

the essex mason



The Official Journal of the Masonic Province of Essex

Issue 84 September 2018



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Masonic Lodges



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PGM's Foreword

Brethren,

May I commend to you the importance of using our Essex Mason Shop which via the Essex Mason Trust is a registered charity and supports our broader Essex charitable efforts on a regular basis. A full range of masonic regalia, cases, jewellery and ritual books are available at the shop itself in Colchester or can be purchased online and it is important that we support this as all profits go to charity.

At our forthcoming Provincial Chapter meeting, we will be launching the new Essex Royal Arch tie to complement that for the Essex Craft. This attractive new red tie can be worn at any Chapter or Craft meeting in Essex or when representing the Holy Royal Arch Province of Essex or an Essex Chapter at a Convocation in another Province. The only exceptions are that I shall expect the Craft tie (or Grand Lodge or Black tie) to be worn at Provincial Grand Lodge, Essex Masters Lodge, North Essex Masters Lodge or Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge. I and the Members of the Royal Arch Executive will choose to wear the new Royal Arch tie at the Provincial Convocation, at meetings of Essex First Principals Chapter and at meetings of Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter or when representing Essex at neighbouring Provincial convocations.

The former Essex Provincial tie (the polka dot tie) will no longer be an approved tie as from 1st September.

The new tie will be available exclusively from Essex Mason as from 1st August and they will have a stall at Freemasons Hall on 20th September. All profits from the sale of these ties will go explicitly to the 2022 Festival and the ties may be worn as from 1st September.

Brethren, by now you will have seen the introductory leaflet explaining the new Members' Pathway scheme. It provides a structured approach for Lodges to follow in order to attract and encourage potential new members, while at the same time retaining and adding value to the existing membership.

United Grand Lodge of England have successfully introduced this Pathway into a number of Provinces and, now that we know it works, I am delighted to announce that this will now be rolled out in the Province of Essex.

We will be looking for a number of Lodges to volunteer to become an "Essex Pathway Lodge". More information and applications for Lodges to sign up will be available soon.

The scheme will be overseen by the Provincial Membership & Mentoring Teams, working together as a Pathway Team, and to enable them to meet the challenge we are now seeking enthusiastic Brethren to strengthen those respective teams.

Rodney L Bass ProvGM/GSupt



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Dear Reader,

We do hope that you enjoy reading this 'new look' issue of the magazine and we would like to thank everyone who sent in articles for inclusion, in fact we have had such an overwhelming amount of copy submitted that we have had to carefully select what we have been able to include within the limitations of the available space and we apologise if your article wasn't included in this issue.

This issue features a Q&A with Jack Gilliland the Provincial Membership Officer, which gives an interesting insight into the work of the PMO and his team and the success that the Province has enjoyed with the number of new brethren joining Essex Lodges which has arrested the decline in membership numbers.

This is your magazine and we would be delighted to receive your feedback and comments on how the magazine can be improved or what would like to see featured in future issues of the magazine.

Finally we would like to thank Roger Wacy for his valuable contribution and exceptional support over the years as Editor and publisher of the Essex Mason Magazine.

The Essex Mason Team.

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Essex vs. East Kent

Inaugural Provincial Golf Match



A very enthusiastic response from our Essex Masonic golfers quickly filled the available places for the first inter provincial golf match to be held for several years. We had 14 players from Essex including our Honorary Captain for the day APGM Peter Hollingsworth.

The event was hosted by the province of East Kent at Gillingham golf club on 11th May . It was a bright, sunny day, perfect golfing conditions, leaving no excuses for poor performance.

We had a great time and enjoyed the social interaction with our new friends from East Kent . They really were a good friendly bunch who made us all very welcome.

The final result was that the match was halved a draw (5 matches of which 2 won, two lost and one halved). That was a fair result and one that everyone was happy with. We eagerly look forward to the return match which will be hosted by Essex, date and golf course to be confirmed.

Membership of the Essex Provincial Golfing Association is open to members of any Essex Lodge, Chapter or other Order or those who meet in other Provinces but live in Essex. An official handicap is not a prerequisite of membership.

Anyone interested in joining the Essex Masonic Golf Association to enjoy some fun days out and in particular if you would like to represent the Province on the golf course.



Ross Martin Nearest the Pin



Gurmit Chana nearest pin in 2

Please contact W.Bro Steve Wall, Competition and Membership Secretary with your contact details and your handicap (if you have one).

stevewall04@gmail.com 07957891619.

£160,000 Donated to Build Skreens Park



At the Essex Scouts AGM at Skreens Park on 18th July, the new High and Low Ropes Activity Centre was on show.

This is the Legacy item supported by Essex Freemasons to celebrate the Tercentenary of organised Freemasonry in England. The meeting was attended by Paul G Reeves, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Chris Hicks, Chairman of the Essex Tercentenary Committee, and Mark Harrison, Essex Tercentenary Committee member, and Scout.

There are 4 sections, High Ropes, Linear Frame, Low Ropes and Wheelchair Course. These were made possible by the generosity of Essex Freemasons with your donation of £160,000.

All the safety certificates have been received and the construction complete. The Centre started using the equipment at the end of July after the staff were fully trained on the elements and opened officially in August 18.

(left) V.W.Bro Paul Reeves and Chris Hicks by the High Ropes Centre at Skreens Park. Plus Wheel Chair course, Low Ropes and Linear Frame



Villerica Lodge 4053



At the Villerica Lodge 4053 meeting on Saturday 21st April 2018, W.Bro Fred Steed was presented with a Certificate of 60 years of meritorious service by W.Bro Peter Hollingsworth APMG.

Fred was initiated into the Villerica Lodge on 23rd April 1958. His father had been Master in 1954 and Fred was Master in the year the Lodge celebrated its 50th Anniversary. He held the position of Asst Secretary and then Secretary in the late 70's and early 80's.

He retired from the Secretary's post in 1987 because he moved firstly to Leighton Buzzard in Beds and on his Retirement to Suffolk in 1989.

Since then his Masonry has been more focused on Suffolk. He was a Founder Member of Laconic Lodge No: 9771 and subsequently it's Master. He has been awarded Past Provincial Junior Warden in both Essex and Suffolk.

At the same meeting the Worshipful Master W.Bro's Matt Lucas and W.Bro Chris Jeakins (Charity Steward) presented the APMG with a cheque donating £10,000 to the Essex 2022 Festival.



Benfleet Lodge 3798

The Centenary of Benfleet Lodge No. 3798 was celebrated at an Emergency Meeting held at Saxon Hall, Southend Masonic Centre on the 22nd. February 2018. The meeting was attended by the Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Rodney Lister Bass OBE together with the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and members of the Provincial Executive.

The Lodge was opened in excellent form and was delighted to receive the Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Rodney Lister Bass OBE together with the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and members of the Provincial Executive.

The Lodge history, highlighting the last 100 years of Benfleet Lodge was delivered by W.Bro. S. Hollands, after which the Provincial Grand Secretary, Worshipful Brother Philip Lovelock read out the new Centenary Warrant to the Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Master then presented and entrusted the Centenary Warrant to the Worshipful Master Mark Inns. He then bestowed on the Worshipful Master a promotion with the rank of Provincial Grand Steward to mark the occasion.

The then Provincial Grand Chaplain, W.Bro Rev. Martin Howse (APMG), delivered an Oration and blessed the Benfleet Lodge.

The Worshipful Master rose and presented to the Provincial Grand Master, on behalf of the members of Benfleet Lodge the sum of £10,000 to go to the Essex 2022 Festival. At which point Worshipful Brother Peter Hollingsworth Assistant Provincial Grand Master, presented the Worshipful Master with a framed certificate which stated that the Lodge had reached Patron status of the Essex 2022 Festival.

Greetings were read from Worshipful Brother Douglas Wilson, PPJGW, who, at the age of 99 years and a subscribing member of the Lodge for 72 years, was unable to attend due to his advancing years.

The raffle held at the Festive Board raised £1,000 in aid of Stisted Hall, TLC Appeal and Paediatric Nursing Team Rochford and Southend



Centenary Meeting

Tracing Board Club

Castle Point Lodge 9122 Following a tradition of allowing new members to participate in ritual presentation at the earliest stage, Alan Anthony, The then Lodge D.C. posed the question of taking it to a further level

Having this in mind, he then encouraged the lodge's latest Fellowcraft member at the time, Jøe Doherty, to learn and present the Second Degree Tracing Board, while still a Fellowcraft Freemason himself. Jøe readily accepted this challenge and became the first member of the lodge to achieve this accolade.



(left) W.M. Rob Alabaster with Jøe Doherty

Not knowing if this would continue into the future, the next Fellowcraft, Matt Harrington, was also encouraged to do the same. This was again successful and was subsequently followed by Darren Ridgwell, Adam Horn and Gregg Workman. It was at this stage, following this success, that Alan thought they may have the beginnings of what might be considered to be a 'Tracing Board Club'.

Alan set about designing and commissioning a lapel pin that would be awarded to each member who met the criteria. At their meeting on 13th March 2018, when two more members were passed, the Worshipful Master Rob Alabaster,

presented these five members with the unique lapel pin consisting of the two great pillars, represented in open lodge by the Warden's columns, and the Fellowcraft's rosettes, depicting that it was a Fellowcraft Freemason who presented the Tracing Board.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. Nick Franklin was present and congratulated the members on their considerable achievement, saying that he hoped the new 'Tracing Board Club' would continue long into the future.



