



The Cambridgeshire Mason

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Festival honorifics on display by the First Principals and Worshipful Masters at this year's annual meetings



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Our Provincial Grand Master's address to the Brethren..

The seven-year strategy espoused by the Pro Grand Master seeks to build an integrated organisation fit for the 21st Century and, more importantly, one fit to develop and grow, not just survive. In articulating "one organisation and one journey" it is crystal clear that the Craft and the Royal Arch are inextricably linked and must forge the future together benefitting from their respective strengths.

His strategy has three key areas of emphasis:- Membership, Governance and Charity/ Community and I should like to address each of these briefly.



I am thrilled that in 2022 we saw a growth in discrete members of 3.4% an increase of 45 to 1357 whilst in total memberships we increased by 4.6% to 1782. So far in 2023 we have continued this growth with 46 initiates and a 1.8% increase to 1382 and 1816 memberships - very much a return to pre pandemic levels.

Well done brethren but more particularly to WBro. Ed Williams, our Membership Officer, and the Pathway team so ably led by my Deputy, VWBro. Pat Kilby, ensuring Cambridgeshire continues to be at the forefront, more than meeting the Pro's challenge of 1% growth by year three.

The Membership officer role, whilst relatively new, is a hugely important one. WBro. Williams has assumed this vital office and ensured in his first year we have made great progress as the figures for 2022 and 2023 illustrate. In ensuring that the Membership Pathway essentials have been fully rolled out to all our lodges with simple Lodge Plans and officer succession planning encouraged, I do believe the Province and its lodges are making good headway in fulfilling the growth and governance aspirations espoused in the strategy.

But this is just one element with retention an equally important factor. It remains vital that we start to encourage back those brethren who have stayed away and are out of the habit of attending.

To me, their return is our greatest challenge and yet the easiest way of avoiding membership decline. This is something for us all to do in each lodge. We can't just leave it to Almoners, Mentors and Membership Officers - although they have a key role to play too.

Brethren, in some ways we are all membership officers and what is more we should relish this role of growing the Order - encouraging friends, making introductions, supporting the exhibition trailer at local events, Masonic centre open days and White Table evenings to introduce freemasonry at convivial dinners are all there as suitable enablers.

A really successful Open Day at Ely, so ably organised by WBro. Ian Hardman, brought in over ten positive enquiries. It worked so well with all the Ely lodges supporting this whilst involving local charities and lady freemasons on the day. I have no doubt this will prove a good template for others.

Moving on to governance, engagement and indeed succession. With summary lodge plans in place, I would urge all lodges to start to address succession planning and how we maintain interest and an undoubted talent pipeline.

We should encourage newer members and aspiring brethren to want to be involved and have a strong reason to continue to belong. We have to be much less critical and demanding of those who, perhaps we perceive, don't appreciate or can't satisfy the standards and commitments expected 40 and 50 years ago.

Open criticism in lodge is unacceptable and in the 21st century we should aim to embrace the best of 21st century attitudes and behaviours - especially inclusiveness and tolerance. We are building a living organisation to thrive another 300 years or morenot a museum.



...at the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge

Engagement is so important and I have been particularly pleased to see, and also support first hand, the new buddy initiative from the Light Blues as they invite and support newly initiated brethren to see an Initiation shortly after their own. This has been hugely appreciated, really successful and both Pat and I have enjoyed the opportunities to join them at meetings. The Light Blues continue to grow and support the lodges in the Province. They deserve our respect, support, encouragement and gratitude.



In just over 15 months, we have consecrated three new lodges, all with a different raison d'être. We were able to consecrate Hutchinson Masters, a daylight lodge for Installed Masters in March 2023 and I believe there are opportunities for more – particularly special interest lodges. Some embryo ideas are currently being considered but what about following the lead of other Provinces who have recently introduced specialist new lodges for sportsmen, anglers, shooting, motorcycle and automotive enthusiasts, or perhaps fine dining! We can seize on them as examples of platforms as to how to grow and engender or revive interest.

Old Leysian Lodge has its Centenary celebrations planned for November – whilst Kynaston has a banner re-dedication in December, both examples of our endurance and relevance.

WBro. Mike Hinton, who is our Provincial Communications Officer, has ensured that we continue to get the best out of the media opportunities available and I should like to thank him and his talented team. Our ability to embrace all media formats is critical for the future of Freemasonry and particularly this Province. We must promote Freemasonry through local publicity, open days, community engagement and through our strongest asset – our commitment to charity. So, it was pleasing to organise another successful Festival of Carols in December last year raising £30,000 for the Ely Cathedral and Maggie's both local community assets who do so much to support the people of Cambridgeshire.

