

# the essex mason



The Official Journal of the Masonic Province of Essex

Issue 91 August 2021 £3

#essexfreemasonscare



## Essex Lead NHS Day

Find out more on  
Pages 8 and 9

#UGLENHSDay

<https://www.essexfreemasons.org.uk>

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# Welcome home



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April 2020

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Brethren,

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words and thank our Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge, VW.Bro. Paul Reeves. He has recently attended hospital and has started a course of prostate cancer treatment that will not finish until mid-September, and it is essential for him that he takes a step back and concentrates on his health.



Originally he was tasked with implementing our Past Provincial Grand Masters vision for Essex Freemasonry, but after Rodney's sad passing in July last year he took over as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge of the Province of Essex, a formidable task particularly during a global pandemic. He has fulfilled his obligations and much more, in very difficult circumstances, and has led this Province in a very capable and distinguished manner with great care and humility.

Our Province is in great shape, and that is due in no small measure to the selfless efforts of VW.Bro. Paul, and it is appropriate that we thank him for everything he has been doing over the past six years and for the changes he has made to our Province, making it the safe happy place it is now. Thank you, VW.Bro. Paul, and we all wish you every success with your treatment in the weeks ahead.

The pandemic has seriously impacted the amount of money Lodges and Chapters were able to raise for the festival and we need to catch up. We have millions of pounds in Relief Chests that was collected for charity and I simply urge you please use some of it and support our Provincial Grand Charity Steward W.Bro. Colin Felton and his plans to save the festival.

Many of you will be attending the Investiture of our new Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent, W.Bro. Paul Tarrant, on the 9th September and I am certain I speak for us all as we wish him every success in the coming years. It will be a big day for the Province and I look forward to seeing you there.

Brethren please stay safe.

W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth

Assistant Provincial Grand Master in Charge

Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 91 of Essex Mason, the Official Magazine for the Province of Essex. It is difficult to comprehend that this is the fourth issue of the Essex Mason Magazine since the implementation of the Covid restrictions, but with the use of Zoom video conferencing we are delighted to have been able to continue with the compilation and production of the magazine for the Essex Brethren.

Congratulations to all of the Brethren who have received Royal Arch Provincial Honours and our shop in Colchester is open alongside our online shop to supply your masonic regalia requirements, so please have a look at the Essex Mason website [www.essexmason.co.uk](http://www.essexmason.co.uk) or pop into the shop as we will be delighted to welcome you.

The shop has continued to operate throughout the pandemic for the benefit of Essex Freemasons and we would like to thank the volunteers for their continued commitment and support during these unprecedented times. This issue which is packed with interesting articles includes a feature on the Provincial Grand Master designate W.Bro. Paul Tarrant. We would like to take this opportunity to thank VW Bro. Paul Reeves Deputy Provincial Grand Master In Charge for his continued support over many years to Essex Mason.

The next regular issue of Essex Mason will be circulated in February 2022 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 2022.

Essex Mason Editorial Team Stay Safe Brethren,  
Essex Mason Editorial Team

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# W.Bro Paul William Tarrant

## A Man for all Reasons

By Tony Hales  
Provincial Communications Team

**Provincial Grand Master and  
Most Excellent Grand Superintendent  
DESIGNATE**



"I will have to think about this  
and have a long discussion  
with Jenny first"

Bringing a feeling of hope and the start of a new growing season, Spring is the favourite season of the year for Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Designate (PGM/MEGS Des) of Essex Freemasons, Paul Tarrant. When Graham Redman, the Deputy Grand Secretary (DGS) of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), called him to ask whom he thought the next PGM might be, Paul happily gave three or four names. The DGS then said "What about you Paul?". Feeling astounded he replied "I will have to think about this and have a long discussion with Jenny first". The next step was a Zoom meeting with the Pro Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and the DGS. Jenny, Paul's wife, was also invited to make sure she would be happy for Paul to accept the Mastership of the second largest Provincial Grand Lodge in UGLE.

Born in 1954 in Leigh-on Sea, Paul first knew about Freemasonry from his father, Colin, a member of Thames Mouth Lodge No. 6994. His mother Ann also became an Essex Freemason, but it was David Badger, whom he met at the Little Theatre Club in Westcliff, a local amateur dramatic (am-dram) society, who proposed him into Lodge of Fraternity No. 5916 in 1983. Famous for its 'Fraternity Working', David and Paul were part of a team that first put the ritual in writing. Never considering himself to be a 'career-mason' Paul said "Being a member of Freemasonry is the best decision made in all my years. I have never been ambitious, I simply love seeing members enjoying themselves with a focus on charity, which is a good thing". In addition to his love of Freemasonry, there are many other reasons why Paul was selected.

Educated at Westcliffe High School for Boys (Grammar) and Southend College of Technology, where he gained a Diploma in Business, Paul began a distinguished career which led to senior roles at Racal Electronics managing the Government Data Network, at HM Customs and Excise in technical architecture management including that for the DirectGov website, in programme and development management, including the multi-million pound redevelopment of Government Banking facilities. From being a 'tax-collector' Paul was posted to DEFRA, where he coordinated the work of a diverse and federated structure of over 70 agencies to reduce

costs in IT by 33%. Paul's final career move was to Mark Masons Hall as Grand Secretary which also started with a drive to reduce waste, increase efficiency and give a better service to all members with IT systems developments including the re-writing of KeyStone Online.

With Mark Master Masons alone accounting for over 43,000 members and Mark Masons Hall being responsible for the administration of many of the Masonic Orders in which Paul holds Grand Rank he found the whole experience "wonderful and marvellous" giving him a valuable understanding of other Orders which will be a significant advantage in his new role. Seven years ago, Paul had a stroke and took the brave decision to stand down as a Grand Secretary. He is proud of the 'fatherly-advice' given by Jack, their son, who was then 21. With his father worried about what he would be able to do in the future, Jack was adamant that 'getting better was all in the head'. He was right and inspired Paul to come to terms with life when things were really bad and make a successful journey back to recovery. Today, Jack works for the Royal Society of Chemists and Paul is a role model for all stroke sufferers.

As with us all, Paul thought highly of his immediate predecessor, the late Rodney Lister Bass OBE, who Invested him as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master (APGM) in 2017, saying "It is a real shame he has passed on; I was surprised in many ways by Rodney's breadth of ideas and will do my best to emulate him".





## #essexfreemasonscares

In 2017 Paul was Installed as Inspector General of the Rose Croix District of South Essex, which is larger than some of the smaller Craft Provinces, and stepped down as an APGM in 2018 to focus on the District. On their website the members convey their most hearty congratulations to Paul but "will miss his warm and friendly presence". Paul does consider himself gregarious and pleasant to people but has a serious side when discussing the job in front of him saying *"The Grand Secretary has laid out areas we (UGLE and the Provinces) should do together. They are not all the same and for some we will have our own identity. I believe we are looking at all the right things including how we are viewed by the public"*.

Rose Croix is Paul's favourite Order. Perfected in 1989, he says *"It has a depth of ritual which is both gentle and interesting giving a different perspective. Managing a number of units has given me more experience and encouragement to take on the work ahead"*. When he was an APGM, there was a Lodge which surrendered its Warrant, *"I gave all of myself in making the closing ceremony poignant and with feeling, especially when talking about the Lodge history and I helped in finding new Lodges for some of the members"*. Without doubt, the biggest Masonic career highlight that Paul is proud of in all Orders was his tenure as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies (PGDC) in Royal Arch from 2008 to 2012. Having started in am-dram at 18 he said *"the skills do help with ritual and being a DC. By performing as though in a small play, it helps impart the meaning better, especially for a new member coming into the Lodge"*. Paul also enjoys singing the Master's Song and does not rule out singing to a newly Installed Master in the future, possibly at his Mother Lodge.

Two Brethren who have had the biggest impact on Paul's Masonic career so far are the late Peter Holland, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master from 2005 to 2015 and his predecessor at the Rose Croix District of South Essex, who was also his Mentor and Ray Fretten *"who is someone I have always looked up to and is a real gentleman in every way"*. As well as belonging to Essex Masters No 3256 and Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge No. 8665 Paul joined Laconic Lodge No. 9711 in Ipswich when Jenny and he moved to Suffolk in 2017 to be closer to Jenny's family. He is also a joining member of one of the three remaining 'time-immemorial' lodges, the Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge No. 4, and would have taken on the Office of 'Master of The Wardrobe' role at Freemasons' Hall but kindly declined the offer on being appointed as PGM/MEGS Designate for Essex.

Outside of Freemasonry, Paul is a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Poulterers whose motto is 'Remember Your Oath' and a Freeman of the City of London. Music, Theatre and Arts have always played an important part of Jenny and Paul's lives. They have been members of various choral, opera and musical groups in Essex including the Rug Opera in Southend where Paul was a founder. Formerly Paul was the South Essex representative of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association and a Trustee of the Freda Parry Scholarship Fund which was established to assist young singers intending to follow a singing career. The winners are awarded £1,500 to assist with fees. This is very similar to the Sponsor a Nurse scheme which the Essex Freemasons Charity Fund (EFCF) is now promoting and match-funding across the Province. Paul says *"This is a great idea and I am pleased, as an Honorary Member that, Old Westcliffian Lodge No. 5456 is going to sponsor an apprenticed nurse along with fellow Federation of School Lodges in Essex"*.

Paul is a great believer that every Lodge should have a focus with a mission to help charity and contribute to society. The change in demographics is bringing in far more young people who are interested in Freemasonry, *"I was invited to attend a recent Cornerstone Zoom committee meeting. There was a noticeable 'buzz' among the members making it obvious that there are some really useful and enjoyable things about Freemasonry such as friendship, meeting new people from all walks of life who, regardless of age, discovering enjoyment from ritual followed by a good meal"*. He believes more young people will come in and offers some initial advice *"Please, please enjoy and don't get worried. Think about the ritual and what it means, most of it is about bettering yourself. And don't jump into everything straight away, take it easy"*.



*"The Grand Secretary has laid out areas we (UGLE and the Provinces) should do together. They are not all the same and for some we will have our own identity. I believe we are looking at all the right things including how we are viewed by the public"*.



## Continued... A Man for all Reasons



Paul's definition of success is 'Happiness'. The maxim of 'More happiness not more bling' has been a guiding principle. His biggest personal success was meeting Jenny. Together, at the Rug Opera they helped raise over £80,000 for charity. His second personal success came at HM Customs and Excise.

"Before then I had always coasted along but there, I realised that working hard is a good idea and applying this simple truism has helped me considerably throughout life." Also winning the Best Actor award at the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival, at Buxton Opera House, is a personal success which will always be a happy memory. If ever anyone was to play Paul in a movie of his life, his choice would be Mark Rylance, a former artistic director of The Globe in London. "I choose him because he is one of the greatest Shakespearian actors and in lots of his films he underplays himself".

Jenny and Paul usually walk three to four miles every day. They are very keen on environmental issues and are members of the local Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. The swallow is his favourite bird but he also likes the crow family as they are the most intelligent of all birds. "We are concerned that man-made climate change is having an impact on wildlife, the country and the world which is why we are supporters of Wildlife Trusts in general". The wife of a Mason once told Paul she wished Freemasonry would do more for animals and wildlife. Paul concurs saying "This is another public perception which may need to be looked at in the future if we are to change the minds of the public and the view that Freemasonry is a serious secret society, which is perhaps our biggest challenge but fortunately we are moving in the right direction." Paul cannot say he has a favourite charity but those working for wildlife, stroke and cancer are in his own top three charity sectors.

In addition to walking, Paul's favourite way to spend a day off is watching cricket, going to the theatre or anything to do with nature or the arts. An allotment at Bucklesham provides both much pleasure and produce. A pint of Southwold Bitter is one thing which can make his day instantly better but most of all he enjoys being with his family at the dinner table just sitting, talking and eating. Christmas Day is extra special as

*"Before then I had always coasted along but there, I realised that working hard is a good idea and applying this simple truism has helped me considerably throughout life."*

Jenny's family always have a traditional dinner which everyone looks forward to. If the tree fairy were to grant Paul three wishes this Christmas, he would ask for World Peace, ridding the world of illness and Southend United getting back into the Football League!

As well as local history and folklore, Paul has a particular interest in the Crusades, Byzantium and medieval history and has all three of Sir Steven Runciman's books, *The Last Byzantine Renaissance*, *The Byzantine Theocracy* and *The Medieval Manichee*, which is a study of Christian dualist heresy, so it is no surprise that if he could go back in time, he would like to meet the Byzantium emperor at the time of the First Crusade, Alexis Comnenus, to ask how he felt after seeking military support from the Western powers but only receiving a rabble of an army arriving from all over. Paul would also take as much medication with him as possible to help the ordinary citizens.

