

# the essex mason



The Official Journal of the Masonic Province of Essex

Issue 89 September 2020 £3

## Rest in Peace Sir



#essexfreemasonscare



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# DepPGM's Foreword

Brethren, a lot has happened since the special Spring Edition of Essex Mason Magazine. At that time we had lost eleven brethren but since then we have lost a further four brethren to the virus and our condolences go out to their friends and family.

Every death is significant, but the sudden passing of our Provincial Grand Master was unexpected and a shock to us all. Can I, on behalf of his wife Margaret and his brother, W.Bro Henry Bass, and their families thank all of you for the many cards and letters of condolences they received. It was very much appreciated and the many kind things that were written about RW.Bro Rodney were a great comfort to them at a very difficult time. Due to Coronavirus regulations his funeral at Great Totham was restricted to thirty mourners and I was privileged to be allowed to attend to represent the Province and I was pleased to see members from Tollesbury along the route. We are planning to hold a memorial service when restrictions are finally lifted, probably in the spring of 2021.

The MW The Grand Master's suspension of masonic meetings lapsed on 17th July and many lodges are now planning to resume meetings in September. A recent survey of our members suggested that almost 50% were ready to return to meetings now with the other 50% wanting to wait until the restriction on numbers able to attend was eased or until the pandemic is over or a vaccine has been found. Many of our centres have been working hard to be ready to open and will be available to host those meetings that do go ahead and I look forward to resuming my Freemasonry, as I am sure many of you do too.

However, if you do not think the time is quite right for you to return please do not feel that anyone will think any less of you. Your health is your responsibility and if you do not believe it is safe for you to return yet please do not think there is any pressure for you to do so, whatever your role is in your Lodge or Chapter.

Despite his failing health the RW ProvGM was keen to continue until 2022 so that he could see Essex deliver on its target of £6m for Festival 2022. The suspension of meetings has seriously impacted the amount of money Lodges & Chapters were able to raise so I hope you will support our Provincial Grand Charity Steward, W.Bro Colin Felton, and his plans to 'Save the Festival'.

Brethren, please stay safe and I look forward to seeing you around the Province soon.

Paul G. Reeves, DepPGM



Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 89 of Essex Mason, the Official Magazine for the Province of Essex.

This issue has a wide variety of interesting articles and considering that our Masonic meetings have been on hold from March it demonstrates that the Corona Virus hasn't curtailed our Charitable activity and some excellent initiatives to support the front-line key workers with the supply of essential PPE.

We are delighted with the demand for the Face Masks which have now become part of everyday life and we have sold over 14000 medical quality face masks to Essex Brethren with all profit going to the Festival 2022 for which we thank you for your support, we still have a few boxes available for purchase.

The Essex Mason shop is open for business with Covid security measures in place, along with the website: [www.essexmason.co.uk](http://www.essexmason.co.uk) we are ready to supply you with your Masonic Regalia and items in preparation for when you resume your Masonic activity.

The next regular issue of Essex Mason will be circulated in February 2021 so please submit articles to be considered for inclusion in this issue to [magazine@essexmason.co.uk](mailto:magazine@essexmason.co.uk) with a copy deadline of the 31st January 2021.

Stay Safe Brethren



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# Death of RW.Bro Rodney Lister Bass, OBE Provincial Grand Master of Essex



*RW.Bro Rodney Lister Bass, OBE died, aged 74 years, on Tuesday July 14th after a long battle with Lung Cancer. He had been Provincial Grand Master of Essex since September 2015 following a distinguished career in Banking (with HSBC) and in Local Government.*

**Pictured is the PGM with his wife Margaret in happier times outside of Buckingham Palace after receiving his OBE from HM The Queen**





In his private life he was a senior Manager at HSBC Banking and his deep belief in service to the community service led to him following in his father's footsteps and joining Maldon Rural Council (later Maldon Council) in 1967, at which time he was the youngest Councillor in the country. He continued with them for the next 40 years and in 1997 he also became an Essex County Councillor and went on to be a Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation between 2003-2007, Vice Chairman of Essex County Council between 2008-2009 and County Council Chairman between 2010-2012.

He then served again as Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation between 2013-2015 and oversaw some of the council's largest capital projects and pushed for investment and improvement in the county's roads. He then focussed on Infrastructure until 2016, retiring after 50 years of public service in 2017.

In recognition of his service to the community he was elected an Honorary Alderman of Essex and honoured by HM the Queen in October 2017 when she invested him as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the Empire; the OBE.

Rodney was initiated into Tollesbury Lodge No. 4738 in October 1978 and Exalted into Tollesbury Chapter in October 1981. He was the Master of Tollesbury Lodge in 1992 and the MEZ of Tollesbury Chapter in 2002 and appointment as a Provincial Grand Steward in the Craft followed in 1994 and in the Royal Arch in 2003. He was appointed to Craft Grand Rank in 2010 and as an APGM in 2011. In 2015 he was invested as the RW Provincial Grand Master for and the Grand Superintendent in and Over Essex.

He had also been the Master of Woodrolfe Lodge No. 8354 in 2006 and the MEZ of Clapton Chapter (MetGL) in 2008 and went on to be the Master of the Bear & Ragged Staff Lodge No. 8527 in 2015, Essex Masters Lodge No. 3256 in 2016, Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge No. 8665 in 2019 and the MEZ of Clapton Chapter for the 2nd and 3rd time in 2015 and 2018 and the MEZ of Essex First Principals Chapter No. 3256 in 2018 and Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter in 2019.

He was passionate about his Mother Lodge, Tollesbury, where he continued to play an active role and where the whole Executive dropped in unexpectedly in 2018 to help him celebrate his 40th anniversary as a Freemason. He also joined several Lodges and Chapters over the years and was made an honorary member of many others across the Province.

Under his leadership his Executive became more open and approachable and Essex Freemasons were encouraged to increase their community involvement, starting with an appeal that raised £160,000 to build a high wire and zip wire facility for Essex Scouts at Skreens Park, Chelmsford. His launch of a new Essex Freemasons Community Fund in 2019 has allowed significant funds to be made available to help hundreds of local charities and good causes across the county.

At the time of his appointment as PGM Freemasonry was shrinking nationally and in the five years before his appointment the Craft in Essex lost 1,431 members, a 13.6% drop, while the Royal Arch lost 423 members, a 10.7% drop. In the five years he held office the Craft losses were reduced to 783 (an 8.6% loss) and the Royal Arch 152 (a 4.3% loss).

He was a great supporter of the Additional Masonic Orders and was an active member of many of them including Mark, Royal Ark Mariners, Rose Croix, Knights Templar, Royal Order of Scotland, Royal & Select Masters and the Commemorative Order of Thomas of Acon.

Paul Reeves, Deputy Provincial Grand Master states

*"Rodney Bass was a great man who was loved and respected by everyone who knew him. Essex Freemasonry will be the poorer for his passing. Since his appointment in 2015 he has transformed Freemasonry in Essex, instilling a spirit of openness and ensuring that our members strived to make a difference in their communities. He worked hard to forge greater links and mutual cooperation with the all of the Additional Orders and his contribution to the wider Masonic family will be a lasting legacy."*

In April last year he was diagnosed with lung cancer, but he did not allow it to slow his commitment to Essex and Essex Freemasonry, a commitment that was only cut short by the sudden deterioration of his condition.

Rodney leaves a wife, Margaret and stepchildren Emilio and Lydia, brother W.Bro Henry Bass and sister Julia Peel. He was pre-deceased by his elder sister, Alison Gould.

**Masonic Centres with a flag are asked to fly it at half mast.**

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# Provincial Survey Results

By VW.Bro Paul George Reeves  
DepPGM



During August, the Provincial Office carried out a membership survey to get your views on the timings of returning to Masonic Duties. The details below are the results of some of the pertinent points; the full results will be made available on the Cube.

**65%** of the membership  
would attend a Lodge or  
Chapter meeting, if dining  
wasn't permitted

**62%** would use the  
adapted ceremony for Passing  
and Installation

**27%** would not choose to attend a  
meeting until the pandemic is over

**75%** would not use the  
adapted ceremony for Initiation  
or Exaltation

**71%** feel video  
conferencing should be used  
during some part of the  
ceremony to include members  
who can't attend in person

**68%** ready to return on  
resumption of meetings when all  
brethren can attend



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# Ixion Lodge 2501

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust - Harlow



Following the request made by our late Provincial Grand Master Rodney Lister Bass Ixion Lodge 2501 decided that it would be good idea to support the local hospital in Harlow The Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust.

W.Bro Chris Wheeler and W.Bro Mike Saunders and myself got together and thought it would be something that The Harlow Centre should be involved in so we got in touch with 21 other units who met there and raised a magnificent some between us all of £1025.00 to buy sweets for the front line workers.

Bro Paul Lavelle then made 15 separate fortnightly trips to the Hospital with gifts of sweets which he passed on to the Trust Offices for the front-line staff on behalf of all of the members who meet at Harlow.

They were so pleased with the way that Masonry at the Harlow Masonic Centre had supported them they sent a letter of gratitude together with this Collage showing the photos of some of the staff who received the gifts.



This had undoubtedly raised their spirits over the many weeks that they were required to deal with the effects of the virus at the hospital.



By W.Bro Garry Thomas  
Charity Steward



# PATHWAY

**Provincial Mentor**  
**W.Bro. Pierre Waddoups**  
**EMAIL**



Having recently been appointed as the new Provincial Grand Mentor, I thought it prudent to take this opportunity to introduce myself and in the next issue of this, the Essex Mason magazine, to acquaint you with the Deputy Mentor, the Group Mentors and their Deputies, all of whom make up the Provincial Mentoring Team.

We are all, wittingly or unwittingly, Mentors, either as that Brother officially appointed as the Lodge Mentor or as an experienced Mason with knowledge to impart to anyone seeking answers to those seemingly interminable questions about Freemasonry and Mentoring appears a deceptively easy task, but for it to be done well and for it to be effective, it requires the Mentor to be well informed and ideally to have a flair for delivery; to be interesting, to be engaging, personable and certainly not turgid.

**An hour shall be set apart to talk Masonry**, such were the terms of a resolution passed by the Antient Society of Freemasons in the City of York in the year 1725, when it was determined: *'That every Wednesday in the month a Lodge shall be held at the house of a Brother according as his turn shall fall out.'* This regulation of nearly 300 years ago shows that it was evident that the Freemasons of York fully appreciated the value of Masonic education as distinct from the mechanical repetition of the ceremonies.

## Mechanical Repetition of the Ceremonies

It is this *'mechanical repetition of the ceremonies'*: first degree; second degree; third degree; Installation; repeated ad infinitum or ad nauseum, which is often uninspiring and proving to be challenging to many members and in particular, the new initiates.

This issue is exacerbated when questions on topics other than the ritual are asked by members, new or experienced and are continually not being answered. Subjects such as; what are the origins of the Craft or of the Royal Arch? Where does our ritual come from? What does the symbolism of the Working Tools mean? Etcetera and when questions are constantly not being addressed, one of three outcomes, it has been shown will occur to those members, they will become; discouraged, disinterested and ultimately disappear.

The net effect of this situation is that a number of Masons are leaving, disappearing from the Craft, many before they have received their Grand Lodge Certificates, which impacts on membership of the Royal Arch and subsequently on the associated Additional Orders too, but just as importantly, the potential enjoyment and that sense of personal fulfilment, is not being given a chance to flourish and because of this premature departure and those that left Freemasonry, stated in a survey carried out in Freemasonry Today in 2015, that they did so with 'a sense of feeling unfulfilled'.

A far reaching remedy to the problem of these early departures and a resolution was desperately needed with a radical solution being sought, before the matter went from acute to chronic. This solution also needed to address and deal with that oft quoted and misunderstood phrase 'to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge' which was clearly missing the point for many.

## The Members Pathway

The answer lay with the launching of The Members' Pathway in 2017 and the subsequent introduction of the interdependent Solomon on-line resource, with its concept of a flexible approach to Masonic education in its construct and its delivery: including an emphasis on the role of Lodge and Chapter Mentor; whose collaboration has in the intervening years, become paramount, this proved to be the redemption that was needed.

The Members' Pathway was introduced as 'a guide to help Lodges attract, introduce and retain members' and as the Pro Grand Master, Peter Lowndes also wrote:

*'The future of Freemasonry depends upon being able to introduce and retain committed members who will contribute to their Lodge and enjoy a lasting membership.'*

**This initiative comprises a series of 11 Steps**, which takes a man who is interested in Freemasonry, but not yet a member, all the way through a journey to become a committed Master Mason, with Step 8 in the series, begins immediately after an Initiation and follows the new Freemason as he goes through the Degree ceremonies and experiences elements of Freemasonry for the first time.

## Supporting the New Freemason

Step 8 is the most appropriate and relevant Step for the Lodge Mentor, because this is the point at which the new Freemason is at his most vulnerable and this is also the stage at which a significant proportion of new members leave and often within two years of their Initiation.



Intervention of the Lodge Mentor at this point is absolutely crucial and this, in my opinion, cannot be emphasised enough. But the Mentor's responsibilities do not end here, because the role of the Lodge Mentor is a continuous one, it is an on-going supportive role and as referenced earlier, one of education and personal development too.

Strategies that can be employed by a Mentor are things such as; meeting up with the new member immediately after each ceremony to talk through what he has experienced and explain the significance of that particular ceremony. Helping him with his preparation for each ceremony is another idea to support him and answering any questions that he may have, so that the Mentor, his Mentor, becomes a source of information, support and guidance for him.

## Nuggets

Integral to the Solomon website, is the concept of Nuggets which are Talks whose delivery will take around 5 to 10 minutes and the content of which is designed to enhance parts of the ceremony as a way of making sense of it to a participant or to someone who has witnessed the performance. The Nuggets can be delivered so that they are pertinent to any portion of a ceremony, even Installations.

## The Pathway (Steps 1 to 11)

1. Lodge Planning  
*For a man known to existing members*
2. Identifying prospective candidates
3. Approaching prospective candidates  
*For a man not known by existing members (e.g. via the internet)*
4. Responding to enquiries from potential candidates  
*For all prospective and potential candidates*
5. Preparing the prospective candidate for interview
6. Interviewing the applicant

Lodge Membership Officer

7. Preparing the candidate for Initiation
8. Supporting the new Freemason
9. Introducing the Royal Arch
10. Retaining our members

Lodge Mentor

11. Retrieving members

Province

While I understand that the 'mechanical repetition of the ceremonies': first degree; second degree; third degree; Installation; is important, in fact, it is essential, because it is after all what we are about in terms of ceremony and from this, the making and the progressing of Freemasons and it is an essential part, the bed rock of our Speculative Freemasonry.