In terms of charity and community, our two charities lead the way for us with the CMBA collecting for the Festival whilst Care & Relief has a formidable endowment of nearly £600,000.

With recurring annual income and distributions of around £20,000 per annum we can and do make a great difference locally whilst still having the firepower for large one-off donations. Before Christmas, utilising the MCF and our own matched funding we were able to distribute, an additional £20,000 supporting, foodbanks, the homeless and Christmas Meals – that is freemasonry in the community.

We have already heard that the Festival appeal supporting the MCF, your charity, is likely to reach seven figures and I am grateful for your support and enthusiasm. With effectively just under six weeks to go, now is the time to make those final commitments to send in the funds from your lodge events.

You may wish to plan, or even invest in your wife's or partner's wardrobe for Thursday 21st September when the final total will be announced at Queens' College with the Deputy Grand Master present. You have been amazing, smashing the target despite having lost over 15 months to Covid.

I must thank WBro. Paul Gillingwater, our Festival Chairman, and our Provincial Charity Steward, WBro. David Cameron, and his Cambridgeshire Masonic Benevolent Association executive team, who have been relentless in their enthusiasm and inventive plans notably selling anything that can be made in light blue, and I believe they have a final surprise in store for you!

It was a huge delight to see David receive his Grand Rank in April as well as WBro. Bharat Khetani, the present High Sheriff, with his appointment as Past Junior Grand Deacon whilst WBro. Edmund Brookes was promoted to Active Deputy Grand Sword Bearer.



Our Provincial Grand Master's address to the Brethren..

Bharat's appointment as High Sheriff means we have seen three freemasons in the last six years hold that office whilst the Pro Grand Master has recently become a Deputy Lieutenant for the county. We are well connected in Cambridgeshire - and it was pleasure to be involved and witness the success of the Cambridgeshire Community Day, the day after last year's meeting.

My congratulations to those who have been promoted or appointed to new ranks and responsibilities. They are all well-earned and thoroughly deserved and I am sure it will encourage you to continue to serve your lodges, this Province and the Craft even better.

To our two retiring Provincial Wardens, WBro. Justin Curtis and WBro. Michael Humphrey, thank you for all your hard work including representing me at Lodge Installations - a practice which I intend to roll out further in the next few years. Your enthusiasm and diligence has been widely remarked upon and we are all grateful to you both. Whilst I would like to wish you a quieter retirement, I doubt that will be the case especially as Justin has just become Inspector General and Michael is actively supporting the High Sheriff.

We also have a new Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and Provincial Grand Almoner. WBros. Jonathan Lambert and George Brennan have served so well after the last five years or so and I am very grateful to them. To WBros. David Parker and Alan de Laune, my best wishes to you as you assume your new roles and responsibilities.

To the new executive team, I hope you are looking forward to the forthcoming season as much as I am. It will, I am sure, be hugely exciting and engaging as we continue to deliver the Pro Grand Master's seven-year strategic intent. So with a new executive team, ensuring governance and succession is assured for another year, and with the new replacements bursting with energy and new ideas what about the immediate future?

As always, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to WBro. Kevin Mader who has been unflinching in his support and attention to Provincial matters even through some challenging times in 2022. You have been everything a Provincial Grand Master could need... and more. Thank you so much for your help and also in arranging today's meeting. Might I also acknowledge WBros. John Jones and Andy Badcock for helping make today such a success, but also to acknowledge all their sterling efforts in the Provincial Office over the last year. Your support has been immense and so necessary.

I should also like to congratulate and thank WBro. Jonathan Lambert, our Provincial Director of Ceremonies, and his Deputy WBro. David Parker, and their team, moving furniture and corralling the Stewards; the Worshipful Master and brethren of Lodge of Three Grand Principles No. 441 under whose banner today's meeting is being held; and the Stewards' Lodge. for all their efforts in getting the venue set up properly and ensuring both meetings have gone to plan.

Inevitably, I am sure I shall have forgotten to mention someone but to all who have contributed in making today and, indeed, this Province, such a success - thank you!

The future for Freemasonry is an exciting one which we must all embrace. Whether this is by attracting new friends, re-engaging with older ones, fulfilling ambitions, working for good causes in our local areas or just simply making sure more enjoy our ceremonies, festive boards and social events.