Other places to visit back in time are Aarhus in Denmark in the 70's and Liverpool in the time of the Beatles, who made a lasting impression on Paul throughout his teenage years along with rock band Jethro Tull. With an appreciation of music across all genres, the Handel Operas are top of Paul's classical music list "even Mozart once said Handel is the Master" said Paul "but I also enjoy the works of Britten, Verdi and Puccini. Being widely travelled in America, Europe and Asia, Paul enjoyed Chennai, formerly Madras, and would have liked more time there learning the local culture. Munich is another favourite city. Realising there is still so much to see in the UK, Jenny and Paul mostly take self-catering holidays in properties cared for by The Landmark Trust. Whilst staying in Scotland they walked over 40 miles along the West Highland Way. Train Holidays through Europe are also on the bucket list including to Venice and other European destinations.

Paul has come a long way since wanting to be a fireman as a child because his father was a part-time fireman and there was a big alarm bell at the top of the stairs which would go off every time there was a 'shout'. Facebook has also been a good way to connect with some people Paul has not seen for many years "I have a number of Friends on Facebook and use WhatsApp but do not use Instagram or Twitter". Of all his traits, Paul hopes his ability at being able to get on with people is the one most appreciated by others "It is something I have worked hard at, especially when coming back from the stroke."

As his Investiture on 9th September 2021 draws closer, we can rest assured the PGM/MEGS Des is grateful for all that has been done in the past by everyone in the Province. He also is sensitive to the many changes taking place: "Over the years membership has reduced and the focus is now on those worthy of membership. We are definitely more open which is far better. Members are becoming more laid-back with their view of Freemasonry as opposed to times past when things were done in a military fashion. Also, for many, their view of life is changing and we are all in together with a wide-range of different beliefs and religions. Since the Age of Enlightenment, Freemasonry has never become a melting-pot producing one religion, as some people think, and it never will. It is a wonderful organisation in which every member has a healthy respect for each other".

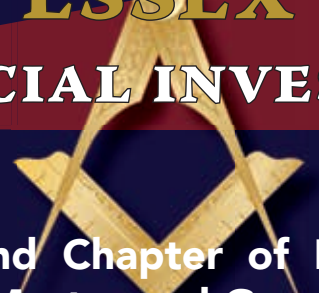
In making their decision, the 'Rulers of the Craft' have carefully considered the attributes needed in the new PGM/MEGS for the Province of Essex and for one who is worthy of the Masonic protocol to be addressed as 'Sir'. In Paul William Tarrant they have wisely chosen 'A Man for all Reasons'.





**ESSEX**

**PROVINCIAL INVESTITURE**



**Provincial Grand Lodge and Chapter of Essex , Installation of the  
Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent**

**Installation**

**W.Bro. Paul William Tarrant, PSGD  
as Provincial Grand Master for Essex**

**by**

**RW.Bro Jonathan Spence, Deputy Grand Master**

**Luncheon**

**E.Comp. Paul William Tarrant  
as Most Excellent Grand Superintendent for Essex**

**by**

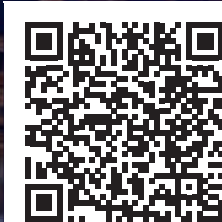
**M.E.Comp. Jonathan Spence, Past 2nd Grand Principal**

**Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ  
Thursday 9th September 2021**

**Provincial Grand Lodge 11:00**

**Luncheon 13:00**

**Provincial Grand Chapter 15:45**



**Book Now**



## How the Essex Provincial Stewards Celebrated NHS Day

by Danny Gearing

We thank you

After weeks of precision organisation, the 5th July 2021 was upon us. Having heard in the early morning news that the NHS had been awarded the George Cross, it was a fitting tribute that the Essex Provincial Grand Stewards had arranged to promote, support and thank our wonderful NHS.

Brimming with confidence, pride and enthusiasm, four of us left home at 5am and met at Braintree Masonic Hall to decorate Ian's taxi. After Geoff promoted the advertisement and signage and forewarned all those we would be visiting, that we had a glorious branded cab, he became panic-stricken as the signs flew off the cab whilst driving down the motorway and almost caused an accident.

Like a scene in TV's *The Apprentice*, at 7am while in the back of the cab, we called our contacts to try and obtain new signage that could be available within the hour and ready for when we arrived at Great Queen Street.

As an alternative, we planned to ransack the nearest hospital.

Multitasking, we decided to blow up some balloons while being driven down the A12. Another great idea by our project manager – each time a balloon burst, the driver nearly crashed.

We arrived at Great Queen Street at 8.45am, with fresh new signage and, after decorating the cab (again), we posed for some photos and set off to collect some helium, en route to Chingford.



Freemasons' Hall -  
Gt. Queen Street



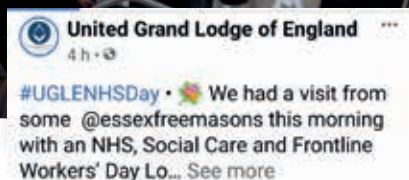
Chingford Masonic Hall



Iain Duncan Smith MP



Upon arriving at Chingford, a wonderful number of Masons were present. We celebrated the NHS with honour and in the presence of some of England's finest NHS workers. A 2 minutes silence followed by a wonderful rendition of Reveille and we were off to Loughton.



Loughton Masonic Hall







Harlow Masonic Centre



Supported by St Francis Hospice and The Order of Women's Freemasonry, we continued with our show of appreciation for the NHS at Loughton Lodge.

We had also by now become a well-oiled machine, decorating the cab at each visit, having learned that we can't drive along with the cab decorated in balloons and banners or we lose them all.

Next stop Harlow. Arriving at 12.30pm, we suddenly realised we had not eaten. Mark Innes and Rob Hollier reminded us that we Stewards needed to do some work and also needed some fortification, then much to our delight, offered us a platter which was gratefully received.



Orsett Masonic Centre

Again, the Lodge was well supported and reminded us how important it was to show our appreciation for our fantastic NHS.

Arriving at Orsett Masonic Hall we were met by some very colourful Masonic NHS supporters and had no problem welcoming their offer to camp it up. Again, this Lodge was extremely well supported and made us proud to be part of this event.

We wanted to visit more lodges, but logistics, time and capacity limited us. So, it was time to head back to Braintree to show more appreciation for the NHS and join in the festivities they had organised.

Arriving at just before 6pm, we were updated with the day's activities and amazing efforts by Dan Broyd and his family, which supported the day event welcoming Andrew McLeod and Jennifer Tolhurst, the Queens Royal Lieutenant.

The evening was just as successful. We Stewards were finally able to relax and enjoy a rather unusual festive board, which was topped off by coming second in the 'short' quiz, which prevented us from driving home until after dark.



Howard Hall - Braintree

All in all, it was a wonderful day, full of pride and admiration for our NHS. It was a very tiring day but also a great privilege for us Stewards to not only meet some exceptional individuals but also be part of a truly momentous occasion and do something small to enhance the publicity for the men and women who dedicated and devote their lives to helping others. It made me proud to be a Mason.



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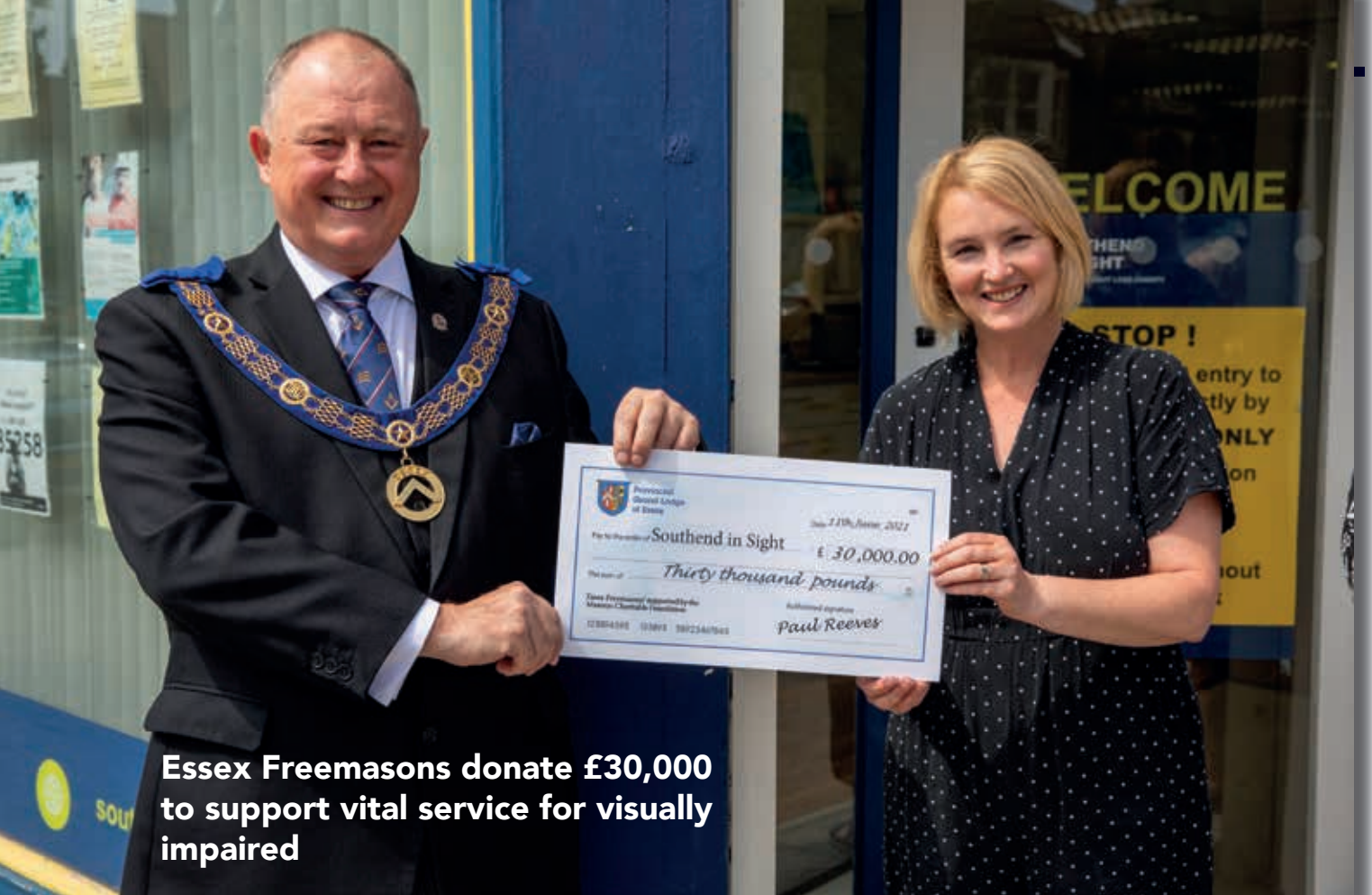
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## Essex Freemasons donate £30,000 to support vital service for visually impaired

**E**ssex Freemasons have donated £30,000 to independent sight loss charity Southend in Sight to help it continue and develop its "Talk and Support service". It means that the project, which first began during lockdown, now has sufficient funding for the next three years.

The money, donated via the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Freemasons own charity, will help ensure that this unique scheme which offers support with the help of the charity's visually impaired volunteers, will continue to grow.

The scheme works using volunteers who make regular phone calls to those members who are more isolated in the community. These volunteers have particular insight into the challenges faced by Southend in Sight's clients on a daily basis, and a working knowledge of the support and advice the charity can supply.

Living with sight loss can be isolating in itself but during the lockdowns imposed over the course of the pandemic, that isolation has been even greater. A phone call from someone who understands a visually impaired person's situation can change that.

The charity's staff and volunteers currently make calls to more than 80 local visually impaired people on a regular basis, many of whom are vulnerable and isolated. The grant from Essex Freemasons will allow Southend in Sight to develop this service, connect with more people isolated because of sight loss and train more volunteers. When restrictions allow, staff at the charity hope to offer coffee mornings and local meet ups for small groups to help them stay connected and begin to mix with people again, as many will need to build up confidence.

**Lucy Martin, CEO of Southend in Sight says:**

*"We are delighted to receive this three-year grant from Essex Freemasons which will allow us to continue and develop our project for older visually impaired people in the local community. I am very proud of everyone involved with our Talk and Support service and I know that the regular chats with our staff and volunteers have provided a lifeline for many over the last year."*

**V.W.Bro Paul Reeves, Deputy Provincial Grand Master in charge, commented:**

*"We have more than 2,000 members who meet in the Southend area and they are very much part of the local community. It means we are delighted to be able to support a charity which is doing such excellent work."*

The charity's base at 117 Hamlet Court Road is now open for pre-booked appointments and it is able to make some deliveries of essential equipment and even offer advice on the doorstep if the need arose. The charity's shop is also open again at the Hamlet Court Road site and welcoming shoppers keen to grab a bargain. For information about the Talk and Support service and all other services and assistance available through Southend in Sight, please call on 01702 342131 or go to [www.southendinsight.org.uk](http://www.southendinsight.org.uk)



## Teddies for Loving Care celebrates 20 years

By David Badger  
Provincial Communications Team



On 12th March 2001 an extraordinary, and unique, scheme was launched by Essex Freemasons: it was a simple idea – to raise funds to provide Essex A&E departments with Teddies for the medical staff to give to children brought into their care to help relieve their distress.

