

the essex mason



The Official Journal of the Masonic Province of Essex

Issue 92 February 2022 £3



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PGM Foreword

Brethren and Companions, it has been a roller coaster ride for all of us over the last four months since my inauguration. Many of us were and are getting back to some sort of normality. I have seen a number of our Lodges and Chapters meeting and thriving, initiating and exalting new members.



The national digital marketing campaign has generated candidates and the updated Membership Pathway is now in full swing. I urge you to attend the seminars that are coming up.

We have continued to support many local community charities, including Food Banks; Families in Focus creating the best start in life for disadvantaged children; Southend Blind Welfare Organisation; Place2Be; Essex Headway and many others. Our Province is open for business.

The emergence of the Omicron variant has kept some of us wary of returning. This is understandable, however, it is hopeful that the spike has passed. Our centres are as clean and safe as possible. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

My congratulations go to those who have received letters awarding Craft Provincial ranks. Each is being rewarded and honoured for past and (hopefully!) future service for his Lodge and this Province. I look forward to seeing as many as possible of you all at our Craft Provincial Meeting in March at Great Queen Street when we can enjoy that very special day.

Paul W Tarrant
Provincial Grand Master and MEGS

Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 92 of Essex Mason, the Official Magazine for the Province of Essex.

Congratulations to all of the Brethren who have received Craft Provincial first appointments and promotions and our shop in Colchester is open alongside our online shop to supply your masonic regalia requirements, we have first appointment and promotion sets offering great value so please have a look at the Essex Mason website 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 and our customers for their continued commitment and support during these unprecedented times.

This issue includes a feature on the Investiture ceremonies of the Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent RW.Bro. Paul Tarrant at Freemasons Hall in September 2021 who became the 20th Provincial Grand Master of Essex, and several uplifting reports on meetings which have been very well attended as we return to some form of normality with the lifting of the Covid restrictions.

Thank you for all of the articles submitted for inclusion in this issue, and please have a look at the online supplement as it includes articles and reports that missed the publication cut-off or weren't included due to space availability.

The next issue of Essex Mason will be circulated in August 2022 so please submit articles to be considered for inclusion to magazine@essexmason.co.uk with a copy deadline of the 1st July 2022.

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W.Bro Paul William Tarrant Investiture

By Tony Hales
Provincial Communications Team



Freemasons from all over Essex travelled to a special Essex Provincial Investiture Meeting on Thursday 9th September 2021, held at Freemasons' Hall in London, the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) to see Paul William Tarrant installed as the 20th Provincial Grand Master (PGM) of Essex by the Deputy Grand Master of UGLE, Jonathan Spence.

Born in Leigh-on-Sea in 1954, Paul Tarrant became a Freemason in 1983, having been proposed by a close friend, David Badger, from the Little Theatre Club in Westcliff. He joined the Lodge of Fraternity No 5916, which now meets at Saxon Hall in Southend, and became the Master of the Lodge in 1994. Educated at Westcliff High School and Southend College of Technology, where he gained a diploma in Business, Paul has had a distinguished career working for Racal Electronics, HM Customs and Excise and the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Describing his biggest personal success as meeting Jenny, his wife, with music, theatre and the arts playing an important part in their lives. Whilst at the Rug Opera in Southend they helped raise over £80,000 for charity. Paul has also been the South Essex representative of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association and served as a Trustee of the Freda Parry Scholarship Fund helping young people follow a career in singing. With a keen interest in conservation, they are also supporters of the RSPB and Wildlife Trusts and enjoy walking three to four miles each day.



The first PGM for Essex, Thomas Dunkerley, was appointed in 1776. He became a famous Freemason after having served as a gunnery instructor in the Royal Navy and fought at the Battle of Quebec under command of another Freemason, General James Wolfe. In the late eighteenth century, Dunkerley helped modernise the then ritual and developed the concept of Provincial Grand Lodges. Today there are 48 Masonic Provinces in England and Wales with over 200,000 Freemasons. Essex is one of the largest with currently 9,120 members in 331 Lodges at 27 Masonic centres across the county.

This new appointment as the twentieth PGM for Essex comes at a pivotal time as public perception has changed favourably over the last year or so towards Freemasonry. Positive local press includes Essex Masons winning the 2020 Pride of Essex Awards and now "Engaging with the Community" in partnership with Braintree Museum is one of the most recent. Paul is determined to build on this positivity and attract more members not only to enjoy the friendship Freemasonry offers but also to help with all the charitable works and good causes in Essex which the Freemasons support. Over £7 million has been pledged by the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Freemasons charity, for Essex alone.



Paul Tarrant explained "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. 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". David Badger said "I'm sure that the Brethren of Essex will see more clearly what a great choice has been made, and that's not just because he is my friend. I'm certain Paul Tarrant will be remembered as one of the great Provincial Grand Masters of our time".



Pictures By Mike Barrett
Essex Communications Team



Ben Phillips and Dean Jones applied to join Essex Freemasons as direct un-sponsored applicants, through the Provincial Membership Team.

Having passed through the various phases of screening and met with the local Group Membership Officer (W.Bro. Daniel Broyd), they were passed over to Cromwell Lodge 6971 and met members at several social events. Both made an immediate positive impact in these social meetings and were clearly well matched to the lodge.

Ben and Dean were initiated on the 17th of November at the Howard Hall Masonic Centre in Braintree in back to back superb ceremonies witnessed by W.Bro. Charles Elliott (APGM for Cromwell Lodge on an official visit) and escorted by Provincial Grand Assistant Director of Ceremonies, Chris Sullivan. They were treated to excellent floor work followed by the preamble to the charge after initiation (delivered by W.Bro. Michael Dougall) and then the charge after initiation (delivered by W.Bro. Lee Taylor).

Ben and Dean were given a warm welcome in to Essex Freemasons and the lodge were especially please to welcome Bro. Stephen Hart (also a Member's Pathway initiate from Langthorne Lodge at Braintree) just days after his own initiation in to Freemasonry.



United Lodge No. 697 A Candidate, a master mason and the secretary

On the 17th of November, precisely one year after the original planned date at The United Lodge No697 in Colchester, W.Bro Andrew Colsell (Lodge Secretary) initiated his son 19 year old Bro Thomas Colsell with Grandfather Bro David King (also a member) present.

Attended by as many guests as members, including an official visit by W.Bro Jeffery Conway ProvJGW accompanied by his ProvGStwd W.Bro David Thorp, very well attended with close to 50 in the temple and festive board, it was a very merry occasion with members of many local lodges attending, including Colcestria 7123, Ostrea 8209, Pyefleet 8913, Comrades 2976 and Grey Friars 5169. Consequently, a bumper raffle and alms collection was had.





The Provincial Membership Team held an important event at Braintree Masonic Centre on 27th November 2021. Nearly 70 Brethren listened as Daniel Broyd, Group Membership Officer (GMO) for Braintree, Halstead and Kelvedon Masonic Centres, outlined what has changed and how the new UGLE Members' Pathway can help Lodges grow and thrive.

Daniel Broyd also explained how the new Members' Pathway is successfully progressing in Essex and elucidated the key messages of:

- Lodge planning,
- Attracting new members,
- Engaging with existing Brethren and
- Retrieving inactive Freemasons.

Provincial Grand Master (PGM), Paul Tarrant and Deputy PGM, Nick Franklin, were among the Brethren at the event which included a presentation, smaller group discussions and a Q&A session.

The Provincial Membership Team was there to answer questions. Afterwards the Team hosted nine potential new candidates with light refreshments, a tour of the temple, followed by an informal discussion about the Craft and what Freemasonry represents.

All prospective candidates from these events and those referred from UGLE's National Digital Marketing Campaign are being aligned to Lodges that have signed-up to the new Members' Pathway. More events for Lodges are planned for Chelmsford, Chingford, Colchester, Southend and Upminster.

Brian Chenier, a GMO, was emphatic the event was a great success. Leading from the front he immediately returned and put up a Provincial Membership Team poster on his Colchester Masonic Centre's notice board. Brian then reported to the Brethren of Colcestria Lodge No. 7123 meeting that evening saying "It was extremely pleasing to see the enthusiasm of all those who attended and the support from the very top which is appreciated. I will do my best to help our Lodges attract and benefit from more members."

Find out more about the Members' Pathway:

- Visit <https://b.ugle.org.uk/membership>
- Click on the QR code below
- Contact the Provincial Membership Officer, Ray Quiddington at ray.quiddington@essexPGL.org.uk, or
- Contact the Provincial Membership Communications Officer, Paul Kelly, at paul.kelly@essexPGL.org.uk

Discover the importance of Membership, attract new Brethren and watch Lodges grow.

Members' Pathway

Old Libertian Lodge Gathers Pace

By Tony Hales
Provincial Communications Team

Essex Freemasons of Old Libertian Lodge No. 6096 know all about having good foundations on which to re-build for the future. The Lodge proudly possesses two Ashlars carved from part of the Foundation Stone of the City of London Guildhall when it was removed for restoration work and thanks to the revamped Member's Pathway, they now have another very good reason.



The Members' Pathway is all about helping Lodges grow by helping them plan, attract new members, engage with existing brethren and encourage back inactive Freemasons. The member of the Provincial Grand Master's Leadership Team with responsibility for bringing this about is Assistant Provincial Grand Master (APGM), Rob Eels.

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The APGM is supported by the Provincial Grand Membership Officer (ProvGMO), Ray Quiddington; Deputy PMOs Dave Hawtin and Joe Curtis; Communications PMO Paul Kelly; the Provincial Pathway Officer (PPO) Daniel Broyd, plus Group Membership Officers (GMOs) supporting the Masonic Centres.



Rob Pye and Brian Woodward are GMOs for Upminster. As the Secretary for Old Libertian Lodge No. 6096, Rob Pye is most enthusiastic about the benefits the Members' Pathway can bring to Lodges.

On 16th December 2021 the Brethren of Old Libertian welcomed Tony Medcraft into Freemasonry. Rob Pye enthusiastically explained "Tony Medcraft is the third Pathway candidate to be Initiated into the Lodge. If any Lodge Secretaries or Membership Officers which meet at Upminster Masonic Hall want more information about membership or how I can help please get in touch with me."

The new Provincial Members' Pathway Team is all set to support every Lodge in Essex. Following a successful launch event at Braintree, a series of province-wide presentations are planned with the next one at Chelmsford Masonic Centre on Sunday 30th January 2022 at 12 noon till 2pm.



A Grand Display of Family Values

There was a grand display of family values at the Installation Meeting on 5th November 2021 at Frinton and Walton Masonic Hall with the Investiture of Robert John William Eels (Rob) as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master (APGM) by Paul Tarrant, the Provincial Grand Master for Essex.

Very happily married for 33 years to Sarah, and with two children Sophie and Will, Rob is first and foremost a family man. The 124 Brethren who attended saw Rob's son, Will; father Harry and Sarah's father Rob Humphrey, all take part in the ceremony. From being Initiated into Ostrea Lodge in 1991, Rob rose to become Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (AGDC) in 2012 and on one memorable occasion he escorted the Pro Grand Master, Peter Lowndes, to a parliamentary lodge and was DC for him.

Since joining Freemasonry 30 years ago, Rob has a clear understanding of the impact on lifestyles caused by economic, social and technological changes affecting working conditions, job security and the pressures of life. As such he is a befitting Pathway Lead for the Province and will apply the poignant advice which has helped him through life: 'You reap what you sow'.

Those who know Rob have found honesty and fairness as two of his key attributes but he is also a 'driver' and prepared to go the extra mile to complete the course, as he has done as a competitor in the famous Mille Miglia from Brescia to Rome and back for five years running. In 1955 Stirling Moss beat Juan Manuel Fangio in this legendary race of 1,000 miles.

Rob is keen to successfully steer the Members' Pathway forward with Ray Quiddington, the Provincial Grand Membership Officer, and his team to help lodges plan, gain new members, engage with existing brethren and encourage back inactive Freemasons. Rob added "I have seen first-hand the benefit to my Mother Lodge of being part of the University Scheme and the enrichment young members have afforded membership and fellowship within".

With much praise for the work of Almoners. Rob is a believer in the motto 'Audi, Vide, Tace' (listen, observe and be quiet) which first appeared in the Freemasons' Calendar in 1777 and he is pleased to see more involvement by Almoners especially in encouraging those brethren who simply want to come for the mindfulness of listening, observing and being quiet at Lodge Meetings.

In Rob's Masonic career the Brother who has had the biggest impact is John Robertson, his Mentor from when he joined Freemasonry. "I emulated lots of the good things John did" said Rob "and I also learned from Terry Nicholson for always being straight to the point as a DC". With lots more to do for our 'Masonic Family', Rob Eels is looking forward to meeting many more Brethren during his formal visits to Lodges as APGM and at the upcoming Pathway events being held across the Province.



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Young cancer patients across Essex 'we have your back'

Story By Colin Felton
Provincial Charity Steward



Six-year-old Chloe Chandler from Little Dunmow has courage stamped through every inch of her young body. From the age of two she has been fighting a rare form of cancer, a debilitating disease which has caused painful lesions to form on her spine and every part of her skeleton – and that battle is still not over.

Chloe, a pupil at Fitch Green Academy, is facing another year of intensive treatment and during that time she will spend many days and weeks just sitting in a hospital bed in common with hundreds of other young people from across Essex.

It is the boredom and the mental anguish of being away from home that makes fighting disease even harder, but that's about to change at all five of our major hospitals across the county thanks to a ground-breaking initiative by Essex based the Lennox Children's Cancer Fund and Essex Freemasons.

Hundreds of young people facing their own personal challenges with life changing diseases and receiving treatment at our major hospitals in Colchester, Chelmsford, Basildon, Southend and Romford will now receive back packs from the Charity, valued at around £100 each and loaded with everything they need to make their stay a little easier and slightly less stressful

Essex Freemasons have provided some £23,000 in grant funding to ensure that the service can be maintained for at least the next two years.