Embracing the new ways of the 21st century whilst avowing openness about our membership and our Freemasonry will also be crucial. We have a great opportunity in front of us let's not waste it! It's your lodges and your futures that will underpin our success.





UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND



SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER
OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF ENGLAND

Discover
Freemasonry
in Cambridgeshire

INTEGRITY
FRIENDSHIP
RESPECT
CHARITY



The Royal Arch
Discover More

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY



SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER
OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF ENGLAND

Our Grand Superintendent's address to the Companions...

We are entering an exciting new era with a new Pro First Grand Principal and a strategy developed in conjunction with the Craft that sees One Organisation and One Journey for candidates for Freemasonry. The implicit message being - we are working together with a common purpose - must excite every companion in this room today. I know a number of us are anxious to find out more about the Archway project but we must be patient and curb our enthusiasm a little longer.

Our Deputy Grand Superintendent. EComp. David Blair, is on the working party so we do have the opportunity to be in the forefront of this new initiative as it rolls out, probably later this year or early 2024. Having said that, it does not prevent us from doing a lot of the pre-work and developing our plans and strategy to increase membership as well as improve the engagement and enjoyment of all companions, particularly those who are relatively new to Chapter.

With the burgeoning Clarets - a first, I think in the Royal Arch - professing Companionship, Compassion and Comprehension - what THREE better words to sum up Freemasonry and particularly the Royal Arch?



I am delighted with the announcement of the Clarets - an excellent adjunct to the Light Blues in the Craft. This initiative from the Deputy Grand Superintendent and Provincial Scribe Ezra with its own distinctive tie clip is another way in which we can engage positively with newer exaltees.

We are now back to previous levels of attendance in a number of Chapters with visitors swelling our meetings - a very welcome sign. There are still those who remain reticent about returning and we must as a priority rekindle their interest and entice them back so that they can once again enjoy the Royal Arch, ceremonies and festive boards.

Whilst we experienced a small reduction in numbers last year - our first full year back - 2023 has started well with 22 exaltations already and, together with joiners, means we have an overall increase of 22 in 2023 already more than offsetting our net loss of 11 last year. Well done Deputy Grand Superintendent!

Our membership ratio is still around 44% of the Craft numbers and over 50% if one asks how many Cambridgeshire Craft Freemasons are members of the Royal Arch!

The Exaltation ceremony is the culmination of our initial journey into Freemasonry so we should be encouraging or attracting recent Master Masons and finding ways to accommodate their Exaltations, if necessary, with multiple candidates or additional meetings. Please don't disappoint or lose the opportunity to grow this lovely order.

Once we have achieved this, I am happy for the other Orders also to recruit - a thriving, growing membership benefits us all. The Royal Arch is such a special order and we must concentrate on keeping our meetings, start times, ceremonies and festive boards relevant and attractive to all, especially the needs of the newer and younger Mason.

Sharing the work, involving newer members but, above all, producing something memorable and fulfilling for the new exalte is essential. If he remembers it as very special and different, then he is undoubtedly our best ambassador for attracting others to join.



...at the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter

Remember that long meetings can turn candidates off just when we want to excite them. It is not necessary, or even desirable, to deliver all the lectures on one evening especially after an Exaltation. They can be useful material for meetings where there is no candidate.

The Royal Arch lectures can lend themselves to being delivered catechistically and this also ensures wider participation whilst also perhaps accommodating those who wish to move up the ladder through early involvement.

We know that not all of us find ritual easy, especially learning extensive tracts. Taking office and then participating in the ceremonies should be enjoyable and something one wants to do. I firmly believe that no-one should be precluded from taking office because they can't remember a full ceremony but, equally and importantly, reaching the chairs should not be seen as a right... and, therefore, aspiring Companions must put in the effort to earn such recognition.

We must also ensure that the standard of our ritual is constantly improved and never demeaned through shoddy, ill-prepared delivery, particularly reading it. A little planning can usually find a Companion who would jump at the opportunity to deliver a piece.

Whilst I am opposed to the Exaltation ceremony being read, I do appreciate last-minute dropouts do happen, especially with busy younger members. Substitutes do need to lock themselves away for 10-15 minutes to ensure that they understand what is to be read and deliver it with the right emphasis. You never see theatre stand-ins not having prepared and you certainly wouldn't want to attend if they hadn't.

