

The CAMBRIDGESHIRE MASON



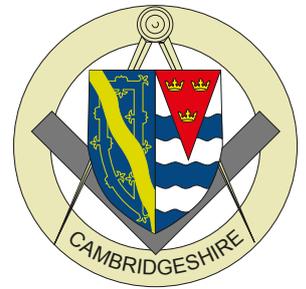
Cambridgeshire Masons



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Provincial Grand Lodge honours

Spring 2016 Issue 12

The new Provincial Grand Wardens were announced when more than 130 Cambridgeshire Brethren attended the Province's visit to the Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge on 9th March.

The ProvGM, RWBro. William C. M. Dastur has appointed WBro. Ray Page, of Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125, as Senior Warden, and WBro. Tony Compton, of Kynaston Lodge No. 5810, as Junior Warden.



(Left to right) EComp. Charles Overland (2nd ProvGP), WBro. Tony Compton (ProvJGW) and WBro. Ray Page (ProvSGW)

In the Royal Arch, the new 2nd Provincial Grand Principal will be EComp. Charles Overland, of Etheldreda Chapter No. 809.

Appointed as Provincial Grand Registrars in Craft and Chapter are WBro. Bob Kidger, of Gild of Holy Trinity No. 6125, and EComp. Ken Robson PPGSoj (Herts), of Gray Chapter No. 4334. WBro. David Robertson, of Gild of St Mary Lodge No. 7288 will be Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works. The Provincial Grand Sword Bearers in Craft and Chapter will be WBro. David Parry, of Nourse Lodge No. 8590, and EComp. Cliff Brown, of St Wendreda Chapter No. 3201 respectively.

With the formation of a Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge being planned, the ProvGM also appointed four existing Grand or Provincial Officers to ProvGStwd and gave early first appointments to 11 Brethren as PProvGStwd.

All Craft and Chapter appointments have been circulated to Lodge Secretaries and Chapter Scribes for communication to all members and the investitures will take place at the meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Chapter on 15th June at The Guildhall, Cambridge.

Cliff Brown

Appointments to Grand Rank

Two Brethren from the Province are to be honoured with Grand Rank and three will receive promotions at the UGLE's annual investiture on 27th April.



(Left to right) EComp. Edmund Brookes PGStdB (Royal Arch Grand Rank); WBro. Pat Kilby PAGDC (Craft Grand Rank); WBro. David Warham DepGrandOrg (active Grand Rank) and EComp. David Sowman PGStdB (Royal Arch Grand Rank)

WBro. David Warham PProvJGW, of Gild of St Mary Lodge No. 7288, will receive a first appointment as Deputy Grand Organist, while Provincial Grand Secretary WBro. Pat Kilby, also of Gild of St Mary, will become Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro. John Sherriff PAGDC, will become Past Grand Sword Bearer with the prefix Very Worshipful Brother from his investiture. Following his promotion to Deputy Metropolitan Grand Master, VWBro. Simon Duckworth, of Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859, will be promoted to Past Junior Grand Warden bearing the prefix Right Worshipful Brother. WBro. Dr David Staples, of Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704, has been promoted to Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

There were two first appointments to Grand Chapter rank, for the Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, EComp. Edmund Brookes and Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, EComp. David Sowman, who will both be invested as Past Grand Standard Bearer.

EComp. Brookes, of Euclid Chapter No. 859 and EComp. Sowman, of St Andrew Chapter No. 4087 will be invested at Supreme Grand Chapter on 28th April.

Pat Kilby

Receptions for new initiates

Provincial Grand Master RWBro. William C. M. Dastur will be holding a reception on 7th June at Freemasons' Hall, Bateman Street, Cambridge, and on 13th September at the Masonic Rooms, The Crescent, Wisbech, both commencing at 7pm, for all Masons initiated during 2015.

