

the essex mason



The Official Journal of the Masonic Province of Essex

Issue 85 February 2019

Holy Royal Arch
Provincial Grand
Chapter
Full Story Page 12

New Online
Supplement
Page 33

**Essex Pathway
Launch**
Page 5

**Provincial DC's
Corner**
Page 15

Young Masons
Page 16



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4 PROVINCIAL NEWS

10 LONG SERVICE

12 HOLY ROYAL ARCH

15 PROVINCIAL DC CORNER

16 CORNERSTONE CLUB

18 CHARITY UPDATE

22 ADDITIONAL ORDERS

24 ALMONER UPDATE

26 EVENTS

30 GENERAL INTEREST

PGM's Foreword



May I first of all wish all Essex Brethren and their families a happy and prosperous New Year. We have a busy programme in the coming year with the prospective consecration of three new lodges.

We are progressing well with the 2022 Festival and two important events at Saxon Hall - the launch of the Members Pathway scheme which was on 2nd February and taking place shortly is Conference for all Charity Stewards on 21st March.

This year we are going to try and consolidate our efforts to engage with and support local communities. To this end I very much support and welcome Masonic Hall open days or other events open to the general public. We are also in the process of establishing a Provincial Community fund so that we can, for example, give support to Lodges for local good causes to augment our broader and well established local charitable giving. You will hear more of these initiatives in the coming months.

In the meantime, let us all continue to enjoy our masonry, if you are receiving honours this year, please consider getting your regalia from Essex Mason.

Rodney L Bass ProvGM/GSupt

Dear Readers,

Welcome to Issue 85 of Essex Mason, the Official Magazine for the Province of Essex.

This issue features a report on the successful Provincial Grand Chapter Convocation held at Great Queen Street in September 2018 and a diverse range of interesting articles and topics including various Charity Fundraising events, New Brethren and Masonic Pride.

Please support the business's that advertise in the magazine, which subsidises the publication costs and thank you for all of the articles submitted to be included in this issue which once again was overwhelming.

Please submit articles to be considered for inclusion in Issue 86, which will be circulated in August to magazine@essexmason.co.uk with a copy deadline of the 31st July 2019.

Thank you to the volunteers for their on going support to Essex Mason Ltd. as well as your patronage which is greatly appreciated and directly benefits Essex Charities.

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Skreens Park high, low, everywhere you go!!

Grand Opening



The High, Linear Ropes Courses and Zip Wire equipment was made possible through a generous donation by Essex Freemasons to mark 300 years of organised Freemasonry (1717 - 2017).
Opened by R.W.Bro Rodney Lister Bass OBE Provincial Grand Master and Stuart Gibson County Commissioner for Essex Scouts 15th September 2018



left to right: Kevyn Connelly (Deputy County Commissioner - Activity Centres) - Stuart Gibson (County Commissioner), R.W.Bro. Rodney Lister Bass (PGM), V.W.Bro. Paul Reeves (DepPGM) at the Grand Opening of Skreens Park Activity Centre, located in Chelmsford - for more details go to <https://www.skreenspark.org.uk>

On Saturday 15th September 2018 the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Rodney Lister Bass OBE, accompanied by Stuart Gibson the County Commissioner for Essex, officially "cut the ribbon" and declared the Ropes Course activity centre at Skreens Park in Chelmsford open, there were also members of the Tercentenary Committee and the management team for Scouts in Essex in attendance.

Initially planned to be one large Rope Course, it now consists of four parts; High Ropes Course with a 100-yard zip wire; Lateral Climbing Rope Course; Low Rope Course; Wheelchair Mobility Course. All of this was made possible by the generous donation £161,000 raised by Lodges and Chapters in Essex over a period of only nine months! This generous donation enabled the Scouts to obtain another £120,000, making the total cost £281,000, to add the Wheelchair Mobility Course and complete the project making it the only facility of its kind in the South East of England.

The R.W. PGM said, "Essex Scouts told us that they needed funding for a new rope activity centre that could be used by all organisations that use Skreens Park and we agreed. We immediately donated £145,000 to cover the cost of the work and decided that the balance will be used to support local Scouts across the county. This activity centre is a wonderful facility of which my members can feel proud and one which I hope delivers many hours of challenge and enjoyment for the young people of Essex."



The Ropes Courses were soon put into action after the opening with bookings for weekends and the upcoming half-term quickly coming in. The fully trained staff were looking forward to being able to use the apparatus.

One element of particular interest is the Wheelchair Mobility Course. This not only allows those with limited mobility to use a state-of-the-art facility and to benefit from it, but also for able bodied individuals to understand the difficulties and limitations that the less able-bodied experience. It is anticipated that the Rope Courses will be a highlight of the Skreens Park Activity Centre and will be used Schools and Youth Groups in addition to the Scouts over many years.

Essex Masons Working with the Community

Essex Freemasons have approved a grant of £15,000 to the Essex Cricket Foundation to help fund a programme to develop wheel chair cricket.

It will enable people with a disability to take an active part in the sport. The money, donated through the Masonic Charitable Foundation will cover the cost of a specialist cricket coach.

The Essex Provincial Grand Master Right Worshipful Brother Rodney Bass OBE commented, "That it will help those with disabilities to overcome obstacles that have previously prevented them from taking part in the sport. I hope that wheelchair users who enjoy cricket will take advantage of this opportunity to learn the more practical skill via the Essex Cricket Foundation."



Wheelchair cricket is a new format of the game played indoors, the game is designed to be played all year round and by participants who require sports wheelchairs

Those pictured include the Essex Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro Rodney Bass OBE; the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W.Bro Paul Reeves, Keith Brown, Chair of the Essex Cricket Foundation, together with Bill Mansell and Patrick Ward from Essex Cricket and Bradley Donovan, aged 21, our wheelchair star.

"Essex Freemasons, working with the local community."





Essex Pathway Launch

By Jack Gilliland
Provincial Membership Officer
pmo@essexpogl.org.uk

On Saturday 2nd February 2019 the Provincial Membership and Mentoring Teams, working jointly as the Provincial Pathway Team, hosted a Pathway Conference to launch the Membership Pathway and the 'PGM's Pathway Lodge' scheme in Essex.

It was held at Saxon Hall, Aviation Way, Southend-on-Sea and a finger buffet lunch was provided to all attendees.

The objective of this event was to share information and details of the new Membership Pathway to help lodges to better understand the Pathway documents distributed from United Grand Lodge of England in October 2018.

The PGM, DepPGM and members of the Provincial Executive attended, along with keynote guest speakers from UGLE, the Improvement & Delivery Group (IDG) and other Provinces where this scheme is already delivering improvements in recruitment & retention.

Lodge of Hope 433 We Will Remember Them

The Lodge of Hope No.433, based in Brightlingsea Essex, dedicated and unveil a bronze memorial at their meeting on November 2018. The memorial was created in memory of the 64 members of the Lodge of Hope that were in service during the Great War 1914-1918, and the 3 members that lost their lives in that conflict.

Two Past Masters of the Lodge, Jeff Hirons and John Carr, created the design of the memorial. It was felt that a simple design showing 2 pillars cast in bronze with a stainless steel engraved plate would help to depict the high regard that the members of Hope have for the members that fought in the conflict. Jeff Hirons proved his skills by creating a mould which Braf Engineering Ltd in Woodbridge Suffolk cast.

The Lodge of Hope are very grateful to the Mr Chris Heath, Production Director of Braf engineering who donated both time and expertise for the memorial. They are also grateful for input that Mr Bill Hiskett at NES Signs in Colchester gave. Speaking on how the plaque looked after coming out of the mould Jeff remarked on how the roughness of the bronze helped to depict the trench conditions of the war, it was felt that inserting a polished stainless steel engraved plate in the bronze, would help to aid reflection, on the campaign.

The memorial will be dedicated by the Provincial Grand Chaplin, the Rev. Mick Scotchmer where Past Master, John Carr will be presenting a paper entitled "A talk on the early history of the Lodge of Hope No.433, and Brightlingsea during the Great War 1914 – 1918" Member's wives, partners and non-masonic guests have been invited to the talk and the white table afterwards. The dedicated bronze will be mounted on brickwork at the front of the Hall in Brightlingsea.



Ostrea Lodge 8209 50th Anniversary 1968 - 2018



On the 7th June 2018, Ostrea Lodge N° 8209 held an extraordinary meeting at the St. Giles Masonic Centre in Colchester to celebrate, to the day, the consecration of the Lodge in 1968. The meeting was attended by over 80 people including brethren from Essex, Suffolk, Scotland and several members of the Essex Provincial Executive including the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W.Bro. Paul George Reeves and W.Bro. Rev. Martin Howse - Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

To commemorate this very important milestone in the Lodge's history, we took this opportunity to renew and replace most of the Lodge furniture, which had served us well for 50 years. Handmade Wardens Columns, Deacon & DC's wands, Collars & Jewels and a new Banner was commissioned. It was therefore decided to combine the 50th anniversary celebrations with the dedication of the new Banner.

After the Lodge was opened, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial team were received and the dispensation was read W.Bro. Paul Fell (Lodge Secretary) gave a brief history of the Lodge, which he managed to do without embarrassing the senior members of the Lodge too much!

The Banner dedication followed, with the Banner party provided by members of the Lodge, comprising both young and old. The dedication ceremony was conducted in a most excellent manner by W.Bro. Mark Gurteen (ProvDepGDC) and W.Bro. Rev. Michael Scotchmer (ProvGChap). This was W.Bro. Scotchmer's first banner dedication and his oration and dedication impressed all those present.

The final item of business was for the Worshipful Master to present the Deputy Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £3,300.00 for the Festival 2022, the cheque was received with thanks by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master who proceeded to present the Worshipful Master with a Festival 2022 Grand Patron Certificate.

After the meeting the brethren enjoyed an excellent Festive Board at which all present received commemorative cuff-links, napkin chains and napkins to compliment their copies of the Lodge 50 year history. A 50th Anniversary, a Banner dedication and a Grand Patron certificate, all in all extraordinary meetings don't come much more extraordinary!



Surprise Sir Prize

Past and present members of the Provincial Executive turned out in force on Saturday October 7th for a surprise visit to Tollesbury Lodge to honour the PGM, R.W.Bro Rodney Bass who was celebrating 40 years in Freemasonry.

Led by the Provincial DC W.Bro Lee Taylor, the 16 member delegation requested entry after the opening, to the total amazement of the PGM who thought he would only be attending a working meeting of his Mother Lodge.



With almost military style precision, planned months in advance by Deputy PGM V.W.Bro Paul Reeves, the Executive gathered in nearby side roads prior to the meeting to ensure total surprise. On a need to know basis only a few selected members of Tollesbury Lodge were let into the "plot" for maximum impact.

As the delegation entered the Lodge the PGM was heard to exclaim "I hope they are all paying for their own meals" as he realised that his 40 year celebration had suddenly turned into something a little bigger, but was clearly delighted with the visit.

To mark the occasion Executive members had contributed to a present for the PGM of a glass cut bowl and binoculars which was presented by the Deputy to mark his 40 years and his 73rd birthday due the following Monday.

The celebration continued into the Festive Board where there was one last surprise – a massive cake for a double celebration.



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Round Table Lodge of Essex 8217

The Round Table Lodge of Essex celebrated their Golden Jubilee year on the 26th September 2018 at the Hutton Masonic Centre. Over 80 Brethren including six past and present APM's and one PPGM had a very enjoyable evening in the temple and at the festive board.

R.W.Bro. Col. Sir Neil Thorne gave a very interesting talk on, 'The past and future of Freemasonry beyond the Golden Jubilee of the Round Table Lodge'. Our Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Alan Harvey, took us on a walk down memory lane, where we looked back over the past 50 years in the Lodge and the outside world. At the festive board, the Brethren were entertained by W.Bro. Miki Travis (Chelsea Lodge), who had the audience in fits of laughter.

The Lodge had the great pleasure of presenting a cheque to W.Bro. Tony White for the sum of £1000 towards the Festival 2022 appeal and a donation was made towards Sir Neil's chosen charity, Children in Distress. Thanks to all our guests for helping us celebrate a great evening and a special thanks to Sir Neil Thorne (PPGM) and to W.Bro. Tony White (APGM).





left to right; W.Bro Paul Harris, R.W.Bro. Rodney Bass (PGM), Ashley Hall and V.W.Bro. Paul Reeves (DepPGM)

Thank You For Your Service

Invictus Games Competitor and British Army veteran Ashley Hall fought back after a terrorist bomb took off both his legs and part of his left hand while on duty in Afghanistan, but even he was unprepared by the callous thieves who stole his specially adapted bike – and his route back to mobility and a more normal life.

Now thanks to Essex Freemasons, Ashley, aged 28, is back in the saddle four months after thieves broke into the shed at his Colchester home, taking the bike and most importantly the special components that enabled him to ride it.

After his story was featured in the Colchester Gazette Rodney Bass, Provincial Grand Master for Essex Freemasons, immediately offered to replace the bike, a task that took four months and the skill of experts from across Europe to fulfil.

"Raising the £8,000 to replace the bike and purchase the modifications was the easy bit," said Mr Bass, who officially presented Ashley with his new machine on Thursday October 18th at the St Giles Masonic Centre in Colchester. "We had to approach a specialist company in Austria, the only one that could build the bespoke specification needed and even they had to order and adapt a wide range of additional components to complete the job. It was a long wait but worth it to be able to get Ashley back in the saddle."

"I was particularly appalled by the fact that thieves who have probably contributed little to the community, had deprived a brave Army veteran, seriously disabled serving his country, and my members agreed. I am delighted we could help." For Ashley, who was serving in the Royal Engineers in 2007 as part of a bomb disposal team at the time of his injury, it is a dream come true.

"I wanted to do all the things that I had enjoyed before the incident," he said. "One of these was riding a bike again on just two wheels, a thing that most people take for granted. The thieves stopped that on the day they broke into my shed." Not that Ashley is a man who is easily deterred. In 2017 he competed in the wheelchair rugby event in Prince Harry's Invictus Games and today practices martial arts – he is a blue belt in Brazilian Jujitsu and enjoys shooting following his Army career.

At the time of the robbery he was in Anglesey in North Wales competing for Team Brit, a racing car event – and enjoys as many sports as he can.



Now he has his new bike he will also be back on the road and has installed several new deterrents for would be thieves.

The £8,000 to purchase the bike and its modifications was donated by members of Essex Masters Lodge.

The images courtesy of Brian Mackett feature Ashley Hall, the PGM Rt W Bro Rodney Bass, OBE; Dep PGM VW Bro Paul Reeves and W.Bro Paul Harris, secretary of Essex Masters Lodge.