Interview with Jack Gilliland Provincial Membership Officer

Essex Mason: Jack can you please tell us a bit about yourself

I am 34 years old, I was Initiated into Freemasonry by my Father in 2006, progressing to the chair in 2014, during that year I was appointed as a Provincial Grand Steward. I am a member of various other side orders, and I am currently MEZ of Liberty of Havering Chapter. This year I took over from Elliot Chevin as the Chairman of The Essex Cornerstone Club, having previously served as it's founding treasurer. My day job keeps me quite busy outside of Freemasonry!! I work as a surgeon at The Royal Free Hospital in London in the Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) and Liver Transplant Unit.



Essex Mason: What is the role of the Provincial Membership Officer and how many members are in your team?

The Provincial Membership officer (PMO) is responsible for continuing and evolving the concept of pro-active recruitment, managing and monitoring enquiries to UGLE and our own Provincial website. The role of the PMO is part of UGLE's Membership Focus Group, who's purpose is to improve attraction, selection, mentoring care and retention rates, as well as assisting Lodges to develop and implement a membership strategy with a view to attracting suitable candidates. Our Membership Team consists of 8 Group Membership Officers (GMO's) responsible for Lodges within Masonic Centres in the Province

Essex Mason: What channels are used to attract potential candidates?

We make use of all available channels to attract potential candidates, mainly through enquiries on the UGLE website, the Essex Provincial website, as well as social media including Facebook & Twitter. We also have an Exhibition Team and Display Trailer to promote Freemasonry in the Province at shows, exhibitions and open days.

Essex Mason: Has the Sky Documentary 'Inside Freemasons' been a factor in stimulating interest?

Hopefully it marked a watershed in the process of improving the general public's impression of Freemasonry. Following the first episode of the Sky documentary, we certainly saw a rise in the number of applications we received via our websites. A number of these applicants have since been initiated into Essex Lodges. This also corresponds to a rise in media coverage, as we saw following the report in the Guardian newspaper this year, and the subsequent "Enough is Enough" campaign response.

Essex Mason: How do you assess/screen potential candidates to determine if they are suitable to becoming a Freemason?

All applicants are initially sent a screening questionnaire to check that they meet the basic criteria to become a Freemason and also provide some background information about themselves and their reasons for wanting to join.

Each application is then assessed on an individual basis before being filtered to a local Group Membership Officer based on where the applicant is looking to join a lodge, whether that be near to home or work for convenience.

Our Group Membership Officers then meet each applicant at least once individually in an informal setting to talk through their application. The GMOs further assess the reasons for wishing to join, their understanding of what Freemasonry is, what they seek to gain from membership, ensuring they fulfil the spiritual and moral qualifications, and talking them through the commitment involved and the process of joining. If our team believes that the applicant would make a good candidate they are then introduced to a Lodge that we feel matches their individual needs. The Lodges are encouraged to get to know the applicants socially before being put through the Lodges own formal application process. Our team remain on hand to guide the applicants and assist the Lodges throughout the whole process.

Essex Mason: How many candidates have been successfully brought into Essex Lodges by the scheme and what percentage of the enquiries makes it through to membership?

The Provincial Membership Team was established 1 year ago. In that time we have received over 400 applications. We have so far overseen 40 successful initiations with a further 30 who have dates for initiations scheduled later this year. This represents just under 20% of all applications through our Membership Team making it to initiation.

Essex Mason: How vital is the role of Lodge Mentor in ensuring that the new Brethren are engaged to help secure their interest and retention?

Through looking at membership statistics we know that it is in the time from Initiation to becoming a Master Masons that our new Brethren are at their most vulnerable. A significant proportion (20%) of new members leave the craft within two years of initiation, often before becoming a Master Mason. We know that if the new Freemason perceives either the ceremony or the actions of the Lodge and its members to be anything other than positive, or if his early expectations are not met, he may consider ending his membership.

It is here that the Lodge Mentor, personal mentors and sponsors (supported by the Provincial Mentoring Team) have a small window of opportunity to respond to all early reactions, to address any questions or concerns and to provide the support that the new Freemason needs. The desired end result is a member who enjoys his Freemasonry, has a growing understanding and appreciation of it and is willing to continue his membership and commitment at a level that suits and satisfies him.

Essex Mason: Will your team's function become an integral part of 'Pathway'?

The Provincial Membership Team will be overseeing the development and delivery of the new Provincial Membership Pathway, in conjunction with the Provincial Mentoring Team. The Pathway is an integrated, non-prescriptive system designed to increase and maintain the long term membership numbers of our fraternity including the Royal Arch. Our intention is that the Pathway system will create and sustain a focused membership and thus underpin the future needs of the Craft and Royal Arch. The pathway covers the journey a man takes from being an interested non-mason to a committed Freemason. It is a planned approach of 11 steps that Lodges can follow to attract, introduce and retain members. It draws upon good practices developed in growing and thriving Lodges in Provinces all over the Country. We have already received interest from a number of Lodges throughout the Province and more information will be made available soon.

Essex Mason: Thank you for your time Jack in giving us all this interesting insight into the excellent work carried out by you and your team in bringing in new Brothers into the Fraternity.

Garden Party 2018 a great success !

by Andrew McLeod



It matters not how much an event such as The Summer Fete is planned no one can predict the weather and It was a sizzler with clear skies, scorched grass and record temperatures! Fortunately Essex Freemasons are resilient and extremely loyal and the entry numbers were high. It was lovely to be in the park like grounds which surround the Hall again with its magnificent Cedar trees and many stalls dotted round. There was entertainment for all the family and judging by the fun and laughter a lot of enjoyment with it.

The Provincial Grand Master Rodney Lister Bass OBE was accompanied by his wife Margaret and joined in activities with a broad smile and good humour adding to the atmosphere of friendship.

An event like this involves a large body of volunteers without whom there would be no Fete. So thanks to all the Lodges and Chapters who bought tickets and donated so generously, those who pulled together teams i.e. car parking, cream teas, children's and other entertainment and those working behind the scene i.e. the garden working party, residents' raffle, paramedic, risk assessment, the scaffolding and the PA system. Then we have help from the Stewards Lodge and of course the RMBI who allow us to use the facilities. Lastly the Trustees of the Association of Friends who give huge help and guidance.

To Essex Masons thank for your support and glad that The World Cup and Wimbledon did not prevent you from giving generously and thank you to the TEAM for all the hard work and effort to make 2018 a success.

Initial figures suggest a surplus of £6,000 and it may be more for which the Residents will be hugely grateful as it provides those little extras which mean such a lot to them.

The date for next year will be Sunday 14th July when we celebrate our 20th year, under the Chair of Dennis May.

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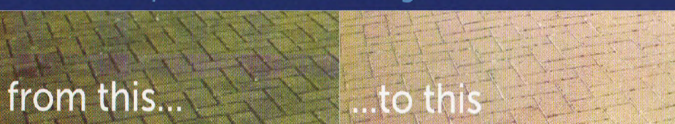
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The Provincial Website

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The R.W. Provincial Grand Master is seeking to form a small team with the skills, time & inclination to help the Province to design/create, publish/host and manage a new public-facing and a separate new internal (members only) Provincial website. This will ultimately replace the current public-facing website and The Cube.

We are indebted to W.Bro Colin Felton, the Provincial Communications Officer, for the work that went into the present websites but his increasing workload as Provincial Grand Charity Steward (as the Festival gathers pace) have precluded him for undertaking the rebuild.



The current public-facing website is already successful in attracting direct applicants for membership of Essex Freemasonry and we hope to be able to build upon that success. If you believe you have the time & ability to help us achieve that please contact the Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro Phil Lovelock, at philip.lovelock@EssexPGL.org.uk and let him know what your particular areas of expertise are and what you would be able to do for us.



Visiting Romania

One of the greatest pleasures masonry offers is to visit other Lodges and to receive visitors to your own Lodge. Seeing the varying traditions and rituals practiced by others is both enjoyable and an education in itself as well as making new friends.

I met Bro. Mihai Ogasanu when he was working in Southend for a few months and having invited him to various meeting we kept in touch on his return home to Romania. The result was a visit to his Lodge in Bucharest, Romania by W.Bro. Chris Smith and myself.

The Temple (pictured) where Bro. Mihai meets was designed by another member of his Lodge, W.Bro. Tudor Radulescu who is an architect now living and working in London. W.Bro. Tudor has visited Woodrolfe Lodge at Tollesbury and one of the meetings of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex at Great Queen Street.

While in Bucharest we visited their parliament building which we were told is second only in size to the Pentagon. It has one massive room after another and corridors that seem to go on forever. One pair of curtains hanging in a magnificent stair well would have needed a crane to lift them into position due to their weight and length.

The only consistent thing I have found when visiting and particularly when visiting abroad is the welcome. It says a lot about this wonderful organisation of freemasonry which we enjoy.

Bro. Mihai's Lodge are keen to 'twin' with an Essex Lodge and to enjoy exchange visits. If your Lodge is interested in this possibility please contact me at bwright4609@yahoo.co.uk

W.Bro. Brian Wright

Manor of Newland Lodge 6403



followed by a Festive Board which continued in the same vein of brotherly love, but in a more relaxed and humorous atmosphere.

R.W.Bro Rodney Bass proposed the toast to W.Bro Jack in a very warm and affectionate manner, relating at one point how it was W.Bro Jack's father who had first proposed the young PGM into Freemasonry. During the course of the evening the Charity Steward, W.Bro Henry Bass PPJGW presented a cheque for £500 to the PGM as a donation to the Essex Provincial Festival 2022.

