

# the essex mason



The Official Journal of the Masonic Province of Essex

Issue 93 August 2022 £3



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## PGM Foreword

Today I want to share with you part of my vision for Freemasonry in Essex and to ask you for your help to make it possible. - I often ask any brother, why did you become a member? The answer is always different. Maybe you joined out of curiosity, perhaps you wanted to join friends who were already members – perhaps a few of you thought you might find the holy grail. Frankly I'm a member of most of the other orders and it ain't there!

*But that doesn't really matter. You love your Freemasonry; you appreciate what it gives you - and you enjoy everything that you get out of it.*

That makes you an Ambassador for Freemasonry, you are its greatest advocates. We have almost 8,000 people just like you who are members. You are all the people who make it possible that we could thrive as an organisation.

Across Essex there are hundreds of men looking for purpose, looking to put something back into their community. We need to reach out to these men and let them know what Freemasonry offers.

We need to tell them that we will teach them life skills - becoming a better public speaker, show them how to work as part of a team, show how they can gain management and leadership skills that they can take back to their place of work. Tell them that they will meet new friends and get so much enjoyment after two years of lockdowns.

We stand for integrity, friendship, respect, charity - a moral code. We have a story to tell and there are hundreds of men that are ready to listen.

My membership team will be taking this message out across Essex later this year. We will be pushing potential initiatives towards your Lodges - if you have signed up to the Pathway scheme.

Our community has decent men who need to receive our messages in different ways. They don't know who to talk to about Freemasonry, so we have to reach out to them.

In the next few months my Executive team will be doing just that, but we all need everyone to play their part. Let the world know that you are a Freemason. Be prepared to answer questions. Speak with enthusiasm about our incredible organisation.

I am determined that Essex Freemasonry will grow and thrive under my watch. I need to have you with me on this journey.

**Paul W. Tarrant - Provincial Grand Master and MEGS**



Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 93 of Essex Mason, the Official Magazine for the Province of Essex.

Firstly, congratulations to all of the Brethren who have received Royal Arch Provincial first appointments and promotions and our shop in Colchester is available 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](http://www.essexmason.co.uk) or pop into the shop as we will be delighted to welcome you.

This issue includes features on the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting held in March at Freemasons Hall where the Armed Forces Covenant was signed by the Provincial Grand Master VW.Bro. Paul Tarrant, the new Provincial Mission Statement and a number of articles on the excellent charitable activity that has been ongoing throughout the year.

Thank you for all 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 success of Essex Mason is totally dependant on the custom and support of Essex Brethren, with all profits being distributed to Essex Charities, therefore please consider purchasing all your Masonic Regalia requirements from us, as this will directly contribute to local Essex charitable causes, and we thank you for your continued support and we look forward to your continued patronage.

The next issue of Essex Mason will be circulated in February 2023 so please submit articles to be considered for inclusion to [magazine@essexmason.co.uk](mailto:magazine@essexmason.co.uk) with a copy deadline of the 31st January 2023. Essex Mason Editorial Team

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# Provincial Grand Lodge



## Provincial Grand Lodge Installation Meeting





## The Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex Freemasons has joined over 8,000 UK Organisations in signing the Armed Forces Covenant

- The Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex signed the Armed Forces Covenant during an event at Freemasons' Hall in Covent Garden on 24 March
- A senior officer from Colchester Garrison attended the event and signed for the MOD

On 24th March 2022 the Provincial Grand Master of Essex, Paul Tarrant, signed the Armed Forces Covenant with Major Kevin Fitchett, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Colchester Garrison who was given a warm welcome at the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge at Freemasons' Hall in London, the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England.

The Covenant is a Government policy to help the Armed Forces Community, which includes veterans, bereaved families and service personnel with adaptive needs, in areas such as healthcare, education, accommodation and employment. It is an obligation on the whole of society including voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations and individuals, all of whom are asked to recognise our Armed Forces and offer respect, support and fair treatment.

V.W.Bro. Nick Franklin, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, explained *"Members of HM Armed Forces sacrifice some of their civilian freedoms and put themselves in harm's way in the defence of our realm so it is important that they should receive our support and we have an obligation to ensure that they get fair treatment which is the primary purpose of this Covenant."*

*Major Fitchett said: "Essex Freemasons have a long and positive relationship with the Armed Forces in Essex, particularly by supporting military charities both through funding and their members' direct involvement. It is a privilege to have been invited to celebrate the Freemasons signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant and we look forward to working together to benefit the Armed Forces Communities in Essex."*

One Freemason who did more than any other person to change the unwanted way people used to regard the Services in peacetime was Rudyard Kipling. Never a soldier himself, his Barrack Room Ballads and other poems conveyed the foibles of soldiers to the hearts and minds of a population which began to appreciate far more the dangers and hardships of military life. This change helped foster numerous military charities and welfare organisations, many of which still survive.

Government policy today encourages public appreciation with the Armed Forces Covenant which the 8,000 plus Essex Freemasons will support through their four important guiding principles of Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Charity.





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## OUR MISSION

“  
Through our Masonic journey we demonstrate integrity and respect for all. We support our local communities through our charitable endeavours. This creates lifelong friendships, leading to a strong foundation for the future of Essex Freemasonry.”

Paul William Tarrant  
Provincial Grand Master - Essex

# A GUIDE TO THE PROVINCIAL MISSION STATEMENT

## Discover the core values we value as Freemasons

## INTEGRITY

*“Do other people trust me?” This is the question every true Freemason strives hard to make sure the answer is “Yes”.*

*Trust is built up by keeping one’s word and not going back on promises made or by being manipulative.*

*When there is a problem, it is important to be impartial. Good Freemasons always use their better judgement and know the right thing to do.*

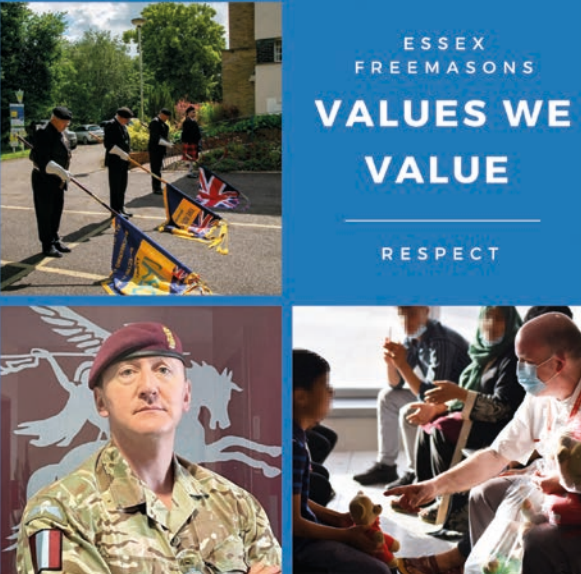
*Being genuine, honest and ethical are qualities which show people that Freemasons have the courage of their convictions and have the highest degree of moral character.*



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## VALUES WE VALUE

INTEGRITY



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## VALUES WE VALUE

RESPECT

## RESPECT

*Showing respect towards all people regardless of their race, religion or gender is an overriding commitment every Freemason makes*

*Freemasons show their respect to other people by being supportive and willing to listen. This conveys a clear message that Freemasons respect and care about other people.*

*Whether agreeing with another person or not, Freemasons do not judge. They respect other peoples’ feelings and make them feel valued.*

