

# the essex mason



The Official Journal of the Masonic Province of Essex

Issue 87 January 2020 £3

**Essex Provincial Grand Chapter**

**Welcomes**

**Pro First Grand Principal Peter Geoffrey Lowndes**



**The Pro First Grand Principal on why more members aren't joining the Royal Arch - Page 5**





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## DepPGM's Foreword



P.G.Reeves.psd

Brethren, the RW ProvGM's treatment continues and he still manages to represent this Province at the meetings of fifteen Provinces with whom we inter-visit (both as ProvGM and again as Grand Superintendent) and to attend Lodges & Chapters that are celebrating significant meetings in the Province.

The ProvGAlm, W.Bro Nick Clarke and his team, and in particular, W.Bro George Young, have been working closely with Prof. Colin Booth and the prostate cancer charity CHAPS to deliver screening events around the Province for the past couple of years. This year the programme has been reviewed and there will only be one large-scale event, hosted at the Essex County Cricket Ground in Chelmsford, which will be free of charge. There have been a surprising number of brethren who have attended out of curiosity (who had no symptoms) and who were found to have prostate cancer. I encourage you to read W.Bro Nick's article in this edition of the magazine and to make the effort to attend.

As Master I look forward to welcoming thirty-three new members to Essex Masters' Lodge when we meet on 18th February, which will bring the total membership to 942; the largest lodge in the English Constitution and probably anywhere in the world. W.Bro Mark Smith, ProvGORator will be treating us to a talk about the Battle of Waterloo. He weaves personal stories and so many interesting details into his talks that he truly brings the events he describes to life. I hope you take the opportunity to be there but we had a capacity attendance last time so please ensure you book-in with our Bro. Secretary.

Finally brethren, as we start a New Year can you please take a moment to think of a Brother you know who is going through treatment for cancer and other life-threatening or debilitating conditions (and who you probably keep meaning to call) and finally give them a call to catch-up and see how they are doing.

Paul G. Reeves, DepPGM

Dear Readers,

Welcome to Issue 87 of Essex Mason, the Official Magazine for the Province of Essex.

Firstly, congratulations to all brethren who have received preferment or Provincial First Appointment.

This issue features a report on the successful Provincial Grand Chapter Convocation held at Great Queen Street in September 2019 at which the Province was honoured by the attendance at the Convocation of the Pro Grand First Principal Peter Geoffrey Lowndes; and a diverse range of interesting articles and topics including various Charity Fundraising events and Festival update, Pathway and a feature by the Provincial Grand Almoner Nick Clarke who reports on the various objectives and initiatives which he and the Provincial Almoners team will be focusing on in 2020.

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 88, which will be circulated in August to [magazine@essexmason.co.uk](mailto:magazine@essexmason.co.uk) with a copy deadline of the 31st July 2020.

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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## Provincial Grand Master Installed as Worshipful Master of Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge



*On Monday 28th October the Provincial Grand Master, in and over the Province of Essex, became the first Provincial Grand Master ever to be installed as Worshipful Master of his own Stewards Lodge*

*RW.Bro Rodney Lister Base O.B.E. was installed as WM of Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge 8665*

**T**he Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge 8665, consecrated 29th September 1975 has been honoured by the first Essex Provincial Grand Master to be installed as the Lodge Master.

Since its consecration, in contention to be deemed as the Premier Lodge of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex in contest with the Essex Masters Lodge 3256, the largest Lodge in the English Constitution with over 900 members, the Stewards Lodge's Red Aproned members serve the needs of the Province under the direct guidance of the Provincial Grand Master of the time.

On Monday 28th October, the 19th Essex Provincial Grand Master since its founding in 1776, Right Worshipful Brother, Rodney Lister Bass OBE was duly installed as the 45th Master of the Stewards Lodge by outgoing Master, Worshipful Brother Dennis Baum PJGD.

At the same meeting, the current acting Essex Provincial Grand Stewards presented the Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £9,500, their current fund raising total to go towards the Festival 2022 in support of the Masonic Charitable Foundation Trust.

A charity collection at the meeting raised £750 which was donated, at the Provincial Grand Master's request, to Cancer Research UK.

## Deputy Provincial Grand Master Installed as Worshipful Master of Essex Masters Lodge

By VW.Bro Paul  
George Reeves

**I** was truly humbled to be Installed into the Chair of Essex Masters' Lodge in October. I had been surprised and delighted when they asked me to be the ADC in 2007-2009 and then DC 2009-2013 but nothing compares with being the Master of such an august lodge, which also has the largest membership of any lodge world-wide, and I have already had the pleasure of visiting other Installed Masters' lodges representing Essex.



When it was Consecrated in 1907 there were 56 lodges in the Province; now there are over 300! The Primus Master was Col. The Rt.Hon. Aurelius Richard Mark Lockwood, PC, CVO, MP and ProvGM. He later went on to be Lord Lambourne and in 1926, while still ProvGM, wrote "I wish to recommend to the Brethren of the Essex Masters Lodge how well worthy of their attention is the first printed copy of the Transactions of the Lodge. There were originally many doubts expressed as to the advisability of starting this lodge, and I myself had some fears. I was wrong so were many others, the subsequent history of the lodge and its present position show its extreme usefulness both to the Craft and the Province." It still does provide that important link with the Province, with the RW ProvGM attending every meeting and announcing the latest developments and changes within the Province and Freemasonry generally.

We currently have 932 members and with no joining fee and subscriptions of only £20 per annum I would like to be able to hand over to my successor a lodge with 1,000 members who will benefit from membership of a very special lodge.



# a call to action

The Pro First Grand Principal on why more members aren't joining the Royal Arch

Companions, for a long time we have been trying to come up with good reasons why all brethren should join the Royal Arch. I think between us we have had some success, and the percentage of brethren who are members has increased almost everywhere over the last few years. Today I want to turn the question round and ask: 'Why don't all our brethren join the Royal Arch?' It seems to me that there are five main reasons, but I am sure others will come up with many more.

*I am all for our Craft brethren joining whatever other legitimate Order that they want, but I strongly believe the Royal Arch should come first*



**First**, they don't know anything about it. If this were to be the main reason, I would be very depressed, which I am not. However, I am sure that there will be some who fall into this category – and that is a real condemnation of those who appoint the Royal Arch representatives in lodges. They must clearly be failing in their duties. Where there are no Royal Arch representatives, then senior brethren and particularly mentors as well as proposers and seconders must step up.

**Second**, they have heard about it, but have been put off by some aspect. Frequently I have heard people talking about how difficult the ritual is to learn. Surely our brethren should be able to make up their own minds about that and not have seeds of doubt sown in their minds without having tried it. Let them find out for themselves, and if they are reluctant to join the ladder, they can watch from the side until they feel ready. The exaltation ceremony is one of the best to sit and watch.

Personally, I don't consider it any more difficult than any other ritual, and the main long section delivered by the Principal

Sojourner is a good story which I have always found sticks in the mind reasonably well. Also, companions, the Principal Sojourner has two assistants. Why should they not live up to their names and assist in the ceremony. The work splits naturally and gives the Assistant Sojourners good reason to attend. With the fairly recent changes to the ritual, the First Principal's task has been considerably eased

by sharing much of it with the other Principals.

**Third**, cost. This is clearly relevant, and it is imperative that any candidates are fully briefed on this just as they should have been when joining the Craft. In part, this can be considered in the same way as my **fourth** reason: time. Again, extremely relevant. Many chapters only meet three times a year, but that is still an added burden for working people to manage. Do our lodges, perhaps, meet too often? Many meet 10-plus times a year – along with Lodges of Instruction and rehearsals, this is an enormous time burden on the young working brother. I know I shall be unpopular with many, but if lodges that meet that often considered reducing the number of their meetings, it could possibly invigorate their chapters by saving the brethren both time and money.

**Fifth**, they have joined other Orders already and have reached the limit of the involvement in Freemasonry that they want. If this is the case, we have again failed in our duties as Craft Freemasons. There can be no logical masonic reason for a Craft Freemason to join any other Order before joining the Royal Arch, unless they don't know about the Royal Arch, or the reasons for joining have been poorly explained.

I must add that I am all for our Craft brethren joining whatever other legitimate Order that they want, but I strongly believe the Royal Arch should come first.

Companions, the Royal Arch is a wonderful Order, as everyone knows. I am extremely proud of being the Pro First Grand Principal and look forward to the day when we can boast that more than 50% of Craft Freemasons have joined the Order and we can then move upwards from there.

*Article Published in Issue 48 of FMT Freemasonry Today*



# PATHWAY



## Henry de Gray Lodge 6627 Embrace Pathway

Henry de Gray has embraced the Membership Pathway Scheme and are thriving with Initiates (a double Initiation on the night)

On Saturday 14th December, the Members of Henry de Gray Lodge made full use of Solomon Nuggets in their meeting with new masons getting actively encouraged to deliver ritual.

A fantastic example of this was by the Inner Guard Bro Jamie Barton who delivered an outstanding rendition of the Charge after Initiation.



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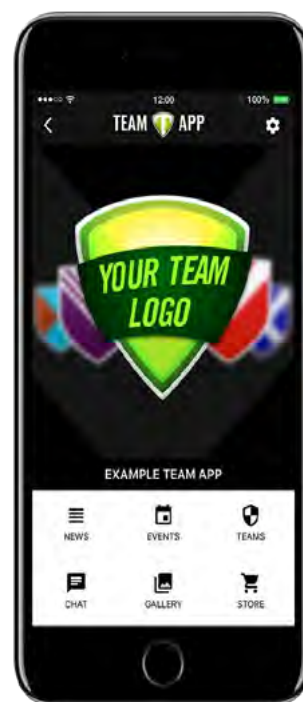


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## A Family Affair. Dagenham Lodge 4699



Three generations at Dagenham Lodge No 4699 Upminster.

Daniel was Installed in to the chair of King Solomon on 23rd Feb 19 with his father and Grandfather present.

At a recent meeting in December Daniel was declared as WM for the ensuing year (2nd Year) with Dad and Granddad present.

## Pathway Initiation Grey Friars Lodge 5169

Hailer Alzubaidi and Frantian Castro were initiated into Grey Friars Lodge 5169 via The Pathway scheme.

Bro Haider Alubaidi on the 3rd June 2019 and Bro Frantian Castro on 23rd September 2019 by W/Bro Tony Ackers in an excellent manner



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# 100 years

## Lambourne Lodge 3945 - Centenary Meeting

On the 18th September, the Provincial Grand Master, the RW.Bro. Rodney L. Bass OBE., graced the Temple at Loughton to celebrate the Centenary of Lambourne Lodge 3945. Accompanied by members of the Provincial Executive, including his Deputy, VW.Bro. Paul Reeves and two APMG in the form of W.Bro's Peter Hollingsworth and Tony White. There were nearly 40 attending, including RW.Bro. Sir Neil Thorne, W.Bro's Brian Tierney, and Cliff Thoms.

By established custom the acting WM., W.Bro Ron Marsh, opened the lodge in due form, before the Provincial GDC announced the imminent arrival of the "Boss", who was duly admitted, but he graciously declined the offer of the gavel.



The Acting WM., drew the attention of the Brethren to the names of the Consecrating officers and the Founders, and their contribution to the world of Freemasonry was acknowledged.

The meeting continued with the reading of the original warrant, following the Provincial Grand Secretary W.Bro. Philip Lovelock, reading out the new Centenary warrant, which was duly passed to the PGM., who passed it to the WM., who passed it to the Secretary, for safe keeping!

The Treasurer promised to make a donation to the 2022 festival in the sum of £2500, to which the PGM expressed his grateful thanks and regaled us with latest figures from the forthcoming event.

After the necessary libation the whole party, sat down to a main meal of Middle Skate and it was unanimously agreed to be a good choice. The usual wines were taken followed eventually by the Toasts. The PGM addressed the WM, who responded in a reflective manner. The toast to the visitors was given by Bro. Tony Everett, who reminded us that without our guests Lambourne would have floundered years ago. The response was given by Bro. Mike Higgins who himself had once been a coerced WM. The acting IPM, guest W.Bro Terry Rogers, was also actual IPM at the 75 anniversary meet. A successful raffle was held and added to the sum for the 2022 Festival.



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The Grand Superintendent thanked Cliff Thoms for his outstanding work for the Royal Arch as Deputy Grand Superintendent. His experience and wise counsel both in the Royal Arch and in Craft masonry has been invaluable both to The Grand Superintendent personally and to the Province as a whole. The Grand Superintendent went on to pay a warm tribute to Clive Rees and to Phil Campbell for their conscientious and diligent work as Second and Third Provincial Grand Principals respectively. The Grand Superintendent remarked that Nick Franklin will be an admirable successor to Cliff, and that Phil and Elliott Chevin thoroughly deserve their promotions.

The Assistants to the PGPs have also done an excellent job. Ian Simpson is stepping down as an APGP. The Grand Superintendent thanked him for his hard work in that role and his continuing active involvement in the Province is very much appreciated. The Grand Superintendent appointed Martin Cook as APGP to succeed Ian, and David Wilson to succeed Elliott Chevin and wished them both well in their new roles.

The Grand Superintendent extended his thanks to the Provincial Scribe E, Phil Lovelock and the outgoing and incoming Provincial Grand DCs Geoff Turpin and Joe Shearer and each of their teams for all their hard work and effort in ensuring that the Provincial; Grand Chapter meeting proceeded smoothly – as well as the outstanding support they give him throughout the year.

The Royal Arch Executive has continued to develop, borrow, and produce many innovative initiatives around the Province, primarily designed to recruit new Exaltees 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, Essex remain an active and vibrant Royal Arch Province. A more clearly defined and broader role for the Chapter Almoner combining the duties of Craft Almoner, Mentor and Membership Officer is hugely important to the strength and well-being of a Chapter and we will continue to work on this.

In the long run, the overall strength of The Royal Arch depends upon the vitality of the Craft. The new Membership Pathway Lodges in the Craft, highlight, 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!

## The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent

Installed as First Principal of Essex First Principals Chapter No 3256

It has been my especial pleasure and privilege this past year to serve as First Principal of Essex First Principals Chapter No 3256 and of Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No 8665 for which I am eternally grateful. Can I also pay tribute to the excellent support provided by several Essex Chapters to the 2022 Festival (as illustrated in the Report of the Committee of General Purposes) and to encourage others to follow their lead.

by Rodney Bass OBE  
Grand Superintendent



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# Monkhams Chapter

No. 4161

The Chapter was pleased to welcome the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal to the installation meeting on 3rd October at the Harlow Masonic Centre to present a 50th year certificate to E.Comp Terry Hockley who was also celebrating 40th year as a member of the Chapter.

All present enjoyed a very good meeting seeing E.Comp Terry receive a history of his Masonic career and working life, also on the night E.Comp Tim Holland install his successor E.Comp Keith Wood in an excellent manner, who in a difference to a norm installed all his officers explaining each office and duties. 25 Companions then enjoyed a lovely festive board after the meeting.

On 10th of October, 2019, at Crossed Keys Masonic Centre, witnessed by 50 Companions, St. John's Chapter celebrated a major milestone of one hundred years since its consecration.

After the ceremony of Installation, The First Principal of the Chapter, E. Comp. John Crates, Second Principal, E. Comp. Gerry Sampson and the Third Principal, E. Comp. Steve Whittet were delighted to receive members of the Royal

Arch Executive, namely, the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. Nick Franklin, Second Provincial Grand Principal, E. Comp. Phil Campbell, Third Provincial Grand Principal, E. Comp. Elliott Chevin as well as three APGP's, the Provincial Grand Scribe E and the Provincial Grand DC.

A short history of the Chapter was read by the Scribe E, and the consecration minutes were read by the MEZ.

The Provincial Grand Scribe E, read the centenary certificate and then the Deputy Grand Superintendent

presented it to the members of St. John's Chapter. The Chapter immediately conferred honorary membership upon E. Comp. Nick Franklin, who was delighted!

The Third Provincial Grand Principal then delivered a lecture entitled 'History in Context', which was well received by all present.

A cheque for £2,200 was presented to the Deputy Grand Superintendent in favour of Essex Festival 2022, who expressed his grateful thanks to all members of the Chapter.

After the meeting, a fantastic Festive Board followed with celebratory napkins, pens, coasters and placemats! It was a truly memorable meeting and one that it is hoped, will set up St. John's Chapter for its second century.

## Centenary Celebration

### St. John's Chapter







## Royal Arch Tracing Boards Chapter of True Friendship

**M**ost Companions can be forgiven for not knowing that there are tracing boards in the Royal Arch because very few examples are known to remain in existence.

At the convocation of the Chapter of True Friendship, No. 160 on 12th November, some ninety Companions were present at the Rochford Masonic Centre to witness a fascinating and informative explanation of the tracing boards.

The explanation was given by members of the Metropolitan Grand Stewards' Demonstration Team, headed by E. Comp. Simon White PGSoj, Metropolitan Grand Inspector.

In attendance was the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. Nicholas Franklin, Second Provincial E. Comp. Grand Principal Phillip Campbell, Third Provincial Grand Principal, E. Comp. Elliott Chevin together with three APGPs.

Also present was the Deputy Metropolitan Grand Superintendent E. Comp. Chris Clarke PGSN who is also a member of the Chapter of True Friendship and had facilitated the visit by the demonstration team.

Royal Arch Tracing Boards have a history dating back to when UGLE was first formed when the Duke of Sussex, the first Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, commissioned the artist John Harris to harmonise the tracing boards by creating an official model for each degree including the Holy Royal Arch. The rituals and explanation of the symbols had in the main been lost over time but have again been brought to life following research of examples of the Tracing Boards that are held at Freemasons Hall in Great Queen Street.

The inaugural demonstration of the Royal Arch Tracing Boards had been given at the Clapton Chapter No. 1365 at Southgate Chapter in April this year when our very own Most Excellent Grand Superintendent E. Comp. Rodney Lister Bass had presided as MEZ of his London Chapter. The Chapter of True Friendship were very proud to have hosted the very first demonstration in an Essex Chapter and the evening was much enjoyed by all who were present.

Look out for news of the next explanation of the tracing boards by the Metropolitan Grand Stewards Demonstration Team; it should definitely be experienced at least once!





## Albert Lucking Chapter Like Father Like Son



L to R; E Comp Andrew McLeod (Chapter APGP) New Exaltees Comp Stephen Bull and Comp Chris Bull with E Comp Barry Nicholls Chapter MEZ

**Another "special" Albert Lucking Chapter Convocation ! This time to Exalt Father and Son in a Double Exaltation Ceremony, in to Essex HRA and to our Chapter in particular.**

This special occasion was attended by over 20 Royal Arch Companions at Saxon Hall on the 26th October 2019 to witness this unique event in the Chapters History.

It was also the very first time the Chapter had met on a Saturday morning; all adding to the remarkable atmosphere. Special invited Guests of the Chapter included Grand Officers, E Comp Andrew McLeod (Chapter APGP on a private visit), E Comp Ian Simpson who read the Exaltation Ceremony Narration and E Comp Norman Lawrence who ably acted as PS with musical accompaniment provided from guest Organist E Comp Roger Galton- Davis.. Companions then enjoyed a most excellent Festive Board at Saturday Lunch time !

## Danehurst Chapter 75th Anniversary Celebration

On the 11th September 2019 the companions of Danehurst Chapter held a special celebratory meeting marking 75 years since the consecration of the Chapter in 1944. The meeting was attended by E.Comp Cliff Thoms, Deputy Provincial Grand Superintendent, E.Comp Andrew McLeod, Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, and E Companion Phillip Campbell Essex Third Principal. They were escorted by E.Comp Geoff Turpin, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies , and two Provincial Grand Chapter Stewards.



The Chapter Scribe E , John Mansfield , gave an explanation of the circumstances which had lead to the decision to petition for the formation of the Chapter during a time of war and arrangements for its subsequent consecration by the then Provincial Grand Superintendent E Companion Dr Douglas Turner CBE and other members of the Provincial Royal Arch Executive . He regretted that he had been unable to determine what was served at the subsequent festive board but as this took place during wartime rationing he doubted that it would have matched the fare served at the consecration of Danehurst Lodge some 20 years before.

He ended the history by observing that it was fitting that those of the present should give honour to those of the past who created and built the traditions of the Chapter. In a still changing world may we remain unchanged, and like the bleak mountain which bears its crest with dignified composure to the coming tempest and fearlessly presents its bosom to the midnight storm may our faith and our tenants remain until time shall be no more.

A demonstration by members of the Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter entitled "Added Drama within the Degree" then took place to the approval of all who were present.



# Welcome Brother



left to right: W.Bro. Andrew Fusher PAGDC, Bro. Oliver Bowles, W.Bro. Clive Rees APGM, WM W.Bro. Richard Ramjane, Bro. Jeremy Faulks, Bro. Martin Coggins.

During the 277th regular meeting of Fryerning Lodge N0.6938 at Hutton on 2nd December 2019, WM W.Bro. Richard Ramjane conducted a double initiation in the presence of W.Bro. Clive Rees, Assistant Provisional Grand Master and W.Bro. Andrew Fusher, Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. The WM structured the double to ensure that each initiate experienced an individual ceremony.



28th November at William of Colchester Lodge 5255 at the St Giles Masonic Centre, Colchester. Honoured by many visitors including an official visit from W.Bro Clive Rees (APGM) with many other Grand Officers present. An excellent ceremony by the Brethren, made extra special for James Mitchell as the Lodge were initiating his best friend into Freemasonry.



United lodge 697 from October's meeting at St. Giles Masonic Hall.

Joshua Marriott  
Initiated 16/10/2019

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Left to right... Bro Ian Miller (EA) – Uncle to the initiate. Bro Harry Miller (EA – 20 Years old – Initiate). W.Bro Gary Miller (father of Initiate). W.Bro Lee Taylor APGM

It was a VERY special and emotional Meeting for Gary, as the initiation of his son was also Gary's 19th Anniversary of becoming a Freemason and certainly one of his proudest Masonic moments to date.

Gary has always had a great interest in all Vintage or Antique items that have a connection with English Freemasonry, with this in mind he thought it would be great for Harry (his son) to own this Lewis Jewel, and, wear it with pride, Gary commented "this is a Footprint of our Family's Masonic History".

The names on the Jewel are as follows;

**Bro. Richard Robert Robbins**

Initiated into the Lodge of Light 23rd of November 1962.

Encouraged into Freemasonry by his employers, a Funeral Director's by the name of Hayes & English.

Lewis Jewel - 5 Generations

Sadly, Gary's grandfather died from a heart attack, just before the Meeting he was due to be installed in to the Chair as Master of the Lodge

Second on the Jewel is Gary's Uncle,

**W.Bro David Richard Robbins**

The first Lewis of the Family, a retired Police Officer and very keen Mason who went on to achieve Grand Rank, and also celebrated 50 years in Freemasonry in January 2016.

Third name on the Jewel is Gary Miller, Initiated 19th October 2000, Worshipful Master 2007 and was appointed Provincial Grand Steward in 2010 and in 2014 was appointed PPDGPswdB

Next on the list is Gary's Brother,

**Bro. Ian David Miller**

Initiated the same day as Gary, as a double Initiation and had to be recorded on the Lewis Jewel. Sadly, over the years Ian's work and Family have kept him far too busy for his interest in Freemasonry to flourish.

Sadly, Ian lost his wife Joanne Miller in the early part of this year and of course is missed by all the family, but he has since shown a rejuvenated interest in Freemasonry.

The last name on the Jewel is;

**Bro. Harry Aldo Gandolfi Miller**

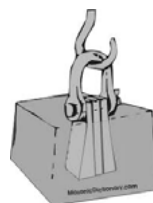
Harry has always shown an interest and curiosity towards Freemasonry and no doubt his dad's briefcase full of Regalia stirred this up. The Lodge all wished Harry the very best as his unwritten Masonic future may unfold.

Harry was Initiated 17th of October 2019 into the Lodge of Borrowed Light 9054 19 years but to days of his fathers first regular step.

## Family Affair The Lodge of Borrowed Light 9054

The Lodge of Borrowed Light No 9054 held a very special meeting at Harlow on Thursday 17th October 2019 where W.Bro Gary Miller was asked to take the Masters chair in order to Initiate his son Harry, under dispensation as Harry is a week away from his 21st birthday. Also present was the candidates Uncle Ian, twin brother of Gary.

A very special meeting and enjoyable festive board.



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The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Richard Waterman of The William of Colchester Lodge 5255, accompanied by the Lodge Charity Steward presented a cheque for £1000.00 to The Colchester Night Shelter.

This is the second year running a donation has been made to the shelter by the Lodge at Christmas. The Lodge has voted to support the Night Shelter on a yearly basis.

## Triple Cream



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www.triplecream.com davebrock@hotmail.com

## Boars Head Meeting Seven Kings Lodge



The eagerly awaited 24th annual meeting of the Boars Head took place on Friday 29th November and it all started with 140 Brethren with toys in arms 350 in all. Which were later distributed to 5 hospitals, Queens, Broomfield, Colchester, Harlow and Basildon. The meeting was opened to the chant of Queens We Will Rock You. All the Brethren were eagerly awaiting which Member of the Craft Executives would be called up to take the Masters Chair and perform a double initiation Ceremony.

It was W.Bro Lee Taylor APM who with the Lodge Officers all performed a Master Class of a Ceremony. It was then time to take our seats at the Festive Board and what a night of fun, laughter, great food, Christmas Carols and the best rendition of the 12 days of Christmas I think we have all heard. W.Bro Peter Banks then stood up and told us all the raffle had raised £2950 and he and the Lodge Members were holding a Christmas Party the next night for 75 Cancer effected Children many from Great Ormond Street Hospital and the money raised this evening to MCA Trust for Children with Cancer.

All I can say is this is true Masonry and I commend Peter and all Brethren involved for all their work over 24 years! I am already looking forward to next year!

## Helmingham Festival of Classic Cars & Sports Cars



Each year Helmingham Hall hosts an event called, Helmingham Festival of Classic Cars & Sports Cars and next year this event will be held on the 2nd of August. It has been proposed that we will have a dedicated area for those who have not only a classic car but who are car enthusiasts. Last year there were over 1000 exhibiting cars and over 7000 people attending, and £6000 was raised for EACH. Please e-mail mje.rumsey@talk21.com to indicate your interest.

After a successful Classic Car Rally organised by W.Bro Henry Bass at Stisted Garden Party this summer several brethren asked if we could form an Essex Freemasons Classic Car Club.

W.Bro Henry has started taking names and plans to arrange the first get together at a pub in Wickham Bishops in the Spring. Anyone interested please contact him at:  
henry\_bass@hotmail.co.uk



# Lodge of Daily Advancement 9979



Authored by W.Bro Tony Hales

## W.Bro Alan Everard Leading from the Front

The Primus Master of the newly consecrated Lodge of Daily Advancement No 9979 W.Bro Alan Everard PSGD PAPGM led the way forward at the first regular meeting in Chelmsford on 1st October 2019 with his inaugural installation address entitled 'The Royal Arch and the Third Degree'.

W.Bro Alan explained how we can improve our understanding of the relationship between the Craft and the Royal Arch by taking a closer look at the allegorical chronology of the Order of Royal and Select Masters and Mark degrees and suggested some further areas of research by Lodge members for future orations.

Degree	Event
<u>Mark Degree</u> circa 1769	Preparation of the stones for the building of the Temple.
<u>Select Master</u> 1st Royal and Select Masters Degree circa 1873	Explanation of why a secret vault was needed to hide the Ark of the Covenant and the treasures in the Temple.
<u>Craft Third Degree</u> circa early 18th Century	Death of Hiram Abif with Solomon declaring the Master Word to be lost and orders certain substituted secrets to replace it.
<u>Most Excellent Master</u> 3rd Royal and Select Masters Degree	Dedication of the Temple with the Ark of the Covenant placed in the most holy place.
<u>Super Excellent Master</u> 4th Royal and Select Masters Degree	380 years later Jerusalem is destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, and the people of Judah are taken into captivity.
<u>Excellent Master</u> Final Royal and Select Masters Degree also known as 'Passing the Veils'	538 BC: After 70 years in exile Cyrus and the Persians who have conquered Babylon let the Jews return and rebuild the Temple.
<u>Royal Arch Exaltation</u> circa early 18th Century	The 'Lost Word' is rediscovered.

The meeting was well attended with 48 brethren including W.Bro Charles Elliott PJGD in his official capacity as APGM for the Lodge and a fine rendition of the Master's Song was sung at the festive board by another APGM W.Bro the Rev Martin Howse PSGD.

Applications for membership of the Lodge of Daily Advancement are welcomed from Master Masons who are also preferably Companions of the Holy Royal Arch with an interest in masonic research and would like to be part of a Demonstration and/or an Oratory Team.

Please visit [www.loda.org.uk](http://www.loda.org.uk) or email Lawrie Morrisson at [secretary@loda.org.uk](mailto:secretary@loda.org.uk) for more information.

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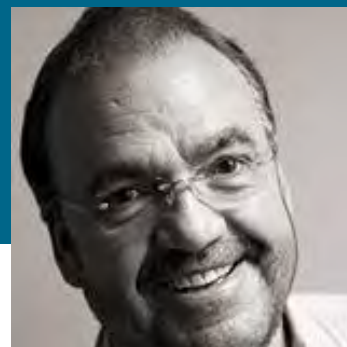
Harlow CM20 2HT



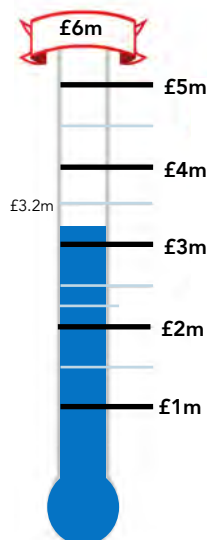
# Festival 2022 Update

## Let's hit that £6 million target

By W.Bro Colin Felton ProvChStwd



### Festival Thermometer



### Your chance to boost your local communities and charities

**T**he Essex Freemasons Community Fund has now been officially launched – it's ready to make a massive difference across the entire Province - and it's ready to 'match fund' and support your Lodge or Chapter.

The charity, part of a major new community initiative by the PGM, RW Bro Rodney Lister Bass OBE, has been set up to work with Essex Freemasons by supporting the good causes that really matter to you, in your local towns and villages.

So what does this mean? In real terms we would ask you to approach the local charities that you like to support and ask them what would make a real difference. All charities need cash so general funding would not qualify – we are talking here about clearly identifiable projects – where we as Freemasons can take ownership. Ideally, smaller charities that frequently fail to attract funding and especially those that work with children or young people, would be considered first.

We also ask that members of your Lodge or Chapter be prepared to put your hands in your own pockets. This means that if you are willing to give money then we as a Community Fund will consider match funding or even providing the balance of what is needed to deliver that project and make it happen for the local charities that you support.

We cannot guarantee to be able to provide for every application, but be assured that all requests will be considered by the team of trustees and grants will be awarded based on the overall benefit that will be given to the local community.

The Essex Freemasons Community Fund has been set up with savings made by introducing new efficiency measures at the Provincial HQ in Wickford. This has enabled a generous fund of around £80,000 to be made available for good causes and it is expected that similar amounts will be transferred over on an annual basis.

The charity will work alongside the established Essex Provincial Charity Fund which has been reformulated into a modern CIO, which can be run in a similar way to a limited company but is still policed by the Charity Commission. In short it means that money can be made available from both charities – so what are you waiting for?

### Essex Festival 2022

The launch of both charities comes when we are asking Essex Freemasons to dig deep to support the Essex Festival2022. At the time of writing we have banked £3.2 million towards our target of £6 million – a fantastic effort, but still a long way to go and with just two years left.

The secret of delivering our target is dependent on Essex Freemasons committing to a regular payments – one which can still be spread over five years. You will see inserted into this edition of Essex Mason a letter from the PGM asking for your support and a regular payment form which I hope you will fill in and return to me at my home: **73, Quorn Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2TA**

We only ask for £8.50 a month – more if you can afford it – which equates to £500 over a five year period and if you add Gift Aid it becomes £625. Do this and you immediately qualify for a Festival Jewel which will be posted by return – and which I hope you will wear with pride.

If enough of you return forms then we shall easily hit our £6 million target, money which is coming back into Essex at an incredible rate in charitable donations. Every year we receive nearly £500,000 to help distressed Freemasons and their families across the Province. We also receive a similar amount for local charities.



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In recent weeks we have given £72,000 to a Rape Crisis Centre in Colchester, £50,000 to a children's charity in Chelmsford along with numerous other charities in every part of Essex. The MCF is our local charity and you can work with them and the good causes that you support to ask for grants – talk to me if you need more information because remember - what's raised in Essex stays in Essex.

Finally I would like to thank all those Masons who have gone that extra mile to support our various charities and the Festival in particular. I am truly humbled by your generosity and ongoing commitment.

W.Bro Colin Felton, PAGDC, ProvChStwd





## Donate £72,000 to Colchester Charity

**E**ssex Freemasons have donated almost £72,000 to Colchester based charity, CARA (Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse), to help fund a specialist "Young Person's Practitioner" to provide support to teenage victims of sexual abuse

The funding will cover the cost of providing therapeutic support to help young people of all genders to move forwards from the trauma they have experienced, feel more able to cope with their lives and develop coping mechanisms to, for example, manage flashbacks and self-harming behaviour.

The grant, which was given via the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF), the Freemasons own charity, is one of the largest ever given in Essex to one single organisation and reflects the importance of the work that CARA undertakes in North and Mid Essex.

"The work undertaken by CARA is incredible and we are delighted to be able to support this excellent charity," said Paul Reeves, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Essex, who presented a cheque for the grant to Helen Parr, Director of CARA.

"CARA is a lifeline for vulnerable victims of sexual violence and child sexual abuse, helping to rebuild lives and we know that money from Essex Freemasons will make a real difference." Helen Parr for CARA, commented: "We are extremely grateful to the Freemasons for recognising the importance of the specialist support we provide to young victims of sexual violence and child sexual abuse and providing a grant that will help fund our work in Colchester and Tendring for a full three years."

CARA has been providing a counselling service for young people who have been victims of sexual violence or child sexual abuse since 2009. Demand has sadly increased by 163% over the last four years, with the number of referrals growing from 105 (2014) to 276 (2018).

This has grown largely due to increased awareness and understanding amongst young people, professionals and parents and across society in general. Currently, young people have to wait for four and a half months to start the support once they've been referred, but the additional funding from Essex Freemasons will help reduce that waiting time.

The Young Person's Practitioner is a fully qualified and experienced young person's counsellor. She will work one day a week from each of the CARA premises in Colchester, Clacton and Harwich. Each young person will normally be offered sessions for a minimum of six and a maximum of 20 weeks, depending on their needs. Over three years, the grant will support CARA's work with over 100 young people

Referrals to CARA come from the Essex Police, the Essex Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), Social Care teams, GPs, voluntary organisations and parents who may be concerned about their child, and sometimes from the young people themselves.

**CARA (Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse) works with victims and survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse, providing independent, specialist support and promoting and representing their rights and needs.**

For more information about CARA go to <https://caraessex.org.uk>







## Aldborough Lodge 5586 Support Little Havens Hospice

Presentation of a cheque for 1000.00 pounds which was raised at our recent Ladies Festival at Prince Regent Hotel in Woodford. The Cheque was presented to the Little Havens Hospice in Benfleet.

The Ladies Festival was organised by our WM, Duncan Whitehead and his Lady Debbie.

Please see the attached photograph of the presentation at Little Havens, included in the photo from left to right are: Debbie Whitehead, Carmel Hudson (Community Fundraising Manager, Little Havens), Janet Evenden (Sister of Debbie) and Paul Cash (Almoner, Aldborough Lodge).

Both Debbie and Janet and their families have had a close association with the Little Havens Hospice.

## Temple Lodge 5279 Support Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

Temple Lodge 5279 members were moved to support two local charities when a friend of their Worshipful Master was involved in a near fatal cycle accident. It was thanks to the prompt help of the "Essex & Herts Air Ambulance" and the continued after-care support from "Headway" (The Brain Injury Charity) that a full recovery was made by his friend and a happy ending was achieved.

The Lodge donated £500 each to the "Essex & Herts Air Ambulance" and to "Headway" (The Brain Injury Charity). The picture shows the Worshipful Master W.Bro. David Dellar presenting a cheque to the "Essex & Herts Air Ambulance" Fundraising Manager, Natasha Robertson.



The Deputy Provincial Grand Master Paul Reeves presented Essex Air Ambulance with a cheque for £10,000.

Some £6,000 of this total was donated via the newly formed Essex Freemasons' Community Fund with the balance from the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF).

Essex Masons donate from individual Lodges and Chapters nearly £50,000 a year to the Air Ambulance allowing the helicopter to cover the cost of around 25 different life saving missions. It is a charity that will continue to attract our support.

**Provincial Grand Charity Steward**  
W.Bro Colin Felton PADGC [colin.felton@essexpgl.org](mailto:colin.felton@essexpgl.org)





## "Pyrgo" Visits the Pyrgo Lodge 5802

The Lodge has recently completed a series of donations amounting to £5,000 to name and train a Guide Dog Puppy.

Pyrgo was born in April and at six months old visited the Lodge in November to meet the Brethren.

The initial training is completed by a Guide Dog Puppy Walker, who volunteering their own time and with assistance from the Charity, home, train and "socialise" the dog in preparation for its future training. Pyrgo is making good progress and it is hoped that on the completion of his training, he will become a worthy companion to and off assistance to a less sighted member of our society.

Pictured left to right - Alison (Pyrgo's Guide Dog Puppy Walker) along with Worshipful Master W.Bro Mike Terry and W.Bro. Barry Whitehouse his Immediate Past Master.

The Brethren of the Pyrgo Lodge wish Pyrgo every health and happiness in his future career and hope that other Lodges may consider supporting a puppy for this charity.

The TLC Appeal was formed in 1999 (by W.Bro Neil Beverley with the support of his then APGM, W.Bro. Brian Procter). Initially it was called 'Trauma Teddies' and was to supply teddies to the A&E Department at Southend Hospital, as a thank you for the way they had looked after the wife of W.Bro Ian Simpson. Such was the enthusiasm for the scheme it was soon spread to every hospital in Essex and a Committee was formed to run it. The name was also changed to 'Teddies for Loving Care'.

W.Bro Ian Simpson joined the team and under his Chairmanship the appeal has grown to include every Province in England & Wales, many in Scotland, Ireland, and New Zealand (North Island) with others finding their way to the USA & Europe.

For the first 19 years it was run and coordinated from Essex but as it continued to grow responsibility for running the appeal nationally has been taken up by the MCF, with each Province running its own appeal and looking after its own hospitals. With over 2 million teddies having been supplied to date there is no denying there is a demand for the service.

## TLC Appeal



This charity is active all year round, not only at Lodge meeting, next time you are giving money to charity please consider 'TLC Appeal - Essex' and help us to keep supplying the teddies. Bank Transfer to: Lloyd's Bank; 30.97.84, 03094047. Cheques may be posted to: TLC Appeal - Essex, c/o 204c High Street, Ongar, CM5 9JJ.



## Old Esthameians Lodge 7693 FEST 2022 Vice Patron and Banner Dedication

At the December meeting of the Old Esthameians Lodge the members and guests enjoyed a banner dedication ceremony to mark the Lodges 60th Anniversary. The banner presented and funded by the father of the Lodge, W.Bro. Norman Moore (88).

The banner dedication ceremony was carried out by W.Bro. Graham Dickerson APGM, W.Bro Michael Scotchmer ProvGChap and W.Bro Neil March Deputy DC.

The Lodge was also presented with a Festival 2022 Vice Patron certificate by W.Bro Graham Dickerson APGM





Let me open with a few thoughts from the book of Hebrews. " Let brotherly love continue, do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, remember those who are in dark places as though you were there yourself, remember those who are being mistreated as if you were also being mistreated, give to others what you can afford and be content with what you have".

This message runs through so much of our work and my stories for you in this issue reflect this and I do hope that you will find this Almoners Corner useful



## The Year Ahead

Like last year, we will no doubt be in for another busy year and especially we will be focusing on the following

- Promoting the new almoner's charity (EPAF)
- Improving PR material for lodge almoners
- To put new initiatives in place to reduce loneliness
- To reach out to more men for Prostate Cancer testing
- To deliver top quality messages for lodge almoners at the Conference in April
- To continue to work closely with the MCF and to try and deliver faster support

## Reflections on Christmas

This last Christmas has been a most humbling time for many of us. In November we wrote to all of the 120 unattached widows and told them about the strength of masonry in Essex with new lodges opening despite a few having to close. We focused on our work that we are doing to reduce loneliness and the importance of pastoral care in our work.

The response we have had has been amazing with 92 widows replying to say, thank you for their gift and many asking me to pass on their thanks to all the brethren in Essex for the work you do. Below is a typical quote.

"I lost my husband some years ago and recently a dear friend passed away, I still struggle with this and especially the loneliness that it brings. Often it is just knowing that someone is there for a chat and some companionship. It is so important that people like me feel involved and a part of the community. When the days and weeks stretch out before me, I often think how important the almoner's work is in trying to bring people like me together, I wish you well and please pass on my thanks to all Essex Masons."

## Update on the Role of the Lodge Almoner

Without any doubt the most important part of the lodge almoner's role is giving pastoral support to lodge members, be they regular or infrequent visitors, widows and of course those who are in distress with either their health or finance. It is a role that requires specific skills, especially in listening, patience and good communication.

The role is also about signposting the distressed person to the relevant source so they can get expert help quickly. The list is long but the top 5 are as follows and more will be given to almoners at the conference

The RMBI	for masonic home consideration 020 7596 2400
The MCF	for medical enquiries and counselling care line 0800 035 6090
The PGA/Team	for immediate finance help, family support & medical enquiries
Turn 2 Us	Benefit payments 020 8834 9277
Age UK	Loneliness support 020 3033 0741



## Lodge Donations – A new request in a new decade

Giving to those less fortunate is perhaps at the heart of a mason's work, naturally the almoners team get many calls every week from around the province asking if we (the Essex Provincial Almoners Fund) can help a brother in need and we always try to respond quickly with advice or some tangible award.

We can only give the financial help if we have the money donated to us and there remains a huge variance between those lodges that donate and those that don't. In the last year, out of 302 lodges and 120 chapters in the province, we have had donations in from just 48 lodges and chapters totalling £4964 from 1st Dec 2018 to 30th Nov.2019. To all who have supported us may I say again, a huge thank you and individual acknowledgements have been sent. The recent donations of £3221 during the run up to Christmas 2019 were healthier but sadly still insufficient to even cover the cost of the unattached widows Christmas gifts, let alone help to fund the other work through the year.

The EPAF and the Southend & Essex Masonic Welfare Trust frequently find that some lodges make regular calls on the charities for help, yet some of these units have never given any donations of money to the charities.

So maybe as we enter a new decade, I wonder if we can try and change how we support our eligible brethren in their hour of need and my plea is for every lodge and chapter to try and give something each year. Just £100 from each lodge and chapter a year is all the EPAF need and as a leading supermarket would say " every little counts". My thanks in advance.

## Keeping in touch

A common request from a mason, usually an elderly man who does not attend his lodge regularly, is for me to put him back in touch with his lodge and for a member to visit him. Widows too often phone in and ask for more contact from their husband's lodge. Dozens of such requests come to me and so my message in this edition is for lodge members, led by the almoner, to try and keep in touch as much as is possible with widows, widowers, country members and members who haven't been to two or three consecutive meetings.

Making a single phone call to somebody may be the only contact they get from another person that day or indeed that week and your phone call will make all the difference to them.



## Grant Awards from the MCF

I am often asked about grants that Essex get from the MCF, well from January to November 2019 we made to the MCF 102 formal enquiries, we received a total of 185 grants versus 178 last year and these totalled £389K versus £344K last year. Overall, we received the 3rd largest sum of grants from all the provinces excluding the Metropolitan District

## Social Isolation - A New Approach

This is one of the terrors of our modern life and as we live longer so the problems get worse. Social Isolation usually effects the elderly but not always and many young and middle-aged people can be affected. There will be more on this at the Lodge Almoners conference in April.

Loneliness often leads to other illnesses, bad lifestyles, poor eating and little or no exercise. As a result, serious ill health is often the outcome.

To continue our efforts in tackling this we have taken into the team, Gary Neilson, a mason who wants to make a difference by initially helping our widows to meet each other and socialise. Gary can be contacted on 07786 151587 if you have ideas to help him I have been in touch with all Masonic Centres last year and several are very keen to assist in this work, I am grateful to those that have come forward

## Lodge Almoners Conference 2020

The Lodge Almoner's conference will be held on the 4th April 2020 at Saxon Hall Masonic Centre in Southend and registration is from 8.30am with the conference starting at 10am.

All Lodge and Chapter Almoners & their deputies have now been invited by the Provincial Grand Master, the speakers are booked and each presentation is designed to add value and to give a focus on the work of the lodge almoner. The key presentations will be from Age Concern, Turn 2 Us, MCF enquiries team, a senior lodge almoner, health care specialists, claimant stories, plus words from myself and the PGM

It is essential to pre book by contacting Gary Hostler on 07799 803052 or [garyhostler@ntlworld.com](mailto:garyhostler@ntlworld.com) Our goody bags this year will contain something that will be of great help to an almoner, so come along and see what's in store for you.

## Prostate Cancer News - A Free one day trial testing programme – 30th April

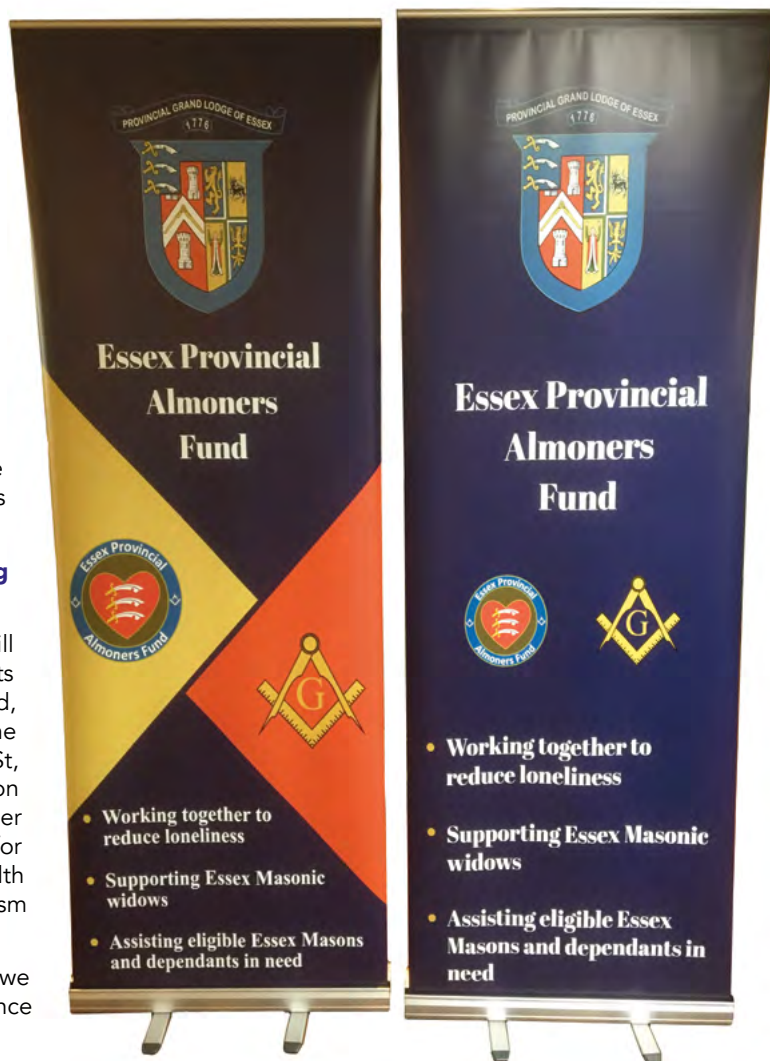
The testing programme for this year with CHAPS/NHS will be different and instead of holding a series of half day events around the province which generally are not all well attended, we have arranged to hold a one day event in the centre of the province at the Essex County Cricket Ground, New Writtle St, Chelmsford CM2 0PG from 12noon to 8pm. On this occasion this will be free to all men, masons and non masons, however donations are requested on the day. In addition to the test for prostate cancer there will be a variety of other men's health checks available on the day such as Diabetes, Aortic Aneurysm Screen, Skin Cancer, Cardio Vascular and Nutrition

Prostate cancer testing is so important and at the moment we are not attracting nearly enough men in such a large province as Essex, the quote below from a mason says so much.

## A recent quote from a prostate cancer patient

*"My name is Alan Harding and I am a member of the Lodge of True Friendship 160 in Rochford. I have Prostate Cancer and it came to light following a screening with CHAP's earlier last year at Saxon Hall. I had no symptoms, no ill health or any idea that I may be in danger prior to attending the screening. Had a friend of mine not died earlier in the year of Prostate cancer and Saxon Hall wasn't on my way home, I may not have attended and a year later it would have been too late. However, the screening caught it early and I should now be Ok. I need to express my gratitude to the wonderful job that CHAPS and Essex Almoners do to promote this work, and I would urge all men to be tested"*

To pre-book an appointment please go to [events.chaps.uk.com](http://events.chaps.uk.com). For further assistance or information, please contact Celine Larkin on 07873 541505 or email [celine.larkin@chaps.uk.com](mailto:celine.larkin@chaps.uk.com)



**Provincial Grand Almoner**  
W.Bro Nick Clarke PAGDC [nick@nickclarke.f9.co.uk](mailto:nick@nickclarke.f9.co.uk)



# Clay Pigeon Shoot



The Essex Provincial Grand Stewards  
Clay Pigeon shoot  
Saturday 21st September 2019



**Matt Day - Experienced shoot**



**Graham Law - Novice winner**



**Adam McDavitt (14)**



**Kevin Marshal football scratch card winner (Ostrea Lodge 8209)**

The 2019 Essex Provincial Grand Stewards clay pigeon shoot was held on Saturday 21st September.



The event was a complete sell out within days of being advertised.

The morning began with breakfast at the Black Bull public house before moving on to Fyfield shooting ground.

The shooters were split into 3 categories. Experienced Shooters, Novice & Colts.

During the shoot there was lots of fun & laughter between the shooters and new friendships were formed.

After the shoot it was back to the Black Bull for lunch followed by the presentations by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW.Bro Paul Reeves

The day raised in excess of £1500 for the Essex festival 2022.

We thank all those who supported the event & look forward to next year.





## Lodge and Chapter join forces to support local scout group

The 2nd Stanford-le-Hope Scout Group ran into problems when the floor of their Head Quarters, which is over 25 years old, started to collapse. The total cost of repair was estimated at around £13,000. Although they are a large Group with over 100 young members this estimate was more than they could possibly find. The hall is used nearly every day of the week by Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Dancing School, Karate, Craft Club and other Group meetings. A group of voluntary adult Leaders was formed by 2 helpers Karen and Michelle, fund raising activities to meet this mammoth task have been arranged and are ongoing. They also sent requests for help to many Companies and Associations.

Henry de Gray Lodge No. 6627 and Rainham Chapter No. 3079 both have members that are attached to Scouting and recommended donations. Both Lodge and Chapter members agreed and donations totalling £1100 to assist them was presented on their behalf by W.Bro Derek Dellow who is a member of both Henry de Gray and Rainham to the 2nd Stanford-le-Hope Group at a meeting where Scouts, Cubs and Leaders were present and very appreciative.

## A wheelie good effort Rochford Hundred Lodge



SUNDAY 4th August saw the Prudential Ride London event where competitors battle each other on two wheels over a 100 mile course around London and Surrey finishing at the Mall.

A Rochford Hundred Lodge member Chris Hayden took part and finished the course in a creditable 6 hours 30 minutes all in the aid of his charity Great Ormond Street Hospital. Chris has managed to raise £600 on his JustGiving page so far.



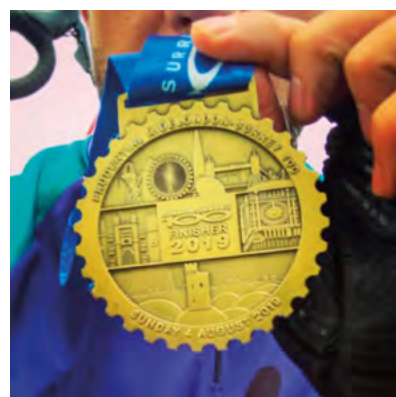
Chris is an all action man and keeps himself very fit by cycling and many other sport activities.

Chris joined the Lodge in December 2017 and is really enjoying his Freemasonry, he is presently a Steward but will soon be progressing through the Offices. He has already delivered various items of Ritual in the Lodge to a high standard. Not one to rest on his laurels he has already booked his entrance to the 2020 event. Well done Chris on all your efforts for GOSH showing us all what Freemasonry is all about.

Unfortunately we have to report that Chris has dislocated his knee playing volleyball in a team building event with his company Nando's. He hopes to make a full recovery.



Finishing the gruelling 100 mile ride in aid of GOSH.



Chris proudly holds the medal he received on completing the ride.



# Thames Mouth Lodge 6994

50



W.Bro Jones receiving his certificate.

On Thursday 14th November at Saxon Hall, Southend, Thames Mouth Lodge 6994 became a meeting centred around remembrance. A replica cenotaph was made by a lodge member and takes pride of place within the Lodge. A standard bearer from the Royal British Legion was in attendance and the standard was paraded around the lodge. The minutes silence was concluded by a bugler playing the last post and wreaths were then laid on the cenotaph by DepPGM W.Bro Paul Reeves, APGM Graham Dickerson and the WM of Thames Mouth Lodge, W.Bro Mike Smith.

The evening was a sincere act of remembrance and the effort of organising the meeting was appreciated by all who attended.

After an informative talk on 'Masonic Spies and Masonic Railwaymen of the Great War' one of the members, W.Bro John Jones, received a 50th Anniversary certificate. This was presented by APGM Dickerson. W.Bro Jones was taken by complete surprise by this presentation and was clearly moved by it.



## The Gavellers of '94 25 years on

In 1994 several brethren were fortunate to attain the chair of their respective Lodges as WM in the Southend & Rochford area, and during that time a friendship grew amongst a group of those brethren.

The group attended many Installations of brethren they knew and others they did not, and as time went by to again return to those Lodges to see many of the brethren install their successors. Although at first there were a large number of brethren involved in this group, eventually 12 brethren continued to remain in touch and forge a long lasting friendship over the years.

After the Installations of all of the group members had passed, they were left looking for a way of remaining in contact with each other as the friendship over a year or two had grown, and they decided to meet up twice a year to renew their friendships, with myself selected as the group secretary. It was thought a name was required for the group and after floating a few ideas, it was agreed to be called the Gavellers of '94. And in 2019 the group celebrated 25 years of friendship and celebrated this at the November meeting of the Waking & Barling Lodge No.9790 and in the presence of W.Bro. Lee Taylor APGM.

As time went by celebrating a 10th, 15th and 20th anniversary, it was thought fitting to produce a memento of each occasion and several gavels and mauls of various sizes have been produced suitably engraved, which included one for the recent 25th anniversary. Many of the early celebratory items were made by one of the group members W.Bro. Peter Whatling. I was fortunate to be the secretary of the group for the first 20 years or so, and to mark this the group presented me with a glass gavel also suitably engraved.

Masonry can allow you to develop friendships within each Lodge, and the opportunity that the Gavellers '94 had in 1994 is unique, and no one gave any thoughts to still being together after 25 years. There are meetings planned for the future and it is hoped that health permitting a 30th anniversary will be celebrated in 5 years' time.

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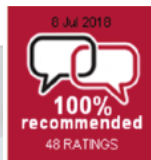
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## Essex Masonic Golf Association (EMGA) Defence of Boswell Trophy at Flempton 26th September

Following last years memorable triumph of the Boswell Trophy competition against the provinces of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire in 2018, the eagerly anticipated return competition was held at Flempton Golf Course on 26th September. The Province of Cambridge had the honour to be the organisers this year.

The Flempton is located just outside of Bury St Edmunds and is a challenging 9 hole heathland course overlooking a nature reserve. Weather was fine and clear, the course was in great condition and well drained despite some recent rain.

There were 9 players selected to represent each team. The games were arranged as nine 4 player groups , each consisting of one player from each Province. So the day was a very enjoyable, social and friendly event.

The Provincial Grand Masters from the other Provinces were keen to play on the day so made up a 4 ball of their own which included our own W. Bro. Peter Hollingsworth who represented our PGM in that game.

The opposition for this year's competition had clearly decided they were going to each make every effort to knock Essex off of the winners' podium for this year. They fielded 3 very strong teams against us. Each of our team played a fine, tactical game of golf and didn't lose too many balls.... It would be churlish to suggest that the opposition had picked a date to ensure some of our team from the previous year would be otherwise disposed at a masonic gathering, (Essex First Principals). No, they must have practiced and trained hard for months to make sure they were on top form; the end result was that Essex came 4th on the day and had to hand over the Boswell Trophy to Norfolk.

Next year's Boswell Trophy competition is being organised by the Essex Masonic Golf Association for the 23rd April 2020 at Thetford, Norfolk. That course was chosen because it is centrally located to all 4 counties and renowned for its high quality golf course, beer and food.

In addition to the day at Thetford, the Essex Masonic Golf Association have 4 other events planned for 2020 when we will be in friendly competition against other provinces including West Kent, The Metropolitan Grand Lodge , Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

Anyone interested in joining the Essex Masonic Golf Association to represent the Province on the golf course to enjoy some social, competitive days out, please contact W.Bro Steve Quick by email [stephenquick2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stephenquick2003@yahoo.co.uk) Essex Masonic Golf Association Membership Secretary Note there is a one off membership fee of £20.

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

## Following in Grandfather's Footsteps!

The Provincial Grand Master made an Official Visit to The Lodge of Saint Mary No 1312 on Monday 11th November when W.Bro Andrew McLeod (Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals in the Royal Arch) was Installed as the Lodge's 150th Master, 100 years after his Grandfather was installed as it's 50th.



Andrew is pictured with (Back Row) his SW Bro David Beardwell, JW Bro Brian Haley and Provincial DC W.Bro Geoff Turpin along with (Front row) APGM W.Bro Lee Taylor, RW.Bro Rodney Bass, APGM W Bro Tony White and IPM W.Bro John Adlam. A very lively and enjoyable Festive Board was attended by over 60 Brethren.





## Essex Armed Forces Lodge Mark Master Masons



**E**ssex Armed Forces Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 2016 was the first new Mark Lodge to be consecrated in Essex for nearly 20 years.

There were 19 Founding Members of the Lodge, whose combined service to Queen and Country totalled 212 years. The event generated a great deal of interest from within the Province and beyond, with several members of Middlesex Armed Forces Lodge, No 1999 included in the 75 brethren attending.



The Consecrating Officer, RW.Bro Terry Sheern, PGM, accompanied by his Provincial Officers, was received into the Lodge with great acclaim.

Many of the assembled Brethren had not seen this Ceremony carried out before, and it was remarked that it was a very moving Ceremony carried out to the highest standard.

The PGM then handed the Gavel to the Installing Officer, W.Bro Mark Reeve, who proceeded to install the Worshipful Master Designate, W Bro William Dyer, who then installed and invested the officers of the lodge.

The Worshipful Master closed the Lodge, and the last post was played prior to the closing ode and national anthem, a tribute to all members of the Armed Forces and a distinctive characteristic and future tradition of the lodge. Brethren retired to the bar where the founding members wore their service headdress.

The PGM then thanked the Lodge for making him, and his consecrating team, honorary members and proceeded to present small tokens of thanks to the founding members. To the RAF, he presented a jar of Brylcreem, to the Navy and Marines, miniature bottles of Rum and to the Army members, boot polish. This received a great amount of applause and laughter from all present.

The raffle raised £300 which was then duly presented to the PGM for the Essex Mark Welfare Fund.

The evening finished with all the Brethren parting company having renewed old friendships and making new ones and looking forward to the next meeting to be held at the County Hotel, Chelmsford in March 2020.

If you would like to visit this unique Essex Lodge please contact the Secretary by email [medialiasonmmm@gmail.com](mailto:medialiasonmmm@gmail.com)

## Fillebrook RAM Lodge Lodge of Excellence

When Fillebrook RAM Lodge had to close it was a very sad occasion, however this story has a happy ending. Our PGM held the warrant in abeyance. The idea was formulated by John Finlay and Mick West to resurrect the Lodge as a "Lodge of Excellence" for DC's and ADC's, to assist Lodges with their ritual.



The PGM was keen on the idea as he has often quoted "The candidate is the most important person".

After a great deal of work, the Lodge was re-opened by the PGM, RW Bro T. D. Sheern assisted by his Provincial Officers, and John Finlay was installed as Worshipful Commander.

At the Festive Board the PGM proposed the toast to the new Worshipful Commander, who responded by presenting the PGM with a bottle of his favourite tippie to thank him for his support and assistance in helping to resurrect Fillebrook RAM Lodge.

The Lodge will meet twice a year, once in Chingford and at another venue in the north of the Province. Visitors are most welcome, and joining forms are preferred. Further details are available from their Scribe David Hook by email on [fdhook@btinternet.com](mailto:fdhook@btinternet.com).

Membership is not restricted to DC's, as the Lodge will welcome anyone interested in improving their ritual. Further details of this Lodge can also be found on our website at [www.essexmark.co.uk](http://www.essexmark.co.uk).



# The Royal Order of Scotland

## The Province of East Anglia

The Royal Order of Scotland is essentially Christian in character. As with Craft Masonry, the exact origins of the Order and its ritual are shrouded in antiquity. It differs from modern Craft Masonry and does not fit into any sequence with other Orders.

It will come as no surprise that the Order is governed from Edinburgh where Grand Lodge is situated. Subordinate to this are Provincial Grand Lodges throughout the world, however there are no Private Lodges.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of East Anglia meets on three occasions in the year; Colchester in April, Newmarket in May and Lowestoft for the Installation Meeting in September. The Province encompasses Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and North Essex as far as Chelmsford.



Qualification for membership requires that a potential candidate must have been a Master Mason for five years and upwards. In practice each Province lays down its own requirements, for example some demand that a candidate has attained 30 degrees in the Ancient and Accepted Rite. In East Anglia candidates are usually limited to brethren who have been Master Masons for at least five years and have shown a keen interest in Freemasonry beyond their craft lodge.

The Province of East Anglia usually "Advances & Promotes" two candidates per meeting and entry may be protracted as there are about two hundred Lodges from which to draw candidates.

Documentary proof in the archives of Grand Lodge gives rise to the assertion that, with the exception of the craft, the Royal Order of Scotland is the oldest unchanged ritual of speculative masonry, for there is written evidence that a number of Lodges

of the Order were active in London as early as 1741 and the ritual has never been changed.

When the first Grand Lodge of the Order was formed in Edinburgh in 1768, the King of Scots was made the Hereditary Grand Master.

There are two degrees conferred respectively in the Provincial Grand Chapter and the Provincial Grand Lodge, and in the order "the Heredom of the Kilwinning" and "Knighthood of the Rosy Cross".

The Wardens undertake some of the most lengthy and difficult ritual in freemasonry and the Provincial Grand Master plays a full part, although he is usually assisted by the Deputy and Substitute Provincial Grand Masters and Past Holders of those officers.

In the first degree, the candidate is invested with a white apron edged with crimson and a sash or baldric of a similar colour. This is worn over the left shoulder and under the right arm. The apron is later replaced, and the candidate is invested with a green sash or baldric. This is worn over the right shoulder and under the left arm. A breast jewel of seven stars and an armband of thistle green edged with gold and which bears the motto "Virtue et Silentio".

In these degrees, masonry is depicted in a purely Christian aspect. A large part of the ritual is couched in quaint old doggerel verse and is worked mainly by question and answer, as in the Craft Lectures, but embracing elements and references found in many other degrees. This Order will be of interest to brethren who profess the Christian Faith and who have maintained a dedicated & genuine interest in Freemasonry over several years.

Details for the current Provincial Grand Secretary, Bro. RJ Robertson are to be found in the various Provincial Year Books. Anyone requiring more information about the Order should contact him with their enquiries.

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## The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of The Temple and St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta in England and Wales and Provinces Overseas



*In September the Province held its Annual Family Church Service at St. Peter-in-the-Fields Church at Bocking, followed by an afternoon tea at the Howard Hall Masonic Centre, Braintree.*



On Friday 25th October the Province held its Annual Malta meeting at Southend, with over 100 knights and guests attending. The guests included Kt Paul Reeves, Deputy Prov. Grand Master and E.Kt. Nick Franklin, Deputy Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch (both representing E.Kt. Rodney Bass) as well as a number of the Heads of Other Orders in Essex. Sixteen candidates took their Malta Degree, a record number for recent years. Among the candidates were two Craft APM's - Kt. Peter Hollingsworth (who acted as the "representative candidate" during the ceremony and Kt. Lee Taylor.



Once again E.Kt. Roger Smith, the Prov. Sub-Prior presided over an excellent ceremony, ably assisted by V.E.Kt. Ray Clare and E.Kt. Chris Smith. The Province was also honoured by the presence of the Great Sub-Prior of Malta, V.E.Kt. Steve Warwick who undertook the marathon task of the "dubbing and accolade" for every knight in a delightful manner as they completed another part of their Masonic journey by becoming Knights of Malta. At the conclusion of the meeting, in his address to the knights, the Provincial Prior R.E.Kt. John Helliard, announced the re-launch of the recently expanded booklet "Additional Information for the Knights of the Province of Essex" for newly Installed Knights following their entry into the Order as well as for more established knights as a point of reference. He also mentioned the proposed launch of a new Provincial KT Website in the New Year.

On display at the festive board was a bronze swift. This had been awarded by the Order of St. John to the Province for the Province's outstanding contributions to the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group which provides free medication and operations to the poor of Israel and Palestine.



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# Long Service

## St. Michaels Lodge

# 50



The Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro. Paul Reeves attended St Michael's Lodge on Saturday 5th December to present a 50 year certificate to W.Bro Albert (Bert) Cartwright, who had been Master of the Lodge twice, a ProvAGDC in 1987 and who still holds office as Chaplain. The Lodge, Bert was also presented with a 50th lapel pin.

Also present was W.Bro. John Gold who had celebrated his 101st birthday just two days earlier. He was Master in 1988 but as age caught up with him he could only attend when his son-in-law (who lives in Spain) was back in the UK and was able to take him.

At the meeting of Essex Provincial Stewards' Lodge in October, the RW ProvGM, on learning that Bro. John was in attendance at the age, then, of 100 had not received any preferment since 1996, gave him a Field Promotion to PPGSwdB. Bro. John witnessed the Lodge's youngest member, Bro, Kerry Downes aged 25 years, being Passed to the 2nd Degree.

It was a very enjoyable meeting with a Passing and an Initiation and some excellent work being undertaken by the younger brethren on the lodges' new banner proudly on display.



# 50

## Brian Reginald Bloomfield Colcestria Lodge 7123

Colcestria Lodge 7123 were honoured and delighted to receive W.Bro Tony White, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, to their meeting on 26th October 2019.

The APGM had a very busy but enjoyable evening when he presented W.Bro Brian Bloomfield (centre) with a 50 Year Certificate. David was initiated into Colcestria Lodge on 22nd February 1969 becoming Master of the Lodge in 1984. He was also a founder member of Meridies Colcestriae Lodge 9715 and was WM of that Lodge in 2011 and 2012. A plaque was also presented to Brian to commemorate his 50 Years in Freemasonry by the Worshipful Master W.Bro Eric Miller (left).

The APGM was also pleased to present a Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro Dean Hill.



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# Worshipful Brother Vincent RAYNER 50

Vince was born in Colchester on 5th May 1944 and received his education at the Wilson Marriage School, Barrack Street Colchester.

Vince has always had a leaning towards showbusiness and even at an early age was keen on making it his career. However, his father had a different idea and insisted that he should get himself a 'proper job' thus he entered into an apprenticeship in the printing industry.

He worked with two local firms in Colchester and was on the payroll at Benham & Co and later Spottiswoode- Ballantyne. There, he honed his skills as a Graphic Designer. These skills are longstanding and he is still in demand today. Indeed, he has prepared the illustrated covers for the traditional Colchester Oyster Feast for several decades and his latest work was admired at the feast held only a couple of weeks ago.

Vince's inclination towards showbusiness wasn't daunted by his 'proper job' and he was able to combine the two, appearing locally and nationally. As an accomplished guitarist, comedian and singer, many halls have rung out to his echo.

He is probably better known for his involvement in the popular TV comedies: 'Hello Hello' and 'Hi-de-hi'. It was only on the weekend of 20th October this year that he attended the Phoenix at Charing Cross Road for a reunion gathering of the familiar stars of the series.

As is the case with busy people, Vince was able to combine his acting career with community work and took up a role as a Magistrate in the Colchester Courts. This he did for 33 years and established himself as a senior member of the bench.

Vince was initiated into Abbeygate Lodge 4219 on 24th October 1969 becoming Master there in 1983. After the decline of Abbeygate Lodge, Vince turned towards Wivenhoe. He joined Colne Lodge on 11th February 1997 and went on to be Master here twice. The first time in 2000 and again in 2017.

Whilst at Abbeygate he was renowned as a member of The Abbeygate Choral, an assembly of brothers who roundly entertained diners at the Christmas Festive Board.

Nowadays, Vince keeps his hand in as a Tour Guide and regularly appears as the 'shepherd' on trips to the many attractions in central London. No doubt regaling them with his comedy repertoire!

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## Kenneth William Butcher Martello Lodge 7121 50



APGM W.Bro Lee Taylor attended The Martello Lodge 7121 on Saturday 18th May to present a 50 year certificate to Honorary member W.Bro Ken Butcher PPSGD. PZ.

Ken has been in the past a DC for a 20 year period and also a long term Treasurer and being one of the stalwarts of the Lodge the brethren presented him with a case of his favourite red wine.

Ken is now 92 and still attends occasionally when his mobility allows. Many Lodges have brethren of long service and it is without brethren such as Ken in each lodge that the traditions have been sustained and continued with importance then as it is now.

Congratulations W.Bro Kenneth William Butcher.

**Celebrate your Lodges Long Serving  
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### Sam MacKay Beacon Light Lodge

Sam was initiated into Beacon Light Lodge in 1968. When travelling to London became too much he joined the Lodge of True Friendship before becoming a joining member of Crowstone lodge 3298.

Sam, a busy man, and renowned business leader in Southend spends nearly all his time running his company, being a justice of the peace, rotary and Freemasonry.

Due to his busy life he never went beyond the office of J.D in the lodge of True friendship. After being a permanently invited guest to Crowstone lodge he decided to become a joining member in 1996. Sam used to help his great friend W.Bro Macey in his duty as Steward, but Sam never took any other office.

13 years ago he invited me to join Crowstone lodge. He informed me that in all the time he had been involved in masonry he had never in all the years proposed or seconded a single person. As I was new to freemasonry he took me under his wing as all good proposers should.

Sam went regularly to all functions, meetings and more especially the L.O.I. He encouraged me and supported me, inside and outside the lodge. He received the rank of persiuvan due to his commitment and support of the lodge, and 7 years ago he supported me through the chair of King Solomon.

Until a few years ago when myself, and the rest of the lodge decided we should try as hard as we could to get Bro Mackay installed as master. I can say with great pride in the officers and members Crowstone lodge on the 4th of October we made it a reality. W.Bro S.Mackay was regularly installed in the chair of King Solomon according to ancient custom of the Crowstone Lodge No3298.

To make the evening even more special was the fact that the ruling master sustained an injury which enabled myself to conduct the ceremony. I'm not sure many candidates have had the chance to install their proposer as WM for the first time. It was a great privilege and honour to conduct the ceremony and it will remain with me forever.



### Clive Higgins Little Heath Lodge



Little Heath Lodge were privileged to receive both the Deputy PGM and The APM at the double celebration meeting of their 75th anniversary and W.Bro Clive Higgins 50th anniversary.

**"Clive has spent half his years in the Lodge as Treasurer"**

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW.Bro Paul Reeves accepted the gavel on his entrance and continued to conduct the double celebration meeting (the WM, Andy Bartlett had been delayed due to an emergency in the Lakeside shopping centre where Andy is employed as their Technical Services Manager).

There were 70 members and guests attending which included an excellent display team and colour from the Provincial Sword and Standard Bearers, along with Provincial Deacons escorting the Provincial Executive into the Lodge. The Deputy PGM, presented Clive with gifts from the Lodge, whilst the APM, W.Bro Chas Elliott presented Clive with a letter and a certificate from the PGM.



### Reg Sheppard 50 years in Danehurst Lodge

On the 12th October 2019 W.Bro Reg Sheppard PPJGW completed 50 years of membership of Danehurst Lodge 4541. W.Bro Reg was presented with a 50th Anniversary Certificate by W.Bro Nick Franklin, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, on behalf of the PGM. The brethren of the Lodge also presented W.Bro Reg with a set of engraved crystal wine glasses and a bottle of red water to christen them with.

In his response Reg observed that he was as old as the Lodge and he therefore gave an advance invitation to W.Bro Nick and all present to join him at the Lodge Centenary celebration in 2023.



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### Lodge St. Andrew 6 United Grand Lodge of Queensland



On 27th July, W.Bro's Paul Bates and John Willis, the WM and IPM respectively of Thorpe Bay Lodge 4803, attended the installation meeting of Brother James 'Jay' Pask, who had been initiated into Thorpe Bay Lodge in March 2015.

The difference being that in the meantime, Jay had emigrated to Australia where he had continued his Masonic career by joining the Lodge St Andrew no 6 on the register of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland.

Lodge St Andrew 6 is the oldest Scottish working ritual Lodge in Queensland having been formed in 1864 under the Grand Lodge of Scotland before helping to form the UGLQ in 1921. The meeting was graced with the presence of the Deputy Grand Master of Queensland, RW.Bro Jeffrey Harper, and an escort of several Grand Officers.

It was great to see a Scottish ritual and without a doubt, the repeated use of bagpipes during the ceremony helped to mitigate the symptoms of jetlag.

The festive board was a family affair as it was attended by many partners of the members and their children as well as the visiting brethren. On behalf of Thorpe Bay Lodge, a specially made plaque was presented to Jay along with \$250 towards his chosen charity.

If any brother happens to be passing, they meet monthly at Stones Corner Masonic Centre in Brisbane.



### Albert Lucking Lodge 2717

Donation of £3,000 to Essex Samaritans

Donation presented to Local Samaritans at Saxon Hall Wednesday 6th November 2019 By W.Bro Vic Chivers, Worshipful Master and W.Bro Austin Latham the Lodge Charity Steward



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and still supports Festival 2022 with a £15,000 Donation

At the November Lodge meeting of Albert Lucking the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Victor Chivers, was delighted to present a cheque for £15,000 to W.Bro. Tony White (APGM). In return, the APGM was equally delighted to present the Lodge with its Grand Patron certificate.



There was a sense of extreme pride for the Lodge in achieving this milestone well before 2022, which can only be attributed to all the members.



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### Goodwill Lodge W.Bro. Ken Bilby 50th



On the 1st November 2019 Goodwill Lodge 7904 were delighted to host a visit from W.Bro. Rev. Martin Howse, APGM., who after helping with the ceremony of raising, presented a 50th anniversary certificate to W.Bro. Ken Bilby, PPJGW., on completion of Ken's history in the craft W.Bro. Martin said he looked forward to presenting Ken's 60th certificate.

### Stisted Hall Charity Golf Classic



W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth presenting a cheque for £800.00 at the Coffee morning on Sunday 13th October 2019. Which was raised at the Stisted Hall Charity Golf Classic on Monday 3rd June 2019



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### Joshua Nunn Lodge Gosfield Memorial Fund



Jim Gage (Charity Steward) and Gordon Rayner of Joshua Nunn Lodge Halstead presenting a £500 donation cheque to Alex Mair of the Gosfield Memorial Fund to assist in funding the new War Memorial for the village of Gosfield.

### Widows Christmas Lunch The Wheel of Fellowship Lodge 9016



On Sunday 24th November, Maldon Masonic Lodge, played host to the Masonic widows lunch.

Organised by Wheel of Fellowship Lodge 9016 Almoner bro Graham Cornell the lodge welcomed over thirty diners. In addition to enjoying lunch, guests were entertained by the Purleigh Players, lead by Wheel of Fellowship Bro. Richard Hurford.

The raffle held on the day raised £180, which will be donated to the Essex Provincial Almoners fund

In addition a cheque for £50 was presented to W.bro Jim Wheeler, Group Almoner. This was from monies raised recently by the sale of bacon rolls, tea and coffee at the lodge for those attending Remembrance Sunday.

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It was on the 17th of July 1957 that Mr. Ronald Frederick Marsh, entered Loughton Masonic Hall, unaware of what would happen next, was met by his father John as IG, and was initiated him into freemasonry, so that when he left Loughton Temple, he was a Brother to all other freemasons worldwide, but particularly Lambourne Lodge no 3945.!

He was only 21 years plus 2 months old, which meant he had a head start regarding longevity in Masonry, but he filled those early years by progressing through to WM in 1970. He took on ADC and then DC for 8 years followed by 5 years as Chaplain. He had started work as a pupil civil engineer with Rush and Tomkins, was awarded a state scholarship to read Civil Engineering at Kings college, London, receiving a BSc, and then moving to Ove Arup for the rest of his outstanding and satisfying career.

He had attended Kings College which entitles him to append AKC after his name, but his earlier school was William D'Aeth in Dartford, and eventually was the Founding Master of the Dartford school lodge. He was honoured with active provincial grand rank of Senior Grand deacon, and thence PPSGD, eventually on to PPJGW. Unusually he also attained PPJGW in West Kent (Dartford).

He was a constant attender at the L.of I., being preceptor for many years, when the L.of I. was weekly, and the excellent ritual that was typical of Lambourne Lodge was no doubt due a great deal to Bro. Ron's efforts.

He has been resident in France for several years, but still attended as often as possible, but recently had suffered with back problems which saw him being bed-bound during 2016/17. However, as part of his rehabilitation he is trying to become more mobile, and to remain upright. Because of hospital appointments he was able to attend Dartford, but could not make Lambourne, his Mother lodge who meet in October.

It was therefore agreed to present him with his Certificate to recognise the 60th anniversary of his Initiation, at the William D'aeth Lodge, after observing the protocols of both Essex and West Kent GL., where the RW.Bro. Col. Sir Neil Thorne PPGM., presented Bro. Ron with his certificate, with genuine sincerity, especially when Sir Neil, sat with Ron as he was unable to rise comfortably. This was followed by a presentation by W.Bro Doug. Lee, Lambourne's Master, of a capo damonte model perhaps modelled on Bro. Ron himself. At the festive board the host Lodge also presented Bro. Ron with a tankard as their tribute, to his contribution to them. A summons suitably signed by all present was also handed to Bro, as a memento.

Lambourne Lodge 3945 celebrated its Centenary in September 2019 and W.Bro. Ron was asked to occupy the Masters chair, which he did, and the opportunity to repeat the presentation, but now with RW.Bro. Rodney Bass was taken. A copy is attached of the photo!!

Finally, all who know him see him as a big man, both Masonically, and in normal life, with a beard that is as old as his Masonic career.

## Holland-on-Sea Lodge Tending Specialist Stroke Services

The Worshipful Master of Holland-on-Sea Lodge, W.Bro Malcolm Claringbull had the pleasure of presenting a cheque for £300.00 to Tending Specialist Stroke Services, based in Frinton Road, Holland on Sea.

£250.00 was raised via our very successful Sunday Lunch held at the Colvin Temple, plus that was topped up by a very generous £50.00 donation made by one of our Lodge members.

The Stroke Centre badly need to upgrade their kitchen, so this donation will go towards that project.

The Centre do a fantastic job, however, like so many charities they need the help and support of the local community to be able to continue offering their wonderful services to the people within the Clacton Area when it's most needed





## Saffron Walden Quiz Night

The Saffron Walden quiz night was a huge success with a larger than anticipated turnout with individual teams from in and around Saffron Walden with additional support coming from some of the masonic lodges that meet at Freemasons Hall, Saffron Walden.

In the end we had a total of nine teams and over 60 participants. Shamelessly I bullied friends to bid for the round of golf and with so many donations to our raffle a family of 'teddy' bears with a bottle of champagne, (just in time for Christmas), was auctioned off on the night raising additional funds.

The evening also comprised of some fun elements and a couple of games were added with another version of 'Heads & Tails' based on answering a number of True or False questions, played before the quiz started, the winner receiving a bottle of eighteen year old malt whiskey and the traditional Heads & Tails played before the raffle.

During the break all the participants were offered the opportunity to visit the Temple upstairs and thirty or so participants took up the opportunity helping to open up Freemasonry to the general public.

At the time of this posting £800 has been raised for FEST2022 with further pledges still to be received, coupled with many happy people, (the most important part of any successful event), has made this event so very worthwhile to organise.

The winning team, 'Little Walden' led by their team captain Dave Nash will be offered the opportunity to represent Saffron Walden in an Essex wide quiz night to be held in 2020, Dave Nash is pictured with the organiser Richard Peet.

On a personal note I'd like to thank all those who helped me before and during the quiz namely: Alan Coote, David Scammell and Nick Turner from Audley Lodge and all the brethren that so kindly made cash donations before the night or donated prizes for the raffle.



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## Wykeham Celebrates its History



The Provincial Grand Master presents the 50th Certificate to W.Bro. Keith Brown OBE

All that is good about Freemasonry was evident at the November meeting of Wykeham No. 4925 in a full capacity Constellation Temple at The Square at Upminster, which was attended by the Provincial Grand Master, Rodney Lister Bass OBE. After the Lodge was opened by the Master W.Bro. David Macnaghten and the Provincial Grand Master had entered, the special proceedings commenced.

The first item was a delightful presentation of a Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro. Jason Goodman by APGM W.Bro. Clive Rees, on his first visit to Wykeham.

This was followed by a lecture by W.Bro. John Davies, PAPGM and W.Bro. Keith Brown OBE, PAGDC. They presented a vivid picture of the 92 years of the Wykeham Lodge from its foundation, in the growing years of Freemasonry in the 1920's, to the present day. It covered the early challenges of the formation and how the Lodge survived the Second World War, sometimes with bombs dropped nearby. Then the rebuilding after the war and a Golden Era in the 1960's and 1970's when there were regular ceremonies, sometimes doubles with entertaining Festive Boards. At the same time the Ladies Nights at the Heybridge were the great social occasions of the year.

The lecture paid tribute to members who had sustained the Lodge in recent years sometimes taking office as Master more than once, summed up in the famous words of the Gang Show song that Wykeham had always 'Ridden Along on the Crest of a Wave.'

The lecture was followed a reading of the Lodge minutes of 1969. Then the presentation of a 50th Certificate to W.Bro. Keith Brown by the Provincial Grand Master who highlighted W.Bro. Keith Brown's progress in Masonry and his charitable activities in Essex.

In reply W.Bro. Keith Brown thanked the Provincial Grand Master for coming to Wykeham, a promise he had made a year before and still honoured despite the traumatic period in his health. He had been initiated by his Father in November 1969 at the White Hart Hotel in Romford which was its meeting place at the time. At that meeting there were four other brethren all of whom have since received their 50th Certificates and all of whom were in attendance at this special meeting in 2019 – a possible unique achievement and a reflection of the family of freemasonry that had supported the Lodge over the years.

The meeting concluded with notice of a motion from the Charity Steward to donate £5,000 to Festival 2022 in addition to the contribution to date with Wykeham at Grand Patron Status.

Seventy eight brethren including twenty Grand Officers sat down to the Festive Board and the Provincial Grand Master addressed the meeting and guests on the positive progress being made in Essex Masonry. He thanked W.Bro. Keith Brown for his donation from his family charity Fryerning Foundation which he would donate to Cancer Research UK.

The speech to the guests was given by W.Bro. Keith and replied to by W.Bro. Chris Williams a long-standing friend of Keith. Then a toast to the Founders by W.Bro. John Davies and lastly an enthusiastic Tyler's Toast by W. Bro. Evans, the brethren retired - happy to meet, happy to part, happy to meet again!



Five half centuries at Wykeham with the PGM, W.Bro's Beck, Brown, Heffer, Davies and Murray



Wykeham members with the Provincial Grand Master, Clive Rees APGM and Provincial Secretary Philip Lovelock



## Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2019

Brethren across the Province paid tribute to our fallen hero's

### Wheel of Fellowship Maldon

The Fallen were remembered in services across the Maldon district.

The wreath laying ceremony took place at the war memorial in Maldon High Street at 10:30am on Remembrance Sunday.

Wing Commander Glen Mayes, Parade Marshal gathered veterans, volunteers and school children to pay their respects.

The Act of Remembrance was opened by Father John Dickens who lead the crowd in the Hymn 'O God, our Help in Ages Past'.

After the Bidding Prayer, Standards we're dipped as the Bugler sounded the 'Last Post'. This was followed by the Town Mayor of Maldon, Cllr Flo Shaughnessy who conducted The Exhortation.

After the laying of the Wreaths, the names of the fallen were read out by representatives of local youth groups and services - this year in particular remembering the 248 men of Maldon and Heybridge who made the ultimate sacrifice from 1914-1919.

Cllr Stephen Nunn read the Dedication - Kohima Epitaph, followed by the Rev Tony Shrimpton who lead the prayer.

Lt Jon Doyle of the Salvation Army, shared a heartfelt Address, recounting his personal experience in spending time with 94-year-old Second World War veteran Harry Read who earlier this year re-enacted his parachute jump into Normandy to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

Harry Read was a 20-year-old wireless operator when he first landed on the battlefields of northern France on 6 June 1944. After plunging into a flooded trench near Le Mesnil, he made it through the war before going on to become leader of the Salvation Army in the UK.

Masons from Maldon and Witham lodges, were well represented in the parade with Worshipful Brothers Glyn Garrett, David Foster, Tony Wiley, David Payne, , Alan Reid, and Brother Bruce Heubner taking part with W Brother Mark Jones laying the wreath on behalf of the Maldon Masonic Hall.



Gosfield



Chingford



Chingford



Maldon



Maldon



Maldon



# THE ORIGINS OF THE POPPY

The poppy which is the recognised symbol of remembrance was inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by John McCrae in 1915 and later published in 1917.

Major John McCrae was a Doctor serving with the 1st Brigade Canadian Field Artillery at the second battle of Ypres between April-May 1915. After the death of his friend Lt Alexis Helmer whose funeral service he conducted as the Brigade Chaplain was busy elsewhere he drafted this poem when viewing the wooden crosses with vivid red poppies springing up between them.

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard among the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders Fields.



An American lady Moina Michael was working at the YMCA Overseas War Secretaries office in New York in 1918 and was so inspired by McCrae's poem that she vowed to pin a poppy to her lapel to honour and revere the war dead. She then purchased 25 silk poppies and distributed them to her work colleagues and this led within 2 years to the American Legion adopting the poppy as the official symbol of remembrance in 1920.

At the American Legion Conference in New York a French representative Madame E. Guerin witnessed the sale of these poppies and took the idea back to France as a means to raise money for children affected by the Great War. Madame Guerin organised a team of war widows to make paper poppies which saw sales in excess of 1 million by 1921.

Madame Guerin sent a team of poppy sellers to London in an effort to popularise the appeal in the United Kingdom which was favourably received. Field Marshall Douglas Haig who was a founder of the Royal British Legion and a veteran commander of the British Forces was so enthused by the idea that he had it adopted almost immediately and the first ever poppy day occurred on November 11th 1921.

The poppy rapidly outgrew its American roots being adopted by Canada and Australia in 1921, followed by New Zealand in 1922. "Red is the leaf and the blood, black is the heart of sorrow."



## Festival of Remembrance Tabor Academy in Braintree

The RWProvGM and members of the Executive, accompanied by two Provincial Grand Standard Bearers, attended the 9th Festival of Remembrance organised and run every year at the Tabor Academy in Braintree by their Estates Manager, Bro. David Wiles of Rosslyn Lodge No. 1543.

The ceremony was first held as a tribute to a former pupil, Lance Corporal Scott Hardy of The Royal Anglian Regiment, who was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2010 but continues each year supported by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Essex, members of the local community, Local Government officials (MP's, Mayors), serving Armed Forces, local Police and Fire Service Chiefs, the Royal British Legion from Haig House in London and Essex County Officers and veterans from all conflicts. Representative Essex Freemasons have been invited since 2015 and have always featured high on the list of VIP's and in recent years have attended with our Standard Bearers who are invited to join the procession of Royal British Legion Standard Bearers led by W.Bro Gordon Roach, also of Rosslyn Lodge.



This year W.Bro Alan Brown, the Secretary of Thames Mouth Lodge No. 6694 loaned the school a scale model of the Cenotaph in Whitehall, made by W.Bro Steve Zetter of that lodge and used by them every year in their own Remembrance Tribute, which took centre-stage.

It was an honour and a privilege to join the VIP's and 1,000 students at such a well organised and moving tribute, the format of which changes every year, and a great way to normalise Freemasonry in the Community.



# VE Day and our Essex Regiment Masonic Heritage

By W Bro Tony Hales TD

Officially May Day Bank Holidays are held on the first Monday of May, but for 2020 it has been moved to Friday 8th May as part of the 75th anniversary of the VE Day commemorations.

In WW2 The Essex Regiment ('The Regiment') fought many battles throughout North West Europe, Tobruk, Alamain, Monte Cassino and Kohima. Also the 10th Battalion converted 'en-masse' to the 9th Parachute Battalion and fought the battle at Merville Gun Battery after which Merville Barracks in Colchester is named.

Freemasonry has always attracted servicemen willing to give their lives for the freedom of others to practice Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. In the Age of Enlightenment, as the membership of Freemasonry increased, the first military lodge was formed in 1732 by the 1st Foot (The Royal Scots) and 200 years later in 1932 the 574th military lodge was formed by the 8th Kings Royal Irish Hussars. The 44th Foot was raised in 1741 and the 56th in 1755 becoming the 'East Essex' and 'West Essex' in 1782 and the 1st and 2nd Battalions 'The Essex Regiment' in 1881. In 1759 at Quebec under Bro Major General James Wolfe, The Regiment fought alongside the future Primus Provincial Grand Master of Essex, then serving in the Royal Navy, R W Bro Thomas Dunkerley.

Four military lodges were formed by The Regiment with Warrants from four different Grand Lodges. The first in 1760 with the "King George III Lodge" (Scottish) followed in 1762 (Provincial Grand Lodge of Quebec), 1765 (Irish) and in 1784 (the Moderns) with the "Rainsford Lodge" named after Major General Charles Rainsford, Colonel of the Regiment from 1781 to 1809.

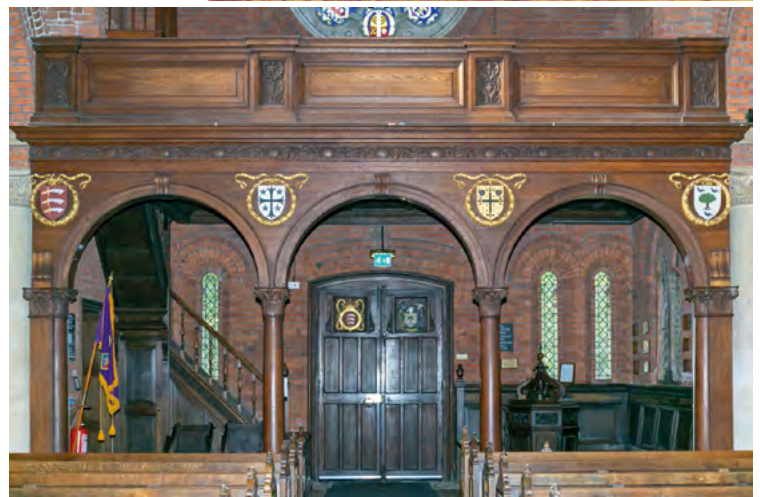
The gallantry of The Regiment was rewarded with six Victoria Crosses, distinction in many campaigns including the Peninsula War, Waterloo, Crimea, South Africa and 62 battle honours in WW1 with the loss of over 8,000 men from 31 Battalions. In 1931 the Freemasons of Essex presented the West Gallery Front to the Regimental Chapel at Warley as a memorial to all the Freemasons of Essex who died in WW1.

If you are interested in Masonic research or have served in the Armed Forces and would like to be part of a Demonstration team or an Oration team in the new Lodge of Daily Advancement which meets on the first Tuesday of February, May and October (Installation) in Chelmsford please contact Lawrie Morrisson the Lodge Secretary at [secretary@loda.org.uk](mailto:secretary@loda.org.uk).

Another Freemason, who was also a Lodge secretary, did more than any other person to change the then despised and unwanted way people regarded the Army in peacetime.



Never a soldier himself, Bro Rudyard Kipling's Barrack Room Ballads and other poems, conveyed the foibles of soldiers to the hearts and minds of a population which began to appreciate far more the dangers and hardships of military life. This change helped foster numerous military charities and welfare organisations, many of which still survive today.



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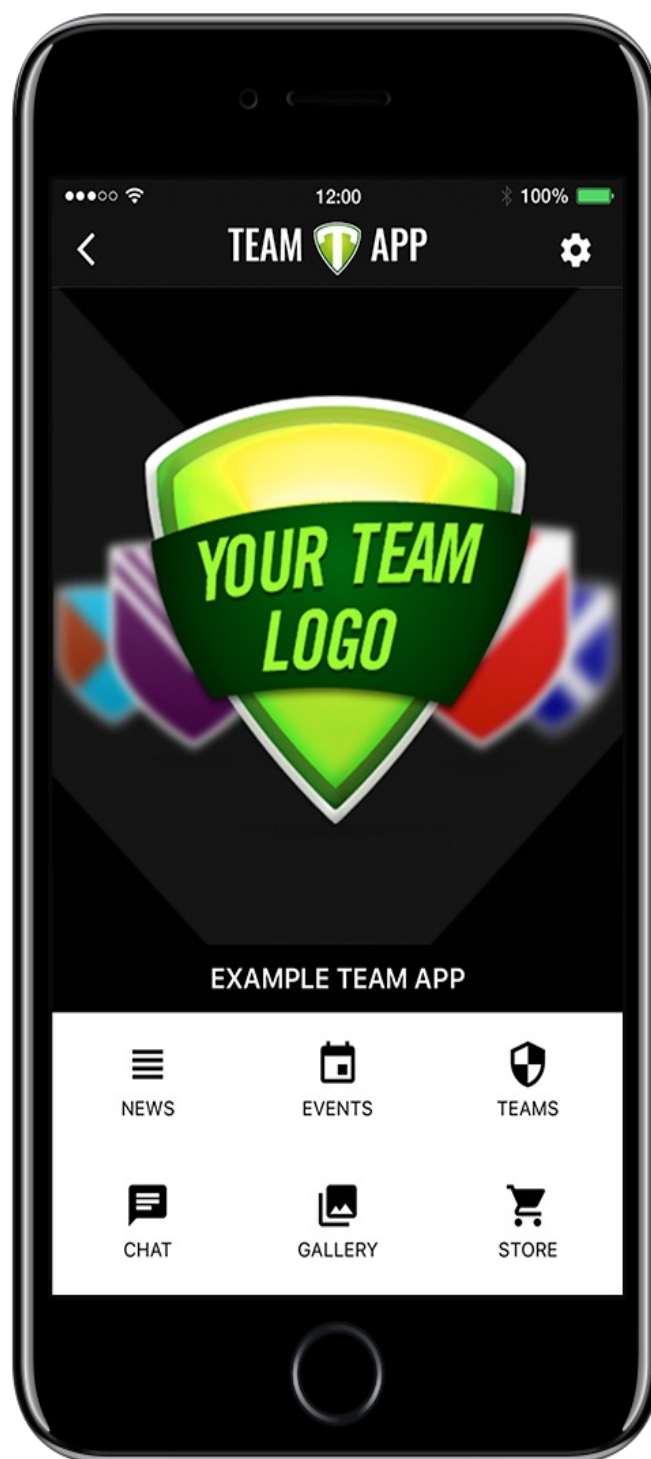
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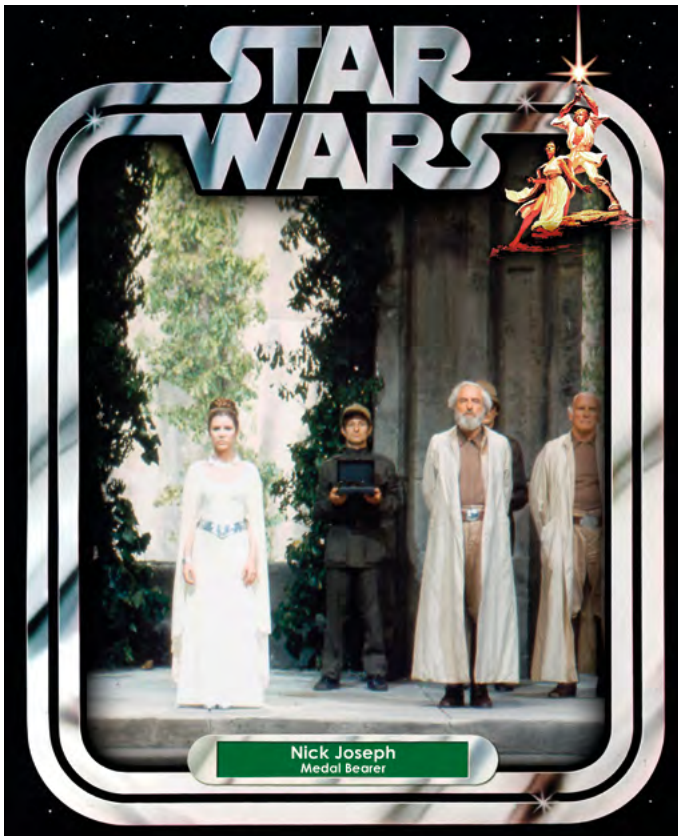
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Email: [pmo@essexppl.org.uk](mailto:pmo@essexppl.org.uk)

Phone: 07968 842839







Nick has been the Almoner in Leyton Grange Lodge for the past 15 years and enjoys this role very much, it gives Nick a great deal of satisfaction helping others in the Lodge, and also their Families.

Nick's preferred Charity is The Connaught Stroke Club at Whipps Cross Hospital as it is closest to his Heart. Nick's father passed away after having a Major Stroke some years ago and is the driving force for supporting this charity. Nick also helped with the Children's Cancer Unit and many more.

When Nick left school his father got him a job where he worked as an Apprentice Electrician, but after a few years Nick realised it was not for him.

Nick had a Friend who had an Agency for Extras called The Angel Star Agency in Leytonstone East London who asked Nick if I could help her out the next day. Nick jumped at the opportunity but had never done anything like acting before but was convinced to "just go along and hide in the crowd". The following day they set off to the BBC studios at 6am.

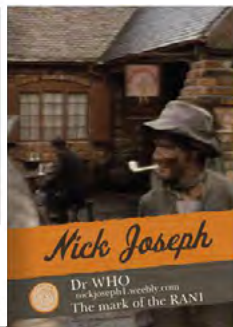
On arrival to the Nick was asked to be the Foreman of the Factory, and swiftly went to work on a programme called Clay Hanger, a program about the Potteries in Victorian times.

After lunch the 1st Assistant asked Nick if he could do a few lines, of course Nick said, not knowing what he let himself in for, until the 1st Assistant gave Nick 6 pages to learn in 1 hour. Clearly the director saw something he liked..

It was the easiest £10 he had ever earned, so off Nick went to East 15 Drama School in Loughton Essex to shape his new career in acting. And that is how it all started.



Nick Joseph as Armory Officer



It was 50yrs in May 2019 since Nick became an Actor, performing in many successful films and TV series such as Star Wars, James Bond EastEnders and Dr. Who to name but a few

Nick now travels the World attending Conventions, signing autographs and photos. Nick loves meeting Fans of the Movies and feels extremely fortunate to have worked on so many prestigious shows, but there is nothing more enjoyable than coming home and meeting with my friends and brothers within the masonic fraternity.

During Nick travels around the world he has been fortunate enough to have visited a number of Lodges, from Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, France, Germany and of course many in the UK.

Nick continues to enjoy Freemasonry and is often invited to Lodges meeting as a speaker and autograph signing. All fees go to his Charity and Leyton Grange Lodge Worshipful Masters Charity.

if you would like Nick to attend your Lodge to deliver a talk, please contact him at [nickjoseph901@gmail.com](mailto:nickjoseph901@gmail.com)



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Distinguished Guests and Companions. It is a great honour for me to be able to address you again as Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Essex at this Annual Essex Convocation – it is now four years since I was installed as your Grand Superintendent and Provincial Grand Master and I have enjoyed every minute in both those roles.

I have already welcomed our Official guests from Supreme Grand Chapter, 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 in such numbers. Warmest congratulations to those Companions whom I (or my Deputy) 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. It is, of course, an especial privilege for us all in Essex for me to be able to welcome to our Meeting the Pro First Grand Principal. Sir, we really do appreciate the leadership you have consistently and amply demonstrated to both the Royal Arch and the Craft in general and to Essex in particular. Your predecessor, the Marquess of Northampton, did conduct the proceedings for the installation of my predecessor in 2005 but this is the first occasion that the Pro First Grand Principal has ever attended an “ordinary Essex Provincial Convocation” and we are truly grateful bearing in mind the enormous demands upon your time.

Furthermore your kindness, support and understanding, together with all the members of the Essex Executive, and of so many Freemasons in Essex and the Provinces beyond, during my recent illness and treatment has been outstanding and uplifting for me and my wife and family. Thank you so much for reinforcing to me personally part of what Freemasonry is all about and what it does so well.

May I again thank most sincerely Cliff Thoms for his outstanding work for the Royal Arch as Deputy Grand Superintendent. His experience and wise counsel both in the Royal Arch and in Craft masonry has been invaluable both to me personally and to the Province as a whole. I also pay a warm tribute to Clive Rees (and wish him well in his new role in the Craft) and to Phil Campbell for their conscientious and diligent work as Second and Third Provincial Grand Principals respectively. I am sure that Nick Franklin will be an admirable successor to Cliff and that Phil and Elliott Chevin thoroughly deserve their promotions.

The Assistants to the PGPs have also done an excellent job. Ian Simpson is stepping down today as an APGP. I thank him for his hard work in that role and his continuing active involvement in the Province is very much appreciated. I am delighted to have appointed Martin Cook as APGP to succeed him and David Wilson to succeed Elliott Chevin and I wish them both well in their new roles.

May I also extend my grateful thanks to the Provincial Scribe E, Phil Lovelock and the outgoing and incoming Provincial Grand DCs Geoff Turpin and Joe Shearer and each of their teams for all their hard work and effort in ensuring that today's meeting proceeded smoothly – as well as the outstanding support they give me throughout the year.

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, we remain an active and vibrant Royal Arch Province. A more clearly defined and broader role for the Chapter Almoner combining the duties of Craft Almoner, Mentor and Membership Officer is hugely important to the strength and well being of a Chapter and we will continue to work on this.

In the long run, the overall strength of The Royal Arch depends upon the vitality of the Craft. The new Membership Pathway Lodges in the Craft, highlight, 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!

We also make no apologies for briefly emphasising two things. First, promotions to active or senior Provincial rank in the Craft in Essex will normally require Membership of the Royal Arch as a pre-requisite and, in turn, appointments to active or senior Essex Provincial rank in the Royal Arch require a continuing engagement with the Craft. This reinforces the indissoluble link between the two. Secondly, it is as vital that the ceremony of Exaltation is carried out well so as to give a favourable impression to the candidate for Royal Arch masonry as it is for the ceremony of Initiation in the Craft. It is pointless for the ceremony to be read (or even prompted) from the book – it completely loses its meaning and purpose - better to divide up the work and farm it out. As my old Preceptor in my Mother Lodge used to say - “Chuck the book away – it is wrong anyway !!!

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 has been my especial pleasure and privilege this past year to serve as First Principal of Essex First Principals Chapter No 3256 and of Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No 8665 for which I am eternally grateful. Can I also pay tribute to the excellent support provided by several Essex Chapters to the 2022 Festival (as illustrated in the Report of the Committee of General Purposes) and to encourage others to follow their lead.

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.

Rodney Lister Bass, OBE



# Undine Chapter

No. 3394



Undine Convocation held at The Loughton Masonic Centre on Saturday October 26th 2019 to mark the presentation of our Centenary Charter by The Most Excellent Provincial Grand Superintendent, Rodney Lister Bass OBE.

He was accompanied on the day by Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Comp Nick Franklin, Provincial Grand Scribe E. E. Comp Phil Lovelock, ProvDep Grand Director of Ceremonies, E. Comp Tony Goater, and APGP E. Comp Martin Cook.

Guests and Members of Undine Chapter were delighted to have the opportunity to welcome the Provincial Grand Superintendent and his entourage, which by all accounts proved to have been a most enjoyable meeting.

We all enjoyed the actual Charter presentation ceremony lead by E Comp Rodney Lister Bass OBE which was followed by a most interesting and educational talk given by E Comp Pierre Waddoups, Provincial Solomon Lead, entitled "The wisdom of Solomon".

The Convocation was closed in Peace and Harmony, and afterwards we dined together at the Festive Board.

## Roding Chapter

No. 3090

On 3rd October 2019 at the regular convocation of Roding Chapter No. 3090 at Loughton Masonic Centre E. Comp. Geoffrey Ellis, the Treasurer presented the MEZ, E. Comp. Ron Foster with a certificate from Provincial Grand Chapter for Roding Chapter achieving Grand Patron status in Festival 2022. Also pictured E. Comp. Brian Nyland, acting H and E. Comp. Oliver Bullman, acting J.



## Liberty of Havering Chapter

No. 1437



On Thursday 14th November, Liberty of Havering Chapter 1437 hosted the annual combined chapter meeting at Upminster masonic centre.

It was attended by the Deputy Grand Superintendent E Comp Nicholas Franklin accompanied by 3rd Grand Principal E Comp Elliott Chevin and most of the provincial executive. It was a spectacular occasion with the provincial DC and Dep DC's, with sword bearer and standard bearers present. A talk given by Comp Mark Smith MA on actions that earned the Victoria Cross in battle left everyone speechless. All 120 attendees were enthralled by the subject matter and Mark's presentational skills which received a massive round of applause at the end.

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# Hamilton Court

For all of you who are keeping up to date with the progress at Hamilton Court, I am pleased to say that the programme for replacing all the kitchens is on budget and on time. We are now two thirds through and just the ground floor to complete.

After more meetings between myself and the MHA, I am pleased to report that from May 2020 we will start a programme to upgrade the bathrooms to wet rooms at a cost of approx. £160k. Prior to this we will start on decorating the communal areas.

We have decided or should I say prompted by W.Bro Lee Taylor, to ask if there are any decorators amongst you who would be prepared to give up a weekend to repaint the lounge area. I am sure that if we get enough we can crack it out in a couple of days. Paint, Tea and bacon sandwiches provided. Plus knowing the residents plenty of homemade cakes. If you can help please contact the Secretary W. Bro Chris Gunn who will co-ordinate the works

Over the past 6 months we have enjoyed a talk by Mark Smith on the V.C. followed by a Fish and Chips supper, Halloween Party with ghost stories and Magic, Birthday parties and much more.

The committee decided this year to present a badge to all Lodges and Individuals who are current Patrons of the Charitable Association and our sincere thanks must go to the Essex Masons( Graeme Lockwood, take a bow) who arranged for the manufacture of the badges and very kindly donated them to us. We will, in due time, make sure that those who qualify receive the badge.

To all Almoners. There is an initiative about loneliness. Please remember that Hamilton Court is a community of mainly single people who enjoy daily company of others and many activities. Ideal for men and ladies who find themselves cut off from others. It is not a care home but Independent living Just contact the Scheme Manager Sarah Skinner for details.

## Provincial Grand Stewards

### Sunday Lunch



The Provincial Grand Stewards held a Sunday Lunch on Sunday 8th December 2019 at Chingford Masonic Hall.

The event was attended by 57 guests both Masonic and non Masonic.

The afternoon started with drinks and conversation at the bar. The main temple was opened for guests to look around. There were many interesting questions being asked by the non masons.

Guests then sat down to a delicious 3 course Roast beef Sunday lunch whilst being entertained by live music. Each guest had the chance to win a bottle of champagne by simply putting their name and £2 on a slip of paper. The bottle was won by W Bro Eric Husband.

Thanks to the generosity of the guests a total of £700 was raised for Festival 2022.



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## The Essex Hinge of Friendship Lodge No 9296

W.Bro Paul Kostromin

At the recent meeting of The Essex Hinge of Friendship Lodge No 9296, W.Bro Neil Beverley APGM presented a 50year Certificate for W.Bro Paul Kostromin, a Founder and Primus Master of the Lodge.

Unfortunately, W.Bro Paul was not well enough to attend and receive in person so W.Bro John Crudgington received it on his behalf.



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# The Chingford Masonic Association Annual Broken Column Lunch

**T**he Chingford Masonic Association annual Broken column lunch was held at Chingford Masonic Hall on Friday 13th December 2019

The broken column lunch is for the widows of masons based at Chingford Masonic Hall. The meal is our way of reminding the widows that they are always in our thoughts.

64 guests attended this year with special guests the past Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother John Michael Webb and his wife & the Assistant Provincial Grand master Worshipful Brother Peter Hollingsworth and his wife.

The APGM said grace before guests enjoyed a delightful 3 course Christmas dinner with wine served by the CMA committee members.

The musical entertainment was provided by the wonderful Denise.

After the meal a very special guest with a long white beard arrived dressed in his red suit. Santa gave out gifts to all of the widows before he left.

Right Worshipful brother John Michael Webb rose to address the guests and to thank the committee for the event.

A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all.





## A busy start to the 2019 season for Ostrea Lodge N°8209

### Arrival of the New Guard!

The year started with the Installation and it really was a case of the Old handing over to the New when W.Bro. Nick Nicholson (91) installed his Successor W.Bro. Rowan Perrior (23).

Rowan became an Initiate through the United Grand Lodge Universities Scheme and is the first student from the scheme in Essex, to reach the Chair.

The meeting was attended by Rowan's Father who had travelled from Devon for the occasion and W.Bro. Justin Bishop (left) District Coordinator for the United Grand Lodge Universities Scheme.



### Father follows in his Son's footsteps!

W.Bro. Mike Manning (right) followed in his son's footsteps when he was appointed a Chapter Steward in October.

His son Matthew had been appointed Provincial Steward in March and I am pleased to report there are no signs of the family competition diminishing!!!

### A fourth Generation Lewis!

At the November meeting, we had a very special Initiation when W.Bro. Robert Eels carried out the Initiation of his son William, who makes it

three generations of the Eels family in the Lodge. This being a very special occasion to behold particularly with the

participation in the ceremony and festive board by both William's Grandfathers, W.Bro. Harry Eels and W.Bro. Rob Humphrey who are both in their eighties! W.Bro. Rob Humphrey was Initiated into Aldborough Lodge N°5586(Upminster) so the baton was being passed to #William all through Essex Freemasonry.

For this historic event, the Initiation of a fourth generation Lewis, invitations were sent to many VIP guests and we were honoured by the presence of the Provincial Grand Master RW.Bro. Rodney Lister Bass, the Past Provincial Grand RW.Bro. John Michael Webb, the Provincial Grand Master of Cambridgeshire RW.Bro. William (Bill) Dastur, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW.Bro.'s Paul Reeves and Brian Vickers, three Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and numerous other Grand Officers. A very rare occasion in our little lodge to have 3 RW brethren, 2 VW brethren, 3APGM's and so many other Grand Officers.

To mark the occasion the Lodge was pleased to make a donation of £390.00 to Cancer Research UK on behalf of the PGM.



The PGM surrounded by Eels

### General Enquiries

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### Group Almoner 25 Years Keith Wheatcroft



At Rosslyn 1543 last night (27th November) W.Bro Keith Wheatcroft was awarded a Certificate for Meritorious Service having served 25 years as the Group Almoner for the West of Essex. He was presented with the Award by W.Bro Tony White PAGSD APGM. Also pictured are the Worshipful Master of Rosslyn W.Bro Graham Romain and the Immediate Past Master Bro. Dave Estlea.

Keith joined the Almoner team back in October 1995 and after talking with W.Bro Michael Withams he found himself part of the team. Keith said "I love doing the job, I get a big kick out of helping others, although 25 years was a surprise to me as it has gone so quickly"

Keith has supported a number of Provincial Almoners over the years and has formed great relationships with all of them, However, the biggest change that he has witnessed during the 25 years was the consolidation of the Grand Charities, although difficult at first, the new MCF is far more professional than ever before and despite some minor teething problems the charity is definitely more efficient than ever.

Over the years there have been some challenges, especially in relation to GDPR, with all information gathered being control far more ever. Likewise, Group Almoners play a far bigger roll which requires greater training than ever before.

Its fair to say that one of the most frustrating parts of the role has always been in trying to work with Lodge Almoners who have been appointed into the role for the wrong reason, and often because nobody else wanted the job. The skills and behaviours needed to be a good almoner are more important today than ever before, and as group almoner Keith try's to ensure the Lodge Almoners are supported to the best of his ability, also ensuring that his deputies and lodge almoners are informed and aware of current legislation and work processes.

Keith has been in public service (33 police) most of his adult life and has always really enjoyed helping others "you either have this trait or you don't.... Clearly Keith does.

### Going Dutch Holland Flevo Lodge 232

4 of our members and 4 other Brethren with guests totalling a party of 14 visited our twinning Lodge in Holland Flevo Lodge 232 on 8th November 2019 returning on 10th November 2019. We were all up at 4:00 am for an early flight from Southend Airport.

We were collected from the Airport by our Dutch Brethren to our hotel Stakenberg at Stakenberg 86 with the journey time of one hour. The meeting was held at the hotel in a separate Lodge room.

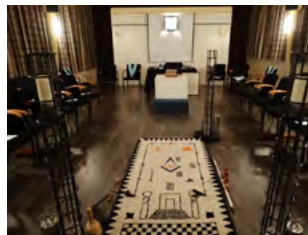
The meeting on Friday commenced at 7:30 pm and lasted some 2 hours with an initiation of a Candidate. We thought it would be a different Ceremony but it was completely different to what we had imagined. One of the things we liked was that the Candidate had 2 blindfolds on and when the black blindfold was removed there was a white blindfold underneath which represents dark and light.

The Festive Board started at 10:00 pm and it was after midnight before it finished. We were made most welcome during the meeting and the Festive Board. There were numerous toasts to the Candidate by the Dutch Brethren throughout the evening and the emotion was clear to be heard in the words spoken. One of the Dutch Brethren told me that they were speaking from the "heart". It was certainly a long day for us all!

Flevo Lodge meeting every week and has ceremonial meetings 5 or 6 times a year with Lodge Committees every month between September through to June. There are members in our Lodges who complain that meeting 4 times a year with 2 GP meetings is too much!

We were made so welcome during our stay and entertainment was laid on for us during the weekend including a dinner on Saturday night with our ladies.

Our Dutch Brethren with their guests are planning to visit us at our May meeting next year. We hope to go over to Flevo Lodge in the near future and certainly we will be keeping in touch with them in the meantime.



## Brooke Lodge Royal Doulton

Ten years after this Royal Doulton tobacco jar was presented to Brooke Lodge, it was taken for safe keeping during WWII. It was found, in perfect condition, some eighty years later in a charity shop and, following a little detective work on the internet, reunited with Brooke Lodge

Photo: Left, Paul Wood of Chelsea Lodge and Chairman of Veterans of War Charity with Ron Shaw of Brooke Lodge



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF ESSEX



## FREE MEN'S HEALTH CHECKS

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**FREE PARKING**

NB. NHS Health Checks are for men aged 40-74 who are Essex residents and not already on treatment for a heart condition, blood pressure or high cholesterol, kidney disease or diabetes. You are also not eligible if you already have had an NHS Health Check within the last 5 years.

Prostate tests are for men aged 40 plus. Prostate Cancer Screening is strongly recommended for men of black African or Caribbean heritage and men with a family history of prostate cancer or breast cancer who are thus at considerably higher risk from prostate cancer.



# FREEMASONRY



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