafia). They are all excellent company and a tremendous source of help and information.

CRAFT HELPS THE CRAFTERS

Start-Up Help Pays Dividends

A local crafting organisation is making a big difference to the community thanks to help in getting started from Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655 in Ely.

Earlier this year, the Lodge made its first pandemic donation of £500 to For the Love of Scrubs, now Connection Through Crafting. That initial boost enabled the crafters to get started and grow over the following months into an organisation making a big difference. Soon it attracted the support of the Masonic Charitable Foundation and was also featured in Freemasonry Today.

CTC founder Patricia Sutton has updated the Lodge on progress: "Since your Lodge provided my crafting group with a donation back in April, we have made over 5,000 sewn items. These consist of scrubs, scrub bags, possession bags for bereaved families and community face masks.

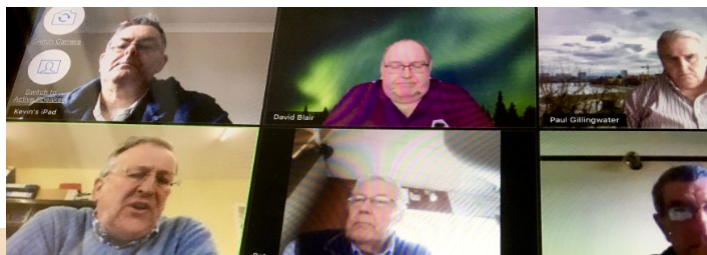
"When I heard that bereaved families were receiving their loved ones' belongings in a carrier bag, I knew we could do better. Creating cloth bags to return family belongings is now an ongoing activity with my members, several of whom are members of the Ely Mother's Union. We supply these bags to Addenbrooke's Hospital"

The production of the face masks is supported by a grant from MCF and many of them are supplied to community kitchens around Cambridge. These kitchens supply excess food from supermarkets to local low-income families.

"I feel strongly that no family should have to choose between buying food or required face masks to help the community effort against Covid," said Patricia.

The crafters have also made quilts, from their off-cuts, for families who were affected in a devastating fire in Cambridge and are also in the process of sending 130 scrubs to a colleague in Africa who will distribute them to special needs schools.

John Sinclair



Making Use of Tech

Covid-19 has not prevented the Provincial Executive staying in touch and continuing to operate. Members of the executive have regular online virtual meetings with the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. William Dastur.

"It is important that we get information to our members as regularly as possible, especially during these very difficult and challenging times. I know that there are many good things happening in the background, especially regarding contacts with members to ensure they are kept safe," said Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro. Kevin Mader.



It's a Family Affair

Coronavirus restrictions curtailed attendance at the Installation meeting of Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704 when Bro. Gavin Philpott was installed as Master by his father, WBro. Nigel Philpott PPJGW.

The meeting, restricted to six persons, was held at March Masonic Hall on Friday 16th October with Gavin received the benefits of installation from his father, who had been WM for a second time in 2019/20.

Gavin follows in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and two great-grandfather in occupying the chair of Stone Cross. His great-grandfather, WBro. Ernest J Wright, a founder of the lodge in 1948, was WM in 1961, his other grandfather, WBro. Fred Wilkinson was WM in 1951 and his grandfather WBro. Ron Wilkinson was WM in 1952. Ernest later went on to become the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Ron served as Deputy Grand Superintendent.

As well as Nigel and Gavin, the others present at the Installation were WBro. Paul Ashby, WBro. Cliff Brown, WBro. Vic Richards and WBro. Stuart Sheriff.

Cliff Brown.



Ian receives a 60 years long service certificate in 2016 from VWBro. Robert Wharton and WBro. Ray Fox at Haddenham Lodge in Buckingham.

GRANTA LODGE

Former Deputy President of the Grand Charity, WBro. 'Ian' Adrian Ralph Chalk PDepGSwdB passed into the Grand Lodge Above on the 29th August, his 89th birthday.

He was Initiated into Granta Lodge No. 6179 in 1956, where his father, Albert, was also a member but who died soon after Ian completed his 2nd Degree. Later his brother, Travers, became member of the Lodge.

Ian was a Founder of Haddenham Lodge No. 8944 in Buckinghamshire and its WM in 1983. Both Granta and Haddenham Lodges later bestowed Honorary Membership on Ian. In 1992, he was also a Founder of Entente Cordiale Lodge

He focused his Freemasonry on charitable causes and worked within Buckinghamshire and nationally, serving on Grand Lodge committees. He was appointed Deputy President of the Grand Charity and received his first Grand Rank of PAGDC in 1992, with promotions to PJGD and then to PDepGSwdB. Both Provinces presented Ian with his long service certificates for 50 years and 60 years in Freemasonry. Ian was also a member of the Royal Arch and Mark Master Masons/RAM in Buckinghamshire, and was appointed to RAM Grand Rank.

Ian had lived in Haddenham, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, for 60 years, and, in his later years, his Parkinson's Disease prevented him attending Granta Lodge meetings. More recently, Ian has moved to a care home close to his son, David.

Ian was born in 1931 and he grew up in Stapleford, on the banks of the Granta. He attended Newport Grammar School in Essex, where he found his real passion for cricket, playing for both Essex and Cambridgeshire. He also captained Sawston cricket club, where he met Jean. They married in 1955 and were together for 63 years. They had three sons, David, Andrew and Michael.

From 1949 to 1951, Ian served in the Royal Air Force for his National Service, after which he began his career at Spicers in Sawston. He became a foreman and then a sales rep, but in 1961 he moved, with his young family, to Buckinghamshire to run the small Spicers factory there. Eventually Ian became Managing Director of Spicers Ltd at Sawston and for many years commuted nearly two hours each way by car. Further promotions saw him become a director of Reedpack.