It must at the same time be accompanied with an understanding of why we do what we do, supplemented by some idea of where we come from as a fraternity, which in turn can help to guide us as to where we are heading in the 21st century and make us as a fraternal organisation, relevant in today's world, where everything is challenged, analysed and critiqued.

That said, no matter how much our society's values appear to change; work pressures and the consequent effect of this on leisure time, the core values of Freemasonry are immutable and it is this glue, if you will, that binds us and Mentors help to make sense of all of this in their endeavours and assist in continuing to help make Freemasonry, 'a centre of union, a nexus of contact and solidarity between people of different backgrounds.' (Clark, P. 2000, p.330).

## Fostering Curiosity and Developing Understanding

This is the point at which Solomon becomes significant and it was launched in December 2018, with its mission statement of 'Fostering Curiosity and Developing Understanding' and 'to help in making good men better' and straightforward goal in helping members of Lodges and Chapters to learn more about Freemasonry. Within the first month of its launch, it boasted over 10,000 members and the membership numbers are up to; at the time of writing during the hopefully, latter stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, in excess of 30,000.



Mentors, can either deliver a Nugget at a relevant juncture at a Meeting, whether there is work to be done or not, or they can help develop that newer member, by asking them to Present a Nugget in the Lodge, or Chapter. This latter idea has many benefits, from inclusion, to personal development via a modest research process; the advantages of this are many-fold.

Mentors historically, have always had an extremely important role to play and now, even more so in modern Freemasonry; in encouraging, supporting and informing members, which will doubtless help in retention of the membership, so please, do not underestimate the essential part that they have volunteered to undertake as Mentors, in helping to make a success of the process of recruitment and retention.

Lastly, a word of encouragement to all Mentors; your role is vital for the success of a Lodge and Chapter and to Freemasonry as a whole. Do enjoy your position as Mentor so that Brethren and Companions can understand their Freemasonry and that they will ultimately, with confidence gained through knowledge, encourage others to join us and remain and grow with us and in the words of the other part of the Solomon Mission Statement, to help in 'making good men better.'

Provincial Mentor  
W.Bro. Pierre Waddoups

To get a more in-depth view and to download documents go to [b.ugle.org.uk/membership](http://b.ugle.org.uk/membership)

# PATHWAY

## Lodge of Good Fellowship 276 The Pathway "Success"



At the Lodge of Good Fellowship No276 first regular meeting of the year they were witness to something most brethren may not have seen before, four candidates being initiated at the same time.

There were mixed feelings on undertaking such an event, but, with a lot of hard work and commitment at Lol's, hard work preparing the items needed for the initiation ceremony, four kneeling stools, four pedestals four Deacons and four Past Masters, the stage was set.

The lodge and candidates properly prepared, the candidates were led in, every Brother carried out their office with precision and excellence and underwent a truly exceptional and memorable initiation enjoyed by all.

## Bereavements Due to Coronavirus

I would like to take the opportunity, along with the Provincial Executive, to pass on our condolences to the friends and families of the Essex brethren who have succumbed to the Coronavirus and to the brethren who have lost members of their family.



As of 25th August, in addition to those reported in the last edition, who we are aware of are:-



Bro Francis Leonard Arnold  
Aged 65  
Died 12/05/2020  
Old Esthameians 7693



W.Bro Leslie Ernest Claxton  
PPGStB  
Aged 89  
Died 01/05/2020  
Harlowbury 7795  
Thomas Paycocke 8200



W.Bro William E.F.V. Dilloway  
PPGSwdB  
Aged 81  
Died 12/04/2020  
New Elizabethan 7561  
Abbots Hall 6205  
His brother (W.Bro Brian Dilloway) also died from COVID-19



W.Bro Ralph Thomas Hebron  
PPSGD  
Aged 56  
Died 16/05/2020  
St Michael's 6683

As in the last edition, I continue to pass on my heartfelt best wishes to the brethren, members of their families and the staff at our masonic centres who contracted the virus but who have thankfully recovered. We wish you a speedy return to full health and look forward to seeing you around the Province again when things return to normal.

By VW.Bro Paul George Reeves  
Deputy PGM in Charge



# Eastwoodbury Lodge 7922

by Dave King



Well I heard of the "Pathway" and attended a couple of the sessions at Saxon Hall in Southend. The first event was well supported with the great and the good from Grand Lodge and Province who were also in attendance, expounding on the virtues of a new day in Freemasonry.

Clearly some interesting debates ensued but it was refreshing to hear that "This is the way we have always done it" was no longer a valid reason from some of the "old Guard" and was up for challenge leading a refreshing way to identifying potential new members and more importantly retaining them.

So I attended a second event, again at Saxon hall which was driven by the Pathway Provincial Team. The meeting reaffirmed steps 1-6 and basically getting the foundations laid with roles and responsibilities in the lodge. A further meeting was held at Saxon Hall but this time the atmosphere was more dynamic as there had been a bit of a lull since the previous meetings. Led by Lee Taylor and facilitated by Mick West, the room was challenged to their thought process and what needed to be done to qualify for a Pathway Lodge.

Fortunately I had read the Pathway booklet and came prepared with our Lodge Profile, which I believe highlighted the lodge's determination to become a "Pathway Lodge"

I suppose like most lodges, planning of ceremonies for the forthcoming year were being developed. Eastwoodbury had what I would call a lean year. Candidates did not materialise, a couple of resignations and deaths brought into focus that the Pathway could be a welcome approach.

It was agreed that our installation meeting in October 2019 would go ahead as normal but November 2019 could be a demonstration and January 2020 a Lecture and February 2020 a demonstration and March potentially a talk.

Then 1 August 2019, all changed. A Mr Charles Faweya had approached Saxon Hall to see about joining Freemasonry. Fortunately for us they could not accommodate and I got a phone call asking if Eastwoodbury Lodge 7922 would be interested in the prospective candidate. Straight away the answer was a resounding yes.

On the 3rd September 2019, both myself and WBro Paul Thomson (Treasurer) contacted Charles and visited him at his home address and met his family. He was a Microsoft Director covering the "Africa's" so made frequent journeys to Kenya, Nairobi, Lagos. A great first meeting, a met with great hospitality from Charles.

Both Paul and I agreed that it was important to keep in touch with Charles prior to him entering the lodge. We kept regular weekly contact and Paul occasionally met up with him. Charles application was read out in open lodge in October 2019 and he was initiated into Eastwoodbury Lodge 7922 on the 12th January 2020. Also at the meeting was the new APGM, Graham Dickerson, being his first visit to the lodge.



Again, key aspect of retention is keeping in contact with new candidates and encouraging them to attend Lodge Of Instruction and getting them involved in the day to day running of a lodge.

So Pathway has impacted on Eastwoodbury Lodge in a positive way. And may it continue to do so Charles will undertake his 2nd Degree Passing maybe November 2020 or January 2021

## Essex Provincial Grand Lodge (Building Fund) Ltd

Masonic Centres in the Province are having financial problems due to being closed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, and their income drying up. The EPGL (BF) Ltd want to assist those Centres to get through this dark time.

The Building Fund is made up of donations by every Mason in the Province some 50 years ago, and the interest earned from the loans made to Centres since the fund was created.

However, it was created to lend to Masonic Centres to improve themselves, not to help them through an EMERGENCY like this Pandemic.

Therefore, as this Fund was created by every Mason in the Province of Essex, we are requesting your agreement to lend on appropriate terms to these Centres to get them through this Crisis.

This is very urgent: Hence I am asking any Mason who does not approve, to respond immediately, and before the 30th September 2020, to W.Bro. Paul J. Beech, Company Secretary, EPGL (BF) Ltd.

Further information is available on request, please email me at the following address: paulbeehepgl.bf.ltd@gmail.com

**URGENT**

# #essexfreemasonscare

## Thurrock Lodge 4757



On Saturday 11th January 2020 Thurrock Lodge 4757

This particular initiation was very special to our Lodge as the candidate's Father, W.Bro Paul Young, (who is my Chaplin of the Lodge), was especially invited to conduct the ceremony of initiation for Son, Mr Billy Young.

This meeting/initiation turned out to be a most enjoyable and moving ceremony for not only W.Bro Paul, but for all the members of the Lodge.

Bro. Billy Young has since been passed to the degree of a fellow Craft and this was just as special as that ceremony was conducting in the presence of the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Peter Hollingsworth.

**W**arren Wood Lodge No 8284 held their 50th year anniversary meeting on 18th December and was honoured with the presence of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Rodney Lister Bass and his provincial executive team.

After the meeting was completed the Worshipful Master presented the PGM with a cheque for £4000 towards the festival 2022, the PGM then presented the Lodge with a Grand Patrons Certificate and thanked all the members.

At the festive board the Lodge presented to all present a set of cuff-links and the R.W. P.G.M was presented with a gavel as a remembrance of his visit to us.

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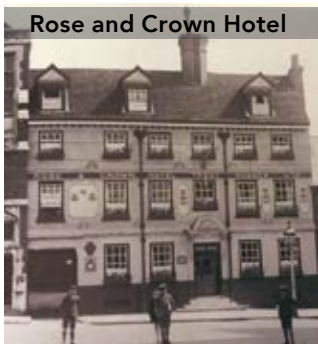


## Walden Lodge 150 years in the making

The history of Walden Lodge dates back to 1869 when, at that time, there were no facilities for Freemasonry whatsoever in this part of Essex with the nearest Essex Lodge located in Chelmsford and the only other alternatives were in Bishop Stortford, in the province of Hertfordshire, or Cambridge, in the Province of Cambridgeshire. With a growing interest in Freemasonry it was inevitable that sooner or later steps would be taken to form a Lodge in Saffron Walden.

A series of preliminary meetings were held at The Rose and Crown Hotel in Market Square, Saffron Walden, later to become Walden Lodge's first "home".

The petition to form a Lodge was recommended and supported by two Lodges, these being The Stortford Lodge No. 409 in



Rose and Crown Hotel

the Province of Hertfordshire and The Three Grand Principles Lodge No. 44, from the Province of Cambridgeshire. The petition was successful, and Walden Lodge, No. 1280 received its warrant on the 16th November 1869. The Lodge was opened at 2pm in the three degrees by Bro. Arthur Goodchild, Provincial Grand Deacon. The R.W. Provincial Grand Master of Essex, Bro. Robert J Bagshaw MP and his consecration team were received with traditional honours, it was noted that after the meeting ended and at 5.30pm twenty-six brethren sat down to a banquet costing 10s 6d per head which is almost £60 in today's money.

With the onset of the first world war in 1914 it proved to be a difficult time for Freemasonry and for Walden Lodge with both the Rose and Crown Hotel and the Town Hall commandeered for use by the army, locations for meetings were difficult to arrange and it was decided that after forty-six years Walden Lodge ended its association with the Rose and Crown Hotel and, in 1916, moved to St Mary's Church Parish Rooms.

However In April 1927 Walden Lodge was given the option to purchase the freehold of number two, Church Street, Saffron Walden a furniture repository owned by the Stansted Furnishing Company and after estimates were obtained to convert the building into a Temple with Dining room the purchase was agreed at the princely sum of £633 11s 2d, (equivalent today as just over £40,000), the cost to rebuild, reconstruct and purchase furniture added another £1,512 15s 1d, (£95,750). It should be noted that speed of this work was quite remarkable as on the 10th November 1927, seven months later, the Ceremony of Dedication of the Temple was carried out by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master W. Bro Dr J. H. Salter D.L., J.P., PGD assisted by W.Bro Brig-Gen R. B. Colvin C.B. PGW and other Provincial Officers Joseph Bell, a builder who had a distinguished career as a Saffron Walden councillor, Alderman and Mayor, (Mayor, ten times between 1877 and 1909), was appointed the very first Master of The Lodge and his portrait, painted by W.Bro George Foster still hangs in the building, one of the few artefacts to survive the dreadful fire, in July 1999, that destroyed the majority of Freemasons Hall.



The fire, which consumed the roof, the Temple and part of the robing room destroyed the majority of its contents and it was to take two years before the building was rebuilt and refurbished. Over time various items, mainly 'specialised' furniture was located and replaced, and the Temple and hall was finally re-dedicated on the 26th October 2001.

In 1905 Walden Lodge introduced Royal Arch masonry to Saffron Walden and Walden Chapter No.

1280 was consecrated on the 14th June 1905 in the Province of Essex and is the 11th oldest Chapter still meeting regularly. Indeed, Walden Lodge was to promote Freemasonry further by jointly sponsoring, with Etheldreda Lodge (Newmarket), our first daughter Lodge, Granta No. 6179 which was consecrated in 1945. Walden Lodge was to sponsor another three Lodges, two of which still meet at Freemasons Hall, Saffron Walden, the other one meets at Bury Lodge, Stansted, they are:

- Stansted Mountfitchet Lodge No. 6230 consecrated in 1946,
- Audley Lodge, (Saffron Walden), No. 7281 consecrated in 1953 and
- Elsenham Lodge, (Saffron Walden), No. 8973 consecrated in 1981



One hundred and fifty years after receiving its warrant Walden Lodge, No. 1280 held its sesquicentenary meeting in the presence of the R. W. Provincial Grand Master of Essex, Rodney Lister Bass OBE and his accompanying Provincial team. During the meeting the Lodge was called off and a short 'play' was given, led by W. Bro Graham Newman, (not in picture), depicting an image of how Walden Lodge may have come into being. Unlike in 1869 when twenty-six brethren dined after its inaugural meeting, fifty-seven brethren enjoyed the festive board afterwards at an average cost of £26.00 per head.

# 18 Months to "Save Our Festival"

By Colin Felton, ProvGChStwd



**W**e have 18 months left to "Save our Festival." Just 78 weeks, at the time of writing, to raise £2.2 million to reach our late Provincial Grand Master's target of £6 million. Can we do it? Yes we can with your help. Will it be tough? Of course it will - but I know what big hearted Essex Freemasons can do when they have made their minds up and right now I need your help.

I promised our late PGM Rodney Lister Bass OBE that I would deliver his target – money desperately needed by the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) to maintain its and our programme across Essex, supporting hundreds of different charities together with distressed Freemasons and their families.

The suspension of meetings caused by Covid-19 saw our funds dry up. I reckon we have lost £1.2 million that Freemasons would have given if they had not been in lockdown, but the need is as big as ever and somehow we must make up that shortfall.

We get back nearly £1 million each year from the MCF whether we are in Festival or not, which is why I intend to do everything I can to deliver that promise in memory of our RW ProvGM. This is his Festival and in celebration of his life and the huge contribution he made to our Province we are launching a number of new ideas to raise that £2.2 million and to close that gap – please do your best to support them.