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The Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Mess Makes a Ruler's Coup

By Phillip Walker
Mess Secretary

The informal twice yearly gathering of past and present members of Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge and Chapter met on Friday 14th of September for the late Summer Mess at Hutton Masonic Hall.

The evening was Chaired by E.Comp Laurie Justice PGStB First Principal of the Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter with over 90 Brethren in attendance.

An excellent meal was enjoyed by all and a very interesting talk which was created and delivered by W.Bro Paul Masters titled, "The End of the Age of Innocence", a reflection on the years of the Great War, its Masonic casualties and the rebuilding of the Craft.



The evening raffle raised £500 of which £450 was donated to the Essex 2022 Festival and £50 to W.Bro Paul Masters, a member of the Comrades Lodge 2976 Paul choice of charity was BLESMA, the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association.

The evening was honoured by the presence of Mess members, the R.W. Provincial Grand Master for, and Grand Superintendent in and over Essex, Rodney Lister Bass OBE, Past Provincial Grand Masters R.W.Bro. Col Sir Neil Thorne OBE TD DL and R.W.Bro. John Webb DSEM, Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W.Bro Paul Reeves PGSwdB and Deputy Grand Superintendent E.Comp Cliff Thoms PGSwdB.

Upminster's 1st Lodge Cluster Meeting in Nearly 20 Years

By: W.Bro. John Mansfield.

On Wednesday 7th November 2018 the Sylvan Lodge – 6381 hosted a Lodge Cluster meeting, the first in almost 20 years, for those smaller Lodges that meet at The Square in Upminster.

The purpose of holding this Cluster meeting was instigated by W.Bro. John Mansfield PPJGW, Sylvan Lodge No 6381 and W.Bro. Bill Caten Little Heath Lodge No. 5935 in late February of 2018. The rationale broadly being;

- To enable Brethren to join together to increase their Masonic knowledge
- To enjoy each other's companionship
- Provide a good opportunity to rekindle old friendships
- Catalyst for new friends
- Brethren more involved in Freemasonry
- An opportunity of visiting other lodges
- Brethren involved in bigger meetings.
- As well as raising funds for FEST0222

As you can imagine a lot of hard work, planning and organising went into this event to ensure a successful outcome. As a result the event was very well supported. The Provincial Executive gave their full support to this great initiative and in attendance were Very Worshipful Provincial Deputy Grand Master Bro. Paul Reeves, PGSwdB, W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth, PSGD, APGM (for Sylvan Lodge), W.Bro. Lee Taylor, ProvGDC, with other members of the Provincial Executive team, and Grand Officers.

Furthermore, the meeting saw some 27 Lodges with an attendance in excess of 100 Brethren which

exceeded my overall target! Our Guest speaker was W. Bro. Mark Smith, ProvSGD, who added to the event's success with a talk on; "In Pectore Robur" (Heart of Oak) which was very informative, interesting and entertaining.

The Very Worshipful Provincial Deputy Grand Master Bro. Paul Reeves, PGSwdB was presented with a cheque for over £1200 for FEST2022. A great achievement – many thanks for all your support. The afternoon's proceedings were rounded off by a fantastic Festive Board created by the Head Chef – Gary Mitchell and his team. The whole event enjoyed a great atmosphere and camaraderie.

An important part of any Cluster meeting is to keep it going 'year on year' to ensure all Lodges reap the benefit from an event of this importance. So needing a small piece of inspiration on how we might help achieve I looked no further than the Olympic games! As we know the Olympic flame was first introduced into our Modern Olympics at the 1928 Amsterdam Games. Since then, the flame has been passed from host nation to host nation and come to symbolize "the light of spirit, knowledge, and life." Therefore, the 'flame' for our Cluster meeting - a plaque was presented to the 2019 host Lodge – Little Heath No 5935 to ensure we keep The Square at Upminster Cluster meeting continuing for many years, and to become a regular and memorable event in your masonic calendar. A note for your diary, next year's Cluster meeting will be held on Thursday 5th September 2019.



Masonic Trout & Salmon Fishers

13 Intrepid Masons volunteered on Tuesday 18th September to show an equal number of disabled youngsters from an Essex school how to fish for trout at Chigbro fisheries.

The event was organised by the Masonic trout & salmon fishing trust, Provincial APGM Charles Elliot attended to watch and present the prizes after a superb barbecue run by the proprietors of the location. Every youngster went home with a fish. They all seemed to enjoy themselves as the pictures show.



Provincial Grand Stewards' Shoot 2018



The annual novice & experienced clay pigeon shoot, hosted by the Provincial Stewards of the Year on 8th September 2018, was once again well supported by Essex brethren and their friends, families and guests, with 56 attending on the day. As usual it started with a full English breakfast at the Black Bull public house in Fyfield (run by W.Bro Tony Walker of Ongar Lodge No. 4785 and his wife Nicky) before the 30 novice and 26 experienced shooters set off to the nearby Essex Shooting Ground and made their way out to the stands.

The weather was kind but, for some of us, the clays were defiant but even that couldn't dampen the great atmosphere and spirit of rivalry between those taking part; with everyone hoping to win the coveted High Gun award in their category.

After a great shoot everyone returned to the Black Bull for a very pleasant lunch and a presentation for the day's top shooters.

Congratulations are due to:

- Ladies High Gun: Denise Forsdyke
- Novice High Gun: W.Bro Steve Gwatkin of Ronaldshay Lodge No. 3376 (London)
- Experienced High Gun: W.Bro Rob Hollier of Eureka Lodge No. 8761 (Essex)

A raffle followed lunch and the generosity of those present raised £426 which, when added to a generous contribution from Olly Searl (owner of the Essex Shooting Ground) and other small profits, made a total of £1,285.70 raised towards Essex Festival 2022.



High Gun
Ladies Winner



High Gun
Experienced
Winner



High Gun
Novice Winner



The event was supported by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the Essex Masonic Clay Shooting Association (www.emcsa.org.uk) and the Provincial Grand Stewards of 2018 would like to thank them and everyone who attended and contributed to making it a really enjoyable and successful day.

Monkhams Lodge 4161 Third Time Lucky for 3 Masons

At the last Installation meeting of Monkhams Lodge No. 4161 on the 10th January 2019, a unique occasion was witnessed by all.

W.Bro. Paul Thomason was again installed into the chair for a third time, however on this occasion the Installing Master was his father, W.Bro. Eric Thomason.

Thereafter, W.Bro. Paul invested his son Bro. Ben as his Senior Warden and his father as Lodge Organist. It was certainly enjoyed by all present, this being a fairly unusual installation meeting on three levels, the first member of Monkhams to be installed for a third time, three members of his family involved in the ceremony, representing three generations. Now that's certainly an occasion to remember!



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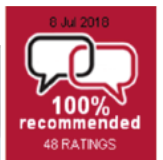
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50 Springfield Lodge

Celebrate 50 years with Cyril Mills



W.Bro Cyril Mills PPJGW being presented with his certificate for 50 years of loyal and dedication to the services of Freemasonry.

Cyril was initiated on the 1st January 1968 at Tudor Lodge 467 in Province of East Leicestershire. Tudor Lodge was sadly erased for the register of Grand Lodge on 8th March 2006 to amalgamate to become Lodge of Friendship No. 277. Cyril was installed as Master of Tudor Lodge on 1st January 1978 and Moved to Chelmsford June 1980

Cyril became a joining member of Springfield Lodge on 25th January 2000 where he has filled every progressive office except Master since joining Springfield. He regularly attends Meetings and GP Committee meetings and is always willing to take on an office on the night if required. Last year he took on the Treasures role for a year.

Lodge of Saint Mary 1312



W.Bro John Davies (APGM) had a busy but enjoyable evening at The Lodge of Saint Mary No 1312 on 12 November when he presented W.Bro. Ken Lacey with a 50 Year Certificate. Originally a London Mason, Ken joined The Lodge of Saint Mary in 1972 and has served it as Master in two years. He celebrated his 93rd birthday on 16th November 18.

The APGM also presented the Lodge with a Certificate marking the award to it of Vice Patron status of the Festival 2022. The Certificate was received by the WM W.Bro. John Adam who was newly Installed on the same evening.

Shoeburyness Lodge 6665

50 Year Certificate and a Joint Blue Table with Thorpe Bay Lodge

by Richard Jordan



Shoeburyness Lodge were delighted to receive W.Bro Tony White Assistant Provincial Grand Master on his first visit, who was able to not only present W.Bro Tony Oliver with his certificate celebrating 50 years in Freemasonry, but he also received a donation of £4,000 to the Festival 2022.

Following the meeting the Brethren of Shoeburyness joined the Brethren of Thorpe Bay Lodge and their APGM W.Bro Nick Franklin for a joint blue table festive board where 121 Brethren and non masons enjoyed a fine festive board and an inspirational talk by ex special forces soldier Jamie Hull. The raffle on the evening raised in excess of £1200 for BLESMA the injured veterans and charity and Shoeburyness got 2 possible candidates and Thorpe Bay 4 so a great evening all round.



Stondon Massey Lodge

Raising & 50 Years W.Bro Peter Roast



Stondon Massey Lodge 7881 were honoured to receive APGM Martin Howse at our November meeting at Harlow.

He was able to witness the Raising of Bro Connor Barnwell, the ceremony being conducted by his Uncle, W.Bro Leigh Barnwell, Connors father W.Bro Mark Barnwell assisted in the ceremony with The Exhortation.

We were able to put W.Bro Martin to work where he presented a 50th Anniversary Certificate to W.Bro Peter Roast PGStdB. A Grand Lodge Certificate was also explained and presented to Bro Keith Digby. At the conclusion everyone enjoyed a festive board of a traditional Christmas dinner.

The United Lodge 697

50 Years W.Bro Jim Mills

W.Bro. Tony White APGM recently attended The United Lodge 697 to present a 50th certificate to W.Bro. Jim Mills. The meeting was held on 21st November 2018 at St. Giles Masonic Centre in Colchester.



William of Colchester Lodge 5255

50 Years with W.Bro Jack Bookless & W.Bro Bill McIntyre



At the Regular meeting in September of the William of Colchester Lodge 5255, W.Bro. Nick Franklin had the delightful task of presenting W.Bro. Jack Bookless, and W.Bro. Bill McIntyre with 50 year certificates.

This was conducted in a very relaxed and convivial manner, with all three sat in the centre of the Lodge with Jack & Bill recalling events during their 50 years of membership, with amazing anamnesis.

Celebrate your Lodges Long Serving Members - Send a Story & Photo to magazine@essexmason.co.uk



(left to right) W.Bro Tony White APGM with Mrs Vera Rolle and Frank Rolle. Standing behind are their son Graham and son-in-law Trevor Blackwell, both Past Masters of the Lodge.

Chingford Meridian Lodge W.Bro Frank Rolle

50

Chingford Meridian Lodge held a "White Table Christmas Festive Board" following conclusion of its scheduled meeting on November 23, 2018 at Chingford Masonic Hall. After the Lodge closed the Officers removed their collars and all of the Brethren remained in full regalia. Non-masonic guests were then invited to join them in the Temple to witness the celebration of W.Bro. Frank Rolle's long service to Freemasonry. They were first regaled with Frank's history from childhood through his service in the Royal Navy and various civilian engineering occupations. A bouquet of flowers was presented to his wife Vera in appreciation of her tolerating that little Blue Book for so many years!

Our APMG W.Bro Tony White PSGD then presented Frank with a 50-year Certificate, a lapel pin and a bottle of cheer in recognition of his dedicated long service. Frank has been the Lodge's Worshipful Master on three occasions in 1981, 1995 and 2007. He continues to serve as its Mentor. The whole evening demonstrated companionship and openness in Freemasonry.

50 Years with Bro Chris Whicher Mistley Lodge

Bro Chris Whicher received his 50 year Certificate from W.Bro Tony White APGM at the November meeting of Mistley Lodge. Initiated into Croindence Lodge on the encouragement of his father and continues as an active member despite having a busy working life with the then, GPO travelling many parts of the World.



Finally he joined an American Company (Rockwell) undertaking a major project in Nigeria following a 12 month pre planning assignment in Texas. Chris's Freemasonry continued whenever possible despite the very many overseas projects he undertook throughout Europe and the Middle East finally setting up home in Texas and raising a family consisting of a Daughter and five Grandchildren all living in Dallas whilst still considering himself British. This was confirmed by regular visit to his Parents and brother in Essex. Like his father (now deceased) and brother Peter, he joined Mistley Lodge in 2014 and is a regular attender when on his frequent trips to the UK.

60

Tillingbourne Lodge 5989 60 Years with W.Bro Bernard Ashby

W.Bro. Bernard Ashby PPJGW. being presented with his certificate for 60 years of service to Freemasonry by W.Bro. Nicholas Franklin PAGDC the APMG.

Bernard was initiated into the Tillingbourne Lodge No 5989 in 1958 and has since occupied most of the roles in the Lodge. Bro Franklin discussed with Bernard his career both in Freemasonry and his working life and the contribution that he has made to the Lodge.



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Provincial Grand Chapter



Distinguished Guests and Companions. It is a great honour and a great privilege for me to address you again as Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Essex at this Annual Essex Convocation – it is now three years since I was installed as your Grand Superintendent and Provincial Grand Master and I have enjoyed every minute in those roles. I have already welcomed our Official guests from other Provinces and from the Metropolitan Grand Chapter – may I now extend a warm welcome to all the Companions here today and I thank you all for supporting our Annual Meeting here in the Grand Temple.

Warmest congratulations to those Companions whom I have had the privilege of investing today. This is your day and I hope it will be a happy and memorable one for you. Provincial honours are, of course, in part a reward for past efforts but they also reflect an expectation of future service for your Chapter, your Masonic Centre or the Province itself. May I thank most sincerely Cliff Thoms for continuing his excellent work for the Royal Arch as Deputy Grand Superintendent. His experience and wise counsel both in the Royal Arch and in Craft masonry continues to be invaluable both to me personally and to the Province as a whole. I also pay a warm tribute to Clive Rees and Phil Campbell for their continuing conscientious and diligent work as Second and Third Provincial Grand Principals respectively.

The Assistants to the PGPs in the persons of Chas Ager, Ian Simpson, Elliott Chevin and Arthur Lucas have also done an excellent job. Chas Ager is stepping down today as an APGP. I thank him for his hard work in that role and his continuing involvement with the RA website is very much appreciated. It has pleased the ME First Grand Principal to authorise me to appoint an additional APGP – John Crudgington in his capacity as Membership Officer – and I have also appointed Andrew McLeod as APGP to succeed Chas Ager.

The Royal Arch Executive has continued to develop, borrow and produce many innovative initiatives around the Province, primarily designed to recruit new Exalteés and to provide a better understanding of The Royal Arch. With the help of The Stewards Chapter and the ever-improving network of Lodge Royal Arch Reps, this has very pleasingly resulted in a growth in our membership, albeit modest given the size of the Province. I see no reason why this trend should not continue, but what is still worrying is the number who are resigning from our Chapters and those who are not attending many, if any, Chapter Meetings. Under the leadership of John Crudgington and his Membership Team, we now intend to devote more attention to what can be done to address these serious issues.

In other Provinces, I am aware that the role of the Chapter Almoner in this regard has been recognised as pivotal. Indeed, there is quite a debate going on across Provinces about the true nature of the Almoner's role. There is a consensus that it's clearly the wrong name for the job envisaged, as it instinctively tends to be thought of as being the same as that of the Craft Almoner. The Chapter Almoner's role is in fact a hybrid combining the duties of Craft Almoner, Mentor and Membership Officer and, as such, is hugely important to the strength and well-being of a Chapter. I want it to be clear that the Chapter Almoner's main task is looking after the welfare of his Chapter; establishing who is missing and encouraging their attendance; not letting them drift into the habit of not attending; letting them know they are missed. A simple phone call, text, email or letter will keep them involved. Other Members, especially Proposers and Seconders, can assist him in this effort. If there is a Companion who is in need of help, then it is the Craft Almoner who has the tools at his disposal to deal with matters swiftly, discreetly and effectively, who should be informed. (I appreciate that this Almoner can be the same person). It is, of course, quite in order for the Chapter Almoner to briefly report that Companion X was absent tonight through sickness and our thoughts should be with him. I am sure some Chapter Almoners are performing their role in the way that I have suggested and I hope that the remainder will now have a clearer understanding of what is needed. The Provincial Grand Almoner and his Team support this initiative and will continue to provide assistance and guidance to Chapter Almoners.

It may be that we need to change the job title to reflect the role, and my Deputy tells me that he has discussed this with Supreme Grand Chapter who appear to be "relaxed" about titles if it facilitates the desired results. Companions, you will all hear more about this in the coming year.

In the long run, the overall strength of The Royal Arch depends upon the vitality of the Craft. The new Membership Pathway document currently being adopted by the Craft, highlights, from the very beginning, the natural progression of Core Masonry from Entered Apprentice through to Royal Arch Companion. The Craft overall is very supportive of The Royal Arch and as this Province has the same Head of both organisations, it should come as no surprise that this link is being continually reinforced in Essex!

I wish to encourage you all to use the Royal Arch website at www.essexroyalarch.org. Not only is this a news and events platform for you to consult and contribute to, but, crucially, we continue to expand its range of materials, lectures and guidelines which we hope will enable Chapters to function more smoothly and provide entertainment and learning opportunities for the advantage of their members. It will certainly help if you can find a space on your Chapter Summons to remind members of the site. Companions, we also need your feedback to make sure it is delivering what you want from it.

I know that all the Members of the Executive appreciate the support and encouragement we receive from Chapters all across the Province and their generous hospitality whenever we make an official visit. It will be my especial pleasure and privilege later this month to assume the role of First Principal of Essex First Principals Chapter No. 3256.

Thank you once again for listening to me and may God Bless you all and indeed this Royal Arch Province of Essex. As I say at the conclusion of each of these addresses, let us go forward together and walk worthily in the light which shines around.

<http://www.essexroyalarch.org>

Rodney Lister Bass, OBE
Grand Superintendent





left to right Comp Ian Wilson, Emily Wilson, Michelle Wilson, Jaki Rowland and E.Comp John Rowland PPGSN

Chigwell Chapter 453

E.Comp John Rowland in his capacity as Charity Steward of Chigwell Chapter No 453 knew his granddaughter Emily Wilson was appearing at the Gordon Craig Theatre Stevenage on 30th June and 1st July in the EDSA Showcase a variety show for 5 to 20 year old's and thought it would be a good idea to have a bucket collection for Haven House Children's Hospice.

Emil Dale of the Emil Dale School of Performing Arts based in Hitchin was in full agreement but could not assist with any spare manpower. Haven House were delighted with the idea but pointed out that it coincided with their Open House Weekend and therefore all their staff and volunteers would be tied up.

Not to be deterred John ably assisted by his son in law W.Bro Ian Wilson who is to be exalted into Chigwell Chapter at their next meeting in November collected and erected display boards in the theatre and fed 350 Haven House flyers into the programmes and generally publicised Haven House in the foyer before each show.

At the end of each of the four shows John, Ian, their wives Jaki and Michelle backed up by Emily between shows manned the exits with Haven House buckets and a very cheerful audience parted with £502.79 to which the Chapter added a further £100 which was duly delivered to Haven House to be thankfully received.

Albert Lucking Chapter 2717



Albert Lucking Holy Royal Arch Chapter 2717 celebrated its 100th Convocation on Monday 3rd September 2018 at Saxon hall by achieving Essex Festival 2022 Grand Patron Status.

Over 50 Companions attended to support the Albert Lucking Chapter celebrate the 100th Convocation of the Chapter at Saxon Hall on Monday 3rd September. This special occasion was primarily marked by acknowledging the existing founder member's contribution in starting the Chapter in 1985.

Further celebrated by presenting the required Funds to enable the Chapter to achieve Grand Patron Status for Essex Festival 2022. Received on behalf of the Province By E.Comp. Ian Simpson APGP. The Chapter also warmly welcomed E.Comp. Andrew McLeod the Chapter's new APGP.

A special Festive Board menu was prepared by Saxon Hall and enjoyed by all Companions. Commemorative gifts were given to all attending Companions as a token of appreciation in helping support the Chapter to celebrate this milestone Convocation. Followed by the usual Albert Lucking Festive Board "informal banter" and of course Official Toasts and speeches.

Ixion Chapter 2501



On Saturday 27th October E.Comp. Elliott Chevin Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals attended Ixion Convocation and presented a Grand Chapter Certificate to Comp. Phillip Clegg in a most articulate manner.

E.Comp Elliott also presented an Essex Festival 2022 Patron Certificate.

Undine Chapter 3394 Centenary & Grand Patron



On Friday 4th January, 2019, Undine Chapter, No. 3394, celebrated its centenary convocation.

To the very day, and in the same location as their consecration, MEZ; E Comp Ivor Middleburg, H; E Comp Clive Snell and J; E Comp Terry Mirams presided, at Loughton Masonic Hall, one hundred years on.

With over 70 Companions, a dramatised version of part of the Exaltation Ceremony was excellently delivered by The Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Demonstration Team.

Following this, the Chapter were delighted to receive the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E.Comp Cliff Thoms, the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, E.Comp Clive Rees, the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, E.Comp Phillip Campbell, and the Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals, accompanied by a retinue of Acting Provincial Grand Officers.



The 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, delivered a most engaging oration, based on the temperance movement and its connection with Undine Chapter. Following this, E.Comp Colin Keeping, Scribe E of the Chapter, delivered a short summary of the Chapter.

The Deputy Grand Superintendent was then pleased to present Undine Chapter with their Grand Patron Certificate for the Festival 2022.

Your Next Step

13th May @ Saxon Hall

Interested in knowing more
RAMembershipOfficer@EssexPGL.org.uk





Upminster Combined Chapter Meeting

Hosted By Seven Kings Chapter

On the 6th September 2018, Seven Kings Chapter 2749 hosted a combined Chapter meeting, to which representatives from all the Chapters which meet at the Square were invited. Members of the Provincial Executive also attended, including the Deputy Grand Superintendent, Cliff Thoms and the Second and Third Grand Principals, Clive Rees and Philip Campbell.

During the meeting, E Comp Dr John Reuther gave a very interesting talk on how Freemasonry survived the American Civil War and how it brought Freemasons together, even when they were on different sides!

After the meeting, the Companions retired to the bar for a drink before dinner which comprised an American themed meal complete with clam chowder and southern fried chicken, perfectly prepared by the in house chef, Gary Mitchell. During the meal there was much friendly banter and lively conversation, together with a raffle which raised nearly £1,000 for charity.

Old Parkonians 4709

75th Anniversary



On Saturday 24th November Old Parkonians Chapter 4709 were honoured to receive a retinue of Holy Royal Arch Provincial Executive headed by E.Comp. Clive Rees the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal accompanied by E.Comp. Phillip Campbell the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal and 3 Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, E.Comp. Elliott Chevin, John Crudginton and Andrew McLeod, all capably organised by E.Comp. Geoff Turpin the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies to mark the celebration of the Chapters 75th Anniversary.

During the ceremony E.Comp. Gerry Scott gave a very personable and humorous presentation of the Chapter history and the clear links with Ilford County High School. The meeting also witnessed 4 joining members, including one of the APGPs and a number of applications for membership which was a great mark to this excellent milestone.

At the meeting, MEZ E.Comp. Gerry Scott, presented a cheque to E.Comp. Clive Rees who promptly handed it to E.Comp. Colin Felton the Provincial Grand Charity Steward – this donation saw the award of Grand Patron status for Festival 2022, a fantastic achievement from such a small Chapter which was well received by the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal

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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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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.

Dear Brethren,

The Masonic season is now well on its way for another year. Thank you to all who responded to the last article.

A few items and questions were generated, it is therefore my intention to try and address a couple of them.

The Masters Collar

I can recall when I was Master of my Lodge for the first time, that I didn't receive any guidance on when or if I should wear my Masters collar when visiting and on one occasion, did just that and was reprimanded by a seasoned Mason. The same question was generated after the last article.



In short, there is only one Worshipful Master in a Lodge meeting and therefore only one Masters Collar being worn.

This therefore means that if you are a visiting Master, you will be without your collar. The exceptions are when at Grand Lodge,

Provincial Grand Lodge etc.



This rule is within the Book of Constitutions - 263

The collars of the officers of private Lodges are to be worn only in their own Lodges, or when representing their Lodges as Masters or Wardens in the Grand Lodge or in their Provincial or District Grand Lodges, or on any special occasion when ordered by the Grand Master.

There is a separate rule regarding Past Masters Collars - 264

Past Masters of private Lodges shall wear collars of light blue ribbon, four inches wide, with a silver braid a quarter of an inch wide in the centre.

Festive Boards & Wine Takings

Firstly I must point out that there are no rules regarding Festive Boards, generally common sense prevails. Each Lodge conducts the Festive Board differently.

Each year there are approximately 300 official visits conducted by the Provincial Executive. The way that the escorting DC's conduct and assist at the meetings is therefore a well trodden path and could be considered to be best practice.

If there is wine included in the meal, it is generally requested that this is served by the Stewards immediately after all Brethren are seated after Grace. Due consideration is to be given to the staff serving the first course. This is made even easier if there is a cold starter that is already plated and at the tables. It also allows the Stewards to enjoy their starter uninterrupted.



Wine takings are then conducted as soon as the WM and the visiting APGM have finished their starter. The wine takings for an official visit are all seated apart from the Royal Arch wine taking and Brethren can choose to remain seated should they wish. This is all conducted before the Staff re enter to clear the plates as the Stewards will be the last to finish and the staff do not clear until all Brethren have completed their starter.

An example of where this works for a busy meeting is Essex Masters Lodge, where there are generally over 180 in attendance at each meeting. The process detailed above is used and runs relatively smoothly.

W. Bro Lee Taylor
PAGDC - ProvGDC



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Essex Cornerstone Lodge



Granted by the M.W The Grand Master, backed by the Provincial Grand Master of Essex, Rodney Lister Bass OBE and agreed by the Essex Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge No. 8665, the Lodge will be consecrated on Saturday the 2nd March 2019.

Essex Cornerstone Lodge aims

Provide a gathering place for past & present members, who are already part of a working Lodge, giving familiar surroundings and an added sense of belonging. Increase Masonic education & experience of all present and past club members.

Create a fun, young and vibrant lodge, offering different experiences to those that progressive/working lodges could offer, and allowing past members to have a strong link to the club in perpetuity.

Encourage and support young Masons in their masonic journey, promoting early involvement in their Lodges and the Craft generally. 'I've been Patron of the Essex Cornerstone Club since it began. I've watched the club grow to become the foundation for so many young Essex Freemasons in that time.

Corn is scattered during the ceremony as a symbol of **Plenty and Abundance**

Wine is poured during the ceremony as a symbol of **Joy and Cheerfulness**

"I'm extremely proud to see a Lodge being formed for the club members, past and present, and I cannot wait to be part of the wonderful Consecration ceremony" - Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Essex Cornerstone Club Patron V.W. Bro Paul Reeves.



www.essexcornerstone.com/lodge
Booking Deadline 18th February
Don't be disappointed



Lewis at Belmont Lodge 9623

Belmont Lodge No. 9623 celebrated a "first" on 15th January this year. W.Bro. Phil Smith-Jones (left) installed his son, W.Bro Oliver in to the chair of King Solomon. Records show that this was the only occasion a father has initiated, passed, raised and installed his son within the history of the lodge.

34 members and their guests enjoyed a wonderful Burns Night themed festive board, where W.Bro Graeme McCormack addressed the haggis to the dulcet tones of a bagpiper. APGM W.Bro John Davies was in attendance and addressed the assembled throng after W.Bro Phil sang the Master's Song. W.Bro Ollie is an active member of Cornerstone and engaged in the initial stages of founding a Cornerstone Lodge

Ashingdon Lodge 9026

A unique occasion at Ashingdon Lodge 9026 when W.Bro. John Berwick initiated his son Bro. John Berwick Jr. into Freemasonry with the assistance of his brother, Bro. Robert Berwick who is the Lodges Junior Warden, which was witnessed by nearly 50 members and guests at Rochford Masonic Hall.



Cornerstone Growing in numbers



Leigh on Sea Lodge no. 4708, continues what has now been a five year programme of 3rd and 1st degrees at every meeting. November 2018 was no exception allowing the Lodge's strong line up of lay brethren to once again to show what they can do under the leadership of W.M. Gary Soars.

The meeting started with an outstanding 3rd Degree for Bro. Callum MacIsaac. After a quick pit stop with tea and biscuits, the ceremony continued with new initiate Michael Tremere. The ritual was delivered in an excellent manner with the preparation address being delivered by Bro. Riyad Cajee,



Glass of Beer Cornerstone Tankard

We have produced a wonderful glass tankard with the Cornerstone logo which we left as a special gift to all those

present at our anniversary dinner in January. If you were unable to attend but would like to get hold of one of these fantastic keepsakes, you can order online here for just £8 and collect at one of our next events!

Founding President James Tyrrell, and the APGM, Peter Hollingsworth, both agree they are great for enjoying the Provincial Craft beer too!

PLEASE NOTE THIS ITEM IS COLLECTION ONLY





Lucas & Lisle Lodge 8456

Bro. Roger Peter Grave, a Recruitment Consultant (candidate via the Prov. Website Scheme) and Bro Samuel Jacob Flint (proposed by his Father) initiated in a joint ceremony on the 9th March 2018. The ceremony was very ably performed by W.Bro. Tony Flint (Sam's Dad)



Vega Lodge 6785

Bro Stuart Lowe
Initiated 18th November 17



Claudius Lodge 7800

Kimat Singh
Initiated on Tuesday 5th
June 2018



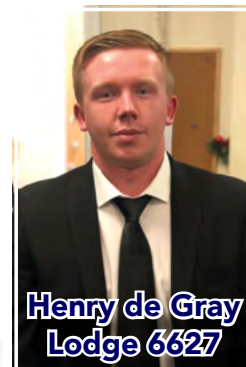
Springfield Lodge 3183

Bro. David Robert Ashwell Evans
Initiated on 22nd May 2018



Ostrea Lodge 8209

Kail Ewan Griffith
Initiated into Ostrea Lodge
8209 on 19 December
2017



Henry de Gray Lodge 6627

Bro Grant Holden
Initiated 8th December 2018

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Colvin Lodge 5374

Joseph J Franklin
Initiated 13th January 2018



Grey Friars Lodge 5169

Bro. Caeleb Young
Initiation into Grey Friars Lodge on
4th June 2018



Colcestria Lodge 7123

Yasdev Singh Rai Initiated 24 March 2018



Colcestria Lodge 7123

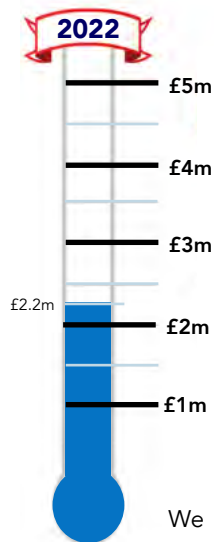
Bro. Neil Black
Initiated 24 February 2018



Lodge of Faith 6830

Bro David Fredrick
Initiated on Thursday 24th May 2018

Festival Thermometer



Festival 2022 Update

The big £2.2 million Festival thank you

With three years to go we have already banked a whopping £2.2 million towards our £5 million target for Festival2022. It is a magnificent achievement and thank you to all those Lodges, Chapters, Masonic Orders and individuals who have made it possible. The even better news is that all that money has already come back to Essex to support local charities and Masons and their families in need.

Be under no illusion Brethren – what's raised in Essex, stays in Essex – that's why we still need your support.

We still need you to commit to Regular Payments. They can still be spread over five years even though the Festival finishes in 2022. All we ask is for £2 a week or £8.50 a month for you to qualify as a Festival vice patron and receive the appropriate jewel.

We still need you to use Gift Aid forms and envelopes. If every Mason in Essex did this, we would receive £1 million from the tax man over five years – your money coming back to us. There is no reason not to use Gift Aid if you are a tax payer.

We still need you to transfer money now from your Relief Chest to the FEST2022 one. You will earn 2% interest – why wait until the end of the Festival. Your money goes to the MCF – your local charity – and as I have already mentioned, it is being well used across the Province.



The MCF - Use it as your Local Charity

When you donate to the Festival your money is not lost within some faceless organisation – quite the reverse. The MCF is your local charity and you can influence how they spend the money. Go and talk to your local charities and encourage them to make a grant application to the MCF with your support.

The MCF have the kind of money that can really make a difference for your charity - a major purchase, funding for a vital member of staff. That's Festival2022 in action brethren.

Charity Stewards Conference

We shall be holding the first ever Province wide Charity Stewards Conference at Saxon Hall, Aviation Way, Southend, on Thursday March 21st. It will be an all-day event – starting at 10.00 - with lunch provided and will be attended by the PGM and provincial executive.

It is requested that every Lodge and Chapter be represented, preferably by the Charity Steward or failing that, a senior member of each unit.

The Conference will be an opportunity to bring everyone up to speed regarding the Festival but more importantly will clarify the position and recent statement by the Pro Grand Master regarding the quality of Charity Stewards and Almoners.

Grand Lodge regards both these offices as vital appointments in every Lodge and Chapter and it is no longer acceptable giving away the position to a Brother who cannot deliver or handle the duties of that position.

We have many, many, brilliant Charity Stewards but It has been accepted that some will require training if they wish or be prepared to pass over that office even to younger brethren who have yet to go through the chair.

This and much more will be discussed at the Conference and I look forward to meeting you all there.

W.Bro Colin Felton PADGC colin.felton@essexppl.org



left to right W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth (APGM), W.Bro Patrick Ward (WM) and W.Bro Neil McLean (Charity Steward)

Lodge of Good Fellowship Essex 2022 Festival



At The Lodge of Good Fellowship No 276, Assistant Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth PSGD received a check for £18,000 for the Essex 2022 Festival Appeal from our Worshipful Master W.Bro. Patrick Ward, accompanied by Charity Steward W.Bro. Neil McLean PPAGReg.

W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth said "This was an extraordinary amount and an excellent donation to the Essex 2022 Festival Appeal". The donation to the Festival has given The Lodge of Good Fellowship No 276 Patron status, the certificate was handed to W.Bro. Patrick Ward and with a little more work is close to achieving Grand Patron status, which is well deserved from all the hard work put in by their members.

Corinthian Centenary Lodge 8488



On 10 August 2018, the Corinthian Centenary Lodge number 8488 met at the Clark Lewis Hall in Burnham-on-Crouch. The WM, W.Bro Tony Piercey, was pleased to present a cheque for £5,000 to W.Bro John Davies PSGD APGM for the Essex 2022 Festival.

The APGM thanked the Brethren for their generous donation and in turn presented the Lodge with a Vice Patron Certificate. The Lodge now intends to aim for Patron status which would be an impressive contribution from a small lodge of only 19 members.

The meeting was also pleased to welcome W.Bro Alan Everard PSGD PAPGM as an honorary member in recognition of the interest he took in the lodge during his period as APGM. The Brethren were also entertained by an interesting and informative lecture by W.Bro James Smith PGStB. PPJGW on the life and times of the first Provincial Grand Master of Essex which was well received by the brethren present. The Lodge was also pleased to see among its guests W.Bro Brian Wright PJGD DSEM PPSGW, W.Bro Ray Quiddington ProvAGDC and W.Bro Ken Cownden PPJGW.

Albert Lucking Lodge 2717



Albert Lucking Lodge 2717 Southend ESSEX raises £3000 for Local Macmillan Cancer Support.

Pictured here presenting a cheque during 4th December at Saxon Hall for W.Bro Paul Marshall's chosen Charity when he was WM of the Lodge (2017/18) - Photo (left to right) W.Bro Austin Latham (Lodge Charity Steward), Caitlin Ashdown representing Macmillan Cancer Support and W.Bro Paul Marshall (Lodge Assistant Almoner).

Boar's Head Another Success

Seven Kings Lodge No 2749 hosted the Boar's Head meeting on Friday the 30th November this year and as usual it was a very special event with over 140 attendees including the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master and many members of his team. Indeed, W.Bro Tony White Assistant Provincial Grand Master, carried out the ceremony of Initiation for two of the lodge's newest candidates.



The meeting, organised by the Chairman of the Square at Upminster, W.Bro Peter Banks, enabled the brethren to enjoy themselves immensely whilst also raising a lot of money for charity and providing toys for unwell children. Several hundred toys were donated by those attending the meeting which will be distributed to Harlow, Queen's, Basildon and Broomfield hospitals before Christmas to cheer up the children who have to be there. In addition to the toys, nearly £3,000 was raised for the MCA Trust, a charity formed to assist children with brain related tumours.



A 6 piece brass band played during the evening and accompanied the brethren as they sang Christmas Carols. While singing the "Twelve Days of Christmas" the brethren at each table stood in turn to sing their "day" and it must be said that the PGM was one of the most enthusiastic vocalists!

It goes without saying that the food at the festive board was excellent, as was the company and atmosphere throughout the evening.

Don't miss out on the next Boar's Head this year - Contact Peter at peterjbanks@btconnect.com



Fairlop Oak Lodge 6520 - Grand Patron



Left to right, W.Bro. Roy Kaye (Charity Steward), W.Bro Peter Hollingsworth (APGM) and W.Bro. T. Irving (WM). Being presented with Essex Festival 2022 Grand Patron Certificate, at the Fairlop Oak Lodge No. 6520 meeting at Chingford, Friday 14th September 2018.

Holland-on-Sea Lodge



Holland-on-Sea Lodge was honoured to have the company of W.Bro Colin Felton at our October Installation meeting. It was an excellent opportunity for several more members to sign up on the night to the Essex 2022 Festival. It was also the perfect opportunity for our newly installed Master to hand over a cheque for £2,000 towards the Festival. This was money raised by the members and their friends and families during the past year via various events.

As a result of the evening and previous donations to date, Holland-on-Sea Lodge is delighted to have achieved Patron status of the Essex 2022 Festival.

Tuscan Lodge 6067 - Donation



Worshipful Master of Tuscan Lodge No.6067, W.Bro. Lionel Sagers PPDepGSwdB, presented a cheque for £500 to Gary Hyams, the CEO of support 4 sight.

This was the charity chosen by the worshipful master to receive the proceeds from the raffle on his Ladies Night.

Mersea Island Lodge 5534 and Curve Wake Donate to Colchester Hospital Appeal



The Mersea Island Lodge 5534 and Curve Wake Park have both made donations to Colchester General Hospital.

The Masonic Lodge presented a cheque for £1,000 to the Mary Barron Suite and Haematology Day Unit. Two members of Masonic Lodge are currently receiving treatment there.

Caroline Bates, head of fundraising for the Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals Charity, said: "It was a great pleasure to meet Eric from the group and to receive this wonderful donation."

Two members of the Mersea Island Masonic Lodge have been treated at the Mary Barron Chemotherapy and Haematology Suite and they wanted to do something to support other patients and

staff. "We greatly appreciate their donation which will be used to improve the environment for other patients."

Curve Wake Park in St. Osyth also held a charity wakeboard and fashion show, launching their membership to the 2019 Club. The 2019 Club was set up by the hospital charity, inviting businesses and community groups to try and raise £2,019 towards the Cancer Centre Campaign. The Cancer Centre Campaign, is supported by the Clacton and Frinton Gazette, is a bid to raise £3.25million for a new facility bringing all cancer services into one place.



Netteswell Cross 9280 Vice Patron



W.Bro Peter Hollingsworth APGM of the Province Of Essex, presents Netteswell Cross Charity Steward W.Bro Ian Tarran with a Vice Patron Certificate at the Festival Board Of their 120th meeting on Friday 7th September 2018.

In return W.Bro Ian Tarran presented the APGM with a donation to the Essex Festival 2022 which should enable Netteswell Cross No 9280 to gain Patron status.

Thorpe Bay Lodge Patron

On 14th November Thorpe Bay Lodge were honoured with an Official Visit from W.Bro Nick Franklin APGM escorted by W.Bro Trevor Back.



Our Poppy Night Meeting had particular importance this year with the One Hundred Year Anniversary of the Armistice. Thorpe Bay Lodge Worshipful Master W.Bro John Willis presented W.Bro Nick Franklin with a cheque for £2000 for the Essex Festival 2022 Appeal and W.Bro Nick Franklin presented the Lodge with a Vice Patron and Patron Certificate. Charity Steward W.Bro Gordon Goodall and Honorary Member John Helliard APGM complete the picture.

A Blue Table Festive Board shared with Shoeburyness Lodge followed with an inspirational talk from Jamie Hull with 121 members and guests in attendance. A fantastic £1246 was raised for BLESMA

Villerica Lodge 4053

Grand Patron and 50 years celebrations



At the Villerica Lodge 4053 meeting on Saturday 15th December 2018, W.Bro. Michael Haynes PPJGW was presented with a Certificate of 50 years of meritorious service by W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth APGM.

Michael was initiated into the Villerica Lodge in December 1968 by his father W.Bro. John Haynes, who was Master of the Lodge in 1957.

Michael was Master of the Lodge in 1982 and in the ensuing years held the offices of Secretary, Charity Steward and is currently the lodge Royal Arch representative. In 2005 he initiated his own son W.Bro. Chris Haynes into the Lodge.

In the Royal Arch he was appointed Provincial Grand Treasurer in 1999 and made a Grand Officer with the rank of PAGDC in 2009.

At the same meeting the APGM presented the Lodge with a framed Patron Certificate for the Essex 2022 Festival and the Worshipful Master W.Bro. Matt Lucas presented W.Bro. Colin Felton ProvGChStwd with a further **£10,000 donation** to the Festival, taking the Lodge to Grand Patron status.



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

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W.Bro Tony White

W.Bro Tony White has generously provided valuable sponsorship funds to local Great Britain triathlon duo, W.Bro Trevor Back (ProvAGDC) and Dr Jennie Stemp.

Tony, who runs Clacton Bathroom Superstore, a regular advertiser with this publication, along with his father, Jack, said, "I am delighted and extremely proud to be able to provide some assistance to Trevor and Jennie.



They both fit in their training around their respective jobs and thoroughly deserve the success they've achieved". The pair are just back from competing at the European Multisport Triathlon Championships in Ibiza, where they both won their respective categories. Jennie said "it's fantastic for us, as athletes, when local businesses are able to provide much needed sponsorship. As amateurs competing globally, representing your country, there is very little funding available. We have to pay for all our travel, accommodation and entry fees which, over the course of a year, is not insubstantial".

It caps an extremely successful year for the two, both members of Colchester based Triathlon Club, Tri Spoke. At the World Championships in Denmark, earlier in the year, Jennie also won Gold whilst Trevor narrowly missed out on the podium and a medal, coming 4th. Next year, they will again be representing Team GB at the World Championships in Spain and the European Championships in Romania.

Should anyone feel able to offer additional sponsorship, it would be most welcome, please contact Trevor via e-mail at trevorback8@gmail.com



Saxon Hall

Andy Bracey & Aaron Lewis Foundations

The Charity event raised £1,200 by Essex Lodge members for Andy Bracey and the Aaron Lewis Foundation.

Charity Zen event organised by W.Bro Austin Latham, Charity Steward from Albert Lucking Lodge 2717, with inter-lodge cooperation and support from Southend Rochford & Maldon Masonic Centres presented cheques on 25th October at Saxon Hall.



W.Bro Austin Latham (right) & Bro Roger Northwood (left) represented Albert Lucking Lodge And Bracey receiving (Wheel Chair)

Rainham Lodge 3079

Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Motorcycle Run

The Brethren of Rainham 3079 Lodge came to the aid of W.Bro's Karl Griffin & Peter Wallis, who were looking for sponsorship to ride on the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Motorcycle Run from Dunton to Harwich. This 60 mile run which attracts around 4000 bikers and looks to have raised a total of £45,000 in total this year.



Bro Karl hand delivered a cheque but failed to get his beloved Triumph Bonneville onto the helipad to acknowledge it was a partnership of man and machine that got him to the finish line.

Roger Smith (pictured above, far right) gave an excellent overview of the helicopters used and general running & costs incurred whilst Paramedic James Samouelle detailed equipment and uses. Karl was overawed by the warm welcome and passion for the charity shared by Roger Smith who regularly welcomes visitors to the Airbase.

Tours can be booked by contacting the Charity office on 0345 2417 690. Over 20,000 missions attended since becoming a charity that requires an annual running cost of £6 million to keep the two helicopters and 4 vehicles and background team in operation. Bro Karl (centre above) seen here handing over Rainham's cheque would like to thank his Rainham Bro's & in particular their Charity Steward W.Bro Gary Club for his great support in obtaining this very needed funding, as well as Bro Wallis for his companionship during the ride.



W.Bro Karl Griffin



Services for Mark Mason's

R.W. Bro Terry Sheern is looking to form a new Mark lodge for past and present members of the military to be a combined services lodge. Two meetings a year perhaps at Colchester because of the obvious military links.

Some ideas on how this Lodge could work and have some unique aspects to it but to get it off the ground I need about 20/25 founders. The Lodge would be a full working lodge with present and past members of the military as candidates.

Bill Dyer has been appointed to coordinate for V.W. Bro Terry Sheern, if you are interested please let Bill know. Likewise if you know of any ex or present military in the Craft who would be interested in becoming a Mark Man again please let Bill know.

Essex Mark Golf Day

On Friday 27th July 2018, 75 assorted golfers stepped out onto the golf course at Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Billericay at the start of a day of fund raising for the Essex Mark Welfare Fund.

Many non-golfers joined in for the evening meal and presentations including a large raffle and auctions, with over a hundred in attendance. The traditional £1 fines were imposed throughout the day and continued into the evening for many golfing misdemeanours, and also for many others attending who were just in the wrong place at the wrong time! A 'Beat the Pro' competition on hole 7, a putting competition during

the day, an evening putting game to £20 and a golf simulator helped to swell the money raised to just short of a fantastic £3,500. A table brochure was also produced with adverts and good wishes from many individuals and MMM Lodges.

The PGM, R.W. Bro. Terry Sheern was in attendance all day, along with some of the Provincial Executive, where some joined in the golf and others gave their support during the day or in the evening. The art of 'buggy driving' was shown by W. Bro. Bob Neal who drove the PGM around the course during the day selling refreshments from their buggy, and was it needed with temperatures on the course in excess of 31°. All the golf teams had photos taken on the first hole, as well as some action shots taken on the golf course which were expertly taken by W. Bro. Peter Nason. Many of these photos were sold to individuals with a percentage of money added to the charity.

There were many winners from the golf event with top five individual scores, nearest the pin on all par 3 holes, nearest the pin in 2, putting competition, longest drive and a team competition, with the included picture showing the winning team from London. The golf was played out in glorious sunny weather which made for a fantastic day, with Stock Brook Manor Golf Club being the perfect hosts. A big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to make the day such a success.

The Next Golf Day is on Friday 26th July 2019 - contact Richard Goodwin richard-goodwin@virginmedia.com if you want to enter



Royal Oak Lodge from small acorns

The Royal Oak Tree Lodge had been in some decline for a number of years and with dwindling numbers, the potential end of the Lodge was contemplated. W. Bro. Rangit Singh Bhogal, whose infectious smile and boundless enthusiasm are known and admired by all who know him, was determined not to let it happen.

With further determination from others, from a small acorn grew another mighty oak tree! As the original one preserved and protected a King, the new Khalsa Royal Oak Tree Lodge has, we trust, preserved and protected a Mark Lodge for many a year to come.



Order of the Secret Monitor

The Province of Essex, Order of the Secret Monitor (OSM) recently made a donation to Farleigh Hospice at Chelmsford of £1000 towards its replacement Hospice Outreach Project Vehicle (HOP), the previous vehicle having been retired in 2016.

The customised vehicle acts as a mobile drop-in centre which tours the county offering information, support and advice on a variety of issues including life-limiting illnesses and treatment, specialist services in mid Essex, hospice care, support for families & carers, emotional support, respite care and bereavement support. The donation was matched by the OSM Benevolent Fund and the picture shows the Provincial Recorder V.Wy. Bro. Barry Hurst presenting the Benevolent Fund's cheque for a further £1000 to Fund-raiser Alison Jones.

So far, the RAM Lodge has not adopted the new name but, Royal Ark Mariners will notice a real similarity between the ideals of Khalsa and the five Cardinal Virtues that are explained in the meaning of the 9 steps. "Khalsa" was a tool that could be used to create strength.

The origin of the word comes from the turbulent times when the Khalsa were created. It has its origin in the Sikh religion, of which I am a proud member. It was during a period of persecution across India with the Khalsa standing up against oppression and fighting for equality across society. After nearly 260 years the Sikh religion had been fully established through the teachings of the 10 Gurus; the last being Guru Gobind Singhji who concluded that the Sikh Holy Scripture was then complete.

At the ceremony he inaugurated 5 members from the congregation to Sikhism, with the 5K's, Kesh (uncut hair); Kangha (comb); Kacha (under clothing); Kirpan (dagger) and Kara (steel bangle). These five were taught to practice the morals of a human being. Faith; Discipline; Sincerity and Honesty; Consciously work and earn honourably; Charity.

The word Khalsa has taken many interpretations over time. It currently signifies a person of Strength, Honesty, Honourability, Hard work and Charity. It is one you could turn to for support in all aspects of life. Charity being a top priority currently seen around the world in times of need



The PGM presenting RWBro John Webb with his Certificate

The Provincial Grand Master Visits Ambresbury Lodge, No. 834

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro Terence D. Sheern, escorted by the Provincial Grand DC and accompanied by Officers of Mark Provincial Grand Lodge had the pleasure of attending Loughton for the Installation Meeting of the Ambresbury Lodge of Mark Master Masons on Friday, 26th October 2018.

Before the Installation went ahead it was the important and pleasurable duty and privilege of the Provincial Grand Master a Certificate confirming and commemorating fifty years of membership in the Mark Degree to R.W.Bro. John Michael Webb.

R.W.Bro. John was Advanced into the Ambresbury Lodge in mid 1968 and has had an extensive and varied Masonic journey.

He progressed through the Lodge Offices to the Chair, received a first Provincial appointment to the acting rank of ProvGSwdB, was ProvDepDC and, eventually, Provincial Grand Senior Warden; he also was Master of the Essex Installed Mark Masters Lodge, No. 1044. It is of note that he will also clock up fifty years in the Royal Ark Mariner Degree next year too.

He received a first Grand Rank Appointment as acting Assistant Grand DC receiving further promotions to PGSD, PGJO and, finally, in 2007 to Past Grand Junior Warden (hence Right Worshipful in Mark), he also holds RAM Grand Rank.

Somewhere along the line he also found time to be the Provincial Grand Master of the Craft Province of Essex as well as the Grand Superintendent for Essex Royal Arch.

In addressing the Brethren and in presenting him with his Certificate, R.W.Bro Sheern paid tribute to John and all the years of dedication and devotion to Freemasonry reminding the Brethren present that R.W.Bro Webb now has a hat trick of Certificates, Craft, Chapter and the Mark. In an evening of anniversaries, W.Bro. Edward Smith was subsequently



Installed Master ten years since he left it for the first time. The Brethren then retired after the Lodge was closed to a fine Festive Board, a great end to a wonderful meeting. For those that might want to attend the Lodge as a guest on a future occasion, it meets twice a year on the 4th Friday in April and October (I) at the Loughton Masonic Centre.

Mark Benevolent Fund Donation to Havens Hospice.

Brethren all, the Provincial Grand Master is delighted to announce that the MBF has agreed a donation to Havens Hospice in the sum of £84,800.

This sum is for the purchase of purchasing 16 specialist beds, at an individual cost of £5,300, for the new premises in Southend on Sea. That is a full donation for a bed in each and every one of the 16 in-patient rooms in the Fair Havens Hospice Building.

This staggering and significant donation came about following a request at the previous meeting of Essex Installed Mark Masters Lodge by our Provincial Almoner, W.Bro. Roy Kaye. Having recently attended an Almoners Seminar at Mark Masons Hall, Roy heard of a similar donation having been made in another Province and that the MBF were looking to support other valuable and worthy charitable causes.



W.Bro Bob Harvey

W.Bro. Bob Harvey was at the meeting and, he and his wife Margaret having been volunteers at the hospice for a combined total of 43 years between them, he approached Roy afterwards and raised the possibility of support for Havens.

Havens Hospice is, as many are no doubt aware, moving to a brand new and bespoke building on Priory Crescent, Southend opposite the Priory Park. The new premises, as well as having day care facilities will have 16 in-patient rooms where complete, respectful and superlative care can be offered to those needing the full facilities and support of the hospice.

The Provincial Grand Master is proud of the efforts made by Roy and Bob in securing the grant for such a worthy and worthwhile local, Essex Charity, as well as the assistance from Darren Coleman the Charities and Communications Coordinator at Mark Mason's Hall and promises to ensure that updates on the progress of the purchase and installation of the beds as and when it happens. This is a real example of your kind and generous donations made at your meetings in action.

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Provincial Almoners News by ProvGA W.Bro. Nick Clarke



Last year has once again been very busy with our responsibilities to the ever-increasing number of people in need and also trying to put new ideas in motion for the year ahead, here is a summary of what is and has been happening.

We are now well into the New Year and the almoner's team have been in touch with all the unattached widows to send them our best wishes and a Christmas cheque. We keep in touch twice a year and they now all receive a copy of "Better Lives". The one recurring theme in all the responses I get is "It is so nice to know I am not forgotten"

Christmas Lunches took place in many centres and the response were excellent. If a centre did not organise such an event last year, we do encourage them to try and make it happen in the future as this is a central way of helping to alleviate loneliness.

Spring Lunches and Teas have now been arranged in five centres for April 2019 so that the unattached widows and many others can get out and meet people. We have run several of these last year and they have all been successful. Many lodges and centres organise their own functions without my involvement and this is to be applauded, if they wish to have their events advertised to the widow's groups that we are starting please let me know.

6000 Christmas cards were distributed to lodges by the Deputy Group Almoners. I hope these were put to good use and that they helped you all to keep in touch with our claimants, widows and widowers, many of who are lonely.

The EPCF is very appreciative of any donations that lodges send and even though Christmas is over it is never too late to make a contribution. Cheques should be made out to the EPCF and sent to me please. These donations greatly assist the funding of widow's cheques at Christmas which this last year was £4300 and the many extra payments we always need to make to help people in the colder weather.

CHAPS screening events are being planned for 2019. We have had a good last year but attendances at the centres vary and this is definitely narrowed down to where the best promotional effort is put in by the local lodge almoners and the local almoner's team in the area. We are working closely with CHAPS to make future events bigger and maybe to have more of them. 10% of screenings result in a cancer being detected.

Lodge Almoner Training and Communication Events are being held in April 2019 as follows. 5th April Upminster, 12th April Kirby Cross and 26th April Harlow. All will be from 9.30am to 2.30pm and include a buffet lunch. These will be aimed specifically at recently appointed almoners and their deputies but all almoners are welcome. invites will go out to lodges after the new year. The next large Almoners conference will be held in April 2020.

The Provincial Almoner team have had their annual refresher training on the work they do when visiting claimants. For this work they are fully insured with the MCF and they are kept updated on all the current Benefit opportunities, Safeguarding and GDPR guidelines. The latter two having been written this last year for EPCF Trustees and Group Almoners.

The role of Deputy Lodge Almoner is now approved by the Province and should be considered by lodges. It will help the Lodge Almoner develop his work which can be time consuming and it will help to plan for a seamless transition when the lodge Almoner retires. Please note that it is a role and not an office.

Lodge Almoner's reports are a vital way of sharing news about brethren, however they must not contain the details of a person's illness or other distress unless the almoner has been given specific permission for such information to be read out in open lodge. There is no problem in mentioning a brother's name.

EPCF pens light the way. This is the latest useful product that the almoner's team have been selling and it has been well received. By the time you read this message we will have sold nearly 1000 pens over Christmas. Thank you to those that purchased one and who have found the light on the end to be very useful.

The National Provincial Almoners Conference held last year in Nottingham was excellent with a string of very good speakers, some we hope to get to our conference in 2020. Dr David Staples, CEO and Secretary of UGLE was the final key note speaker and his talk was titled "Risk takers, Caretakers and Undertakers". His talk was well called and he spoke about preserving all that is good in freemasonry but having the courage to take risks in getting rid of all that is not so good, unnecessary and old fashioned in our modern world. We will be developing how this may have an impact on almoners over the next year. Lodge Almoner Newsletters are sent out every month by their local Deputy Group Almoner and we hope that these are increasingly becoming more useful in keeping lodge almoners up to date and in helping them prepare their own lodge reports. It is good to hear from the APGM's that when they visit lodges, they are observing an ever-increasing standard in the reports which is excellent to hear.

The Lodge Almoner's role in helping to reduce loneliness is at the heart of what we are trying to do. The lodge almoner has a vital role to play with his pastoral care and as David Innes (Chief Executive at MCF) said at the PGA conference "Giving pastoral support for people who are alone is a vital and essential part of a lodge almoners role"

Here are some facts about loneliness which could be described as social isolation. Apart from actually being alone physically It could happen in a crowd, at a party, at a meeting by not being recognised, by not having a purpose or by not feeling valued and important.

- **9 million people in the UK are often or always lonely**
- **43% of 17 to 25-year olds are lonely**
- **50% of disabled people will be lonely on a given day**
- **3.9 million people say that TV is their only contact with people**
- **360,000 people say they do not have a conversation with a friend each week**
- **16.1% of all people say they feel increasingly invisible**
- **Over 50% of people over the age of 75 live alone**

So, let us ask ourselves what can we do to make a life better, can we make a phone call, write a letter, visit somebody or arrange for them to visit other people in a similar situation. Whatever we can do will make a difference to that person and this is why we are so keen to develop lunches, widows' clubs, games activities, theatre trips etc.



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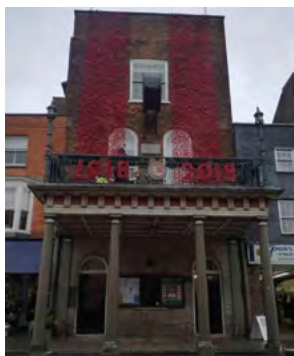
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Maldon Masonic Hall

The Fallen Were Remembered

The fallen were remembered at services held across the Maldon district to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War

In Maldon a wreath laying ceremony took place at the war memorial, in the High Street. From 10:15 the Royal British Legion Parade Marshal gathered participating veterans, members of the cadet services, emergency services, voluntary organisations and young people from district schools leading them to the front of the memorial from where the service started at 10:30.

Around 40 wreaths were laid this year including by town Mayor Jeanette Stilts, representatives of the armed forces including the town's cadet troops, and representatives of Maldon based organisations, including one from the Maldon Masonic Lodge - laid by W.Bro Mark Jones representing the Maldon Masonic Hall association.

The crowd that gathered joined millions of people across the world in a two-minute silence at 11:00 GMT that marked the end of World War One on the 11th hour of 11 November 1918.

The clock at Moot Hall in Maldon High Street striking the time, the face off which had been covered in cascading poppies from the roof to the balcony of the building. Wendy Munnion, Chairman of the Maldon Flower Arranging Club, came up with the design, and 60 volunteers attached the 5,000 poppies which were draped from the roof of Moot Hall in the High Street.

After the ceremony a civic service to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice was held at All Saints Church. This included music from the All Saints choir, All Saints hand bell ringers and Suki Swindale and Carol Bonard, who sung a song specially written to commemorate Suki's great-uncle, killed at Loos in 1916. MP for Maldon John Whittingdale said this years event was particularly poignant as it marked the centenary of the Armistice which marked the end of the First World War.



Dagenham Lodge 4699

Air Cadets Visit Menin Gate Belgium

Essex Mason Mark Bryant of Dagenham Lodge No. 4699 along with W.Bro Simon Constable of Lodge Neuhaus No. 946 from the Grand Lodge of British Freemasons in Germany and W.Bro David Purvis of Hervey and Kentish Companions Lodge No. 1692 in the Province of West Kent laid wreaths in Memoriam of all Freemasons and British and Commonwealth Servicemen during the Centenary Armistice Day ceremony at the Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium.



Simon and David, both RAF Regiment veterans, marched in the parade with the Air Cadet Contingent from London and the South East, whilst Mark formerly of the Royal Hussars (PWO), marched in the Veterans Contingent.

The parade started in the Square outside St Martin's Cathedral and ended half a mile later at the Menin Gate, the famous war memorial in Ypres where the names of 54,609 fallen British and Commonwealth soldiers who have no known grave are recorded.

Four Masonic wreaths were laid at the Menin Gate. Mark laid wreaths on behalf of the Provincial Lodge of Essex and Dagenham Lodge. David laid a wreath on behalf of the Provincial Lodge of West Kent, whilst Simon laid a wreath on behalf of the United Grand Lodge of England, on which the message read 'In Lasting Memory of those Freemasons who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Great War 1914 - 1918'.

A Wooden Cross was also placed later at Tyne Cot on behalf of the Provincial Lodge of Essex. Tyne Cot is the location of the Memorial to the 34,951 fallen whose names could not be recorded on the Menin Gate, as well the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in the world, containing 11,968 graves; mainly those fallen during the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917.



Mark said: 'It was my privilege to pay my respects on the Centenary on the Armistice particularly as my Regiment fought at Ypres in 1914 and 1915; I was honoured to represent my Essex Brethren and my Lodge on this emotive day'.

David said: 'It was an honour to lay these wreaths on behalf of all Freemasons and to pay respect to the Brethren who fell during the Great War, and in all wars since.'

Provincial Grand Almoner
W.Bro Nick Clarke PADGC nick@nickclarke.f9.co.uk



Peter Dielhenn SLGR Meets PM Theresa May at Downing Street Windrush Foundation 70th Anniversary Celebration

As always there is a story behind a picture and as I have had the pleasure of knowing Peter over many years I set it down for others to share.

In more recent years Peter has talked about his life and so I queried how a lad who worked in his uncle's bakery, who joined the Merchant Navy at 15, did his National Service at Sandhurst, who then became a large scale builder and developer in east London, finally retiring in Essex, come to meet Theresa May as part of the recent Windrush Celebrations?

We need to cast our minds, or our knowledge, back to the last World Conflict when England relied on vast numbers from the Commonwealth Countries and other Territories Overseas to swell the ranks of the Services and the supporting industries. A number of these came from Jamaica, British Guiana and other parts of the West Indies. After the end of The War they were demobbed and they returned home only to find poverty and little work.

The new Government were keen to boost the dwindled home population and placed an advertisement in 1948 inviting anyone wanting to come to England could do so by purchasing a one way ticket on His Majesty's Troopship Empire Windrush, for the sum of £28.10 shillings. 500 took up the offer and the ticket cost was roughly equivalent to 3 months pay. It so happened that this was the same ship that Peter was a crew member for 2 years as a trainee Baker and so he became immersed in what was to become a much wider and significant event leading to the multi racial society we now boast.

These Pioneer Immigrants were in sight of Tilbury Passenger Terminal with the House of Parliament still debating whether they should be allowed into the country! Eventually they landed but there was no reception, some had relatives in Leeds and else where, while others found work and endured racial abuse and prejudice. For many the first few weeks were spent below the Underground in Clapham South Deep Shelter experiencing many hot, noisy and sleepless nights. Eventually these people overcame hardship, married and become members of an established society working for the common good and improving their lives.

It was through the actions of these Windrush Pioneers who fought for their Rights who tackled the prejudice against Black people and who saw in their life time the wide scale integration of a multi cultural, multi ethnic society that the Windrush Foundation was set up and Dedicated.

Peter Dielhenn at 87 is probably the last known crew member of HMT Empire Windrush who is alive and he started to take an active interest in the Foundation in 1998 after the celebration of 50 years since the First Pioneers arrived. From then on he has taken part in many interviews and promotions which he still enjoys. Very recently on the 31st July a film crew spent 4 hours interviewing Peter at his Home. Watch this space!

With his strong desire to help and his charitable nature it was only a short step for him to become a Freemason which he did aged 48 being Initiated into Tutela Lodge, at that time meeting in The Egyptian Temple under The Abarcorn Rooms, Liverpool Street. On moving away Peter joined Bralntree Masonic Hall firstly as a member of Cromwell Lodge and secondly Langhorne Lodge where he was the resident Tyler for 19 years, a job he only recently gave up following the sad loss of his wife and his own serious illness. He is now an Honorary Member. Peter is also an Honorary Member of Linnean Lodge which he joined in 1949 and holds Senior London Grand Rank.

Little did Peter know that the act of joining up at such a young age would bring with it such wide repercussions, far removed from the Bakery Trade, being woven into the fabric of social history itself. For him to listen to the Prime Minister apologising to the Pioneers for the treatment they have recently received was indeed a life time memory.

Andrew Mcleod PAGDC APGP

Lodge of XV



Lodge of XV, the Essex Rugby Lodge is undertaking a joint project with the Jason Leonard Atlas Foundation to collect rugby shirts and equipment for the less privileged of the world wide Rugby family. Working together with SA Rugby Legends Director Stefan Terblanche the Lodge and Atlas are distributing the shirts to village and township teams in South Africa, Malawi and Botswana.

The first consignment is going out very soon but the first batch has already been delivered to Malawi. The picture shows Mike Hall from Lodge of XV with Sally Pettipher, CEO of the Atlas Foundation. 15 full strips in junior and youth sizes have been collected along with a lot of shorts, training sportswear and the like. Numerous shirts from representing British Clubs have also been collected and are on their way.

The Atlas Foundation also support the growth of rugby on the Indian Sub-Continent and Argentina with projects in many regions. Argentinian projects include the provision of medical care and fresh water into the slum rugby clubs which is having a marked impact on the health of the kids.

Lodge of XV is proud to be involved with such a worthwhile cause as well as supporting youth rugby in Essex. Any assistance from rugby people or kit suppliers would be very welcome lodgexv@gmail.com

Saint Cedd's Lodge Support Old Cooperians R.F.C.



The eagle-eyed amongst you might recognise the logo displayed on the front of the shirts proudly sported by the children in the picture... The youngsters of Old Cooperians R.F.C., a new mini and youth Rugby Team based in Upminster, Essex, have benefited from a substantial donation from Saint Cedd Lodge No.6519, who have sponsored their playing strips, worn here by the Under 9's for their maiden tournament at the Blackheath festival.

Worshipful Brother John March, Master of Saint Cedd Lodge (Pictured here with the team) said "We quietly support good causes and charities locally, nationally and internationally and were pleased to be able to support a project that will have a lasting impact within our local community. The R.F.U core values of Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship transcend sport and are qualities we can all proudly aspire to uphold"

Gunfleet Lodge Donation to Walton Lifeboat

Gunfleet Lodge based in Clacton on Sea, has had a close connection with the sea since its consecration in 1949. Many past members have had professional connections with the maritime world and several, still do. Indeed the Lodge draws its name from the Gunfleet sands just three miles offshore from the Lodge's home at the Colvin Memorial Temple.

At the Gunfleet Lodge Ladies Festival back in February, the Worshipful Master, W Bro John Carrington dedicated the raffle proceeds and his Master's List to the Walton and Frinton Lifeboat. More recently, W Bro John was able to present a cheque for £500 to the Coxswain of the Lifeboat, Trevor Halls, when the Tamar Class Lifeboat was berthed alongside the quay at the Walton and Frinton Yacht Club Open Day.



W Bro John Carrington, [Centre] presenting the cheque to Coxswain Trevor Halls and accompanied by Mrs Gayle Carrington.



Walden Freemasons Donation to St. John's Church

The Church of St John's in Little Walden is a self-sufficient daughter Church to St Mary's in Saffron Walden but over recent years this little village Church has undergone a major three-year program of repairs and maintenance that placed an extraordinary strain on its finances.

Previously identified repairs to the exterior included the obligatory roof repairs for broken and missing tiles as well as the eradication of large areas of moss on three of the Church's five roofs, a badly worn retaining wall that needed to be partially rebuilt, an exterior fence that had become unstable and had to be replaced, drainage problems that required two new soakaways and a new roof gutter and down pipe. Internal repairs to the Church included the complete over haul and upgrade of the electrics, power extended to the vestry to allow heating to be added, power cables that had to be protected from possible vermin attack, new lighting, the re-plastering of a vestry wall due to damp ingress, the re-securing of the two altar rails and the replacement of a number of glass quarries in some of the windows to name just a few!

With the completion of the tasks over the three year period and to budget it was a shock to discover that the outside porch that on first inspection was thought to require a repair to the two sole plates, (these are the large timbers that support the porch), proved on a later inspection that the two sole plates were showing signs of rotting and the porch had started to show signs of movement that if not replaced could have caused it to collapse. Specialist were called in to inspect and quote on the replacement of the two sole plates and the Church was faced with a major cost that after the three-year repair program, the Church could not afford.

Extra funding was urgently sought and even with a £1,000 grant from the All Churches Trust this was not enough to cover the cost of the replacement sole plates.

Through my association within the Masons I knew that Lodges support small and large organisations many of which are non-masonic causes in addition to the call to support FEST2022 within Essex. With my initial approach to my own Walden Lodge I was not surprised that the members had readily agreed to donate out of its Benevolence fund and further approaches were made to other Lodges and Chapters who meet in Saffron Walden. With the summer break looming a sum of £900 was pledged which was enough to commence work on the Church porch. This amount was later to rise to £1,000 and a cheque was presented on behalf of all Freemasons in Saffron Walden to the treasurer of St John's Church, Little Walden.

My sincere thanks go to all the Freemasons of Saffron Walden for assisting us in a time of need. Dave Beare, the St John's Church treasurer is pictured accepting a cheque for £1,000, representing the Freemasons of Saffron Walden are Alan Coote, (on the left, Audley Lodge), and David Bowman, (on the right, Walden Lodge).

Victoria Rifles Lodge 822



On Saturday 10th November 2018, Victoria Rifles Lodge No.822 (the Installed Masters Lodge of the Circuit of Service Lodges) held its 2018 Installation Meeting in The Grand Temple at Freemasons Hall.

Worshipful Masters of the 1,154 remaining Hall Stone Jewel Lodges were invited along to highlight the part the Lodges had played in the funding of Freemasons Hall, and thus commemorating the supreme sacrifice brethren made during the 1914-1918 war.

In attendance was the MW Pro Grand Master, Peter Geoffrey Lowndes, In-pensioners from the Royal Hospital Chelsea, military Freemasons from around the country and many other brethren, including a good number from the Province of Essex.

The Worshipful Master (W Bro Richard Bassett) of Belfairs Lodge No.4730 that meets at Saxon Hall, Southend, being a Hall Stone Jewel Lodge, was invited to attend the meeting. He was accompanied by several other members of the Lodge, one of those being W.Bro Danny Lowry, whose hobby is wood turning and making gavels, which has enabled him to raise in excess of £10,000 for various charities over the past five years.

W Bro Danny was keen to mark the occasion and thus made a fantastic looking gavel with a metal poppy recessed into the head. Prior to the meeting W.Bro Danny presented the gavel to the Worshipful Master (W.Bro Capt. James Milne) of Victoria Rifles Lodge No.822, which was gratefully received.

The gavel was used by the Worshipful Master throughout the meeting. W.Bro Danny later received an email from W.Bro James thanking him for the gavel and commenting how it felt well balanced and easy to wield during the meeting, and that it made a suitable "thump" in such a Grand setting.

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Essex Masonic Bowls Open 2018

After a period of 8 years and no events being held since 2010, the Essex Masonic Bowls Association sprung into life again with a triples event held at Hockley Bowling Club on Sunday 22nd July. Organised by W.Bro. Tony Goater and W.Bro. Richard Goodwin, the event was promoted around the province of Essex and 10 Lodges put forward a team to play in the event, with a reserve list of several other Lodges.

With glorious sunshine and good weather, all attending had an enjoyable time and the day attracted many others who came to watch the bowling. The eventual winners were Corinthian Centenary Lodge No.8488 hailing from Burnham with Lodge of Amity No.5753 from Southend the runners up and missing out by 1 point. The photos show the winners and runners up.



With a new lease of life having been given to the Essex Masonic Bowls Association, it is planned to hold another Bowls Open in 2019 to be held at Thorpe Bay Bowling Club in June or July, and information will be distributed as soon as it is available. If anyone wants to pre book a place for next year's event (subject to date availability), please email us on the contact details below.

W.Bro. Tony Goater rkd19820@aol.com W.Bro. Richard Goodwin richard-goodwin@virginmedia.com event organisers

Abbeygate Lodge 4219 Legacy and Chair Ceremony

By David Betts

Abbeygate Lodge was dissolved in 2014 with remaining assets and funds needing disposal. Brothers Ken Parrish and David Betts were charged with the task, Bro. Ken overseeing the finances and Bro. David the regalia and furnishings. Needy Lodges were invited to apply for items with a proviso that a donation be made to a Charity of their choice.



Various projects followed starting with donations to the Widows fund and the purchasing of new Robes and Regalia for the attached Abbeygate Chapter and Rose Croix.

The Masonic Centre has a side room used for small meetings and this was refurbished with new lighting, display cabinets and the re-framing and titling of pictures and photographs, (kindly executed by Kens wife Brenda), and renamed 'The Abbeygate Room'. The biggest Project was the design and construction of new Master and Wardens Chairs for the Centre as the existing ones, at present owned by Angel Lodge No.51, were showing signs of fatigue and wear after more than 200 years of use.

Brothers Ken and David sought out the assistance of a Master Craftsman W. Brother Paul Smith of 'Virtue and Silence' Lodge in Hadleigh and who has a workshop on the old Airfield at Raydon and together the three Brothers designed the new chairs keeping in view some of the characteristics of the old ones.

After many visits and much discussion the new chairs were finally completed and with the help of W. Brothers Andrew Johnson and Dave Boylan a ceremony was arranged at the Colchester Masonic Centre.

As the original chairs were owned by Angel Lodge an offer was made to members of the Abbeygate Lodge to hold the presentation during their Installation Ceremony held on the 23rd October 2018.



During the meeting the Lodge was 'Called Off' and the D.C. handed the proceedings over to W.Bro. David Betts who, with the help of Brother Ken, made the presentation. After the various projects had been explained Bro. Paul Smith gave a brief explanation of how the chairs were constructed using exotic woods and specially sourced leather from Scotland.

The Provincial Deputy Grand Chaplain W. Bro. Leslie Retford rose and gave a short talk and blessed the new chairs after which the old Masters one was taken out and the new chair put in its rightful place.

The Chairman and Board member for the Centre, W.Bro. Barry Young, then thanked the generosity of the Abbeygate Members and accepted the chairs on behalf of the Colchester Masonic Hall Company.



The Ceremony was then handed back to the D.C. W. Bro Andrew Johnson who cordially invited W.Bro David Betts to place the newly appointed Worshipful Master, Leslie J. Long, into the new chair. The Lodge was then 'Called On' and the Labours of the evening completed after which everyone retired to the Festive Board.



Diss Golf Competition

4 Counties Inter Provincial Golf match

September 2018

On 4th September, Essex Masonic Golf Association participated in the revival of an inter provincial golf competition known as the Boswell Trophy, last won by Essex 17 years ago in 2001. The tournament originated from the Province of Suffolk in recognition of David Boswell - a prominent Suffolk Freemason.

Located on the border of Suffolk and Norfolk. Just south of the river Waveney Diss golf club was founded in 1903 with 9 holes. Parts of the existing course were used for testing of ordinance during the 1st and 2nd world wars, so there are some interesting big craters, lumps and bumps in the fairways and around the greens to contend with. Fortunately, the Royal Engineers had been in attendance to make sure nothing was left behind after the tests!

The other teams from the other provinces were, as you would expect of Freemasons very friendly we were all well received. The Essex team of 8 players fought off stiff and determined opposition from the Provinces of Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridge.

The 4 Essex pairs won the competition with a final score of 146 (closest rival score was 137). The Essex team produced an average team score of 36.5 with the top team score of 39 by Ross Martin and Dale Rayner. The other pairs in the Essex team were Andy Pearson, Eric Mould, Jeff Cripps and Paul Fermin, Paul Clark and Michael Fox.

Next round of the Boswell Trophy will be hosted September 2019 by the Province of Cambridge at Newmarket Golf Club. Other home and away competitions against other Provinces will be held throughout 2019.

If any Essex Mason would like to register an interest to take part in golf days out against other Provinces, please contact Steve Wall 07957-891619 Stevewall04@gmail.com - There are no expectations regarding ability or possession of a formal handicap.

Most important thing is we have a good social, fun time playing some golf - and win when we can!



Stisted Hall Summer Fete

the 'Provincials' Debut

The 2018 Stisted Hall Summer Fete was a great success and raised in excess of £6500 which will be used entirely by the Association of Friends in providing the Residents with a better quality of life in their stay at the Hall.

Preparations are underway for the 2019 event and it is hoped that Lodges/Chapters will support the event by attending or perhaps having a stall at the Fete. Once again the Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent Rodney Lister Bass OBE will be opening the Fete at 2pm and giving it his full support.

The ticket price remains at £5 but this year, due to rising costs, we are no longer able to include free cream teas, these will be available to purchase along with other refreshments. Children under 12 have free entry.

The Association of Friends of Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court

Sunday 14th July

STISTED HALL

2019 SUMMER FETE

Gates Open Midday
Official Opening by the Provincial Grand Master for Essex at 2pm

Tickets £5 (Children under 12 FREE)

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To Order Your Tickets
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Email: dennis@may-family.co.uk

At the Fete there will be a special performance by the 'Provincials' a band comprised of members of the Provincial Executive and other Essex Masons. This should prove very entertaining.

This is the only annual event where Essex Masons, their families and friends can meet and relax on a social basis in lovely surroundings and raise money for a special cause. It is hoped that many will come along to enjoy the day. The gates open at midday on Sunday the 14th July.

Tickets are available from Lodge/RA Chapter Charity Stewards or from the Fete Organiser - Dennis May, 01376 583639 0776 5266297

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ESSEX PROVINCIAL BOWLING ASSOCIATION Essex Provincial Bowls Open



Sunday 21st July 2019
Thorpe Bay Bowling Club
Thorpe Bay Gardens, Thorpe Bay, Essex. SS1 3HI

The next Essex Provincial Bowls Open will be on Sunday 21st July 2019 and will take place at Thorpe Bay Bowling Club. The format will be teams of 4 and will consist of several games of 6 Ends with the trophy going to the best performing team on the day.

There will be tea/coffee and bacon rolls available on arrival and the event will be followed by a buffet and prize giving. It is hoped to attract 12 teams of 4 with continuous play throughout the morning. All players must belong to a masonic lodge and teams will represent a named Lodge on the day.

The cost per person will be £15 and starting at 10.30am. Please book your team as soon as possible to confirm a place along with payment. The winners on the Essex Provincial Bowls Open 2018 Corinthian Centenary Lodge No.8488, will hopefully be attending to try and defend the trophy. We look forward to an early response to guarantee a place in the event.

The Essex Provincial Bowls Open is also looking for a sponsor so anyone who can offer sponsorship please contact the organisers as soon as possible, and we would love you to get on board and we can start the promotion of sponsors name.

Richard Goodwin - 07768 567612 richard-goodwin@virginmedia.com
Tony Goater - 07774 852136 tonygoater@aol.com



Competition Time

Which APGM dressed up as a Panda at the Lord Mayors Show - email

magazine@essexmason.co.uk

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MASONIC PRIDE

by W.Bro Paul Palmer



As freemasonry celebrates 300 years, I've been reading a lot of interesting articles about what modern freemasonry looks like, and the diversity in our ranks spanning age, ethnicity, belief, and disability. But what's it like being a gay mason?

About nine years ago, I was sat at home with my proposer, while our then secretary introduced himself, questioned me, and generally extolled the virtues of freemasonry. Amongst the highlights he described, and I quote him verbatim, "once a year there's a formal dinner-dance called a Ladies Night, where your partner gets the opportunity to dress up in a nice sparkly ball gown". This is still one of my fondest memories and, as I recanted at my recent installation, while my partner can well afford a nice sparkly ball gown, he just doesn't have the legs for it!

That was the beginning of a wonderful, rewarding, and often very funny masonic career, as a member of Nore Lodge No. 3610, in Southend on Sea. I don't make an issue out of being gay, It doesn't define me, but it's one of the many attributes (including being a Freemason) that contribute towards the whole of who I am, my identity. However, what I didn't expect in becoming a mason was just how much I would be supported and accepted for every part of who I am, by every single brother I've met. I've also experienced other masons "come out" to me having seen me being comfortable and open about myself.

During my entire journey, I've not had a single negative experience on the subject of sexual orientation. In fact it's quite the opposite. I'm consistently encouraged to up the ante with banter, to use innuendo liberally, and to be the best version of myself possible. I tend to be good at striking up a rapport quickly, and being comfortable in myself and my own values means that you're getting the real me at all times. Even work gets a slightly watered down version, but I feel real freedom at lodge.

During meetings, it's the little flourishes I add that seem to be received with the most gusto. Don't get me wrong, I have no grand designs on changing things or throwing away any traditions, but certainly enhancing and tweaking them where possible. For example, during all of the festive boards of my year, I've simply been swapping out the usual blue napkins for hot-pink ones, while the secretary has been invested with the pen of his office, which has a fluffy unicorn on the top - and of course there's a fine for each time it's not presented with the minutes.

The most notable difference this year will be my take on a Ladies Night, which takes place on Saturday 22nd September at Saxon Hall in Southend. The first change was simply renaming it as "Gala Night". The running order will be similar to what we're all used to, but the entertainment won't be your typical masonic band, photography is being shaken up a little, the toasts & wine-takings have needed some rework, and there'll even be a surprise from the president himself. This promises to be a truly unique event in the masonic calendar, and I would welcome any brother in the province (along with their family & friends) should they wish to get in touch.

At Nore, we also hold an annual Trafalgar Night on the second Saturday in October. The festive board is themed around the Battle of Trafalgar and pays homage to Admiral Lord Nelson. Officers of the lodge wear naval uniforms, whilst decanting beer & rum. There's sea shanties to sing along to, a healthy dose of pomp & circumstance, and a very loud cannon that we fire throughout the evening.

In recent years I've been involved with leading the brethren in song as well as delivering comedy sketches between the courses. It's a good outlet for someone who has a flair for the dramatic.

Outside of my own lodge however, one thing that has resonated with me recently is the publicity surrounding the #EnoughIsEnough campaign, and particularly that the word "discrimination" is being used. While I was relatively lucky growing up, I've witnessed discrimination all too often, and it's still prevalent on social media - a platform that entitles anyone to voice an opinion on a subject, irrespective of qualification. There's absolute synergy between "coming out" as gay and likewise as a Freemason, and that's the unpredictability of how people will react based on pre-conceived opinions.

It is, however, only through being ourselves - openly and honestly, will we fully realise acceptance and understanding. Rejection in the face of authenticity will only highlight those who can't or won't be convinced by rational debate on the subject.



But anyone treating any group in society less favourably due to its unique characteristics should always be challenged. I have absolute pride in my freemasonry, as I do with other parts of my life, and I'm sure you all do too.

Now... I must be off. My partner needs a nice sparkly waistcoat for Gala Night!

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Essex Mason would like to congratulate W.Bro Paul Palmer on his appointment to Provincial Grand Steward

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the essex mason extra



The Online supplement with additional stories

Welcome to Essex Mason online supplement where additional pages capture articles that missed the cut off which are time-bound events of articles, or we simply ran out of room.

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Colvin Lodge 5374

Action Medical Research for Children



above: W.M. Stuart Howard-Willis being presented with a Vice Patron certificate by W.Bro. Tony White APM

W.Bro. Eddie Soper presenting a cheque for £500 to Natasha Chaplin, the niece of W.Bro Len Chaplin, the money was donated to a charity called Action Medical Research for Children in memory of Terri lee Chaplin, Natasha's daughter. The money was raised during Eddies year as WM.

Pictured (top right) are Natasha Chaplin, Eddie Soper Les Thurston, Stuart Howard-Willis, Jeff Bolt ,Brian Chaplin, Eddie Soper ,Jane Chaplin and Len Chaplin

bottom right: W.M. Eddie Soper presenting a cheque for £500 to Laura and Michelle from Sponsor A Sibling



Thomas a Becket Lodge 5184

What have Brentwood School, Rugby football and Masonry got in common? On the 1st December 2018 Worshipful Brother Neil Hannaway was installed as Master of the Lodge. His father Peter Hannaway was appointed Senior Warden and his elder brother Ian Hannaway as Junior Warden. This was brought about through the Old Brentwood's Rugby Club who ran training sessions for young people in conjunction with local Rugby Club members.



Worshipful Brother Neil was already a member of the Old Brentwood's Lodge No 5342. His older brother and father wanted to join Masonry. Because the Old Brentwood's Lodge was only open to pupils and masters of Brentwood School, father could not join. Two of the Brentwood Rugby Club members came forward and proposed them into Thomas a Becket Lodge. We initiated them together and they progressed together in the various offices. Younger brother Neil joined as member having gone through the Chair of the Old Brentwood's Lodge. Thus with the cooperation of the progressive officers it was possible to arrange that the three family members were in the principle chairs at the same time.

The meeting was well attended with many visitors including members from the Old Brentwood's Lodge and the new Lodge of XV No 9944 formed by rugby enthusiasts.

There were two unusual features at the meeting. The first an Old Brentwood Lodge tradition, the presentation of the Working Tools to the new Master. The second, a nearly 50 year old tradition of Thomas a Becket Lodge, the circulation of the Loving Cup instead of the 9 o'clock toast.

Grahame F Rudkins PPGSuptWks

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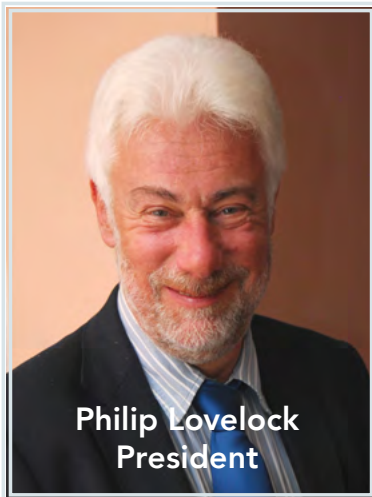
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Hamilton Court

Firstly may I start by saying that once again we have made contact with several Essex Masons who had "never heard" of Hamilton Court. For your information please read this article or ask your Almoner, PGM, APGM or APGP



In 1974 the government of the time passed the Housing Act with the object of giving financial grants to registered housing associations, to provide sheltered housing for the elderly.

In 1985 to take advantage of this new law the Masonic Housing Association (M.H.A.) was formed. A committee was appointed by the Grand Master to set it up and there are now schemes in Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire; Kettering in Northamptonshire; Rugeley in Staffordshire; Stratford on Avon in Warwickshire; and by no means least Hamilton Court in South Woodham Ferrers, Essex. These schemes are now managed by the M.H.A. Board of Directors.

A loan was arranged and Hamilton Court was built in conjunction with the local authority, and was officially opened on 22nd November 1983, by the then P.G.M.W. Bro Frederick Leistikow and the Rt. Hon. Lord Burnham, at that time the Chairman of the M.H.A. Incidentally Sir Neil Thorne was Chairman of the M.H.A. when he became our P.G.M.

There is one other thing that you must understand and be quite clear about when you talk to members of your Lodges. The M.H.A. is not connected in any way to the R.M.B.I. (now the MCF) and the 18 retirement homes it runs, one of which of course is Stisted Hall. The M.H.A. is an entirely separate organisation with completely different objectives. There was a plan at one time to amalgamate with the R.M.B.I. but this fell through due to problems with the Charity Commission.



Hamilton Court is a block of 43 self contained flats designed for people of retirement age, over 55 years old, who wish to live independently, but with the provision of a resident Scheme Manager, and the benefit of stable housing costs. It is a three storied building with a lift. Each flat is self contained and is unfurnished, enabling tenants to have furnishing of their own choice. We provide a freshly decorated flat, a cooker, fridge and freezer for incoming tenants.

There are 31 single person flats and 12 doubles. Each flat has a living room, one bedroom, kitchen and bathroom with heated towel rail etc. There is ample cupboard space in each flat. As flats become vacant we are currently replacing existing kitchens with eye level cookers, to better accommodate our ageing tenants.

Hamilton Court has a large conservatory and communal lounge on the ground floor with a T.V. video, wii, dart board. The adjoining small kitchen has facilities for making tea, coffee etc, and preparing food for social occasions such as bingo, entertainment evenings, quiz nights etc.

There is also an en suite twin bedded guest room for the use of the tenants' visitors who may need to stay overnight. A nominal charge of £20 per night is made to cover laundry and cleaning costs, but donations are always gratefully received.

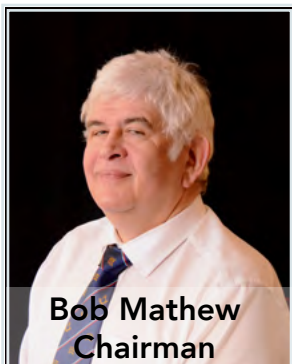
Sarah Skinner is the Scheme manager. She lives on the premises and is responsible to the House Committee for the general running of the building and to respond to any emergency that may arise – which may be anything from a toaster turned too high setting the fire alarms off – to someone hurting themselves and needing an ambulance. To cover Sarah's off duty time there is an emergency care call system which is linked to Newham which will respond, assess the situation, and take appropriate action. Sarah's first duty each morning is to contact every tenant to make sure all is well, and establish that the tenant needs no help. She does a fantastic job.

We have no nursing facilities so tenants are required to be in reasonably good health and able to look after themselves, do their own shopping etc, and lead an independent life. Brethren we do have tenants living well into their 90s. There is good provision of care by local doctors, district nurses and Social Services and meals on wheels, in line with Government Care in the Community Policy.



With many people entering the building for various reasons, security is a priority. Each tenant has a key fob to the front door, which is kept locked at all times. A coded door entry system is fitted for carers and emergency services. Video cameras record everyone entering and leaving the building and in all communal corridors, and there are monitors in the Scheme Managers office and flat.

One of the conditions of the housing loan was that the number of incoming tenants should be divided as near as possible equally between those with a masonic connection and those without, but many other factors are taken into consideration when assessing prospective tenants, but the need for a safe new home and companionship, comes first. No account is taken of financial status except for tenants' ability to pay the weekly rent, either with their own means or with assistance of housing benefit from local government.

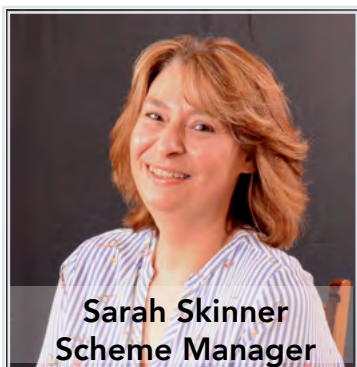


Bob Mathew
Chairman

The current weekly rent for a single flat is from £133.00 and £143.00 for a double. This rent includes water and sewerage charges, and the service charge which covers such things as full central heating and hot water, the Warden's services, maintenance, cleaning of communal areas and upkeep of the garden. It also includes the fully equipped laundry and drying room. There is also a rolling programme of maintenance and decoration throughout the building. All of which I think you will agree is good value for money.

The House Committee which is responsible for the day to day running of the building is headed by the chairman W. Bro. Bob Mathew, who is an elected Director on the Masonic Housing Association. His duty is to ensure that the decisions and legal responsibilities of the M.H.A. are carried out in the best possible way, with the safety and welfare of the tenants in mind. To enable him to do this he appoints suitably qualified people to fill other offices with specific responsibilities, such as an accountant, secretary, surveyor, administrator etc.

The House Committee carries out official duties, as defined by the M.H.A. but it also carries out other duties under the heading of Pastoral Care. To enable it to do this important work we ask Essex Masons, their Lodges and all the other Orders to become members and contribute to "The Friends of Hamilton Court", which is a registered charity. It provides many social events, coach outings, theatre evenings, house parties, barbeques etc. and we help any tenant who may be experiencing difficulties. I must stress, Brethren, that this fund is never used for assistance with the payment of rent, but only to enhance the quality of our tenants' lives; thus making their quality of life better than would occur in other Housing schemes.



Sarah Skinner
Scheme Manager

So Brethren this sort of work goes on all the time, and in 2003, thanks to the generosity of Essex Masons of all orders; we completed the building and furnishing of a large conservatory and landscaping of the surrounding area, which enables tenants to enjoy the benefits of a light airy room, with the added pleasure of enjoying the gardens- whatever the weather. It was officially opened by Sir Neil Thorne on 28th April 2003.

That Brethren is a brief description of the workings of "Hamilton Court Charitable Association", but to enable this work to continue we need two things- Now this is where you come in!!



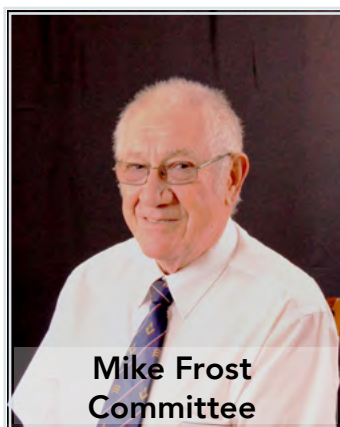
Ian Eaton
Treasurer

"The Friends of Hamilton Court" relies entirely on regular donations, however small, from its members and Lodges etc.; if every Lodge gave just £50.00 we would have enough money to do our job, but unfortunately not all of them do, so I ask you to please keep this in mind when your Lodge is discussing Charity donations.

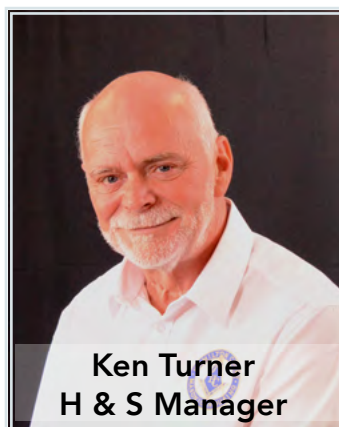
We are always looking for new tenants to occupy vacant flats, so if any of you know or hear of any person or couple who you think would benefit from what Hamilton Court has to offer, please contact us as soon as possible. May I take this opportunity to thank Almoners who have already contacted us.



Lorna Lovelock
Housing Secretary



Mike Frost
Committee



Ken Turner
H & S Manager



Terry Mynard
Committee

Dæn Ingas Lodge 7591 £1,000 Raised at Ladies Festival



February 2018 saw the revival of the Daen Ingas Ladies night after many years of absence. Our Worshipful Master W.Bro John Bedford took on the task of arranging this.

133 brethren wives and friends attended a fantastic evening of food , drink and entertainment at Great Braxted Park.

W.Bro John's chosen charity was the Helen Rollason Cancer Trust and the proceeds from the raffle were to go to this local charity.

The total sum raised was £1000 and W.Bro John was pleased to present this to the trusts COE Kate Alden at their offices in Hatfield Peverel.

Albert Lucking 2717

Our reigning Master W.Bro. Paul Marshall opened his Lodge for the final time and ended his year in office with a splendid display of installing Bro Victor Chivers into the Masters chair.



W.Bro's MacMillan, James and (Austin) Latham assisted by taking the roles of SW, JW & IG respectively and Bro's Bull, Vaughan & W.Bro Steve Bull presented the various tools of each degree. Now as WM Vic Chivers took over his new role and confidently completed the summons agenda and closed the lodge. The meeting was attended by many regular guests but importantly 9 reigning circuit masters, 2 brothers from the Shenstonian Lodge in Warwickshire together with 2 past members who were also past masters namely W.Bro's Richard Bedini and Alan Norman. Everyone retired and enjoyed our usual hearty festive board concluding a splendid afternoon of freemasonry.

We're having a get-together at Saxon Hall Masonic Centre Southend, over some wine and nibbles and I'd be delighted if you could come along. Whether you have your Lodge meetings at Hutton or not, this will be a wonderful opportunity.

At no cost to you, or your Lodge, you'll have the opportunity to spend just over 90 minutes at our informal and informative evening where you'll gain some great information about the Royal Arch in Essex.

If you enjoy your Freemasonry, I'm confident you'll get so much from this beautiful order which will bring even more meaning and understanding to your masonic knowledge.

So, come along, meet some of the team, and find out what it's all about.

Cliff Thoms
Deputy Grand Superintendent



THE ROYAL ARCH
YOUR NEXT IMPORTANT STEP

Monday 13th May 2019, 7pm, Saxon Hall

If you're not a member of the Royal Arch or if you are but haven't been for some time, come and join us over some wine and nibbles.

You will be welcomed at our informative, relaxed and fun evening - all in just 90 minutes. Just let us know by May 1st.

RoyalArchExecutive@essex-lodges.org

Twining is it worth the effort.



Joint meeting at The Masonic Hall, Brightlingsea
The Lodge of Faith 6830 & Fides Mutua Lodge No. 33, Zwolle
April 28th 2018

How did we, a very small town on the Essex coast get to the point of twining with a lodge in a different country and why. The Lodge of Faith 6830 in Brightlingsea is typical of any small town lodge. We do a lot of interacting with other lodges and side degrees, as long as they are based in our Temple. However those of use that do get to travel round and visit or join other lodges know that there is a big masonic world out there.

I was in Round table and we were twinned with a Dutch Roundtable in a city called Zwolle in The Netherlands. Which was and still is a great source of meeting other like minded people. I took a recommendation to our lodge General Purposes Committee, and after many discussions about the pro's and con's of twining and then once we agreed we would like to twin we needed to decide where, again lots of discussions but in the end we agreed to try Zwolle in Northern Netherlands as I had some very good times there.

Going through all the appropriate channels to gain permission within Province then Grand lodge who acted on our behalf to contact the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands we eventually made contact with the Secretary of Fides Mutua lodge in Zwolle. He and I discussed the possibility of twining and the rest as they say is history. Each year a party of our brothers visit Fides Mutua at their temple in Zwolle northern Netherlands and the reciprocate later that year to visit us here in Brightlingsea. There is normally a core of 4 – 5 members of Lodge of Faith that make the trip annually. Last year a couple of us attended a special meeting at the lodge in the Netherlands where we saw a 18th century version of a 1st degree adapted for today's time, in Dutch of course, which while in Dutch we could follow some elements. At the festive board which again is a different experience!

The main driver of this demonstration Bro Freddie suggested that they do a Dutch (modern) first degree here in Brightlingsea in English, which we obviously agreed to, provided that we didn't have to do an English first degree in Dutch, as we all recognise their English is excellent and our Dutch isn't.

I would like to say this is unique but actually there are other lodges in the UK that are twinned, and I would strongly encourage other Lodges in Essex to consider such a relationship. We had a very well attended meeting and were honoured with the presence of Very Worshipful Brother Paul Reeves Deputy PGM and members of the Executive. The day went really well and there is even talk now of potentially some members of the Lodge of Faith visiting Zwolle to deliver a 1st Degree in English!

The bonus of twining is that you get to make new masonic friends from a different country. Whilst we have all made great masonic friends some of us have taken it further and built up personal friendships outside of the lodge, visiting each others families, so twining really is the definition of International Freemasonry and yes it does take some effort but that effort is worth it and I encourage all lodges to consider it.

Chafford Lodge 5510 Banner Dedication



On 15th November 2018, The Chafford Lodge 5510 having been consecrated on the 31st January 1935 completed the dedication of their 1st Lodge Banner at the Upminster Masonic Hall at the regular meeting held on the 15th November 2018 with the APGM W.Bro Peter Hollingsworth attending the dedication along with the Prov G Chaplain W.Bro Mick Scotchmer and the ProvDepGDC W.Bro Neil March who conducted an excellent 1st class dedication ceremony enjoyed by the members and visitors

The ceremony was followed by a festive board which continued in the same vein of brotherly love, but in a more relaxed and humorous atmosphere.



Join us at



THE MCF BALL 2019

THE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION CHARITY BALL

Saturday 15th June, 2019
at the luxurious - The Grange St. Paul's Hotel!

10, Godliman Street, London EC4V 5AJ

Dance the night away with **Swing Central**,
one of the country's top live bands and enjoy
a special guest appearance by **Britain's Got
Talent finalist Jasmine Elcock**.

Tickets at £95 each, inclusive of half a bottle of wine per person
can be booked on line at:

<http://buytickets.at/masoniccharitablefoundationball/237622>

All profits go to Essex Festival2022

**FEST
2022**
ESSEX FESTIVAL

All the details you need for this glittering black tie occasion – Drinks reception at 6.00pm – Dinner 6.45 – Carriages 11.45pm.
Your Host and President for the evening R.W.Bro Rodney Lister Bass OBE, Provincial Grand Master for Essex.