At forty he decided to hang up his cricket bat and took up growing dahlias, for which he won a gold medal at the Royal Horticultural Society's national show in London. Between 1990 to 1996 he was the owner of racehorses.

Richard George



We Will Remember Them

Last November, I had the privilege of leading a Remembrance Day service at Bateman Street, but unfortunately, due to the 'Rule of Six', we will not be able to assemble there this year. Nevertheless, we will remember them.

On Sunday 8th November 2020, please take time to stop and lay a 'virtual' wreath in honour of those that have fallen using the following prayer:

Let us remember before God, and commend to his safe keeping, those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew, and those whose memory we treasure, and all who have lived and died in the service of humankind.

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

We will remember them.

I will be doing this on behalf of the Province and if any brother wishes me to include a name of past relative or friend that has died in conflict, please let me know.

Keep safe, WBro. Stuart Lingard PJGD, ProvGChap

Email: provgchap@pglcambs.org.uk

VIRTUTE ET FIDE

WBro. Rodger Germany, of Virtute et Fide Lodge No. 7959 used some of the time cocooned in his house by completing, and having accepted for publication, an article on 'Plan W', Britain and Ireland's answer to Hitler's proposed Operation Green.

This was to invade Eire and from there take complete control of the Atlantic and invade Great Britain through Wales.



500 Before 50

Getting on his bike to raise £500 for the Provincial Festival 2023 is WBro. Crawford Kingsnorth, of Old Leysian Lodge No. 4520. Crawford, who was Worshipful Master of Old Leysian in 2016, plans to raise the money before his 50th birthday on 30th October

Here he tells his story: "Before I started this challenge, I was in bed one morning and I had the most hideous realisation that my stomach looked like a badly set blancmange (some of you may know what I mean). To be honest it looked like I was made of wax and was melting, not like the Wicked Witch of the West who was actually sublimating. Sorry for putting this image into your heads but it is an integral part of the story.

"So, I decided to break out the bike. Unfortunately, I had to borrow my wife's bike as my beautiful White (that's the make not the colour) 29er had been stolen – despite it being attached to the school bike shed by two D locks. I think that if anyone can bite through two D locks, then they can have the bike I am not going to argue with them.

"My first cycle was on 12th July and was 8.1 km. This was painful in the extreme and I can honestly say that after the cycle I was dripping, panting and in pain. That evening I could not sleep because my legs were hot and burning. I was not in the best of shape. It was over a week before I decided to get on the bike again. My initial plan was to do the same distance for a week and then increase this by 2km per week.

"On 20th July I decided that I should set myself a goal. The goal was an ambitious 500km before I hit my 50th birthday (30th October). I genuinely thought that this was (almost) unattainable. To assist me in this goal I thought that I would recruit my lodge. If the challenge was to be done for charity then it may give me some well needed impetus. The challenge and charity were now set. Setting up the everyday hero page was simple (<https://fest2023.everydayhero.com/uk/500km-before-50>), donating on this page is even easier.

50/50 Club Draw Winners

Provincial Junior Grand Warden, WBro. David Fountain won the £350 first prize in the Province's 50/50 Club third quarter draw.

David, of Caldwell Lodge No. 3201 at March, said: "As a poor tiller of the soil, I am delighted to have won first prize in this draw and am most grateful to the Province for running it."

Other prizes: £175, Michael Callaghan, 441; £100, Mrs M Northrop; £50, Bob Hammett, 44, Martin Holmes 6125, Roger Impey 7333, Andrew Brown 2107, Doug Forsdyke, 7333, John Flanders, 2727, Graham Goodwyn, 8590 and Michael Survey, 9511.

The 50/50 Club supports the Province of Cambridgeshire Masonic Building Fund and the quarterly subscription is £15. A draw application form can be obtained from WBro. John Surbey (johnsurbey@aol.com) or your Lodge/Chapter Charity Steward.

John Jones

"To monitor the distance, I mainly used my Apple Watch. On 13th September something unexpected happened – I hit the 500 km target over a month before the target date. How did this happen? Honestly, I have been getting fitter. My longest cycle had been 36.5 km. To get this 50 km I had been cycling for a total of 283/4 hours. The challenge had to be altered – not 500km but 500 miles (805km). At the time of writing this I have been cycling for a whisker over 35 hours.

"Most of the routes were off-road in and around Thetford Forest and around local villages. This is an area of Breckland, characterised by sand rather than soil and poses its own challenges. Hitting a sand pit can stop you almost immediately. I have had one example where the sand not only stopped me, but it turned the bike by 90° and threw me off. Luckily, the landing was soft. There have been some adventures along the way. A couple walking a Rottweiler and a very small dog were horrified when one of the dogs attacked me (guess which one). I have broken five spokes, I still do not know how I did this on one journey and I have gone through a set of brake pads. I ducked (unfortunately not enough) to avoid an overhanging branch beside the Little Ouse River. I have since ventured further afield along various trails. To be honest, I have enjoyed every minute of it.

"I am sure that there some that will cycle 500km as a normal part of their exercise routine and pah! loudly at my efforts. I think that this is not a bad start for a 49 year old – going on 50. The last time I undertook a sustained period of exercise was when I piloted a coracle from Thetford to Cambridge (my last big Masonic challenge). If you want a cycle in and around Thetford, give me a call. If you are not an Old Leysian and have a spare 500 pennies (one for very mile) please think about sending them to the everyday hero link above – It will be going to a good place."

Crawford Kingsnorth



Air Ambulance Gets Protective Equipment

Essential personal protective equipment for the crews of the Magpas air ambulance during the coronavirus crisis has been provided thanks to a grant of £5,000 from the Province.