Vicky Nash, Family Support Officer for the Lennox Children's Cancer Fund, commented: "When children are diagnosed with cancer, they are often immediately whisked from their local hospital to their nearest Principal Treatment Centre. This happens so quickly that they and the parents are totally unprepared for what happens next which means they have understandably failed to bring with them essentials such as toothpaste and toiletries and much more."

"In many cases the children and parents will be in hospital for a long time and with Covid restrictions there is little or no access to community areas making it more, mentally challenging for young people and their families. Our 'We have you back' packs are designed to help overcome those problems – ensuring that the child patients and their parents have the essentials they need and something to do to beat the boredom."

The 'We have your back' packs are loaded with dozens of items from drink containers to board games, from colouring books and journals to luxury blankets, socks, gloves, headphones, chargers and much more. According to Chloe's mum Victoria they have will really make a difference, helping to change lives of young cancer patients for the better.

"Essex Freemasons and our 8,000 members are very much part of the diverse local community which is why we were pleased to support this initiative which will be operating at all of the major hospitals across the county," said Paul Tarrant, Provincial Grand Master for Essex Freemasons.

"The Lennox Children's Cancer Fund are doing some wonderful work and I am delighted that between us we will making lives easier for hundreds of local youngsters faced with fighting this dreadful disease."



Wivenhoe Masonic Hall Celebration Meeting

Story By Geoff Turpin
& Tony Hales

A Special Meeting at Wivenhoe Masonic Hall

Wivenhoe, mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086, on the banks of the River Colne has a rich maritime and Masonic heritage. The Essex County Standard in October 1893 describes the interest, excitement and how the town and shipyards were gaily decorated with bunting and a large crowd gathered at the railway station to greet the distinguished guests for the Consecration of Colne Lodge, the first in the town.

Just 28 years later, on 17th October 1911, Wivenhoe had its own new Masonic Hall. The then Deputy Provincial Grand Master (DepProvGM), His Honour Judge Frederick Philbrick QC, was the guest of honour at the first meeting. One hundred and ten years later on 29th September 2021 at the same Hall, a Celebration Meeting was held and the guest of honour was the incumbent DepProvGM, Nick Franklin.

This special occasion was a cluster meeting of Colne Lodge No 2477 and Ostrea Lodge No 8209 to celebrate having taken advantage of the cessation of meetings during the pandemic to carry out an extensive refurbishment of the Masonic Hall including work to the inside of the roof, new insulation, re-installation of the lighting system, the secretary's and treasurer's table, honours boards for other Lodges, the pillars and re-painting throughout.

Nick Franklin was accompanied by Tony White, an Assistant Provincial Grand Master (APGM) and several Provincial Officers including Geoff Turpin, the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies (ProvGDC), Paul Thurgood, the Deputy Grand Sword Bearer (ProvDepGSwdB), a Provincial Senior and Junior Grand Deacon and two Provincial Grand Standard Bearers. The Brethren were treated to a presentation by Colne Lodge Secretary Bob Needham entitled "The Establishing of Wivenhoe Masonic Hall" followed with an illustrated presentation by Paul Fell, the Secretary of Ostrea Lodge entitled "The Refurbishment of Wivenhoe Masonic Hall". Paul also commented "it was the first full meeting for the two Craft Lodges since lockdown ended and everyone had a wonderful time"

Many of the Brethren had undertaken much of the work themselves and were praised by the DepProvGM who said he "was very impressed with what had been done especially as it was all completed within budget". Nick surprised and delighted everyone by quoting a poignant piece about "a mighty Masonic structure within whose precincts we stand today" as written in the booklet 'Colne Lodge First 100 years 1893 to 1993'. The DepProvGM was presented with a £1,000 donation by Colne Lodge to the Essex 2022 Festival for the Masonic Charitable Foundation which has pledged £7 million to help charities and good causes in Essex.



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A well-known secret about Freemasonry is that as well as maintaining their own premises, numerous local charities are helped by Essex Freemasons volunteering their time, equipment and skills to refurbish or enhance facilities at buildings which charities use. With skilled craftsmen such as Bob Needham, who is proud of his paintwork, and Paul Fell, who is slightly biased towards his attention to detail on ornamental work, it is beyond doubt that Freemasonry in Essex has a lot to offer those who enjoy volunteering, doing charitable work and supporting good causes.



Essex Freemasons fund eyes on the sea to help save lives



Pictures By Mike Barrett
Essex Communications Team

New state of the art CCTV cameras will ensure that eyes will always be on the sea looking out for people in distress and saving lives around the Canvey coastline, thanks to a series of grants from Essex Freemasons.

The money, totalling some £3,600, has been donated to the Coastwatch charity situated in the grounds of Canvey Island Yacht Club. It is one of the busiest areas in the country for call outs to rescue people in difficulty, which means that CCTV has become a vital tool to assist volunteers on the ground.

Grahame Harris, Station Manager at the Canvey HQ, explained: "Because of the tidal situation which can catch out unwary visitors and the large numbers who enjoy being on the sea the Coastguard record more incidents around the Canvey and Southend area establishing the Southend RNLI Station as the busiest in the country."

"This is why we needed to install CCTV to ensure that we always had eyes out to sea to provide a record of incidents and ensure that rescue teams can reach those in distress as quickly as possible. This is why the money from Essex Freemasons will make such a difference."

The £3,600 needed to fund the new TV system was made up from donations from St Katharines Chapter which meets at Rochford, a direct grant from the Essex Freemasons Community Fund and additional donations from St. Katharine's Lodge and from Counos Lodge which meets at Southend.

"One of the members of St. Katharine's Lodge, Bill Blissett, is a volunteer at Coastwatch, Canvey," said Keith Frost, Charity Steward for St Katharines Chapter. "He told us of the need to raise money to pay for new CCTV equipment and once we knew how it would be used, our members were pleased to authorise a donation."

Members of St Katharine's Chapter and Lodge and Counos, together with other senior Essex Freemasons turned out in force to see how the money had been spent and the difference the new CCTC system will make. They are pictured with Station Manager Grahame and volunteers Bill Blissett and Joanne Stapleton.

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Charity Freemasons Challenge

W.Bro. Andy Mapperson who is one of the founders of the Wheel of Fellowship Lodge 9016 in Maldon is part of the 3 man Committee of THE FREEMASONS CHALLENGE, who are organising the whole event with the assistance of the University Scheme Reps and hope to culminate the walk at the Quarterly Communication on September 8th when the David Kenneth Williamson Cup (DKW) will be taken into the meeting by a group of University students. They are raising money for the Duke of Edinburgh

It is an open event and they have already had lady Freemasons take part and Sir David Wotton did one of the legs over a week-end.

The Objectives of the Challenge are

- To promote Freemasonry
- To promote engagement and fraternity between Scheme lodges
- To raise charitable donations through sponsorship during the journey - all donations will go to the Duke of Edinburgh Memorial Fund

The Challenge will start and finish at Great Queen Street and be completed between the Quarterly Communication meetings in June (original date) and September. It will take the form of teams from each lodge carrying a replica of the DKW Trophy – a trophy claimed by one Scheme lodge visiting another – from the centre where it meets to the next nearest Scheme lodge. The Cup will be passed on in turn until the centres of all Scheme lodges in England and Wales have been visited, a total distance of over 2021 miles.

The DKW Cup arrived from Norwich to Wivenhoe Masonic Hall on the 28th August where Ostrea Lodge 8209 received the Cup. From there, on the 29th August the cup was taken to Chelmsford Masonic where many Essex Brethren from Ostrea Lodge (Wivenhoe Masonic Hall), Wheel of Fellowship Lodge 9016 and Lodge of St. Peter 1024 (Maldon) joined in the walk at Hatfield Peveral/ Boreham. Once we arrived at the Chelmsford Masonic Hall we were welcomed and received by the Deputy Assistant Provincial Grand Master in charge, W. Bro. Peter Hollingsworth PSGD where the cup was handed to the Secretary of Boswell Lodge 7759.



Freemasons Donate £1140 to Maldon Saints Youth Football Club Defibrillator Appeal



Having seen Maldon Saints YFC appeal for funding to purchase Defibrillators, the Brethren of Mitre Lodge No 9307, (many of whom live in Maldon), decided to donate £500 towards the cost. However, this amount was not sufficient to purchase all that was necessary, so the Secretary of Mitre Lodge asked the Brethren of the Maldon Masonic Lodges if they would join in and also support Maldon Saints YFC with their appeal.

All were pleased to join in, and they were, Lodge of St Peter, Beeleigh Abbey Lodge, Daen Ingas Lodge, Wheel of Fellowship Lodge, Frederick Leistikow Lodge, Coromandel Chapter, Frederick Leistikow Chapter, and Plume Chapter.

The Grand Total was increased from £500 to £1140 which therefore allows Maldon Saints to buy the Portable Defibrillator and the Training for the members who will operate it.

The Donation was made on Saturday the 4th September by Dave Harrop the Master of Mitre Lodge and Paul Beech the Chairman of Maldon Masonic Hall on behalf of the Maldon Lodges.

From the left, Matt Elderton Maldon Saints YFC Fundraiser, Paul Beech Chairman Maldon Masonic Hall, Dave Harrop Worshipful Master Mitre Lodge, Darren Suitmore Chairman Maldon Saints YFC.

Also present from Maldon Saints YFC were Zeta Conway Secretary and Paul Height.

£34,000 grant will give a voice to those with learning disabilities facing end of life care in Basildon and Thurrock

colin.felton@essexpgl.org



Pictures By Mike Barrett
Essex Communications Team

Pictured while visiting St Luke's in Thurrock are: Colin Felton, Charity Steward for Essex Freemasons; Eileen Marshall, Chief Executive of St Luke's; Michelle Mitchell, Head of Fund Raising and Lee Taylor, Asst. Provincial Grand Master.

Essex Freemasons have given £34,000 to St Luke's Hospice in Basildon as part of a ground-breaking initiative to give a voice to those with learning disabilities who are facing end of life decisions affecting them and their families.

The grant, donated via the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF), the Freemasons own charity, will enable the Hospice to work with this vulnerable group and those involved in their care.

Sarah Linzey, Head of wellbeing and information and supportive care services states 'there are more than 30 care homes across the Basildon and Thurrock areas which support people with Learning Disabilities. Taking into account those people living in private homes and apartments, there are potentially large numbers of people unaware of the end of life and palliative care services that can be offered by a Hospice such as St Luke's. The initiative aims to encourage early referral in these situations, working in partnership with staff and agencies involved to help facilitate this.

"We are so very grateful to Essex Freemasons who provided this grant to support this important work," said Sarah. "It is urgently needed for both people with learning disabilities and their parents or carers. Those working with people with learning disabilities, including care home staff, and their carers need support and advice in end-of-life care situations.

"We have had cases where parents or carers have died and the person with a learning disability who is left may struggle with not knowing how to organise a funeral for their loved one. If it is someone with a learning disability facing their own end of life care, they need help and support to make their wishes known."

The £34,000 grant from Essex Freemasons is part of a £100,000 package which has seen support for three Essex Hospices - St Luke's, St Helena in Colchester and Farleigh in Chelmsford, who have all received more than £30,000 each.

"I am delighted that we have been able to make such a difference in the local community," said Lee Taylor, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, after visiting St Luke's new Thurrock Hospice.

"It is important that people with learning disabilities have equitable access to advice, care and support in end of life care and I am confident that St Luke's, by working with individuals and alongside partner agencies in hospital and the community, will help provide this."

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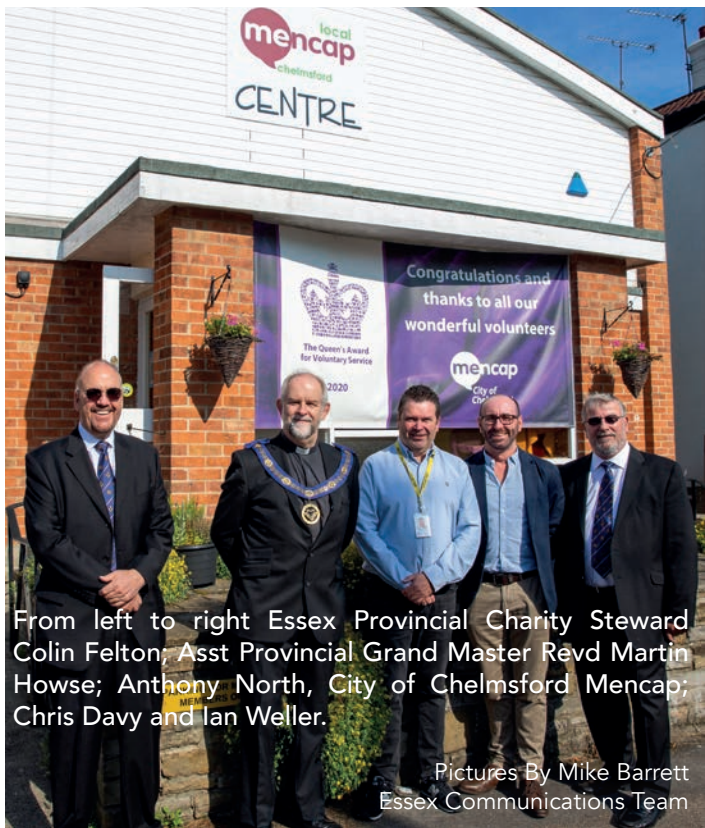
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Chelmsford Freemasons pledge support for Mencap



From left to right Essex Provincial Charity Steward Colin Felton; Asst Provincial Grand Master Revd Martin Howse; Anthony North, City of Chelmsford Mencap; Chris Davy and Ian Weller.

Pictures By Mike Barrett
Essex Communications Team

Freemasons from Chelmsford based Lodge of Integrity have pledged their support for a local charity, City of Chelmsford Mencap, with a £1,000 donation to help it get back on its feet after the COVID pandemic.

The money, £500 directly donated by Lodge members and the balance provided by the Essex Freemasons Community Fund, will help to make up a major shortfall in events income which has resulted in a significant downturn in the services the charity has been able to provide.

Anthony North, Chair of Trustees at City of Chelmsford Mencap, explained: "Local fund-raising events would usually have contributed to the cost of classes every day for up to 30 students with learning difficulties."