## COMMUNITY

*The word community comes from the old French **communité**, derived from the Latin word **cum** (with or together) and **munus** (gift). It is a broad term for a fellowship or organised society.*

*A local community is a group of people living in a common location or organised as a group with common values in a geographical area. Working together with common goals and sharing responsibility gives people a 'sense of community'.*

*Freemasons make themselves aware of and understand the needs of the local communities around them. They respect community members and get involved in community engagement programmes.*



## CHARITY

*Freemasons are motivated by sympathy and understanding for the needs of others. They appreciate that no one is so poor that they cannot give either money or their time to help others.*

*Working together with other Lodge members, Freemasons willingly and generously give their time and money to support local communities and those poorer than themselves.*

*Freemasons are charitable in their opinions of others. In giving criticism kindly, doing kind acts and speaking with sympathetic words, they are large-hearted 'Charitable Mentors'.*



## FRIENDSHIP

*Freemasonry offers a whole new world of friendship. It admits people with many differences of character who blend together and enjoy each other's company at lodge meetings, festive boards and other social events.*

*The association between Freemasons meeting regularly is more like a group of people working together for a common cause. It is this comradery which leads to the many life-long friendships found within the membership.*

*Freemasons are judged on what they do for society and a man is judged by the company he keeps. Nothing is better than the value of friendship which is found among Freemasons working together to help our local communities.*



# Provincial Charity Steward

## MEET THE NEW PROVINCIAL GRAND CHARITY STEWARD

by W.Bro. David Badger

From his beginnings in Dagenham, Chris Hicks left university as a scientist after studying biology with microbiology, with the aim of curing people. But he soon realised he was better at selling the drugs rather than discovering them! This led to a 40-plus-year career in the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Industry.

Chris was initiated into Thomas Ralling Lodge 2508 in May 1995, the first candidate following the Lodge's Centenary, by his uncle, Bill Emmerson. He has yet to miss a meeting, having notched up 107.

He was Worshipful Master in 2001 and again in 2019, the Lodge's 125th Anniversary, and due to Covid suspensions, he remained in the Chair until this year. He was appointed a Provincial Grand Steward in 2003 and received the Grand Rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (PAGDC) in 2016.

In the Royal Arch, Chris was Exalted into Thomas Ralling Chapter 2508 in March 1999 and was 1st Principal in the Chapter's Centenary Year of 2007 when he was appointed as a Provincial Grand Steward. He was appointed to Grand Rank as PAGDC in 2020.

In other orders, Chris was Advanced and Elevated in Boleyn Castle 998 Mark and Royal

Ark Mariners (RAM) Lodges in 2003. He was appointed ADC in Grand Mark in 2020 and received RAM Grand Rank in 2016. In Royal and Select Masters, he was Chosen as a Select Master in Langdon Hills Council 208 in 2009 and became a Grand Manciple in 2019. He also holds 30th Degree in Rose Croix via De Vere Chapter 831, and is in the Royal Order of Scotland, Province of North Thames.

As a side note, Chris is involved in the "Ancient and Noble Order of the Mystic Shrine", more commonly known as the Shriners and was the UK Shine Club Recorder. This order is also all about charity, and the Shriners run 27 hospitals free for children in the US, Canada and Philippines. In his "spare time", Chris is a qualified cricket umpire and an average club cricketer.



## A Charity Phoenix Arises from the Ashes of Burntwood

In Hutton, on Tuesday 6th April, the new Charity Stewards Lodge arose like a Phoenix from the ashes, to be called Burntwood Lodge (The Charity Stewards' Lodge) No. 8016. And, with 14 Essex Charity Stewards joining on day one, the transformation was complete.

The new joining members were treated to a wonderful Installation from the Burntwood team as Marc Gunnell installed his nephew, Antony Gunnell, into the chair of the newly named lodge. And the ceremony happened under the watchful eye of the new WM's father, Chris Gunnell, the Lodge Secretary. So, a Brother (brother and uncle) Installed Brother (nephew and son) with a Brother (brother and father) watching on!



Now "the Charity Stewards Lodge" can progress and develop, enabling the new Provincial Charity Steward team to disseminate news, information and ideas to their counterparts in Lodges and Chapters right across the Province.

The Lodge will continue to meet at Hutton this year, but in 2023, will start to travel around Essex. At each meeting, there will be opportunities to hear of new initiatives, ideas and ways to raise funds. There will also be presentations from charities, as well as news of the MCF and Provincial initiatives.

The Lodge is looking for more joining members, and there is at least another half-dozen who have expressed a wish to join. Being part of the Lodge will allow brethren to be part of an exciting new initiative in the Province and put them at the forefront of Charity projects.

All Charity Stewards will be invited to attend all its meetings as self-payers. Summonses will be sent to them around three weeks prior, and planned agenda items will be publicised well in advance for any other interested brethren.

The next meeting of Burntwood Lodge (the Charity Stewards' Lodge) will be on Tuesday 7th June at Hutton.

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Chris Hicks, will give an update on the 2022 Festival, the Provincial Ukraine Appeal and other initiatives for the year, and there will be a presentation from a local charity.

So keep an eye out for future topics, and Summonses from the Charity Stewards Lodge!



## Charity work does not stop once a Festival ends

### A Message from Essex's new Provincial Grand Charity Steward, W.Bro Chris Hicks

As we come to the end of the very successful Festival 2022, it is time to look at where we are going; what we in Essex will be doing on the Charity front, going forward.

Colin Felton and the team have done a fantastic job in achieving a wonderful total for the Festival and we will have a very successful evening on 18th June, when we celebrate this. I hope you will all enjoy this celebration.

However, Charity work does not stop once a Festival ends and we need to prepare for the next big event and Festival, as well as supporting our local charities and working with the MCF to support Essex-based charities. These may well have suffered badly over the past two years of the pandemic, seeing donations reduce and calls on their services increase.

I know Lodges and Chapters have given some support alongside supporting the Festival, and this is highly commendable and I thank you all. Now you will be able to increase that support and also your financial help for other good causes.

To help you there will be a series of Charity Steward Training Sessions, from September. The plan is to run one a month, each at a different centre around the Province. They will enable new and experienced Charity Stewards to learn or refresh their duties and responsibilities, and about activities that can be carried out.

These sessions will be held in the evenings and, while open to anyone, will be targeted at Charity Stewards in both Lodge and Chapter. Details will be circulated soon.

In addition, the creation of the new Charity Stewards' Lodge, Burntwood Lodge 8016, means another opportunity to learn the "tips and tricks" of being a Charity Steward, as well as hearing from Charities themselves about how we can help them, and from the MCF and other interesting and relevant organisations. The Lodge will become Burntwood Lodge 8016 (the Charity Stewards Travelling Lodge) at the Installation meeting on 5th April, when 14 joining members will swell its numbers. The meeting after that will be at Hutton on 7th June. Details of these meetings will be posted on the usual platforms.

The next two milestones for the future are: the Essex 250 celebrations in 2026, when we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the creation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex; and Festival 2033 – yes I appreciate we have just finished one, but the Festival process goes on – which will be launched in 2027.



These two events may be a while away, but the new Charity Team will be planning for them in the background to ensure that they can be launched efficiently and effectively at the appropriate times.

In the meantime, celebrate what we have achieved for Festival 2022, continue to support your local charities, of which the MCF is one, and plan for the future!



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## EASTERFORD MARKS CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2022 FESTIVAL

The Provincial Grand Master in a private capacity visited Easterford Lodge on 7th July and received a ceremonial cheque for £53,500.

This represents the contributions from Easterford Lodge and Easterford Chapter to the 2022 Festival. The level of contributions entitled Easterford Lodge to be a Grand Patron of the Festival and the Chapter a Platinum Patron of the Festival. Additionally, as the payments are made directly to MCF by Easterford Lodge Benevolent Association the Lodge is consequently a Grand Patron of MCF and the Chapter a Patron of MCF.

Members of Easterford have generously contributed to Festival 2022 through regular payments to the Easterford Charity and include 9 Grand Patrons, 6 Patrons and 16 Vice Patrons.

Charity Steward Keith said "The visit by the PGM Paul Tarrant was an opportunity to mark the contribution by Easterford and its members to Festival 2022 which they have supported in a most generous way."

Photo left to right: First Principal of Easterford Chapter E. Comp Rob Lancashire, W.Bro. Keith Brown, Charity Steward, PGM Paul Tarrant and W.Bro Mark Lawrence, Worshipful Master of Easterford Lodge.

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# Thousands of disadvantaged children get boost from Essex Freemasons



From left to right: Melanie James, Paul Tarrant, Terri Towler, Tracey Jarvis, Wendy Potter, Kirsty Cornell.

Chelmsford based charity 'Families InFocus', currently helping almost 2,000 disadvantaged children across Essex every year, has received a grant of £13,500 from Essex Freemasons to fund their ongoing drive to give young people the best start in life.

The money, donated via the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Freemason's own charity, will be targeted directly at families in Essex with children and young people with special educational need or disabilities (SEND).

**"Children with SEND have health, social and educational challenges which, if not met can impact negatively on health, schooling and social life," said Kirsty Cornell for 'Families InFocus'. "The money from Essex Freemasons will help to continue operating our helpline and one to one support families with education, benefit, health, social care, housing, leisure and transport issues. It will make quite a difference"**

The charity, which has a major aim to improve the quality of life for families, runs a weekly activity club for children and parents, providing fun and healthy activities as well as a monthly sibling's support group.

"As a result, family anxieties can be significantly reduced knowing their voices will be heard and they feel more empowered to take control, and cope better with their circumstances and the issues they face," said Kirsty.

And 'Families InFocus' is really making a difference across Essex with 80% of their clients reporting positive educational changes for their children and with at least 70% of families saying they now feel less socially isolated.

"I understand that almost 10,000 families are registered with the charity and in 2019 – 2020 they supported in total 2,000 families with educational and benefits issues," said Paul Tarrant, Provincial Grand Master for Essex Freemasons.

"It's a remarkable charity that is making a huge impact across our County and I am delighted that we have been able to help."

During the pandemic, the charity had to stop working face to face but continued to provide information, advice and support by telephone, email and remotely via skype, FaceTime and zoom. As restrictions are being removed, they aim to restart weekly sessions and monthly siblings' groups again.



## Villerica Lodge No 4053 Achieve Platinum Plus status at its Centenary Meeting

On 23rd April at Hutton Masonic Hall, the Villerica Lodge No. 4053 held its Centenary Meeting at which they were honoured by the presence of the Provincial Grand Master, RW.Bro Paul William Tarrant, accompanied by Assistant Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth and supported by a team of 8 Provincial Grand Officers.

After receiving the RW.ProvGM and the reading of the Minutes, a short history of the Lodge was presented by 3 senior Past Masters, W.Bro's Fred Steed, Michael Haynes and Brian Hughes whose family connections to the lodge spanned over 70 years as their fathers had themselves been Past Masters of the Lodge. W. Bro. Fred had also been WM at the Golden Jubilee Meeting in 1971.

This was followed by the presentation of the Centenary Warrant. After its inspection and reading by the Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Richard Jordan, the RW Provincial Grand Master presented the Centenary Warrant to the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Trevor Heaps, who expressed his honour and privilege to receive it on behalf of the Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain, W. Bro. Mick Scotchmer then gave an oration which gave perspective to what the Lodge had achieved by preserving the standards laid down by its Founders 100 years ago and by remaining true to their visions. Set against the enormous changes which had occurred over that period, in world history, science and technology and society in general, it was gratifying that the principles and tenets of Freemasonry had survived intact and were apparently alive and well in Villerica Lodge.

To mark the occasion, the WM then presented the RW ProvGM with a cheque for £4000 as a further donation to the Essex Festival 2022 which brought the total contributions from the Lodge to £60000. The RW ProvGM thanked W Bro. Trevor for the cheque and given that the Lodge had already been accorded Double Grand Patron status, was pleased to present in return, a framed Platinum Plus Certificate congratulating the Villerica Lodge as the only lodge in Essex to achieve this status. He then announced that he was pleased to make another presentation and proceeded to invest W. Bro. Trevor as an Acting Provincial Grand Standard Bearer. This was greeted with applause from all present.

After conclusion of Lodge business the RWProv GM retired in Procession, to bring to a close, a historic and memorable Meeting of the Villerica Lodge No 4053. The Centenary celebration was completed with a most convivial Festive Board where all enjoyed an excellent meal and service and in true masonic manner, united in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness.

The annual National Masonic Clay Shooting Championships were held on 11/06/2022 at Mid-Norfolk Shooting Ground.

170 masonic shooters from across England & Wales took part and, for the second year running, the Essex Masonic CSA were the winning team due to the combined scores of three of our shooters (Neil March (82), Dave Wilder(81) & Clive Fry (80). Clive Fry's score also won him the Individual High Gun trophy in the Supervet (65 & over) category.

The team final scores were:

Essex	243
West Lancs	241
East Kent	231



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## £34,000 grants to help armed forces veterans across Essex

Combat2Coffee, a support organisation for Armed Forces veterans who may be struggling with life outside of the services, is on the road and ready to help thanks to a grant of £34,000 from Essex Freemasons.

The money, donated via the Essex Freemasons Community Fund, has allowed the Combat2Coffee charity to purchase and equip a new van which has been literally turned into a mobile coffee shop.

It will be used in every part of the county to help train ex-veterans in business skills, provide a social network for servicemen suffering from a wide range of mental health issues – and for those that really warm to the coffee theme, the chance to learn how to be Baristas.

Coffee has been the key for Colchester based Nigel Seaman, a former member of the Royal Anglian Regiment. After being diagnosed with PTSD, linked to his army service in which resulted in him losing a foot, he decided to use coffee as a vehicle to help others.

“We are here to offer training and development for veterans who may be under a rehabilitation order or are looking for a little extra support,” said Nigel. “We work with former members of the Armed Forces and their families to train them in new skills and assist those who need it with help to find work placements or outreach support where possible.”

“The van, which would not have been possible without the help of local Freemasons, will enable us to reach every part of Essex and help many more former veterans. The grant has made a real difference to our work”

After serving with the Army for 12 years and being medically retired from his subsequent career as a prison officer, Nigel began suffering from depression, anxiety and flashbacks from an incident experienced during his time on operations with the armed forces.

He was referred to Combat Stress and after completing a 6-week trauma course, Nigel was further referred to Help 4 Heroes for ongoing support in the community. Since then, the Help 4 Heroes organisation along with Combat Stress have been the backbone of his recovery and their support and encouragement have been the inspiration for the creation of Combat2Coffee.

Colin Felton, Past Provincial Charity Steward for Essex Freemasons, commented: “Freemasons in Essex have signed the Armed Forces Covenant to help and support our servicemen and women, many of whom suffer terrible mental health issues. This is a good example of the kind of support we want provide and represents our determination to be there for our veterans.”

“Nigel is doing incredible and inspirational work in the community and I am delighted that we have been able to help this charity expand its critical work across Essex.”



Nigel Seaman, Combat2Coffee Founder with Colin Felton, Essex Freemasons Charity Steward and Chris Lee. Member of Lodge XV which originally recommended the charity for a grant.

## the cheque that is only telling half the story



Cheques don't come a lot bigger, but this one is telling less than half the story. The figures say £50,000, making it the latest donation by the team at Essex Mason to the Festival 2022 Appeal, but the true amount should really say a whopping £110,000.

That's how much the team have donated so far and it is enough to make them a double Platinum, the first unit in the Province to achieve that accolade – helping to swell the Festival total beyond the original £5 million target.

To mark the occasion, the PGM, RW.Bro Paul Tarrant presented a special certificate and met the nine-man Essex Mason team at their offices in Colchester to thank them for their massive contribution.

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*"It is a magnificent amount of money and represents a considerable amount of hard work by everyone who gives up their time to supply and send out regalia to our members across the Province," said the PGM. "Essex Mason has an incredible record for supporting local and Provincial charities which is why it has been good to meet the people who have made it all possible."*

The cheque for £50,000 was presented to the PGM by Essex Mason Company Secretary Graeme Lockwood, who explained: "The money represents the profits made on regalia sales so in reality every Essex Mason who has ever purchased anything from us has helped to raise this total."

*"All profits are given to charity and this has always been the policy of Essex Mason."*

As well as the Essex Mason team, DepPGM Nick Franklin and APGM's Peter Hollingsworth and Tony White were also present and together with the rest of the visitors enjoyed a home-made Victoria Sponge, baked by the official Provincial Cake maker Jeff Cripps.

In case you are unaware of any such office then check out the badge.



# Provincial Charity Steward



## Essex Freemasons help transport in Castle Point

Essex Freemasons have just completed a £15,000 donation to the Castle Point Social Car Scheme (CPSCS) to provide transport options for the elderly and disabled in Castle Point.

The Scheme, started in 1997, has a fleet of 6 vehicles, 3 mini-buses and 3 disability cars driven by 3 employed drivers and 27 volunteer drivers, along with many more volunteers to help the passengers. With these vehicles and volunteers the "Car Scheme" offers transport and trips for the elderly and disabled in Castle Point. For a small membership fee over 1,000 residents are able to book car journeys at a reduced cost as well as places on minibuses for daytrips around Essex. The journeys can be for hospital visits or even holidays, and the planned trips allow members to visit beauty spots, shopping centres, garden centres etc.

This is an invaluable service to the residents of Castle Point and apart from the small annual membership fee and reduced mileage cost the "Car Scheme" is financed by fund raising and donations. The "Car Scheme" needs around £140,000 per year to support this valuable resource, which supplies around 6,500 journeys per year.

Chairman Alan Beale said that "Now the pandemic and restrictions are over I get a lot of members saying that they just want to get out and visit places. This makes this service even more important for the members, particularly for their quality of life and mental health."

Chris Hicks, Provincial Charity Steward for Essex, said, "This is a good example of Freemasons supporting the community in Essex, particularly the vulnerable. The donation comes from the more than £1 Million pounds raised each year by Essex Freemasons through the Masonic Charitable Foundation".

Contact details for the CPSC  
[cp-carscheme@btconnect.com](mailto:cp-carscheme@btconnect.com)



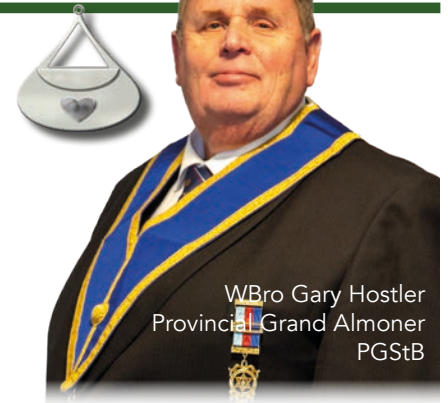
[www.bandontherun.co.uk](http://www.bandontherun.co.uk)

Tel: 01621 817 320 or 07802 858843



## Welcome Back

It's so good to see so many brethren back attending meetings after the long closures due to Covid. It is important that we recognise that Covid is still with us and despite the almost blanket relaxation of restrictions recently we still have some members who are rightly cautious about returning and we must all respect that; I'm sure that all Lodges and almoners are looking out for the well being of their members.



WBro Gary Hostler  
Provincial Grand Almoner  
PGStB



The first CHAPS event of the year took place at Saxon Hall in March and we had 114 individuals took advantage of the PCa blood test and all received the appropriate follow up. Of those 114 tests 24 required further investigation and were referred to their GP whilst the remainder were either discharged or given low level follow up advice in respect of future testing.

The second event, at St Giles in Colchester, was successfully held on 19th July, the final event this is year is at The Square (Upminster Masonic Hall) on 26th September and if you haven't yet booked your appointment, please go to <https://www.chaps.uk.com/events> where you can book an appointment. There are flyers in all the centres and keep an eye out for further updates via social media and email.

*I must thank the Trustees of the Essex Provincial Charity Fund who have provided support for our 3 CHAPS health check days this year.*

## WORKSHOP

All almoners will have received an invite to the Provincial Almoners Workshops which we are running in October at Saxon Hall, Kirby Cross, and Chingford. Please do make every effort to attend on of these as there will a mixture of presentations and the opportunity to work and share experiences with your fellow almoners. All of us should learn something from attending if you are a newly appointed /Almoner or an experienced Almoner and lunch will be provided. Registration for each event will be from 09:30 and the start time 10am with a view to finishing around 3pm. If you haven't yet booked in and need the details, please contact Ray Heathfield, Deputy PGA at [ray.heathfield@essexfreemasons.org.uk](mailto:ray.heathfield@essexfreemasons.org.uk)



## PROGRESS



## Membership Pathway

The roll out of the new Membership Pathway is ongoing and I hope you will take the opportunity to attend one of the sessions being given by the Provincial Membership Team.

As part of the new approach there is a definite change to the role of the Lodge Almoner within the process and more information will be shared as part of our Workshops later in the year. As much of the presentation is around retention and retrieving, succession planning also plays a key part of the 'plan' and, as we have previously mentioned, the use of a Deputy or Assistant Almoner within a Lodge can reap huge benefits as a younger member may be able to assist with positive PR or social media. The feedback from the units who already have a 'deputy' is very positive so please make use of this informal role within your Lodge or Chapter.





# Provincial Almoner's Lodge – Richard Clowes Lodge No 2936

In 2021 we took the decision to adopt the Richard Clowes Lodge as the Provincial Almoner's Lodge for Essex.



With meetings at Harlow, Southend and Colchester, the Lodge is designed to provide an informal setting for Lodge and Chapter Almoners to meet regularly and discuss all matters 'almoner' as well as an 'Ask the Almoner' session at every meeting where the Team or myself would be happy to answer questions. The Lodge is non progressive and suitable lectures or presentations will be arranged for each meeting.

I would urge as many of you as possible to support and join the Lodge which I am certain you will find both interesting and useful. For further details please contact

me directly: [gary.hostler@essexpgl.org.uk](mailto:gary.hostler@essexpgl.org.uk)

## Financial Support for Brethren

As many of you know from our shared 'Covid' experiences, we can offer two levels of financial support:

Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) offers long term support and can be accessed via the network of Grant Officers (AGO) and Liaison Officers (ALO). Details of the grants available and the process can be accessed via the Provincial Team, contact details are available via the Cube and Provincial Download.

Essex Provincial Almoners Fund (EPAF) offers immediate and relatively low level assistance to any brethren in urgent need of funding. This process worked brilliantly during Covid and many families benefited from the hard work of the Almoner Team to get them through some very tough times. As the 'cost of living crisis' approaches it is likely that things will get difficult again and it is important that brethren are aware that support is available.

Both the MCF and EPAF rely on donations so please remember both when making charitable donations from your 'Master's List' or Relief Chest going forward. Like every excellent initiative undertaken at National or Provincial level these funds rely on your generosity and I hope that this tradition continues going forward.

Have a great summer and enjoy the traditional masonic 'break' but bear in mind that we are here to assist, support and advise you.



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Essex Royal Arch Provincial Exec with the Chapter Support Team

On Thursday, the 21st of April 2021, over 200 Companions attended the convocation (meeting) of Essex First Principals at Saxon Hall Southend. Members and guests who attended ranged from past 1st Principals as well as newly exalted Companions. This meeting, as usual, was open to all Companions from Essex and neighbouring counties.



Chapter Support Team in full flow

This meeting was attended by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent E.Comp Paul William Tarrant, accompanied by his Deputy E.Comp Elliott Lloyd Chevin, the Second and Third Provincial Grand Principals E.Comp Phillip Campbell and E.Comp John Hubbard, along with the rest of the Essex Royal Arch Provincial Executive and many of the Craft Executive.

After the Chapter was open, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent took the 1st Principals' Chair and proceeded to invest the Celebratory Ranks to 15 Companions from across the province to mark his investiture as Grand Superintendent.



Principals of Essex First Principals Chapter with the Chapter Support Team

Next on the agenda were joining members, 15 Companions who have served as First Principal in their chapter joined Essex First Principals Chapter. Finishing with other various agenda items the Chapter was closed, with all attendees retiring to the Jubilee Suite for the highlight of the evening.



Companions receiving celebratory appointments

Following the Convocation, there was a presentation of the history and explanation of the Royal Arch Tracing Boards by the Essex Provincial Grand Stewards' Chapter Presentation Team. This is a rarely seen presentation which had only been seen in Essex once before, and it was presented by the Metropolitan Chapter Support team headed by E.Comp Simon White. The Metropolitan Grand Stewards Presentation team shared the ritual to the Essex Presentation team who had just a few months to learn it perfectly. And that they did, where each member of the Essex team faultlessly delivered large sections of the ritual to everyone's delight. The presentation adds meaning, context and explains the symbolism seen in the Chapter furniture.

If you were unable to be present on that occasion, please note that the second presentation will be at the meeting of the Chapter of XV on Friday, 19 August, at Rochford. It certainly is something not to be missed.

If you wish to attend, please contact the Chapter's Scribe E., Bob Mathew, at [robertmathew1948@gmail.com](mailto:robertmathew1948@gmail.com).



Principals of Essex First Principals Chapter with the Met Chapter Team

After the presentation the companions enjoyed a themed festive board entitled "King Solomon's Banquet", this was in the form of a traditional a menu which may have been served at the time of the building of King Solomon Temple, the quality and service of this was truly fit for a King



## Triple Tau Chapter of Success



On Thursday 3rd February 2022, Liberty of Havering Chapter No. 1437 carried out a rarely seen triple Exaltation at Upminster Masonic Centre. With over 80 Companions present, the Provincial Director of Ceremonies E.Comp Joe Shearer entered the Chapter and announced that E.Comp Elliott Lloyd Chevin, Deputy Grand Superintendent, was outside the door of the Chapter seeking admission, accompanied by two Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals, E.Comp David Wilson (the Chapter's APGP) and E.Comp Bruce Mapson, who also heads up the Royal Arch Membership Team (RAMBO for short), escorted by two Provincial Grand Stewards.

The usual courtesies were offered to the Deputy Grand Superintendent, who briefly considered taking the Sceptre of MEZ but for the fact that E.Comp Bruce Mapson was planned to deliver the triple Exaltation and as the Deputy Grand Superintendent was looking forward to critiquing his performance he therefore declined and took his front row seat.

E.Comp Bruce Mapson occupied the chair of the MEZ and proceeded to exalt the 3 candidates into Liberty of Havering Chapter. As a Grand Officer, APGP and one of the founding Companions of the Royal Arch Support Team, you would expect the ritual to be delivered word-perfectly. However, added to this was meaning, passion and an award-winning performance rarely seen in my many years as a Royal Arch Mason, and I can reassure you, the Deputy Grand Superintendent was extremely disappointed as he had to award maximum points for this outstanding performance. E. Comp Bruce, supported by a number of the Chapter members, contributed to what was an outstanding ceremony.

Yet, this was not about the Chapter or how well the APGP delivered the ceremony, this was about the three Candidates who were blown away with the emotional sentiment as the realisation that The Holy Royal Arch is an integral part of Freemasonry and why this is considered as the completion of the journey in Pure Antient Masonry. The common response from the new Companions was....

*"now I get it."*

After the ceremony, the members and guests were treated to a stupendous themed "Burns Night" festive board, with all the trimmings. The haggis was paraded around the diners, led by bagpipes, and followed by E.Comp Laurie Justice and his jovial makeshift kilt and sporran and E.Comp David Wilson in his family Tartan, with knees to be proud of. The haggis was presented by E.Comp John McDonald and E.Comp Laurie Justice and was a dual act well worth a watch.

Liberty of Havering Chapter No. 1437, have another triple Exaltation coming soon – for more information, please contact the Chapter Scribe E. E.Comp. Charles Barrand whose contact details are in the Provincial Handbook.

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# Liberty of Havering Chapter No. 1437



# Essex Royal Arch

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

### St George's Day and 50 years in the Royal Arch



On St George's Day, on behalf of Essex Provincial Grand Chapter, the Deputy Grand Superintendent E. Comp Elliott Chevin presented a 50th Certificate for Royal Arch service to a trusty and well-beloved companion, Jeremy Davenport, at Nore Chapter No. 3610 which meets at Southend Masonic Centre, Saxon Hall.

Excellent Companion (E Comp) Jeremy was Exalted in Nore Chapter in April 1972, whilst in his 20s, and since then has been an enthusiastic member of the Royal Arch which he loves. As the longest serving Past First Principal of Nore Chapter, Jeremy was Most Excellent Zerubbabel (MEZ) forty-one years ago in 1981 and again in 2017.

With a vibrant subscribing membership today of 32, Jeremy's contribution over the last fifty years is greatly appreciated by his fellow Companions who presented him with lovely glassware gifts on behalf of Nore Chapter in recognition of his fifty years' service.

The DepGSupt also presented a personal letter from the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent (MEGS), Paul Tarrant. Jeremy was first appointed as Provincial Grand Registrar (ProvGReg) in 1987 and promoted to Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah (PPGSN) in 1998.

For a Companion who loves his Royal Arch with its friendship and colourful ceremony, Jeremy is very pleased to be one of the 40% plus of all Essex Freemasons to have joined the Royal Arch.

As one who is held in such high esteem by his fellows, Jeremy was absolutely delighted to receive his Certificate, personal letter from the MEGS and the glassware gifts. The occasion was made even more special for him with a wonderful St. George's Day Chapter Banquet afterwards where the voices a



## Abbots Hall Chapter No. 6205 Lockdown Now Part of our History

The April Installation meeting of Abbots Hall Chapter No. 6205 saw the Companions put the Lockdown period of their history behind them and move into the next chapter of their history.

The outgoing 1st Principal, Enda Greensmith, who like other MEZs in the Province has been in Office three years, installed his successor Glyn Davies with great sincerity and notable relief.



Enda has been awarded a Celebratory Rank by the Province which he will receive at Essex First Principals. The Companions congratulated him warmly for this and all his efforts over the last three years.

David Seymour and Barry Shepherd were then installed as 2nd and 3rd Principals respectively. The Address to the Officers was given by John Crudginton and it was a pleasure to see Frank Sharp back at Masonic meetings and giving the Address to the Companions in his usual impeccable style.

Another change in personnel saw Bruce Mapson stand down as Scribe E with John Mansfield as his replacement. Bruce was thanked by the 1st Principal for all his hard work. In reply Bruce said he had enjoyed his time but now it was appropriate for another to take the Chapter forward. He thanked the Companions for all their efforts but cautioned the new Scribe E that they were not good at replying to emails!

The Companions also approved a significant amount from their Chapter Relief Chest for the Ukraine Appeal.

At the Chapter closure the Companions dined on a fabulous Festive Board which resulted in the Companions leaving at the end of the evening 'Happy to have Met and Sorry to depart, but Happy to meet Again'.



I MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN MY COMMUNITY.

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I'M PART OF A FANTASTIC TEAM.

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I WISH I HAD JOINED EARLIER.

Proud to be an Essex Freemason



I FEEL MORE CONFIDENT TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC.

Proud to be an Essex Freemason



I'VE MADE HUNDREDS OF NEW FRIENDS.

Proud to be an Essex Freemason



I'VE LEARNED TO BE A BETTER LEADER.

Proud to be an Essex Freemason



I'VE LEARNED NEW MANAGEMENT SKILLS.

Proud to be an Essex Freemason



## Pathway – a strategy for success

The Pathway Scheme is proving to be a massive success following launch events at all of the major centres – and by Christmas we expect that more than 200 Lodges will have signed up to this programme – an initiative that is set to transform Freemasonry across Essex.

Pathway is not all about attracting new members, although we can now see growing numbers of young men being introduced to Lodges across the Province - and early statistics are suggesting that our overall membership has now stabilized for the first time in 10 years.

As a result of Pathway and individual Lodges reaching out to potential members, we expect to initiate around 325 new Brethren into our Fraternity over the next 12 months. We are also forecasting that we shall continue to attract a further 300 plus members every year for at least the next five years.

But it is not just about new initiates - the scheme is also about retaining members, reaching out to those that have not attended for a while. It's about keeping Brethren interested by encouraging visiting, promoting learning and development and ensuring that no one ever feels left out.

To this end we have redefined the roles of the Almoner, Mentor and membership Officer in line with UGLE recommendations.

### The Almoner

The Almoner will now take on more responsibility for retention and retrieval, it will be his role to chase up members who have not attended or have not been seen recently. Full training and support are being provided in this area by the Provincial Almoner team.

### The Mentor

The Mentor will now be expected to deliver learning and development and we plan to ensure that a regular flow of information is sent each month via our Comms Team to allow Mentors to make reports and update members. A monthly newsletter using content from Solomon has already been launched to provide Lodge Mentors with the content to deliver during an itemized report or to present in quiet periods during the meeting.

### The Membership Officer

The Membership Officer, as well as looking after newer members, will also act as a social secretary to ensure they can visit other Lodges and not be left out of Lodge activities. They will also encourage newer members to consider the Royal Arch where appropriate.

## Has your Lodge signed up?

If your Lodge has not signed up then we cannot send you any potential initiates. If you are wondering why, it is because we try to place square pegs in square holes. When you sign up, we ask for Lodge profile so that we can get a better understanding of the type of candidates we can send in your direction.

These candidates are sent to us via the Essex and UGLE websites and are carefully vetted before being passed on to a suitable Lodge. Most are not suitable for a wide number of reasons – only about 10% actually make it through to initiation, but past experience has shown that these are the kind of people we want, keen, dedicated and wanting to know more.

These are the people who simply do not know how to become Freemasons, but have always been interested in joining. To this end we will therefore be launching our own social media advertising campaign from September to reach out to young men based in Essex.

# Provincial Membership

Such is the importance of Pathway that the PGM has assigned two APGMs, Colin Felton and Robert Eels to look after and help deliver the scheme at Executive level. They are both supported by incredible and dedicated membership and mentoring teams in every part of the Province.

As already mentioned, they will be placing considerable focus on addressing losses, finding out why people who have previously enjoyed their Freemasonry, have decided to leave and finding solutions to reverse that trend.

## Addressing and Preventing Losses

Our figures, taken over a period between 2007 and 2018 and which are very approximate, show that Member resignations for new Masons after just one year is about 12%. Over a two-year period, this loss is 32% and over eight years is 36%. This is clearly a key target area as part of the Pathway scheme, to retain and retrieve and to address this, we plan to work closely with Lodges to find new ways of ensuring that any losses are kept to a minimum.

Much of the programme will be directed towards informing new members about the Royal Arch and other Orders. Statistics show that Masons are more committed when they decide to join other branches of Masonry.

We are clearly going through massive change, Covid has altered perceptions, but Freemasonry still remains a constant force for good. It protects its core values and it's a message that young men want to hear – just as we did when we joined.



## Buckhurst Hill Lodge 8291

The Lodge has had the honour and privilege of initiating its youngest ever member 19year old Brother Vinni Bowles.

Vinni was proposed by his father Stewart Bowles ( who guided him through the ceremony of his initiation as the Junior Deacon).

The ceremony was conducted by his Great uncle, Worshipful Brother Chris Golbourn, and the Ancient charge was given by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge Worshipful Brother Ronnie Rowell,

also present at the ceremony was Vinni's Grandfather Worshipful Brother John Golbourn and his God Farther Brother John Eldred a truly family affair spanning a collective total of 90 years worthing of freemasonry.

The other members if the lodge also played fantastic parts in the ceremony and Vinni was warmly received into the heart if the lodge and into freemasonry by all members and guests present in true Buckhursthill Lodge Style.

## Hornchurch Lodge No 5790

This really made it a "Knight" to remember for Hornchurch Lodge.

On Saturday 12th February Hornchurch Lodge No 5790 initiated Bro Luke Knight into Freemasonry at the ripe old age of 18!

The degree was conducted by his father W.Bro Keith Knight, Junior Deacon for the initiation was his brother W.Bro James Knight and the first degree working tools were explained by his uncle W.Bro Peter Knight.



left to right W.Bro James Knight, W.Bro Keith Knight, Bro. Luke Knight, W.Bro Peter Knight

## Netteswell Cross Lodge No 9280.

Netteswell Cross have not wasted any time in trying to get back to some sort of normality after the difficulties of the past 2 years.

Netteswell Cross carried out a Double Initiation Ceremony on the 4th February 2022, followed by another Initiation on the 25th March 2022.Both Ceremonies were carried out by W.Bro Gary Harman who received his Provincial Grand Steward's Red apron the day before at the Essex Provincial Grand Lodge meeting on the 24th March 2022.

Pictured with W.Bro Gary Harman are new Initiates Bro Chris Matthews (right) & Bro Sam Charville (left), unfortunately our other new made Brother Kris Taylor was not present at the latter meeting.





# ESSEX CORNERSTONE



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**It's been a busy 6 months for Essex Cornerstone with events for the Club, meetings for the Lodge and exciting developments for the new Chapter.**

Club membership has continued to grow with more and more young Essex Freemasons looking to join and connect with other young masons to make new friendships within the fraternity and experience some of the exciting events that are planned for 2022.

There have been a few changes to the Club Committee, W.Bro Jack Gilliland has left his position as Club Chairman and was replaced by Bro. Bernie Smith. W.Bro Jack has been a driving force for all things 'Cornerstone' over the years and will be taking on the role in the Royal Arch Executive as Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals. Good luck Jack!

## Essex Cornerstone Club Annual Dinner

February saw the Club host its show-piece event; The Annual Members' Dinner at The House of Commons. 70 Club members and guests were finally able to celebrate the restart of Freemasonry, and they certainly celebrated in style.

Joined by the Provincial Grand Master Paul Tarrant, the evening began with pre-drinks on the terrace overlooking The Thames. Brethren were then moved into the historical Churchill Room for dinner.

During dinner it was announced that Bro Bernie Smith would become the Club's new Chairman after the departure of W.Bro Jack Gilliland. Bro Bernie emphasised the importance of the Club to young Freemasons in Essex and in supporting one another throughout their masonic journeys.

Planning is already underway for the 2023 Annual Dinner so please keep an eye out for future announcements.



### 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](http://www.essexcornerstone.com) 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.



## Essex Cornerstone Club Events for 2022.

Several events have been held so far in 2022 with much more to come. Recent events include a community litter pick along Southend Seafront. Southend receives many visitors on sunny weekends who don't always leave our local beaches in the way they are found. Members of the Essex Cornerstone Club worked collaboratively with Southend County Council to walk the beaches one evening collecting sacks of litter, making our local community cleaner and safer.



Club members have been out in the Province supporting each other recently by attending St John's Lodge No.1343. W.Bro Paul Williams was installed into the Chair of King Solomon and his Brothers from Essex Cornerstone were there every step of the way, Paul said 'Being installed is such a wonderful experience which was made even more special by the support of my friends from Cornerstone. The confidence I have gained from this Club and Lodge has really helped me in my Mother Lodge'.

## Essex Cornerstone Lodge No 9968

On Friday 10th June there was another fantastic meeting of the Essex Cornerstone Lodge. The Lodge looks to strike a balance between exceptional ritual & floorwork, and the creative planning of the Festive Board & post-toast entertainment. This time was an Ibiza theme, with inflatable decor, rolling tapas buffet starter, huge paella main followed by live entertainment. There was background music from a DJ booth during the meal, and a live saxophonist playing in time with chilled tunes afterwards. These Lodge meetings are open to all Freemasons, regardless of age, and it's so wonderful to see so many guests from across the Province connecting in such a unique way.



## Essex Cornerstone Chapter

It's an exciting time for the Essex Cornerstone Chapter as the founders have been signing the petition over the last few months. There has been a huge amount of organisation and planning going on with so much more to do for the Consecration in 2023.



**ESSEX CORNERSTONE CLUB**

**CLUB EVENTS**

JULY	Mt Snowdon climb
AUG	Whitewater rafting
SEPT	Curry night & Ripper tour
OCT	Progressive orders evening
NOV	Cornerstone white Table
DEC	Essex Cornerstone Lodge
JAN '23	Drink Social
FEB '23	Annual Members' Dinner

There is jam-packed schedule of events for club members and potential members throughout 2022 and beyond.

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## Essex Mark Provincial Grand Lodge

The Essex Mark Provincial Grand Lodge was held on 1st June at Felsted School. The occasion was the beginning of a long bank holiday weekend for around 280 Mark members.

The spectacular setting of the Ivy covered Felsted School Hall, was once again the backdrop for the event, and the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Terence D. Sheern, welcomed Mark men from around the country and Europe. More than 220 Essex Mark members were welcomed and witnessed their friends and Lodge colleagues receive active office honours and promotions. R.W.Bro Paul Tarrant was presented with a cheque to the Essex Craft Festival bringing the total donation from the Essex Mark Province to £50,000.

Essex Mark are quite unusual, in that active officers are positively encouraged to attend Lodge meetings around the Province and help to maintain the friendliness which is so widespread in the Mark Degree. Where a Lodge might be missing officers because of sickness etc, the active Provincial officers are often to be found standing in.

Several of the Progressive Masonic orders presented displays to the assembled members and had the opportunity to talk to potential members, and raise the profile of their specific orders.

A sumptuous Festive Board was provided – and was far from what you might expect from school dinners! The lucky Mark men present enjoyed a five course meal, and all agreed that it was great to be back after a long layoff caused by the pandemic.

### Essex Mark member hosts Ukraine family

After many weeks of waiting, a Ukrainian family flew into Luton Airport to be greeted by their sponsoring family. After a wait for news about their visas, Natalya and her 2 children, Karyba, 15, and 8-month-old Emilia learned that they had been granted and that their temporary residence in Moldova, would be replaced with a family in England.



W.Bro. Colin Kendrick of St. Nicholas Mark Lodge No.413, had been contacted by his friend, Vova, as the war in Ukraine started and asked him to take his family to safety. The family had been sheltering in their basement amid the dangers of the invasion and plans were made to receive the family in England. Many weeks later, the flight into Luton would see the family safe.

The journey to Moldova was a long one and on arrival, they and many other families were placed into temporary accommodation whilst further travel plans were made. On 18 March, their Visa applications were made out and the wait began.

During this time the Mark men of Essex have been supporting W.Bro. Kendrick raising money for the family. At a Cluster Mark meeting, held under the banner of the Aurelius Mark Lodge No. 814, at Clacton, the Brethren donated their evening Raffle collection, Natalya, with their best wishes.

At the 150th Anniversary of the Constantine Mark Lodge No. 145, held on 22 April 2022, the Essex 2030 MBF Festival mascot, 'Rory' the Lion was donated so that Emilia would have a new soft toy on her arrival.

Thanks go to the Mark Brethren of the North of Essex and the Essex Mark Province for the support they have given and continue to give. The family are safe, and they look forward to the end of the war and the opportunity to return to their country.



### BANNER DEDICATIONS

Recent months have been very busy for the Provincial Grand Master and his team with the dedication of three new banners. Banner Dedication ceremonies took place at The Combined Stewards Lodge at Orsett, The Mark of Love & Remembrance

at Rochford and The Naze Tower Lodge of Mark Master Masons at Frinton. There is a further Dedication ceremony planned for the newest Lodge in the Essex Province, The Southern Star Lodge of Mark Master Masons at Upminster in July.

## ZIP WIRE CHALLENGE

Six brave Essex Mark Men returned to the quarries one bright and sunny April Saturday, but this time it wasn't for work but for pleasure.

These intrepid Mark Men were there to complete a zip-line challenge fundraiser for the 2030 Essex Mark Festival, at Bluewater in Kent, a former quarry.