The air ambulance provides crucial lifesaving care by land and air to patients in life-threatening emergencies throughout the East of England and beyond.

Our donation will help to purchase a range of PPE such as protective masks, suits, respirators, gloves and gowns to keep the crews safe to operate on the frontline.

The latest grant from Cambridgeshire Freemasons comes through the Masonic Charitable Foundation. In response to the extraordinary need created by the coronavirus pandemic, Freemasonry is providing special funding of £2.75 million for projects helping those who are particularly affected by the virus. This extra money comes on top of the estimated £45 million given to charity every year by Freemasons.

Mike Hinton



New Provincial Website Gains UGLE Charter Mark

The Province recently launched its new-look website to provide the latest information to existing members, potential members, and the general public.

After its launch, the site was officially reviewed by the United Grand Lodge of England, with success meaning the award of the prestigious UGLE charter mark, which is the quality standard of an approved Provincial/District or Lodge website. Our new site passed with flying colours and now proudly sports the charter mark awarded.

Web developer Chris Ansell said: "Our new website is the result of many hours of hard work by the web team to design an attractive site which will better inform freemasons, prospective masons and the general public. We intend to develop it further in the future to showcase freemasonry in the province and are always pleased to receive feedback about it".

Visit the site at <https://www.cambridgeshirefreemasons.org.uk>

Chris Ansell

Wisbech Mason's Bruvvers Breakfast Club

Little over two years ago, Bro. Andy McDonald, of Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge, No. 6125 in Wisbech, had the idea of organising breakfast for a few brothers on a Saturday morning at a local hotel. Initially, five or six would meet along with one or two prospective candidates. This was thought to be an ideal way of introducing potential masons to a few of the brethren.

All who met paid a fixed sum for their breakfast and as the actual price was a little lower, no one took any change and it was quickly agreed to build a fund that could be used for a charitable cause.

Since the start, the WMBBC (as it is now known on the WhatsApp group) have managed to donate £50 each to MAGPAS (in memory of WBro. Reg Lowther), the Hunstanton lifeboat appeal, Norfolk Blood Bikes and £100 to the Captain Tom fund.

Not being daunted by the lockdown brought about by Covid, Andy developed his idea to continue to raise funds and went about organising a monthly draw. This involves those brethren, who wish to, buying a raffle ticket for a fiver for chance of winning a cash prize of £25 or a bottle of wine.

Five draws have now taken place, and Andy included a nice touch of inviting a Masonic 'legend' to draw the winning tickets each month. Not only has this helped boost the fund, but also it allows the elder brethren to be involved. For those who live alone, it has provided some welcome company on draw day. W.Bros. Bernard Lyons, Ray Page, Andrew Pallant, David Bays and Jim Braun are the 'legends' who have presided over the draws. Currently, the fund totals £653 towards a Christmas target of £1,000

Jeremy Pallant

ZOOM MEETING BECOMES WHITE TABLE EVENT

Zoom meetings have become a method used to keep in touch but one lodge in the Province has used the technology to stage a white table festive board.

When the Coronavirus pandemic struck and it became obvious that regular lodge meetings were not going to be possible for a while, some lodges decided to try Zoom gatherings. Many, including The Porta Lodge No. 9511 at Ely, ceased the opportunity to stage meetings approximately once a month. They also held one committee meeting.

In September, following an idea from Lodge Steward, Bro. Marc Beveridge, it was decided to try something a different on those evenings when The Porta would normally meet for its four meetings throughout the masonic season.



With 9th October scheduled as the Installation meeting, Marc created a menu and circulated the recipes, with the idea being that brethren should create the meal and eat with their families or friends at this 'white table' event, before joining other members online for cheese and biscuits and concluding with the nine o'clock toast.

Gathering on Zoom at 8pm, three brethren appeared in dinner jackets, although on the bottom half they wore jeans, with the Charity Steward and Director of Ceremonies and their wives joining together suitably attired. One brother had decanted a vintage port for the occasion.

As always, the conversation was varied, most of it causing a lot of laughter. A raffle for a bottle of wine raised a considerable sum for Festival 2023.

Having agreed that its December meeting will probably be a curry night, the Zoom meeting was closed with the toast to absent brethren. While Brethren cannot meet in a regular fashion, these gatherings give Masons a great chance to chat together, air opinions and increase personal friendships. It doesn't really matter how many take part – it is so valuable to keep in contact with each other, while maintaining Masonic love and harmony. Why not give it a try?

Mike Fox

The Porta

A quiet night on the River Deben, Suffolk - safely isolating has never been easier. WBro. John Surbey, of The Porta Lodge No. 9511 at Ely, has been doing this since we could travel, often staying overnight.

"Occasionally I get caught out by the tide which means I have to stay another day," said John. "The only downside is I have to cook my own dinner but it always means I have a full bottle of wine and a whisky to hand. I always have good intentions and take a ritual book with me but get distracted by jobs on the boat, the scenery, and wildlife."

John Surbey



The Old Black Shoes

The old black shoes are looking glum As I pass the lobby door, "What's wrong with you?" they seem to say, "We're going out no more.

We've taken not a single step, Not third or even first, And ne'er a sign we've seen you give, Has Masonry been cursed?"

"It has", I said, "by virus vile, We have to stay at home Until such time the plague has passed, Then once more we can roam.

The Masons' Halls are empty, Regalia put away, Gavel now stay silent, DCs hold no sway, Volumes of the Sacred Law On pedestals redundant.,

Now Brother Jim contacts his friends By social posts abundant

No handshake, word or secret sign, No friendly Festive Board

No Tyler's song to say Goodnight, No organ's well-loved chord.