"This has not been possible because of Covid and our classes have had to be significantly reduced, with many moving online, which in turn has impacted on what we can do for our 80 plus registered members in the Chelmsford area."

"Like many similar organisations we are still facing restrictions and social distancing measures but cannot wait to get our classes back up to full strength and this donation from the Chelmsford Freemasons will make a huge difference."

Knowing the problems faced by City of Chelmsford Mencap, which is a standalone independent charity, Lodge of Integrity Mason Chris Davy and Charity Steward Ian Weller spoke to their members who immediately agreed to make a donation. This was immediately supported by the Essex Freemasons Community Fund.

Assistant Provincial Grand Master and a Trustee of the Essex Freemasons Community Fund Revd. Martin Howse, commented: "We were delighted to match fund the donation from Lodge of Integrity and support a charity that does so much for the local community and sincerely hope that they will soon be able to operate a full service once again."

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APG SECURITY

£50,000 grant from Essex Freemasons to help children in hospices



Advanced technology, helping life-limited and disabled children using hospice services across Essex to play, communicate and achieve things they never thought possible, has been secured for at least the next four years thanks to a £50,000 grant from Essex Freemasons.

Developed by Lifelites, one of the country's most innovative charities, the grant will help children, many of whom are suffering with complex cognitive and physical impairments with technology which has been described as 'simply magical', giving young people opportunities to join in with the world around them, irrespective of their disabilities.

"This grant will make a massive difference with our work across Essex allowing us to fund the technology needed to enhance the lives of life-limited and disabled children using hospice services," said Simone Enefer-Doy, Chief Executive of Lifelites.

"Essex Freemasons have been a huge supporter of our charity allowing us to provide a wide variety of assistive and inclusive equipment such as virtual reality and sensory tents. Most importantly this technology allows children to communicate, in many cases just by using eye movements."

Essex hospices do not pay a penny towards the equipment and services donated by Lifelites and the charity continues to maintain the complex technology to ensure it is kept in good working order for the children for whom every second counts. The equipment together with ongoing technical support and training at each hospice costs Lifelites around £50,000 over four years and is paid for entirely through donations.

"We have been very aware for some time of the magnificent work carried out by Lifelites," said Paul Tarrant, Provincial Grand Master for Essex Freemasons. "Their work in the community changes lives for children with life-limiting conditions and their families. The technology they donate is awesome and makes such a huge difference which is why we were pleased to make this grant."

The technology and services donated by Lifelites is literally changing lives. It gives children in hospices the opportunity to do so many things that they never thought possible, such as paint a picture, create music, play a game, or communicate with their family – and that service can now continue across Essex until at least 2025.





Men's Health Day



By Chris Lee
Provincial Almoners Team

With eighteen months of pushbacks due to the pandemic, a determined Essex Freemasons Provincial Almoner's Team partnered with CHAPS, the Men's Health Charity, and the NHS to hold the latest of their health check days. These events have become popular among Freemasons with their families and friends. A range of screens and tests are offered, free of charge, to determine overall personal health status and give help in seeking early treatment should any anomalies be found.



On Wednesday 27th October 2021 at Essex County Cricket Ground in Chelmsford over 300 individual PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) tests were undertaken, 200 combined tests for heart, skin cancer and overall health, plus more than 400 attendees, with over 20% who were not Freemasons, were able to learn about a range of associated issues with health professionals on hand to assist.

Paul Tarrant, the Provincial Grand Master (PGM) of Essex Freemasons, was one of the first to register for the event. On behalf of everyone who attended, Paul conveyed his appreciation to the Provincial Almoner's Team for all their hard work in making sure the event took place and was so successful.

The PGM pointed out "The value of the health checks cannot be under-estimated. The work undertaken by all involved on these important days enables everyone who attends an opportunity to catch any problems early, seek treatment and move on in a positive direction. There is no doubt that these events help ensure that one year ahead some of those who attend will be in a far healthier state than had they not attended. I would urge everyone to go along whenever the opportunity is provided."



Gary Hostler, the Provincial Grand Almoner, added: "It's been a long time coming but I am delighted that the event has gone so well. The success of the day is inspiring and I should like to pay tribute to my Team and especially those who have worked so hard in the build-up and on the day. We must also thank everyone at CHAPS and all the healthcare professionals who partnered with us for their valuable input."

The Essex Men's Health Day 2021 was sponsored by the Essex Freemasons Community Fund with the cost of every PSA test at approximately £20 each being covered by the fund. The Freemasons gave over £51 million in 2020 for charitable and community work and do more than 18 million hours of volunteering each year. Other similar events are being considered for those who were unable to attend on the day and the Provincial Almoner's Team will be in touch with further details when they are available.

Provincial Grand Almoner
W.Bro Gary Hostler Gary.Hostler@EssexPGL.org.uk

Holy Royal Arch

ESSEX ROYAL ARCH MASONS GETTING BACK ON TRACK



Alongside the railway track, a short distance from the famous 'Frinton Gates' level crossing, stands Kirby Masonic Hall which hosted the Installation Convocation of Essex First Principals Chapter No 3256 on Thursday 23rd September 2021. It was the Chapter's first convocation since the lifting of restrictions and an appropriate location to get back on track since the last meeting two years ago.

Tributes were paid to departed Companions, including the late Rodney Bass whose valued support for the Chapter and its work will long be remembered. Proceedings were enhanced with 19 new members joining but as Bruce Mapson, an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals (APGP), said "the surprise of the evening was that the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent (MEGS), Paul Tarrant, presented Elliott Chevin with his Patent as the Deputy Grand Superintendent (DepGSupt)".

Following the Installation of David Branch and David Jones as Second and Third Principals, the 89 Companions in attendance watched as their Past First Principal of 1995, Dennis Baum standing in for Frank Sharp who was unable to be present, Installed Richard Mead, according to ancient custom, as the First Principal of the Chapter.

The newly appointed First Principal delivered an oration to the Companions entitled 'Thomas Dunckerley – A Freemason of Great Renown', in which he gave many facts to demonstrate how Thomas Dunckerley (1724-96) was a prime mover in the expansion and development of English Freemasonry. Some interesting analysis was presented pointing out that Dunckerley was a decisive man and capable of acting on his own initiative.

It seems appropriate for such an address to have been given on this occasion for two reasons. Firstly, as explained by Prestonian Lecturer Tony Harvey in the latest edition, Issue 55, of Freemasonry Today, the earliest record of a Royal Arch degree itself in England was when Thomas Dunckerley was made a Royal Arch Mason in Portsmouth in 1754. Secondly, the Grand Superintendent for Essex from 1776 – 1796 was Thomas Dunckerley and his present-day successor, Paul Tarrant, is the 14th to lead the Essex Royal Arch Masons.

As the First Principal of Essex First Principals Chapter, Richard Mead will be a great advocate for Royal Arch Masonry in Essex. He commented "Because Royal Arch Masonry follows on from Craft Initiation, Passing and Raising, the members tend to be more established Masons and because of that are generally more committed. I personally find the ceremonies very impressive and easy to understand. The story following on from the Obligation is very interesting and is a fantastic ceremony to participate in whether as the Candidate, an Officer or as a Principal. In addition, there are three great lectures, which add further to the ceremony of Exaltation".

With so many passionate Companions in Essex, such as Paul Tarrant, Elliott Chevin and Richard Mead, it looks like the 4,200 Royal Arch Masons of the 120 Chapters which meet at 25 Centres in the Province did 'Get Ready to Get Ready' and are now 'Getting Back on Track'.

Enrich Your Craft Experience
By Joining the Holy Royal Arch

A 'Freedom Day' Exaltation: Victorian Chapter No. 2184

By Gerald Reilly
Communications Team



The Chapter was Consecrated, 9th December 1895, by His Honour F.A. Philbrick Q.C. (too many high masonic and other honours to mention here) in The Phoenix Hotel Rainham. Among the founders, the licensed vituallers profession was very well represented; this happy trait developed further with exaltees and joining-members during the early years. Chapter meetings continued to be held in hotels and COIs were in public houses until the move in 1947 to Chingford Masonic Centre.

Interestingly in July 1896, the Chapter was granted a dispensation to hold a 'Masonic Service' in 'Masonic Clothing' at Rainham Church in support of its Restoration Fund. From the conclusion of WWI to 1922, there were forty-six Exaltees! Thereafter, most years required dual exaltations until the 1970s. (Perhaps post-contagion, we should be looking for increased numbers.)



In Victorian Chapter's first hundred years, 325 joined or were Exalted from 105 different chapters and lodges; this included 67 from the namesake Mother Lodge.

'Freedom Day' Exaltation, 19th July 2021, the first meeting for 18 months with thirty-five members and visitors in attendance. (Image L-R, Frank Lawrence H.; Mike Fox Z, Dave Weightman Exalte; and Alan Jory J.)

Exalte Dave Weightman joined Freemasonry in 2010. His para-medical colleagues included Freemasons; he had noted their gentlemanliness,

purposefulness and integrity. This created a respectful intrigue and thus welcomed an invitation, from a colleague, to join. At his Initiation into Sancto Claro Lodge No. 9486, he was delighted to see colleagues in attendance.

Now, Dave is unable to imagine not being a mason it offers him:- friendship, a sense of family, belonging and community – "magical". He chose to concentrate on progress to the Chair and now, successfully achieved, has become a Royal Arch Companion; this fourth step he sees as a natural, logical, progression to enhance the benefits of Freemasonry and the contribution he can make to it.

A book could be written about Dave's nigh thirty years as a paramedic, instructor, air-crew and the awards received: this vital life-saving work is greatly valued by the community and the Air Ambulance has received the enduring support of Essex masons. However, both the highs and lows of this profession are, enduring traumatic – it's not a case of just logging-out in the evening. Whilst this work attracts caring interest and appreciation, it must be appreciated that their 'days at the office' are often, something about which they would rather not speak.



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Chapter of XV Consecration



In July 2017 at Felsted School, Lodge of XV was Consecrated by RW Bro Rodney Lister Bass in the presence of over 300 Founders, friends and visitors of the Essex rugby lodge.

1556 days later and some 579 days late, The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Paul Tarrant was pleased to Consecrate the Chapter of XV, the first rugby based Chapter in the history of the Supreme Grand Chapter of England. It was also the first Consecration of a Chapter in Essex for almost 10 years.

The Founders of the Chapter have had to tackle many obstacles in the build up to the event. Covid has conspired to postpone the Consecration for some 579 days and it is a testament to the resolve of the petitioners that over 100 Companions gathered from across country to witness this unique event and to enjoy an outstanding Festive Board at Saxon Hall, Southend.

Following a faultless Consecration overseen by the Provincial Director of Ceremonies, E. Comp Joe Shearer, E. Comps Mike Hall, Dave Hawtin and Michael Fleet were installed as the primus Z, H and J respectively and a full installation and appointment of officers followed.

In his first act as Z, E. Comp Mike Hall announced that the Chapter would adopt 3 unattached widows via the Almoners Team which was received well by all present, including the Provincial Grand Almoner.

The Festive Board that followed was conducted in good order, although Companions should be aware that future meetings will include a Festive Board similar to that of the Lodge of XV with 'fines' payable and the monies donated to local rugby clubs and associated charities.

In his response MEGS Paul Tarrant said he was delighted to witness the 'conversion' of the Lodge to a Chapter and that with the level of support shown to the whole XV project that they wouldn't need to 'try' too hard to emulate the success of their Craft brothers.

Primus Z, E. Comp Mike Hall was overwhelmed by the day and commented: "It's been a long time coming but we got there in the end. I can only thank the Province and the Founders for their patience and all those who attended under difficult circumstances".

The first regular meeting of the Chapter is on Friday 21st January 2022 at Howard Hall, Braintree with the first Exaltation waiting in the wings. Please contact robertmatthew1948@gmail.com for further details.

The next meeting of Lodge of XV is on Friday 26th November 2021 at Howard Hall, Braintree, with a double Raising on the agenda. Please contact lodgexv@gmail.com for further details.



Holy Royal Arch

ESSEX PROVINCIAL GRAND STEWARDS' CHAPTER PRESENTATION TEAM



At the meeting of the Essex Provincial Grand Stewards' Chapter on 26 July at Braintree, the Metropolitan Grand Stewards' Chapter presented an excellent and absorbing history and explanation of the 'Royal Arch Tracing Boards', a new presentation, which was extremely well received by all present.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Metropolitan Grand Stewards' Chapter passed over a copy of the script and the Tracing Boards to our Chapter and authorised its presentation to the Chapters of our Province, the first Province outside of London to be so authorised.

The premiere presentation will be at Essex First Principals' Chapter meeting on 21 April at Saxon Hall. This will be a high profile event and all Companions are welcome to attend whether as members or guests.

To book your place please contact the Chapter's Scribe E., Ian Marshall, by email at scribe.e3256@gmail.com.

This adds to the presentations available to Chapters from the Presentation Team.

In addition, the Support Team offers support to Chapters by providing Companions familiar with the ritual to assist with ceremonies.

Full details of the both Teams' services can be found on the Cube. From the Home page select 'Essentials' and then 'Chapter Support'.





Essex Royal Arch

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

Essex Provincial Grand Stewards in Charity Clay Shoot Raised over £1,450 towards Essex 2022 Festival Target



Story by Tony Hales and Pictures by Mike Barrett of the Provincial Communications Team

On Saturday 25th September 2021, twenty-four novices and thirty-six experienced shooters convened at the Essex Shooting Ground in Fyfield for a morning of clay shooting. Gary Soars, a Provincial Grand Steward, helped make the event enjoyable for everyone who took part.

After an informative and interesting safety briefing, the novices quickly began to down the clays with increasing ease whilst the more experienced shooters headed into nearby woodland and began their eighty-clay shoot competition.

Gary said "A fantastic time was had by all involved with many of the novices commenting that they would be looking to purchase their own gun in the near future so that they could participate in the sport going forward." Those who took part also had a large cooked breakfast and tasty lunch provided by Nicola and the other staff at the Blackbull Inn in Fyfield.