## The Rodney Lister Bass Memorial Pin

The Rodney Lister Bass Memorial Pin comes in two versions, one in sterling silver and one gilded sterling silver (gold). They are in the form of the late ProvGM's initials and can be pinned to your Festival Jewel or to your lapel and can be worn with pride as part of your Masonic regalia.



I am very conscious that for some of our members the pandemic has caused significant financial hardship but I am asking those who can afford to do so to donate the money that you would have spent - and to give it by purchasing a pin to help "Save Our Festival."

Please buy a silver version for £25. Every penny counts if we are to achieve our target and it would be wonderful to see these pins across the Province.

At the time of writing the pins are in the final design and manufacture stage but will soon be available via Essex Mason.

<https://www.essexmason.co.uk/> or Tel: 01206 560396.

## The New Platinum Level Festival Target

Many Lodges have worked hard to get to Grand Patron status but realise they would not be able to achieve Double Grand Patron before the end of the Festival. We have therefore set a new interim Platinum level target for Lodges willing to go that extra mile. To work out how that figure applies to your Lodge or Chapter simply divide your existing Grand Patron target by three and then multiply by four.

All Lodges & Chapters have been notified of their new targets by the Provincial Charity Team and we look forward to issuing certificates to those units who go the extra mile.

Remember brethren, the targets are based on the number of members in a Lodge or Chapter, so it makes little difference how many members you have – the targets are the same for everyone. Even if you cannot hit Platinum please aim as high as you can, it is not a league table or a competition – it is a real need to "Save Our Festival."

## Rewarding Your Support

There have been many individual Masons, Lodges and Chapters that have gone that extra mile to help make Festival 2022 a success. We want to mark the special contribution that some of you have already made and for others who will do so in the coming months.

From September 2020 we will be issuing a Festival President's Award, a unique certificate in memory of Rodney Bass, which will be presented to individuals, Lodges and Chapters who have made a special contribution towards making the Festival a success.

It recognises the enormous task we all face if we are going to reach our £6 million target. It is a reward for excellence, initiative and hard work in helping to raise funds for Festival 2022. If you or your Lodge are organising a special event, doing something above and beyond for the Festival then let us know and you could be one of the first to receive this new award.

## Make a Pledge

With no meetings taking place during lockdown we know we are running out of time – but help is on its way. The MCF have agreed that if your Lodge or Chapter will pledge support for the Festival and are willing to commit to a specific sum, then you have until December 2022 before you have to hand over the money – that is nine months after the Festival officially ends and more than two years from now.

Make your pledge now and that sum will immediately be credited to your Lodge or Chapter and to the Festival total and it will count from the moment you notify us.



## Essex Freemasons Supporting Local Charities

The Province set aside £60,000 from the Essex Freemasons Charity Fund to support local charities in every part of the Province. That money is being used to match fund donations by Lodges and Chapters – that's a massive £120,000 given since lockdown.

At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic we gave £30,000 to buy essential PPE equipment for hundreds of Care Homes and Emergency Workers and were supported by the MCF with a further £10,000. This autumn the Essex Provincial Charity Fund has set aside a further £60,000 for flagship projects such as the Air Ambulance, foodbanks, homelessness, young carers and much more and have been supported by the UGLE Covid-19 Appeal Fund and the MCF with a further £20,000 towards those projects.

Looking ahead still further your charity trustees will be launching major initiatives with the help of the MCF to assist a whole range of other key charities in every part of the Province.

We do get support from the MCF but they can only continue to do that if we support them, which is why I urge you to please focus on helping us to deliver our Festival – we only have 18 months left to save it.

## Freemasons Lodge helps Women's Refuge take another step

Urgently needed funding to support Next Chapter, a leading domestic abuse charity working across Tendring, Colchester, Maldon, Chelmsford, Braintree and Uttlesford, has been given by members of Blackwater Lodge.

They have donated £1,000 to the charity, which helps more than 300 families every year, providing refuge and support for those that have suffered from domestic abuse.

The £1,000 came directly from members of Blackwater Lodge with the balance made up with a match funded grant from the Essex Freemasons Community Fund.



## Colchester Freemasons

### Donate Paediatric Diabetes Education Products

On Monday 23rd December, the Colchester Hospital Paediatric Diabetic Clinic received a very welcome gift from the Brethren of Colcestria Masonic Lodge, which meets at St Giles Masonic Centre in the town. The Lodge decided to raise money for educational equipment after learning that Ellie-Mai Brown, 14, from West Mersea had been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Ellie-Mai's father, Alfie Brown is a member of the Lodge.

Natalie Jordan, Lead Children's Diabetes Nurse, based at Colchester Hospital said she was delighted to have been contacted by the Lodge. "They asked if there was anything that we needed that would help children like Ellie-Mai". Natalie said, "We gave them a wish list of items such as story boards and body maps that would help us to educate the children and their families about Type 1 diabetes. The items would also be used when we visit schools to help others understand the condition. We never thought we would get everything we asked for"

Worshipful Brother Brian Chenier, who was the Worshipful Master of the lodge at the time said, "As a Lodge we really wanted to do something that helped a local good cause and when Alfie told us about his daughter getting this diagnosis we appreciated how difficult this must have been. To be able to donate these items is a real pleasure and we know they will get well used".

Freemasons around the country are well known for their charitable giving and Lodges do as much as they can for their local communities. All of the money raised, a total of £630 was donated by Members of the Lodge and other Masons that visited during the year.

Ellie was asked to formally present the equipment to the Nursing team and afterwards she said "When I was first diagnosed Type 1 diabetic, I never really understood how and why this happened to me. Now the nurses have this equipment it will be easier for them to show children like me how it all works". She added, "I am so grateful for all the help and ongoing support from the diabetes team and I am proud to have been asked to present this



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## Southend and Essex MASONIC WELFARE TRUST

### Suppliers of Equipment

Wheelchairs, Electric Scooters, Zimmer Frames ect.

Free of charge to Freemasons and their families within the Province of Essex to aid the recovery of those suffering from illness or recuperating from surgery

The contact number for all enquiries is 07732 378656



<https://www.stgilescentre.org.uk/semwt.php>

## Saffron Walden Freemasons give boost to Foodbank



**U**rgently needed funding to support Uttlesford Foodbank, which has seen a 200% increase in demand from people in crisis since the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic, has been given by Freemasons in Saffron Walden.

Members of Audley Lodge, which meets at the Masonic Centre in Church Street, have donated £1,000 to the Food Bank, which has helped to feed more than 1,500 people in an area of North Essex taking in Stansted, Dunmow, Thaxted, Saffron Walden and all of the surrounding villages since it first began operating some eight years ago.

The £1,000 grant will allow Uttlesford Foodbank to meet an ever growing demand for its services.

These are likely to increase still further in the next few months according to Sophie Durlacher, Manager at Uttlesford Foodbank, who believes that even more people will be facing hardship when the Government furlough support declines and then stops altogether.

*"The £1,000 is very welcome," said Sophie, "and it will go a long way towards buying many essential food items. We rely very much on the support of the local community and I cannot thank the members of Audley Lodge enough for their help."*

As an independent charity Uttlesford Food Bank is run very much on a major scale operating from a commercial unit on the industrial estate at Shire Hill in Saffron Walden where it coordinates deliveries across its part of North Essex.

People in crisis are referred to the charity via a number of different agencies with some such as the short-term unemployed requiring temporary help while others may need ongoing assistance depending on their situation.

*"Audley Lodge is very much part of the local Saffron Walden Community and this is the kind of charity that makes a real difference," said Peter Thomas, Lodge Treasurer. "We have been aware for some time of the work of Uttlesford Foodbank and were pleased to be able to help."*

The Essex Freemasons Community Fund which match funded the £500 donation from Audley Lodge was set up to support projects such as the Foodbank. Paul Reeves, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Essex Freemasons, explained: "There are hundreds of small charities like this in every part of the County. They are vital to the needs of the local community and this is where we are trying to aim our support.

*"The work of Uttlesford Foodbank cannot be underestimated, particularly in these difficult times and I am pleased it has the support of our members."*

The Essex Freemasons Community Fund is expecting to make donations of nearly £90,000 to local charities in 2020 in addition to nearly £1 million which will be given separately by more than 300 Lodges across the county.

If you, or anyone else you know is in need of help from the Foodbank please call the Citizen's Advice Bureau on 01799 618840 and they will be able to help you get referred.



**A**t the Villerica Lodge 4053 meeting on Saturday 21st December 2019, W.Bro. Chris Haynes had the honor of Initiating his son Alex into Freemasonry in general and this Lodge in particular.

He was ably assisted by both Alex's Grandfathers W.Bro. Michael Haynes and W.Bro. Geoff Burnell who delivered the Charge and Toast to the Initiate.

Bro. Alex is the fourth generation of the Haynes family to be initiated Into the Lodge and was 51 years to the date that his grandfather Michael was initiated by his own father. All marking a memorable day for the Haynes and Burnell family.

At the same meeting W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth presented the Lodge with a Grand Patron Certificate for the Essex 2022 Festival and the Worshipful Master W.Bro. Bill Moon presented the APMG with a further £10,000 donation to the Festival, taking the Lodge closer to double Patron status.





# ESSEX CORNERSTONE



FOR YOUNG & NEW FREEMASONS  
40 AND UNDER

**B**eing one of the premium new and young mason clubs in the English constitution, the Essex Cornerstone Club has not used the suspension of masonic activity as an excuse to slow down or stop. The Club has been as busy as ever, this is what has been happening in the last few months.

## Socials

The club have spearheaded a programme of bi-weekly online socials across England and Wales. The aim of these socials has been to connect new and young mason clubs together, share best practice and learn from the different quirks each other has. These socials are also attended by special guests, where the likes of Dr David Staples – Grand Secretary and Sir David Hugh Wootton – Assist. Grand Master have joined in. We've also had some fascinating insights into the Shriners, the Museum of Freemasonry and much more.

## Passport

The club has launched it's 'Masonic Passport' which is free to all of its members. This pocket-sized passport lists all Masonic centres and Lodges in Essex and has been designed help encourage visitation from young Essex Masons and to keep a record of those Lodges they've attended as they journey across our Province. Club centre reps



The following brethren will take up positions as Provincial centre representatives:

- Colchester, Clacton, Wivenhoe area - Adam Mills
- Upminster & Hutton - Ian Graham & James Gatehouse
- Orsett & Thurrock- Paul Carter
- Southend & Rochford - Adam Harvey & Liam Holmes
- Chingford & Loughton -David Wilder
- Chelmsford & Braintree area - Jack Saunders
- Harlow - Jack Baxter

They'll be reaching out to Lodge secretaries and centre management to introduce themselves.

The role of these centre reps is to build a relationship with each Lodge in order to fully inform them on the purpose/aims of the Club and support those Lodges who have members who are 40 years of age and under.

If you have any questions, please email [jon@essexcornerstone.com](mailto:jon@essexcornerstone.com)

## Holy Royal Arch tie

The Holy Royal Arch is an important 4th step in Freemasonry and to honour that the club have announced a new, provincially approved, Holy Royal Arch tie. This tie mirrors the current HRA tie but with a slight difference, the addition of the Essex Cornerstone logo.



The tie is available to any Essex Cornerstone Club or Lodge member who is part of the Holy Royal Arch or due to join. It can be worn at wear any Essex Chapter or Craft meeting.

To pre-order from our limited stock, please send £15 to:  
**Essex Cornerstone Club**  
Account No. 93790282  
Sort Code 20-12-21  
Please add you name as reference.

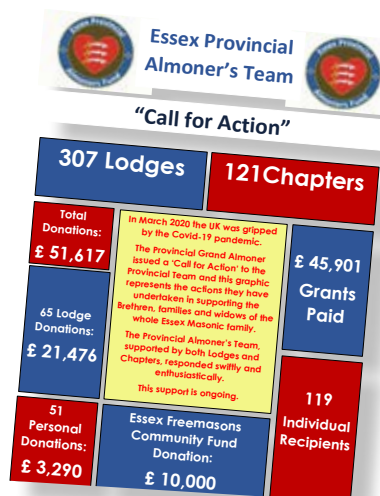
## Join us today.

You can join the Essex Cornerstone Club from 18 years old and upto and including 40. The membership is £10 and you'll receive a welcome pack with a club tie, lapel pin, passport and access to our Lodge but more importantly you'll be part of the best new and young mason club in the country!

# Covid 19 and the Call for Action Appeal



The spring and summer has been a particularly busy time for almoners and I start off this article by expressing my thanks to all almoners for the work they have done in reaching out and finding those people that were in need of some help. My thanks also extend to all the many lodges, chapters and individuals that have given donations, in some cases every last pound in lodge charity accounts was given to the appeal



Left, you will see a graphic produced by Chris Lee, showing the headline numbers with donations made and the grants given. It indicates that as soon as the money was being received, it was being put to good use with immediate grant payments being made to those in need.

In my last article in Essex Mason, I said that when the pandemic is over, almoners need to have been able to say "we were there when we were needed" I am confident that we can now say this and as I often say, "when the cameras have gone we will still be there to continue in supporting those in need."

## Our Non Covid19 Grant work continues well with the MCF

Despite the Group Almoners not being able to get out to visit, it is most pleasing to see that awards to people in Essex have held up well. Awards for the 3 months 1st March to 30th June 2019 and 2020 are very similar and this is a credit to the ongoing grant awareness campaign that we have in place.

- 2019 - 74 awards ( £146,228 ) of which 25 ( £84,816 ) were DLE
- 2020 - 65 awards ( £141,206 ) of which 28 ( £95,740 ) were DLE

## The Lodge Almoner Role

I have spent a lot of the lockdown period in writing an up to date paper on the role of the lodge Almoner, and how lodges and chapters can best support the almoner in office now, and when a vacancy occurs.

It has been seen by the Masonic Charity Foundation, the Dep.PGM and the Dep.GS. Distribution has now been made to lodge almoners and lodge secretaries. I hope it will be helpful.

## Widows Update

The lockdown period has been busy in trying to support our widows and especially our widows who no longer have the support of their own lodge due to closure.

Our lead on this, Gary Neilson, Social Contact Officer, has now managed to find a new lodge for 16 out the 25 widows who live away in 13 different Provinces from Essex and who are quite isolated.

Work is currently underway to find lodges in Essex for the 92 widows who live in our own province and who do not have a lodge to link up with. Lodges who are situated close by to these widows are being written to see if they wish to adopt a widow and I am pleased to report that 30 widows have now been adopted.

I have sent out the summer newsletter to all the widows without a lodge to ensure they know what is happening with our work and to update them on the Covid19 "Call for Action" appeal. Their next letter will be in November when we send a card and Christmas gift to them.