Pat Kilby

Plans to celebrate Tercentenary

The forthcoming Tercentenary celebrations of UGLE combine not only the importance of celebrating our last 300 years but also involving the local community to show what a force for good we are. WBro. Tony Just is leading the Province's Tercentenary guiding committee. From June 2017, there is a new UGLE logo coinciding with the Tercentenary.



Alma Mater aids Wintercomfort

Just before Christmas Wintercomfort received a welcome donation at a busy time of year from Alma Mater Lodge No. 1492 and The City & University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust.



On 19th November WBro. Peter Sutton, Lodge treasurer, presented a cheque for £500, funded jointly by the Lodge and the Masonic Charitable Trust, to James Martin, services manager, of Wintercomfort.

Although Wintercomfort does not offer accommodation, it provides a range of assistance throughout the day to the less fortunate members of society. Breakfast is served at a reasonable cost every day and that is followed by a surgery for medical checks. Hairdressing and foot care facilities are also offered, there are job sessions aimed at teaching cleaning and cooking skills and artwork classes.

Once a week the Citizens Advice Bureau offers general advice and guidance, there are football sessions at Kelsey Kerridge and a Thursday quiz. Wintercomfort offers facilities to people experiencing a difficult period in their lives, giving them a chance to re-build their lives and be re-settled in society.

Peter Sutton

Whittlesey help for Scaldgate Club

Masons at Whittlesey have helped a club for adults with learning disabilities to purchase materials, pay transport costs and secure the rent for their venue for 12 months.

WBro. Nick Thompson, of St Andrew Lodge No. 4087 presented a cheque for £500 to Laura Smyth (below), one of the helpers of the Scaldgate Club in Whittlesey, closely watched by Ryan in the wheelchair. Half of the sum was raised at a festive board raffle and was match funded from the City & University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust.

This charitable organisation has been running since 2005 to help adults over 19 with learning disabilities giving them support and a place of fun for a couple of hours a week.



There are 10 members from the Whittlesey area in the club with five helpers pictured with members of St Andrew Lodge. Pam Clifford, club secretary, said that everyone enjoys the hours spent at the club and they often have local outings.

Chris Whitebrook

Support from Three Grand Principles

The Lodge of Three Grand Principles No. 441 donated £250 to Camsight as part of the matched funding from the City & University Masonic Charitable Trust. Anne Streather (below) from Camsight was delighted with the donation and also all the support they have had from Cambridgeshire masons.



The Lodge also donated £200 to Centre 33 (above) in Cambridge from a raffle for a flying lesson donated by WBro. Vic Saywell. Sam Hill from Centre 33 said the donation would help young people and young carers in and around Cambridge.

Bob Hammett

Widows get festive lunch treat

The ladies of the Province's Masonic Widows' Friendship Club enjoyed their annual Christmas lunch at Freemasons' Hall, Bateman Street, Cambridge, on 15th December. They were joined by the new Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. William C. M. Dastur and his deputy, WBro. John Sherriff and his wife Jackie.



The traditional lunch was followed by festive songs, courtesy of WBro. Mike Allen, St Audrey Lodge No. 2727 and WBro. Percy Bulsara, Descensus Aquarum No. 8655, during which Father Christmas (aka WBro. Bob Smith, St Audrey Lodge) aided by one of his elves (WBro. Dennis Reed, Gray Lodge No. 4334) gave out presents to the widows.

The widows' club is open to all widows of Cambridgeshire Masons and widows of Masons from other Provinces who reside in the area. There is no membership fee. Details can be obtained from the Provincial Grand Almoner, WBro. Tony Mason (01353 665185).

Tony Mason

Province donates £215,000 to the Arthur Rank Hospice Building Appeal

A further cheque for £100,000 was presented to the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity at a special retirement evening for RWBro. Rodney Wolverson.

The dinner in the Lady Chapel at Ely Cathedral on 2nd December marked the retirement six days later of RWBro. Wolverson after 10 years as the Provincial Grand Master. During the event he presented Lynn Morgan (below), chief executive of the ARHC, with a cheque for £100,000 as a further contribution to its building fund appeal.