The Manor of Newland Lodge No.6403 held it's 71st Installation meeting at Witham Masonic Hall on Thursday 26th April 2018. The meeting was a very well supported occasion with the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro Rodney Lister Bass OBE, accompanied by W.Bro Lee Taylor, ProvGDC in attendance.

It was the second time that W.Bro Jack Keyes had been installed the Chair of King Solomon. The previous occasion took place 34 years ago and W.Bro Jack made it apparent that the passing of time had not diminished his gift with the Ritual in any way. The Ceremony was





W.Bro Jack Bookless 70 Years in Freemasonry

W.Bro. Jack Bookless PPJGW, being presented with his certificate for 70 years meritorious service to Freemasonry, by W.Bro. Laurie Justice PSGD, APM, in his last act as APM of the William of Colchester Lodge 5255. Jack was Initiated into the Irish Constitution, before becoming a joining member of the William of Colchester Lodge in 1971.

Jack is pictured with W.Bro Laurie Justice, and two of his nephews from the Irish Constitution, who made the journey, to complete a most memorable evening for Jack.



Triple Anniversary at St. Osyth's Priory Lodge No.2063

W.Bro Tony White PSGD on one of his first official visits as APM presents 60 year Certificate of being a Freemason, plus two 50 years certificates at Colvin Memorial Temple, Clacton-on-Sea.



W.Bro Ian Gibson received a Framed Certificate of 60 years service to Freemasonry.

W.Bro Tony White gave a short testimony of the personal history and Masonic career of Ian who had been Initiated into our lodge on the 17th Jan 1964 and was Worshipful Master in October 1976. He was presented with a letter from Rodney Bass OBE the Provincial Grand Master. Ian expressed his thanks and honour of being a member of the Lodge for so many years.



W.Bro Norman Good with a framed Certificate of 50 years in Freemasonry.

During the presentation, the APM gave a short resume of the personal history and Masonic career of Norman. He was presented with a letter from Rodney Bass OBE. the R.W. Provincial Grand Master.

Norman expressed his thanks to W.Bro. Peter Harris in particular for the excellent work in conducting the research W.Bro. Tony White PSGD presented. Three senior members of Norman's previous lodges, honoured Norman with their surprise visit to this very special occasion, W.Bro. Ian Cobban, and W.Bro. Richard Frood of St. Andrew's Lodge No. 803 and W.Bro. Peter Thomas of Audley Lodge No. 7281



W.Bro Maurice Tarling received a framed Certificate of 50 years service to Freemasonry.

The APM gave a brief testimony of the personal history and Masonic career of Maurice, who was Initiated on the 17th November 1967 He was also presented with a letter from Rodney Bass OBE the Provincial Grand Master. Maurice also expressed his appreciations and honour at being a Freemason and a member of St. Osyth's Lodge No 2963 Lodge.



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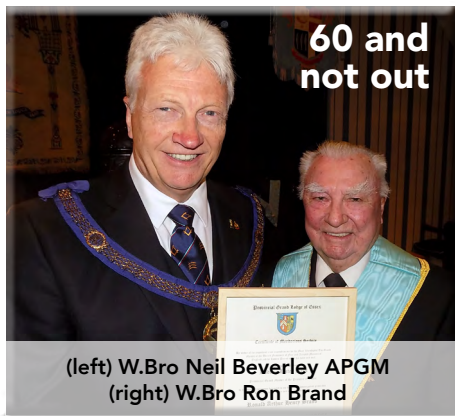
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W.Bro. Ron Brand 60 Years in Freemasonry

60

December 17, 30 Brethren and guests gathered at their Bagshaw Lodge's Christmas Meeting in Loughton to celebrate W.Bro. Ron Brand's 60th Anniversary in Freemasonry. The meeting coincided with Ron's 87th Birthday, so it was a double celebration.

APGM, W.Bro Neil Beverley, honoured the meeting and presented Ron with a special Scroll, as well as a limited edition "pin" to wear on his lapel. He recalled also attending Ron's 50th Anniversary meeting, and said that he hoped that the two scrolls would always take pride of place on the mantelpiece.



(left) R.W.Bro Rodney Lister Bass
(right) W.Bro Frank Sharp

W.Bro. Frank Sharp 50 Year Certificate

On the 17th March 2018, the members and guests of Belfairs Lodge No.4730, were honoured by the presence of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Rodney Lister Bass, OBE, along with members of the Provincial Executive.

On this date 50 years ago, W Bro Frank Sharp, PJGD, ProvSGW, had been initiated into Belfairs Lodge by his father-in-law, W.Bro Bertie Cross, and in recognition of W.Bro Frank achieving 50 years in Freemasonry, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master was pleased to present him with a Certificate of Meritorious Service. In addition to receiving the Certificate, the members of Belfairs Lodge also presented W.Bro Frank with an engraved crystal decanter and an engraved heavy maul.

The maul had been turned on a lathe by W.Bro Danny Lowry and engraved with the names of the Lodge members by W.Bro Brian Catt - both of whom are members of Belfairs Lodge.

Basildon Lodge 7798



W.Bro Roy Lockett 50 Years In Freemasonry

Basildon Lodge had cause for celebration at its regular meeting on 26th January.

The Lodge was honoured by an official visit by the Provisional Grand Master, R.W.Bro Rodney Lister Bass OBE and Assistant Provisional Grand Master W.Bro John Davies PSGD.

The Worshipful Master Michael Howes conducted the ceremony of raising Bro Daniel Mahoney to the Second Degree following which a cheque for £1,000 was presented to the APMG for Festival 2022.

The highlight of the occasion was the presentation of a certificate to W.Bro Roy Lockett, by the RW Provisional Grand Master, in recognition of Roy's 50 years in Freemasonry. Roy was also presented with a rose bowl by the Lodge.

Further congratulations were made to APMG John Davies and Basildon Lodge's

guest organist W. Bro D W Sharp who have also recently achieved 50 years in Freemasonry. The meeting concluded with a very enjoyable Burns Night Festive Board

(above) Provisional Grand Master, R.W. Bro Rodney Lister Bass OBE and Assistant Provisional Grand Master W. Bro John Davies PSGD alongside W.Bro Roy Lockett.



W.Bro Melville Goodchild 50 Years in Freemasonry

50



WBro. Reverend Martin Howse, APGM on his first official visit presented on behalf of the PGM a 50 year Certificate to W Bro. Mel Goodchild on 24th May 2018.

Mel was initiated into Thundersley Lodge No. 5225 in March 1968 but was unable to pass through the Officers' ranks of Thundersley Lodge due to his work commitments. The majority of his Masonic career has taken place in Dublin under the Irish Constitution, where he has been in the Chair in Victoria Lodge IV (2004 and 2005) and Skillet & Trowel Lodge (2009).

He was appointed the Foreign Representative for the Grand Lodge of Slovakia at the Grand Lodge of Ireland in December 2013.

Mel was awarded the rank of Past Pursuivant in March 2017. Members of Thundersley Lodge were also honored with the presence of MW Bro Douglas T Grey, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of AF&A Masons of Ireland and his Grand Secretary R.W.Bro Derek Moffatt. "

(left) Certificate being presented by the APGM with the WM W Bro. Ken Berry looking on. (below) Mel and his guests, including the Grand Master of Ireland and his Grand Secretary, as well as the APGM, his DC and the WM of Thundersley Lodge. The photographs were taken by Bro Stephen Hodder of Thundersley Lodge and should be credited to his screen Stephen Hawke, i.e. "Photo Credits Stephen Hawke". Please let me know if you have any queries.



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W.Bro. Ashley Hitchcock Receives 50th Anniversary Certificate

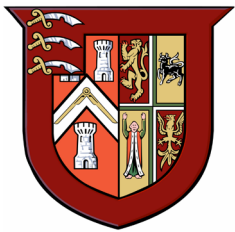
On Monday 30th April 2018 Southchurch Hall Lodge No.8005 celebrated their Installation meeting and was pleased to receive W.Bro. Ken Montgomery APGM, who was making

an official visit to the Lodge. While present at the meeting, W.Bro. Ken Montgomery was pleased to present W.Bro. Ashley Hitchcock PPGSwdB with a 50th anniversary certificate.

W.Bro. Ashley Hitchcock is currently the secretary of Southchurch Hall Lodge and was supported on his special day by many members and guests.



General Enquiries
sales@essexmason.co.uk



Essex First Grand Principals

The acceptance by the ME Second Grand Principal, ME Comp Russell Race DL, of the invitation by the MEGS, E.Comp Rodney Bass OBE, to be the honoured guest of the Chapter on 19 April 2018, was a highly significant event for Essex masonry, and to have received his address entitled "The Future of the Craft and Royal Arch in tandem".

At the convocation of Essex First Principals Chapter 3256 on 19 April 2018, the ME Second Grand Principal, ME Comp Russell John Race DL attended as an honoured guest of the Chapter. His address entitled "The Future of the Craft and the Royal Arch in tandem" emphasised the 4-stage masonic journey as a seamless thread from Initiation in the Craft to Exaltation in the Royal Arch, acknowledging that different personal circumstances of Brethren meant that this masonic journey is slower for some than for others. In answering questions, the ME Second Grand Principal observed that a mason's commitment to masonry is greater if that person is also a member of the Royal Arch.