"Black shoes," I said, "do not despair, Our Chain is firm and strong Our flag of love remains unfurled We'll sing again our song.

And though some Brethren may have passed To Grandeur Lodge Above, We'll look upon their memories With everlasting Love;

And in their name, we'll offer help And soothe the burdened heart; We'll comfort those who are distressed,

Thus Masons play their part. And when this crisis is resolved We'll sing the old refrain, Happy to Meet, Sorry to Part, Happy to meet again."

- Author unknown

With thanks to WBro. Len Wayman





Bursary Fund Helps Young Carers with Education

A support fund for young carers has been made possible due to funding from the Masonic Charitable Foundation and the Provincial Grand Lodges of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Caring Together's COVID-19 Back to Education bursary fund is designed to help reduce the educational impact of COVID-19. Young carers and young adult carers from Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Norfolk and Suffolk can apply for small grants to help to reduce the impact that the coronavirus pandemic has had on their education and to support their successful transition back into education post-lockdown.

Andy McGowan, Caring Together's Head of Carer Services, said: "We know that the coronavirus crisis has had a significant impact on many young carers and young adult carers and we want to ensure that young carers are not left behind in terms of their education."

These funds are part of a national initiative from the United Grand Lodge of England to provide charitable support during the pandemic and during the past six months the Provinces in East Anglia have distributed just under £100,000 to various local causes that need help as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

Tim McCormick, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Suffolk Freemasons, said: "Decisions on applications are made fortnightly on a Monday while funds are still available. Decisions are based on what will make the most difference to the young, or young adult carer, given the money available."

Examples of eligible items and activities include the purchase of tablets/laptops and data to support young carer to continue with virtual learning if they don't have suitable access to a device; additional tutoring to catch up with missed work; compulsory school/college materials; educational transport costs where the family's finances have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; school uniform and PPE that is required to attend school/college.

Caring Together will also consider applications from schools/colleges wishing to put in an application on behalf of a group of young carers (e.g. to cover additional costs of running separate young carers groups for different bubbles, or to help support the transition of new Year 7 young carers into a school's young carers support). This can be for a maximum of £300 in total.

Caring Together

Caring Together is a leading charity supporting carers of all ages across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Norfolk. It provides information and advice, runs services in local communities and campaigns so that carers have choices.

A carer is anyone, including children and adults, who looks after a family member, partner or friend who needs help because of their illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction, and cannot cope without their support.

Caring Together supports more than 12,000 carers and their families every year, but there are an estimated 178,000 carers living in our region and this number is rising. It needs your help to make sure that even more carers in our local communities receive the practical and emotional support they need.



Above: WBro. Jonathan Lambert and WBro Mark Stollery

Two Grand Stewards from Cambridgeshire

Two Cambridgeshire brethren have been honoured by the Most Worshipful The Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent, by becoming Grand Stewards.

In accordance with established tradition, the Grand Master appoints 19 Grand Stewards. Very unusually, two Cambridgeshire brethren have been honoured in the same year with their appointments to the rank of Grand Steward.

WBro. Mark Stollery from Isaac Newton Lodge No. 859 and WBro. Jonathan Lambert from Etheldreda Lodge No. 2107 assumed their appointments on the 29th April, although they were not able to be formally invested by the Grand Master due to the coronavirus lockdown.

WBro. Stollery is currently Worshipful Master of Old Union Lodge No.46 and WBro. Lambert is currently Worshipful Master of The Lodge of Regularity No.91, both these lodges, along with 17 others, are known as the Red Apron Lodges and nominate a Grand Steward each year. WBro. Lambert was appointed as Secretary of the Board of Grand Stewards and is looking forward to the year ahead, despite the coronavirus and the issues it causes.

The primary role of the Grand Stewards is to organise the Grand Festival, held after the Grand Investiture, and to assist the Grand Director of Ceremonies in Grand Lodge. Whatever this year brings for the two Cambridgeshire brethren, they will, of course, forever be entitled to wear the distinctive red regalia and to take their places in the front rows of Grand Lodge.

Brian Elliott

How to Adapt to These Trying Times

Right at the start of the pandemic, the Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655 determined its top one priority was to retain a committed membership as a powerful base for when Freemasonry eventually gets back to normal.

Here WBro. Mike Richardson, current Master of the Ely-based lodge, reflects on some of the thinking on the Masonic frontline.

"There has been much discussion on recruitment and retention, but that is going to be difficult for the time being," he said. "What could be a better recruiting point in the future than the strong brotherhood that sustained us during these difficult times?"

With this in mind, he quickly introduced several initiatives to the Lodge, such as at regular zoom meetings and through a monthly newsletter, known as The Third Rising, which is now more a magazine featuring the expertise and experiences of members and others.

"This engaged members by keeping us all in touch with one another, and provided stimulation with several objectives for us all to achieve," said Mike.

As a result, the Lodge embarked on an extensive programme of fundraising, primarily focusing on local charities and causes, including monthly on-line raffles, and a 'Cash in the Attic' project in which brethren took unwanted items to a local auction house.

"Since the start of the Pandemic, when our meetings stopped, we have made donations totalling £3,191, including support from The Bethel Scheme (for The Soham Community Association) and a grant from Care and Relief (for The 1st Fordham Scout Group for urgent building repairs), and other member initiatives," added Mike.

The online monthly raffles will continue until meetings resume. With the inability to hold social functions, the Lodge has had to re-think Christmas, and will hold a virtual online quiz evening on Wednesday 16th December, the proceeds going to the Ely Cathedral Christmas dinner fund, a very important and seasonal cause, of great value to the local community. All are welcome to join in, so get a team organised. Instructions will be circulated in due course.