This donation is one of three substantial amounts given less than 18 months since Rodney challenged Cambridgeshire Freemasons to raise a substantial six-figure sum in aid of the New Hospice Appeal.

An earlier donation of £100,000 was made at a formal dinner hosted at Queens' College on 17th June 2015 with a subsequent cheque for £15,000 presented at the site of the new hospice during the Act of Dedication shortly after on 29th June.

Lynn Morgan said: "The Cambridgeshire Freemasons really are unsung heroes. We are overwhelmed by their generosity and we would like to thank every single person who has made a contribution or attended one of the many, many events which have been organised in a bid to raise this terrific sum."

RWBro. Wolverson added: "All Freemasons in Cambridgeshire have identified with the building of the new hospice and we have continued to organise many events in 2015 to raise funds. We were delighted to be present at the Act of Dedication when we were able to present a cheque for the sum raised at the Festival of Carols. With this second donation of £100,000 we have contributed in total £215,000 to an appeal, which has really caught the imagination of Freemasons throughout Cambridgeshire."

A whole array of activities have taken place to enable this target to be reached. The Festival of Carols in Ely Cathedral raised £15,000 in December 2014 and Freemasons and their individual lodges have hosted numerous events for friends and families ranging from summer balls, pantomimes and garden parties. It is this united approach that has led to such a generous figure being raised.

This latest donation was made at a time when the building was made watertight ahead of the Christmas break, further signifying a substantial milestone for the charity and subsequently takes the appeal to £6.68 million, leaving £3.82 million needed to complete the project. The new hospice, which is located at Shelford Bottom, is expected to open to receive patients in late 2016.

Peter Sutton

A message from the Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent

RWBro. William C. M. Dastur, the new Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent, outlined four key points during his address at the installation meeting in December.

Craft and Royal Arch masonry must flourish in Cambridgeshire and we should achieve this through making our meetings interesting, relevant and fun for both existing brethren and new members. The Province is in the process of forming a Stewards' Lodge, an initiative which the Deputy Grand Master commended. It will also explore an embryonic concept for a lodge that can also accommodate men in their twenties, thirties and forties, but arranged to fit in with their busy business and family lives. Timings, location and format may be different from what we are traditionally used to, but innovation and improvement in any organisation is important.

The Craft celebrates its tercentenary in 2017 and the ProvGM has asked WBro. Tony Just to head a committee to celebrate this. It is essential that we undertake events or celebrations that will involve and benefit the wider community and show Freemasonry in its best light. While brethren will want to celebrate such an important historical event with wives and families, RWBro. Dastur believes we have a unique opportunity to be less insular and take the message that Freemasonry is a force for good in society and wishes to demonstrate this publicly, practically and forcibly. We must broadcast this message more widely, which leads me to my third area.



While we are now all very comfortable with email, we have to use all the modern communications media available to us to promote Freemasonry in general and Cambridgeshire Freemasonry in particular.

Cambridgeshire has a strong track record of generous giving. The ProvGM is not going to ask you to support another charitable appeal. Instead, he would like lodges and chapters to support more local charities in their local communities. It also links neatly with what should be our underlying aims for the Tercentenary. However, he wishes to launch a mini festival over the next 18 months or so to complement this charitable giving. It is clear we have not been anywhere near supportive enough recently – not through lack of will but through not having available funds – to help our Masonic centres with repairs, improvements and health & safety requirements.

The ProvGM therefore challenged the Province to raise an endowment of at least £100,000 for the Provincial Building Fund. He asked the new Deputy ProvGM, WBro. John Sherriff, to lead this appeal. A four-figure sum has been provided as a seed fund for this important appeal.

The ProvGM, DepProvGM and Deputy Grand Superintendent, EComp. Russell Jackson will expand on all of these when they visit your lodges and chapters.