The MEGS thanked the ME Second Grand Principal for his excellent address, and noted that in Essex, Royal Arch membership is rising whilst membership numbers in the Craft remain generally flat, and that the quality of candidates into the RA depends largely on the quality of intake

into the Craft. The MEGS presented two "Chair Books" to the ME Second Grand Principal and to his GStB as tokens of the Chapter's appreciation of his talk, which was warmly applauded by the 187 Companions present. At the following Festive Board, ME Comp Russell Race thanked the Companions for the warm welcome shown to him and to his Grand Standard Bearer, and gratefully received a personal boxed gift of Glenfiddich from the Chapter.

(All enquiries to E.Comp Ian C Marshall, Scribe E, Essex First Principals Chapter 3256 at ianmarshall112@gmail.com)



(left to right) E.Comp Jeffrey Conway (Second Principal); E.Comp John Robertson (First Principal); ME Comp Russell Race (ME Second Grand Principal), Rodney Bass OBE (MEGS); E.Comp Graham Larke (Acting 3rd Principal).

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Earlham Chapter APGP to APGP

E.Comp Elliott Chevin (APGP) was delighted to present Arthur Lucas (APGP) with a cheque towards the Festival 2022 on Thursday 17th May at Chingford Masonic Hall.

The cheque was presented on behalf of all the members of Earlham Chapter and gave the Chapter Vice Grand Patron Status, a great achievement so early in the Festival.

The members and visitors also witness a superb exaltation of Comp. Richard Spencer, a member of Earlham Lodge.



(left) E.Comp Arthur Lucas (APGP)
(right) E.Comp Elliott Chevin (APGP)

Grey Friars Chapter 5169



On Monday 23rd April, E Comp Ian Simpson, PAGDC, APGP, presented the Chapter with a Patron's Certificate in recognition of their contribution so far to the Festival 2022 Appeal.

E Comp Simpson congratulated the Companions, this being only the third full Patron's certificate to be awarded to a Royal Arch chapter since the Festival 2022 Appeal was started. He very much looked forward to returning in the near future to present a Grand Patron's award.

E Comp Simpson (on the left) with E Comps Paul Pitt, H, Græme Lockwood, MEZ, and Martin Lee, J.

Roding Chapter No. 3090 75th Anniversary Celebration

On Thursday 12th April 2018 at Loughton Masonic Centre, Roding Chapter 3090 celebrated their 75th Anniversary

On this joyful occasion the chapter was honoured by the attendance of E. Comp. Cliff Thoms Dept. Grand Supt. E. Comp. Clive Rees 2nd Prov. Grand Principal, E. Comp. Philip Campbell 3rd Prov. Grand Principal accompanied by other members of the Provincial Executive and E. Comp. Geoff Turpin Prov.G.D.C.

Following the induction of E. Comp. O.D. Bullman into the 1st Principals Chair the Provincial Grand Stewards Demonstration Team presented "The Royal Arch in Camera - Your Chapter in



Focus" which was received with applause by the companions. E.Comp. Oliver D. Bullman presented the Dept. Grand Superintendent with a cheque towards the 2022 Festival. The Dept. Grand Superintendent presented the Chapter with a framed certificate on achieving Patron status

Have you taken your Next Step?

Find out more about becoming a Royal Arch Mason and complete the story.

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Monday 5th November

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Old Parkonians Chapter 4709 50 Years as a Royal Arch Mason



(left) E. Comp Philip Campbell Provincial 3rd Grand Principle (right) E. Comp Craig Clarke

Comp. Craig Clarke celebrated 50 years as a Royal Arch Mason at the 2017 November Convocation of Old Parkonians Chapter No. 4709 at Chingford Masonic Hall. He was presented with his 50-year Certificate by the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, E. Comp. Phillip Campbell.

The afternoon was further enhanced by a very interesting talk given by E. Comp. Ian Simpson APGP entitled Women in freemasonry nah! Afterwards, 16 Companions dined in true Masonic style.

At the November meeting this year The Old Parkonians Chapter celebrate their 75th Anniversary

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Help to Buy Guide

Help to buy encompasses two schemes. The first is an equity loan, where the Government will loan up to 20% of the value of a new home to anyone with a minimum of 5% deposit.

The equity loan scheme is interest-free for the first five years, after which there will be a charge of 1.75% (which will rise in line with the Retail Price Index) plus 1%. The loan can be repaid in full without penalty any time within 25 years or on the sale of the property.

The second, which the Government launched on 8th October 2013, is a mortgage guarantee which will encourage mortgage lenders to lend to people with small deposits. This was made available from January 2014 and can be used to purchase new build or existing properties.

The mortgage guarantee is made to the lender by the Government and means in the event of repossession the Government will cover the lenders losses.



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01245 495111

In order to qualify, applicants must pass their lenders credit and affordability checks and also meet appropriate criteria to ensure that they can pay back the loan.

Help to Buy cannot be used for properties in which the applicant will not be living, such as buy-to-let, nor is it to corporate buyers.

Buying a home is one of the biggest purchases an individual can make, making good legal advice and support essential.

Your Next Step



Four Reasons to Join the Holy Royal Arch

- 1 Complete your third degree**
Take the opportunity to fill the gaps left in Craft Masonry after the Third Degree
- 2 Experience the ceremony**
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- 3 Understand the strong link**
The Grand Master heads the Craft and the Royal Arch. Our Provincial Grand Master also heads both
- 4 Grow your masonic connections**
Royal Arch Chapters typically have a mix of members from multiple lodges

Complete your Masonic journey; take your fourth step

Remember to speak to your Lodge Royal Arch representative who can help



www.essexroyalarch.org

Interested in knowing more
RAMembershipOfficer@EssexPGL.org.uk

In my role as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies for Essex I am regularly asked questions regarding protocol and procedure. I will therefore be writing articles in the forthcoming editions of the Essex Mason magazine, intended to answer some of the more common ones.

Jewels

One of the more common questions I receive concerns the correct wearing of Jewels, especially as we are moving towards the Festival 2022.



In a Craft Lodge the Royal Arch Jewel takes precedence over all other Jewels and as such should be worn closest to the centre of the body and your heart. In a Royal Arch Chapter a Companion would wear his a PZ Jewel next but in a Craft Lodge that is incorrect; as a PZ Jewel should not be worn in a Craft meeting; in the same way that you would not wear a Past Master's jewel in a Royal Arch meeting.



If you were a member of the Craft between 24th June 2016 and 31st December 2017 you are entitled, if you are already or become a Master Mason, to wear a Tercentenary Jewel. It should be worn immediately next to your RA jewel (if you have one). Next to that you should wear your Past Master jewel and any Centenary jewels you are entitled to wear.

The current Festival Jewel (page 19) is then worn last, to the outside of the body.



In many Provinces it is generally accepted that when a Past Master is appointed to Provincial Grand Rank he no longer wears a Past Masters Jewel. In fact, it is normal practice In many lodges for a Past Master to return his PM jewel to the lodge to be re-used when he becomes a Provincial Officer, a nice sentiment and a saving for the Lodge.

Whatever the norm in your lodge, Essex protocol dictates that Provincial Officers who hold an acting/active rank do not wear a Past Masters Jewel; the only exception being if they are attending a meeting of their Mother Lodge.

Aprons

Another point with regards to correct dress is with regards to the correct wearing of aprons. A very simple and general guide for getting the height of the apron right on the body is to always have the waist band of the apron just above your jacket pockets.



This should place the top of the apron just below the top button of the jacket (as demonstrated left).

Some aprons come with a small piece of material stitched on the back, just below the top of the apron, called a 'becket'. This is simply hooked over the top button of a jacket and stops the apron from slipping down.

The apron may feel a little high at first but you will note how much smarter it looks, compared to the "gun slinger" look adopted by some brethren. If your apron did not come with a becket a 2" length of shoe lace sewn on the back of the apron will do the job perfectly well.

If you have any other questions or areas of protocol that you would like

me to clarify, please contact me and I will do my best to answer it directly or, if it is likely to be of interest to a wider audience, in a further article.



W. Bro Lee Taylor, PAGDC, ProvGDC
lee.taylor@EssexPGL.org.uk



FOR YOUNG MASONS...

...ESSEX CORNERSTONE CLUB

The Cornerstone club has been established to help connect young Freemasons (37 years and under) who are spread across the Province of Essex. The Club was established 2 years ago and in that short time has become an established part of Freemasonry in Essex.

Hosting events throughout the year it's a great way to engage new and young initiates and enable them to feel part of the wider masonic community.

It's certainly been a busy 6 months for the Essex Cornerstone Club. We have held a wide range of events for our members which have been extremely well attended and with a lot more to come during the rest of 2018.



New Chairman Jack Gilliland taking over the reigns from Elliott Chevin

The year was kicked off by our Annual Members Dinner. Club members (along with our Club Patron the Deputy Provincial Grand Master) attended London's world famous The Ivy restaurant in January. The exclusive black tie event saw members come together to celebrate the two year club anniversary.

During the evening a few announcements were made to introduce a new club President and Chairman. Firstly we welcomed in our new President Reiss Duthie who has taken over from James Tyrell. Secondly, we said goodbye to our Founding Chairman Elliott Chevin with Jack Gilliland taking over from him. During his after dinner speech our new Chairman thanked Elliott for everything he has done for the club during his tenure.