Back in October 1999, Freemason Ian Simpson took his wife, Angela, to Southend Hospital's A&E unit after an allergic reaction caused her windpipe to swell and block. After finding themselves so anxious and frightened, the couple decided to do something to say thank you to the A&E staff and, with the help of Ian's lodge, the Teddies For Loving Care appeal was born.

And, ten years after what started so successfully as a purely local scheme and which was later extended to all the A&E units in Essex, Neil Beverley, a founder of TLC, marked the gift of the one-millionth teddy bear. However, where that happened, nobody is entirely sure, because TLC had been so successful that it had been taken up not only by masonic provinces all over England, but had gone global.

Now, two decades after its launch, TLC is still going strong. Three million teddies have been cuddled by children in hospitals in every country under the Grand Lodge of England's banners. Medical practitioners everywhere agree on the benefits the teddies bring.

*"It means so much to the nurses,' one says. 'It makes our lives easier and the children feel safer, and it's not so traumatic for them. The teddy system works so well because it's such a simple idea. It's something the children love and makes them feel special. The parents see that you really value their child, they're not just another number and they're being seen as an individual."*

And the teddy bears aren't just employed to comfort the child either; nurses will quite often use them as a diversion technique as they work, like using the teddy to mimic the injuries the child has, perhaps putting a sticky plaster on the teddy's arm if the child has hurt theirs.

And now the scheme has taken another step forward. Current Chairman Robert Whittingham explained: "Last year, the fund presented a grant of £10,000 to the Child Death Review Team.

*"The team is based in Harlow, Essex and is made up of former nurses and other medical practitioners. They respond to all child deaths reported in Essex, ranging from cot death to teenage suicide, support the families at the time of death and after, and make introductions to other support agencies. They also attend Coroners' inquests to give evidence and further support the families, and liaise with other agencies such as the Police in any formal investigations."*



Celebrating TLC's two decades. Two young children attending Princess Alexandra Hospital Children's A&E Department. Sister Ruth Goddard (TLC Contact) (left) Sister Sam Reeves and (middle) a parent of one of the children.

Robert added: "The donation is being made to enable them to purchase books and other specialist materials given to bereaved parents and siblings at an awful time. The literature enables parents to explain to surviving siblings what has happened and help them to understand."

Today there are 47 regional TLC programmes across England and Wales that provide teddies for their local A&E departments. Once a hospital joins the scheme they can replenish teddies on request through their local TLC representative. Some TLC programmes also donate a portion of their TLC funds towards teddies for minor injuries units, children's wards and hospices; there are even teddies flying on air ambulances!

Recent months have seen the introduction of a new model of teddy and Essex, as the founder of the scheme, is proud to have been the first Province to receive supplies for its hospitals, medical units and air ambulances.

Pictured left: is Laura Ryan, the play team lead at Basildon Hospital, holding some of the new teddies. Laura is responsible for ensuring the teddies are given out to the children.



# PATHWAY

## Provincial Membership Team W.Bro. Daniel Broyd



Left to Right Daniel Broyd (GMO), John Smillie (WM Langthorne Lodge), Stephen Hart (Prospective member), Mark Irving (Secretary Langthorne Lodge), Warren Stevens (Prospective Member), Andy Harban-Riddler (Member Langthorne Lodge)

*On the 15th and 16th of May, it was my pleasure to introduce 4 new prospective members to a selection of two lodge's members in the next step of their process to join Essex Freemasons.*

We were able to meet socially distanced at a local pub (with connections to the Braintree Howard Hall centre) with Cromwell members on the Saturday and Langthorne members on the Sunday.

The prospective members enjoyed some excellent hospitality and are now ready to progress to the formal process stage with the respective lodge.

Cromwell bought along Paul Duchar-Clark (ProvADC), Mark Lappage, David Murphy and Scott Wilsden to meet prospective members Benjamin Phillips and Dean Jones.

Group Membership Officer (Daniel Broyd) is seen here with the WM of Langthorne (John Smillie), the Secretary (Mark Irving) and a younger member (Andy Harban-Ridler), introducing Stephen Hart (blue jumper and brown trousers) and Warren Stevens (Camo jacket) to create strong links with the new members.



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# Walden Lodge No. 1280

## "A Small Lodge with a Big Heart"

By Tony Hales  
Provincial Communications Team



The Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust has thanked Essex Freemasons for their "incredible support and wonderful generosity" in donating £3,000 for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the hospital. Serving the Eastern region, Dr Kelsall and the dedicated NICU team do their utmost to save premature and new-born babies with complications so that they can survive to live full lives.

Twenty years ago, a grateful Walden Lodge No 1280 donated £1,000 to NICU, after sharing in the pain and anguish of W Bro Graham Newman and his wife when their daughter was born prematurely and had to spend several months in intensive care. Thanks to NICU, baby Imogen has grown up and completed a degree at Reading University so Walden Lodge decided to mark this milestone with another donation.

The Provincial Grand Master of Essex Freemasons, the late Rodney Lister Bass OBE, visited Walden Lodge in November 2019 for the 150th year celebrations which included a quiz night raising £1,200. A further £1,300 was raised by the Brethren, including Graham Newman, and with £500 from the Essex Freemasons Community Fund in matched-funding, the total of £3,000 was achieved.

Dr Kelsall at NICU said that once he is allowed, he is happy to visit and say thank you again in person to all the Brethren whilst sharing more about the department. The money will go towards maintaining and upgrading:

- a video system so that during lockdown, parents can still talk to and see their babies while apart
- Incubator covers that allow the right level of sound and light in creating a cocoon-like, safe environment for sick babies.
- Books for siblings of babies on the unit, allowing parents to prepare their children for the often-overwhelming experience of visiting the NICU and their baby brother or sister for the first time.
- The refurbishment and design of a calm, tranquil room for parents to take a break from the unit and make themselves a hot drink.

Based in Saffron Walden and bearing the Borough motto of Deo Adjuvante Floremus (By God's help we flourish), Walden Lodge has a fine tradition of charitable giving which began 150 years ago, in 1871, with two guineas each for the Relief of French Peasants in the Franco-Prussian War and the Saffron Walden General Hospital.

In April 1912 five guineas was donated to the Lord Mayors Fund for the Titanic disaster. As today's Lodge Treasurer and Charity Steward, Richard Peet, said speaking on behalf of the 23 members of Walden Lodge "We are a Small Lodge with a Big Heart".



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# Zooming in on a double 50th Celebration



The Wheel of Fellowship Lodge No.9016 held a Zoom meeting on Monday 15th March, which many of the Brethren from the Lodge attended.

It was a proud moment for all when both W.Bro's Keith Greenhalgh and Mike Lisamer were presented with their certificates marking 50 years in Freemasonry by APMG W.Bro Revd. Martin Howse.

This was the first time the APMG had presented 50th certificates during a Zoom meeting.

Both certificates had been signed by the late PGM, W.Bro Rodney Lister Bass OBE



## Provincial Oratory Team

The Essex Freemasons Oratory Team have not been idle during the past year since we were last able to meet. Zoom has become the new word that has dominated the speaking circuit and from my humble efforts in the early days to what one can achieve now, one year on, the leap in technological ability is astounding.

Not anything like a real live speech and that much welcome pint in the bar afterwards but hopefully we have an enlivened evening of Brethren not only in Essex but across the country and indeed the world.

The Oratory team have been busy giving over 25 talks on various subjects. Talks have been provided for The United Grand Lodge, and the Provinces of Worcester, Scotland, and Spain. And brethren have listened in to the Essex Provincial Oratory Team from Belgium, Portugal, the Bahamas and Malta, to name but a few.

We also produced one or two topical videos for the Province which were of interest to many of the Brethren.

Some new talks have been written and we look forward to being able to deliver these new talks, and some old favourites, to you as soon as we are required.

Do remember that if you would like a talk, by Zoom, or maybe a booking for a live talk in the future, do email me at [smudgers1916@gmail.com](mailto:smudgers1916@gmail.com) quoting GOT in the title and we will be only too happy to help.



## Henry De Gray Lodge 6627 Supports NHS staff at Basildon Hospital

The members of the Henry de Gray Lodge recently supported the NHS staff at Basildon Hospital with an excellent donation of £1,000. This donation went specifically towards continuing to support staff in the best way possible, by offering somewhere quiet to go and reflect, access to well-being materials and even support counselling services which is critical during these COVID times.

The well-being campaign has allowed the hospital to fund a space at each site for staff to go away from the clinical areas, rest and take a break. The hospital provides refreshments, a calming environment and also 1-2-1 counselling. The hospital encouraged well-being within the Trust creating well-being buddy's and provided mental health first aid training courses.

Please see attached a couple of photos of the area at Basildon which has two quiet areas, rooms for counselling, a fully fitted kitchen and two fantastic ladies, as well as the support of volunteers, to ensure the staff are looked after.







To honour HRH Prince Philip, who passed away last week, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex with circa 9,000 Freemasons and 300 Lodges has joined the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) campaign inviting their 200,000 members to raise funds for charities that the Prince dedicated his life to.

**H**is Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh had been married for 73 years and was a Freemason himself having been introduced to Freemasonry in 1952 at the age of 31 by his Father-in-Law King George VI. Throughout his 99 years, he was associated with some 992 charities, either as president, patron or as an honorary member.

The Prince supported charitable organisations in the fields of scientific and technological research and development, the encouragement of sport, the welfare of young people, conservation and the environment.

Paul Reeves, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master In-Charge of Essex Freemasons, said "Although HRH Prince Philip retired officially from royal duties in May 2020, after 22,219 solo engagements, his lifetime of duty and service is an inspiration to everyone who is a Freemason." Paul Reeves continued "HRH has been an example to us all for over 70 years during which time many people of all ages throughout Essex have benefitted either directly or indirectly from The Duke of Edinburgh's initiatives and charitable patronage."

Dr David Staples, chief executive of UGLE, said: "Prince Philip was well known for his charity work, having been involved with numerous organisations. He was devoted to philanthropy and therefore the best way to celebrate his life is by supporting the charities that the Prince himself supported.

"For us, this was an easy decision as Freemasonry's core values are charity, integrity, respect and friendship. The Freemasons have been quietly getting on with making society and the lives of those less fortunate better for more than three centuries," said Dr Staples.

Freemasons worked some 18.5 million hours each year as volunteers in a range of different areas, including driving vulnerable people to hospital, preparing meals, taking care of people at risk, organising care packages, and producing scrubs, personal protective equipment (PPE) and hand sanitiser.

They also donated more than £1m last year to the Covid effort, with the funds being used to help communities in various critical areas, including foodbanks, support for unpaid carers, PPE, supplies for hospitals and hospices, support for women's refuges, and funds for NHS workers, ambulances and equipment.

As a Freemason, the Duke of Edinburgh was initiated into Navy Lodge, No 2612, on 5 December. On 6 March 1953, HRH Prince Philip progressed to the Second Degree of Freemasonry, before advancing to the Third Degree on 4 May 1953. The UGLE issued his Grand Lodge Certificate on 7 May that same year and he remained a member up until his death.

The Duke of Edinburgh was born in Corfu on 10 June 1921, the only son of Prince Andrew of Greece and Princess Alice of Battenberg. He therefore also held the title Prince of Greece and Denmark.

Freemasons can also count other members of the Royal Family among their number, including HRH the Duke of Kent, who is the longest-serving Grand Master of the UGLE.



## Clacton Hospital

Its what makes us stand out



### Masons provide new TVs for Clacton Hospital following Facebook appeal

It started with a Facebook appeal from Clacton District Hospital then went viral - and it worked after the message reached local Freemasons - members of Clactonian Lodge, who responded to the urgent request to help patients isolated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The person behind the appeal, Emma Blowers, Paediatric Services Lead and the rest of her team were called in to help when the virus began to change lives, but for the patients, many of whom had been transferred from nearby Colchester Hospital to recover from non-covid related conditions, it meant lockdown and isolation.

Access to TV and other communal rooms stopped overnight leaving "patients to look at four walls" and that was when Emma acted and asked the question – is there anyone out there who can supply us with old TVs or radios?"