## Lodge Almoners Conference

The date is now re set for Thursday 6th May 2021 at Saxon Hall Southend. Invitations will be sent to all Lodge & Chapter Almoners and Deputies at the end of this year. Registration must be made so that seating and catering can be properly organised and details of this will be in the invitation letter. Speakers are now booked.



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



## Free Men's Health Day and a Prostate Update

This has been rearranged for Thursday 22nd April 2021 at the Essex County Cricket Ground in Chelmsford. This event will cover Prostate Cancer screening plus other key health checks. See page 22 for all the details that George Young has produced. A message from CHAPS,

*"The European Association of Urology, probably the most expert, unbiased body in world urology, has published the evidence that clearly supports the CHAPS Prostate Cancer Screening initiative and is now recommending the establishment of National Prostate Cancer Screening Programmes. As screening has been opposed by many medical professionals in the UK, as opposed to just testing, it's nice to feel that we are on the right track to develop this service for men in this province. If properly organised a screening programme can halve the death rate from Prostate Cancer and that it should start in a man's 40s -50s, our efforts have been vindicated, and probably something we should highlight now that there are at least 16 Provinces in England with some form of PSA screening already up and running. In essence, properly organised programmes halve the death rate from Prostate Cancer"*

## Almoners Raising Money with Pens

Yes, we still have the Almoner's pens with a light. If you would like to buy, they are available from Andy Jones [andyjones.9999@ntlworld.com](mailto:andyjones.9999@ntlworld.com) or 07832 051844 - He will package and post them to you for just £4 a pen



## Hermes news from UGLE plus a great Almoner Story

You will have read in various communications that UGLE are launching a new system called Hermes and primarily it will be helping the Secretary, but the almoner will be involved as well. If a member misses three meetings then Hermes will generate an email to the Lodge or Chapter almoner to ask him to check and see if that member is OK.

It is making the initial call for pastoral intervention more efficient and it reminds me of that very good story about an almoner. "A member of a certain lodge, who previously attended meetings regularly, stopped going. After a few months, the Almoner decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening and the Almoner found his brother at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for the Almoner's visit, the brother welcomed him, led to a comfortable chair near the fire place and waited. The Almoner made himself comfortable but said nothing.

In the grave silence, they contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After several minutes, the Almoner took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth, all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

His host watched all of this in quiet contemplation. As the one, lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow, and its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

The Almoner glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember, and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately, it began to glow once more, with all the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the Almoner reached the door to leave, his host said, with a tear running down his cheek, *"Thank you so much for your fiery summons, my brother. I'll be back in our lodge at the next meeting"*

## Case studies of an almoner in Essex

I asked a group of masons for their opinion on what they would like to see in these articles, they said examples of the work you do. So here is a selection of quotes, and I start off with the most frequent and perhaps the powerful one we receive.

- "Thank you for your call today, it has made my day"
- "When my stairlift broke down the almoners were there to help me and get it repaired"
- "It has been wonderful to see the incredible Call for Action appeal donations given away so quickly and thoughtfully to those in need"
- "My children needed help with school equipment during the lockdown and the masons came to my rescue"
- "I lost my job but Essex Masons came to help me"
- "I have received several calls from almoners during the lockdown to see if I was alright, it was very reassuring to know that masonry was there to help me"
- "I can manage by myself and I am an independent person but it was nice to get noticed from the masons who asked if I was OK"
- "I think the work the almoners are doing to get widows who are separated from their lodge is wonderful. I was so please to get a call from the Social Officer, Gary, to ask me if I wanted to be linked to a new lodge"
- "Just knowing that I could pay the bills and have food in the house, has made life so much better for my family, thank you"
- "When I recently lost my tradesman tools, the Essex Almoners Fund helped me to replace them which allowed me to continue working"
- "Without the help of Essex masons in providing me with a motorised wheel chair, my life would now be so lonely as I would never be able to get outside"
- "Due to loss of work, my rent got into arrears and thankfully the Almoners Charity Fund was able to help me. I am now back in work but I will always be thankful of the support I was given"
- "Please pass on my thanks to the almoners team for their excellent knowledge and ability to signpost me correctly to get help. The MCF, Turn2 us and the Southend Welfare Trust were especially helpful"

News from Stisted

A message from Jade Gibson, Business Development Manager at Stisted.

“Nick, I hope that this message finds you well and I wish all the best to you, your team and to each of the lodge members. Thank you so much for the invitation for Aggie and myself to join your Provincial Almoner Conference for 2021 and we thoroughly look forward to attending, it will indeed be something exciting to look forward to and we sincerely hope that Covid-19 will be more of a distant memory by then.

A brief update on how things are at Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court. Whilst it has been a very challenging time for everyone and there have been many ups and downs, we appear to definitely be seeing light at the end of the tunnel. We sadly were affected with Covid-19 with a very small number of our residents and staff testing positive for the virus, however the care and support teams have worked tirelessly to keep our residents as safe and as well as physically possible in these very worrying times and I can confirm that we are now officially Covid-19 free and have been for a number of weeks. Whilst we continue to remain as vigilant as ever, we are delighted with this news and also the news that all homes in the RMBI are now officially Covid-19 free which is also fantastic to hear.

We are however incredibly conscious and acutely aware of the worries of those looking to place themselves or a loved one into a care home at this uncertain time and especially with much of the news coverage being very negative in terms of Covid-19 in the care sector. Whilst we do have protocol in place and are isolating those moving into our care for a very short period of time while we wait for test results, we are open to admissions and we are very eager to support as many as possible in the Masonic community who may be requiring some extra care and support. We are open to both permanent and respite admissions and would particularly want to reach out to those who may feel isolated at this time and those who may be struggling to care for themselves potentially without the usual support of their families and friends.

As such we would absolutely encourage any enquiries that your Almoners receive in relation to care homes, to get in touch with us to see if there is anything at all we can do to support. The Almoners are fantastic and I do frequently receive phone calls from those enquiring. Your ongoing support is invaluable and we thank you so much again for your time at the start of the year, and again the incredible opportunity of presenting at your conference.

We have a lot of exciting things going on at Prince Edward at the moment, with our Stisted Safari Shuttle arriving last week!! We are in the process of creating a Safari within our beautiful grounds and many of our residents have already had a wonderful



time out on our Golf Buggy, even getting one of our incredible residents out for a ride at the remarkable age of 101! We have a number of animal (banners!) on order including a giraffe, lion and monkey for our residents to spot on our Safari tours, and this is just one of the many exciting things going on at the home at the moment.”



Essex Provincial  
Almoner’s Team



“Call for Action”

The Forget Me Not Appeal

Chris Lee, Dep. Group Almoner and the Provincial Stewards team have put together and launched a wonderful project to raise money for the Essex Provincial Almoners Fund (EPAF). I would like to thank Chris and his team for not only coming up with the idea and implementing it so quickly but especially to nominate the EPAF as a beneficiary of the scheme. I do hope that many of you will support it.



<https://www.essexpgs.co.uk/forget-me-not-shop>

307 Lodges		121 Chapters	
Total Donations: £ 51,617	<p>In March 2020 the UK was gripped by the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Provincial Grand Almoner issued a ‘Call for Action’ to the Provincial Team and this graphic represents the actions they have undertaken in supporting the Brethren, families and widows of the whole Essex Masonic family.</p> <p>The Provincial Almoner’s Team, supported by both Lodges and Chapters, responded swiftly and enthusiastically.</p> <p>This support is ongoing.</p>		£ 45,901 Grants Paid
65 Lodge Donations: £ 21,476			
51 Personal Donations: £ 3,290			
	Essex Freemasons Community Fund Donation: £ 10,000		119 Individual Recipients



# Essex Freemasons to fund prostate cancer tests across the County

Essex Freemasons are to fund a major healthcare initiative across the County in a bid to reduce a wide range of killer diseases in men - and it will be totally free and open to all residents aged 40 to 74.

The campaign starts on Thursday April 30th in the Premier Suite at Essex County Cricket Ground in Chelmsford where medical experts will be on hand to test for prostate and skin cancer, heart disease as well as screening for aortic aneurisms. If successful they will be repeated in other parts of the County.

Prostate cancer which kills 12,000 men every year requires a PSA blood test and usually costs £20 a time. Tests currently do not attract any kind of funding from the NHS leaving many vulnerable to early deaths.

The screenings will be taken by trained medical professionals in conjunction with the men's health charity CHAPS and the cost of each test will be met via the Essex Freemasons Community Fund, set up to improve the lives of those that live and work in the County.

The late, Rodney Bass, Provincial Grand Master for Essex Freemasons, commented:

"I am delighted that we have agreed to underwrite the cost of this programme and I would urge all men who live in Essex to book themselves in, particularly if they have the kind of health concerns which will be covered by these tests. We have been involved in similar schemes in the past but understand that cost, particularly for those on restricted incomes, may have been a factor in preventing some from taking part, which is why we have agreed to cover these charges.

Our Community Fund was set up for just such a purpose and I cannot think of a better use than saving lives in Essex. However, I am obviously unable to tell you how much we will donate in total as that will depend on how many take part, but how can you put a price on someone's life which is why I hope that many will put themselves forward for these vital tests."

Men wishing to take part can pre-book by contacting Celine Larkin either by phone by calling 07873 541505 or by e-mail to [celine.larkin@chaps.uk.com](mailto:celine.larkin@chaps.uk.com) to make an appointment between Noon and 8pm on the day. However, men can still take a test by walking into the Chelmsford Cricket Ground between 5pm and 8pm and they will be seen.

Appointments can also be made via [www.events.chaps.uk.com](http://www.events.chaps.uk.com).

All tests will be free but should visitors wish to make a charitable donation on the day to help cover the costs - it will be welcomed.



This leaflet is sponsored by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF ESSEX



## FREE MEN'S HEALTH CHECKS

Essex Masons, friends and men residing in Essex

## Catch A Killer Now

**Prostate cancer is our most common male cancer causing 12,000 deaths each year - that's over one death every hour.**

**Catch the killer now with a free PSA blood test.**



**Essex Provincial Grand Lodge in conjunction with CHAPS are pleased to provide at a single event in 2021 FREE Prostate Cancer Checks and other key Men's Health Checks (the tests are subject to confirmation when booking).**

**At the Premier Suite, CloudFM Essex County Cricket Ground**

**New Writtle Street, Chelmsford CM2 0PG**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 - 12pm till 8pm**

**Walk In (No appointment) - 5pm till 8pm**

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)

**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.

### Hutton Masonic Hall

Happy to Meet Again

*Mount Avenue Banqueting Suite*

**M**ervyn and the team are so looking forward to Welcoming you all back to Hutton Masonic Hall and even though things are going to look and work slightly different. This is to keep our guests and our team safe.

During the lockdown period we have been busy behind the scenes brainstorming various ways to safely reopen our doors, from the way we serve you a nice cold pint, to serving you a meal, and not forgetting keeping you safe during the meeting in between.



So, let's start at the beginning! When you first enter the masonic Hall, you will notice that you can only enter through one of our entrance doors and only exit through the other. This has been put in place to encourage a one-way system in and out of the building. You will also find an automatic hand sanitiser attached to the wall as you enter the foyer for our guests to use before entering the main building.

With our duty of care in mind we will be taking temperature checks of guests entering the building using an infrared contactless thermometer, so please, if you are feeling under the weather and have a slight temperature please stay at home to save us from having to turn you away at the door. Anyone with a temperature above 37.5 degrees Celsius will not be permitted to enter the premises, we hope you understand and expect your full co-operation with this to ensure everyone's wellbeing.

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Our cloakroom doors will be secured back to prevent any unnecessary touching of door handles when hanging your coat and putting your suitcase away.

The Revell Suite will also be available for Brethren to use to change into their robes. As before the balcony area in the main hall can be used to place suitcases and as an extra area to robe and de-robe. A further automatic hand sanitiser is located outside the cloakrooms near to where you sign in for your meeting.

We suggest you bring your own pen to complete the signing in book.

**Hopefully, we will see you all soon.**



**Essex Provincial Grand Stewards**  
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• Raffle  
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Web Site; <http://www.omhl.co.uk>

Email: [orsettmasonichall@gmail.com](mailto:orsettmasonichall@gmail.com)



The Staff and Directors of Orsett Masonic Hall had been working towards a restart on the 1st August, having arranged for the completion of all planned major works during the Covid 19 shutdown. During the shutdown the Directors have been keeping the Brethren who meet at OMH updated with regular coronavirus updates. We have supported the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Essex Sunday meals on wheels, and assisting our on-site Caterers Craft Catering where necessary, which included Craft Catering providing a fish and chips service to all of the local Orsett residents.

It was pleasing to inform all the OMH Brethren and furloughed staff that we were opening on the 1st September and our centre Manager Mrs. Jackie Firmin has been setting out the premises ready for the reintroduction of Brethren to the premises. The Directors have produced a protocol for visiting OMH, ensuring that all Government guidelines are met, and that the safety and wellbeing of our staff and patrons is our main priority. Clear and precise signage has been put around the premises. Deep cleans have been carried out, and will be continued with on a daily basis. One way systems have been introduced, and the staff will be trained ready for the opening.



The Bar, Dining Hall and Temple have been set out to take 30 Brethren at 2m spacing, the chairs have sign which say no sit and closer to the open time hazard tape will be put across chairs not to be used as an added precaution. The Tyler's room made case alien.

We are ready for opening on the 1st September and look forward to seeing the Brethren of all of the orders again.

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# Holy Royal Arch

## Provincial Grand Chapter of Essex



Many of you will have been looking forward to Thursday 17th September 2020 which would have been the scheduled date of the annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter at Freemasons' Hall. However, in view of ongoing social distancing measures and the restriction of numbers at meetings, it has sadly not been possible to hold the Annual Investiture.

The past several months have been extremely challenging for us all due to Coronavirus but recent events within the Province have of course been overshadowed by the sad loss of our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Rodney Lister Bass, OBE following a brave and determined battle against cancer. His passing has been devastating for his family, friends and the Province of Essex. He was held in extremely high regard in Freemasonry in general and within the community that he served for a large part of his life.

E.Comp. Rodney was an extremely popular Most Excellent Grand Superintendent who contributed much to the development of the Holy Royal Arch in Essex and he will be deeply and sorely missed. Under his leadership, he consistently and enthusiastically highlighted the indissoluble link between the Craft and

the Royal Arch and was responsible for driving significant progress toward achieving the target of 45% of Craft Masons in Essex being subscribing members of the Royal Arch by 2021.

He had a great love of the Royal Arch and was proud to have been MEZ of the two flagship Chapters in Essex namely Essex First Principals Chapter No 3256 during 2018/19 and Essex Provincial Grand Stewards' Chapter No 8665 during 2019/20.

Whilst we continue to lament the passing of our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, we also mourn all other Companions who have lost their lives during the past year including those who have so cruelly been struck down by Coronavirus. Although we will not have had the opportunity to remember them at the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter, many of you will have participated in the nine o'clock toast to 'Absent Companions and Departed Merit' which was conducted via Zoom meetings across the Province on the date of the funeral of our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent on Wednesday 29th July. Due to the current restrictions, attendance at the funeral was restricted to family members and close friends but it is anticipated that a Remembrance service will be held within the Province later in the year at which Brethren and Companions will be able to show their respect in traditional Masonic fashion.

### Looking back over the past 12 months

Despite the unprecedented events and difficulties encountered during the second half of the year, there have been many highlights of note. The year started in the presence of the M.E. Pro First Grand Principal, Peter Geoffrey Lowndes at the Annual Convocation in September 2019 and our late MEGS was proud and honoured to welcome him on what was the first occasion that the Pro First Grand Principal had ever attended a regular Essex Provincial Convocation.

The Annual Convocation also saw the retirement of E.Comp. Cliff Thoms after having served the Province with distinction both in the Craft and Royal Arch over a period of many years to be succeeded by the appointment of myself as Deputy Grand Superintendent. E.Comp's. Phil Campbell and Elliott Chevin were also appointed as Second and Third Provincial Grand Principals respectively. We also welcomed E.Comp's. David Wilson and Martin Cook to the Royal Arch Executive as Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals as well as E.Comp. Joe Shearer as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

At that convocation, the Grand Superintendent stressed the importance of enjoying our Freemasonry and of learning our ritual so as to deliver a special ceremony to all those in attendance, but most importantly, for the benefit of the candidate.

Whilst the suspension of Masonic activity in March resulted in so many meetings and events not taking place, the members of the Royal Arch Executive were nonetheless able to attend numerous Convocations of Chapters across the Province prior to the suspension. This included Combined Convocations held at Chingford at Upminster as well as conducting a Banner Dedication for Abbeygate Chapter No. 4219 at Colchester.



In November 2019, I and other members of the Royal Arch Executive attended the Chapter of True Friendship No. 160 at Rochford where some ninety Companions were in attendance to witness a demonstration by the Metropolitan Grand Stewards Demonstration Team of the Royal Arch Tracing Boards. The inaugural performance of the newly researched Royal Arch Tracing Boards had been hosted by Clapton Chapter No 1365 where the MEZ had been none other than our own MEGS and the demonstration at Rochford was the first to be given outside of the Metropolitan Grand Chapter District. The Essex Provincial Grand Stewards

Chapter No 8665 look forward to hosting the Metropolitan Grand Stewards for a further demonstration at a future convocation.

The Royal Arch Executive extend their congratulations to St John's Chapter No 1343 who celebrated their Centenary at the Crossed Keys Masonic Centre, Undine Chapter No 3394 who celebrated their Centenary at Loughton and the Chapter of Friendship No. 5587 who celebrated their 75th Anniversary at Upminster. We look forward to rescheduling visits to those Chapters whose anniversary celebrations were prevented by the suspension, including Thames Estuary Chapter No 4043 whose 75th Anniversary would have celebrated at Southend, United Chapter No 697 who would have celebrated their Centenary as well as a Banner Dedication at Colchester and Ixion Chapter No. 2501 who would have celebrated their 125th anniversary at Harlow. The members of the Royal Arch Executive would also like to congratulate the many Companions who have achieved 50 or 60 years in the Royal Arch and look forward to presenting certificates to those whose celebrations have similarly been curtailed by the suspension.



## Holy Royal Arch

The Consecration of the Chapter of XV had been hotly anticipated in April 2020 as this would have been the first Chapter to have been consecrated in Essex since the Daylight Chapter of Hutton in 2012. Sadly, this was another event that had to be postponed but we look forward with excitement to the rescheduled date.

### During the Lockdown

Members of the Royal Arch Executive have remained engaged in the Province and the APGPs maintained regular and frequent contact with their respective Chapters. We hope that you have enjoyed the Video Nuggets produced from content available on the Solomon website as well as the contributions from our Provincial Orator all of which was made available through social media channels and the Royal Arch web site. We look forward to further developing our communications strategy and continuing these and other initiatives in the future. Guidance and advice has been and continues to be available from the APGPs with regard to the resumption of meetings following the suspension, the adapted ceremonial and any other issues.

The Royal Arch Executive extends heartiest congratulations to the following Essex Companions who received appointment and promotion in Supreme Grand Chapter in April 2020:

#### First Appointments:

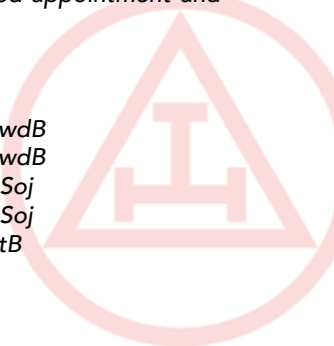
Gerald Duncan Scott  
Joseph Louis Shearer  
John Arlett (per Met)  
Roger George Davis  
Christopher Hicks  
Ian Christopher Marshall  
Keith William Taylor (per Cornwall)  
David Andrew Wilson

PGStB  
PGStB  
PAGDC  
PAGDC  
PAGDC  
PAGDC  
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#### Promotions:

Nicholas James Franklin  
Raymond Keith Pascoe (per Suffolk)  
James Alexander McCreadie  
Michael Leslie Scotchmer (per Met)  
David Peter Branch

PGSwdB  
PGSwdB  
PAGSoj  
PAGSoj  
PGStB



### Festival 2022 Appeal

The Royal Arch Executive express their grateful thanks to all those Chapters who have supported the Festival 2022 Appeal at the same time recognising that most Royal Arch Masons are also supporting the Festival through their Lodges. The recent Coronavirus pandemic has been a global disaster that has been devastating for many individuals and families as well as communities at large. This has placed unprecedented demand on our charities and on our generosity as Masons and the COVIV-19 Appeal launched by the Masonic Charitable Foundation has provided the opportunity to direct charity donations to where they are most needed whilst at the same time supporting the Festival 2022 Appeal. We are especially grateful to all those Chapters and individual Companions who have given their support in this way during this most difficult of times. We also hope that Chapters will continue to give their support to the Festival 2022 Appeal over the remaining two years and help to achieve the target of £6million set by our late PGM/G.Supt. As at 30th June 2020, we congratulate the Chapters that have qualified for honorific's as follows:

#### Grand Patron:

Walden 1280, Liberty of Havering 1437, Epping 2077, Victoria 2184, Ixion 2501, Albert Lucking 2717, Seven Kings 2749, Roding 3090, Ingrebourne 3345, Undine 3394, Nore 3610, Wickford 4220, Leigh-On-Sea 4708, Old Parkonians 4709, Thundersley 5225, Abbotts Hall 6205, Earham 7266, Chapter of Steadfast Unity 9128, Upminster Daylight Chapter 9788

#### Patron:

Chapter of St Mary 1312, Colne Valley 2154, Mistley 2339, Easterford 2342, St Clements 2442, Vigilance 3859, St Georges 4117, Tollesbury 4738, Grey Friars 5169, Chapter of Friendship 5587, Chapter of Amnity 5753, Thames Mouth 6994, Peverel 7743

#### Vice Patron:

Patriotic 51, Chapter of True Friendship 160, Chapter of Hope & Unity 214, St. Johns 1343, Warner 2256, Earl of Warwick 2504, Weald 2707, Harlow 2734, Chingford 2859, Le-Soken 2949, Benfleet 3798, Thames Estuary 4043, Abbeygate 4219, Epping Forest 4263, Hainault 4367, Pitsea 4837, Stanford-le-Hope 5217, St Katharines 5376, Shoeburyness 6665, Engayne 6831, Daws Heath 7466, Crossed Keys 7808, Thomas Paycocke 8200, Tabula Rotunda 8607, Chapter of Borrowed Light 9054, St Helen and St Giles 9133, Frederick Leistikow 9143, Belmont 9623



As we look ahead to this new masonic year in the Royal Arch, in the absence of our Annual Convocation at Freemasons' Hall, it had been hoped that circumstances would have permitted a smaller investiture at a venue within the Province but unfortunately ongoing social distancing and current restrictions have prevented this. Instead, a brief Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter, to transact administrative matters only, will be held on the 2nd of October 2020. Due to the current restrictions, numbers are limited at what will be an extremely short Convocation and we will unfortunately be unable to accommodate Companions attending other than those who have specific Provincial duties to perform.

In the absence of an Investiture meeting this year, as of September 17th, those who have been honoured with preferment in Provincial Rank for this coming year, will automatically assume their new offices. On this date, after three years as Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, E.Comp. Arthur Lucas will be retiring from office. The Royal Arch Executive are most appreciative of Arthur's hard work and dedication to the Royal Arch in Essex. E.Comp. Arthur will be succeeded by E.Comp. John Crudginton who moves across from the role of Royal Arch Membership Officer and will inherit E.Comp. Arthur's portfolio of Chapters. We will also welcome E.Comp. Bruce Mapson (left) to the Royal Arch Executive who is appointed as an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals and will assume the role Membership Officer. E.Comp. Bruce will undoubtedly be a great addition to the team and a worthy successor to E.Comp. John.

**O**ur hearty and sincere congratulations go to all of those Companions who are receiving a first appointment or promotion this year. Whilst Provincial honours are a recognition of past services, your preferment does of course carry with it an expectation of future support both to your Chapters and to the Province. The appointments to active ranks are featured in this publication and you can find the names of all those receiving appointments and promotions on the Royal Arch website at [www.essexroyalarch.org](http://www.essexroyalarch.org)

Turning to membership matters, in September 2016 the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent announced that there was to be a five-year programme that would see the percentage of Essex Craft Masons being subscribing members of the Royal Arch increase from 38% to 45%. This was to be achieved by a number of initiatives including the re-launch of the Royal Arch Representatives Scheme and would be implemented by a membership team under a newly appointed Membership Officer.

Steady progress has been made towards this objective, with membership increases being driven through 'Next Step' awareness evenings, publicity & education and, most importantly, the involvement of Lodge Royal Arch Representatives in the development of the progress of Candidates through the four steps of core Freemasonry.

In addition it was emphasised that the Chapter Almoner's role was to include the overall welfare of the Chapter, to encourage attendance and letting Companions know that they are missed should they drift into the habit of not attending meetings. This initiative was introduced to aid membership retention by helping to prevent premature resignations.

Last year saw a slight change in the way that membership percentages were expressed by including only qualifying Masons, ie Master Masons of four weeks and upwards. Whilst this only had a small impact on the overall figure it was considered that Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts should be excluded from the objective as this would not represent a true reflection of potential Royal Arch membership.

By the end of 2019 the percentage of Craft Masons in Essex being subscribing members of the Royal Arch had increased to just over 44% and there is every indication that the our target will be met by the end of this year.

### Looking to the Future

The Royal Arch Executive remain focused on looking to the future and continuing with our existing programme of initiatives as well as introducing new ideas to further increase Royal Arch membership within the Province. The Lodge Royal Arch Representative will continue to be a vital tool in ensuring successful recruitment and that Master Masons are aware that their Masonic journey is not complete until they have been Exalted into the Royal Arch. Of particular focus will be our efforts to reduce membership losses, encourage greater and more frequent attendance at meetings and to attract unattached Companions back into our wonderful order.

Support continues to be available to Chapters across the Province from the members of the Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter in the form of demonstrations and assistance with Exaltation Ceremonies. Grateful thanks go to E.Comp. Roger Davis and the members of the Demonstration Team as well as to E.Comp. Jim Wolfe who now stands down as coordinator of the Support team and hands over the reigns to E.Comp. Stuart Bramzel. Should your Chapter require assistance from either team then please contact your APGP in the first instance.

Whilst we have been unable to enjoy your company at Provincial Grand Chapter this year, the Royal Arch Executive are grateful for the support and encouragement that we continue to receive from Chapters across the Province, and now that the general suspension of Masonic activity has been lifted, we look forward to seeing you all again when it is safe to do so and as our Chapters begin to meet again.



**O**ur late Most Excellent Grand Superintendent was deeply proud of the Holy Royal Arch in Essex and took great comfort in the knowledge that Essex continues to be one of the most active and vibrant Royal Arch Provinces.

We hope that you will continue to enjoy your Royal Arch Masonry and, in the words of our late Most Excellent Grand Superintendent,

*"May God bless you all, let us go forward together and walk worthily in the light which shines around".*

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# Provincial Grand Chapter of Essex 2020/21 Active Provincial Grand Officers



E.Comp. Adrian Bannington  
Provincial Grand Scribe  
Nehemiah



E.Comp. John Hoeffler  
Provincial Grand  
Treasurer



E.Comp. Jeffrey Conway  
Provincial Grand Registrar



E.Comp. Colin Crombie  
Provincial Grand Sword  
Bearer



E.Comp. Frank Corkhill  
Provincial Asst Grand  
Registrar



E.Comp. Anthony Goater  
Provincial Deputy Grand  
Director of Ceremonies



E.Comp. Ralph Ankers  
Provincial Deputy Grand  
Director of Ceremonies



E.Comp. Brian Catt  
Provincial Deputy Grand  
Director of Ceremonies



E.Comp. Nicholas Berry  
Provincial Deputy Grand  
Sword Bearer



E.Comp. J. Nick Clarke  
Provincial Grand Almoner



E.Comp. Colin Felton  
Provincial Grand Charity  
Steward



E.Comp. Jason Carpenter  
Provincial Grand Sojourner



E.Comp. John Mansfield  
Provincial 1st Asst Grand  
Sojourner



E.Comp. James Wheeler  
Provincial 2nd Asst Grand  
Sojourner



E.Comp. George Lambeth  
Provincial Asst Grand  
Scribe Ezra



E.Comp. Mark Harrison  
Provincial Grand  
Standard Bearer



E.Comp. Stephen Cook  
Provincial Grand Standard  
Bearer



E. Comp. Mike Jervis  
Provincial Grand  
Standard Bearer



E.Comp. Chris Sampson  
Provincial Grand  
Standard Bearer



E.Comp. David Scott  
Provincial Grand Standard  
Bearer



E.Comp. Phillip Sims  
Provincial Grand  
Standard Bearer



E.Comp. Gerald Scott  
Provincial Grand Organist



E.Comp. Adrian Deadman  
Provincial Asst. Grand  
Director of Ceremonies



E. Comp. Jack Gilliland  
Provincial Asst. Grand  
Director of Ceremonies



E.Comp. Mark Turner  
Provincial Asst. Grand  
Director of Ceremonies



E.Comp. Stephen Pepperell  
Provincial Asst. Grand  
Director of Ceremonies



E.Comp. Ray. Quidington  
Provincial Grand  
Steward



E.Comp. Marc Gunnell  
Provincial Grand Steward



E.Comp. Philip Brown  
Provincial Grand Steward



E.Comp. Clint Childs  
Provincial Grand  
Steward



E.Comp. Clive Coe  
Provincial Grand Steward



E.Comp. C. Race  
Provincial Grand Steward



E. Comp. B. Thurgood  
Provincial Grand Steward



E.Comp. Mark Reeves  
Provincial Grand Steward



E.Comp. James Tyrrell  
Provincial Grand Steward



E.Comp. Paul Scothern  
Provincial Grand  
Steward



E.Comp. Stephen Pope  
Provincial Grand Steward



E.Comp. Graham Lucas  
Provincial Grand Steward



E. Comp. Russell Segal  
Provincial Grand Steward



E.Comp. Daniel Gearing  
Provincial Grand Steward



E.Comp. John Bond  
Provincial Grand Janitor

**The Deputy Grand Superintendent in Charge, members of the Executive and all Essex Companions offer their congratulations to the above companions on their appointment to active office in the Holy Royal Arch Province of Essex effective from 17th September 2020.**





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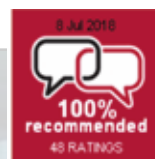
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## Cyrus Sasana Council of Knight Masons No.103

**O**n the morning of the 22nd February 2020 the Installation meeting of Council 103 took place at Saxon Hall, Southend. For readers of the Essex Mason, the Grand Council of Knight Masons is an Irish Order which now has eleven Councils in its Province of England and Wales. Cyrus Sasana Council 103 was the fourth Council to be constituted and dedicated and the ceremony took place at Saxon Hall in September 2013.

Following an invitation from Council 103 several senior Knight Masons were in attendance having flown in the evening before from Dublin, Ireland. The Council was honoured to receive the Most Excellent Great Chief, Bernard V.A. Woods, Right Excellent Sir Knight Derek J. Moffatt, Right Excellent Sir Knight Selwyn Davies, Right Excellent Sir Knight John S. Haynes, Right Excellent Sir Knight Reg Richards and Sir Knight James MacCafferty. In addition, Council 103 was honoured with the presence of the Provincial Grand Superintendent for England and Wales, Major A.J. Darlison. Major Darlison's Deputy for Southern England is Right Excellent Sir Knight Ray Fretten, who was the Primus Excellent Chief of the Council.

The actual installation ceremony of Excellent Chief included not only Sir Knight Gordon MacLean of Council 103 but also Sir Knight Nigel Willows of Grafton Council 100, London, this with dispensation from the Most Excellent Great Chief. Sir Knights MacLean and Willows were installed by Very Excellent Sir Knight Mel Goodchild.

Before the installation meeting the Most Excellent Great Chief rose to announce that he was honouring Excellent Sir Knight Richard James Goodwin with the rank of Past Very Excellent Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, which was greeted by applause. He stated that (now) VESK Richard had assisted several of the other Councils in the Southern area and his dedication was well worthy of

this honour. The Great Chief then expressed his congratulations to the members of Cyrus Sasana Council for the quality of the ritual during the Meeting, and he was very pleased to return to Council 103 for the first time since 2013.

During the ceremony VESK Richard Goodwin presented Founder Jewels to both the Great Chief and RESK Derek Moffatt. RESK Selwyn Davies who is the Excellent Chief of Cyrus Council 29 in Dublin, the mother Council of 103, presented a beautiful glass dish suitably engraved with a presentation message from Council 29 to ESK Gordon MacLean for the Cyrus Sasana Council.

Following the Meeting some thirty Sir Knights enjoyed a very friendly fraternal luncheon, with many members of 103 remaining with the Irish contingent until they left for Southend airport at 6.30pm to depart home to Ireland. They safely arrived back on home ground at Dublin airport at 9.00pm.

For anyone interested in finding out more about the order of Knight Masons and joining the Council 103, please contact the Scribe Excellent Sir Knight Emlyn Carter by email on [emlyn.carter@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:emlyn.carter@blueyonder.co.uk)



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### VW.Bro Fred Thornback

by W.Bro. Terry Lockhart PJGD

If anyone deserves the coveted title of the Father of Essex Freemasonry, it must certainly be Fred Thornback. At the age of 90 he is still very active and attends many masonic meetings and functions. With his friendly disposition he is equally at home chatting to anyone in Freemasonry whether they be a member of the Executive or a Master mason and he freely gives anyone the benefit of his vast experience. His tall distinguished figure belies his gentle and modest nature.



Frederick Arthur Thornback was born in 1929 He went to a local school in Southend. Soon after WW2 war broke out most of the schools closed and like many others he was evacuated to a little village in Derbyshire where he stayed for about 18 months before returning to Southend. At the age of 18 after hostilities had ceased he joined the Royal Airforce for his national service, after 6 months training he was posted to RAF Swinderby in Lincolnshire where he served his time as a flight mechanic.

In 1952 he married his wife Vivienne whom he had met at a youth club in 1949. They had two children Andrew and Lorraine unfortunately they lost Andrew 4 years ago. They have four Grand Children and a new Great Grandson.

Until his retirement Fred was managing director of the family asphalt company, started by his Grand Father and then taken over by his Father, both of whom were Freemasons. The main company works were at Prittlewell but the asphalt manufacturing plant was at Rochford. Fred was a member of the Institute of Asphalt Technology.

Fred was initiated in St Andrews Lodge No 1817 at the Palace Hotel in 1954 at the young age of 24. He was Proposed by his father who initiated him and seconded by his grandfather. He was W.Master 1n 1966 and again in 1999 when he was 70 years of age. On that occasion the lodge presented him with a beautiful leather bound souvenir book charting his many happy memories of his 45 years as a member and a mason.

Fred was Worshipful Master of Essex Masters Lodge in 1987 and in the same year he was MEZ of Essex First Principals Chapter. In 15 years as an active member of the Provincial Executive, he was first Prov.GDC (1980-84), APMG (1984-1986) and Deputy PGM (1986 -1994). The rank of PGSwdB in 1986 entitled him to use the prefix of Very Worshipful Bro.which is much cherished and well deserved. Fred was involved in many consecrations while a member of the Executive and consequently made an honorary member of many other Lodges.

He was exalted into St Andrews Chapter No 1817 in 1960 and MEZ in 1970. He was ProDepGsupt in the Royal Arch from 1986-94 during the same period he was ProvDepPGM in the Craft Eight very busy but very happy years indeed.

For a period of 3 Years from 1988-1990 Fred was a member of the Board of General Purposes at UGL where he played an active part serving on the buildings sub committee.

To crown his esteemed masonic career in Essex Fred was awarded the DSEM in the Royal Arch in 2010 and in 2014 he was honoured to receive the DSEM in the Craft.

Apart from his Freemasonry, which his wife, Vivienne has always supported, Freds other main hobby is his garden which is evident from the beautiful tended lawns and flower beds around the house Freds other great love is the Southend and Essex Masonic Welfare Trust. He has been involved with it since the 1960's and became a trustee since 1980 he was chairman in 1988 a position he held for about 10 years. The trust continues to improve every year and apart from providing the brethren of Essex and their families with medical aids the Trust continues to entertain the RMBI Annuitants on their holiday in Southend.

Fred was made Honorary Life President but is still very much involved. In recognition of his charitable work Fred and Vivienne were invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace in July 1988

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## General Interest

### Woodham Walter Community Defibrillator

The Brethren of Beeleigh Abbey Lodge 7017 take the values of Freemasonry very seriously. Integrity, kindness, honesty, fairness and charity are an integral part of Masonic life but charity extends beyond being inward looking and moves into the community as a whole.

The residents of the village of Woodham Walter have every reason to be thankful for this ethos. Set the task to raise funds for a Parish Council but Church led community defibrillator, the Churchwarden, W.Bro. Paul Clark PPGSwdB, himself a member of Beeleigh Abbey Lodge, raised the matter at a Lodge meeting and the Brethren rallied by making a significant contribution towards the acquisition, not just by making a financial grant but also by voluntarily giving up their time and expertise to ensure the project was enabled and based in the redundant village telephone kiosk purchased by the Parish Council.

Bro. Stephen Nunn, a local Maldon historian of repute, launched the project with a fund raising talk on St Roger of Beeleigh, which raised a significant sum; W.Bro. Martin Cook PPJGW helped raise money by playing the organ at fund raising events; Charity Steward W.Bro. Martin Harvey PPAGReg obtained approval for a charitable grant that, when added to other funds raised by Bro. Nunn and the Village, allowed the defibrillator to be purchased. A defibrillator is best used, but not exclusively, by trained operators and Bro. Peter Stilts, a specialist trainer in such first aid matters, voluntarily assisted by training some twenty-three operators so there is a spread of personnel across the Village.

The Parish Council Chairman John Tompkins, together with a number of village volunteers refurbished the iconic K6 telephone box that is now fully commissioned as a community defibrillator access point and managed by a community group.



(L-R) W.Bro. John Tompkins PAGESWdB, (Chairman of the Parish Council), W.Bro. Barrie Harding PPGSwdB (Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council), and from Beeleigh Abbey Lodge W.Bro. Martin Harvey PPAGReg (Charity Steward), W.Bro. Paul Clark PPGSwdB (Churchwarden), Bro. Peter Stilts and Bro. Peter Richardson PPGPurs (Lodge Secretary). Bro. Stephen Nunn was on holiday at the time of the photo shoot.

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# the essex mason extra



The Online supplement with additional stories

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

please keep your stories coming  
[magazine@essexmason.co.uk](mailto:magazine@essexmason.co.uk)

## Long Service



### W.Bro John Wardle 50 years in Freemasonry

On 21st October, W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth, APMG attended Comrades Lodge No. 2976 in Colchester to present a 50th year in Freemasonry certificate to W.Bro. John Wardle. John has been with Comrades for ten years but maintains enduring ties with Principia and St. Ninian's lodges in Metropolitan area. Recollections of moments in John's working and masonic life were narrated by the APMG before the PGM's certificate was presented. The W.M., W.Bro. Dean Horton afterwards presented a hamper and a commemorative card on behalf of Comrades Lodge.



W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth, APMG  
W.Bro. John Wardle - W.Bro. Dean Horton, WM

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# 50

### A year of two halves

As the year of 2019 falls to a close the Manor Newland Lodge No.6403 is proud to remember the acknowledgement of 50 years service by two of its Members.

W.Bro Fred Bowler PM1312 PPJGD was the honoured recipient of his 50 Year Certificate at their meeting held on 29th November, 2018. W.Bro Peter Hollingsworth PSGD APMG gave a concise but illuminating account of W.Bro Fred's history, both as a Mason and in his Professional capacity. He went on to present the 50 Year Certificate to W.Bro Fred in a very able manner.

The second recipient of a 50 Year Certificate was Bro Barry Tarbun. As Bro Barry was unable to attend the October Lodge meeting, Senior Members of the Lodge subsequently attended Bro Barry at his home on Friday 8th November, 2019 to present him with his Certificate. This was a very enjoyable experience for all and Bro Barry was very pleased for the recognition awarded him.







## W.Bro John Roots 50th Certificate

On 4th February at the Orsett Masonic Centre W.Bro Tony White APGM, presented a 50-year Certificate to W.Bro John Roots in the presence of 28 Brethren of the Laindon Lodge No 5230. Brother John also received a gift from the APGM and the Lodge to celebrate his day. The Brethren were given an insight into W.Bro John's varied Masonic Career and his Personal work career working in the Pathology department, where some of his past cases were the Christie, Krays and Richardson Murders .

# 50

## Long Service

## Lodge of Good Fellowship 276

# 50 : 50



On 7th March 2019, the members of the Lodge of Good Fellowship No. 276, were honoured with an official visit by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth, PSGD.

At this meeting, the APGM presented W.Bro. David Gager, PPGSwdB, with his 50 Year Certificate. W.Bro. David was Initiated into the Lodge on 6th March 1969, and was Installed as Master in 1978.

The Lodge was further honoured on 3rd October 2019 when W.Bro. Peter again returned to present another 50 Year Certificate, on this occasion to W.Bro Laurie Boyall, PPJGW.

W.Bro. Laurie was Initiated into Freemasonry in October 1969 and Joined 276 in October 1978, reaching the Chair in 1986.

Along with the Certificates, both were presented with a 50th Pin Badge.



### Celebrations

#### The Buckhurst Hill Lodge 8291 50th Anniversary



*The Buckhurst Hill Lodge 8291 celebrated the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Lodge by holding an Anniversary Meeting at the Masonic Hall, Loughton in December at which eighty members and guests were present. The meeting was honoured by the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W.Bro Paul Reeves and other members of the Provincial Executive.*

A brief history of the Lodge so far was presented by the only surviving member who was present at the consecration of the lodge in 1969, W.Bro Laurie Wilkinson, who is currently lodge Treasurer and Charity Steward. After which a cheque for £9000 for the 2022 Festival was presented to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master by the Lodge Master W.Bro Ronnie Rowell.

This donation enabled the lodge to reach the sum required for the award of Patron status of the 2022 Festival and the Patron Certificate was then presented by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master to the Lodge Master in open lodge.

The Lodge was then presented with a demonstration of "The Prince Hall-a different kind of Freemasonry" by members of the Maids Head Lodge No.8558. This was greatly enjoyed by those present and a fitting celebration of this special Lodge event..

#### Wanstead Park 6718 New Initiates



Bro. Ismayel Adams, our newest brother with (L-R) Worshipful Master W.Bro Ron Proctor and W.Bro Brian Tyers, his proposer.

Initiated : March 7th 2020



Bros. Paul Curno and Eric Hall with (L-R), W.Bro Barry Curno, their proposer and Paul's father and Worshipful Master W.Bro Ron Proctor

Initiated : January 4th 2020



### Howard Hall

The Braintree Masonic Centre will reopen for Masonic Meetings



The Braintree Masonic Centre will reopen for Masonic Meetings on the 1st September, with certain safety measure in place. Brethren are being asked to enter on the left hand side of the door, have their temperature checked, use the hand sanitation provided, collect a mask and visor if they have not brought their own, before entering the Temple with their Regalia cases, which must remain with them in the Temple until the meeting is finished, then returned to their car. Seating is arranged in the Temple for 2mtr social distancing for a maximum of 28 Brethren to attend.

The Temple will not be used for LOI nights until further notice but can take place in the dining hall, which has been set out for 26 attending at 2mtr socially distancing.

The bar will open for Masonic meetings with prior arrangement. There will be no access to the bar area until further notice though and drinks orders will have to be pre ordered on arrival or from the dining room when your meeting has finished, where the Steward will serve you and take cashless payment where possible.

Temporary rules and guidelines are in place at the moment and are issued to anyone wishing to use the hall for Masonic and non Masonic meetings.



## Charity

### Ambresbury Lodge 5099

#### Ladies Festival Charity Ball



On Saturday 30 November 2019, Ambresbury Lodge No. 5099 held a Ladies Festival Charity Ball at the Banqueting Suite, Chelmsford Race Course, presided over by W.Bro. Neil Armstrong, our current Worshipful Master, and his wife Sasha. There were two objectives; to have a thoroughly good time and to raise funds for two charities very dear to the hearts of Lucy Johnson and Karen Hedger, two friends of the President and his lady. Both objectives were achieved with 140 in attendance and several fund raising initiatives having been planned. The total amount raised was £4,221 and this has been equally shared between Little Havens Children's Hospice and Dementia UK (Supporting Essex Admiral Nurses).

On Saturday 1 February 2020 a representative from Little Havens Hospice, Andrea Wise, together with Lucy and her son Harry were guests of the Lodge at the Loughton Masonic Centre, joining us initially for light refreshment and then in the Temple, prior to our Regular meeting. Both Andrea and Lucy gave short talks about the Hospice, its value and their gratitude for donations such as ours. Karen had intended to be there to speak about her experience with a close relative suffering dementia and the relief that could now be provided by Dementia UK Essex Admiral Nurses. Unfortunately her need to be with another sick relative prevented this but she had sent her grateful thanks for the £2,110.50 that had been donated.

This was a very pleasing outcome, demonstrating that Freemasons working together with their circle of friends, family and colleagues can provide much needed support in our communities.



### Ixion Lodge 2501

#### Supporting Local Charities

On the 21st November a day I won't forget (I had a heart attack lucky yes I'm OK) 3 members of Ixion 2501 W.Bro Mike Saunders Master of the Lodge, W.Bro Mike Robinson, and W.Bro Chris Wheeler all went along to St Clares Hospice in Harlow to present a cheque for £500.

*"As a lodge we like to support local charities"*





At the Villerica Lodge 4053 meeting on Saturday 21st December 2019, W.Bro. Chris Haynes had the honour of Initiating his son Alex into Freemasonry in general and this Lodge in particular. He was ably assisted by both

Alex's Grandfathers W.Bro. Michael Haynes and W.Bro. Geoff Burnell who delivered the Charge and Toast to the Initiate.

Bro. Alex is the fourth generation of the Haynes family to be initiated Into the Lodge and was 51 years to the date that his grandfather Michael was initiated by his own father. All marking a memorable day for the Haynes and Burnell family.

At the same meeting W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth presented the Lodge with a Grand Patron Certificate for the Essex 2022 Festival and the Worshipful Master W.Bro. Bill Moon presented the APGM with a further £10,000 donation to the Festival, taking the Lodge closer to double Patron status.



## Food Bank Collection Langthorne Lodge 1421

Members and visitors to the Langthorne Lodge No.1421 meeting at the Howard Hall, Braintree on 6th December, bought with them food and other essential items to be donated to the Braintree Foodbank. This was the third year of the initiative, which was started by the Lodges Senior Warden, Bro. John Smillie.

This year's collection weighed 145kg, which means the food bank will be able to feed approximately 15 people. Everything collected was taken to the Braintree Food Bank and given to the banks Administrator/Coordinator, Maggie Drewett. Mrs Drewett explained that this had been a very busy year and therefore the donation was very much appreciated.

The Lodge has now donated over half a ton of food in three years and plans to make regular collections and donations, as well as trying to get other Lodges within the centre, as well as other centres to do the same.



## Lucton Lodge 3353

On Monday 27th January 2020, Lucton Lodge 3353 hosted its first regular meeting of the new decade at Loughton Masonic Centre in the Province of Essex. Where 15 members and guests witnessed the proclamation of W.Bro. Martin Wheatley, whom is to stay in office as Worshipful Master for a second year.

The Lodge also had the privilege of receiving W.Bro. Colin Felton ProvGCharityStwd as an honoured guest where a cheque of £500.00 was arranged by W.Bro. Jim Jefferson Charity Steward (Pictured), which was approved and presented by the WM (centre) to W.Bro. Colin Felton in aid of the Essex Festival 2022, during the course of the evening a certain number of

lodge members completed the regular donation direct debit form, where W.Bro. Colin Felton informed the WM that Lucton Lodge had received Vice Patron Status this was naturally received with much pride by all lodge members and this is a significant achievement for our lodge as in recent years our membership has suffered.

Lucton Lodge hope to progress into the new decade and from this achievement. As from March 2020 (pre coronavirus) 4 out of 5 annual meetings will now be held on a Saturday from the lodges traditional meeting day (Monday), which is proving fruitful already as we have two candidates lined up for initiation, which would've taken place in March, with potential candidates in the pipeline as well.

I would like to express a special thanks to W.Bro. Jim (pictured) for arranging the presentation and to W.Bro. Colin Felton for taking time from his busy schedule and for making the visit in January. Thank you once again to the both of you.



### Charity



Volunteers from every part of the county that make up the Essex Search and Rescue Team

### Essex Masons support front line emergency teams

Freemasons have donated 50 litres of hand sanitizer to Essex Search and Rescue, a team of 63 volunteers working across the county who help to find missing and vulnerable people.

Their volunteers operate in every part of the County - work alongside Essex Police and are called out in the event that a high risk or vulnerable person such as a child or someone with dementia goes missing.

As a life saving charity which receives no public funding, Essex Search and Rescue are on call 24 hours a day to respond to requests for assistance from the Emergency Services, putting them firmly into the key worker category, which is why they need essential PPE such as hand sanitizers.

"We are members of our national body Lowland Rescue," said Trustee Martyn Tillet. "Sadly we are a charity few have heard of, but to explain more clearly, Mountain Rescue take care of the high ground, Cave Rescue specialise in caves and underground locations, the RNLI looks after the sea and we look after everything else in between."

"In Essex we are called out on average once a week when a vulnerable person goes missing working alongside Essex Police. Our volunteers include paramedics, former fire fighters and former police officers and like other emergency workers we needed hand sanitisers and cannot thank Essex Freemasons enough for their support."

Nearly £30,000 has been spent so far by Masons on essential PPE equipment for 300 Essex care homes, a further £20,000 has been donated to boost antibody testing with an additional £100,000 pledged to fight the virus in every part of the region.

The campaign to support front line emergency staff will continue says Essex Freemasons and have appealed to all those involved in the front line against Covid-19 to make contact with Lee Taylor via e-mail: [lee.taylor@essexppl.org.uk](mailto:lee.taylor@essexppl.org.uk) if they need help.

Money to support the campaign has been donated via the Essex Freemasons Community Fund, set up earlier this year Provincial Grand Master Rodney Bass to support charities and good causes across the entire county.

### Rainham Lodge 3079 Pre Corona Meeting

On the 7th March 2020 Rainham Lodges' newest charity steward W.Bro Griffin believed it was his duty to ask for the very latest information on any and all aspects of charity and found himself talking to our W.Bro Colin Felton PAGDC, Provincial Grand Charity Steward & Provincial communications Officer for Essex, the outcome of which resulted in Bro Colin visiting Rainhams' March meeting, and a fine opportunity for him to update not only Bro Karl, but all Rainham members on the needs and benefits of the festival 2022 and aspects dear to Rainham members who have regularly subscribed and given locally to good causes.



Bro Karl reported nearing £5,000 given this last year between at least 15 worthy local causes through the generosity of Rainham members under the guidance of then Charity Steward W. Bro Gary Clubb for whom Karl and Lodge members conveyed their thanks for approximately 17 years of charitable work by Bro Gary (Karl's thanks also went to W.Bro John Lowry for collating the information).

W.Bro Colin took away with him at least 7 more covenants for which he luckily had acknowledgement medals available lol and can be seen here with Rainhams' current Master; W. Bro Richard Moore and Rainhams' newest member; Bro Ferdin Napoleon who had been initiated at that very meeting, handing over a cheque for £2,000 towards the festival 2022 with Rainhams' very best wishes.



## Stondon Massey Lodge 7881

Support Local Charity



Stondon Massey Lodge 7881 made a presentation of a £4,000 cheque to Sam's Place, a charity based in Harlow that provides opportunities for social interaction and development for young people with a disability.

Pictured are (left) W.Bro. Jamie Avis whose Ladies Night raised the money, W.Bro Trevor Barnwell (right) Lodge Secretary, and (kneeling) W.Bro Andrew Roast, Charity Steward.

## Hassenbrook Lodge 7423

Support Orsett Hospital

A toaster and microwave oven was presented to the Haematology Day Unit at Orsett Hospital by W.Bro Glyn Davies (Charity Steward) on behalf of the Brethren of Hassenbrook Lodge

The funds were raised from a "Lock Down Raffle" in lieu of our April meeting



At the 127th Meeting of Netteswell Cross Lodge No 9280 on 7th February 2020 at Harlow Masonic Hall.

W.M W.Bro Gary Harman conducted a Initiation Ceremony, in the presence of W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth APGM.

Pictured with the W.M is new Initiate Bro. Blake Farrell.

## W.Bro Ron Keeble

Letter from Buckingham Palace

Ron is a 97-year-old member of Canute Lodge No3104, who through the coronavirus has been very restricted in his movements received a wonderful pick up letter just before the 75th VE Day. It was from Buckingham Palace personally addressed and signed by the Colonel of the Regiment (Duke of York) Grenadier Guards (The Queen is the Colonel in Chief) It was sent to all Regimental Association members who served during the war.

Ron served in the Grenadier Guards from 11th June 1942 to 15th February 1947.

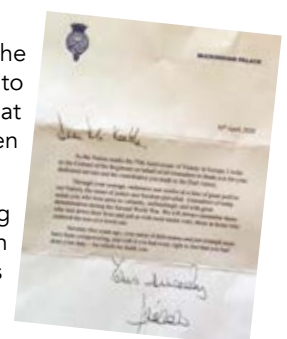
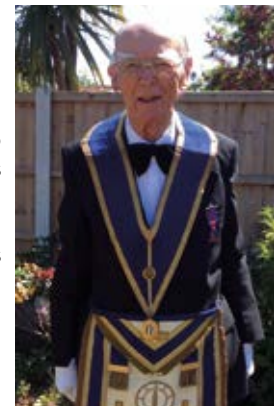


After 15 weeks at the Guards Depot Caterham he went to the Training Battalion, Victoria Barracks, Windsor. During battlefield training he developed acute skin problems and as a result was medically downgraded. He then served about 8 months in the Castle Company located in the Mews/Stables of Windsor Castle purely to guard the Royal Family within the Castle. Late October 1943 he was posted to the Westminster Garrison Battalion to carry out guards on Buckingham Palace and St. James Palace.

His final posting was back to the Guards Depot, attached to the Officers Mess and ended up as the NCO in charge of running the Officers Mess for the last few months of his service.

After the war as a member of his Regimental Association he attended many functions plus 10 very special invitations to functions where the Queen was present. Seven of these were at Buckingham Palace where twice he was presented to the Queen and once to Prince Phillip.

Before joining Canute Lodge, he was a member of the Epping Lodge No.2077 from 1.5.1953 until the warrant was handed in September 1918. He was Master twice and held many Offices including Treasurer for 15 years.





## FORTY YEARS AGO

Authored by WBro Tony Hales

The late W.Bro Peter Neivens OBE QPM, Past Provincial Deputy Grand Master of Essex and a Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police was the interface to the world during the successful assault of the Iranian Embassy by the SAS.

The siege took place from 30 April to 5 May 1980, after a group of six armed men stormed the embassy in South Kensington. The gunmen, took 26 people hostage and demanded the release of Arab prisoners from prisons in Khuzestan and their own safe passage out of the United Kingdom.

Margaret Thatcher's government quickly resolved that safe passage would not be granted, and a siege ensued. Over the following days, police negotiators secured the release of five hostages in exchange for minor concessions. By day six the gunmen had become increasingly frustrated at the lack of progress in meeting their demands, killed one of the hostages and threw his body out of the embassy.

As a result, the government ordered the SAS to rescue the remaining hostages. Shortly afterwards, SAS soldiers abseiled from the roof of the building and 'gained admittance' through the windows. During the 17 minute raid, they rescued all but one of the remaining hostages, and killed five of the six hostage-takers.

## Demonstration Team Debut

Lodge of Daily Advancement 99  
79

Authored by WBro Tony Hales

At only the second regular meeting of the Lodge of Daily Advancement on the 4th February 2020 the Lodge Demonstration Team received much applause from members and visitors for their debut performance of W.Bro Andy Cook's adaption of Malcom Duncan's work of 1866 entitled:



*'The Opening and Closing of a Freemason's Lodge as Carried Out in the Mid-19th Century'.*

All the members of the cast contributed to the fine performance with guest appearances by WBros Martin Cook and Lawrie Morrisson who played their respective roles as a 19th century Treasurer and Secretary.

If you would like to be part of the Demonstration team in the Lodge of Daily Advancement which meets on the first Tuesday of February, May and October (Installation) in Chelmsford please contact W.Bro Lawrie Morrisson PPJGW the Lodge Secretary at [secretary@loda.org.uk](mailto:secretary@loda.org.uk).



## HERMES IN ESSEX

Authored by W Bro Tony Hales



At the annual meeting for Deputy Provincial Grand Masters in 2019, held at Freemasons' Hall in London, the DepPGM, VW.Bro Paul Reeves heard a presentation on Project Hermes from W.Bro Nigel Codron, PSGD, PAPGM (Middx) and he invited Nigel to speak to Essex Masons. The chosen occasion was the Installation Meeting of the Lodge of Enlightenment No 9550 on Monday 27th January 2020 at Upminster Masonic Hall. Following the Installation of W.Bro David Fage PPJGW by W.Bro Maurice Court PGStB, the meeting was closed and the brethren received a talk by W Bro Nigel on the new IT system.

UGLE uses an Oracle database called ADELphi (the Greek word for brother) which maintains the records at member, Lodge/Chapter and Provincial level but access is only available to the PGM, ProvGSec and other members of

the Provincial Executive, Provincial Office and VOs. ADELphi generates the Annual Return (which forms the basis for the collection of dues) to each Lodge Secretary and Chapter Scribe E who must also attend to all the other forms including those for new candidates, Installation Returns and summonses, where he has to ensure that each Agenda item is in accordance with the Book of Constitutions. If not compliant, they will receive an email from the Provincial Office asking them to make the necessary amendments. Preparing applications for new members can also be time consuming for Lodge Secretaries, who have to obtain Clearance Certificates to show that a brother is not in arrears and for an Initiate, under Rule 158, to write to another Province or Metropolitan Grand Lodge if the member lives and works outside Essex. In late 2018, the Grand Secretary proposed to the Board of General Purposes that procedures such as these and others could be made more efficient and less time consuming if Secretaries and Scribes E could also take advantage of the ADELphi system.