Pat Kilby

Installation of the Provincial Grand Master

After many meetings and consultations with Grand Lodge, venues, other Provinces and the Provincial team, and a great deal of hard work, the big day arrived on 10th December 2015 and what a day it was!

It now seems an eternity since our then Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Elect, VWBro. William Dastur sat down with me (WBro. Pat Kilby, Provincial Grand Secretary), together with WBro. Brian Elliott, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, E Comp. Edmund Brookes, Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, and EComp. David Sowman, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, to start the planning process for the installation meetings.



(Left to right) EComps. Graham Summerfield, Jonathon Spence, William Dastur, Tony Just and Russell Jackson

The big day started early with a full rehearsal for Craft and then Royal Arch under the strict instruction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies, RWBro. Oliver Lodge. Now exhausted from the morning's work and after a short lunch, the two ceremonies were about to commence. What an uplifting experience it was to see such full and enthusiastic support from the Province for both ceremonies, which culminated at the Craft meeting with more than 400 masons in the Guildhall and 348 attending the celebrations at Queens' College.



The Deputy Grand Master with Provincial Senior Warden, Bharat Khetani and Royal Arch Charity Steward Alan Jones

At these we were supported by nine Provincial Grand Masters and eight Grand Superintendents, plus 82 visitors from 16 other Provinces. The Grand Lodge team consisted of RWBro. Jonathon Spence, Deputy Grand Master; RWBro. Nigel Brown, Grand Secretary; RWBro. Oliver Lodge, Grand Director of Ceremonies; WBro. Michael Gurney, Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies; WBro. Alistair Townsend, Past Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, and WBro. Malcolm Brooks, Grand Tyler. All acted in their respective roles in both Craft and Royal Arch.

They were assisted in Royal Arch Chapter by EComp. Robert Lovesey, Grand Superintendent of Bedfordshire (as 2nd Principal) and EComp Wayne Williams, Grand Superintendent of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire (3rd Principal).

In Craft, they were assisted by RWBro. Michael Sawyer, Provincial Grand Master of Bedfordshire (as Senior Warden), RWBro. Graham Ives, Provincial Grand Master of Lincolnshire (Junior Warden), our own WBro. Nigel Pett, Assistant Grand Chaplain, and WBro. Christopher Hoad, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.



The new ProvGM is escorted to his seat at the dinner

While the Royal Arch Chapter meeting was conducted throughout by the Grand Lodge team, the Craft meeting was opened by VWBro. Tim Pearce Higgins, Past Provincial Deputy Grand Master as presiding officer, assisted by WBro. Jim Whitehead, acting Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The new Grand Superintendent was received into Provincial Grand Chapter supported by the MEZs from nine chapters and as Provincial Grand Master into Provincial Grand Lodge supported by the Masters of seven Lodges.

Having appointed his Deputies, EComp. Russell Jackson, as Deputy Grand Superintendent, and WBro. John Sherriff as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, with the Provincial Grand Chapter Principals EComp. Graham Summerfield (2nd Principal) and EComp. Tony Just (3rd Principal), together with the respective active Provincial Officers, the new ProvGM/Grand Superintendant gave a masterly address. He detailed some expectations for the future coupled with an appreciation of our Province and the teams from both Grand Lodge and the Province who made the day so special for him. The celebration dinner was held at Queens' College.



The Deputy Grand Master and new Provincial Grand Master

In writing to all Craft and Royal Arch Masons in the Province, the new ProvGM said: "I have just experienced one of the most fantastic days that anyone could have in Cambridge masonry. Yesterday, when I was installed as your PGM and Grand Superintendent, was an amazing experience made all the better by the terrific support from Cambridgeshire masons. I am so grateful for the warmth and excitement of their welcome and support."