Elliott has been pivotal in forming this wonderful club and we wish him well in his future masonic endeavours. We know that we're in good hands with Jack and Reiss who will continue the good work started and look forward to their leadership and ideas during their time at the helm.

Planning is well underway for the 2019 dinner, however The Ivy will take some beating! Hot on the heels of our annual dinner, members of

the club visited the Mayor of Scaredy Cat Town, one of East London's latest secret 'speakeasy' drinking dens, in February.

Hidden behind a Smeg fridge door, and accessible thanks to a cheeky request to see 'The Mayor' at the Breakfast Club bar, our members descended the stairs into a basement filled with fun, food and great drinks.



We welcomed in our new President Reiss Duthie

Clay Pigeon Shooting

After starting the year off eating and drinking in style, we decided a bit of outdoor pursuits was in order for our March event.

Over 26 Essex Cornerstone club members and their guests attended a clay pigeon shot at the Essex Shooting Ground in Fyfield.

Club members arrived and enjoyed breakfast expertly prepared by our committee before a safety briefing and practice rounds before a competition round with Bro Ian Graham taking the win (narrowly beating our new Treasurer Jon McDonald). It was a fantastic day which also saw the attendance of Club Patron and DPGM Paul Reeves who provided guidance and moral support being a keen shooter himself.



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Churches Homeless Emergency Support Scheme



One of the objectives of the Cornerstone Club is to help promote a sense of charity and community amongst our members and on Saturday 7th April the Essex Cornerstone Club embarked on its first volunteering project of the year for Churches Homeless Emergency Support Scheme (CHESS). CHESS seeks to relieve homelessness, hardship and distress amongst single adults in Chelmsford and across Essex. They do this through the provision of support services and temporary accommodation that helps those in need move on with their lives.



The aim of the day was to assist with the clearing of gardens and driveways that had become overgrown at the head office and to help decorate and clear the gardens at one of the temporary homes in the centre of town. We quickly split into two teams and got to work!

Barbara Buxton, CHESS Business Support Manager, explained to the volunteers how volunteering for jobs like these helps save the charity money, money that can now be spend on more of the core services that they provide to the community.

Thank you to the 12 Essex Cornerstone members who gave up their time for this great cause, also a special mention to those Masons outside of the club who came along too.



Going International Frère

The club continues to grow with our membership now at over 150 members and it has been great seeing a lot of fresh faces at events this year. We are only half way through the year and have a number of great activities coming up.

The Cornerstone Club this summer will once again be going international! After the success of our trip to Scotland last year we are heading to the European continent with a trip to France. The sunny seaside Town of Le Touquet in Northern France is home to Le Touquet Loge no. 89 under the Grand Loge Nationale Francaise (G.L.N.F) who have invited us to visit and experience Freemasonry in the Province of Flanders. The lodge has a strong connection with Essex and has welcomed many members and guests from our Province over the years.

For full details of all our upcoming events check out our website www.essexcornerstone.com or see our Facebook page.

Committee Update



With the Changes announced during the members' dinner at The Ivy, our committee now has a new line up:

Jack Gilliland - Chairman
Reiss Duthie - President
Richard de la Plain - Deputy Chairman

Jack Saunders - Communications
Barry Hayward - Communications
Jonathan Glynn - Secretary
Jon McDonald - Treasurer



Join Today

If you're a mason who is 37 years or under, why not join!

Visit

www.essexcornerstone.co.uk/members

find out more.



@youngmasonsclub



essexcornerstone.com



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Support the MCF

Your local charity and make a difference



By Colin Felton, ProvGChStwd

At the time of writing, Essex Freemasons have raised more than £1.8 million for the Festival 2022 Appeal and thanks to you we are well on our way to reaching our total of £5 million – and who knows – we may well exceed it.

At this stage some of you may be thinking – that's ok but "I would rather be supporting my local charities." If that is the case then here comes the good news – by raising money for the Festival you are supporting your local charities – and even better, you can help decide where the money goes. I will explain how that works later in this article.

We are raising money for the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) which is in effect our local charity and every year some £1 million comes back to Essex to support good causes and of course brethren and their families in need.

Here are just a few of the grants that the MCF has made on your behalf using money from Essex Freemasons:

- £52,000 to Kids Inspire in Chelmsford**
- £25,000 to Colchester Hospital**
- £15,000 to Southend Society for the Blind**
- £20,000 to St Francis Hospice, Romford**



Kids Inspire in Chelmsford



Colchester Hospital



Southend Society for the Blind



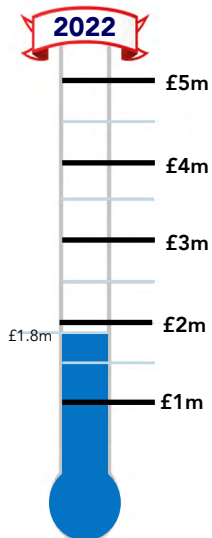
St. Francis Hospice (Romford)

It would not be difficult to publish an almost endless list of other local charities that have received help in every part of the Province in the last 12 months and this process never stops because the MCF is a living charity that spends funds as it receives them.

No one Lodge or Chapter could afford to make grants of this size and they really make a difference and you and the members of your Lodge or Chapter can now do the same.

I urge you to talk to your local charities and ask them what would make a difference. They are of course grateful for the £100 or £200 you give them from time to time which is vital for the day to day needs of most charities – but let's talk the big stuff.

Festival Thermometer



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Work with your Local Charity

Ask about those major capital items – maybe a new minibus, a vital piece of expensive equipment or a key member of staff. Such items that would make such a difference can be funded with a grant from our local charity – the MCF.

The charity has to apply for the grant by going online to <https://mcf.org.uk/community> and during the application they should indicate that it is with the support of your Lodge or Chapter.

By this means you are effectively helping to decide where your money goes but it must be emphasised that the MCF can only support one grant application in eight as they simply do not have a bottomless pit of money.

When you work with your local charity please consider those schemes that are likely to have the greatest impact on our Essex community as these are the ones more likely to attract a substantial grant – and if you are not successful then try again the following year.

Without our support then the MCF cannot continue with its vital work which is why our Festival 2022 Appeal is so important. You as an individual or as a Lodge a Chapter can help in so many ways.

As an individual please take out a regular payment promise. You can obtain a form from your charity steward or go on line to <https://mcf.org.uk/festival/essex2022/> The good news is that you can still spread your payments over five years and at £8.50 a month plus Gift Aid you will qualify for a Festival vice patron jewel; £17 a month for a Patron and £25 a month for a Grand Patron.



If your Lodge or Chapter has “war chests” please let us have that money now – it will attract 2% interest to swell your total still further. You can still have a presentation at the end of the Festival to mark your contribution.

And finally it our intention to build a charity pot based on Craft beer and lager sales. For every pack purchased at £25 we will credit for £4.80 of it to your Lodge or Chapter and most centres retail the ale at a bottle of time. If you are having a party or barbecue please order our beer in advance and we will deliver. If you drink beer – please drink ours.



Finally, if you need support then please e-mail at colin.felton@essexpgl.org and I or a member of my team would be happy to visit.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex takes part in 2,500 mile relay for Lifelites



Essex recently took part in a unique charity fund-raiser to support Lifelites, the charity which donates and maintains assistive technology for children in hospices across the British Isles. The event involved Simone Enefer-Doy, the Lifelites chief executive, visiting a famous landmark in nearly every Province in England and Wales in just 14 days in what was probably the wackiest relay ever. The route covered nearly 2,500 miles and the transport for each leg of the journey was provided by Freemasons from within their Province.

representatives from Southend Masons, who presented her with a cheque for £1,500. Both these cheques contributed to their incredible fundraising total of over £103,000.

Simone said: “Essex Freemasons are great supporters of Lifelites, and we are so grateful that you stepped forward to volunteer your time to help transport me as part of this 2,500 mile challenge. The trip has really captured people’s imaginations. We have had an incredibly eclectic mix of transport to take me to all four corners of England and Wales and I can’t thank our volunteers enough for lending their pride and joy to help Lifelites achieve this challenge. It’s the wackiest relay ever!”

To find out more about the work Lifelites does, please visit the website at www.lifelites.org



Mad David and his terrifying experience for charity



Harwich truck driver and Essex Freemason David Todd has taken to the air raising more than £1,500 for local charities in the process strapped to the top of a Boeing Stearman bi-plane at speeds in excess of 130 mph.

The walk, which took place at Damyns Airfield near Upminster, which David afterwards described as the "most terrifying experience of his life" lasted for around 15 minutes as the plane banked and circled over the Essex countryside.

"I had to lose two stone before they would let me fly," added Dave, aged 53. "I previously weighed 14 stone so the weight loss was an added bonus to the money we raised for charity."

"Wing walking is not the kind of thing you expect Freemasons to be doing, but we continue to confound people with all kind of different ways to raise money. I

have to say though that while I was strapped in the chair all I could see was the propeller just three to four feet away – scary."

"I believe that I am the first Essex Freemason to try something like this and while I enjoyed the experience my wife, Beverley and the rest of my Masonic colleagues thought I was mad."

David has been an Essex Freemason for 10 years now and belongs to four Lodges in the Harwich and Clacton areas

For further information please contact Colin Felton on 07850 292368 or e-mail colin.felton@essexpgl.org.uk



Freemasonry in the Community: Sensory Shed for Leverton School

June 13th 2018 saw the grand opening of a Sensory Shed for special needs children funded by local Freemasons at Leverton School.