Mike concluded: "The fraternal spirit in the Lodge, already strong, must be maintained throughout these difficult times, and be as strong as ever when we get back to normal. We are on course to achieve this."

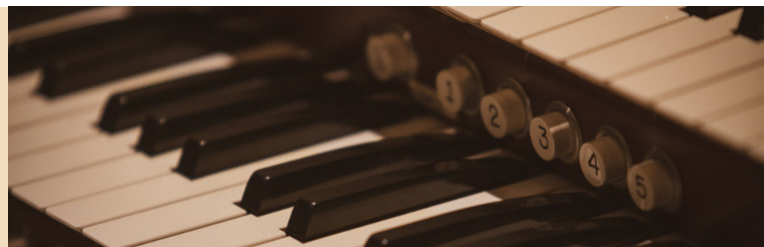
John Sinclair

Trust Hands out £26,500 in Grants

Grants of up to £3,000 to a variety of good causes in the Province have been agreed by the City & University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust.

Those receiving donations are: Camsight, £3,000; Centre 33, £2,000; Changing Faces, £1,000; CU Disability Resources, £3,000; East Anglian Air Ambulance, £1,000; Food Cycle, £1,000; Fulbourn Charities, £1,000; Headway, £2,000; Home Start, £2,000; Jimmy's, £1,000; Lifelites, £1,000; Magpas, £2,000; Mind in Cambs, £500; Red Hen Project, £3,000; Riding for the Disabled (Cambs College), £500; Tea Pot Trust (Art therapy), £500 and Winter Comfort, £2000.

Jim Whitehead



An Introduction to the Closing Ode

The Closing Ode is a common feature of all lodges, but what does it really mean? Bro. Ron Turnbull explained the details in a post in the Crafty Visitor Facebook page and has given his permission for it to be reproduced here.

The words of the Closing Ode were written by a Yorkshireman called Walter Clegg, who joined Harmony Lodge No. 272 in Lincolnshire.

The first verse is: 'Now the evening shadows closing Warn from toil to peaceful rest; Mystic arts and rites reposing Sacred in each faithful breast'. What does it mean?

Clegg tells us that evening is closing in; the shadows are gathering. This advises us that it is time to cease work and go for refreshment, ('Warn from toil to peaceful rest') but keeping our Masonic secrets safe in the repository of our hearts with fidelity.

It is clear the Immediate Past Master's words were in Clegg's mind. 'Reposing' means resting; a repository is a resting place, and 'faithful breast' is where your heart is. In fact, the word 'fidelity' means 'faithful'. Notice that word 'sacred'; just as the Volume of Sacred Law is closed.

In the second verse, Clegg turns our attention to the Great Architect: 'God of Light, whose love unceasing Doth to all Thy works extend, Crown our Order with Thy blessing, Build, sustain us to the end'.

Once again, his simple vocabulary conveys deep thoughts. He is using Church language, of course. In the 19th century everyone knew that 'Doth' meant 'does', 'Thee' meant 'You' and 'Thy' meant 'Your'. But by mentioning Light, he is reminding us about our initiations, when we were 'brought to Light'.

Walter Clegg recognises that God's endless love extends through all his work, and asks for his blessing on Freemasonry ('Crown our Order with Thy blessing') and on each and all of us, ('Build, sustain us to the end'); reminding us with the word 'build' that we're Masons, and asking the Great Architect to keep us safe.

In the last verse, Clegg speaks for all the Brethren: 'Humbly now we bow before Thee, Grateful for Thine aid divine, Everlasting power and glory, Mighty Architect be Thine!'

'Thine' means 'yours'. It is the end of the meeting, and as the Book is closed, and we prepare to leave, we acknowledge the Supreme Being with humility ('Humbly now we bow before Thee') and gratitude for God's help.

When the Worshipful Master asks his Senior Warden to close the Lodge, it is done 'In the name of the Great Architect of the Universe and by command of the Worshipful Master' ('Thine aid divine'); and there's a strong hint of the Lord's Prayer in the final lines.

The Lord's Prayer concludes: 'For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.' In the closing ode, we don't sing 'Amen' but instead we use the Masonic equivalent: 'Everlasting power and glory, Mighty Architect, be Thine. So Mote it Be.'



Supporting the Salvation Army in Cambridge

With the extra demand to supply food for the homeless staying in three Cambridge hotels, the Province donated a new industrial size fridge to the Salvation Army.

"We discovered via WBro. Douglas Reed that the Salvation Army at the Cambridge Citadel Church and Community Centre, Mill Road, Cambridge, were using their kitchen with a team of volunteers to supply food to the homeless," said Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. Pat Kilby.

The Salvation Army volunteers have been making sandwiches and preparing tea packs, as well as providing breakfast and a main hot meal including a dessert.

"Due to increased numbers they have struggled with fridge space to store food in sufficient quantity to ensure all were given a meal on time. Cambridgeshire Freemasons have been delighted to provide as a gift a new industrial size fridge so that they may continue the excellent work they are doing during this unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic," added VWBro. Kilby.

The service is now providing 100 meals a day and provided 1,720 hot meals for the needy in six weeks.

ST AUDREY

While in lockdown, and with meetings suspended, the Brethren of St Audrey Lodge No. 2727 in Ely, have been keeping in touch by enjoying a virtual quiz and raising money for charity at the same time.

While the quiz is being distributed to the brethren, St Audrey Charity Steward, WBro Peter Crussell, asked members to make the contributions to the Covid-19 appeal and to a local homeless charity, Under One Sky.

Your Support Really Makes a difference

Personal protective equipment has been distributed to the Province's potentially vulnerable brethren and widows thanks to support from the Provincial Charity for Care and Relief.