Pat Kilby and Edmund Brookes

Profile: RWBro. William Charles Mason Dastur MA - Provincial Grand Master

Born in 1952, Bill Dastur lives in Edwardstone, Suffolk. Educated at Peter Symonds', Winchester, he graduated from Pembroke College, Cambridge, with an MA in Economics. He is married to Elisabeth and has two sons, Robin (27), who married Dunja in 2015, and Rupert (24).

A Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales, the new ProvmGM has been group financial director of Marshalls of Cambridge (Holdings) Ltd since 1996. He is also Assistant to the Court for the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers of London. Previously he was managing partner of Ernst & Young, Cambridge and East Anglia, and a partner of Arthur Young, Sierra Leone, from 1982-84.

His hobbies include playing and watching both cricket and golf, as well as skiing, bridge, gardening and walking. He is also treasurer of Edwardstone Parochial Church Council.

Initiated in 1986 in Alma Mater Lodge No. 1492 and its Master in 1993, he was a founding Junior Warden of Cambridgeshire Meridian Lodge No. 9687 in 1999 and Master in 2000.



Appointed Provincial Grand Registrar in 2000, he became Provincial Grand Treasurer in 2002, and was appointed Deputy ProvmGM in 2012. Bill was first appointed to Grand Rank in 2004 as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, being promoted to Past Grand Sword Bearer in 2013.

In the Royal Arch, he was exalted in 1991 into Euclid Chapter No. 859 and was its MEZ in 2000, being appointed Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2003 and 2nd Provincial Grand Principal in 2008. In Supreme Grand Chapter, he was appointed Past Grand Standard Bearer in 2013.

In the Rose Croix, he was perfected in Simon of Sudbury Chapter No. 247 in 2004 and its Most Wise Sovereign in 2010, while in Mark Masonry he was advanced in The Geoffrey Dicker Lodge No. 1906 in 2013 and is also a member of the Royal Ark Mariner degree.

He is a member of five Craft lodges, three Royal Arch chapters, two Rose Croix chapters, one Mark lodge and one RAM lodge. Other Masonic activities include chairing the Province's Charity for Care & Relief, and the biennial Festival of Carols at Ely Cathedral, which raises money for local charities.

Pat Kilby

Profile: WBro. John Roger Sherriff - Deputy Provincial Grand Master

John Sherriff was born in 1944 in Skegness, Lincolnshire, and moved, with his family, to London in 1948. He attended Sutton County Grammar School and graduated from the School of Building in London in 1966.

Elected as a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in 1969, he was elevated to Fellow of the Institution in 1973. He started his working life at a leading international quantity surveying practice in London and, after a short secondment to work in Paris, he moved to Cambridge in 1968, becoming an associate partner with the practice in 1974.

In 1984 he started his own surveying and construction management consultancy and also took the position of part-time lecturer in the School of Architecture at the University of Cambridge. He retired from professional practice in 2008. He has been married to Jacqueline for 47 years and they have one daughter Anna.

Initiated into Masonry in the Lodge of Three Grand Principles No. 441 in 1988, John took the chair in 1996, serving as Secretary, ADC and DC in that Lodge.

His first appointment within the Province was to Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works and subsequently to Provincial Grand Secretary in 2009, retiring at the Provincial meeting in 2014. A first Grand Rank appointment to PAGDC was received in 2011.

He has, for some years, been a director of Cambridge Masonic Hall Ltd, and a trustee and the secretary of the Province of Cambridgeshire Masonic Building Fund.

He is a member of the Chapter of Fidelity No. 441, being exalted in 1991, and becoming its First Principal in 2006. He also enjoys his Masonry as an active member of the Ancient and Accepted Right and is a Past Sovereign and a 30th Degree Rose Croix mason. He is currently a member of two Craft Lodges, two Royal Arch Chapters, two Rose Croix Chapters and an honorary member of 21 Craft Lodges within the Province.

His interests outside Masonry include travel, art, and gardening and trying to keep fit by walking (mostly with dog) and playing tennis.

Pat Kilby

Former Provincial Chaplain celebrates 50 years in masonry

The 50 years as a Freemason of a former Provincial Grand Chaplain for Cambridgeshire was recognised by RWBro. Rodney Wolverson in one of his last official duties as Provincial Grand Master. At the meeting of Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704 on 27th November, he presented a special certificate to WBro. David Harrison, who had been initiated in the lodge on 26th November 1965 and became Worshipful Master in 1974.

WBro. Harrison has held the office of lodge chaplain since 1997 and was ProvmGChaplain for nine years from 1999. The ProvmGM described him as a "very good servant to Stone Cross Lodge and the Province". WBro. Harrison was appointed PPJGW in 2008. There are at least nine brethren from lodges in the Province due to celebrate 50 years in masonry during 2016, along with four who will achieve 60 years of service.

Cliff Brown

Big turnout for retirement party

More than 120 people attended a retirement party for RWBro. Rodney Wolverson at the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral on 2nd December. Guests consisted of mainly senior masons and their wives, but particularly those who had served Rodney in a senior role or been promoted by him to important roles. It was an impressive turnout showing how highly he was regarded and his great service over the previous 10 years.



The evening started in the Lady Chapel with a champagne reception, for which it was arranged for Rodney and Carola to arrive slightly later so that all the guests were present and able to welcome him on arrival. Although he knew the Province would stage a leaving event, most of what ensued was a surprise.

This was followed by a 'This is Your Life' style presentation, mainly hosted by Nick Pett, assisted by, Tim Pearce Higgins, John Sherriff, Mark Long, Bill Dastur and two former PGMs of Essex and Suffolk, John Webb and Barry Ross respectively, who gave some insight into the 'fun' goings on at other Provincial meetings.

Rodney was also presented with a Master Mason's-style cooking apron, while Carola got a Provincial version. All those giving presentations picked up highlights, amusing moments or anecdotes from Rodney's last 10 years. At the end Nick presented him with a bound red 'This is Your Life' book. Kim Sheldrick also presented an album of photographs featuring highlights of Rodney's 10 years in office.

After more champagne and supper, Rodney was presented with a number of items purchased with the generous collection from all the Lodges and Chapters in the Province. The principal item was a landscape of the North Norfolk coast, which is now hanging in Rodney's home, and which he admires on a daily basis; it was his particular choice so all the more fitting. He also received new Craft and Royal Arch aprons.

The final gift was a set of eight glass tankards, almost identical, each engraved with the Craft and RA crests. On seven there is the name of a Masonic Centre in the Province, the eighth being blank for him to use at home.

William C M Dastur

RWBro Rodney Wolverson - a message on his retirement

Firstly, I want to thank everyone who contributed to my retirement presents – the new regalia is very welcome indeed and I am absolutely delighted with the really beautiful oil painting, which is already giving my wife and me great pleasure, and will constantly remind me of 10 very happy years in office.

I want everyone to appreciate not only how very fortunate I know I was to have been appointed in 2005, but particularly how enormously grateful



I am for the courtesy, the unflagging support and the very warm friendship I've received wherever I've been and whenever I've visited a Cambridgeshire Lodge or Chapter during the 10 years since.

It has been a very great privilege to have served the Province and a wonderful period of my life. Please look after my successor in the same way.

Rodney Wolverson

New UGLE Strategy

There is a new UGLE strategy called 'The future of Freemasonry' which brethren should have seen. Its main pillars are membership, communication, succession and Masonic Halls, which ties in with matters covered by the new ProvGM at his installation on 10th December.

New conclave

The Imperial Grand Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine has approved a petition to set up a new Conclave at Chatteris, named St. Huna No. 525. The wheels are in motion for the consecration to take place at Freemasons Hall, Bateman Street, Cambridge on 18th June.

Fundraising drive for building fund

Those of you who attended the Installation meeting held at Cambridge on 10th December to witness the investiture of our Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro. W.C.M. Dastur, would have noted that, during his address to all assembled, and later, in a letter circulated to all secretaries/scribes, he offered a challenge to the Province to raise an endowment for the Provincial Building Fund.

The Fund was set up in 2003, and was supported at the outset, by substantial donations from Cambridge Masonic Hall Ltd and the Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859, together with personal gifts from various Cambridgeshire Masonic members and, recently, the proceeds from the 50/50 Club, whose present membership only accounts for some 130 of a total of approximately 1,600 potential members.

Over the past decade we have witnessed ever more demands on centres with the introduction of the Disability Act, fire regulations, hygiene inspections and health and safety requirements. The maintenance of ageing buildings is a constant priority. The aim of the fund is to provide financial assistance in time of need either by way of a gift or loan.

Since its inauguration, it has supported no less than 23 major projects throughout the Province. The donations have been gifted and, in the main, matched funding applied. Each project has been evaluated and presented for discussion and a decision. As a result, each Centre has received substantial donations:

- Ely: £23,295 for roof works and replacement windows.
- Chatteris: £25,448 for window grills, drainage, electrics and works to satisfy fire regulations.
- March: £21,490 for roof works, heating and electrical upgrades and works to dining and kitchen areas together with refurbishment of the entrance lobby and toilet area.
- Newmarket: £16,020 for roof and chimney repairs, hall floor replacement, kitchen refurbishment and drainage repairs.
- Whittlesey: £14,400 for dining room floor replacement, toilet refurbishment and upgrading the boiler and heating system.
- Wisbech: £19,266 for new disabled toilet and refurbished entrance area, refurbishment of the bar and lounge area and replacement of defective rainwater goods.



In total a figure of £119,919 of matched funding has been distributed, indicating a total of works cost of around £240,000. In addition, in 2009, a sum of £1,000 was donated to each centre to provide for the purchase of a defibrillator.

It may appear that all centres are now refurbished and you may ask what is the purpose of a building fund? This is, of course, is far

from the case – there will be a constant need to keep our properties in proper repair, primarily due to the age of the buildings throughout the Province.

WBro. John Sherriff has been appointed to lead the appeal and it is hoped that members throughout the Province will grasp this opportunity to support to such a worthy cause.

Graham Kent

Virtute et Fide awards annual student prize



Last year Virtute et Fide Lodge No. 7959 established an annual prize and shield for the Hills Road Sixth Form College student achieving the most for charity. This 2015 award went to Darren D'Souza, in recognition of the incredible work he did to set up a fundraising campaign linked to The Phoenix student newspaper.

This raised more than £5,000 for the MindEd Trust, founded in memory of former Hills Road student Ed Mallen. Darren not only organised the memorial coverage for Ed Mallen, but also wrote an article which won Best Editorial in the Cambridge Community Magazine Awards.

WBro. Anthony Pigg, WM of Virtute et Fide, said: "We are delighted to be able to recognise Darren's considerable efforts and great achievements with this prize."

Les Waters

Special evening for Nourse Lodge

The 242nd meeting of Nourse Lodge No. 8590 on 11th February 2016 was a special occasion. Not only was it a second successive sequential double initiation ceremony for the Lodge this year, but it also marked the entry into the Fraternity of a fourth generation Mason, conducted by three of those generations.

Charles Goodwyn was the Initiate, with his uncle WBro. Nick Goodwyn PPGSuptWks, LGR taking the chair for the ceremony, while his father WBro. Roger Goodwyn PPGSuptWks acted as Inner Guard, Organist and presented the working tools, and his grandfather, WBro. Graham Goodwyn PPGReg gave the Charge to both the evening's initiates.



The fourth generation of the family, WBro. Norman Watson PPGJW, who was initiated into Vindobala Lodge No. 5480 on 18th February 1942, which used to meet in Wylam, Northumberland, was unable to travel to be present.

Both initiation ceremonies were guided by the WM, WBro. Alan Taylor and observed by RWBro. William C M Dastur, Provincial Grand Master, on his first visit to Nourse Lodge since being installed in December 2015.

WBro. Nick Goodwyn

Book for golf event

The Province's annual golf competition takes place on 1st July at Ely City Golf Club and featuring nine hole foursomes matchplay, and 18 hole Stableford events. Basic charge of £47 for 27 holes and £40 for 18 and includes a two-course meal. Entry details have been circulated to lodges, with information available from the Province's Masonic Golf Association secretary, WBro. Peter Corley, tel: 07810 637556.

Visit to Supreme Grand Chapter



Some 15 per cent of the Provincial membership joined the Grand Superintendent for the November 2015 meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter (SGC) in London.

Apart from the usual coach party, other companions travelled by car or rail. The coach party suffered severe delays due to the traffic but in the end arrived in plenty of time.

There were several items of important business, but the highlight of the meeting was the installation of EComp. Russell Race, formerly Metropolitan Grand Superintendent, as Second Grand Principal in succession to EComp. George Pipon Francis. Notice of proposal was given that with effect from the end of 2016 Royal Arch companions must continue to hold membership of a craft Lodge.

After SGC was closed the organ consultant who had supervised the overhaul of the famous Willis Grand Temple organ gave a talk on the work, supported by suitable demonstration from the keyboard by the Grand Organist. At the conclusion, the use of Gordon Jacobs's fanfare setting of the National Anthem demonstrated to the full the capabilities of the instrument. Afterwards, 70 companions dined at Parker's Restaurant.

Edmund Brookes

Wisbech MBF hands out £2,500

Wisbech Freemasons have donated £2,000 to help purchase a 'bionic' leg for a 20-year-old local man who lost his right limb to cancer. The donation was made by representatives of the Wisbech Masonic Benevolent Fund on 5th September to Rebecca and Spencer Lee, who are raising funds to buy the leg for their son Billy.



A further donation of £500 from Masons at Wisbech will go towards the cost of replacing a polytunnel at the town's Meadowgate School horticulture department. The polytunnel forms part of facilities to deliver a new RHS horticulture course.

The donation from the Wisbech Masonic Benevolent Fund was presented in October 2015 to Emma Bird, sixth form coordinator, by chairman David Bays, accompanied by other trustees, Paul Rose and Richard Smith. The fund is supported by members of Wisbech's two lodges, United Good Fellowship No. 809 and Gild of Holy Trinity No. 6125.



The Wisbech & District Stroke Club received a cheque for £500 from Wisbech Freemasons on 11th December. WBro. Bob Kidger, treasurer for the Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125, said its members were pleased to support the Stroke Club, an organisation that relies on donations and grants to undertake its work in the local community, providing social and peer support for stroke survivors, their carers, families and friends.



Peter Fewster, secretary for the Stroke Club, added that donations of this kind were not easy to come by and that this and other recent donations would ensure that the club could continue for another year with no financial worries.

Wine tasting event helps Arthur Rank charity

The Gild of St Mary Lodge No. 7288 hosted a wine tasting event at Freemasons' Hall, Bateman Street, Cambridge, on 17th October.



The many wine lovers in the Province who attended with their friends were treated to a generous sample of six fine wines. These were amply displayed and described with much humour by our very own "Confrerie Des Chevalier Du Tastevin" Monsieur John H. Smith, better known to us as WBro. John Smith, the Lodge chaplain.

A buffet at half time, supplied and prepared by Bro. Mike Bidwell and his wife, was followed by a competition to find the wine expert of the evening. The result of this enjoyable social event was a profit of £975, which was added to from the Lodge's charity account to provide a donation of £1,500 to support the appeal for the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity.

Pat Kilby

Bob Kidger

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