I congratulate all those who have received a first appointment or promotion today, on what I hope has been a special day for you and I hope it will encourage you to work harder for this lovely order and your chapters. To the Provincial Officers retiring today, I thank you for your tremendous support during your time in office and I welcome the new team. I hope you will enjoy your time in your respective roles.

EComp. David Sowman is stepping down today as Provincial Second Grand Principal. He has served the Province well in both this role and previously as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. We shall all miss his enthusiasm and attention to detail. David, thank you for all you have done for the Royal Arch so far, representing the Province at Chapters and other Provincial Meetings. In his place we have an old friend and experienced hand EComp. Edmund Brookes, who only stood down last year as Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra - one just can't keep him away - but I know he will add a lot to the team and is eagerly anticipating joining you in your ceremonies.

It was so pleasing to see EComp. Mike Hinton receive Grand Rank recognition in April - he has done so much in his first year as Provincial Third Grand Principal not to mention his huge Communications successes both here and in the Craft.

Now today doesn't just happen. EComp. Jon West is in his first year as Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra - and I think he has done a great job in masterminding the administration for this meeting. EComp. Mark Upex has taken up the reigns of Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies this year. A big thank to both of you and your teams - and especially for trying to control the uncontrollable - the Grand Superintendent!



Certificate for Service to Masonry - WBro. Bill Finney

In making the award to WBro. Bill Finney, the Provincial Grand Master said: "This certificate is awarded rarely and then only to Brethren who have given distinguished service to the Province, their lodge or Freemasonry generally. In my time there have been just three. Therefore, in considering suitable and deserving candidates it has to be for service which has been special, consistent or different.

"WBro. Bill Finney was initiated in 1991 and we were born in the same year - so you see Brethren, cream really does rise to the top!



"WBro. Finney has been Worshipful Master of his Mother Lodge three times and also the Master of Cambridgeshire Meridian Lodge. He has been a Companion of the Royal Arch since 1999, having been exalted into Fidelity Chapter No. 441.

"At Province level he became active Provincial Grand Standard Bearer in 2008, was promoted in 2013 and since 2019 has held the rank of Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works.

"He is always willing to help out in his lodge and is currently Senior Deacon and Almoner. Throughout his career he has held many other offices, always willing to step in and hold the fort temporarily or for the year. This has resulted in him going on to the Master's chair as vacancies have occurred.

"Although WBro. Finney has officially been in the chair four times, he is a bit of a 'squatter' in his Mother Lodge - since he always seems to be performing ceremonies, often at the last minute, whenever I have turned up, and - if not in the chair - then reprising other important pieces of ritual. Despite occasional medical difficulties he is a very willing and supportive member of his lodges and the Province and rarely misses a meeting.

"A good family man who introduced his son into Freemasonry, WBro. Finney is devoted to his wife and currently a key carer so I am very pleased that he has been able to join us today."

Bill Dastur

Hot stuff at Logistica Lodge hog roast

Logistica Lodge held a Hog Roast at the home of its Worshipful Master Tony Kirby in Martlesham. An excellent evening including entertainment was enjoyed by over 90 people, some of whom camped overnight. Over £1000 was raised for the Festival.

Roger Billings



Cambridgeshire Light Blues strike gold

The Cambridgeshire Light Blues Club has received a Gold Honorific to mark its generous donations to the Province's Festival 2023 in aid of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

The honorific was presented by WBro. David Cameron, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, to CLB chairman WBro. Andy Murfitt at the May meeting of Fenland Farmers' Lodge No. 9933, held in at March Masonic Hall.

David Cameron



Whodunnit? Mystery donation to Festival

A Murder Mystery event staged by the four lodges in Ely raised £3,000 for the Province's Festival 2023 in aid of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.



The Murder Mystery event, which took place on 13th May at Witchford Village Hall, was written by local author, WBro. Peter Crussell, and performed by a team of local actors. The evening was attended by an audience of 130.

Following the resounding success of the combined lodges' Murder Mystery evening, the quarter share of the proceeds meant St. Audrey Lodge No. 2727 advanced from a Bronze to a Silver Festival Honorific. The Festival Chairman, WBro. Paul Gillingwater presented the Worshipful Master, WBro. Keith Fayers with the Honorific in recognition of their support of Festival 2023 in donating more than £30,000.

David Cameron



Boost for Break

A charity helping children, young people and families has received a £560 boost thanks to Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704, based in March.

The money, raised at the lodge's Ladies Festival in May, was presented to the charity at its March shop by the Worshipful Master, WBro. Andy Sullivan and his partner Sam Vaughan.

Break works across East Anglia giving children, young people and families the time, support and care they need to achieve their full potential, whether through therapeutic service, respite breaks, providing support with parenting or helping provide a resilient home.

Andy Sullivan



Double Raising for Lewis brothers



The extraordinary meeting of the Lodge of United Good Fellowship No. 809 in May proved an extra special occasion when Wesley and Martin Broker, the sons of WBro. David Broker, were both Raised to the Third Degree.

The new Master, WBro. Malcolm Ford presided and was assisted in the ceremony by WBro. Broker and other Past Masters.

David Broker

Help for cancer centre

Cambridge Cancer Help Centre received a £2,000 donation from the Province, which will enable the purchase of new screens to help accommodate a growing number of cancer support groups. The cheque was presented by Provincial Almoner, WBro. George Brennan.

Recognising the need for mutual support, Marilyn Barnes founded the Centre in 1986 to give people with cancer and their carers an opportunity to meet, talk and socialise and, if they wished, confide in each other. From small beginnings, the Centre now has a large and growing membership who visit from almost every village in Cambridgeshire.

Cliff Brown



Building fund 50/50 Draw results

Bro. G. Macfarlane	£300.00
WBro. R. Impey	£150.00
Bro. R. May	£100.00
WBro. J McCormick	£50.00

WBro. N. Davies	£50.00
WBro. P. Gillingwater	£50.00
WBro. D. Ellis	£50.00
WBro. P. Crussell	£50.00

Cambridge Lodges unite to support links

Representatives of several Cambridge college lodges, along with the Oxford & Cambridge University Lodge, Isaac Newton University Lodge and the Order of Women Freemasons' Granta Lodge met at Bateman Street, Cambridge, in March, to discuss improving ties between University and College lodges.



Other topics included ways to support Cambridge students interested in Freemasonry, helping the OWF in establishing a women's lodge for students at Cambridge and the idea of establishing a Cambridge University society dedicated to Freemasonry.

The discussions followed a successful Freshers' fair in October, where representatives from both Grand Lodges, co-ordinated by WBro. Omaid Hiwaizi (O&C University Lodge) took time to provide information and answer questions from new students. Nearly 40 students signed up for more information, including 14 for the OWF. Many of those that had expressed an interest subsequently attended a social organised later that week in Cambridge, being a walk out to Grantchester with several INUL brethren followed by a pub lunch.



WBro. Richard Field (Caius Lodge) observed "from our perspective, this was an excellent initiative, not something we've done before but it was great to 'get Freemasonry out there' and we got so much genuine interest and engagement it was fantastic to see".

WBro. Simon Cooper, of INUL, added: "We really wanted to maintain that engagement and give people the opportunity to meet and to find out more from other students, or recent graduates, that were in the lodge. In fact, several of those that attended the social, expressed an interest in joining and have been among the most recent candidates for INUL."



By establishing closer ties with the other college lodges and the Province of Cambridgeshire, brethren will be able to easily find a masonic home in Cambridge, or London upon graduation, in line with the aims of the Universities Scheme. To this end members of the group – Wbros. Omaid Hiwaizi (O&C University Lodge), Simon Cooper (INUL), Peter Featherman (Lodge of Trinity) and Bro. Karen Ottewell (Granta) – met at Bateman street, with UGLE members, and afterwards attended an INUL meeting, dining at Queens' College along with WBro. Jonathan Price (Caius Lodge) and the Provincial Grand Membership Officer, WBro. Ed Williams.

"Promoting closer ties between all of our Lodges in the Province of Cambridgeshire is of vital importance to both attract new members and to look after our existing ones. To extend our ties further to the wider College Lodges will see the Province continue to thrive. We look forward to cementing these bonds and developing meaningful relationships moving forward," said WBro. Williams.

Simon Cooper

Wisbech Freemasons rally to support Girl Guides

Following an appeal from the 3rd Wisbech Guide unit for help with funding, Wisbech Freemasons responded with a donation of £500.

In existence for more than 100 years, the 3rd Wisbech Guides give girls between the ages of 10 and 15 a wide range of experiences and opportunities. Now the only Guide unit operating in the Wisbech area, its leaders are passionate about ensuring the group's continued success and ability to provide opportunities for young people from diverse backgrounds.

Commenting on the donation, Marcia Whitehead, the 3rd Wisbech Guides leader, said that the support of the Freemasons was very welcome and that the money would be put towards the weekly running costs and, in particular, to help with the cost of taking the Guides to summer camp in 2023, the highlight of their year.



The 3rd Wisbech Guide unit is part of the UK's largest youth organisation dedicated completely to girls, is a charity which does not benefit from any form of grants and its leaders are volunteers.

Bob Kidger

Understand the symbolism of the Tyler's knocks

When a candidate seeks admission into a Lodge he is challenged by the Tyler, who is outside the door to the Lodge. The door of the Lodge is of great significance, as its outer side faces the profane world and its inner side the sacred world of the Lodge. So when we pass through it, we hope we change for the better and achieve spiritual growth.

When the Tyler has proven the person wishing to gain entry he gives three knocks on the door to the Lodge.



The knocks themselves are symbolic, although there is not always agreement in their symbolism. The one most often quoted is and taken from Matthew VII:VII.

Knock One: Ask and it will be given to you – asking the question 'What is Freemasonry' the answer to which can only be given by a Freemason.

Knock Two: Seek and you shall find. – seeking personal development in "a society of men who prize honour and virtue above the external advantages of rank and fortune".

Knock Three: Knock and it will be opened to you – once you have started on your journey you are led into the Lodge to start your journey in blind faith; faith in your beliefs and faith in your guides to lead you safely through that journey.

There are some who suggest the three knocks are a reference to the Masonic virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity; the candidate who knocks for admission must have faith in God, and hope and charity in his heart.

Peter Crussell

A visit to Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Works

This fascinating visit on Tuesday 12th September is, very aptly, organised by Ely's Descensus Aquarium Lodge No. 8655. With details (including exact start time) to be finalised - make a note in your calendar to avoid disappointment.



Top up from Royal and Select

The Province's Festival 2023 appeal has received a £250 boost from the Royal and Select Masters' District of East Anglia. It was presented on 22nd June to the Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent, Bill Dastur, by the The R&S District Grand Master, R.III Comp. Geoffrey Spencer at the Provincial Grand Chapter of Cambridgeshire meeting.

"Donations from The Order of Royal and Select Masters, both in Cambridge and the District of East Anglia, have helped us to not only attain our Festival 2023 target of £900,000 but also to break through it," said WBro. David Cameron, Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

David Cameron



Busy Bob plays the daredevil



Newly appointed Provincial Junior Grand Warden WBro. Bob Hammett, Charity Steward of Lodge of Three Grand Principles No. 441, was one of 400 people who entered the Starlight Night Walk around Cambridge, which raised funds for the Arthur Rank Hospice. The walk took him 10 miles around Cambridge.

He then took part in a zipwire experience in North Wales after he raised the £150 sponsorship, in aid of the Province's Festival 2023, from those attending the recent MasonChef meal in Cambridge. The daredevil stunt was at the Penrhyn Slate Quarry, located near Bethesda, the home to Zip World Velocity 2, the fastest zip line in the world and the longest in Europe.

Cliff Brown

Meridian lines up donation

The newly-installed Principals and Treasurer of Cambridgeshire Meridian Chapter No. 8374 handed over a cheque for £400 in May to support the Province's Festival 2023 in aid of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. Happy to receive the donation were the Deputy Grand Superintendent, EComp. David Blair, and Festival Chairman, EComp. Paul Gillingwater.

David Kirkham



Will you take the test?

The Province has arranged a Prostate Cancer Screening session at Cambridge Masonic Hall from 4pm-8pm on Tuesday 25th July 2023. The cost is £10 per person (subsidised by Cambridgeshire Masons).

Statistics show that one in eight men will at some point have Prostate Cancer and early diagnosis is key to a successful outcome. After having the Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test you may be asked to take further tests as PSA testing is a screening process and having a high PSA result may indicate an enlarged prostate or local prostate infection as well as Prostate Cancer.

Prostate Cancer survivor, WBro. Dave Sowman, of St Andrew Lodge No. 4087 said: "I am keen to encourage everyone, particularly men aged over 50 or with family history of cancer, to book in for a PSA test. My own positive test led to further tests and discussions with an Oncology Consultant. I underwent radiotherapy and now, after eight years, I am still free from cancer. Should anyone wish to ask me in confidence any questions on my experiences with Prostate Cancer you can contact me on either on email or mobile phone." davesowman@tiscali.co.uk 07791591575

George Brennan



PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING

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

4pm-8pm, Tuesday 25th July 2023

Freemasons Hall

Bateman Street, Cambridge CB2 1NA

Free parking on site

£10 per person (subsidised by the Cambridgeshire Masons)

Password for Masons to access this test - cambridge - you will need this to book

BOOK A SIMPLE PSA BLOOD TEST NOW

BOOKING INSTRUCTIONS

**Prostate
Cancer
Screening**

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

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

Getting a taste of Master Chef

MasonChef 2023 took place at Bateman Street, Cambridge, on 3rd June, when 22 gastronomists enjoyed a five-course dinner prepared by MasterChef quarter-finalist David Sculthorpe, of the Chapter of Pythagoras No. 88.

The event, which had been postponed from 2020 came back in style with a banquet featuring loin of venison as the main course and a theme of demonstrating ice creams and sorbets between courses.

A magnificent £645 was raised for Festival 2023, which with matched funding will likely achieve £945 in total. From the laughter and smiles at the tables and warm appreciation of the diners throughout the evening, MasonChef is definitely worthy of a repeat event in 2024.

David Sculthorpe



Festival 2023 Celebration Dinner at Queens' College

The Cambridgeshire Festival 2023 Celebration Dinner will be held at Queens' College, Cambridge, on Thursday 21st September 2023. A Champagne Reception at 6.00pm will be followed by Dinner at 7.00pm

The final amount collected in support of the Masonic Charitable Foundation by the Province will be announced at this dinner, which concludes what has been a very successful and enjoyable five years.

Invitations will go out via email to all qualifying Brethren to join with their wives/partners in celebrating the conclusion of our Festival in the presence of the RWBro. Sir David Wootton, Deputy Grand Master, and other distinguished guests.

Tickets will be allocated strictly in order of application. Please apply promptly to secure your places - closing date is 31st August 2023

Paul Gillingwater



Bowls season underway

Cambridgeshire Masonic Bowls Association opened its season on 21st June with a match against Haddenham Bowls Club, falling to a commendable 50-40 defeat considering the team included three new members who had never played bowls before.

A winning rink, made up of Tim Pearce Higgins (Cambridge), Ian Hardman (Ely) and Roger Kilham (Whittlesey) reflecting the widespread interest across the Province.

More bowlers are sought to join the Association. There is no annual subscription with modest costs on the day for bowling and refreshments afterwards. On occasions when the Association entertains other clubs a raffle takes place and all proceeds from the season are donated to non-masonic charities.

For the past 12 years it has participated as a Province in the Masonic Annual Charity Event (MACE Trophy), which is held in a different location each year and to date has raised more than £60,000 for medical charities. This year the bowlers travel to Welford Upon Avon where the competition consisting of 24 teams will take place under the banner of Warwickshire Masonic Bowls Association.

Should you require further information, contact the Secretary, WBro. David Mason, tel: 01733 208215 or e-mail annandave49@yahoo.co.uk.

David Mason

Help for Scouts completes minibus fundraising

Plans to raise funds to buy a second-hand minibus have been realised by the 3rd Wisbech Scout Group, thanks to help from the town's Freemasons.

Handing over the cheque from the Wisbech Masonic Benevolent Fund were local Masons, WBro. David Broker, the new Provincial Senior Grand Warden, and WBro. Michael Humphrey, who has just completed his year as active Provincial Junior Grand Warden.

Commenting on the donation, one of the Group's leaders, Caroline Kooreman, said the minibus would allow the Leaders of the Group to improve and develop what they deliver to the youngsters.

The 3rd Wisbech Scout Group is the Fenland town's only remaining but oldest Scout Group, and is thriving with good numbers in all sections. Ages range from six to eight years old for Beavers, eight-10 years old for Cubs, 10-15 for Scouts and 15-18 years old for Explorer Scouts. The group has approximately 50 young people attending meetings every week throughout term time.

The programme is varied but still based on the core values of traditional scouting - teaching the young people life skills as well as giving them a platform to develop in building confidence, friendships and respect.

Andrew Clifton





ICYMI: WBro. Jeremy Barden raised over £2,500 for the Festival with his magnificent wingwalk!

Gray Lodge 4334 PRESENTS:

A man wearing a black cap and a dark jacket is aiming a double-barrel shotgun. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and white structures.

CLAY SHOOTING
11am Start

Sat 15th July 2023 • BBQ only £20:00 (3PM Start)
£40:00 (Inc clays & BBQ)

CAMBRIDGE GUN CLUB - Twentypence Road, Wilburton
Raffle in aid of local charities

Bookings to Dennis Reed 01354 778779 or 07879 665 489



Gentleman's Curry Night



At Newmarket Masonic Hall
Saturday 9th September 2023

Doors open at 7 pm
Dress Code is Smart Jacket



With Comedian
Danny Waters

Tickets £35

To book contact Cameron McKechnie
Tel: 07711584482 or Email: cammck1@icloud.com



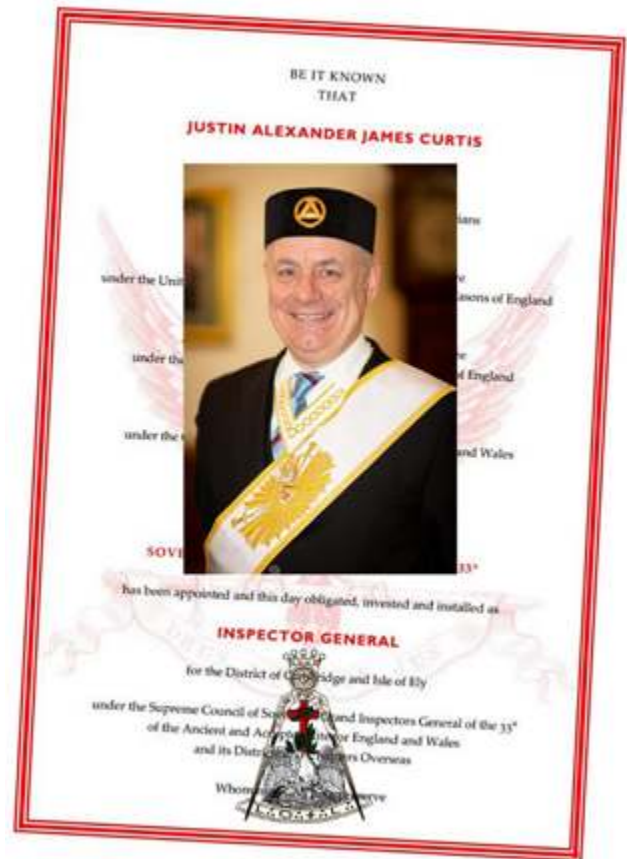
Installation of a new Rose Croix Inspector General

Monday 22nd May 2023 was an historic occasion for the Ancient and Accepted Rite Rose Croix District of Cambridge & Isle of Ely. Under a regular meeting of the Cambridge & Isle of Ely Chapter No.1157 the District was honoured with a delegation from Supreme Council 33^o who had travelled to Cambridge to Invest V:Ill:Bro. Justin Curtis 33^o as the third Inspector General for the District since its current formation in 1998.

The delegation of eight, led by Supreme Council's Lieutenant Grand Commander, V:P:Bro. David Kenneth Williamson 33^o, included the Pro Grand Master of the Craft, M:Ill:Bro. Jonathan Spence 33^o, and was held in the main temple at Bateman Street, Cambridge. What proved to be a poignant and moving ceremony, long to be remembered by those attending, was witnessed by 83 members and guests.

The District was also well supported by visiting Inspectors General from neighbouring Districts, including Norfolk, Suffolk, North Essex, Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire and Middlesex. The memorable day concluded with refreshment and lunch.

Brian Elliott



Thirkill Brother busy in Portugal

A former Worshipful Master of Thirkill Lodge in Cambridge is helping Brethren in Portugal forge links with the Province of Cheshire.

WBro. Adrian Peters was part of the team at Lancaster Lodge No. 9413 in Portugal that welcomed a delegation from the Masters' and Masons' Forum from Cheshire in June. At the meeting in Estoril, the delegation presented a demonstration to the Lodge.



The event was attended by Cheshire's Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. Simon Medland, and the head of the group of Lodges in Portugal, Robert Levitt.

Following the meeting the Brethren, accompanied by wives and partners, enjoyed a gala dinner at which a number of gifts were presented by VWBro. Medland, including a signed print of Chester's Eastgate clock and a bottle of Cheshire gin. It looks to be the start of a long friendship between the Lodges in Portugal and Cheshire.

Adrian Peters

'The Cambridgeshire Mason' is created by Editor Cliff Brown
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Michael Hinton, John Jones and Ted Ridgway Watt with Brian Elliott as Editor Emeritus.

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