Steve Peperrell, who saw Emma's appeal on Facebook, responded immediately with members of Clactonian Lodge agreeing to donate £500, a sum match funded by the Essex Freemasons Community Fund – a total of £1,000 and enough to buy three new TVs and stands for patients at Clacton Hospital.

"The members agreed to help immediately," said Steve, "Clacton is our local hospital and we as Freemasons are very much involved with the local community, so we were pleased to help and hope it has made a real difference to patients who had to put up with their own particular kind of lockdown."

Brenda Heywood and Diane Davies, currently recovering at Clacton Hospital, were in full agreement – the new TVs have made a difference. They are seen pictured with Emma Blowers, together with members of the nursing team and Clactonian Lodge and Assistant provincial Grand Master Graham Dickerson and Colin Felton, Provincial Grand Charity Steward at a special presentation ceremony.

"We are very grateful to Clactonian Lodge," said Emma Blowers. "The TV's have given some normality to patients who had to be kept in isolation in groups of six to protect them from the pandemic. It was especially good because they had a connection with the outside world. The biggest thing was that it enabled them to watch historic events such as the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral, which they would have missed."

Essex Freemasons donate more than £1million each year to help local charities. In the last 12 months an additional £100,000 has been used for Covid related support and helping local Lodges such as Clactonian support dozens of different causes across the county.

Picture caption: Members of nursing staff: Chris Land, Pegga Fuller, Susie Deans, Kristi Andrews, Marcela Nasalean. Patients Brenda Heywood and Diane Davies. Essex Freemasons: Graham Dickerson, Assistant Provincial Grant Master; Colin Felton, Provincial Grand Charity Steward and Steve Pepperrel, Adrian Nunn and Stephen Pope from Clactonian Lodge.



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





## Brotherly Love

**T**he grand principals on which Freemasonry is founded are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. To both women and men Freemasons, a brother refers not only to the members of their respective Orders but to the 'Whole of Society'. As W Bro Elaine Malone, the Deputy Grand Secretary of the Order of Women's Freemasons (OWF), explains "It is right that Freemasonry is there to help those less fortunate in society who have suffered more than we have, especially during the pandemic".

Elaine saw on Twitter the Essex Provincial tweet about the Shoebox 500 Challenge and contacted Chris Hicks of Thomas Ralling Lodge No 2508 who is responsible for events, PR and communications at Loughton Masonic Centre, where her own OWF Lodge Diligence No 179 meets, to see if they could join in to help the homeless.

Elaine received a reply from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master In-Charge, Paul Reeves, who thanked Elaine for her interest and said that he was more than happy for her Lodge to get involved. To co-ordinate, Peter Low, the Provincial Communications Officer asked Ian Graham to be the linkman and he arranged for Lodge Diligence to support his Upminster Masonic Hall based Chafford Lodge No 5510 Shoebox 500 Team.

The lady Brethren of Lodge Diligence raised £150 which Elaine used to buy drinks, shampoos, body lotion, deodorants, tissues, wet wipes and female hygiene products. Another member, Eileen Colls, is also in Lodge Diligence. Margaret Gibson, a Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and the lady Brethren of her two Lodges also joined in, Colchester Priory No 155 collected a number of items and Obedience No 346, which meets at Witham Masonic Hall, raised £90 to add to the items they had collected. The picture shows Elaine, Eileen and Margaret delivering their Shoebox items to Ian Graham for the Chafford Lodge Team entry.



Lady Freemasons are an intrinsic part of modern-day Freemasonry. The OWF was formed in 1908.

The ladies wear regalia the same as the men and buy from the same shops. Their ritual is identical and, like the men, there are a number of different workings. Lodge Diligence No 179 supports events at Loughton Masonic Centre and the OWF supports County shows, Freshers' Fairs and had a stand at the Open House event at UGLE, "It's all about getting involved" said Elaine who also works hard to encourage new and young members to join the OWF stating "They are the future of Freemasonry".

The Most Worshipful Brother Zuzanka Daniella Penn is the Grand Master of the OWF which explains that Freemasons are taught to be tolerant towards all people and behave with kindness and understanding towards all. This should resonate with all Essex Freemasons, as her namesake and former pupil of Chigwell School, although not a mason himself, founded a city named from the Greek words for love and brother, phileo and adelphos. William Penn chose the name to embrace the 'whole of society'. It is, of course, Philadelphia, meaning the city of "Brotherly Love".

Is your wife or partner interested in joining Freemasonry?

<https://www.owf.org.uk>



## Private Space Therapy

**Hi, my name is Brother Ben Adams. I am a current member and WM of Herongate Lodge 4960. I am also a licensed BACP therapist and counsellor with my own private practice , offering mental health support to anyone who may need it.**



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# Volunteering in the Community

Martello Lodge 7121



Bro Alan Headworth

Martello Lodge 7121 Bro. Alan Headworth has been a volunteer walk leader for three years and is currently Chair of Chelmsford's Wellbeing Walking Scheme, Heart and Sole partnered with the Ramblers.

The scheme is ideal for anyone wanting to improve general fitness, aid recovery from or prevent illness or injury and socialise. All walks are led by trained walkers and free of charge. There are a range of 12 walks and locations spread throughout the week.

There are three grades of walks available.

## Grade 1



Suitable for people who have not walked much before, are looking to be more active, or are returning from injury or illness. They are between 30-45 minutes on flat ground or gentle slopes with mainly firm surfaces with no steps.

## Grade 2



Suitable for people who are looking to increase their activity levels. They are between 30-60 minutes and may include some moderate slopes, steps or uneven surfaces.

## Grade 3



For people looking for more challenging walks and increasing their level of physical activity. They are generally 45-90 minutes and may include steeper slopes, steps and uneven surfaces.

Heart and Sole have over 30 volunteer walk leaders and last year over 300 walkers enjoyed Wellbeing Walks. The Essex Freemasonry Community Fund has donated £1,000 which will cover costs for 2021\22.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer walk leader or joining walks go to the following link for more details.

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/leisure-centres/community-sport-and-wellbeing/heart-and-sole-walks/>



Group of walkers at Beaulieu Park

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# Holy Royal Arch



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### 1) Have a chat with your Royal Arch Membership Officer

Every Lodge should have one and they are your go-to Brother who can help you. If you're not sure who he is, ask your Secretary and he'll put you in touch with him.

### 2) Head over to our website

[www.essexroyalarch.org.uk](http://www.essexroyalarch.org.uk) is where you'll find a wealth of information about why we love the Royal Arch. You'll also see a link called 'Ask Bruce' and I'd be delighted to help!

To finish, I'd like to introduce my team...

I am supported by my two Deputies, Bob Harvey and Jim Wolfe and twelve Group Membership Officers:

Bob Harvey

Jim Wolfe

Group 1

Group 2

Group 3

Group 4

Group 5

Group 6

Mick West

Steve Yates

Allen Tilbury

Chris Sanders

Andrew Johnson

Mike Jervis

Chris Webb

Malcolm Brown

Gary Brown

Bob Newman

Les Long

John Mansfield

Group 1

Southend  
Rochford

Group 2

Upminster

Group 3

Chingford  
Loughton

Group 4

Braintree, Halstead,  
Chelmsford,  
Kelvedon, Maldon,  
Saff. Walden,  
Stansted, Witham  
Burnham

Group 5

Wivenhoe, Mersea,  
Colchester,  
Brightlingsea,  
Harwich, Clacton,  
Frinton, Mistley  
Tollesbury

Group 5

Harlow, Hutton,  
Orsett Thurrock



# Holy Royal Arch



## The First Rugby Chapter in the World Chapter of XV 9944

Lodge of XV 9944 was Consecrated at Felsted School on Friday 28th July 2017, the Tercentenary Year. We were the first sports themed Lodge in the Province but, alas, not the first Rugby Lodge in the Country. We joined a very illustrious group of Lodges from as far afield as Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to County Durham. We were in fact the 13th Rugby Lodge in the English Constitution.

Since that time there has been a surge in the Foundation of Rugby Lodges with four such Lodges Consecrated since XV with a further four awaiting Consecration.

However...we are Consecrating the Chapter of XV 9944 at Saxon Hall, Southend on Saturday 30th October. We will be the first Rugby Chapter anywhere! Soon after the Lodge was Consecrated an approach was made to the then Deputy Grand Superintendent Ex Companion Cliff Thoms, to consider the formation of a Chapter of the same name. He advised that we give it a year or so and approach him again.

This approach was made, almost to the minute, and after a lot of groundwork had been done. We were summoned to a meeting at Wickford and we were able to reassure the RA Executive of our bona fides and our honourable intentions. We gave assurance that we would seek Membership of the Chapter from within Lodge of XV or from rugby people who were not attached to a particular Chapter through Lodge Membership. Permission was granted and a well-worn path was trod! The Petition was duly completed and endorsed by the Lodge and approval of Supreme Grand Chapter followed in December 2019. The Consecration date was set for 29th April 2020.

We were in the final days of preparation when the dreaded pandemic struck and all plans were put on hold. Fortunately all the spadework for the Chapter had been done and with the prospect of some normality in June/July this year these plans were dusted off and the wheels put back into motion. We are just a few weeks away from rehearsals, the Companions of the Chapter have remained enthusiastic and we have not had any of the 32 Founders drop out. We even have a member in New Zealand!

Lodge of XV are honoured to have been the Sponsoring Lodge for The Essex County Cricket Lodge and will be doing the same for the Macnab Lodge in the near future. Hopefully further sports themed Chapters will be coming along before long.

Should you wish to attend the Consecration please contact Richard 'Juggler' Austin [chapterxv.dining@gmail.com](mailto:chapterxv.dining@gmail.com) who is handling the dining reservations. If you don't wish to dine but attend anyway, please feel free to do so but as numbers are being restricted to keep the Temple comfortable it is essential to contact Bob Mathew [robert.mathew@virginmedia.com](mailto:robert.mathew@virginmedia.com). Membership, both Joining and Exalteés is also welcome, please contact Bob Mathew, Scribe E Elect.

## ESSEX CORNERSTONE CHAPTER

Work continues at pace to create our very own chapter. We have a 34 Founders, and we are working on finding a venue good enough to host a special consecration for this new Essex Chapter.

In the meantime, Club and Lodge members who are already part of the Holy Royal Arch can purchase an Essex Cornerstone Chapter tie. These beautiful ties have been designed by Toye & Kenning and can be purchased for £15 by emailing [Jon@essexcornerstone](mailto:Jon@essexcornerstone)



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By David Wilson  
Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals

## It certainly was worth the wait!

**A**fter having to postpone the original date, due to the pandemic, and with restrictions lifted Ixion Chapter 2501 finally were able to hold a Convocation, on the 24th July, to celebrate the significant achievement of reaching 125 years in existence. To mark the occasion the Chapter welcomed a Provincial delegation led by the Deputy Grand Superintendent in charge, E.Comp. N. Franklin, the 3rd provincial Grand Principal, E.Comp. E. Chevin as well as 3 APGP's the Provincial DC and Provincial Scribe E.

The Companions were given a summary of the last 25 years of the Chapter since the Centenary with the membership having included some illustrious and distinguished Companions. Eulogies in respect of two Companions who had sadly passed since the Chapter last met were also delivered. Much of the remainder of the meeting was given over to necessary administration including admitting a joining member, Comp. P. Lavelle, and electing the Principals and Honorary members.

E.Comp. T. Tonks presented E.Comp. N. Franklin with a cheque for £1,000 for his chosen charity. E.Comp. Franklin immediately declared that it would go to the Festival 2022. In addition, E.Comp. Franklin was surprised and delighted to receive from E.Comp. M. Robinson, on behalf of the Chapter, a memento of his visit which was a bejewelled crown of Zerubbabel on an inscribed plaque.

The Chapter also acknowledged their gratitude to those who had helped organise the meeting. In particular E.Comp. M. Saunders, E.Comp. C. Common and E.Comp. N. Ashkettle whose health scare appears to be thankfully behind him.



At the festive Board, where everyone remembered the 'fire' first time, E.Comp. Franklin thanked the Chapter and recalled some of the highlights he has enjoyed there over the years. He said that this was his last official visit before moving across to his new role in the Craft but that he could not have wished for a more enjoyable finale. However, he knew that the HRA in Essex was in the very capable hands of his successor E.Comp. Chevin.

All departed after a most enjoyable meeting and evening, looking forward to the Chapter's 150th.

## Daylight Chapter of Hutton No 9806

E. Comp Andrew McLeod APGP, was warmly welcomed by E. Comp Geoffrey Candler MEZ, during his Official Visit to the Daylight Chapter of Hutton No 9806 at their Installation Convocation.