It resulted in 179 PPE packs being distributed to brethren and widows. Each PPE pack contained a box of 100 gloves, four disposable masks, a washable reusable mask and a washable bag (used to hold masks when not being worn). The washable mask and wash bag were made by Connection Through Crafting, which has so far made over 2,500 sets of scrubs for Addenbrookes and other NHS bodies in Cambridgeshire.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. Pat Kilby, who is chairman of the Provincial Charity for Care and Relief, has been delighted by the extremely positive response to the donations.



What is the Charity for Care and Relief?

WBro. George Brennan, secretary of the Province's Charity for Care & Relief, explains.

"This is the Province's own charity, which we support when not in festival. Its objects are to dispense funds for the benefit of poor and distressed masons and their dependents in the province, masonic charities and for other charitable institutions, societies or objects.

"Over many years, the trustees of the charity have supported many worthwhile charities with financial donations and helped Brethren with day to day expenses. To brethren who find themselves in a distressed situation, I encourage them, or their almoners, to contact me to see if our charity can assist them in any way."



GRANTA

A winegrowing member of Granta Lodge No. 6179 was awarded an outstanding category by 'Decanter' wine and lifestyle magazine.

WBro. Jan Mirkowski, who lives in Henley-on-Thames, where he has 12000 rootstocks of vines over three hectares, was the sole winner in a category featuring 53 sparkling wines costing under £50.

It was Jan's Fairmile Vineyard's first release and beat highly distinguished and long-established vineyards. It follows a gold medallion award for the vineyard's rosé, and a bronze for its classic cuvée within a month of launch, both from the Thames & Chiltern Vineyard Association.

For more information and to see the online shop, visit

www.fairmilevineyard.co.uk

Steve Greig



ALMA MATER

A new honours board for Alma Mater Lodge No. 1492 can now be completed, thanks to research to identify the 146 members who occupied the Master's chair since the lodge was founded in 1874.

Four of those brethren were the subject of talks given to 33 members who joined a virtual meeting of the lodge held on 16th May.

WBro. Harold Beck started with a presentation on WBro. Edward Bullough, then WBro. Tim Pearce Higgins followed with a brief synopsis of WBro. Alexander Pearce Higgins, his grandfather, who was Master in 1921. WBro. Edmund Brookes gave a presentation on the life of WBro. Patrick Halnan, Master in 1960 and the meeting concluded with WBro. Stewart Kerr speaking about the life of WBro. David Ousey, who was Master in 1979.

Flights of Fancy

Former Provincial Senior Grand Warden, WBro. John Surbey is keen on building and flying model aircraft.

"At times of stress I have always returned to model aircraft as a time-consuming passion, and I've certainly had plenty of time recently," he added.

His eldest son and grandson have followed in John's footsteps and have been building models throughout the lockdown period.

John then said, *"We are now looking forward to flying them together on our own field".*

NOURSE

Brother Gary Carre-Skinner, of Nourse Lodge No. 8590, used his 3D printer to make face shields for his sister's surgery in Hastings and a care home in Suffolk.

Gary, a laboratory scientist, has also signed up with the NHS volunteer service and to support Covid-19 testing with Public Health England, as well as to help with a clinical trial at Addenbrookes Hospital.

Brother Chenguang Sun delivered 200 face masks to Cornwallis Court residential home and promised more when he got further supplies.



Nourse Lodge donated £850 to The Prospects Trust to assist them with essential PPE in order to reopen the farm to their co-workers.

In thanking the Lodge, Rhian Cornell, executive officer of the Trust, based as Snakehall Farm, Cambridgeshire, said: "We are thinking of new hand and tool washing stations to minimise the risk of infection, new shelters in the field to give us safe social distancing groups and of course essential PPE."

The money was raised by WBro. Gordon Dunn and his wife Linda at the Lodge's Ladies Festival.

The Prospect Trust is an 18-acre organic care farm in Cambridgeshire. The Trust specialises in providing therapeutic horticulture to people with learning difficulties, disabilities and those with varying health needs. It is a real farm providing work experience producing real organic products and produce.





ST WENDRED

Saturday 18th April should have been the Ladies Festival at St Wendred Lodge No. 8374, but it didn't go ahead. Instead, many of the brethren raised a glass to the ladies and sent selfies to their WhatsApp group.



ISAAC NEWTON UNIVERSITY LODGE

Although it may be known for its young initiates, but Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859 also has a member who has been a Freemason for 70 years.

On 7th December, at the Lodge's last meeting before Freemasonry was suspended due to coronavirus, a special presentation was made to Bro. Bill Squire by the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. William Dastur.

Bro. David Goode organised a donation of £2,000 from Isaac Newton University Lodge to a group producing scrubs.

CALDWELL

WBro. Ray Jack, of Caldwell Lodge No. 3201, has been kept busy by shopping and delivering items in conjunction with FACT (Fenland Association for Community Transport). He is one of several volunteers helping people at high risk, the elderly and vulnerable during this coronavirus pandemic.



VIRTUTE ET FIDE

To celebrate his 60th birthday, WBro. Keith Poulson, secretary of Virtute Et Fide Lodge No7959, and his partner Amanda celebrated with a cruise round the Caribbean Sea, calling in at various Central American countries. One of the places visited was Cartagena in Columbia, where, while walking round the town, they came across the local Masonic Lodge.



FENLAND FARMERS

It was short back and sides time for Bro. Brodie Ellis and Bro. Harry Johnson, of Fenland Farmers' Lodge No. 9933, when they took part in Wisbech Town Cricket Club's fundraising for the Covid-19 fund at Queen Elizabeth Hospital at King's Lynn.