The novice category was won by Darren Ridgewell with Daniel Smith finishing second whilst Dave Wilder won in the experienced shooter category with Mark Woollard as runner up. Mrs Marie Brown was the winner in the Ladies section.

The event raised a further £1,450.50 by this year's Provincial Grand Stewards towards the Essex 2022 Festival target.

"A special thanks is due to Paul Bates and Rob Hollier, Essex Masonic Clay Association Chairman, and the staff at the Essex Shooting Ground for everything they did to make the event a success".





ESSEX CORNERSTONE



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At his September investiture, our new Provincial Grand Master RW.Bro Paul Tarrant spoke about the need to reboot and restart Freemasonry following the pandemic which shut down masonry across England. The Essex Cornerstone Club saw this as the perfect opportunity to re-energise members for the return to their Lodges after such a long absence.

The Club has held several events - BBQs, Go-karting, Pub Socials and a Brick Lane Curry night all with a view to get young Essex Freemasons reconnected over the last few months.

Essex Cornerstone Foundation

At the end of an impressive tree lined drive in the Essex countryside is the stunning Braxted House with its secret walled garden, enchanting pavilion, and exquisite orangery. There, on 9th October 2021, members of the Essex Cornerstone Club welcomed fellow Freemasons, their families and friends with reception drinks and canapes followed by a delicious three-course meal. After dinner the guests were treated to an evening of live music and danced the night away in the marquee.

This Autumn Ball black-tie event celebrated the launch of the Essex Cornerstone Foundation, a new charity set up to support local Essex good causes, particularly those with young people in mind. The Foundation unites the charitable efforts of the Essex Cornerstone Club and the Essex Cornerstone Lodge, the world's first Lodge for Young Freemasons. The charity raffle raised a wonderful £1800.

Our guest of honour, VW.Bro Nick Franklin, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Essex Freemasons, said "The Essex Cornerstone Club has become an integral part of Essex Freemasonry over the last five years since it was established and has been a driving force amongst New and Young Masons Clubs across the English Constitution"



Join the Club!

If you're not a member of the Club we'd love for you to join us, head over to www.essexcornerstone.com/join to find out how you can be part of one of the best New and Young Masons Clubs in the Country for just £10. Joining the Club also entitles you to join the Lodge and the new Chapter.





Christmas jumpers, Russian dancers and unlimited vodka, just another spectacular Essex Cornerstone Lodge meeting and Festive Board!

In December, W.Bro Reiss Duthie was installed as Lodge Master. Reiss was a founding member of the Club and past Club President. During the ceremony The Provincial Grand Master helped as SW, The DeptPGM as the JW along with other members of the Executive playing a part. After the meeting the 110 members and guests were treated to a live video call with the Grand Master of Russia, Andrey Bogdanov, who gave us all an insight into Freemasonry in Russia and the fraternal links that we share. We all raised a glass or 3 of vodka toasting to the Craft before heading off to the Festive Board.

The Lodge made a donation of £2022 to the Essex Festival, the donation meant the Lodge was awarded Grand Patron status. The Lodge Secretary announced that nine Club & Lodge members were to be appointed as Provincial Grand Stewards in March along with two Assistant Director of Ceremonies, a fantastic achievement for Essex Cornerstone.

At the 'Russian Christmas themed Festive Board, where everyone wore their Christmas jumpers, Russian Kossack dancers wowed the Brethren with their impressive moves then a Russian themed 3 course meal was served. The Provincial Grand Master said 'This Lodge has become a Pillar of the Province', he then went on to serenade guests with the Master's song. We raised a brilliant £1900.

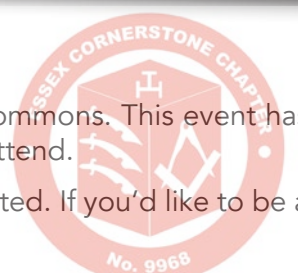


2022 and beyond

In February the Club will be hosting its Annual Members' Dinner at the House of Commons. This event has already sold out but we are operating a waiting list for members who would like to attend.

March will see the petition of the new Essex Cornerstone Chapter signed and submitted. If you'd like to be a Founder of the Chapter please email jackg@essexcornerstone.com

Keep an eye on our social media pages and new website for our other social and masonic learning events.



A Southern Star is Born on Wednesday 10th of November 2021.



It was rather wet and dreary on the morning of Wednesday, 10th November 2021 at The Square in Upminster as the Brethren gathered to be a part of another landmark moment in the history of the Mark Province of Essex; the birth of a new Lodge, The Southern Star Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 2026.

Landmark because this Lodge brings us to an impressive "first" fifty in the number of Lodges in the Mark Province a testament to the energy, drive and commitment of the Provincial Grand Master, his Executive and all the Mark Men in Essex to our Order especially given the "challenges" of the recent past.

The Brethren in attendance then filled the Temple and at exactly 11.00am the meeting began with the Consecrating Officer entering the Temple with his escort and taking the Chair. He then appointed his Provincial Officers to assist him and opened a Lodge of Mark Master Masons. The Consecrating Officer then addressed the assembled Brethren on the purpose of the day. The Provincial Director of Ceremonies addressed the ProvGM. and begun what was to be an enormously impressive display of ritual. At the ProvGDC's direction, the Petitioners stood in the East whilst the Warrant was read by the Provincial Grand Secretary. The Consecrating Officer, together with the Provincial Wardens, carried out the Consecration Ceremony in an exemplary manner. At this moment a Southern Star was born and began to shed its light on the brethren there assembled.

The Lodge having been consecrated, the Provincial Grand Master then handed over proceedings to his Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. John Finlay, for the Installation of the Master Designate, W.Bro. Roy Kaye, the ProvGAlmoner.

At the conclusion of Installation Ceremony the Worshipful Master returned to the agenda as the Lodge then approved its brand new bye-laws and then, under a proposition from the Worshipful Master, bestowed Honorary membership on the Consecrating Officer and his team. The PGM. rose and accepted this on behalf of all his assisting Officers passing on his sincere thanks to the Brethren for the fantastic gesture.

After a short break for photographs and a very quick drink the Brethren sat down an excellent Festive Board where the ProvGM gave an entertaining toast to the newest Worshipful Master in the Province of Essex.

This fine day finally came to an end 3.40pm and the Brethren parted company in high spirits with the knowledge that they are always welcome at the newest "star" in the Province.



"Welcome to Essex, The Southern Star Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No.2026"



left to right - W.Bro. John Finlay (DepPGM) - W.Bro. Geoff Newman (ProvGJD)
W.Bro. Paul Busby (ProvGSec) - W.Bro. Steve Joslin (DepProvGDC)
W.Bro. Dave Todd (PProvGSTwd) - W.Bro. Les Irving PProvGSO (seated)

ZIP-WIRE CHALLENGE



On the 16th of April next year, five intrepid Essex Freemasons, who are also Essex Royal Arch and Essex Mark members, will launch themselves into the unknown to help launch the Essex Mark 2030 Festival. These brave (or daft) members will perform a ZIP-WIRE challenge at the Bluewater Shopping Centre in Kent. Sponsorship is in aid of the Essex Mark 2030 Festival. The day will finish with a relaxed dinner with family and friends at the Rochford Hundred Golf Club. Further details can be found on the Essex Mark Website.



<https://www.essexmark.co.uk/easter-eggs-travaganza.html>

Mark Benevolent Fund donated £1.2m

Following the death of HRH Duke of Edinburgh, the Mark Benevolent Fund donated £1.2m to be distributed to hospices in the UK. As part of the MBF Capital Grant initiative all 48 Mark Lodges in Essex selected a Hospice of their choice and these were collated by the Provincial Almoner. There were 8 Hospices identified by the Lodges and with a total of £48,000 to distribute the following Hospices received their grant.

<i>Farleigh Hospice Chelmsford</i>	<i>£5000</i>
<i>St Francis Hospice Havering</i>	<i>£5000</i>
<i>St Helena Hospice Colchester</i>	<i>£9000</i>
<i>Haven House Children's Hospice Woodford</i>	<i>£3000</i>
<i>Hospice Southend</i>	<i>£4000</i>
<i>Little Havens Children's Hospice</i>	<i>£7000</i>
<i>St Luke's Hospice Basildon</i>	<i>£10000</i>
<i>St Clare's Hospice Harlow</i>	<i>£5000</i>
	£48000



Our Provincial Almoner, W.Bro. Roy Kaye organised a presentation of the grant cheques to each of the Hospices, with the Deputy Provincial Grand Master supported by both of the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and the Provincial Wardens also in attendance.

In each case, the staff and volunteers at the Hospices were both surprised and overjoyed with the generosity of the grant and thanked the MBF and the Mark Lodges of Essex for their consideration.



Friday, the 12th November saw the dedication of the Combined Stewards' Lodge banner. Many years ago the Langdon Hills Mark Lodge was in dire trouble and considering surrendering its' Warrant. After much deliberation, a decision was made to make it the Combined Stewards Lodge, No.1628. It was repurposed to accept, Provincial Stewards, or their equivalent, from ALL of the recognised Orders represented in Essex.

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LIVING STONES

The inextricable link between Craft, the Holy Royal Arch and The Degree of Mark Master Mason, the allegorical construction of a mason as a "Living Stone"

From the very moment of our Initiation, all Masons are told that they represent builders and stonemasons, and that the allegorical act of "building" a structure does, in its own way, represent the continuing improvement of ourselves from that rough ashlar placed in the north east part of the Lodge to "that stone, perfect in its parts and honourable to the builder".

In the Craft we assume the role of Temple builders, working from Entered Apprentice, the lowest class of workman receiving only food and drink for wages, through Fellowcraft who is paid for his skilled work (of which we learn more in the Mark Degree) to Master Mason and, ultimately, to Master of the Lodge where we preside over others.

In the Degree of Mark Master Mason, we return to the role of a Fellowcraft before being made a Mark Man and, ultimately, rewarded for our skills and efforts in being made a Mark Master Mason. It is also of historic interest that Mark Master Masons are introduced to a character known only to Installed Craft Masters of whom no explanation is given as to his importance.

In the Holy Royal Arch we represent Journeyman builders, who, by good fortune, exploration and adherence to ancient customs we make a discovery of great importance and are admitted as favoured people.

So, it is clear that in the Craft we learn the great import of the worthy mason working with stone blocks to turn the rough ashlar into the smooth to build the Temple.

In Mark we are taught to take our skills to a new level, to become experienced, and to produce the finest piece of work. We fashion a special stone, one that allows us to complete the sacred arch.

In the Holy Royal Arch, we are journeyman builders. During what may be termed "menial work" we make a discovery as we lever away a key stone (or stones) in the ruined Temple and discover a hidden vault which leads to a discovery of great import. This may also be said to be allegorical of the fact that no good work is "menial" and that, if we strive always to do our best, then great riches await us.

We can, therefore, make the connection between all three of these different Masonic Orders in the common theme of the allegorical reflection of all men as "living stones". It should be obvious, however, that there is a change in each stage of the construction of our "living stone" but there is also an inextricable link in all of these allegorical rituals, step by step, in constructing that "spiritual edifice" that Temple built to the glory of God.

So, to recap, in the Craft we are figuratively worked on, hewn from a rough state to become a smooth ashlar, experienced and worthy, ready to go on and produce better work.

In Mark we represent the finest work in God's House, the ultimate product of our trade, ready to take our place in that spiritual stone edifice.

In the Holy Royal Arch it can be said that we have "removed" that "earthly stone" and finally been rewarded with reaching that "spiritual edifice" and finally fulfilled our true relationship with God. At the same time, however, we realise that all our earthly building efforts have produced the finest stonework that has protected the Holy of Holies from the conflagration (earthly destruction) and protected the Sacred Word for evermore.

Ultimately, we are builders for eternity, we have finally become that living stone that we mentioned at the start, "perfect in its parts and honourable to the builder".

Produced by the Essex Mark Provincial Membership Group



ESSEX MASONS WIN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

An eagle-eyed Essex Masonic Clay Shooting Team has won the National Masonic Clay Championships with a score of 252 to finish two ahead of the runners-up, a team from the Province of Surrey, in an exciting finish to a tough contest.



Teams from 21 Masonic Provinces and five non-masonic teams travelled from all over England and Wales to take part in the National Championships held at Barbury, near Swindon, on Saturday 18th September 2021. The final Provincial Team results included West Lancs in third place with 242 and the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London team with 241. Wiltshire, the host team, came fifth with 237.

Team scores were decided by taking the top three shooters' scores from each team. Neil March of Saint Cedd Lodge was awarded 'High Gun' as 'Top Shot' for the Competition with a score of 90 and fellow Lodge member Mark Lambkin totalled 82. David Purches, who came second in the Super Veteran Class, shared the same score of 80 as Clive Fry, both from Thames Estuary Lodge.



Mark Lambkin



W.Bro a Neil March win the individual Top Gun award for the third time



Rob Hollier
Club Chairman

Team members representing the Province also included Mark Woolard, Siebert Lodge; Terry Attewell, Canon Stafford Morris Lodge; Gary Jones, Comrades Lodge and Essex Masonic Clay Shooting Association Chairman, Rob Hollier of Eureka Lodge. Formed 21 years ago, Rob is very proud of the team's current success but they are already focussing on the next event in October 2021 which is the International in Falkirk, Scotland, with teams travelling from as far as India and the rest of the world.

A delighted Provincial Grand Master (PGM), Paul Tarrant, conveyed his personal congratulations and those on behalf of all Essex Freemasons to the Team on their success in representing the Province. Paul also wished the Team Captain, Mark Inns of Benfleet Lodge, a speedy recovery as he was booked to shoot but was unable to attend due to illness.

On learning of the achievement, the PGM added "Freemasonry helps its members develop their self-confidence and this is reflected not only in their eagerness for charitable giving and helping the community but in a number of sporting activities as well. Making friends with different people and all pulling together as a team go hand in hand with the timeless traditions which we all value as Freemasons".

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One of the Most Unheard-of Inspirational Stories in Essex Freemasonry

70

Malcolm Robinson BEM PPJGW



In 1951 Malcolm was initiated into St Margaret's Lodge No. 5168 which met in Leigh. He recalls "As soon as the door was opened the whole place took off with the first verse of "Lead, Kindly Light" (a hymn written in 1833 by John Henry Newman as a poem entitled 'The Pillar and the Cloud'). With a big attendance it sounded like a Welsh male voice choir singing from above."

On getting a job in the drawing office with Marconi in Chelmsford it made it difficult to get to Leigh in time for the Wednesday afternoon meetings. His father was well known in Chelmsford as a Fire Chief in WW2 and had become the first Assistant Secretary of East Saxon Lodge. He arranged for Malcolm to join East Saxon which was just a walk across the road from the Marconi drawing office which made life considerably easier.

"The Lodge of Instruction (LoI) in those days was unbelievable compared to now" exclaimed Malcolm "the Preceptor thought he was on a parade ground with raw recruits and one senior City bank manager said that even his directors had never spoken to him like that".

Despite that Malcolm has thoroughly enjoyed all of his 70 years in Freemasonry and reflects on the many things that have happened and

in meeting the range and variety of people he became acquainted with whom he would otherwise have never known. He particularly remembers going to Maldon with his family one Sunday to watch Sir Neil Thorne horse riding.

For his charitable work on the Committee and as the Secretary of the Marconi Charity Fund for several years, Malcolm was awarded the BEM. Having been made redundant in the early 1990s he took whatever work he could to make sure his family were always provided for. "I am sure everything happens for a reason" he said "I used to play football but in one game playing for Chelmsford City B Team I broke my leg and was taken to hospital. Whilst there I first met Pamela who was a nurse and became my wife. We are still happily married today."

Still regularly driving himself to LoI and Lodge Meetings, Malcolm is one of the most 'continuously-for-70 years' active Craft Freemasons in Essex, if not in UGLE, but he has not taken the fourth step into Royal Arch even though he would have liked to had circumstances been different.

"My reasons for not joining" he explained "are because both my children were born profoundly deaf. This had a big effect on the family knowing they will never hear. Envisaging the problems they would encounter in life, I decided to devote all my spare time to help them prepare for life ahead." All the love, devotion encouragement and teaching of Malcolm and his wife Pamela has come to fruition as both children graduated with Honours degrees from Oxford University. David is a Senior Scientific Officer in the Meteorological Office and Jane specialises in environmental sciences.

Malcolm Robinson BEM, Family man, Father and active Essex Freemason for 70 years, inspires and moves us all with what is possibly one of the most unheard-of inspirational stories in Essex Freemasonry.

John Celebrates 60 years in Freemasonry

60



John (seated) is pictured receiving his certificate: left to right W.Bro Kanagasabai(Sri). Sritharan, APGM Martin Howse, W.Bro Colin Felton, W.Bro Alan Wadson and W.Bro Graham Felton

W.Bro John Barber, PPJGW and a member of Leigh-on-Sea Lodge 4708, has celebrated 60 years in Freemasonry. While ill health has prevented him from attending meetings in recent years some of his friends and APGM Martin Howse could not let the occasion go by unnoticed and arranged a special ceremony at Saxon Hall to present him with his 60 year certificate, a lapel pin and a congratulatory letter from the PGM RW.Bro Paul Tarrant.

John joined Leigh-on-Sea Lodge aged 25 and was Master in 1970. He was and remains a well-known figure in the Southend area having been Chairman of Seafront Traders Association and owner of the iconic Three Shells restaurant near the pier. He is married to Brenda and have recently celebrated their 63rd anniversary.

Celebrations come in threes to Thundersley Lodge



Lodge Brethren, in particular, overdue celebrations, reminding all of the camaraderie missed by many due to the pandemic restrictions.

On 25th November 2021, Thundersley Lodge celebrated three events: Daniel Ward was Raised to the Third Degree in an excellent manner, Ray Fretten reached a magnificent 60 years in Freemasonry and the Lodge achieved Grand Patron status for Festival 2022.

The Lodge was delighted to welcome Paul Tarrant the Provincial Grand Master (PGM) to the meeting attended by 58 Brethren. The Lodge made a donation of £4,500 towards the Essex Festival 2022 and presented a cheque to the PGM leading to the Lodge being awarded the Grand Patron Certificate.

The Ceremony of Raising was shared between the Worshipful Master, Chris Dorling and senior Brethren to achieve an excellent ritual that delighted the audience.

Paul Tarrant provided a history of Ray Fretten's Masonic career in several orders before presenting Ray with his Certificate for achieving a magnificent 60 years in Craft Freemasonry. Ray was Installed as the Worshipful Master of Thundersley Lodge in 1986 and received promotion to Past Grand Standard Bearer (PGStB) in 2003.

At the Festive Board, the Brethren of Thundersley Lodge presented Ray with a Celebration Cake adorned with his Past Grand Standard Bearer Apron and Collar in icing. The meeting provided the Brethren attending, in general, and Thundersley



On 23rd September WBro Nicolas Franklin, PSGD, DepProvGM attended the Installation meeting of Lodge of Faith No.6830, accompanied by WBro Tony White, PSGD, APGM for the Lodge. The DepProvGM was very pleased to present WBro Jeff Cripps with a certificate marking Jeff's 50 years in the Craft. WBro Nick, on behalf of the RW ProvGM, also carried out a field promotion by promoting WBro Jeff to PPSGW.



Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden Field Promotion

50 YEARS A MASON

At Star in the East Lodge 650 on the 14th September W.Bro Tony White APGM presented W.Bro John Bowman a certificate for 50 years as a Mason. W.Bro J Bowman was initiated into Star in the East Lodge on 9/3/1971, he became W.M. in 1986 followed by 12 years as Secretary and a further 8 years as Treasurer. He is an excellent ritualist and has stood in almost all the offices in the Lodge when required and has delivered many Charges and Addresses. He also belongs to many other Degrees Knights Templar P.Prov. 1st Constable. Royal Ark Mariners Prov. R.A.M.G.R. Royal & Select Masters P.G.Std B. Royal Arch P.A.G.D.C. (ENG). Rose Croix 30 Degrees. A truly impressive Masonic career here's to many more years supporting Star in the East Lodge.



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Essex Freemasons helping PICC Pals make medical history



A group of 15 Southend based volunteers are helping to make medical history from a simple idea that has turned into a cottage industry and a potential life saver for patients at hospitals and medical centres across the country.

They call themselves PICC Pals, a dedicated team of 'sewing bees', packers and delivery drivers producing a very special range of armbands for people aged from two upwards. The bands are designed for patients who have to wear a PICC (a Peripherally inserted central catheter), which covers the catheter helping to protect it from accidental knocks or similar trauma.

Such has been the success of PICC Pals in just nine months, that they were in danger of running out of funds until Essex Freemasons stepped in with a £1,000 grant which will keep the charity continue its work for at least the next year. The money from the Freemasons Shoeburyness Royal Arch Chapter and the Essex Freemasons Community Fund will cover the cost of materials and meet demand from hospitals as far away as Sheffield and Exeter.

PICC Pals was launched by Nikki McCarthy, herself a cancer patient. She quickly worked out that the cotton tube supplied by the NHS did not protect a catheter that well and rapidly became soiled and unusable – so she created her own armband cover.

"We sourced our own materials and designed them so they would appeal to the user – bright colours for children, plain designs for men and fashionable designs for women," said Nikki. "Friends soon heard about the scheme and in just a few weeks they were producing more bands and we had turned into a cottage industry."

"The NHS approved the design and packaging and these are now supplied free of charge and with demand growing by the day I cannot tell you how grateful we are for the money from Essex Freemasons. It will keep us going for nearly two years"

In just nine months PICC Pals have produced more than 4,000 armbands. The collection of covers has increased to include a lighter weight summer range, children's and teenage covers and special occasion covers.

PICC Pals are currently producing a Christmas range and have made special covers for weddings. One of the best additional effects of this work is that the nursing teams, without exception, have reported that they enjoy having something positive and novel to discuss with their patients, and something that can swiftly calm what is a very emotional and scary experience.

David Wilson, representing Essex Freemasons, commented: "This is clearly a fantastic venture and we are delighted that we can help. This was first drawn to our attention by members of Shoeburyness Chapter and once we learned what PICC Pals were doing were delighted to make a grant possible." The Essex Freemasons Community Fund won the Pride of Essex 'Team Pride of 2020' Award for its supply of equipment to help frontline workers and volunteers in Essex during the pandemic.

For those still unsure what a PICC is – it's a Peripherally inserted central catheter - a thin, flexible tube that is inserted into a vein in the upper arm and guided (threaded) into a large vein above the right side of the heart called the superior vena cava. It is used to give intravenous fluids, blood transfusions,

chemotherapy, and other drugs. It is widely used by the NHS to treat a wide range of different conditions from cancer to diabetes.

Thousands of patients have PICCs inserted each year which is why the Southend Group will just continue to expand.

Caption details from left to right: Nikki McCarthy (founder), Zoe Goodwin, Pat Reynolds, Carole Vernon, Carol Harrington, Mike Harrington (Shoeburyness Chapter); Louise Jewell, David Wilson (Essex Freemasons), Anthea Jewell and Trevor Jewell.

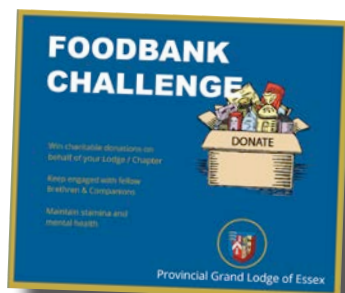
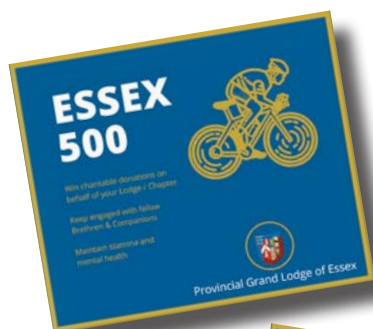




<https://essexfreemasons.org.uk>



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Provincial Websites

The Provincial websites for both Craft and the Holy Royal Arch has had a facelift. Check out the new fresh look.

There is a continuous look and feel from the public facing website to the members only area (the Cube).

Our external websites are designed to be a central repository for anyone wishing to join our fantastic organisation, but equally for visiting Brethren from other Provinces who would like to attend an Essex Meeting.

There is also a new Provincial Executive area that gives an insight to their background and journey in Freemasonry, as well as a clear view of the Lodges or Chapters they are responsible for.

- View Members Pathway.
- View Provincial, Lodge and Chapter meeting dates and contact the Secretary or Scribe Ezra to book your self in.
- Calendar events for Additional Orders.

Membership Area

The Cube is a central location for Essex Masons only. Where all public enquires are directed to the website, whereas, every piece of information an Essex Freemason needs, is all in a secure members area.

- **Profile** location where you can update your information.
- A **Library** where every available document is located
- Online Blue Book - the Provincial Lodge and Chapter oracle.
- Leave personal obituary comments in the new **Departed Brethren**.
- A **Discussion** area where we can ask questions and debate sensitive subjects, all in a secure and safe space.
- Check out the all new **Groups** area, where you can create a secure and private area for members of your Lodge or Chapter, as well as specialised groups.

Provincial News Letters

After many years, the Team Brief and Team Brief Plus have been replaced with;

The **Second Rising** - Delivering a full range of Provincial News.

Unlike the Team Brief, the **Second Rising** is more interactive and sent to ALL Essex Freemasons (who have an email address). These emails link to the full story which are located on the Cube, Website or other central locations.

The **Second Rising** is sent on the 2nd Monday in every month.

The **Provincial Download** is a newsletter that covers mid-month Provincial update, as well as other news from around the province, such as Charity and Almoner updates, Events and much more.

Contact the communications team story@essexfreemasons.org.uk

Social Media

Did you know we have a dedicated Facebook Group for Provincial Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Chapter?

Essex Freemasons area is a members only area with regular and instant up to date information. You will not see holiday snaps, or pictures of food, it is used by Essex Freemasons, for Essex Freemasons.

Abbots Hall Chapter The Root, Heart and Marrow of Masonry

By Tony Hales
Provincial Communications Team



Abbots Hall Chapter No. 6205 is back in business. It was Consecrated in December 1948, the year when the cheese ration was cut but the milk ration was increased from 2½ to 3½ pints per week. Hugh Gaitskell, the Fuel Minister, rationed motorists to 90 miles per month and a dock workers strike caused the meat ration to be decreased to 6d (2½ new pence) a week for both fresh and tinned meat. The Government declared a state of emergency deploying the Army to control and operate the docks and the National Health Service was born.

Moving on 73 years, an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals (APGP), David Wilson, was delighted to be at Upminster Masonic Hall on Tuesday 16th November 2021 when 27 Companions of Abbots Hall Chapter held their first Convocation in almost two years. Whilst the Agenda was mainly administration based the unspoken item was to get back together, honour their late departed Companions and enjoy meeting once again followed by a sumptuous Chapter Banquet to put back on some of the pounds lost during lockdown.

David Wilson said "the meeting typified what our Fraternity is about. Coming together as friends, enjoying each other's company, renewing friendships, giving to good causes and parting with smiles and handshakes."

A ballot proved in favour of two joining members including Bob Baldwin, a Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (ProvAGDC), who was immediately appointed DC. A Supreme Grand Chapter Certificate was presented by David to the Chapter's newest Exalteé who had been waiting two years to receive it. He will find plenty of inspiration from his fellow Companions including John Helliár, a Past Assistant Grand Sojourner (PAGSoj), A New Chapter For An Essex Mason (essexroyalarch.org.uk) and APGPs John Crudginton and Bruce Mapson.

In addition to everyone enjoying themselves there is a profound focus on Charity among the Companions having raised £6,933 for the Essex 2022 Festival for which David Wilson was delighted to present a Platinum Certificate to the Chapter and commented "This is an outstanding achievement as the Chapter has continued to support the Festival as well as local Charities and the Companions are donating through their Lodges as well".

Abbots Hall Chapter is fortunate in having an exemplary Charity Steward who leads from the front. Frank Sharp, also a PAGSoj, helped set up the Yvonne Jean Stewart Charitable Trust (YJS) which has raised in the region of £500,000 to help the British Lung Foundation, the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity and the Saint Francis Hospice. Although these days Frank is no longer involved with the YJS, he raises around £10,000 each year, thanks to the generosity of mainly Essex Brethren, selling unwanted Masonic items online for the Saint Francis and Farleigh Hospices.

Frank Sharp thoroughly enjoys the whole Royal Arch ceremony. He explained: "Its colour, its story line, the interaction between the First Principal and the Principal Sojourner and the fact that the three Principals work together as a team is what makes it to me the highlight of pure ancient Freemasonry". Frank summed up by saying that he could not be as succinct as Laurence Dermott, the Grand Secretary of the Antient's Grand Lodge, who described the Royal Arch in the 1750s as the "Root, heart and marrow of Masonry."





Boar's Head Meeting - over £200,000 to the Michael Charles Adams Trust

Seven Kings Lodge No 2749 once again hosted the Boar's Head Meeting this year at the Square in Upminster on the 10th December 2021. The event has been run for 25 years and raised in excess of £200,000 for the Michael Charles Adams Trust (MCA) during that period. The MCA is a charity that assists children with brain related cancers.

Everyone attending the meeting was asked to bring with them a toy, to be donated to children in various hospitals, and this year four hospitals were chosen - the Southend University Hospital, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Queens Hospital and Basildon University Hospital. All the toys were taken to the hospitals by the dedicated elves of Seven Kings Lodge and the MCA; and were most gratefully received.

In all, over 500 toys were donated by the brethren and £2,800 was also raised for charity.

At the meeting a double initiation was carried out in a splendid manner by visiting Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro the Rev Martin Howse PSGD, who actually used a seldom heard version of the ritual! Worthy of note is the fact that, as the Boar's Head initiates 2 candidates at each of its meetings, it has now brought in 50 new members to Freemasonry since its inception. Martin was one of four APGMs to attend the meeting, who can all be seen in the following photo with the Deputy PGM, W Bro Nick Franklin PSGD and the Chairman of the Square, W Bro Peter Banks PAGDC.



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Essex Freemasons

fund new mini bus to help carers in south Essex

By Colin Felton
Provincial Charity Steward



Pictured left to right: Paul Ramsden Chief Executive Carers Choices and RW.Bro Paul Tarrant, Provincial Grand Master

A new mini bus, fully equipped to help transport vulnerable people across south Essex to allow them to access vital day care services and to give their carers, many of whom are young children, some much needed rest, has been delivered to a Benfleet based charity with the support of funding from Essex Freemasons.

Carers Choices, set up to improve the quality of care and support for people in Essex through provision of respite solutions, has received £16,000 from the Essex Freemasons Community Fund, which was further match funded by another £16,000 from the MCF, the Freemason own charity, enabling them to buy the bus outright.

It has now joined the fleet of mini buses used every day to bring vulnerable adults and people with learning difficulties to their Centre in Kiln Road, behind the Castle Point Borough Council offices, where they can be looked after by trained professionals.

Paul Ramsden, Chief Executive of Carers Choices, explained: "Our buses are essential tools to transport our clients to and from our centres, which means that we can free up more time for their carers. We also support Young Carers who are children under 18 looking after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or drug or alcohol problem.

"This might be a parent, grandparent or sibling. They frequently do extra jobs in and around the home such as cooking, cleaning or helping someone get dressed and move around and this is where we can help with training, building confidence and helping to provide these young carers with the skills they need."

"We were delighted to be able to find the £32,000 needed to fund the new mini bus," said Paul Tarrant, Provincial Grand Master for Essex Freemasons. "It will clearly make quite a difference across south Essex helping dozens of families."

"I have also been impressed with the incredible range of work Carers Choices provides for vulnerable adults and children. It is certainly the kind of community charity that our members in Essex like to support."



Children's mental health charity Place2Be has launched additional support for both children and parents at six schools in Harlow, thanks to a £25,000 grant from Essex Freemasons, donated via the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Parents across six schools in Harlow will now have access to a dedicated Place2Be Family Practitioner, who will be on hand to support with any concerns they have about their child's behaviour or wellbeing.

The Family Practitioner will work alongside parents to support and strengthen their confidence and parenting skills. This, in turn will reap benefits for the mental health and wellbeing of the children.

This builds on the existing work of Place2Be, which already delivers mental health support to children and young people in schools facing a whole range of issues, including anxiety, stress, low mood, bereavement and even self-harm or suicidal thoughts.

Place2Be has been working with schools in Harlow for many years, providing permanent staff to work with teaching professionals to provide support and counselling for young people. The service continued during Covid via online Zoom and phone sessions and was said to be "a lifeline by many parents" during lockdown.

It's also a service which has been welcomed by Harlow schools. James Hollinsley, Executive Head of Longwood Primary Academy in Paringdon Road, explained: "In 2015, this was a failing school with large number of children with additional wellbeing needs. Four years later we were described as the happiest primary school in the UK."

"While our team made considerable changes to improve and turn around the school, I cannot underestimate the support we have received from Place2Be who have helped to change the lives of many children with mental health issues. The service is a fundamental part of all of our NET Academies schools."

Kate Armstrong-Taylor, Area Manager for Place2Be added: "Based on our experience of working with schools in Essex and across the UK, we understand the vital role that parents and carers play in building their children's resilience. With the support of the Family Practitioner, parents can improve their own confidence and strengthen family relationships, all of which will ultimately have a positive impact on their children's wellbeing. This grant from Essex Freemasons will enable us to continue to develop our work in Harlow, supporting even more families through the work of the Family Practitioner."

"This is very much a community project helping vulnerable children and parents," said Paul Tarrant, Provincial Grand Master for Essex Freemasons. "With 8,000 members, many of whom live and work in the Harlow area, we are very much part of that same community which is why we have been delighted to help such a fantastic charity."



Guardians of Traditions

William of Colchester Lodge No. 5255



"We are the guardians of traditions. We take great pride in our antiquity and in that way render a great service to the Community. Tradition is the accumulated wisdom of those gone before and the tendency of modern progress is to lose sight of tradition. We are one of those Institutions which preserve tradition".

Less than two months before the late Pro Grand Master, Lord Amptill, addressed the 150th Annual Convocation of the Grand Lodge of New York with the above words, Essex Freemasons formed a new Lodge to keep alive the memory of William of Colchester, the Chief Mason of the works of the Nave of Westminster Abbey in the 1400s. On 26th March 1931, the Provincial Grand Master (PGM), Brigadier Sir Richard Beale Colvin - see Monkham's Centenary was the Consecrating Officer.

Ninety years later, on 25th November 2021, the Brethren of William of Colchester Lodge No. 5255 clearly demonstrated to their guests and visitors that the former Pro Grand Master, Chief Mason and PGM would be deeply satisfied that their Lodge is preserving tradition. In between a model Opening and Closing the Lodge gave an impeccable demonstration of the First Degree Ceremony in preparation for an Initiation of a new candidate at the next meeting.

With a focus on Charity the Lodge agreed to donate £1,000 to the local Night Shelter and the 25 Brethren at the Festive Board raised £250 with the raffle and football scratch cards. The visitors included two Brethren from Nore Lodge No. 3610, Mark Gurteen, a Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer (PAGStB), the Charity Steward and Mentor, with his mentee, Fellow Craft Kevin Ebbs, on his first ever visit to another Lodge. Both Mark and Kevin were decidedly impressed to say they will be returning for the next Meeting.

Other visitors included Provincial Senior and Junior Grand Deacons Andy Hastings of Old Parkonians' No. 4709 and Keith Bartlett of United No. 697; John Print, a Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden (PPSGW), of Meridies Colcestriae No. 9715; Andy Hardie, the Immediate Past Master (IPM) of Grey Friars No. 5169, proudly wearing his Locomotion Lodge of Mark Master Masons lapel badge of which he is a Founder Member.

Paul Skiffington, the Master of Pyefleet No. 8913 responded to the Toast on behalf of the Visitors. Paul was extremely appreciative and succinct with his response. Having served for many years in an Army Corps with the motto 'Nil Sine Labore' which translates as 'Nothing Without Work', Paul knew that such an enjoyable and successful Lodge meeting and festive board with its focus on Charity does not just happen but takes hard work and dedication which the Brethren of William of Colchester Lodge No. 5255, like the vast majority of Freemasons, do so well as the guardians of traditions.



Michael Spence A Freemason of Beneficence for Fifty Years



From Left to Right

WBro Kessick Jones, PSGD (The Grand Master, Order of Royal & Select Masters)
WBro Keith Emmerson, PDepGSwdB (Past Deputy Grand Master – Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Degrees)
WBro Michael Spence, PJGD
RWBro Paul Tarrant, ProvGM
WBro Graham Flight, PSGD (The Grand Sovereign – Red Cross of Constantine)
WBro Tom Jackson, PSGD (The Grand Master – Allied Masonic Degrees)
WBro Ryan Williams, JGD (Grand Secretary – Mark Mason's Hall)

Paul Tarrant, the Provincial Grand Master (PGM) made an Official Visit to the Lodge of Beneficence No. 7978 at Orsett Masonic Hall on 18th November 2021. The meeting was an illustrious occasion for Michael Spencer, a Past Junior Grand Deacon (PJGD) as it marked his 50 years in the Craft. Michael is a Past Provincial Grand Master for Essex, in the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees.

Consecrated in 1964 by The Earl of Warwick, at Southend in 1967 the Lodge of Beneficence moved to Grays following the opening of Thurrock Masonic Hall and in 1971 moved again to its present venue at Orsett. In May of that year the Immediate Past Master (IPM) had the pleasure of initiating his son, Michael George Spencer, to become the first father and son in the Lodge and began a trend which has served the Lodge well over the last fifty years.

Michael Spencer became Worshipful Master in 1982, was appointed as Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (ProvAGDC) in 1990 and following subsequent Provincial and Grand Lodge promotions was appointed PJGD in 2017.

Paul Tarrant, himself a Past Grand Secretary at Mark Masons Hall, presented Michael with a framed certificate marking his 50 years. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Geoff Turpin, said "This was a special occasion for Michael and among the 77 Brethren present celebrating with him there were many distinguished visitors representing additional Masonic Orders of which Michael is a member of". It seems appropriate after half-a-century in the Craft making new friendships and charitable-giving that Michael George Spencer may now become known as 'A Freemason of Beneficence for Fifty Years'.

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Grey Friars Lodge signals a good year ahead

By Tony Hales
Provincial Communications Team



On 22nd November 2021 everybody involved made the Installation Ceremony for the new Worshipful Master Peter Anderson very enjoyable at Grey Friars Lodge 5169. The Installing Master, Andy Hardie, is a former signaller and a proud Founder Member of The Locomotion Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 2013 formed for railway enthusiasts.

Paul Pitt, a Past Provincial Grand Steward (PProvGstwd), was delighted to be appointed Director of Ceremonies (DC) and looks set to serve the Lodge well for many years ahead having swapped Offices with Michael Ray the Assistant DC. Caeleb Young did well as Inner Guard which is an auspicious signal as a good Inner Guard usually makes a capable Master.

The Norrie Disease Foundation (NDF) for which TV personality Simon Reeve is an Ambassador is the Charity chosen by the new Worshipful Master of Grey Friars Lodge No. 5169, Peter Anderson, for his Master's List.

It was while presenting The Big Life Fix for BBC Children in Need that Simon Reeve met young Josh, who has Norrie Disease and was born blind. Simon learned first-hand how difficult Josh finds it to cope with the school playground. The 'Fix' was an especially adapted play facility that incorporated guidance paving or 'braille for feet' that gave Josh the confidence to play with other children.

Simon Reeve said "Meeting Josh through The Big Life Fix drove home how difficult life is for children affected by Norrie disease. There are huge obstacles in the way of many of those everyday things we take for granted for our children. Having an organisation like the Norrie Disease Foundation to raise awareness of these challenges and to provide vital support can make all the difference to the children and families affected. I'm happy to be able to support a worthwhile charity."



The Lodge Secretary of Grey Friars, Graeme Lockwood, a Past Grand Standard Bearer (PGStB) is also well known among Essex Freemasons for being part of the editorial team of the Essex Mason Magazine and as the team leader of the ten volunteers who work hard for the Essex Mason Shop on behalf of the Province. Sales of Masonic regalia generate important income, mainly from Essex Freemasons, especially twice a year when the Craft and Royal Arch promotions are announced but the shop also sells a wide range of masonic paraphernalia and gifts such as cufflinks etc. for presents at Christmas and other special occasions.

The valuable work the Team do is reflected in the £50,000 donation made to the Essex 2022 Festival for the Masonic Charitable Foundation which has pledged £7 million for Charities and good causes in Essex alone, so by supporting Essex Mason you are directly supporting local Essex Charities. With train driver Peter Anderson as Master and ex signaller Andy Hardie as Immediate Past Master (IPM) Grey Friars Lodge signals a good year ahead.

Kids Inspire launch new mentor training

Chelmsford based charity, Kids Inspire, set to train dozens of new mentors – dedicated volunteers able to provide one to one help for children with mental health issues – thanks to a £3,000 grant from Essex Freemasons.

The money, donated via the Essex Freemasons Community Fund, will enable one of the county's most active charities, to increase its support offering to children who have been overwhelmed by negative feelings and a wide range of other issues which are now impacting their lives both at home and school.

"In 2021 we have had nearly 3,500 children referred to us so far from every part of the county, as far away as Clacton and Southend," said Paula Ashfield, Head of Fundraising for Kids Inspire. "It means we desperately need new mentors trained to offer a 'step-down service' to young people in need of extra support from us following a course of therapy. This grant from Essex Freemasons will enable us to train up to 30 more volunteer mentors who will each be allocated a child facing mental health issues."

"Mentoring is a vital part of our work at Kids Inspire which has seen a demand for our services increase over the last two years due to Covid. Each child receives one to one attention and this service is particularly valuable for boys who can be assigned a male mentor who can act as a positive role model."

The charity provides mental health and trauma recovery support for children and young people from 4-21. Their qualified, experienced team have been trained in a broad range of therapies and work creatively to encourage body and mind reconnection. The focus is on the strengths of the child, their uniqueness, family and other relationships.

"Kids Inspire was founded in 2007 and is now a vital part of the Essex Community," said Colin Felton, Provincial Charity Steward for Essex Freemasons. "It is the kind of charity that our members like to support. Kids Inspire do a fantastic job and we have been pleased to help."

Pictured from left to right: Paul Ashfield, Head of Fundraising at Kids Inspire; Sheila Moorcroft, who has been a mentor at the charity for more than four years; Colin Felton, Provincial Charity Steward for Essex Freemasons; and Veronica Mead, who has worked as a Mentor since April 2021.



SMILES AND MEMORIES

Steve Nottage BEM

Since 1066 Westminster Abbey has been the coronation church for monarchs as well as the place to celebrate those who have contributed significantly to our country. On 27th September 2021 it was the turn of Essex Royal Arch Mason, Steve Nottage to be invested there with the British Empire Medal which was presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE, on behalf of HM The Queen.

In April 2002 Steve and his wife Theresa, as founder trustees, registered the 'Smiles and Memories (S.A.M.) Fund', a charity formed to send families with chronically sick children on fantastic holidays to give them some wonderful smiles and memories. In the New Year Honours List for 2021, Her Majesty had awarded Steve the BEM for his 'Meritorious work as the Chair of the S.A.M. Fund, providing voluntary and charitable services to Sick and Disabled Children' but the investiture had to be delayed due to the pandemic restrictions.

During lockdown many of the planned initiatives to send chronically ill and sick children had to be cancelled. Instead, the focus was moved to support Homecare Team Nurses who were supplied with new laptops. Essential medical equipment was also purchased for two of the children. Steve said "The S.A.M. team have continued to do great things and proved that every little helps".

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent (MEGS) of Essex Royal Arch Masons, Paul Tarrant, in conveying his congratulations on behalf of all Essex Royal Arch Companions, said "I am delighted to learn that being awarded the BEM has given Steve and everyone at S.A.M. a huge lift. As a great believer that in every Lodge and Chapter members should enjoy themselves and have a mission to help charity and contribute to society, Steve has led by example. With over 18 million hours each year given by Freemasons in volunteering this reflects well on the type of person attracted to Freemasonry and his recognition by HM The Queen is truly deserved."

Steve retired as a Business Analysis Manager in 2015 having worked for 41 years for British Telecom. Attracted to the principals of integrity, friendship, respect and charity which Freemasonry offers, Steve began his Masonic journey in 1988 when he was initiated by his brother who was the Worshipful Master in the Spirit of Friendship Lodge No 8061 in which his other brother was the Senior Warden and his father was a Past Master.

A Royal Arch Mason since 1998, Steve made several visits to Ixion Chapter No. 2501, which meets at Harlow Masonic Hall. Having made new friends there and having enjoyed the company of the Companions he decided to join in 2007, became First Principal in 2015 and now serves as Treasurer. As well as holding London Grand Chapter Rank (LGCR), following his appointment as a Provincial Grand Steward (ProvGStwd) in 2016, Steve joined Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No 8665 in 2018 and was promoted to Past Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer (PPDepGSwdB) in 2020.

After attending the investiture ceremony in Westminster Abbey, Steve and Theresa celebrated with their two sons and their families with an enjoyable restaurant meal making it a special day after two decades of hard work giving happiness to children. On this occasion the tables were turned and it was an Excellent Companion, who loves being a Royal Arch Mason, to have his own smiles and memories.





Pictures By Mike Barrett
Essex Communications Team

Pictured at the Farleigh Hospice Memorial Garden are Colin Felton, Provincial Charity Steward; Samantha Riches, Care Home Coordinator; Sheona Evangeli, Locality Care Teams Manager; and Peter Hollingsworth, Asst. Provincial Grand Master.

Essex Freemasons fund new Hospice service to care homes

Farleigh Hospice in Chelmsford has launched a major new programme, funded by Essex Freemasons, to support residents at care homes across mid-Essex with critical end of life and palliative care.

The programme will cost £33,000 to deliver, money donated by Essex Freemasons via the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) and is urgently needed to support the care home sector which has been badly affected by the Covid pandemic.

Debbie de Boltz, Fundraising Manager for Farleigh Hospice, explained:

"We knew there was an urgent need to extend the Hospice service into care homes but until now we never had the resources to make this happen. This grant from Essex Freemasons has made all the difference and will allow us to strengthen our team enabling us to launch this new programme, which in turn will provide the critical support needed for residents and staff at care homes."

In practical terms care homes can now work more closely with the Hospice, helping to identify residents approaching the end of life who can choose to remain where they are or be transferred to the Hospice for specialist support.

The £33,000 grant is part of a £100,000 package of donations from Essex Freemasons and the MCF for Hospices across the county. Similar grants of £30,000 plus have been given to St Helena at Colchester and St Luke's in Basildon.

"Hospices have always attracted support from Freemasons," said Peter Hollingsworth, Assistant Provincial Grand Master for Essex Freemasons. "I am delighted that we have once again been able to fund vital new projects to ensure that they can keep up their fantastic work in the community."

Farleigh Hospice provides care for any type of illness that is considered life-limiting, including cancer, neurological diseases, and chronic heart, lung, and renal diseases, both in their Inpatient Unit or in a patient's home environment. This service has now been extended to care homes as a result of the Grant.

In addition to MCF Grants of more than £450,000 donated to Hospices nationally, Essex Masons traditionally support local hospices across the county with combined donations exceeding more than £50,000 each year.

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

Chill zones to help hundreds of disadvantaged children

A Basildon based charity, dedicated to creating the best start in life for disadvantaged children and young people, is ready to create its own "Chill Zones" to provide vital respite and support for hundreds of parents and carers across south Essex, thanks to a major grant from Essex Freemasons.

The money, £14,874 has been donated to BOSP, short for Brighter Opportunities for Special People, via the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Freemason's own charity and will be used to fund outdoor sports and other activities for young adults for at least the next three years.

BOSP provide a range of leisure and respite services to young people with complex disabilities or life-limiting illnesses in Basildon, the same activities and opportunities as their peers, allowing them to develop independence, self-esteem and social skills. Equally as important, their families also benefit from the vital breaks offered by these respite sessions.

Jodie Connelly, BOSP Chief Executive, explained: "We help families lead an active and ordinary life and aim to prevent crisis by keeping families together and children in their homes. The charity provides 12 different regular clubs and activities with care at evenings, weekends and during school holidays for children and young people from birth to 25 years, plus two parental support groups."

"We identified a large gap in our services where we wanted to provide more outdoor activities and this grant from Essex Freemasons will enable us to run these or what we call chill zones. The money has really come at the right time when young people are facing increased mental health issues as a result of lockdown"

BOSP regularly supports 110 local children and over 400 parents and siblings who experience improved confidence and self-esteem, improved speech with use of signing plus emotional development, improved social skills, group participation and reduced isolation.

Paul Tarrant, Provincial Grand Master for Essex Freemasons, commented: "It is charities such as BOSP that make such a difference in the community and who really need our support. I have been very impressed by their work and have been pleased that we have been able to help."



Picture caption: From left to right Colin Felton, Provincial Charity Steward for Essex Freemasons; Arsen Poghosyan, funding and development manager for BOSP; Paul Tarrant, Provincial Grand Master for Essex Freemasons and Jodie Connelly, BOSP CEO.



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Colcestria Lodge No. 7123 Welcomes a Hero and Gives, Gives and Gives.

In the run-up to its Platinum (70th) Anniversary in February 2022 the Brethren of Colcestria Lodge No. 7123 have been active in giving to good causes and attracting new members to Freemasonry.

In response to the call to help combat loneliness by Gary Hostler, the Provincial Grand Almoner (ProvGAlm), a group of Colcestria Brethren visited the North Colchester Men's Shed Charity on 18th November 2021 to see for themselves how a large shed full of tools and projects can make such a difference to men experiencing unwanted isolation. They also gave the charity a donation of £500 on behalf of the Lodge.

On Saturday 27th November 2021, the Lodge Mentor and Membership Officer, Brian Chenier, in his capacity as the Group Membership Officer representing all 12 Lodges which meet at the Colchester Masonic Centre attended the new Members' Pathway event at Braintree together with Paul Tarrant, the Provincial Grand Master (ProvGM) and nearly 70 Brethren.

Brian Chenier is the Prosthetics Support Officer for 'Blesma, The Limbless Veterans', an Armed Forces charity helping those who have lost limbs or sight live independently. His article entitled 'The lowdown on the Freemasons' in the latest issue of Blesma Magazine | Blesma, The Limbless Veterans Charity at pages 12-13 is especially informative and well worth reading.

Emphatic that the Members' Pathway event was a great success, Brian immediately returned to the Centre at Colchester and put up a Provincial Membership Team poster on the notice board. At the Colcestria Lodge meeting that evening he reported to fellow Brethren that "It was extremely pleasing to see the enthusiasm of all those who attended and the support from the very top which is appreciated" he added "I will do my best to help our Lodges attract and benefit from more members."

Earlier in the meeting, Brian had given the Charge after Initiation to Colin Branch, a Support Hub Manager for Help for Heroes, whom he had proposed. Colin had his leg amputated following an operational infantry assault while serving as a Corporal with 1 Royal Anglian Regiment in Afghanistan in 2007. He has a wonderful positive philosophy about being alive with his wife and children as they grow up. The First Degree ceremony was performed by Mark Ingram, the Worshipful Master, who was the seconder and an accomplished Explanation of the Ceremony was given by Tony Brewers, the Director of Ceremonies.

The Chairman of Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) in Essex, Robert Whittingham, a Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master (PAPGM), was presented with a £1,000 cheque for TLC which was started 20 years ago by two Freemasons in Essex. Since then, more than three million bears have been given to children in hospitals in England and Wales with over 500,000 in Essex. Central support and administration for regional TLC charities is provided by the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Freemasons' charity which gave over £51 million to UK Charities and deserving causes in 2020

Within one week of his Initiation Colin Branch and his wife enjoyed their first Colcestria Lodge Masonic Ladies Festival Dinner and Dance at the St Giles Masonic Centre in Colchester on 4th December 2021. Over £1,000 was raised by the 42 guests for the children's mental health charity 'Place2B' which had also received a £25,000 grant from the Essex Freemasons for additional support in the Harlow area just a few days before Essex Freemasons helping to improve mental health in Harlow.

As the Platinum anniversary of Colcestria Lodge No. 7123 approaches, the Brethren can celebrate being a Lodge that welcomes Heroes and, with a focus on charity, gives, gives and gives.



The Square

Celebrate front line workers



On the 5th July 2021, the Square at Upminster was all set with a full day of events to say thank you to our NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers.

The flag unfurling and toast went ahead as programmed on that date but the thank you lunch was forced to be postponed because of government restrictions introduced prior to the event taking place.

Not to take this lying down, the Square decided to hold the lunch at a future date once restrictions were lifted, to show that just because the 5th July had passed, our gallant workers had not been forgotten and were still very much in our thoughts.

On the 5th September 2021 the Square opened its doors and welcomed 96 visitors (Masons and non Masons) who wanted to take part and raise a glass in recognition of the ongoing and valiant efforts of our NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers.

The lunch was well received and the food, as always, was of exceptional quality, plentiful and reasonably priced.



Pictured with our Initiate W.Bro Colin Clarke greeting his son Bro Joshua into the lodge with the Worshipful Master W.Bro Martin Wheatley.

ADAPTING TO SURVIVE

Lucton Lodge gets a new lease of life

On Saturday 2nd October 2021, Lucton Lodge 3353 hosted only its second meeting of the new decade and its first since the resumption, at Loughton Masonic centre in the Province of Essex and its first as a Saturday Lodge since a change in the lodges by-laws and a busy meeting it was. Where 14 members and guests witnessed the Proclamation of the Worshipful Master W.Bro Martin Wheatley until the next regular period of election in January 2022.

Now having held its first Saturday lodge meeting in its 112 year history from meeting on a Monday, Lucton Lodge wishes to go from strength to strength and this is already proving fruitful as we had our first initiate in 5 years. Bro Joshua James Clarke a candidate for the Cornerstone club was ably initiated by his father W.Bro Colin Clarke who had the honour of carrying out the ceremony after the WM humbly vacated the chair of KS in his favour. The lodge was assisted by its guests whom generously took office most notably W.Bro Robert Hollier PPJGW who carried out the Charge after initiation, and the lodge is looking forward to its next meeting in November where we have another young candidate for initiation. "No Candidates for years then two come at once". This is exactly what is needed for the lodge to be perfect.



They are raising money for the Duke of Edinburgh

W.Bro. Andy Mapperson who is one of the founders of the Wheel of Fellowship Lodge 9016 in Maldon is part of the 3 man Committee of THE FREEMASONS CHALLENGE, who are organising the whole event with the assistance of the University Scheme Reps and hope to culminate the walk at the Quarterly Communication on September 8th when the David Kenneth Williamson Cup (DKW) will be taken into the meeting by a group of University students.

It is an open event and they have already had lady Freemasons take part and Sir David Wotton did one of the legs over a week-end.

The Objectives of the Challenge are

- To promote Freemasonry
- To promote engagement and fraternity between Scheme lodges
- To raise charitable donations through sponsorship during the journey - all donations will go to the Duke of Edinburgh Memorial Fund

The Challenge will start and finish at Great Queen Street and be completed between the Quarterly Communication meetings in June (original date) and September. It will take the form of teams from each lodge carrying a replica of the DKW Trophy – a trophy claimed by one Scheme lodge visiting another – from the centre where it meets to the next nearest Scheme lodge. The Cup will be passed on in turn until the centres of all Scheme lodges in England and Wales have been visited, a total distance of over 2021 miles.

The DKW Cup arrived from Norwich to Wivenhoe Masonic Hall on the 28th August where Ostrea Lodge 8209 received the Cup. From there, on the 29th August the cup was taken to Chelmsford Masonic where many Essex Brethren from Ostrea Lodge (Wivenhoe Masonic Hall), Wheel of Fellowship Lodge 9016 and Lodge of St. Peter 1024 (Maldon) joined in the walk at Hatfield Peveral/ Boreham. Once we arrived at the Chelmsford Masonic Hall we were welcomed and received by the Deputy Assistant Provincial Grand Master in charge, W. Bro. Peter Hollingsworth PSGD where the cup was handed to the Secretary of Boswell Lodge 7759.

After, the Brethren made their way to the County Hotel bar for a well-deserved drink and refreshments.





Spurs Finally Achieve Something at Waltham Abbey Lodge 2750

Vic was presented with a Spurs shirt by two ex Tottenham players - Micky Hazard and Graham Roberts at the meeting of the Waltham Abbey Lodge No.2750 on 28th June 2021, being a life long spurs supporter, this was the icing on the cake for Vic!!!

He has been a 50yr member of the Waltham Abbey Lodge No.2750 and beside the progressive offices of the lodge, has also been lodge Almoner, Charity Steward, Secretary and is currently Treasurer.

Vic is a well seasoned and knowledgeable Freemason and is keen to share his wealth of knowledge with those brothers who are moving through the progressive offices of the lodge and beyond.

Through fundraising events, Vic has raised enormous amounts of funds for numerous charities as well as the Waltham Abbey Lodge.



NEALES REMOVALS



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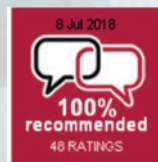
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BROTHERS IN ARMS

During the English Civil War, Royalist Generals Sir Charles Lucas and Sir George Lisle fought bravely whilst enduring hardship and famine in the three-month siege of Colchester. Following surrender to the Roundheads they were executed in 1648 by a firing squad at Colchester Castle and laid to rest in St Giles Church which is now Colchester's Masonic Centre where Lucas and Lisle Lodge No. 8456 meets.

The Essex Freemasons were approached with a special request from The Queensman Lodge No. 2694, which meets at Freemason's Hall in Great Queen Street, the London Headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England. Based on the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment which includes the former Queen's and Hampshire's Regiments, in 2018 over 1,000 watched Johnson Beharry VC and Daniel Keighran VC undergo their joint Initiation into Freemasonry.



With a waiting list of new members to Initiate, the Queensman Lodge asked Lucas and Lyle Lodge if they could perform the Third Degree, also known as the Ceremony of Raising, for Reece Snowball to be made a Master Mason in this historical building where the two Royalist generals lay buried in the vault.

At the regular meeting of the Lucas and Lisle Lodge the Worshipful Master, Michael Lappage, invited the current Master of Queensman Lodge, James Burgoyne to perform the Ceremony with the help of Queensman members Paul Dove, Ian "Chelsea" Hall and Nick Savin together with Dave Barrett and Eric Sigsworth, who are also members of Claudius Lodge No. 8700 which also meets at St Giles, as is James Burgoyne.

The Ceremony held on Friday 12th November 2021 was described by one visitor as "a 'Festival of Freemasonry' with an outstanding performance by the Queensman Lodge members and complemented with the equally word-perfect and sincerely delivered 'Traditional History' by Tony Flint, the Secretary of Lucas and Lisle Lodge."

Tony Flint said "Reece Snowball was overwhelmed with happiness on the day and that 'candidate-experience' is one of the reasons why we work so hard. It was one of those fantastic evenings that do not come along often enough."

The Lucas and Lisle members also voted to donate £2,500 from their Lodge Relief Chest to the Essex Freemasons 2022 Festival to achieve Patron status. The Festival has already raised over £4.5 million for the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) with six months still to go. The MCF is the Freemasons' Charity which gave over £51 million to other Charities and good causes in the Community in 2020 alone.

Having a good time with a focus on charity together with its other core values of integrity and respect is what Freemasonry is all about. As the photograph shows, after having taken his Third Degree in Freemasonry at the resting place of the two famous Royalist soldiers, Reece Snowball, the new Master Mason of Queensman Lodge No. 2694, joined his fellow Freemasons as 'Brothers-in-Arms'.

article being created by Peter L



Essex Masters Meeting
FULL HOUSE

STIFFORD HEATH LODGE No.8327

CELEBRATE 50 YEARS



On Saturday the 27th November 2021 the Stifford Heath Lodge celebrated a 50 year milestone. 46 Brethren including one founder, the RWPGM, members of the Lodge and other distinguished guests were in attendance, for the very special meeting to mark 50 years.

W.Bro. Trevor Day was Installed as the 51st Master, and received a Grand Patron certificate from the Provincial Grand Master for their Festival 2022 support. An abridged History was given by four members of the Lodge, together with an explanation of modification of the Lodge Banner.

The meeting itself was a success, but it was highlighted when W.Bro. Chas Elliott APGM surprised our remaining founder W.Bro. Harold Wood by giving a praisee, of W.Bro. Harold's life including his 70 years devotion to Freemasonry, and then presenting him with his 70 year certificate and lapel badge.

Not to be outdone the RWPGW then gave W.Bro. Harold a field promotion to PPSGW. There cannot of been many occasions in Freemasonry where a founder with 70 years' service has attended the 50 year celebration of the Lodge of which helped found.



50 years in Freemasonry.

On Saturday 27th November 2021 the lodge had the privilege of receiving W Bro Clive Rees PSGD APGM to present to W Bro John Rowland PPJGW, the Chaplain of the lodge, his 50 years in Freemasonry certificate and Pin badge.

W Bro Clive then recounted WBro Johns offices and service to freemasonry in general and the lodge in particular, highlighting John's work in project managing the refurbishment of Loughton Masonic Hall.

After which the celebrations continued at the Festive Board culminating with W.Bro John recounting the more humorous times in the past and looking forward to eventually taking to the backbenches in the future.

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Albert Lucking Lodge 2717

50-year certificate



W.Bro. Tony White APGM attended the Albert Lucking Lodge during Saturday 20th November 2021 to present a 50-year certificate to W.Bro. James (Jim) Messenger. The presentation consisted of the APGM sitting down with Jim for a delightful 20-minute chat, discussing his years in the craft.

Jim was initiated into the Albert Lucking Lodge during the 20th March 1971. He never went through the chair of the Lodge but, was a founder member of the Waytemore Castle Lodge 8920 (Herts) and became its master during 1985. Jim also was part instrumental in the designing of the Waytemore Castle Lodge banner.

Even though he lived in Royston, he was a regular visitor to the Albert Lucking until recent years when life became a little more difficult for him to get around.

The evening was further heightened by Jim, the longest serving member, witnessing the initiation of, who was to become, the youngest serving member Bro. Trevor Sadler. The pre-ambule was given to the charge and an outstanding presentation of the 1st degree tracing board concluded the ceremony.



Albert Lucking Lodge 2717 Festival 2022 Donation

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Being in attendance at the regular meeting of the Albert Lucking Lodge 2717 on Saturday 20th November 2021, W Bro. Tony White APGM was presented by the WM, W Bro. Paul Field, on behalf of all the members, a cheque for £6000 towards the Festival 2022 appeal. The APGM in thanking the lodge also had the pleasant duty to announce that the lodge had now achieved Platinum Patron status.



Ken Elmes 50th Anniversary

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Written by Mick Scotchmer
Secretary of The Earl of Warwick Lodge

The Brethren of The Earl of Warwick Lodge No. 2504 were delighted to welcome Martin Howse, their Assistant Provincial Grand Master (APGM) to their meeting at Loughton Masonic Hall on 1st December 2021.

The APGM presented a 50 Year Certificate to Ken Elmes who was Initiated into the Earl of Warwick Lodge on 4th June 1971 and was Master in 1980 and 1998.

Ken was appointed as a Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (PAGDC) in 2001.

In his presentation Martin Howse noted "Ken's dedicated career of service to Essex Masonry, particularly to the Royal Arch". Ken was appointed an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals in 1998, Third Provincial Grand Principal in 2002 and Second Provincial Grand Principal in 2003. In 2009 Ken was appointed as Past Assistant Grand Sojourner (PAGSoj).

The presentation of the Certificate had been delayed by the COVID pandemic and the APGM also commented that it was an unusual certificate as it was produced at the due time and was therefore signed by Paul Reeves who was at that time the Deputy Provincial Grand Master (DepProvGM) in Charge for Essex. This was particularly appropriate as the PDepPGM is a member of Earl of Warwick Chapter which is also Ken's Chapter.

After the meeting all the Brethren enjoyed a Christmas Festive Board which included carol singing.





Masonic Secret Santas Meet at Loxford Lodge

By Tony Hales
Provincial Communications Team

The first Masonic Secret Santa Meeting was held by Loxford Lodge No. 5621 on 14th December 2021 at The Square at Upminster. All the presents were known but the children who received them were a secret.



Instead of an alms collection the Brethren brought presents for children needing specialist care at Addenbrookes Hospital spending Christmas away from home. At the request of the Hospital's Charity Trust the presents were not wrapped so that the staff could give an appropriate present to each child who would gain the most, as some have limited mobility and/or special needs and needed toys that have music, sound or lights.

A huge 'Thank-you' by the hospital was extended to all the Essex Freemasons who donated presents and money during a special 25 Days of Christmas Fundraiser in honour of the late Alexander Badman who was Master of the Lodge in 1995 and 2011. Alex's son and Lodge Steward, Harry, explained:

"The appeal is looking to become a yearly event, growing each year, and, Covid permitting, allowing more people to join in with direct fundraising. However, the recipients of the funds will look to change each year so more and more children are supported. In 2022, the fundraising is looking to fund Christmas presents for Children in shelters across Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire, depending on funds. The target is going to be raised to £2,500 off the back of an incredible year. If anyone would like to join the team, please contact me and I would be more than happy to help!"

John Cannon, the Lodge Secretary, said the Meeting was also successful in that Mustafa Ibrahim Mustafa was welcomed back as a re-joining member and Alex Dring was fervently initiated into Freemasonry by the Worshipful Master, Richard Capener. John Cannon delivered the Charge and an Explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board was given by Paul Scothern.

The grateful appreciation of the Province was conveyed by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master (APGM) for the Lodge, Martin Howse, who was delighted to confirm Loxford Lodge had also qualified with Platinum status for the Essex 2022 Festival.

Charity Steward, Mike Moisley, said "We had a very busy meeting and as you can see from the pictures there were plenty of presents donated for children at Addenbrookes Hospital. In addition, the raffle monies were topped up to £500 from the Lodge of Instruction funds and also put towards buying presents".

The children who were at Addenbrookes in special care over Christmas may not know about Freemasonry or the £51 million given to deserving causes in 2020 alone, but for the 27 Masonic Secret Santas who met at Loxford Lodge on 14th December 2021 all the presents were known but the children who received them were a secret.



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Essex Provincial Grand Stewards 2020
Fundraising Initiative



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



Recent Highlights



Saturday, 13th November, saw the Northern Star Lodge honoured by a visit from Right Worshipful Brother Terence Douglas Sheern, Provincial Grand Master. As is usual with this unique Lodge, a fried Breakfast was taken first, heralded by the Master processing in, attired in a dressing gown and with a sleepy, "faraway look", and leading the Wardens all with "Wee Willie Winkie" candle-holders with a lighted candle to set the mood of the meal.



Friday, the 12th November saw the dedication of the Combined Stewards' Lodge banner. Many years ago the Langdon Hills Mark Lodge was in dire trouble and considering surrendering its Warrant. After much deliberation, a decision was made to make it the Combined Stewards Lodge, No.1628. It was repurposed to accept, Provincial Stewards, or their equivalent, from ALL of the recognised Orders represented in Essex.



It was rather wet and dreary on the morning of Wednesday, 10th November 2021 at The Square in Upminster as the Brethren gathered to be a part of another landmark moment in the history of the Mark Province of Essex; the birth of a new Lodge, The Southern Star Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 2026. Landmark because this Lodge brings us to an impressive "first" fifty in the number of Lodges in the Mark Province a testament to the energy, drive and commitment of the Provincial Grand Master, his Executive and all the Mark Men in Essex to our Order especially given the "challenges" of the recent past.



Wednesday 13th of October 2021 was a gloriously sunny day in Southend and a good day for an early start to witness the rebirth of an Essex Mark Lodge that had fallen into darkness 12 years previously. The Isthmian Mark Lodge had handed back its Warrant in May of 2009 and was the only Essex Mark Lodge to remain closed. The Provincial Grand Secretary read the Warrant of the Isthmian Combined Services Lodge, the Petitioners were arranged before the PGM and the Ceremony of Reponement was carried out, to bring this Lodge back to light with a new purpose, that of catering for those Brothers who are volunteer, Retired or Serving members of the Emergency, Civil, Crown or Public Services.



Friday 25th of November saw 90 Grand and Provincial Grand Officers gather at The Hutton Masonic Hall Mount Avenue, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex. It was the first Officers Mess in two years due to Covid Restrictions. The President, W.Bro. Norman took the opportunity of addressing the Brethren and then went on to propose the toast to our Provincial Grand Master which was met with acclaim. The Prov.G.M., in his response, reminded all of the ongoing initiatives in Essex as well as updating all on upcoming events. As is the usual custom, he also took the opportunity to announce the names of the next Provincial Wardens as well as his nomination for Grand Steward.



As part of the MBF Capital Grant initiative all 48 Mark Lodges in Essex selected a Hospice of their choice and these were collated by the Provincial Almoner. There were 8 Hospices identified by the Lodges and with a total of £48, 000 to distribute the following Hospices received grants.

Farleigh Hospice Chelmsford, St Francis Hospice Havering, St Helena Hospice Colchester, Haven House Children's Hospice Woodford, Havens Hospice Southend, Little Havens Children's Hospice, St Luke's Hospice Basildon, St Clare's Hospice Harlow



Following our support for the Clowns in the Sky charity, the Mark Province of Essex received a "Highly Commended" award in the Pride of Essex Award Ceremony.