E. Comp Geoff was installed into the First Principals Chair which fulfilled his ambition of being the first Companion to serve in every progressive Office since the Chapter was consecrated in 2012



E.Comp Ted Hoefling acting Second Principal, E.Comp Geoff Candler MEZ, E.Comp Alistair Barnwell Third Principal and E.Comp Andrew McLeod APGP



Venturer Chapter installation meeting on Monday Last at Chingford Masonic Hall.

The 3 principals are E.Comp Joe Shearer (Provincial D.C.) as H, Chris Smith as Z and David Jones as J.





# Eight Days A Week

By Tony Hales  
Provincial Communications Team



Eight days a week is not enough for Gary Hostler, the new Provincial Grand Almoner (PGA) of Essex Freemasons, to show he cares for the 9,000 plus Brethren, Companions and their families in the UGLE's second largest Province. "It's a seven day a week job" said Gary "there are emails and telephone calls coming in all the time". Gary's wife Gill is understanding and supportive. Married for 38 years, with a son and a daughter who are both married and two grandchildren, they have themselves faced anxiety and loss so helping and caring for others in difficult times comes naturally.

It was on the playing fields of Essex that Gary first became aware of Freemasonry. Listening to other team members at a local hockey club he gathered they were Masons. Liking what they did to help other people and the community he asked how to join. "Ask you father-in-law" was the reply to a much-surprised Gary! Gill's father, the late WBro Joe Stannett, made sure his candidate understood what Masonry was about, proposed Gary into Janus Lodge No 4456 in 1987, encouraged him to attend Lodge of Instruction, became his mentor and guided Gary forward. "Joe was old-school - even his wife did not know there was a blue book until I told her," said Gary. If WBro Joe could look down from Grand Lodge Above he would have every reason to be proud of his protégé.

Janus Lodge is tee-total, and still is, but in 1995 when Gary was Worshipful Master a vote was proposed in open Lodge for this to end. The vote could have gone either way but, being in the Chair, Gary had the casting vote and thought long and hard as to which way he would cast, if necessary, but it did not come to that as the ratio was 5:1 to remain. The only casting Gary now enjoys is when freshwater fishing if time permits. Gary and Gill are also the Festival Secretaries of Janus Lodge so are busy planning the next Ladies Festival at Five Lakes Resort for Saturday 20th November 2021 at which all are welcome.

Other Masonic highlights include: his Royal Arch (RA) exaltation into Danehurst Chapter No 4541 also in 1995, where he has since been 1st Principal three times; becoming a Provincial Grand Steward when E Comp Paul Reeves was responsible for the RA Stewards and his Craft promotion to Past Provincial Assistant Grand Registrar in 2001. Gary's advice to any newly initiated Brother or exalted Companion is to enjoy becoming a member and do what you can without over stretching.

Gary understood there were two nominations for PGA when he received a call from the Provincial Grand Secretary, Phil Lovelock, asking if he would accept the appointment if it were offered him and he was delighted three weeks later to receive confirmation of his promotion. With the experience of being the Deputy PGA for the last five years Gary is well qualified to take on the challenges ahead, the biggest of which he sees as making sure we do not lose too many members as we return to the new normal. "Everyone in the PGA Team will be encouraging all Almoners to establish how Lodge and Chapter members have managed during the pandemic and whether we can provide more support as we return to meetings".

Gary explained that through the 'Call to Action' campaign, which ran from March 2020 to the end of June 2021, the Province had made 380 grants so far totalling over £73,000 to Essex Masons and widows and then directed them to the Masonic Charitable Association (MCA) for longer term support, adding "My grateful thanks go to the 159 brethren who donated over £77,500. Of course, we are continuing with new claims but not under the 'Call to Action' banner."

Loyalty is important to Gary who recalls joining Paul Cohen's PGA team in July 2015 and was the newest member of the team when Nick Clarke became PGA, so he immediately agreed to stay on the team to help. Born in Romford in 1955, Gary joined Midland Bank before it became part of HSBC. Having specialised in IT he held a number of senior project management roles in the IT department looking after non-UK clients during his 40 years at the bank.

This financial project management experience has proved valuable for his favourite charity since it was registered in March 2019. Because of suffering and loss in the family he has donated to cancer research but Gary is a huge supporter of the Essex Provincial Almoners Fund (EPAF), pointing out that it exists to help all Essex Masons, their dependants and widows. He said "We aim to give relief to those suffering with health or financial problems, often within 24 hours of a request. Just £100 from each Lodge in the Province every year would help make such a significant difference to so many Brethren in their hour of need." The Provincial Grand Master (PGM) Designate, Paul Tarrant joined the recent EPAF Annual General Meeting.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master (APGM) on the Provincial Executive Team with responsibility for Welfare which includes the PGA and his team is Tony White. Gary is looking forward to getting to know Tony better whilst working hard for Essex to have one of the most successful PGA teams in the UGLE. Gary's definition of success is "Achieving what you aim to do" and in his own words Gary wants to prove success by:

**Provincial Grand Almoner**  
**W.Bro Gary Hostler** [Gary.Hostler@EssexPGL.org.uk](mailto:Gary.Hostler@EssexPGL.org.uk)

- *The continued support of the PGA team to help our Almoners deliver our messages enabling the right levels of care and support to their brethren and widows*
- *Seeing the continued growth of the numbers attending our major events - our Almoners Conferences, Training Workshops and Men's Health Days*
- *Our reputation as a team to be held in high esteem by all Essex Masons.*



The PGA team consists of 20 Officers: Deputy PGA: Ray Heathfield; Finance: John Mansfield; Communications and Equipment: Chris Lee; Social Welfare: Gary Neilson; Men's Health: George Young; Almoner Grants Officers (AGOs): George Young, Phil Bruce, Peter Thorpe, Keith Wheatcroft, Jim Wheeler, Stewart Topley, Andy Jones, Alan Jory, Paul Cash and Paul Hacker; Almoner Liaison Officers (ALOs): Ray Heathfield, John Engledew, Glenn Mayes, Steve Drury, John Mansfield, Stephen Cochrane and John Hardisty. Any Brother can call Gary if they would like to go on the reserve list for when a vacancy occurs.

The first major success for Gary and the team was the virtual on-line Almoners Conference held on 6th May 2021 with 182 attendees. During his introduction the DepPGM in Charge, Paul Reeves, surprised many by saying that he had become an Almoner in two Lodges since becoming DepPGM and "never realised how busy the role is". Jade Gibson and Agnieszka MacDonald talked about Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court. Jade recently wrote "We would like to thank Gary for his invitation to present at such a fantastic virtual event. We have had a huge influx in enquiries as a result and to date have admitted, or plan to admit, eight new residents as a direct result of the Conference."

Looking ahead there are a number of other projects and events set in place.

- *With between 40 to 50 changes of Lodge Almoners every year, it seems sensible to hold the Almoners Conference bi-annually alternating with the three Training Workshops held in the north, south and central areas of the Province.*
- *The one-to-one visits by the AGOs on behalf of the MCF, which were suspended during lockdown and handled remotely by MCF staff, are likely to resume soon which will relieve the MCF of this additional burden. The aim is for all applications to the MCF to have a decision within 40 days of the AGO submitting the paperwork.*
- *Following the successful project overseen by Gary Neilson, most of the 120 plus widows in 2020 have now been 'adopted' by Lodges and other Provinces. Gary would like to hear from the Almoner of any Lodge which feels it can help with a placement or two for the current 21 unattached widows.*

With concerns that the pandemic has prevented many from getting their health checked at local surgeries and clinics, a special Men's Health Day has been arranged for Wednesday 27th October 2021 at the Essex County Cricket Ground, Chelmsford. This includes a CHAPS, the Men's Health Charity, PSA test plus four other health tests all for free, as the Essex Freemasons Community Fund (EFCF) is sponsoring up to 400 tests which usually cost £20 each. Brethren are encouraged to bring along non-masonic family members and friends who will be entitled to the free tests as well. There will be donation buckets and the

funds collected in them will be given to the EFCF. Booking will only be available on-line about one month before.

If there is one thing which Gary would like to accomplish in the next year it is to save a Lodge. Ray Heathfield and over 30 others have indicated their support for a Lodge in difficulty by making it a Lodge for all past and present Provincial, Lodge, Chapter and Deputy Almoners. The details are being worked on with possibly three meetings a year at different centres. In addition to the Installation meeting, two other meetings would have lectures of interest to Almoners from both masonic and non-masonic guest speakers.

Gary believes that although the people in Freemasonry have changed over the years, the majority of the membership is content with the way ahead and that every Lodge should now consider having a Deputy Almoner. This is not an Office but a valuable role in which younger members can assist now and be ready to take over when their Lodge Almoner steps down. Such experience will help them learn and develop the necessary skills to identify those less fortunate than ourselves, provide them with pastoral care to deliver relief from loneliness, suffering and need whilst treating them with humility, confidentiality and compassion.

Being very approachable, Gary is happy to talk with any prospective Deputy Almoner about this new role which has the support of both UGLE and the Province which selected him to be their new Provincial Grand Almoner. Chosen not only because he has the necessary experience and skills to do the job but because he also has built-up a proven track record over many years which clearly demonstrates that 'Eight days a week is not enough for Gary Hostler to show he cares'.

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## Essex Cornerstone Lodge No 9968

**A**lthough the world of Freemasonry had stopped for well over a year, the club committee thought it was important not to shut up shop and wait for this to all blow over. We did not want to standstill, so thought it right to continue to engage and inform our members during lockdown to keep them busy during the challenging times. Our last face-to-face event was a long time ago, at the Churchill War rooms, and was probably the last time some of us wore a suit!

During the pandemic we have run a number of charity initiatives such as launching an NHS electronic tablet appeal, providing Laptops for schools as well as charity poker and gaming nights. We have made the most of online tools including holding events with special guests including the Grand Secretary and Pro-Grand Master. We also held a brilliant virtual Whiskey tasting evening, ensuring that there was something for everyone.

Now that freemasonry is resuming, we can look forward to meeting again and the Club Committee have a series of events lined up for the rest of 2021 as well as our rescheduled Annual Dinner at the House of Commons early in 2022. If you are a club member who would like to attend the Annual Dinner, we have a handful of tickets now available to purchase. Please email [Jon@essexcornerstone.com](mailto:Jon@essexcornerstone.com) for payment details.

Keep an eye out on social media for all our latest events.



*On 11th July the Essex Cornerstone Lodge met at Upminster Masonic Centre where WBro. Reiss Duthie was elected Master for the ensuing year. The Installation will be on 11th December and, in typical Lodge fashion, will have a unique Festive Board experience.*

## The Essex Cornerstone Foundation

We are pleased to share news of our new initiative - The Essex Cornerstone Foundation. The Foundation is the new Charity of the Club. The Foundation will continue the ethos of the Club in a wide range of activities all to the advancement of young people aged under 41 in Essex. The Foundation will primarily be supplying sensory activity bags to Paediatric Emergency Departments and childcare services.

To celebrate the launch of the Essex Cornerstone Foundation the Essex Cornerstone Club is holding a stunning Autumn Ball on 9th October 2021.

Set in the beautiful grounds of Braxted Park Hall, we welcome all Freemasons, their partners, family and guests to this black-tie dinner and dance. During the evening you will be welcomed with reception drinks and canapés in the picture-perfect gardens, for a wonderful 3 course meal with wine, then you can dance the night away to live music. We will be holding a silent auction and have some amazing prizes lined up. Group bookings can be made at [essexcornerstone.com/ball](http://essexcornerstone.com/ball) where all payments will be fully refundable should lockdown restrictions be in place.

## JOIN US TODAY

You can join the Essex Cornerstone from 18 years up to 41 years. Membership is only £10 and includes a welcome pack including our Club Provincial tie which can be worn at all craft and Royal Arch meetings within Essex, lapel pin, masonic passport and access to all Essex Cornerstone resources, but more importantly you will be joining the best New & Young Masons Club in the Country.

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# Mark Masons in Essex

## Donate £30,350 to Children's Charity

### CLOWNS IN THE SKY



On Friday the 18th of June, representatives of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Essex attended Broomfield Hospital to present two cheques to the children's charity Clowns in the Sky totalling £30,350.

The Charity provides mobile activity trolleys filled with craft goods, puzzle books, stationary and the like to children's wards in hospitals throughout the U.K. for the benefit and enjoyment of children in hospital suffering from cancer related illnesses. The trolleys are kept fully stocked by the Charity. The charity also provide funds for children's entertainers to visit the wards. The charities primary aim is to raise money to aid Brain tumour research as well as supporting families who have children in hospital suffering from brain tumours and related illnesses.



Receiving the cheques on behalf of Clowns in the Sky were the co-founders and Trustees of the charity Lynn Weston and Richard Chambers, who set up the charity after losing their three year old daughter to a brain tumour.