ST ANDREW

It is 100 years since the consecration of St Andrew Lodge No. 4087 at Whittlesey on 28th June 1920, but members unfortunately had to postpone their celebration.

Extensive preparations were made to celebrate the important milestone, but these were curtailed due to the current Covid-19 restrictions. However, a Zoom video conference was made to members of the lodge on 28th June and it was joined by the ProvGM, RWBro. William Dastur.



St Andrew Lodge was consecrated on by RWBro, the Rev Canon JH Gray, the Provincial Grand Master, with 143 brethren in attendance. Preparations started on New Year's Day 1920, when a WBro English, Past District Grand Treasurer of Bombay and a resident of Whittlesey, addressed a letter to 21 Masonic Brothers and inviting them to attend a meeting to be held at the Falcon Hotel to discuss a 'Proposed Masonic Lodge' in Whittlesey. The Lodge was to meet nine times a year, later reduced to eight to allow for the harvest.

This was the second Masonic Lodge in Whittlesey, as in 1809 and, under the Moderns Grand Lodge, a Lodge was constituted and called St Andrew's Lodge of Moral Reformation with a number 609. It was sponsored by St Peter's Lodge in Peterborough. The following year the title was changed to St Andrew Lodge. The Lodge went into abeyance in about 1825 with no surviving records.

WBro. Dave Sowman, of St Andrew Lodge No. 4087 at Whittlesey, and his wife organised for their fellow allotment holders to donate spare produce to a local food bank. They have also been contacting and helping local vulnerable people. St Andrew Lodge also donated £250 to a foodbank.

Standard Bearer

Bro. Kevin McKeivitt, of St Andrew Lodge No. 4087, was the Royal British Legion Standard Bearer in attendance at the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe ceremony in Whittlesey.



THIRKILL

A member of Thirkill Lodge No. 7333 was at the forefront of his village's efforts to help the vulnerable in the community.

WBro. Adrian Peters was part of the effort in the Highfields Caldecote to respond to Covid-19. He divided the village into nine areas each with its own co-ordinator and volunteers looking after up to 15 homes. A leaflet drop offered help to those in self isolation with tasks such as picking up shopping and urgent supplies, posting mail or making a friendly phone call. Vulnerable residents were identified, and Adrian contacted trusted neighbours and arranged daily calls.

Thirkill Lodge No. 7333 set up Twitter and Instagram accounts to share its news, as well as information about Freemasonry.



STONE CROSS

A food bank in March has benefitted from a donation of £500 from the town's Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704. The Worshipful Master, WBro. Nigel Philpott, and Charity Steward, WBro. Paul Ashby, handed over the cheque to Food Bank co-ordinator Mrs Barbara Taylor. The donation included £250 matched funding from the City & University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust.

Besides delivering shopping to people in isolation during the Covid-19 lockdown, WBro. John Beeken, of Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704 at March, and his wife have been delivering food parcels to school pupils who qualify for free school meals.

Recent zoom video get-togethers for members of March's Stone Cross Lodge included members living in New Zealand and Germany. Joining the meetings were Bro. James Palmer-Dale, who was in New Zealand and WBro. Andrew 'Taff' Pugh in Germany.



CALDWELL

Caldwell Lodge No. 3201 at March handed over £1,000 to local charities, with support from the City and University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust.

The Lodge handed over £250 each to March in Bloom and Young People March, and £500 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance in memory of WBro. Geoff Hearn – a charity that he and his wife Sheila supported each year by displays of classic cars and motorbikes at their home.

Young People March also received £250 from Fenland Meridian Lodge No.9858, which also gave a similar amount to the Amicus Trust for the homeless in March, again with part funding from the City and University of Cambridge MCT.

...Caldwell Continued

A raffle held at the Ladies Festival at Caldwell Lodge No 3201 on 6th March enabled the Worshipful Master, WBro. Martin Elener to present a cheque for £500 to Cancer Research UK. Martin handed over the cheque at the Cancer Research shop in Fenland Walk, March. Lodge members had donated the raffle prizes.



Explorer and author Bro. Justin Miles, from Caldwell Lodge No. 3201 supported education provision throughout the Coronavirus lockdown.

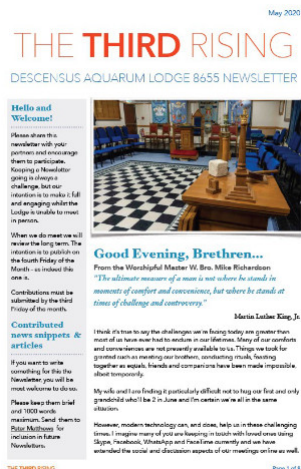
Education and universal education provision have been at the heart of all of Justin's adventures, challenges and expeditions. As the Coronavirus lockdown impacted the globe, he continued his work in education. Justin partners with the education wing of technology giant Microsoft to use its platform to bring the world to life in classrooms around the world.

In addition to his work in education, Justin has this year been made a 'Get Outside champion' for Ordnance Survey.

DESCENSUS AQUARUM

At Descensus Aquarum Lodge No 8655, Bro. Freddie Lawes helped instigate a plan to set up an email network of its members so they could contact each other if needed. The Lodge has set up a page on Facebook so members can communicate.

Similarly at March, Bro. Clinton Elkin, of Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704, set up facebook group for all those meeting at the town's Masonic centre. Find it on Facebook at March Masonic Centre.



Following on from setting up a weekly Zoom gathering to keep in contact with its members, Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655, is producing a monthly newsletter. Called 'The Third Rising', it includes articles by lodge members and guests.

Brethren of Descensus Aquarum Lodge raised £250 for Soham Community Association, which the City and University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust match funded through its Bethel Scheme.