Leverton School have a number of pupils with special needs including those who are Autistic or suffer from Asperger Syndrome. To help these children in the school they needed to provide a 'safe place' for them to retreat to. Having looked to the normal sources for funding and being unsuccessful they thought the project would never get off the ground. Then the Grandfather of one of the pupils heard of their plight and suggested that a local Masonic Lodge could possibly assist.

Forester Lodge 7760 was approached with a proposal to contribute to the costs of building "The Hub", a sensory shed where the kids could escape the pressures that aggravate them. The Lodge decided that they would fund the entire project donating £1,800 for the construction. This was increased to £2,000 with a personal donation by the Organist: Tom Kelly.

Work started about a year ago and was completed in the last few weeks. A further personal donation of £1,500 by Tom Kelly allowed the area surrounding the Sensory Shed to be completed with artificial grass enabling "The Hub" to be used in all weathers.

The opening of The Hub was attended by members of Forester Lodge, Parents, School Governors and Teachers but the most important guests were the pupils that will use the facilities. Aimee and her son Reggie, who is autistic and non-verbal, showed us how the Sensory Shed is used by the children and how it can transform a difficult to manage child into a relaxed, calm person. Reggie absolutely loves the Hub and was keen to show us the sights, sounds, textures and smells. Another pupil who is constantly angry and aggressive has been totally turned around by the hub and his mum says he is a completely different boy.



Forester Lodge will continue to work with Leverton School to ensure that the Hub remains open and a valued resource for the special needs pupils.

Provincial Grand Charity Steward
W.Bro Colin Felton PADGC colin.felton@essexpgl.org



Have you got your Festival Jewel?



Support the Festival by going on-line and Staking out a Regular Payment Promise (RPP) or making a donation.

Visit <https://mcf.org.uk/festival/essex2022/>
Jewels are issued free of charge as soon as a member signs an RPP or (if they haven't signed an RPP) as soon as they have donated enough to achieve at least Vice Patron status for Essex Festival 2022 (£500). Lodge Charity Stewards must inform the Provincial Charity Steward when a Brother qualifies so that his Jewel can be forwarded to him. Colin. Felton@EssexPGL.org.uk

Jewels are now also available from members of the Provincial Charity Stewards Committee direct. The completion of an RPP form will ensure immediate presentation of a jewel.



Roding Lodge 3090

At the Roding Lodge meeting in April we were proud to be awarded Vice Patron of Essex Festival 2022

The award was presented by V.W.Bro Paul Reeves Deputy Provincial Grand Master to our

Worshipful Master W.Bro Michael Dougall and our Charity Steward W.Bro Stuart Macmillan



Old Esthameians Lodge 7693

At the May meeting held at Chingford Masonic Hall, The Worshipful Master W.Bro Neil Duggan of the Old Esthameians Lodge 7693 presented a cheque for £1,000 to W.Bro Ken Montgomery (APGM) for a contribution towards Essex Festival 2022

W.Bro. Martyn Mordecai presenting a cheque for £250 on behalf of Essex Quadrant Lodge to the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance trust. Overall £12,500 was raised by the Lodge which just pays for 4 emergency call outs for the Air Ambulance.



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The evening of 25th April 2018 history was in the making for Naze Tower RAM Lodge.

No longer struggling for members saw the Elevation of 5 new members into the Lodge



WC Brian Mardle seen here with new Brothers Alan Keyte, John Adams, Andy Sylvester, Simon Tallowin and Roger Dimmock



www.essexmark.co.uk

Rose Croix News Districts of North and South Essex



North Essex Rose Croix has had a tremendous year with 20 Perfection ceremonies and 22 joining members giving us a net gain of 9 members for 2017/18 across our 18 Chapters. Congratulations to everyone for their efforts in achieving this, with Candidates for Perfection and joining members already lined up for 2018/19.

Congratulations to Barry Pewter who was promoted to the 31° in July. The Inspector General was delighted to be with him at Supreme Council on the day to help him celebrate his well earned promotion.

The annual Service of Evensong will take place at St Peters in the Fields, Bocking on Sunday 28th October at 4pm overseen by the Reverend Tim Barnes in his own unique style. Refreshments will be available following the

Service at Howard Hall and booking forms will be available during Summer.

North Essex District Recorder - Ill. Bro. Clive J P Cœ 31°

Inspector General, V.Ill. Bro. Paul Tarrant, 33° has been pleased to visit many of the Chapters in South Essex and is looking forward to visiting the remainder during this year. Unfortunately, 'The Beast from The East' caused Wickford Chapter's meeting to be abandoned.

At the meeting of Thames Estuary Chapter No 634 held on 10th April the Inspector General was delighted to present a certificate to Ill. Bro. Spencer Fenn, 32°, to commemorate 50 years in the Order. Spencer moved to Warwickshire many years ago and pursued his Rose Croix interests there but elected to have his certificate presented by V.Ill. Bro. Paul in his mother chapter. It was a very enjoyable meeting which also saw the Perfection of E&P. Bro. Lee Taylor.

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Our next District event is the Annual Service of Evensong which will be held at Upminster on Sunday 21st October 2018, followed by a buffet at Upminster Masonic Hall. Please put the date in your calendars now. This is a very special occasion and it would be splendid to see a good turnout on the day.

South Essex District Recorder - Ill. Bro. Eric Terry 31°



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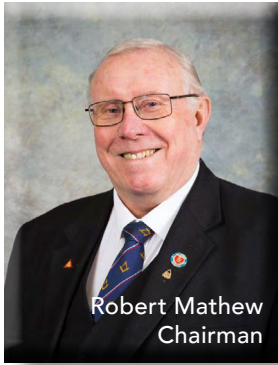
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Keep an eye out for the Mark Awareness Evenings planned for October to December at a number of centres around the Province

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Robert Mathew
Chairman

A YEAR AT HAMILTON COURT

Well I have completed my first year, as the Chairman at Hamilton Court and to say it has been eventful would be an understatement! Within the first month I had an emergency call from Sue (the scheme Manager) saying that one of the residents W.C had overflowed! To cut a very long story short all the sewers were completely blocked, we called in DynaRod and found that the last manhole which was all of 10 feet deep and needed clearing, as the saying goes "up to your neck in it!!" This was quickly followed by having to replace all of Washing Machines and Tumble Dryers.

Last year our Scheme manager Sue Walters decided to retire after 15 years of dedicated service to Hamilton Court. The position was offered to Mrs Sarah Skinner and we are very pleased to report that Sarah has, in the short time she has been with us, has been a very popular choice with her professionalism and friendly personality. I attend on a weekly basis to catch up with Sarah on the day-to-day running of Hamilton Court and we are both very well assisted by the members of the Committee.

Next was a reported problem with the roof leaking into one of the units and after a few attempts of using a 'drone' to take pictures, we had a scaffold erected and we found a split in the lead gully which now has to be replaced at a large cost.

A few years ago the kitchen was upgraded with new appliances being installed and we are now planning to changing the bathrooms to 'wet rooms'. This work can only be carried out when the flats are empty and this would need to be carefully planned, as it would create a lot of dust and noise.

This year we have held a B.B.Q, evening entertainment with Supper and Singers, Wii bowling and darts, and for the first time a trip to the dogs, Quiz nights and a St Georges tea with a good old - fashioned sing song. We also tried out a Sunday Soup & Sweet for residents that were at a loose end over the weekend, this proved a great success. The residents also arrange events such as Birthday Parties, Fish and Chips evenings.

The scheme has its own Charitable fund the Hamilton Court Charitable Association which relies upon the generosity of Masons within the Province, by the way of donations from Lodges, Chapters, Other Orders, The Essex Mason and personal donations. This fund enables us to continue along with the tireless work of the committee in enhancing the lives of our residents.

I would like to make a plea to all the Almoners and all the members of the Executive - Please visit us at Hamilton Court to see the facilities that we provide and if you think they have a member or widow who suffers from loneliness or is struggling with their situation, please put your name on our waiting list, as believe me, once they move in they will never regret it.

Provincial Grand 'JOGLE'

blog by Geoff Turpin

Following the success of the 'Travelling Gavel' when a number of Essex masonic cyclists led by W.Bro Trevor Back visited every Masonic centre in the Province covering 300 miles over 3 days in April 2015 to raise funds for the '8 Aid' initiative, Trevor had another idea, how about 900 miles in 8 days!!

It turned out his idea this time didn't involve three laps of the Province but cycling the length of Great Britain, not the slightly more sensible option of Land's End to John O'Groats he wanted us to do it from John O'Groats to Land's End, (no it's not downhill) hence Team 'JOGLE' was formed and comprised of Trevor Back, Daniel Rosewell, Adrian Deadman and myself.



So with Travelodge's, Premier Inns and the like all booked, final preparations were made, the support van set off on the 13th of July for the long drive North. Trevor Dan and I flew up from Heathrow on the 14th July.

We were completely self-funded, so to avoid the additional costs of getting a driver, Adrian volunteered to drive the van accompanied by his wife Tracey until Day 5 when Trevor's wife Somei joined the team and Adrian joined us on the road.

Following the overnight stay in a rather basic hotel in John O'Groats, on beds with mattresses about as thick as a tea bag, (not the greatest nights rest I've had) my confidence was high until the waitress at breakfast that morning who when told what we had planned looked at Trevor, looked at Dan and finally exclaimed "what even you" when she looked at me!

Thus JOGLE began and became a reality with those 900 miles ahead of us!