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John Finlay, the Essex Mark Masons Deputy Provincial Grand Master, presented a cheque for £750 on behalf of the Essex Mark Welfare fund who were first approached by the charity for assistance, and Roy Kaye the Essex Mark Provincial Grand Almoner, who presented a cheque for £29,600 on behalf on the Mark Benevolent Fund who agreed the additional funding after a successful bid to them by the Province of Essex on behalf of the charity. The money donated by Essex Mark Masons allowed the charity to purchase a new activity table for the children's cancer ward at Broomfield hospital, it will also allow them to keep it stocked for a whole year. The £29,600 donated by the Mark Benevolent Fund enables the Charity to restock all 74 trolleys in 43 hospitals throughout the country, for the whole of 2021.

Also in attendance was Donna Byrne the charity Development Officer. Donna commented that after needing to sit down when she heard the news of the MBF grant, she was so overcome with emotion that she began to tremble and cry, however when the trembling subsided, the tears gave way to the biggest smile, Donna explained how that day brought something that will stay with her for a long time to come. Donna went on to say

*"Just how many smiles this news will bring, who knows. These two donations mean that every single hospital ward that we support is now secure for their trolley stock refills for a whole year. For me, I know it was the highlight of the year and has definitely put a different spin on the awful year of 2020, the year when Essex Mark Master Masons first made contact".*

# Mark Masons in Essex

## Donate £45,000 to Festival 2022



At the June meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Essex, the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro Terence D. Sheern, presented a "virtual" cheque in the sum of £11,000 to Paul Reeves, Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge, who himself is a Mark Master Mason in Essex. This brought the total contribution from Essex Mark to Festival Essex 2022 to the magnificent sum of £45,000!

After the Craft and Royal Arch, the Mark Degree is the third largest and one of the most popular degrees in Freemasonry, containing some 1500 Mark Lodges in the English Constitution with Essex being one of the largest Provinces, comprising 50 Mark Lodges with almost 1300 subscriptions and 39 Royal Ark Mariner Lodges with over 900 subscribing members.

The Mark Benevolent Fund is the main charity of the order, with the Essex MBF having local responsibility. The Essex fund has donated to many local charities and good causes, including our own "Meals on Wheels" campaign. Currently we are processing up to £50,000 of donations to local hospices in recognition of the late Duke of Edinburgh's lifetime of service.

Known as "the friendly degree", all Master Masons are eligible to join. The Degree is slightly less formal than The Craft and there is no doubt that among Mark Master Masons you will ever find friends.

Like Craft Freemasonry, the Mark Degree conveys moral and ethical lessons using ritual based around the building of King Solomon's Temple.

Initiation into the Mark Degree is termed as "Advancement" and, in a chronological sense, the ceremony follows that of the second degree in Craft - the Fellow Craft.

The Ceremony of Advancement follows the fate of an ambitious Fellow Craft seeking promotion in his trade by demonstrating his skill and ability and each candidate, is provided with a mark peculiar to himself. This mark enables the Overseers (or Mark Masters) to identify the work.

It is a wonderful ceremony containing elements of drama and humour, and, above all, strong moral lessons.

If you would like to have your Masonic knowledge truly "Advanced", and receive your own unique Mark, why not join us.

For further information please contact our Communications Officer, W. Bro Geoff Newman at : [CommsOfficer@britishmasons.uk](mailto:CommsOfficer@britishmasons.uk), and if you would like to learn what we have been up to recently just click here to visit our website [www.essexmark.co.uk](http://www.essexmark.co.uk)



## Ambresbury

## Preceptory 583

## First Meeting Back

The Ambresbury Preceptory finally met at the Cross Keys Masonic Hall on the 17th June 2021 to install Kt. Robert Young into the Eminent Preceptors chair having originally been elected back in Feb 2020.

The meeting was attended by 10 knights in a socially distanced manner and, despite no festive board, thoroughly enjoyed the meeting and getting back to ceremonies.

November will see another candidate being brought into the preceptory.

If anyone is interested in joining, or knowing more, please contact [Mark.Harrison@Intertek.com](mailto:Mark.Harrison@Intertek.com)



# Halstead Day Centre DONATION

## Joshua Nunn Lodge 2154

By Tony Hales and Braham Djidjelli  
Provincial Communications Team

The Halstead Day Centre has thanked Joshua Nunn Lodge, and Freemasons in general, for their continued support and generosity over the past few challenging months as it continues to drive on with its effort to provide independent living for people over 60 who are isolated.

Joshua Nunn Lodge 2154 has donated £1500 to The Halstead Day Centre so far this year, including a £500 match funding from the Province of Essex. W.Bro Braham Djidjelli (Worshipful Master) and W.Bro Jim Gage (Charity Steward) made the most recent donation on behalf of the members on 28th April, which was gratefully received by Veronica Harman (Centre Manager).

Many of the beneficiaries who receive assistance from the centre are completely unaware of what is happening in the outside world and are therefore finding it a very confusing and lonely time.

The centre offers a friendly environment for people to socialise and be included in a range of low intensity services that reduce isolation and encourage activities that promote physical, mental and emotional well-being while maintaining a degree of independence in their own home for longer. Their services include transport, daily movement to music classes, shopping, bathing, board & card games, debates, speakers, bingo, craft and a two course lunch and beverages during the day.

During her thanks to Joshua Nunn, Veronica said "This is really, really kind of the Freemasons. The centre has not received any special financial support from the government during the pandemic and is working with a skeleton staff due to restrictions. Of our team of 8 staff and 30 volunteers, only 4 are allowed on site at any one time. This really helps and reminds us there are good local people out there."



## Orsett Lodge Raise Funds for NHS

Members of Orsett Lodge have raised funds to purchase goods for the NHS nurses, who are currently working with PPE during this pandemic. We were able to supply energy drinks and energy bars for nurses on Covid wards as they are suffering from fatigue due to the long hours.

Along with hand cream, moisturiser, and lip balm due to the cracking of hands and lips due to the constant use of sanitizer, and the wearing of gloves and mask.

Along with a £100 donation from Costco West Thurrock we were able to supply 280 care packages to nurses and staff at our local hospitals, with 2 wards at Orsett, all wards at Basildon and 2 wards at Brentwood hospital.

Pictured Right - W.Bro Steve Bruyel collecting the goods from Costco, and W.Bro Chris Colbert carrying out the deliveries.



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# Angel Lodge No 51

Article by Andrew Johnson

During lockdowns and despite not meeting Angel Lodge continued to raise funds for worthy charitable causes.

One such cause is the "Essex Volunteer Blood Service". Our Worshipful Master Chris Bush is a volunteer rider for the service collecting and delivering vital supplies of blood and plasma to hospitals around the Province and into London.

Angel Lodge raised in excess of £2,000 to contribute towards the funding for the purchase of an additional bike for the service.

Angel Lodge now have two members operating the volunteer service which now, as much as at any time, is a vital and critical service provided solely by volunteers and supporting our wonderful NHS.

I hope you can use this as it further promotes and enhances the good work done by masonry to support NHS services.



Chris in action with the recently purchased bike.

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## Hamilton Court's East End Centurion



It seems that throughout life, we always seem to enjoy the number 100 and celebrate it whenever it appears. Things like, a century in cricket, a centennial lodge meeting, a birthday of course and indeed any aspect of life which involves this magic number.

At Hamilton Court we recently had our own opportunity to celebrate this inspiring number when one of our residents, Lily, attained her 100th birthday and I had the pleasure of spending an hour with Lily learning about her interesting life. The occasion was marked by a small gathering of friends and family in the resident's lounge at Hamilton Court (in line with restrictions of course) where Lily has lived since 2003 and also with a visit from, VW. Bro. Paul Reeves (Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge). Paul presented Lily with some flowers and best wishes from Essex Freemasons. Lily thought it was wonderful that "The Mayor" had interrupted his busy schedule to wish her a happy birthday.

Lily was born in April of 1921, in Custom House, London, E16, at a time when the country was still recovering from the devastation and privations of the First World War. Lily's mother ( Mary) and father (Frederick) lived with Lily and her six siblings, four brothers and two sisters who made a fuss of their youngest sister. The family home was a large Georgian house in Custom House where Frederick was a crane driver in the docks. Lily recalls that Sundays were mostly spent in church and she would attend her father's Catholic church in the morning and her mother's protestant church in the afternoon. Sadly, Lily's mother died prematurely at the age of 44 when Lily was only 9 years old but she remembers with great pride how her father continued to bring all of the children up on his own.

The family continued to live in E16 for a while but eventually moved to Becton to a smaller house where she lived until she married Henry in 1941. Henry was away in the navy for the duration of the Second World War and he arrange for Lily to go to live in Abingdon, Oxfordshire to escape the blitz. Lily recalls, " I landed a plum job there working for the Air Ministry". After the war, Lily returned to live in Ilford, Essex, where Henry and Lily were blessed with two sons, Michael and Russell and Lily took up another "plumb" job working for Ind Coupe Brewery in Romford. Eventually, the two boys off hand, Lily and Henry moved to a large bungalow in South Woodham Ferrers which she remembers fondly. However, after Henry's death, the bungalow became too much for Lily to manage and her brother, Victor, who belonged to a lodge in Barking, told lily of the Masonic Housing flats in South Woodham Ferrers and in 2003 Lily moved in to her "delightful" little flat ( one of forty four) overlooking the gardens.

Lily says she felt at home immediately and was delighted with her new home and she relished the companionship of the other residents and the security felt by having an onsite warden present should those unexpected things in life occur. In those early days, Lily said she was more able to join in with the social life at Hamilton Court organized by the residents and the committee and she attend outings and events regularly but these days her attendance is not so frequent although Lily still tries to put in an appearance in the resident's lounge for the Christmas party.

We wish you many happy returns Lily and it has been a delight to have had you amongst us for so many years and to continue to be of service to you. God bless.

W.Bro. Ken Turner (Hamilton Court Committee)

(Should any lodge almoner wish to have a greater insight in to Hamilton Court and how we may be useful to you in your work with lodge members, widow's, dependants etc., please do not hesitate to contact us. [Kenturner1952@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Kenturner1952@hotmail.co.uk).)





## He lived respected and died regretted

Acknowledgements to:  
Norman Lawrence PAGDC  
Pierre Waddoups ProvGMentor  
Emlyn Carter PPJGW

A birthday card from H M The Queen is always a momentous occasion for any centenarian and on 25th March this year W.Bro. Clifford Barry Wyatt celebrated his 100th birthday. A splendid accolade for such a dedicated and highly respected Freemason.

Sadly, he was not able to enjoy the euphoria for long as he passed to the Grand Lodge above on 25th June 2021

Cliff grew up in Southend and was initially educated at a local private school before progressing to Southend High School for Boys in 1931 and he left when he was in the 6th form in 1938. His father also taught at the same school from 1921. Cliff enjoyed reminiscing about his time there when he had to buy his own text books (at £3.10s per term) and lunch with dessert which cost 11d! The food was not very appetising so together with some other boys he used to abscond to Garons nearby, where it was cheaper too!

On leaving school, Cliff was mobilised into the RAF as a Sergeant Pilot and while there he had a flying accident. After failing a 'height test' he was sent on a six week 'Air Ministry Inspection Directorate' (AID) course in London. Later, he started work at Short Bros at Rochester where they made flying boats. While there he met his wife Ethel and they were married in 1945.

It was always Cliff's vocation to teach, so after the war he embarked on two years of study at Cheltenham College. His first teaching post was at Shoeburyness High School for 2 years and then in 1951 he joined the teaching staff at his old school. During his stay there he was appointed the first teacher/governor and he eventually retired in 1981 after 30 years of service.

Cliff always had quite an impressive memory and could still recall the names of notable members of staff and some (well known) Essex masons he taught at that school including one pupil who failed all his exams! After retirement, Cliff obtained a City & Guilds Certificate in computing at Southend College.

Up until his sad passing, Cliff was virtually housebound in his bungalow at Thorpe Bay. He was cared for by his devoted wife, Ethel. They had been married for 76 years and have one son, Richard who was born in 1950. Earlier in his life Cliff enjoyed many interests including cricket, hockey, golf and bowls. He had been a keen member of Rotary and Probus.

Cliff's masonic life spanned 77 years and he had been a Grand Officer for 46 years. He was initiated into Old Southendian Lodge No. 5403 on 17th November 1944 at the Palace Hotel in Southend. All three ceremonies were conducted as doubles with his father Billy. He was Master of the Lodge in 1961 and 1992 and he was Secretary for two periods totalling 26 years. In 1969 he was appointed to the acting ranks of ProvSGD, progressing to ProvJGW in 1988. In the Royal Arch, he was exalted in Old Southendian Chapter No. 5403 in 1958, First Principal in 1964 and was again appointed to the acting rank of ProvGSoj in 1969, progressing to PPGSN in 1978. He was made an Honorary Member of both his Lodge and Chapter in 2012 and 2014 respectively.