The Soham Community Association supports the elderly and vulnerable who are at home, by organising coffee mornings, lunches, a regular newsletter, and other means of keeping people connected.

ST WENDRED

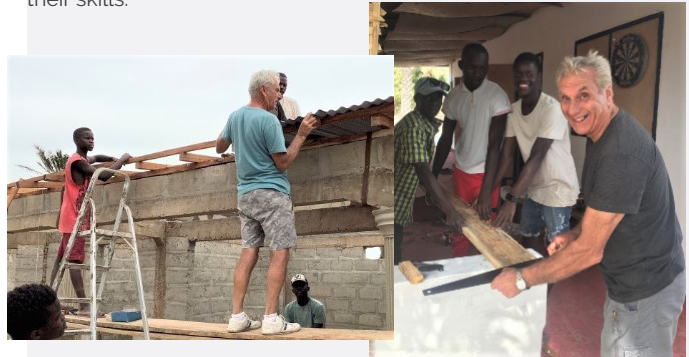
Health talks organised by two members of St Wendred Lodge No. 8374, based at Newmarket, with support from Provincial charities helped provide a £1,000 donation to the John Farman Intensive Care Unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

The donation will help the purchase of new equipment and continue to help make the unit a brighter environment for patients, relatives and staff.

The talks, organised by the Worshipful Master, WBro. Paul Pearson and WBro. Steven Young. The Lodge received contributions from the Province of Cambridgeshire Charity for Care & Relief and the City and University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust.

GILD OF ST MARY

A member of Gild of St Mary Lodge No. 7288 in Cambridge put his building skills to good use in helping youngsters in Africa to develop their skills.



Bro. John Martin, who has been involved in various charitable works for many years and, having ran his own building company for decades, was invited by a friend to visit the Bantaba project in The Gambia, West Africa. There he helped to train youngsters in basic woodworking and building skills so that they could continue their work on the project. It is not a charity but is supported by the Rotary Club of Cambridge Sawston.

The Bantaba Project helps local communities in The Gambia to provide training facilities and basic accommodation for volunteer teachers and helpers. It will also become a centre point and a meeting place for community life and support.

Bro. Martin said: "I introduced them to spirit levels, screws and countersinking. The second time I visited, I helped them roof the building and fit the guttering. Everything has to be in hardwood because of termites and insects".



When the Worshipful Master of the Gild of St Mary Lodge No. 7288, WBro. John Evans, and his wife Susan, decided to leave Cambridge and 'move to the country' five years ago, little did they realise that a phone call would lead to them becoming the owners of a winner at Crufts. Wilbur, their Sussex spaniel, won Best of Breed, was a winner of the English and Ireland Vulnerable Breed competition, and a Certificate of Excellence, the first time a Sussex Spaniel ever reached such heights.



GILD OF HOLY TRINITY

While self-isolating, demolition contractor, Bro Andrew Humphrey, of Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125 in Wisbech, thought he'd do some of those jobs that we all put off. He was cutting some timber in his shed and taking all the usual precautions when, by a cruel twist of fate, he lost three fingers from his right hand.

In the immediate aftermath of the Covid-19 lockdown, a Lodge member, whose wife is a nurse at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn, sent out a plea for protective equipment. Instantly, a large quantity of face masks, gloves and safety suits were delivered to the hospital without ceremony or fanfare, courtesy of Brother Andy.

A Wisbech mason helped to mobilise Masonic support for a family who suffered a disastrous fire at their home of the first day of the coronavirus lockdown.

WBro. John Grevatt, of Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125, lives just over the Cambridgeshire border in the village of Gedney Hill in Lincolnshire, where the fire had taken place.

John informed his fellow villager WBro. Gerald Simmons, of Alexandra Lodge No. 985 at Long Sutton, Lincs. After very few phone calls and with the assistance of WBro. John Grimwood, just 24 hours later, Lincolnshire Province approved an emergency grant of £500 to the family to assist with their immediate needs.



A team of volunteer bikers helping local hospitals has received a £750 donation from Wisbech's Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125. Bro. Martin Calvert, a member of the Lodge, received a cheque for £750, which included £250 match funding from the City & University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust, from WBro. Martin Holmes, the Lodge's Charity Steward.

Consisting of volunteers, Norfolk Blood Bikes is a registered charity, funded by donations that supports the NHS. The team delivers blood, platelets, plasma, medical notes and equipment, donated breast milk and now Covid-19 samples for testing, from hospitals across Cambridgeshire and the surrounding area including Addenbrookes, North Cambs Hospital in Wisbech and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn. QEH is the main acute hospital for Wisbech and the surrounding area. Bro. Calvert is one of a team of volunteer riders helping to keep eight bikes and two cars on the road.



KYNASTON

The Worshipful Master of Kynaston Lodge No. 5810 WBro. John Creek came up with a novel solution of a virtual raffle to continue with charity fundraising during the Covid-19 crisis.

The raffle takes place on a Whats App group to keep the Brethren of the lodge in touch with each other.

Over the past few months, members of Kynaston Chapter No. 5810 have continued to meet monthly, albeit by the ever-popular video conferencing methods in such widespread use during these trying times which dominate our lives now.

The regular monthly social gatherings, organised and hosted by EComp. Charlie Brown, on Zoom has become a popular way for companions of the Chapter to keep in touch, particularly to hear of the ongoing work of the Chapter Almoner, EComp. Bob Wordsworth.

Editorial Board

WBro. Cliff Brown, WBro. Brian Elliott, WBro. Michael Hinton, VWBro. John Sherriff and WBro. Peter Sutton.
Design by Bro. Nick Knights.

Please send any material for future issues to the editor: editorcambsmason@yahoo.co.uk

The Editorial Board has accepted the information published in good faith and cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies.