



The Cambridgeshire Mason

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Festival success

No doubt the word is passing around regarding the tremendous total collected towards our Provincial Grand Master/Most Excellent Grand Superintendents' Festival 2023 Appeal. Yes, it is a staggering £1,200,518.00, well over the £900,000 target set us at the launch of the Festival Appeal in March 2018.

Every member of our Province, Brother or Companion, are to be congratulated for their sterling efforts during the five years of Festival, eighteen months of which we lost to the Pandemic.

I wish to add my personal gratitude for the continued support I have received during my period as Festival Chairman. May I ask you to convey this directly to the members of your Lodge or Chapter.

I am able to inform you further that our Festival President, RWBro/MEGS William Dastur, has kindly consented that Festival Stewards, Masters and First Principals continue to wear their Festival Jewels and Honorifics respectively throughout the period until June 2024 Provincial Grand Lodge/Provincial Grand Chapter Meeting, in celebration of this magnificent achievement.

Paul Gillingwater



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Norfolk Light Blues visit Caldwell Lodge...

A merry band of Norfolk Blues went a-visiting last night. Now, you are probably thinking Monday night was the south, so was last night in the north, east, west, or central? Well. It was neither with reference to Norfolk. As we donned passports, visas, and renewed travel insurance to head over the border to Cambridgeshire, March to be precise.

Now the following will possibly be a blur to you reading this, imagine what it was to us!!! On arrival to the centre, wearing our Provincial festival ties, we were greeted with superb hospitality from every brother in the lodge. The centre is not small, but it is compactly arranged, and there were brethren everywhere, including nine from Norfolk, seven being Light Blues. Our host, WBro. Andy Murfitt, was soon found and began introducing us to the brethren.

The bar area soon became very full, and before you knew it, the brethren started to don regalia and assemble in the temple for the business of the evening. What a beautiful temple, and it was great to see it full of brethren, not just from Cambs, but Norfolk and Suffolk. From herein we were treated to an excellent ceremony, which was an initiation, and included balloting a re-joining member and the presentation of a Grand Lodge certificate.

At no time was it apparent that this was the first meeting after the Installation, as every officer performed his role excellently and without fault. It was great to see that every officer on the ladder was a Master Mason, and even better to see the ceremony being split up so much and shared between the brethren. The Worshipful Master did a superb job with a great obligation. The Senior Warden, again, superb job, and an extended version of the investing of the badge. Junior Warden, again, superb work. Some very serious gavelling, and as he gave me short notice that I would be replying for the visitors, I will mention the fact that I'm glad you're not a builder, as when delivering the tools, you mistook the gavel for the chisel a couple of times!

Bro. Senior Deacon, again, great work, very confident. Bro. Junior Deacon it was your first ceremony and being a first degree, the most involved for your role. And as I said in my visitors reply, probably the best performance of a Junior Deacon in their first ceremony. Absolutely spot on, superb leading of the candidate, word perfect and so confident. Inner Guard, first ceremony, quite a few reports, very clear, concise, a pleasure to watch. Bro. Hickman then delivered the sign, grip and token with confidence and passion.

WBro. Chrysanthou delivered an excellent rendition of the Northeast Corner. WBro. Bob Steer delivered the preparation, explaining why the candidate was prepared in the way he was, which was very informative and delivered superbly

A Grand Lodge Certificate was presented in a most excellent, informative, and meaningful manner by WBro. Kouras. Bro. Karl Matthews, just over two years in the craft, delivered the Ancient Charge faultlessly, with passion, conviction and meaning, and was a real pleasure to listen to. Every officer gave it 100%, and it showed. A very special thanks must go to WBro. Andy Murfitt, Cambridgeshire Light Blues chairman, for the invitation, and for such great hosting on the evening. We were then treated to a great festive board, with some different toasts, a very different fire, the Initiates chain, much conversation, banter and laughter and great food.

All I can say is that if you want to see "different", the Caldwell Lodge is that. The ceremony is similar but very different to most in Norfolk. The brethren are very welcoming, and you can wear your Provincial tie!!! The way that the ceremony is split up between so many brethren is great, and the health of this lodge is very evident in looking at the aprons of the officers, and the many stewards waiting to join the ladder.

Bro. Tony Cable - Norfolk Blues Chairman



“Three - that’s the magic number”

As part of recent efforts to bring University and College lodges in Cambridge closer together, the Lodge of Trinity Cambridge (No.5765) Raised Bro. Kizen Yamaguchi on behalf of Isaac Newton University Lodge (No. 859) on Friday 8th Sept. in Trinity College, Cambridge.

Lodge of Trinity, which typically draws members with affiliations with Trinity College, Cambridge meets once a year by dispensation in Cambridge, and Trinity brethren assisted INUL and Granta Lodge (Order of Women Freemasons) at the Cambridge University Freshers Fair. Indeed, the candidate originally to be raised at the meeting had joined Trinity Lodge having made contact at the Fair - but was unable to attend the meeting.

Bro. Jacob Baldwin and WBro. Simon Cooper from INUL also attended the meeting, to support the candidate - and the Worshipful Master, WBro. Nigel Young - by acting as Senior Deacon and Junor Warden respectively.

After a superb ceremony from the Worshipful Master (demonstrating both excellence in ritual and compassion towards the brethren in the unseasonable heat by allowing shirt-sleeve order!) members restored themselves to their personal comforts and enjoyed a fantastic “white table” lunch in an air-conditioned college dining room.

Non-masonic guests having been treated to a private tour of Trinity College's famous Wren Library during the meeting joined brethren for a drinks reception before lunch.

Bro. Yamaguchi thanked the Brethren of Trinity Lodge for the wonderful ceremony and their hospitality, while WBro. Cooper paid tribute to the welcome the INUL brethren had received and in particular the hard work of the Treasurer, WBro. Peter Feather, in bringing the day together; working with the College, arranging catering and helping move lodge furniture down from Bateman Street and back again on one of the hottest days of the year.

While WBro. David Leigh (Secretary, Lodge of Trinity) said that he hoped this would mark the beginning of closer ties between Lodge of Trinity, INUL and the other college lodges in Cambridge - to better support each other and any students interested in joining the Fraternity.

Bro. Baldwin, WBro. Young, Bro. Yamaguchi and WBro. Cooper are pictured below (l-r).

Simon Cooper



Three Such as We?

The 2023/24 Masonic season will see a number of changes in the Provincial leadership team. As the one scheduled to hold three different chained offices over a period of nine months I find myself at the centre of that whirlwind and our inestimable Provincial Communications Officer has asked me to share my thoughts on the year.

Following five years reflection on the Royal Arch my core conclusions are firstly: that we must encourage Companions to look beyond the allegory of the deep and beautiful ceremony to discover more about what Freemasonry means to them and secondly: Royal Arch Masonry is about teamwork.



Under the guidance of Excellent Companion Mark Shields (pictured above left with his father, Robert), who I am sure will be an outstanding Deputy Grand Superintendent, we have a superb Provincial team and I am very much looking forward to working with him and them as I expand my new role in Craft/Royal Arch liaison. The Craft and Royal Arch are truly one organisation on one journey.

I am deeply honoured to be appointed Cambridgeshire's first Assistant Provincial Grand Master and in that role it is my intention to visit every lodge within the Province before our annual meeting next June. I particularly want to meet with those brethren who have yet to go through the chair as they are the future of Freemasonry. Only by understanding what they seek from membership can we organise Lodges to both respect their heritage and respond to the needs of the future.

Finally, my designation as Deputy Provincial Grand Master from next June fills me with excitement and trepidation in equal measure. VW Bro Pat Kilby has served this Province in so many roles and for so long that he, and his experience, are impossible to replace. What I do know is that I have had the benefit of his friendship and mentorship for many years and look forward to having them for many more.

Above all I am grateful for the confidence of our Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in appointing me to these various interesting and enjoyable roles and to all the Brethren and Companions for their support.

David Blair

Our Provincial team, pictured below, are (l-r): WBro. David Parker, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies; WBro. Charlie Brown, Provincial Grand Treasurer; VWBro. Pat Kilby, Deputy Provincial Grand Master; RWBro. William Dastur, Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent; WBro. David Blair, Assistant Provincial Grand Master; WBro. Kevin Mader, Provincial Grand Secretary; WBro. Mark Shields, Deputy Grand Superintendent.



Widows at Witcham

Fifty members and supporters of the Cambridgeshire Widows Friendship club enjoyed an excellent concert by the Witcham U3A Choir with an array of well known songs followed by a very tasty lunch. Thanks to Debbie Mason and her team for the organisation and the Witcham Village Hall Committee for the use of their hall.

David Sowman



Pitch Perfect for PosAbility

Coincidence meant Cambridgeshire Freemasons found themselves pitched next door to the PosAbility stall at the recent Soham Pumpkin Fair, a charity that Freemasons have supported for several years.



PosAbility, a Cambridgeshire based charity offers chair-based exercise and one-to-one support to people living with long-term neurological conditions including, but not limited to, Stroke, Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis and Muscular Dystrophy.

Ely Lodges together with the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which is funded by Freemasons, their families and friends, from across England and Wales, have pledged to donate £8,800, over the next three years, to the charity. Sarah Bellow, a spokesperson from the charity said "we are grateful for the financial support Cambridgeshire Freemasons have provided, it has allowed us to provide specialist transport to venues allowing clients to spend much needed time with likeminded company"

John Sinclair

Read all about it?

We are keen to publicise news, events, donations and meetings for all Lodges and Chapters via newsletters, our website, social media and the press. To make the process a little more efficient please could your Lodge/Chapter allocate a member responsible for news - perhaps your Assistant Secretary or a keen Light Blue or Claret with a mobile phone!

We will then have a point of contact with every Lodge/Chapter, which will enable communications to be processed in a manner that justly represents your Lodge/Chapter, our Province and Freemasonry in general.

If any member would like to assist with this role they should contact our Provincial Information Officer, WBro. Tony Barrios, via:

Information@pglcambs.org.uk

The deadline for the next newsletter (the December edition of 'The Second Rising') is 30th November. Please note that any photographs submitted should have the permission of all those shown!

Tony Barrios

Social Media and Freemasonry

In the present world political climate, it is more than ever essential that we take special care, when posting material on social media, to ensure that our personal religious or political beliefs are not confused by ourselves or others with the values of Freemasonry.

We should understand clearly that any material liable to cause offence that is posted on a social media platform by someone identifiable as a Freemason presents a serious risk of undermining Freemasonry's good reputation and its essentially non-political, non-religious and inclusive character.

A Fall of Water...?

A small, but very curious party visited the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) on the September 12th, the only day in weeks when we had heavy rain!! There was a great deal of falling water, but rising enthusiasm.

One of the basic principles of Freemasonry is the pursuit of truth and some members of Descensus Aquarum decided that, with waste water management being such high-profile news, it would be useful to see what happens in practice, rather than relying on newspapers and TV. Many of the Founders of the Lodge were involved in the treatment of sewage and it was quite natural that the Lodge should provide the opportunity of visiting the Cambridge WWTW.

One of the striking insights of the visit was the level of enthusiasm, as well as knowledge, of the works manager, Phil, photographed with the visitors. The works treats waste water from Cambridge and the surrounding areas, up to 8 million gallons on a typical dry day and plenty more when it rains! We saw how the sewage is screened first to take out rags, and heard how important it is for all of us to avoid putting anything but the 3Ps down the toilet (pee, poo, paper).

Grit is then recovered and sold to local authorities for use in road maintenance. The wastewater is then passed through tanks and the heavy organic matter (mostly poo to you and me) removed by settlement.

The settled sewage is then mixed with a microbiological floc, called activated sludge, bubbled with air, and finally we saw a clean sparkling effluent discharged into the River Cam.

The sludge from settlement is fermented in a process called digestion and then dewatered to produce a rich dark crumb fertiliser used in agriculture. Nutribio and the gas from the fermentation (mostly methane), is used to generate heat and electricity to run the plant, a big contribution to net zero.

Our group was very impressed with the amount of remote monitoring and scientific sampling to ensure that the processes are running effectively and safely. We noted that there was quite a bit of abandoned plant and we were told that the current operating plant was more compact and effective and that the old plant was no longer needed. The site is huge and we are aware that the site is earmarked for prime development when the Centre will be relocated and all of the current site plant will be decommissioned.

Thank you, Anglian Water, for a most interesting and informative visit!

Peter Matthews



Inter Provincial Golf Day

The annual Inter Provincial Golf Day took place on 20th September at Newton Green Golf Club. Unfortunately Norfolk were unable to raise a team this year so the competition was between Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire.

There was some excellent golf on show but Cambridgeshire in the end managed to retain the shield for the third year in a row where it will remain on prominent display at Bateman Street.

Cambridgeshire team members were George Brennan, Pete Corley, Bill Dastur, Adam French, Andrew Long, Andy MacDonald and Rob Wane.

Andrew Long



Cliff Brown - our Immediate Past Editor

Following a move to Northumberland, WBro. Cliff Brown PPJGW (Craft), PPGReg (Royal Arch) has stepped down after twelve years as Editor of The Cambridgeshire Mason.

Cliff was initiated in Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704 in 2003, serving as its Master in 2011, and Exalted in St Wendreda Chapter No. 3201 in 2004, in which he was MEZ in 2013 and 2014. He was Secretary of Stone Cross from 2013 until October 2023, Scribe Ezra of St Wendreda Chapter from 2019 until May 2023 and served as Scribe Ezra of Cambridgeshire First Principals Chapter No. 7429 for the past year. He also held membership and office in both Cambridgeshire Installed Masters' Lodge No. 7429 and Cambridgeshire Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards No. 9927. At the March Masonic Centre, Cliff was also a trustee and Secretary of the Trustees for 12 years.

As a professional in the print industry, Cliff brought precision and high production values as well as energy and enthusiasm to every edition of The Cambridgeshire Mason and The Second Rising with which he was involved. The work of the Provincial Communications Team has been greatly improved by his participation and he will be a hard act to follow!



Views on The Royal Arch

Earlier this year, Supreme Grand Chapter asked members why they enjoyed the Royal Arch - here are some of the replies from our Province. You can discover more about the Royal Arch on our website at: www.cambridgeshirefreemasons.org.uk/the-royal-arch/royal-arch-masonry

I joined for the mystery and to share something new with my proposer, my father. I have stayed because as my interests and perspectives change, I can always find another aspect of Freemasonry to enjoy, and another piece of ritual to unfold and see how it relates to my daily life.

Jon West

I enjoy the comradeship of freemasonry, when learning the work and making your way towards the various chairs, the words and meaning I have to learn, the laughs we have when practising, and of course the pleasure when you have presented your work.

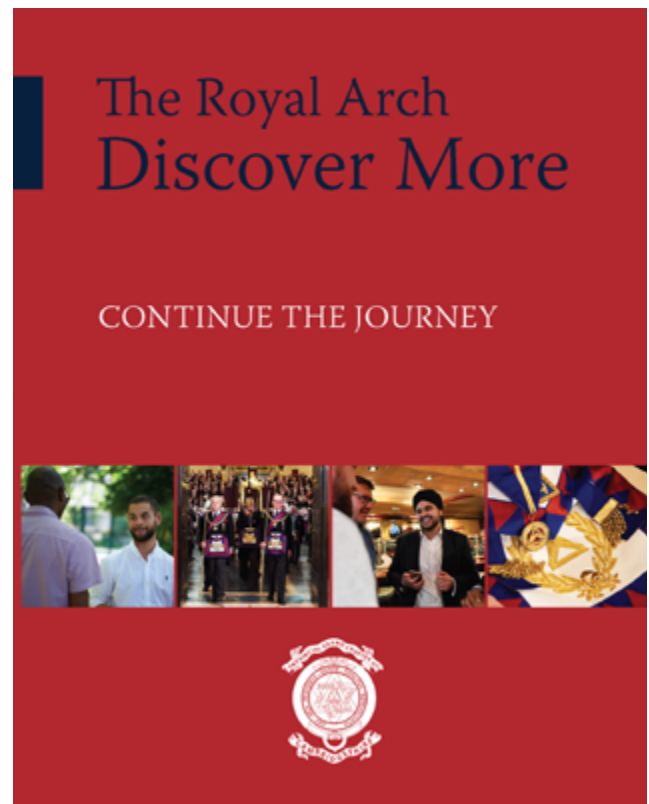
David Watson

I like the companionship, making new friends for life, the confidence it has given me to be able to stand up and recite ritual, and after dining speaking at the festive board, which I could never do before joining Freemasonry, also the language we use, especially in Chapter, and learning the ritual.

Bob Steer

I enjoy the history and traditions of Freemasonry. The formality and dignity of ceremonies and the Festive Board of any Lodge or Chapter meeting are balanced by friendships, new and old, as well as the feeling of working as a team. I particularly enjoy the ritual - I have always enjoyed the words and use of language, the intricate phrasing and the rhythm of a well-delivered ceremony. There is a lot to learn from the stories told in our ceremonies, especially the Installation, which encourages us to improve ourselves and to think about others.

Michael Hinton



Core Values

The United Grand Lodge of England has updated its core principles to represent the breadth of our engagement in local communities. Whether participating in events, fundraising for charitable causes or volunteering for community organisations, service is at the heart of Freemasonry.



CMBA Fundraising

At the start of January 2024 the benefit of all current Repeat Payment Promises (RPPs) in aid of Festival 2023 will be automatically transferred to the new Cambridgeshire Masonic Benevolent Association (CMBA) Relief Chest. Please be aware that you will not need to do anything as the Masonic Charitable Foundation will manage this transfer automatically.

For a simple way to take out a new RPP, click on the link below and type in CMBA as the chest number <https://donate.mcf.org.uk/donate-relief-chest>

Bryan Randall

The Three Great Pillars

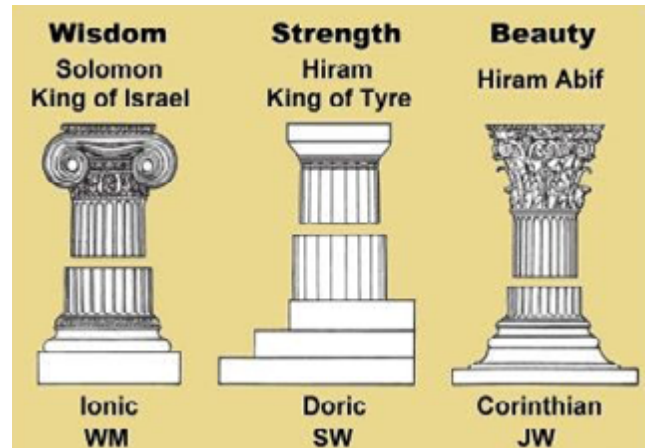
Our Lodges are metaphorically supported by three great pillars, which are Wisdom (Ionic), Strength (Doric), and Beauty (Corinthian). Wisdom to contrive, Strength to support, and Beauty to adorn all great and important undertakings.

These pillars are of three different architectural styles: Ionic; Doric; and Corinthian and are represented by Solomon, King of Israel; Hiram, King of Tyre; and Hiram Abif, the representatives of whom in our Lodges are the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden respectively.

The Master represents the Pillar of Wisdom because he instructs to the brethren in Freemasonry and maintains the harmony of the Lodge.

The Senior Warden represents the Pillar of Strength because, as the Sun sets to close and finish the day, so the Senior Warden is placed in the West to ensure that every brother has been given his due (his wages), which is the Strength and support of all business.

The Junior Warden represents the Pillar of Beauty because he stands in the South to mark the sun at its meridian, which is the beauty of the day; he calls the brethren from labour to refreshment and to see that they return to their labours in due time so that the Master may have pleasure and profit therein.



Finally the pillars are a reflection of the invocation made when the Apprentice first enters the Lodge. In all cases of difficulty in whom do you place your trust? The Hebrew words for Wisdom, Strength and Beauty are Gomer, Oz and Dabar. Taking the initials of each of those words and putting them together spells GOD.

Thus by placing your trust in GOD, you also place your trust in Wisdom to contrive, Strength to support you in all your undertakings, and Beauty to adorn your inner self as you commence your journey through Freemasonry.

Peter Crussell

March Masons meet March Marlins

WBro. John Beeken and WBro. Andy Sullivan recently presented a cheque for £200 from Stone Cross Lodge to a local swimming club - the March Marlins - to assist them with their travel costs to competitions and events.

Andy Sullivan



The Relative Dependency of Its Several Parts

Brethren, the purpose of my talk is to examine the place of other Orders or degrees within Freemasonry, and how they all join together – or don't. A look at the broader vista of Freemasonry. The thoughts and opinions are generally mine and have been gleaned over 33 years of a most enjoyable membership of Freemasonry.

Firstly about my introduction to the Craft. I started my journey in Freemasonry in the Lodge of United Good Fellowship No 809 in 1990 at Wisbech. Since then I have joined a number of Orders. If I look back at how it all started, it was my Masonic friends in Wisbech "suggesting" that I join the Orders that meet in Wisbech. I thus joined Rose Croix (Ancient and Accepted Rite, or Scottish Rite), followed by the Mark degree, and then the Royal Arch (Chapter).

Now there are a number of you who have kept your Freemasonry purely to the three degrees and the Mastership of the Craft (pure Freemasonry). That is fine. But I am a curious person. I like to further my Masonic education.

In Wisbech I think I was particularly influenced by two senior Brethren: R. W. Bro. Canon Hugh Barker and R. W. Bro. Colin Hutchinson. Hugh was my vicar at Walpole St. Peter. He and Margaret, his wife, invited me to lunch after one Sunday service (I was single at the time).

After lunch I spoke to Hugh quietly and told him that I had been approached to join Freemasonry. I knew little about it, despite my father, and two Great Grandfathers having been Freemasons. "Was it alright to join? What did he think?" The answer I received was along the lines of "theologically speaking it is fairly accurate"; "but" I said, "Hugh is it OK to join?" He just answered, "Yes".

Imagine my surprise when a year or so later at my Initiation my hood wink was removed, in that quite theatrical way, and there was Hugh, standing right in my line of vision to the left; he was Provincial Grand Master; he had never let on to me that he was a Freemason! His Lodge was 6125, and he was quite put out that his GP (me) was not joining his Lodge but 809. However, in 809 I was encouraged by Colin Hutchinson (also my patient), John Breeze, and Charles Overland.

809 was a great home for me, and I shall always be grateful to them for teaching me the importance of learning the ritual, and, of enjoying the Festive Board. The Lodge of Instruction was my gateway to enjoying ritual and performing it.

But I was left inquisitive. Probably the scientist in me. Here was a great old institution with almost 300 years (at the time) of history. I think I am probably a frustrated historian. My talk thus revolves around the Degrees of Freemasonry and its evolution into the system we now know.

At this stage I would like to state my opinion that joining other Masonic Orders must be up to the individual. Do not get bogged down too soon. We are all different and gain our enjoyment of Freemasonry in many different ways. My advice would be to all "keen" Masons who wish to progress to join Royal Arch early on. The rule is that you must wait for one month after raising. Royal Arch completes the three degrees in a most satisfactory manner. I would also suggest joining the Mark degree, which is an extension of the Fellowcraft's degree, and explains the importance of the arch for the crypt. I do not want to give too much away, as a number of you may not have taken the path to Mark yet.

If we were Scottish or Irish Freemasons both the Mark and Royal Arch would be integral parts of Craft Freemasonry. This is so in very many Constitutions. We need to look a little further into the history of the Craft in England and Wales.

As we know, Freemasonry started well before 1717, developing from Operative Gilds / Lodges morphing into speculative Lodges. But, as you well know, and is testified by the Tercentenary Jewels many of us wear, it started being organised in England, more specifically in London, in 1717. There is of course evidence of English Freemasonry dating from 1640, and of interest is that Elias Ashmole was Initiated in Warrington during the English Civil War. Lodges contained both Roundheads and Royalists who worked together. This history is for another time. Scottish Freemasonry started in the 16th Century at Kilwinning and Edinburgh.

The Grand Constitutions were created in 1723; by an Englishman, a Frenchman (whose family had escaped the massacre of the Huguenots), and a Scotsman; all living in London. In 1725 Chester was one of the first Provinces to join in with Grand Lodge. English Freemasonry grows. There is a very similar history of York joining. The Grand Lodge of Ireland formed in 1731, and the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1736.

Initially, there was a system of two degrees, which evolved into the three-degree system, in 1723 to 1730, which we see nowadays. Royal Arch at that time being an integral part of the "Craft".

We now come to the Masonic schism of the Ancients and Moderns which has done so much to confuse matters when we look at other Orders. In 1735 a Master and two Wardens of an Irish Lodge were refused admission to the Grand Lodge of England. This is seen as the start of the schism.

At this time many economic migrants were coming to London from Ireland, many of whom were Freemasons, and saw it as their right to join in with their fellow English Freemasons. Thus a number of unaffiliated Lodges formed in London, and on 17th July 1751 five Lodges came together to form the "Most Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons according to the Old Constitutions". They were thus known as the "Ancients", as against the "Moderns". Paradoxically, of course, the moderns were the original Grand Lodge, the Ancients were the newer "off-shoot".

These were the days of Empire. Troops were spreading the message of Britishness throughout the World. Freemasonry was similarly spread through military Lodges which of their nature were often peripatetic. They often encouraged the rulers of foreign lands, and the governing classes to join; thus forming daughter Lodges. The Ancients in England were mainly formed from the middle classes, Scots, and Irish, who would open their Lodges and perform their other rituals within those Craft Lodges.

At this stage I think it is important to repeat that in both Scottish and Irish Freemasonry Chapter and the Mark degree are inextricably linked with the Craft. In order that the Brethren who had been practising these other degrees or Orders could still continue something had to happen.

We now come to the position of the Royal Arch. Royal Arch was first mentioned in Ireland in the 1740s when Lodge No. 21 reported that they had carried the Royal Arch in procession in Dublin. Royal Arch was introduced to the Moderns when an Irish "Ancient" Lodge which practiced the Royal Arch changed sides in 1764 from the Ancients over to the Moderns. There was some resistance to accepting the Order in the Moderns. Thomas Dunkerly was particularly successful in promoting the Royal Arch in the Moderns.

Chapter maintained a strong link to the Craft when the two Grand Lodges joined two hundred years ago, being administered from within Grand Lodge. This is popularly known as 'the Sussex Fudge'. The only common ground around Chapter to get the two Grand Lodges to meet and agree. Even after the union of the two Grand Lodges the position of Royal Arch has been a problem. Thus we have a separate Grand Chapter.

The position of Chapter was qualified on 10th November 2004, after deliberations by a special working party, the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England at its regular meeting in London formally overturned the compromise position of 1813, and declared the Holy Royal Arch to be a separate degree in its own right, albeit the natural progression from the Third Degree, and the completion of "pure ancient Masonry", which consists of the three Craft degrees and the Holy Royal Arch.

Words in the ritual which propounded the earlier compromise position and led to misinterpretations were removed by mandatory regulation. The official position of the Supreme Grand Chapter today is that the "Royal Arch is the continuation of Craft Freemasonry in that sense, pure ancient Masonry can be seen as a journey of self-knowledge and discovery with the Royal Arch completing the practical lessons of the Craft by a contemplation of man's spiritual nature." When the two Grand Lodges were amalgamated all other degrees, other than the Royal Arch, were excluded.

At Quarterly communications in December 2022 and March 2023 the Pro Grand Master made it clear that Freemasonry in England should respect other Orders. The day before the March Quarterly communications this year he was invited to address the Mark Grand Lodge where he made it clear that all Orders should be supportive of each other; if Brethren are happy in another Order it helps to cement their membership of the Craft as a whole.

Over the years many "degrees" or "Orders" have developed and are still developing. For example, in 18th Century France over 1,000 rituals were developed. In England many other rituals were also developed.

The Ancient and Accepted Rite, or Scottish Rite, was formed under the titular leadership of the Emperor Frederick of Prussia in 1786 (the year of his death). It now consists of 33 degrees, and is a Christian Order in a minority of jurisdictions, and universal in the majority. It consists of 33 degrees. In some jurisdictions each degree is conferred on candidates. In England the first 17 are conferred by name only.

The first three are accepted as the three Craft degrees. The so called "Intermediate Degrees" have elements to be found in Royal and Select Masters, Knight Masons, and Allied Masonic degrees. The Supreme Council for England and Wales was Warranted from the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States of America in 1845 under the direction of Robert Thomas Crucefix.

Interestingly, it has been said that there had been some concern in the past about "Jacobean" roots (Scottish Rite), and this may have caused some delay in recognition. I am not too sure about this. Rose Croix was being performed in Bristol earlier than the Grand Constitutions were promulgated i.e. Baldwin Chapter.

It is interesting to look at the formation of Mark Masonry. The ceremony was being performed in England by at least by 1769. The Mark alludes to the recognition of a personal mark used by stonemasons, which goes far back in antiquity, to confirm the individual who had prepared a stone, enabling his payment for that particular piece. .

Such marks are still evident on ancient buildings. The Mark ceremony has been widely practised in Scotland and Ireland. The Lodge of Hope in Bradford practised the Mark degree from before 1813, as did many other Northern Lodges. In 1850-51 a group of London Masons set up the "Bon Accord Lodge".

In 1856 at the March Quarterly communications a motion from the Board of General Purposes was placed in front of UGLE that the degree of Mark Master Mason and Mark Master were not at variance with the ancient landmarks of the Order and should be formed in Fellowcraft Lodges for the degrees to be conferred. The motion having the agreement of the Grand Master at the time was passed.

However, at the next Quarterly Communications the minutes of the previous meeting were rejected, under the leadership of John Henderson who was a past President of the Board of General Purposes as "not in accordance with the 1813 agreement of Union". Thus the connection with Mark failed. A few days later on the 23rd of June 1856 a Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons was formed. They probably had realised the outcome of the vote, or indeed perhaps encouraged the outcome. Brethren, please remember the importance of agreeing the minutes of previous meetings.

In a similar position as Royal Arch Chapter is to Craft, Royal Ark Mariners is to the Mark. Statutes refer to RAM Grand Lodge being reconstituted in 1772. Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons took possession of the rights to the Grand Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners on 10th June 1884 for just £25. Ark is the giveaway title as it refers to God's covenant with mankind after the deluge, during which Noah saves mankind. It has one of the most colourful regalia, depicting the rainbow colours.

Since GLMMM formation it has become the home for other Orders; Knights Templar, Royal and Select Masters, Allied Masonic Degrees, Red Cross of Constantine, Secret Monitor. The formation of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons has become a pattern for the formation of other Masonic bodies. Over the years various Orders have been added to the Masonic family e.g. Knight Templar Priests (governed from York).

One of particular note is Pilgrim Preceptors. This is open to Masons who are Past Masters of the Craft and Past Zerubbabels of Royal Arch Chapter. Written by a couple of actors in Victorian days with time on their hands. The Order is based on the story of how Freemasonry came from Jerusalem to England. It was put into practice in the 1980s. Candidates are admitted to the degree of Pilgrim, which describes the journey of Freemasonry from Jerusalem to Rome.

The second degree is that of Preceptor and explains the journey from Rome to England. The ethos of the Order, and its motto, is "Fraternity, Equality and Liberty".

In 2005 a ritual was produced based upon the life and symbolism of King Athelstan, the grandson of King Alfred, and the first King of England to be referred to as "The King of All the English". The Grand Court of the Masonic Order of Athelstan was conceived. The Order commemorates, and builds on, the original Nine Rules laid down for the conduct of operative Masons at York under the leadership of King Athelstan.

The Order was developed in Newmarket by a small group of Masons including Keith Ansell, the father of Chris. So this is a new Order. Apparently, UGLE does not need to rubber stamp other Orders. It only seems to get involved if it believes that Orders are non Masonic in nature, and do not follow the ancient landmarks.

Of particular note is that Athelstan's part in the development of operative Freemasonry was acknowledged in the first Book of Constitutions where a list of Masonic songs was printed with a many versed Master's song, containing of five parts; parts one and five of five verses, and the rest of six verses.

"So Masons' ancient records tell,
King Athelstan, of Saxon blood,
Gave them a charter free to dwell,
In Lofty Lodge, with Orders good.
Drawn from old Writings by his son,
Prince Edwin, General Master bright,
Who met at York the Brethren soon,
And to that Lodge did all recite.
Thence were their Laws and Charges fine
In ev'ry reign observed with care,
Of Saxon, Danish, Norman Line,
Till British Crowns united were:
The Monarch First of this whole lasle
Was learned James, a Mason King,
Who first of Kings reviv'd the Style
Of Great Augustus: Therefore sing."

The concept is not new, but we are dealing with a new Order founded in 2005. Athelstan's position in Freemasonry was acknowledged at least three hundred years ago.

Not all Freemasonry originates in Britain. The Order of Knight Masons is based in Dublin. It covers the release of the Jewish people from their Babylonian captivity. This Order is starting to develop in England.

One wonders how many "new", or resurrected Orders will be developed in the future. It seems that material is still out there. We have just endured a pandemic during which Freemasonry has lost many members and memberships. We know that inflation is causing many Brethren to consider their positions in "other Orders".

Have we reached our limit? Will other Orders diminish in size and number? How much do these Orders help to retain Brethren in the Craft?

Nearly all Orders insist on maintaining current membership of the Craft, and many of both the Royal Arch, and the Mark. So there must be some Brethren who maintain membership of Craft and Royal Arch just to continue their enjoyment of other Orders. For example Royal and Select Masters, the Operatives, and the Allied Masonic degrees all insist on current and continuing membership of the Craft, Mark, and Royal Arch.

For many Freemasonry is the pure and ancient system of three degrees, with possibly Holy Royal Arch (Chapter) included. However, for a number of other Brethren Craft and Chapter are the start of their journey of Masonic discovery. Their daily advancement in Masonic Knowledge.

Of course Freemasonry is not just English, it has developed under the French, Irish, Scots, and other Grand Lodges, and not always in the same direction.

Now what about rationalising the pathway. How can we put it in chronological order? Well, the answer is we cannot – mostly. For all of us Freemasonry commences with our Initiation, at the building of King Solomon's Temple. Noah and the Ark predates this. Secret Monitor is about the relationship between David and Jonathon, again before the Temple was built. Royal and Select Masters, or Cryptic, covers the time between Craft and Royal Arch. The Christian Orders date from Christ to the spread of Christianity and beyond. Athelstan is timed at the end of the first millennium CE (AD).

So what is the point of this talk? I encourage you to enjoy Freemasonry in whatever way you wish. Do not be afraid of extending your research but remember the time it takes!

My enjoyment has been enhanced by joining many of these Sovereign Orders; please never call them side Orders (you order these in restaurants); do not minimise their importance as they give enjoyment to many Brethren. The one message is that we all belong to a wonderful organisation with good morals, charity, and friendship amongst the most important factors.

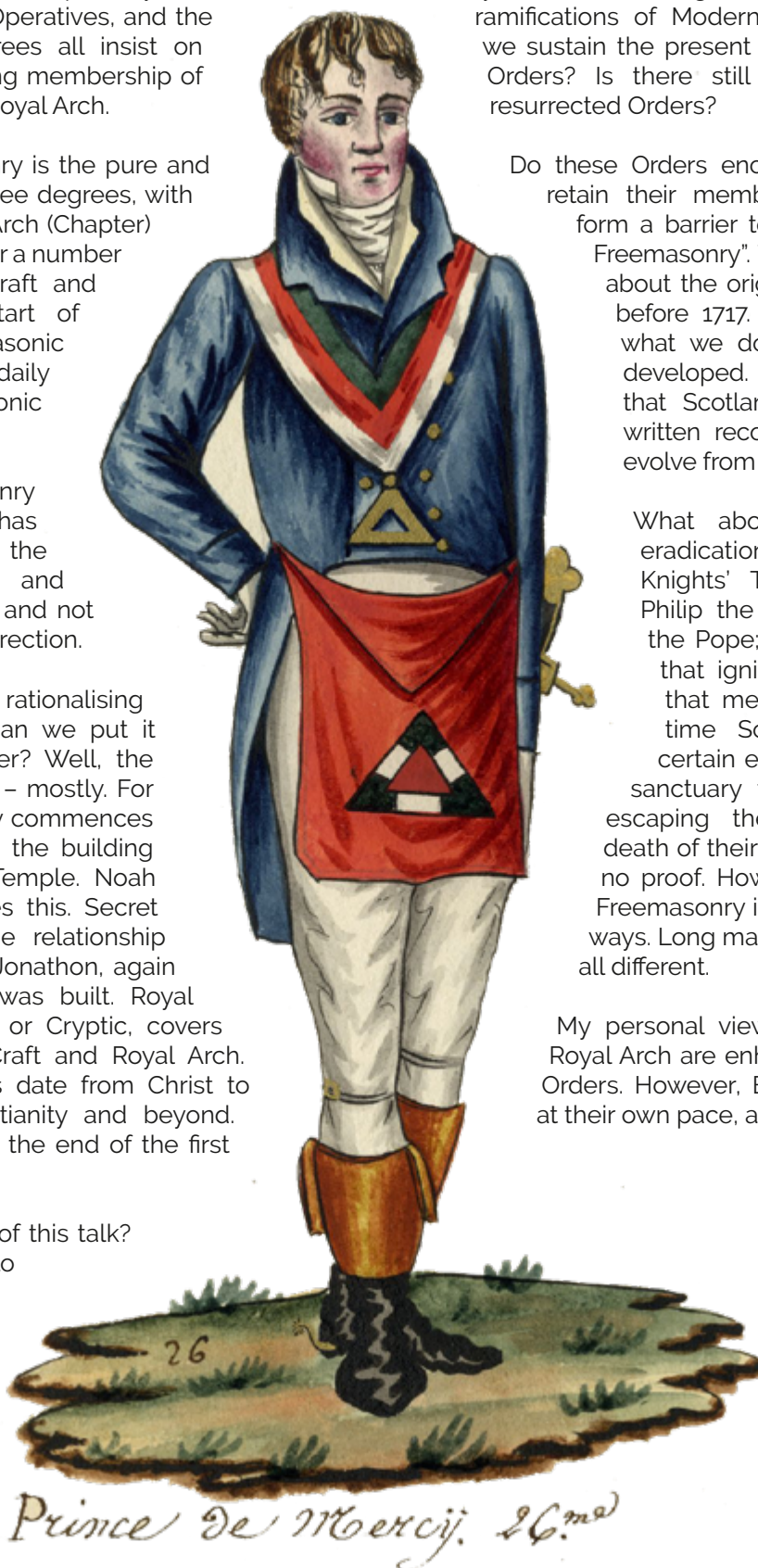
My talk is aimed to get us thinking about the ramifications of Modern Freemasonry. Can we sustain the present number of Masonic Orders? Is there still room for new or resurrected Orders?

Do these Orders encourage Brethren to retain their membership or do they form a barrier to "pure and ancient Freemasonry". There is little written about the origins of Freemasonry before 1717. We know that, but what we don't know is how it developed. There is no doubt that Scotland has the earliest written records. Did we simply evolve from Operative Masons?

What about the attempted eradication and seizure of the Knights' Templar wealth by Philip the Bel of France and the Pope; was that the spark that ignited an organisation that met in secret? At that time Scotland, and to a certain extent England, gave sanctuary to Knights Templar escaping the destruction and death of their Order? There is just no proof. However, we enjoy our Freemasonry in our many different ways. Long may it continue. We are all different.

My personal view is that Craft and Royal Arch are enhanced by the other Orders. However, Brethren must learn at their own pace, and not be pushed!

Nigel Williams



A surprise for WBro Ian Fawcett

At the Court of Unity at Witesie meeting at Whittlesey on Friday 3rd November, WBro Ian Fawcett was surprised with a "field promotion" to Past Grand Banner Bearer, that well deserved honour being bestowed on behalf of the MW Grand Master by the RW Deputy Grand Master, Tony Burke.

All had been arranged in the greatest secrecy to ensure a pleasant surprise for Ian, and it certainly was one! He was delighted if speechless at this well deserved honour recognising his tireless support of the Order over many years. Although Ian's health precluded his staying for the festive board, a glass was also raised in his honour after the formal toasts. Ian is pictured with the Provincial Grand Master Alex Allan, the Deputy Grand Master Tony Burke and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Danny Ellis.

Chris Ansell



Cambridgeshire Light Blues

All are welcome at the next Cambridgeshire Light Blues Committee Meeting, to be held at March Masonic Hall 12.30 on Sunday 19th November

Andy Murfitt

Monday 18th December at Cambridge Masonic Hall

Cambridgeshire
Clarets present
Twelve Banners



DISCOVER MORE WITH
THE ROYAL ARCH IN
CAMBRIDGESHIRE



Our Festival decanter on tour...

At our 2023 Festival Banquet our Provincial Grand Master / Grand Superintendent was presented with a commemorative decanter from the Masonic Charitable Foundation by CEO Les Hutchinson.

The decanter will travel the Province of Cambridgeshire, under the control of the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer, and appear at every Craft Installation meeting. It will be placed in front of the incoming Worshipful Master and will be explained during the reply to the toast to the Provincial Grand Master. Hopefully the renowned Cambridgeshire generosity will mean that the decanter is always displayed full!

The first outings have been to Descensus Aquarium Lodge No. 8655, Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704, Kynaston Lodge No. 5810, Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859 and Cantabrigia lodge No. 3532.



Cambridgeshire Bowlers support the Ely Lighthouse

WBro. Freddie Lawes presented a cheque from the Cambridgeshire Masonic Bowls Association to the Lighthouse, in Ely for their Christmas Dinner appeal.

Freddie Lawes



Cambridgeshire Bowls Team take the Fifth

MACE 2023 at Welford Upon Avon went ahead on 11 August in glorious sunshine with Bedfordshire emerging winners for the third time.

Cambridgeshire A (Steven Keen, Richard Phillips and David Mason with a rotating substitute from the Cambridgeshire B team) acquitted itself well. After a narrow defeat to Leicestershire and Rutland in the first match we went on to defeat Suffolk, Devonshire and Wiltshire, missing out on the 3/4 place play-off by one point to officially finish fifth out of 24. Our best performance since finishing runners up in the infamous one wood shoot-out at Ipswich in the final of 2016.

Unfortunately, the Cambridgeshire B team (Chris and Gerry Nicholas, Chris Whitebrook and John Barnes) lost all four of their matches.

We were blessed with a visit from the former World Bowls Champion, Tony Allcock, also a mason, along with senior brethren of the Province of Warwickshire. Plans are well in hand for MACE 2024 which will be hosted by Berkshire MBA at Maidenhead and we are negotiating with Yorkshire East Riding and Surrey for tournaments beyond 2024.

MACE 2023 raised around £6,000 split between a Motor Neurone charity and a local Childrens Hospice. Since its inception in 2011 MACE (Masonic Annual Charity Event) has raised over £70,000 which has mainly been distributed amongst non-masonic medically based charities for the benefit of all communities.

David Mason

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

Please send any material to the Provincial Information Officer information@pglcambs.org.uk by the 21st day of the preceding month.

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