Cliff was also a member of Essex Masters Lodge No. 3256 and Southend Daylight Lodge No. 9723. During his lifetime, he had proposed 18 candidates into Freemasonry. That must be a record!

In recognition of his distinguished service to Freemasonry, he was awarded Grand Rank in both the Craft and Royal Arch. In 1975, at the young age of 54 years, he was appointed PAGDC in the Craft and promoted to PJGD in 1985. In the Royal Arch he was appointed PGStB in 1988. Those worthy appointments were topped by him receiving the prestigious award for Distinguished Service to Essex Masonry (DSEM) in 2009 and final promotion to PPSGW.

Cliff had an impressive knowledge of masonic history and was an enthusiastic researcher. He prepared and gave many lectures on subjects of interest to Lodges throughout Essex. He was a Founder of the Southend Masonic Study Circle and its President for many years. He was actively involved on the Board of Directors of Southend Temple in Woodgrange Drive.

Cliff's contribution to Freemasonry enlightened the lives of many and inspired countless junior brethren in their pursuit of masonic education. It was a magnificent achievement of reaching a century and he just made it! He lived respected and died regretted.

By Terry Lockhart PJGD



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# the essex mason extra



The Online supplement with additional stories

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A photograph of a restaurant interior. In the foreground, a table is set with a white tablecloth, a white cup and saucer, a glass of water, and a red napkin. In the background, other tables are set with white tablecloths and yellow napkins. The chairs are black with silver frames.

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)



# Congratulations to Villerica Lodge No 4053



The February meeting is always a special occasion for the Brethren of Villerica Lodge No 4053. It is the Installation Meeting. As is the custom in Masonic Lodges, at the Installation Festive Board, all the Brethren look forward to singing the 'Master's Song' and raising their glass to toast the Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. This year's February meeting would have been even more special as Villerica was Consecrated in the Grecian Temple at the Abercorn Rooms of the Great Eastern Hotel by the RW the Provincial Grand Master of Essex Lord Lambourne on 19th February 1921.

Together with those Essex Freemasons whose Lodges and Chapters should have commemorated their Centennials during the last 12 months, Villerica Brethren must wait until time and circumstances permit such celebrations to be restored. During this time, they will no doubt reflect that 102 years ago some of the Founders were talking on Billericay Station with one saying that he remembered a Vicar who once said Billericay was derived from the Latin 'Villerica' meaning 'Clean Town' and so the name was adopted. The Lodge now meets at Hutton Masonic Hall.

Whether it is a potential new candidate or an experienced Brother, fortunate enough to attend the postponed Centennial celebrations, both will find Villerica to be a typical Masonic Lodge with about 40 members where the rich, the poor and those in-between, meet together, use the same idioms, abide by the same etiquette, eat, drink and joke together, all united in a sincere love of Freemasonry and its three grand Principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

This is exemplified through one Villerica Lodge member who was awarded a C.B.E. on the same day in 1958 as a certain Matthew Busby (of Manchester United and England fame). George Frederick Chaplin was born in 1900 and Initiated in 1929. After being the Worshipful Master of the Lodge, Almoner and Treasurer, he was installed as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master in 1957. Serving the Community as a JP, a Deputy Lieutenant and an Alderman, W Bro Chaplin also proposed Malcolm, his son, into the Lodge and

devoted his life to the people of Essex. He became a Chairman of Essex County Council and was Knighted in 1962. The late W.Bro Chaplin may now be looking down from Grand Lodge above and wishing the day may soon come for all the Brethren of Villerica Lodge to celebrate their Centennial whilst joining all of the present Provincial Leadership Team and every Essex Freemason in congratulating Villerica Lodge No 4053 on reaching their Centenary.



Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex

## Donate to the Essex Festival 'Fest2022'



Take a photo of the QR code or follow the link to donate.

[shorturl.at/sITU3](https://shorturl.at/sITU3)



Scan me

## North Essex and Suffolk Masonic Fellowship 40 years and going strong

The Fellowship originated some forty years ago to continue the friendships created during Lodge meetings especially whilst visiting other Lodges, and all Masons are eligible to join. Functions are arranged to suit the members, and over the past years, outings, holidays, lunches, theatre visits, and dinners have provided enjoyment for members, their families, and friends.



An outing with the River Stour Trust including lunch at the Henny Swan in 2019

Any money raised at functions enables us to support local charities. In some years we have given as much as £1,000.00 with beneficiaries being The Air Ambulance, Acorn Village, The James Bowdidge Trust, and many others.

As a Fellowship we are keen to widen our membership and we hope this may appeal to you. Functions are generally informal and family friendly, and wives or partners are included in your membership, at an extremely modest £5.00 per year.

Please get in touch with our membership Secretary, W. Bro. David Poppleton at [poppletons21@gmail.com](mailto:poppletons21@gmail.com) or telephone 01206 570725

This is your opportunity to meet socially with many Masonic friends.

### Wheel of Fellowship Lodge No. 9016 Maldon Homestart Charity

On a very hot day in June several Members of the Wheel of Fellowship Lodge No. 9016 ( Essex) donated boxes of Toys, both cuddly and educational.

These toys included a new cot, bike, scooter, new bedding and other linens to Michelle Lock and Alison James from the Maldon Homestart Charity at the Maldon District Council Offices in Essex.

In fact these were given by a Member of the Lodge W.Bro. Roger Sambridge who is the Financial Director of Homestart in Havering.

Being a parent can be hard work, especially with young children. Many parents feel exhausted and overwhelmed by the stresses of family life. It can be even harder when faced with issues such as post-natal depression, a child's illness or disability, isolation or multiple births. That's when parents need support the most.

Home-Start Essex is a charity that are here to help, they provide a Home-Visiting Service, Telephone Befrienders, Family Groups, Wellbeing Groups and help with School Readiness.

Home-Start Essex is an independent charitable Organisation (Registered Charity no. 1170940) which formed on 3rd January 2017. Although Home-Start Maldon was founded in December 1998.

This is a local charity that does so much good work in the local community that the members of the lodge wanted to do something in support of all their hard work.



Photo from left to right - Bro. Graham Cornell ( Lodge Almoner), W. Bro. Bob Hendrie ( Lodge Secretary), Michele Lock & Allison James ( Maldon Homestart Co-ordinators) and Bro. Bruce Heubner



# Brave a Shave



The kindest cut of all to help Bro Alan raise funds to battle cancer

One Saturday at the end of May, the Howard Hall Masonic Centre in Braintree served as a barber's shop, when Bro Robin Bayes, of Lodge of Justice 147, "braved a shave" in support of his good friend and brother Alan Chapman. Fellow Lodge of Justice member Alan is raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support while battling pancreatic cancer and Robin, also a member of Royal Clarence 1823, decided to shave his head and beard to raise money for this excellent cause.

Robin's daughters, Hannah and Eryn (who looked a little too happy to wield the razor at her dad's throat), and his wife Paulette, along with Alan's partner Sarah, all attended the Covid-safe event on 29 May.

Robin said: "Alan is fighting a losing battle with cancer and I am humbled by his positive outlook and generous and warm nature, so would be great if brethren throughout the Essex province could help in this worthwhile fundraising effort.

"Alan is always quick to smile and even quicker to laugh, and it would be awesome if we are able to get behind him." If you would like to donate, please follow this link:



'Brave the Shave' is a nationwide campaign organised by Macmillan and thousands of people all over the country are joining in to raise funds for the cancer support charity. Since 2015, brave shavers have raised over £22.7 million. This incredible amount could pay for 140 Macmillan nurses for three years.



ESSEX CORNERSTONE

MEMBERS'  
ANNUAL  
DINNER

2022

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
WESTMINSTER





# St Philip Lodge Centenary



NOVEMBER 16  
Celebrating 100 Years



YOU'RE INVITED TO  
**St Philip Lodge**  
1921- CENTENARY-2021

Help to celebrate 100 years of St Philip Lodge 4221, by attending this special meeting attended by the RW Provincial Grand Master.

We will be presented with a new Centenary Warrant. By its very nature this is an event which few Masons get to see.

To register your interest in attending this significant event, please contact the Secretary. Numbers will be limited so avoid being disappointed and reserve your place now

RSVP to WB. ALAN KEITH PPSGD

TEL: 01702 329090  
EMAIL: SECRETARY@STPHILIP4221.ORG

## St Philip Lodge eyes 100 brethren for its Centenary Meeting in November

November 16th will mark a special celebration for St Philip Lodge 4221 as it marks its centenary and its Master, W.Bro Liam Holmes says the target for the big day is the attendance of 100 brethren.

He said: "We had a fantastic turnout for our first in-person LOI meeting on 17th May and this was a great inspiration for all within the lodge to bring our ideas to the forefront.

"We have a dynamic lodge, full of creative ideas, and among our biggest discussions were our Centenary meeting plans for November.

"We have a goal of at least 100 brethren being present, and so far we are working our way to far exceeding this number."

W.Bro Liam said St Philip would welcome all Essex brethren who would like to attend this rare occasion, "especially any new Brethren, as it would be great for them to witness such a momentous occasion".

100  
years



By David Badger  
Provincial Communications Team

Contact [secretary@stphilip4221.org](mailto:secretary@stphilip4221.org)



## Essex Freemasons make the right move for CHESS



**W**.Bro Mark Jones and Bro. Graham Cornell made a delivery of bottled water, snacks, soft drinks, treats, toiletries and items of clothing to the C.H.E.S.S centre in Chelmsford. These items were donated by the brethren of The Wheel of Fellowship Lodge 9016 in Maldon, Essex.

Barbara Buxton the manageress of the C.H.E.S.S centre in Chelmsford was waiting outside to greet W.Bro Mark Jones and Bro. Graham Cornell who presented Barbara with the donations. She thanked the Brethren and explained that the outreach service covers Brentwood, Chelmsford, Braintree, Maldon and Rochford. The donated gifts are distributed by volunteers and are much appreciated by the homeless people.



CHESS has several facets, but the overall goal is to help people move on in a positive way with their life. CHESS is about change, about supporting someone to identify and resolve issues that have caused homelessness. Usually this involves not only the immediate issue that led to homelessness but factors prior that have caused issues for the person. They therefore take a holistic approach when working with someone and look at all areas of like not just housing.

They will go and see someone who has been referred through Streetlink to see what help and support they need. It might be initially practical issues like food / water / sleeping bag / tent / local services that are available but also identifying what support is needed. This maybe accessing emergency accommodation, helping access longer term accommodation and support services. The accommodation is initially for 3 nights to get the person off the street and then renewed for up to a month whilst seeking more suitable accommodation whilst they work with people intensively. This may be within the CHESS shelter or outside us if appropriate. They have a 9-bedroom initial property and a 3 bed for those entering CHESS through the Outreach team both of which have been opened during the pandemic.

They have a shelter (the original one opened in 1996) which was only at night but since we reopened in November 2020 (they were shut down at the end of March as a result of the pandemic) they have opened on a 24/7 basis with staff on site providing help and support to residents plus acting as an on-call facility to their move on houses. The shelter provides an initial stay of 28 days whilst they get to know someone and identify the issues that need to be addressed. They did have 9 residents but as a result of the pandemic they have had to reduce this to 4 as they were only allowed to reopen with a bathroom per person and we only have 4. We are currently looking at ways to get the numbers back up. They have however got 7 other move on houses accommodating up to 34 people where residents move onto from the Shelter / Outreach whilst they are addressing their issues and pending more permanent accommodation.

Two of the 7 houses (8 additional beds) have been added since the pandemic started to help offset the reduction in beds at the shelter and expand capacity. We usually have volunteers helping at the shelter but this has been suspended in the current circumstances.

This is a local charity that does so much good work in the local community that the members of the lodge wanted to do something in support of all their hard work.



# Families on brink of famine in South Sudan receive emergency support funded by Essex Freemasons

Hundreds of families on the brink of famine in South Sudan will be receiving emergency support thanks to a grant of £35,000 from the Freemasons to Plan International UK.

Freemasonry, through the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) and Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF), is responding with Plan International to support communities at this critical time. £35,000 is enough to provide cooking kits to 525 families. Plan International is on the ground in Pibor, one of the worst affected regions, delivering vital programmes for nutrition, education, livelihoods, and child protection.

The UN has described South Sudan's food crisis as its "worst on record", with children and communities facing multiple threats at once. Late last year, heavy flooding affected over a million people in the country, destroying homes, devastating livelihoods and displacing thousands of children and their families. On top of this communities are still reeling from the pandemic, as well as political upheavals, escalating conflict and a stagnating economy.