A Project Steering Group was set up, chaired by the GSec and containing 3 Provincial Rulers and selected members of UGLE staff. They appointed a Project Manager, Tony Keating, and Nigel, a Business Analyst, in January 2019 to establish a new web-based front-end portal, codenamed Project Hermes, with the aim of delivering an online platform to manage the vast majority of the administrative functions for Lodge Secretaries and Chapter Scribes E. This would replace the endless form filling, paper based existing processes with the ability to prepare these mandatory forms online with most of the data being prepopulated, so that turnaround times are significantly reduced. The actual process will be intuitive with online training provided but it is expected to be as simple as using Amazon or online banking. The two systems, Hermes and ADELphi, will talk to each other so that updates by Lodge Secretaries and Scribes E will be on ADELphi as soon as they are submitted.

The Provinces of Bristol, Cheshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Metropolitan Grand Lodge together with the Districts of Cyprus and Eastern Archipelago (Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand) were asked to be part of the process and are providing valuable feedback on what Hermes should look like. Changes required for Hermes will also have an impact on the Book of Constitutions for which a separate committee has been set up to consider. However, the final decisions rest with the Board of General Purposes and ultimately Grand Lodge.

After the meeting, our Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro Phillip Lovelock, said that he would be looking at how Hermes will be successfully implemented when it is launched in Essex. Meanwhile as Covid-19 restrictions are gradually lifted, there will be more presentations for Secretaries and Scribes E together with full training before Hermes goes live in 2021 and "making Clearance Certificates" as W.Bro Nigel said in his excellent presentation, "a thing of the past".





Royal Arch

## Essex Quadrant Chapter

No. 7143

**Brothers in a Double Exaltation!**



**O**n February 3rd at Harlow Masonic Hall, a very special afternoon unfolded.

E. Comp. Shaun Rayner, Scribe E. was a very proud father - both his sons were exalted in a wonderful and emotional ceremony. Chris and James Rayner, in their own words, had a fantastic evening and not only that, James celebrated his 21st birthday that very day.

In attendance, was Third Provincial Grand Principal, E. Comp. Elliott Chevin who was pleased to share this auspicious occasion with the exaltees, their father and of course, the Chapter in general.

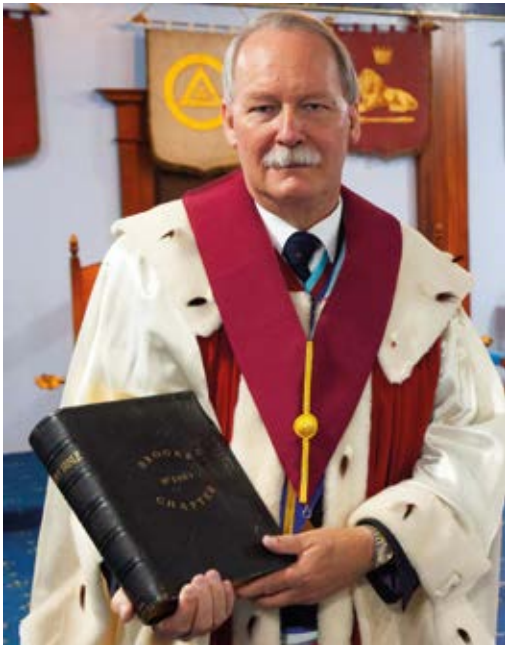
**At the Festive Board, a birthday cake was brought out and most of the raffle prizes won that evening were 'donated' to the birthday boy!**



# An Essex Holy Royal Arch Heritage in the South Pacific

Authored by E Comp Tony Hales

## CONSECRATION OF THE CHAPTER OF DISCOVERY NO 8737



On Saturday 14th March 2020, E.Comp Ian Simpson PAGDC PAPGP was the Consecrating Officer for the Chapter of Discovery No 8737 in Port Vila, Vanuatu and he also ensured that the heritage of an Essex Chapter formed in 1887 will be remembered at every Convocation of the new Chapter. Three days later the First Grand Principal, HRH The Duke of Kent, suspended all meetings and Vanuatu closed its borders. Ian's journey back to Essex was not without trial, including being held in isolation in Sydney.

In 1977, the only Masonic lodge in Vanuatu, the Lodge of Discovery No 8737, was consecrated within the UGLE jurisdiction and the members recently agreed to form a Holy Royal Arch Chapter but as none were Royal Arch Masons, arrangements were made for their Exaltations in New Zealand. E Comp Tony Mansfield PGStdB 2nd Dist GPr of North Island, New Zealand was elected to be Primus First Principal.

E.Comp Ian Simpson, as the APGP, had assisted Brooke Chapter No 2005 with its closure with the final Convocation being on Tuesday 11th June 2019. He knew Tony Mansfield as the TLC Champion in New Zealand and that on the same day would also be in London to be honoured at the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons Investiture by The Most Worshipful Grand Master, HRH Prince Michael of Kent. Ian invited Tony to be his personal guest at the

Brooke Chapter final festive board that same evening and also suggested that the Chapter equipment including officer collars and jewels, a large VSL, scroll and cushion could be given to help the new Chapter. The Companions agreed and Tony travelled home with much more than he came with.



It was a great honour for E.Comp Ian when he was subsequently asked to be the Consecrating Officer for the newest Chapter in the English Constitution. Armed with some Maldon Salt and leading a Consecration Team, mainly from New Zealand, E Comp Ian conducted a first class Consecration Ceremony enhanced with organ music played by Essex Provincial Grand Organist Gerry Scott, recorded and edited by E Comp Barry Stedman PPGSN and appreciated by all 40 Companions who attended.

Finally, an effigy of a Royal Arch altar engraved on one side with "Presented to the Brooke Chapter No 2005 in memory of E.Comp Wm G Blackwell, First Principal 1951" had long been stored in their Chapter locker. Ian assiduously restored the altar to its former glory and had another side engraved:

*"Re-presented to the CHAPTER OF DISCOVERY No. 8737 at its Consecration on 14th March 2020 on behalf of the former Companions of Brooke Chapter No 2005 by E Comp Ian Simpson PAGDC, Consecrating Officer" together with the quote by the Roman philosopher Lucius Seneca "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."*



E.Comp Ian Simpson PAGDC PAPGP is pleased to report that a little bit of Essex Masonry is now alive and well over 10,000 miles away and considers it a great honour in having been a small part of



## The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom



On 27th January, the Essex Tabernacle was honoured with a visit from the Grand Superintendent, R.Em. Kt. Pt. Robert Anderson, who was accompanied by R.Em.. Kt.Pt. Ian Trevor Dudley Smith, Past Assistant Grand High Priest.

After watching the installation of V.Em. Kt.Pt. Ray Clare in the chair of the Tabernacle, R.Em..Kt.Pt. Ian Trevor Dudley Smith. presented Pillar Fund collarettes to several Tabernacles to recognise their contributions. After these presentations, R.III.Kt.Pt. presented a Pillar Fund collarette to Robert Anderson to recognise the immense contribution from the district and commented that the Pillar Fund, which was set up for the Order to obtain permanent premises in York, still had a little way to go before it reached its target.



*A few days later, the Grand Superintendent visited V.E.Kt. Pt. Martin Piercey, High Priest of the Tendring Tabernacle to present him with a Pillar Fund Scarlet Award (only one of two presented throughout the country).*

The Donald Edwin Tovey Tabernacle held its installation meeting at the end of the month. After V.III.Kt.Pt. Brian Heasman had installed his successor, V.III.Kt.P. Ian Turner, the new officers invested, the business completed and the meeting closed, a congregation of the Order of Holy Wisdom was opened by a team lead by R.E.Kt. Pt Ray Fretten. The Order of Holy Wisdom was conferred on five candidates in the superb and meaningful manner that we have become accustomed to.





## Association of Friends of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent Court

Secretary: David C. Badger  
22, Elmsleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea  
Essex, SS9 3DN  
01702 712316 07949 636114  
david@davidbadger.co.uk

### WBro Barry Stedman is appointed new President of the Friends



The VW Bro Paul Reeves, PGSwdB, Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge has appointed WBro Barry Michael Stedman, PPJGW, to be the next President of the Association with immediate effect.

WBro Barry succeeds the late WBro Alan Garner, who served as the association's first President for more than 20 years.

Association Chairman WBro Clive Dunnico said: "I am delighted that Barry is to become our new President and, on behalf of all the Trustees, wish him well in his new appointment."

WBro Barry, a television cameraman by profession, said: "I heard Alan Garner give a talk about the future of Stisted Hall when it was little more than a derelict shell and I offered to shoot a video to promote the work of the Friends.

"Shortly afterwards I was invited to become Group Rep for Southend, and later the Assistant Secretary and Trustee.

"My father was a resident for a number of years until his death, and I am delighted to continue my involvement with the home."

## Ashington Lodge 9026 - Brother to Brother



On Friday 10th January, 2020, at Rochford Masonic Hall. W.Bro. Bobby Berwick initiated his brother Bro. Michael Berwick. His father W.Bro. John Berwick acted as Junior Deacon and his other brother, Bro. John Berwick Jnr. gave an Explanation of The Working Tools of The 1st Degree. Afterwards 48 Brethren dined in perfect harmony to an excellent Festive Board.



## Southend Masonic Golf Society



**A**t a presentation lunch held at Saxon Hall Aviation Way the Southend Masonic Golf Society presented the trophies to all the winners (pictured) of last year's competitions with the biggest winner of the year going to 4 handicapper Darren Lee who swept the board with 3 trophies including Division one Golfer of the year.

After lunch a presentation by Captain Geoff Newman of £2,000.00 was made to the guest of honour Mr Sampi Mehta Consultant at Southend University Hospital Urology Department who gave a talk on his work and how this generous donation would be put to good use.

Other donations made were to The Danny Green Fund (£107.50) Epilepsy Action (107.50) Danny Blunden Memorial fund (100.00) making a total of £2,315.00. This was a record amount for the society which has 4 meeting each year at local golf clubs.

A Total of £12,500.00 has been donated to many local charities and good causes over the past seven years and the society hopes to continue to donate too many more in the coming years.

Secretary: Paul Halley 01702 615660 [southendmasonicgolf@gmail.com](mailto:southendmasonicgolf@gmail.com)

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## **FOUNDERS REQUIRED**

**FOR THE REPONING of  
THE ISTHMIAN LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS No. 891**



The Lodge will cater for; serving, retired or volunteer members of the Emergency Services, Civil Service and the wider Public Service as well as the Judiciary system. It is not a Closed Lodge - all are welcome to be a part of this united Service Lodge.

The Isthmian Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 891 was **CONSECRATED ON THE 7TH OF FEBRUARY 1930** and it had a number of distinguished Brethren as a part of its membership which included Right Worshipful Bro. John Deal who was our Provincial Grand Master from 1992 until 1996 isthmian's Warrant was unfortunately surrendered in May 2009.

This **REPONING** as it is called will be unique. **CONSECRATING** a new Lodge is rare, bringing one back from 11 years of 'darkness' and into 'light' is something else indeed and will be a shorter version of a **CONSECRATION** Ceremony but still with the same gravitas.

**TO MEET AT CHINGFORD MASONIC CENTRE THE 'SPIRITUAL HOME' OF ISTHMIAN**

2nd Wednesday in February (Installation)  
2nd Wednesday in May  
2nd Wednesday in October

## **Interested?**

Contact W.Bro. Geoff Waddoups Prov.AGDC; [geoffwaddoups@gmail.com](mailto:geoffwaddoups@gmail.com)



### Three Chairs for Chigwell (hip hip hooray)

In respect of the article in a previous Essex Mason, here is another tale of 'Three Masonic Chairs'.

About 1836, Dr George Rowe who lived in the country at Chigwell, was a member of Old Dundee Lodge No 18 which held meetings every month throughout the year, January to December, at Wapping, next to the river Thames.

The very hot summer months, June to September, during the years 1836 – 37, had proved stifling and the odours emitting from this part of London were very unpleasant in deed.

Dr Rowe and other members of Lodge No 18 sought to petition his close friend, the Provincial Grand Master of Essex, to create a new lodge in the country, in order to meet during the summer and thus avoid the discomforts at Wapping.

Chigwell Lodge No 663 was consecrated on 22nd August 1838 at the Kings Head public house Chigwell, by the Provincial Grand Master, followed by the initiation of three brethren at the same meeting.

Soon after the Consecration, the three 'Chigwell chairs' as they are affectionally known, were purchased for the considerable sum in those days, of £50.

The symbolism of the Master's chair, Ionic columns and Seven Stars, the SW's chair, Doric columns and Moon and the JW's chair, Corinthian columns and the Sun, are magnificent examples of workmanship by R. Burr 1796 of that period and offer the occupants more room and comfort.

In late summer of 1841, the Landlord of the King's Head was facing the imminent execution of a forfeit order pertaining to the 'goods and shackles' in his pub.

The 'Chigwell chairs' were under threat of seizure by Bailiffs.

Hearing of this situation and without further ado, the Worshipful Master aided by several Brethren and a horse and cart, made several trips on a Sunday evening to the King's Head. They successfully transported the 'Chigwell chairs' plus other Lodge furniture and possessions to the Eagle Hotel at Snaresbrook.

WM - Ionic columns and Seven Stars



SW - Doric columns and Moon



JW - Corinthian columns and the Sun







Essex Provincial Grand Stewards 2020



# FORGET-ME-NOT SEEDS

## ONLY £2.00 per packet

The Essex Provincial Grand Stewards are selling Forget-Me-Not seeds, with all proceeds going to the Almoners Fund, which is both relevant and timely in the current climate.

We hope that by your support, we will add some colour and joy to people's life and symbolise the loss of a friend, family member or loved one.

By Spring of next year, we are looking for you all to post the pictures of your Forget-Me-Nots on social media, as a way of saying

**"WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU"**

MINIMUM ORDER OF 5 X PACKS = £ 10.00 (Incl. P&P)

10 X PACKS ORDERED RECEIVES A FREE FORGET-ME-NOT LAPEL PIN = £20.00 (Incl. P&P)

**(WE ENCOURAGE LODGES TO BUY IN BULK)**



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For any further information email: [forgetmenotessex@gmail.com](mailto:forgetmenotessex@gmail.com)

or contact

Jeff Palmer - [jeff-palmer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jeff-palmer@hotmail.co.uk) - Christian Webb - [christian\\_webb@yahoo.com](mailto:christian_webb@yahoo.com)



All proceeds raised will go to  
The Essex Provincial Almoners Fund



[www.essexfreemasons.net](http://www.essexfreemasons.net)