Day 1 John O'Groats to Inverness – 122 miles - Not a great start, we got soaked, and had to make do with sandwiches as the café that we planned to stop at was closed!

Day 2 Inverness to Perth – 122 miles - Another 100 plus miles we had particularly strong headwinds that day and they started with another long climb to get out of Inverness however, at the end of the day we received a morale boost when a couple of Brethren from the Lodge of Zetland joined us for a drink or two.

Day 3 Perth to Lockerbie – 111 miles - A day of highs and lows, beautiful views of the bridges over the Firth of Forth as we descended towards Edinburgh, strong headwinds again made it tough.

Day 4 Lockerbie to Preston – 126 miles - This was the longest day in the saddle, we passed through Gretna Green which saw us finally back into England. We had now got into a regular routine of 4 refuelling stops at approx. every 30 miles.

Day 5 Preston to Ludlow – 120 miles - This included a few cross border excursions into Wales, great scenery.

Day 6 Ludlow to Taunton – 120 miles - The weather was good which kept us in high spirits as the last two days approached.

Day 7 Taunton to Bodmin – 99 miles - We left Taunton with darkening Skies and heavy rain by the time we reached Exeter the heavy rain had turned into a deluge and it was also very cold!

Day 8 Bodmin to Lands End – 74 miles - The final day which we knew would be tough because we wanted to be taken back to where we finished day 7. This meant the first 20 miles just got us back to where we'd spent the night, but we'd did it!!

With a few wrong turns on route we had ridden 895 miles. It was a fantastic shared experience. It was so tough but well worth all the effort. We have raised in excess of £10,500 for the festival 2022 because of the fantastic support we received from the Masons of Essex as well as family and friends.

Would we do something similar again..... watch this space.

Annual Provincial Almoners Conference



"I want you to be able to go home and say to your lodge, it was a good use of time, that you learnt something new and that you will be a better equipped Almoner as a result of the conference"

Large Numbers Gather for the Almoners Conference

On the 20th April 2018 the Provincial Almoner's team staged the first conference of its kind to a packed Saxon Hall crowd who gathered in glorious sunny weather. The sun was very evident both outside and also inside as almoners travelled from all over the county to a warm reception given by the Provincial Almoners team.

Stewards greeted 255 people as they arrived. The occasion was enriched with many members present from the provincial executive including the Provincial Grand Master; this was indeed a great honour for the delegates as the PGM had an official engagement to be elsewhere that day.

Conference was opened by the Provincial Grand Master and thank all for attending in such large number. The Provincial Grand Almoner Nick Clarke presided and gave the opening address.

Nick Clarke the Provincial Grand Almoner presented excellent speakers and leaders in their field.

- Les Hutchinson - Chief Operating Officer - Masonic Charity Foundation (MCF)
- Natasha Ward - Lead Support for Lodge Almoners at the MCF
- Mark Lloyd - Managing Director at the RMBI,
- Prof. Chris Booth - Chief Executive at CHAPS (Men's Health)
- Eleanor September and David Watling, both Beneficiaries of the MCF

Conference was closed by the Provincial Grand Master who thanked everybody for attending and he asked all delegates to go back to their homes and start to reflect on just how important the role of the Lodge Almoner is and to brief their lodges on the conference they have been a part of.



Nick Clarke - Provincial Grand Almoner



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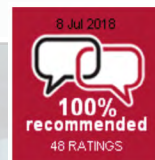
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Support for Essex Masons & Dependants

The Essex Provincial Charity Fund - The fund exists to look after Essex Brethren and their dependants in times of immediate need. 95% of the fund's income comes from Lodge donations and to enable us to provide assistance the fund would greatly appreciate your support. To find out more or to donate contact the Provincial Grand Almoner, W.Bro Nick Clarke, on 07768 067817 or nick@nickclarke.19.co.uk or see the Welfare Section on the Cube.

Southend & Essex Masonic Welfare Trust Registered under the Charities Act 266577 - Suppliers of equipment such as wheelchairs, walking frames, etc, which will be loaned free of charge to Essex Freemasons and their families living within the Province of Essex, to aid those suffering from illness or recuperating from surgery. Contact the Duty Trust Member on 07732 378656.

Following the success of the recent Essex Almoners Conference at Saxon Hall, the Provincial team have had many enquiries with regards men's prostate Cancer screening events. Prostate cancer is our most common male cancer causing 11,800 deaths per year.

Events that have taken place so far have proven invaluable to attendees, creating awareness of the disease as well as identifying the need for treatment for some individuals. At a cost of £20.00 for screening, attending an event could be the best decision you make this year.

The following events have been set up below for your considered attendance:

4th September – CHAPS at Colchester

30th October – CHAPS at Chingford.

To book your place at one of these events please contact Trish Binks at trish.binks@chaps.uk.com or call 07734 747854



Provincial Grand Almoner
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Albert Lucking 2717

The APM presented Grand Lodge certificates to 3 members but sadly was unable to present Bro. Les Steptoe his 60 year certificate as Les who is finding things a little difficult these days, was unable to attend.

The certificate will be taken and presented to Les at a later date in the year. Finally, it was our Fish Night festive board and a special night as Stuart James who has compared the event for some 15 years is finally standing down and handing over the reins to Austin Latham."



Famous Fish Night

What a great final meeting for our Worshipful Master, Paul Marshall. His year in office culminated in this 'swan song' of a day. He strongly opened the meeting to some 60 members and visitors. He had a special visitor requiring admittance namely W Bro. Tony White our new APM. Paul went on to perform a second degree with the help of his officers and Chris Bull delivering the tools and Paul Field a faultless explanation of the second degree tracing board.



The Federation of School Lodges in Essex - Hosted by Old Parkonians Lodge 4709 (The Provincial ADC Lodge)

On Saturday 26th May the Old Parkonians' Lodge 4709 met at Chingford Masonic Hall hosting the Federation of Essex School Lodges.

With over 60 members and visitors, the meeting was honoured by an official visit of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W.Bro. Paul Reeves PGSwdB who was warmly welcomed by the Worshipful Master Peter Low.

Later in the meeting, V.W.Bro. Paul was made an honorary member of the Lodge for his support and encouragement during the Lodges transformation in to a Lodge for Acting and Past Acting Provincial Asst. Grand Director of Ceremony's.

V.W.Bro. Paul, thanked the Brethren and then presented the Lodge with a Vice Patron Certificate for the Essex 2022 Festival.

The Festive board was reminiscent of school dinners with sixty Brethren enjoying cottage pie and beans, jam roly-poly and wagon wheels.

There were also a few detentions given for misbehaviour!!

The next meeting is Saturday 27th October when W.Bro. Phillip Walker will be installed as the new Master.

10th ANNUAL ST. GILES MASONIC CENTRE QUIZ NIGHT



The quiz night at St Giles has always been a lively staple in its calendar, but this 10th "Space" themed outing under the stewardship of W.Bro. Paul Masters has been, in masonic terms, almost riotous.

After the drama of the 2017 quiz with its very close and controversial finish.

School Dinners

Being served by Dinner Ladies brought back memories



W.Bro. Peter Low got a little too carried away with his role as Headmaster



Team "Olivia Colman" representing United Lodge No. 697 - stormed out in front with a nine-point lead under the unifying leadership of their captain, W.Bro. Andy Colsell. After an average start two rounds of full marks and a good second half, assured their place on the leader board. The "Wooden Spoon" trophy was awarded to the "Lovely People" of Colcestria, it seems they do not wish to give it back.

All the centre members and their guests had a thoroughly enjoyable evening, dining on a wonderful spread ably organised by Laura and her team. The profits from the evening, £650, have been donated to St. Giles Masonic Building Fund.

Boarsfest at Boars Head, Braintree, raises £1,250 for Little Havens Hospice

A mini festival at a popular pub in Braintree raised £1,250 for a children's hospice.

Boarsfest took place at The Boars Head, in High Street, Braintree, over the weekend of the May Bank Holiday, raising money for Little Haven's Hospice.

Bands from across the area, including Sounds Better Naked and Pure DC, performed at the venue in a special marquee set up in the pub's beer garden.

The £1,250 raised across the weekend means the pub has collected a total of £7,750 for the charity this year.



Seven Kings Lodge 2749 Host 22nd Boars Head Event

On the 15th December 2017, Seven Kings Lodge No 2749 once again hosted the 22nd Boar's Head Event at Upminster, which has this year been the best ever with over 140 attendees, £3000 worth of toys and a record of £3060 raised in cash. And in addition to that we had the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Rodney Lister Bass, who congratulated W.Bro Peter Banks, on the further improvements that had been made at the centre. He was also very supportive of the Boar's Head event, and impressed with the vast collection of toys for the children.

Every person wishing to come to the meeting was required to bring toys, all of which have been distributed to Harlow, East Ham, Basildon and Broomfield Hospitals and were extremely well received by the staff and we are sure, the children. This wonderful meeting has raised over 150k for children at Christmas. In addition, this year supported the MCA trust in a Christmas Party for all the sick children and their siblings. Father Christmas (aka Albert the Dwarf) was attended in the grotto by five elves (three of whom were Peter's grandchildren) and thirty eight of the children were from Great Ormond Street Hospital.

A whole host of characters from TV and film arrived to the amazement of the kids and there were many other attractions.



Lodges at Maldon Masonic Centre are supporting a disabled Ex – Serviceman Andy Bracey.