With the country in the middle of its 'lean season' - the time between harvests when households run out of stored food - there is now a critical window to prevent the onset of famine. Lasting from March until August, the lean season will see 7.2 million, or 60 per cent of the population, pushed into extreme hunger. 1.4 million children under the age of five and almost 500,000 pregnant and lactating women are expected to be left severely malnourished. It is crucial that aid reaches these communities before the floods come again, further hindering access to support for some of the world's most vulnerable children.

Essex Freemasons contributed to the grant, from the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which is funded by Freemasons, their families and friends, from across England and Wales

Rose Caldwell, Chief Executive of Plan International UK, said:

***"We're very grateful for this generous grant which will allow Plan International to reach families and young children in those parts of South Sudan most badly hit by the food crisis. It's critical that we act now to distribute food and other vital support to those most at risk"***

VW.Bro. Paul Reeves, Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge said:

***"I'm very pleased we've been able to help Plan International, who are distributing food to the most vulnerable families and children in South Sudan. This is a desperate situation and Plan International and the other organisations helping on the ground need all the help and support we can offer."***





Essex Freemasons have donated £31,000 to St Helena Hospice to help it to better reach and provide end of life support for patients and families living in deprived communities in Colchester and Tendring.

The money, donated via the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Freemasons own charity, will be primarily aimed at reaching communities who do not traditionally access hospice care, including those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities (BAME) and deprived communities.

There has historically been a lack of understanding of how hospice services need to adapt in order to meet the cultural needs of all communities they serve. This project will enable connections to be strengthened and the grant will help fund initiatives to explain what end of life support means and how help is available to cope with issues around death and dying.

Nicola Button, Head of Partnerships at St Helena, explained: "Through the collaborative work with colleagues at Community 360 and CVS Tendring, we have identified the number of patients from BAME and deprived communities accessing end of life support is lower than other sectors of the community.

"We need to address this matter and improve outcomes for people living in communities who do not traditionally access hospice care. This means working with community leaders and healthcare professionals to ensure they are more aware of the support we can offer; whilst also looking at ways in which the hospice must adapt to meet the needs of the whole community. This grant from Essex Freemasons will enable us to do this."

This project demonstrates true collaboration: St Helena is working in partnership with Community 360, CVS Tendring and the Essex Faith Covenant. Two Social Prescribers will be employed, one in each geographic area and their role will be to work specifically within local communities, supporting families and their carers at end of life.

St Helena Hospice provides specialist palliative and end of life care to local people facing incurable illness in north east Essex, supporting them, their families, friends and carers at home, over the phone via a 24/7 advice line and at the hospice in Colchester. It also help adults in north and mid Essex to cope with grief following the death of a loved one, regardless of where or how they died.

Peter Hollingsworth, Assistant Provincial Grand Master for Essex Freemasons, commented: "Our members have traditionally supported hospices in every part of the county for many years and we are delighted that once again we can make a difference for St Helena and the people of Colchester and Tendring.

"Freemasons are very much part of the local community and this is another way of saying thank you to the team at St Helena who do so much good work. We wish them every success with this latest initiative and are glad that this grant has made a difference."

The £31,000 to St Helena is part of a £450,000 package of support for hospices across the country from the Masonic Charitable Foundation. Of that total, some £100,000 has been awarded to the hospice movement in Essex.





How we  
have helped  
to support  
our heroes  
in the NHS

In February, the WM of Stedfast Unity Lodge identified an opportunity for the members to be of service to those heroes working tirelessly to help everyone.

Jim proposed we help the nurses and support staff in the hospitals suffering from dry skin, due to the volume of hand washing and astringent effects of the alcohol gels, by providing them with moisturisers and balms.

Thanks to donations we exceeded the initial target of £250, achieving £600. Last week Jim & Tony used this to deliver a total of 236 lip balms and 299 moisturisers to Addenbrookes and Papworth hospitals.

Jess Hughes, Community Fund-raiser at Papworth wrote to thanks the lodge on behalf of Royal Papworth Hospital Charity. He said:

*"Your generosity allows us to support our staff at Royal Papworth Hospital during the coronavirus pandemic. As a specialist lung hospital and one of only five national ECMO centres, our Critical Care Unit has been the busiest in the East of England.*

*We are acutely aware of the strain that working on the front-line places on our staff and we are doing all we can to support their emotional and physical well-being at this time. Your donation to Royal Papworth Hospital Charity has provided additional support for staff as they work tirelessly caring for patients with coronavirus.*

*By providing pick-up stations across the hospital with essentials, treats and overnight packs, we have been able to give something back to our staff, keep them going during these challenging times and show them how much they mean to us all.*

*On behalf of our patients, their families and the staff at Royal Papworth Hospital thank you once again for your generosity."*

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# The Howard Hall Masonic Centre

NHS, social care and frontline workers  
celebration day – 5th July 2021



Howard Hall -Braintree

On the 5th of July 2021, the 73rd birthday of the creation of the NHS, Essex Freemasons joined together with other local and National organisations to celebrate the work and dedication of the NHS, social care and frontline workers and to remember the ultimate sacrifice that many had made during the pandemic.

The Howard Hall Masonic Centre in Braintree was honoured to host Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst, as well as the Chair of Braintree District Council, Councillor Sue Wilson, to help mark this important date and remember all those who had gone above and beyond in the service of us all. Our Deputy Grand Superintendent In Charge, W.Bro. Nick Franklin, APGP W.Bro. Andrew McLeod, as well as several other brethren were able to show our appreciation and support.

It was our pleasure to have representatives from the NHS and Essex Fire and Rescue, as well as representatives of the membership of the hall to witness the NHS flag being raised, lowered, a 2 minute silence being marked along with a local bugle player and Grandson of a member of Joshua Nunn Lodge in Halstead, then a toast proposed by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex which was well received by all present.

It was an extra special treat for everyone to witness the sharp presentation of the standards of the British Legion, the Braintree and Bocking Standard, as well as the Tabor Academy standard (the first bespoke affiliated school standard in Britain) by Bro. David Wiles, Bro. Gordon Roach (both Rosslyn Lodge, Braintree) and Bro. Chris Butcher of the Lodge of Hope (Brightlingsea). The three standards, as well as the welcome and farewell to the Lord Lieutenant was superbly marked by Bro. Mike Simmons (also Rosslyn Lodge) to the sound of his bagpipes, which provided the perfect sound track to the formal part of the day.

All present were then provided with a perfect ploughman's lunch, which J&J Goldsmith (caterers) produced boxed in order for everyone to be able to enjoy as a safe, socially distanced, lunch.

In the evening, the ProvGStwds completed their county wide tour at the hall and were joined by 40 other brethren and their partners to mark the 8pm clap outside of the hall, after which all retired to take part in a short quiz.

The day ran smoothly and the Lord Lieutenant wrote to Nick Franklin to thank the hall for such a fantastic event to recognise the important work that the NHS, social care and frontline workers are achieving. It was also a great chance to welcome people back to the hall for the first time since the pandemic began and we would like to thank all who attended, worked hard before the day and on the day, especially Bro's David Wiles, Gordon Roach, Chris Butcher and Mike Simmons for their ceremonial work and Bro. Stephen Nichols and W. Bro. Mike Barrett for recording the event for posterity during the day and evening.

Article written by W. Bro. Daniel Broyd (ProvGStwd)







# Saxon Hall Masonic Centre

## Congratulations from Sir David Amess MP

I would like to congratulate you and your team for organising such a splendid and successful occasion as yesterday was. I shall post your latest pictures on Twitter. I thought the people you gathered together made it a truly fitting tribute to our frontline workers.

With all good wishes  
Member of Parliament for Southend West

"Crowd" Photo front row: Dennis Baum, Chairman, Southend Masonic Centre; Cllr Margaret Borton, Mayor of Southend-on-Sea; Sir David Amess MP; Cllr Julie Gooding, Chairman - Rochford District Council.

Also represented: East of England Ambulance Service, Essex Police, One Love soup kitchen, South East Essex Homes volunteer co-ordinator, Councillors from Southend & Rochford Council, Tim Neobard from East Essex Hackspace.

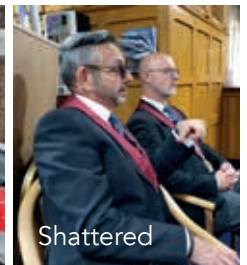
£1,000 will be donated to the Southend Hospital staff amenity fund by the Southend Masonic Centre together with a further £210 being collected on the day.



Saxon Hall - Southend



Chingford



Shattered



Cross Keys Masonic Hall - Grays



Hutton Masonic Hall



Loughton Masonic Hall



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Is everyone aware  
of the meeting date?

Do we need a  
Dispensation?

Have we agreed  
the ceremony?

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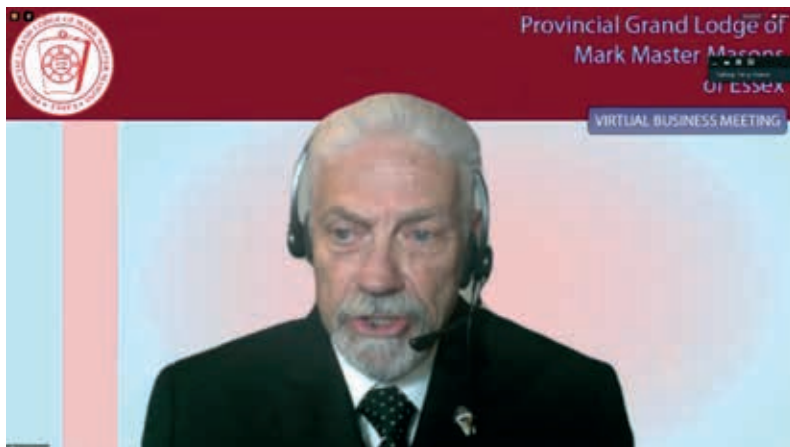
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Masonic Jewel Holder with Zipped  
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\* Accounts opened for all Secretaries\*



### ESSEX MARK PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE MEETING.

Months of planning with several rehearsals were finally put to good use in demonstrating how a Provincial Grand Lodge meeting can be held during these difficult times.

Over 180 Mark men from around the Province, Country and World, Zoomed in to the 2021 meeting on the 5th of June. And what an excellent meeting it was.



Sadly there were some who experienced the almost inevitable wi-fi issues and couldn't log on, who missed an excellent meeting. Videos played with details of departed Brethren, promotions, reports and plans for the future.

RW Bro Terence D Sheern, the Provincial Grand Master of Essex Mark Masons presented his report in style and Ryan Williams, the Grand Secretary detailed plans for the future.

All in all an excellent Provincial Grand Lodge meeting - but a close second to the real thing.

One of those who was unable to connect to the virtual meeting was VW.Bro Paul Reeves, Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge, who himself is a Mark Master Mason in Essex.

However, Provincial Charity Steward Colin Felton was on hand to receive a cheque for £11,000 presented for the Festival 2020. This brought the grand total donated so far from the Mark Province of Essex to £45,000.

Essex Mark Masons all look forward to the 2022 Felsted meeting.



Registered under Charities Acts 266577

## Southend and Essex MASONIC WELFARE TRUST

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





## Illumination across the board at Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter

At the meeting of the Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter on July 26, those lucky enough to be in attendance, along with most of the Provincial Executive, watched and heard a rare explanation of the Royal Arch Tracing Boards, by members of the Metropolitan Grand Stewards Demonstration team.

The lecture, in four parts, was informative and interesting, covering the origin of the use of the tracing boards and of course the symbolic meaning of the all-too recognisable images on the superb banners depicting them. The demonstration was only the second the Metropolitan Stewards had performed in Essex, following an evening at True Friendship Chapter 160. It had originally been presented at Clapton Chapter in 2019, where the late Prov Grand Superintendent Rodney Bass was MEZ.

The demonstration team later presented the Chapter with the script of the lecture along with the two tracing board banners, so the Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Demonstration Team, headed by Martin Cook APGP and run by Andy Fusher, could carry out the demo at other Chapters in the county.

A donation of £250 presented to the Metropolitan team will be handed on to the RMBI, in memory of John Morris, whose tracing board designs were used.

During the meeting, the current Principals, E Comps Colin J Innes, David J Spring and John R Crudgington, First, Second and Third respectively, were proclaimed for 2021-22, and E Comps David E Atterbury, John A Hoeffler and Christopher Hicks were declared as First, Second and Third Principals respectively for the ensuing year of 2022-23.

Nine joining members were welcomed to the Chapter.

Charity Steward, Ex Comp John Mansfield gave notice of motion of a donation of a further £1,000 to the Festival 2022, bringing the Chapter's total contribution to £25,000.

After the meeting more than 50 companions dined in harmony in the refurbished Masonic Hall at Braintree.











# Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Golf Day