Andy who is from the Maldon Area, but who now resides in Southend was injured in a motorcycle accident during leave from the Army. After several unsuccessful operations on his spine he was confined to a wheelchair, and was told he would never walk again.



He thought at the time that his life was over and found that he could not cope anymore. But after pulling himself round over several years, took to Wheelchair Basketball, where one of the team members told him about Wheelchair racing. He found himself being chosen for the Invictus Games in Orlando in America, where he won two silver and two bronze medals for Britain, wheelchair racing on the track. He was again chosen for these games and went to Toronto Canada and returned with 4 silver medals. He wants to now compete at International level, which means a better class of racing and these trials will be held in Switzerland and Australia. However to achieve his goal and to bring back gold medals he needs to raise £4000.00, and has asked the Freemasons for their support. Wheel of Fellowship Lodge 9016 have donated £200.00 towards his cause, and the other Lodges at Maldon will be supporting him as well.

(left to right) W.Bro. Bob Hendrie (Lodge Secretary), Andy Bracey & W.Bro. Alan Reid (WM).

Send your event articles to magazine@essexmason.co.uk



Henry De Gray 6627 70th Anniversary

below; W.Bro John Davis (APMG) presents a Patron Certificate to W.Bro Steve Hall (Charity Steward) overseen by W.M. Barry Leech (left)



Henry de Gray Lodge 6627 celebrated its 70th anniversary on Saturday 2nd June at Thurrock Masonic Hall. The Worshipful Master W.Bro Barry Leech overwhelmed and honoured to be Worshipful Master of the Lodge during its 70th year.

The initiation of Bro. Chris Holden was carried out in a faultless way and will be something that will stay with him forever. The Lodge was presented with a Patron certificate for the contribution to 2022 Festival. All was followed by a excellent festive board, great food, great company, followed by a social evening which enjoyed by member, visitors and their wives. A special mention to W.Bro Martin Castle in arranging the music for the social evening, and a great day in the Lodges history.

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Colchester Masonic Dining Club

The Colchester Masonic Dining Club had a very enjoyable meeting at the St Giles Centre on Wednesday the 13th of June. Following a splendid meal our chairman Mike Rumsey mentioned that we would welcome another two members onto our committee.

He also welcomed back Gordon Wakely who has not been well for several months. It is customary when the present chairman steps down, that the members nominate local charities to receive donations from the club, and members were informed to look at their E-mails so that they can download the form to submit it for consideration. There were two guests and we formally welcomed them.

Our guest speaker was David Ablewhite, whose talk was titled "King Edward VII 55 women". As a young man he spent much of his time enjoying the social life, hunting, shooting and fishing much of it in the company of young ladies. It was the many ladies which David described in some detail that "Bertie" was involved with, which the audience found the amazing at the stamina he must have had, burning the candle at both ends.

Our next meeting, The Harvest Supper, will be held on Wednesday, November the 14th at 7.00 pm, our ladies and non masons are invited. Please contact Mike Rumsey 01787 211975 for more information about our club.

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Gunfleet Lodge 6884 Off to a flying Daylight start

Following the move from Kirby Cross to the Colvin Memorial Temple in Clacton, Gunfleet Lodge No 6884 held its first meeting as a Daylight Lodge on Saturday 27th January and what a very special occasion it proved to be with ten visitors to witness the first ceremony of a Double Initiation.



This follows on from an Initiation at the last meeting in Kirby Cross and so the future is looking bright with lots of interest from potential joining members too. For many reasons some Brethren do not wish to drive at night or dine in the evening or may have professional commitments and so a Saturday morning Daylight Lodge has many benefits for them. It was great to see Worshipful Brothers Arthur Barker and Martin Pearse in attendance as both have been suffering ill health for some time but especially wanted to be at our first meeting at the new premises. The Lodge now has ceremonies arranged to the end of the 2018/19 season which is fantastic news.

For further information, contact Lodge Secretary W.Bro Andy Ladds 01255 679448 or via email gunfleet6884@gmail.com

Stisted Hall Golf Classic

Association of Friends PEDOKC host a splendid Golf Classic at Braintree Golf Club Stisted Monday 4th June 2018

Last year the Provincial Grand Master said at the presentation ceremony that he would make up a team in 2018 and true to his word he did. He was joined by some 57 other players to make this a really excellent competition.

As we have come to expect the event was very ably arranged by Jeff Cripps and Nigel Oldacre and not forgetting two other stalwarts of the Association Graham Larke and Eric Broadbent, our comic duo who generated smiles all round!

The weather was not too hot and not too cold with no wind so no excuses there, and the course was in fine condition too. What more could we want than for all to enjoy themselves, which they did, with many pledging to come back next year and do even better.

With diversity ever in mind Ian Parker bought along 3 ladies to make up his team who were delightful and a special welcome to them.



After a hearty supper PGM Rodney Bass OBE presented the

The Event raised £900 for the Association of Friends which was a wonderful result. Thank you everyone for their generosity, time and above all their friendliness.

If you are interested in taking part in next years Golf Classic please contact Jeff Cripps jeffrey-cripps@sky.com



Team Winners David West James Taylor
Michael Manning and Mickey Fox



Winner of The Claret Jug Bob
Simpkins

Rainham Lodge 3079

On Saturday 9th June Nick Franklin APM had an enjoyable visit to Rainham Lodge, all be it one delayed by the snow in March. W.Bro Gary Clubb who has worked hard as Rainham's charity steward for thirteen years had the honour of handing over, Rainham's latest donation to the 2022 Festival, a cheque for £1000.00 which had been raised by the brethren.

Ensuring the handover went without a hitch was Worshipful Master Grayham Curtis-Thomas who is

enjoying a successful year as master and took part in raising one of his younger neighbours Bro Kevin Randall on the same day. Grayham is looking forward to retiring as a chef later this year, a well deserved rest having cooked 400 lunchtime meals for many years.



(left to right) W.Bro Nick Franklin APM, W.M. Grayham
Curtis-Thomas and W.Bro Gary Clubb PPSGD

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH



A PERSONAL LETTER BY DR DAVID STAPLES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND. THIS HAS ALSO BEEN PLACED AS A FULL PAGE ADVERT IN THE TIMES, DAILY TELEGRAPH AND GUARDIAN

At the United Grand Lodge of England, we value honesty, integrity and service to the community above all else. Last year we raised over £33 million for good causes.



As an organisation we welcome individuals from all walks of life, of any faith, age, class or political persuasion. Throughout our 300 year history, when people have suffered discrimination Freemasonry has embraced them into our lodges as equals.

The United Grand Lodge of England believes that the ongoing gross misrepresentation of its 200,000 plus members is discrimination. Pure and simple.

We owe it to our membership to take this stance, they shouldn't have to feel undeservedly stigmatised. No other organisation would stand for this and nor shall we.

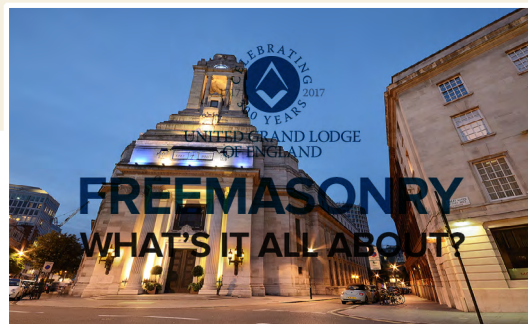
I have written to the Equality and Human Rights Commission to make this case.

I appreciate that you may have questions about who we are and what we do, so over the next six months our members will be running a series of open evenings and Q&A events up and down the country. These will be promoted in the local media and on our website.

I am also happy to answer any queries directly. Please feel free to write to me here at Freemasons' Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ and I will come back to you.

We're Open.

Dr David Staples
Chief Executive
United Grand Lodge of England



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Comrades Lodge

Comrades Lodge presented Colchester Hospitals Charity with a cheque for £1000, in memory of one of its former members. Together with personal donations, the amount handed over to Mrs Caroline Bates, Director of Fundraising at Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals, was increased to £2050.

The donation, which commemorates the life of one of the Lodge's members, W.Bro. Robin Smith who passed away earlier this year, aged 59, will be used to help towards the £3.5 million needed to fund and complete a new and integrated Cancer Centre at Colchester General Hospital. The addition to its facilities, scheduled to complete in 2019, will combine first-class radiotherapy, chemotherapy and medical treatments alongside a range of complementary therapies, information, support and advice for people affected by cancer.

In his lifetime, Robin was a keen sportsman, businessman and Freemason who was greatly respected by his colleagues and peers - it is only fitting that the Lodge donate to a cause which not only gave support to Robin, but by which many other local people will undoubtedly benefit from in the future.

As well as a significant donation to the Festival 2022 appeal this year, Comrades members have also recently donated to other local charities. CHAPS: The Men's health Charity who also receive £1000, Dedham Vale Therapy Centre and Stepping Stones and also nationally to Seafarers (UK) and The Lily



Foundation – all charities close to members hearts."

(ABOVE: left to right) W.Bro. Gareth Campbell (W.M. of Comrades), Mrs Janet Smith, W.Bro. Paul Masters (Secretary) and Mrs Caroline Bates, Director. of Fundraising Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals.



Dates For The Diary

12th September Quarterly Communications Grand Lodge

20th September Provincial Royal Arch Meeting

23rd October Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge

30th October Essex Masters

5th November Royal Arch NEXT STEP

12th December Quarterly Communications Grand Lodge

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