The idea was first suggested by Dave Todd, who had previously taken part in a wing walk for charity. He asked for willing volunteers, and they came forward willingly, although with trepidation.

The Keystone Fliers team consisted of our Deputy Provincial Grand Master,



John Finlay, Provincial Secretary Paul Busby, Deputy Secretary, Geoff Newman, Media Manager Dave Todd, Shop Manager Steve Joslin and Les Irving (amputee). They were also supported by their families and friends, to make the event more enjoyable, and relaxing for some of the fliers.

Sponsorship for the event had been running for a few months and the group recently announced that over £6500 was raised.



2030 Essex Mark Festival



On Friday 22 April at the St. Giles Masonic centre in Colchester, the Constantine Lodge of Mark Masters No. 145 celebrated its 150th anniversary of continued working as a Lodge.

The Constantine Mark Lodge was Consecrated on Wednesday 17 April 1872 at the Three Cups Hotel in Colchester and is the oldest Lodge in the Mark Province of Essex.

Constantine is the sponsoring Lodge of the Essex Province, itself Constituted in 1899. The Lodge is also the sponsor for the Essex Installed Mark Masters Lodge No. 1044 and sits at the head of a family of 12 Lodges in Essex from Dunmow No. 527 as the first Lodge to be Consecrated into the Essex Province and Southern Star No. 2026 as the newest addition and 50th Mark Lodge in Essex.

The Consecration of Constantine took place 16 years after Mark Grand Lodge was itself Constituted with the Albert Victor Mark Lodge No. 70, the oldest in East Anglia being the sponsoring Lodge. The Primus Master and then-Secretary of the Albert Victor Mark in 1872, W.Bro. Charles Thomas Townsend, PSGD, was the Consecrating Officer. The 2nd Master of Albert Victor, W.Bro. the Rev. Robert N. Sanderson was the Primus Master of Constantine and would have a busy day ahead of him.

With the Consecration done, the Master and his officers turned their attention to the Advancement of 12 Brethren which was duly completed. One of the Brethren Advanced was Thomas Ralling, who would go on to have a huge impact on Freemasonry in Essex. He would become the Secretary of Constantine Mark the following year, in 1873, and remain in post until his death in 1924 except for the years 1880 and 1881 when the Master. He would be the very first Provincial Grand Secretary for the Mark Province of Essex in 1899, remaining in that post until his death in 1924.

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# Additional Orders

## Rose Croix District of South Essex Installation of the new Inspector General



The Chapters of the Rose Croix District of South Essex enjoyed the support and direction of V.III. Bro. Paul Tarrant, 33o as Inspector General from February 2017 until his appointment as R.W. Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent for the Province of Essex in May 2021. The Supreme Council were pleased to appoint V.III. Bro. John Hubbard, 33o as his successor. Unfortunately, owing to the disruption to meetings associated with the Covid pandemic V.III. Bro. John's installation was deferred.

However as soon as meetings were resumed V.III. Bro. John swiftly settled into his new position and was very warmly received when visiting the Chapters within the District.

Finally, an installation date was fixed for 24th January, 2022, and on that day almost 100 members of the District of South Essex, visiting Inspectors General, District Recorders and the Heads of various other Orders attended Hutton Masonic Hall to witness the installation ceremony. The meeting was hosted by John's own chapter, Hutton Chapter No 680, and an outstanding ceremony was conducted by members of The Supreme Council, led by the Sovereign Grand Commander, M.P. Bro. Guy Elgood, 33.

At the festive board following the installation the installing officers were presented with gifts as a token of appreciation for the excellence of the ceremony. On behalf of the members of the District, the new Inspector General then presented V.III. Bro. Paul Tarrant with a gift to mark their appreciation for his service throughout his previous five years in office.



On Friday 8 April 2022, the Provincial Grand Lodge of East Anglia, Royal Order of Scotland celebrated the Installation of their new Provincial Grand Master. The ceremony took place at the St. Giles Masonic Centre in Colchester where the Province welcomed a Grand Lodge Deputation from Edinburgh. Following the formal opening, the Brethren were called to order by the Grand Marischal, Bro. Ray King to receive the Deputy Grand Master and Governor, Bro. Ewan Rutherford, accompanied by the Grand Secretary, Bro.



Alan Dickson. It is interesting to note that the first Grand Lodge of the Order was formed in Edinburgh in 1768 when the King of Scots was made the Hereditary Grand Master.

At the conclusion of all competent business of the Lodge, the Grand Marischal presented the Provincial Grand Master Designate, Bro. Ralph Robertson to the Deputy Grand Master and Governor. After ensuring that the Patent of appointment was in order, Bro. Robertson was obligated and Installed as the 12th Provincial Grand Master for the Province of East Anglia. The Deputy Grand Master and Governor then addressed the meeting, informing the Brethren that this was his third visit to the Province, the first as the Head of the Order with the previous two being in the Office of Grand Marischal, accompanying the then Deputy Grand Master and Governor, the Rt. Hon Earl of Elgin. He also paid tribute to the Past Provincial Grand Master, Bro. John Robertson and thanked him for his chairmanship of the Province during the difficult period of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The Grand Lodge Deputation then retired from the Lodge which was then closed and the Brethren resorted to the festive board for dinner. The day concluded on a happy and high note, with everyone agreeing it had been a successful and enjoyable meeting.

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

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

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

Enquiries regarding membership of the Royal Order of Scotland should be directed to the Provincial Grand Secretary whose details can be found in the various Provincial Year Book's.

# General Interest



Little Heath Lodge 5935  
Phoenix rising from the ashes



Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, Little Heath Lodge 5935 has come back from near disaster to re-establish itself as a vibrant and extremely well supported unit.

A year ago, with only five members, the lodge was in danger of extinction and on the verge of handing back its warrant. However, a few senior masons refused to allow that to happen and rallied close friends within the masonic community for their support.

Consequently, the lodge now has 35 members with further candidates for initiation and joining in the pipeline.

Indeed, one member, W.Bro Tony White PSGD, APGM, initiated his son at an emergency meeting on the 29th June 2022. The RW Provincial Grand Master and most of the Provincial Executive were among the 110 members and guests who witnessed the event.

Tony performed the ceremony in an excellent manner, proving that he had lost none of his ritual expertise despite his exhausting executive duties as APGM. He was assisted by W.Bro Martin House PSGD, APGM (Senior Warden), W.Bro Chris Schrader ProvGStwd (Junior Warden), W.Bro Andy Schrader PPAGDC (Senior Deacon), W.Bro Clive Rees PSGD, APGM (Junior Deacon) and Bro Bob Daisley (Inner Guard).

Our stand in DC, W.Bro Ralph Ankers PAGDC, PPJGW ensured the floor work was carried out with military precision, ably assisted by the ADC, Bro Kevin Davies, who was brought in at short notice and did an excellent job!

One of our newest members, Bro (big) Harry explained the working tools of an Entered Apprenticed Freemason to the Initiate in a superb fashion, to the delight of the brethren.

The explanation of the charge after initiation was given by Martin Cartwright PAGDC and the charge itself delivered by VW.Bro Nick Franklin PGSwdB, DepPGM with skill and sincerity.

## An everlasting memory of R.W.Bro. Rodney Bass OBE



After more than 40 years of outstanding service to Freemasonry in Essex, R.W.Bro. Rodney Lister Bass OBE had undoubtedly secured his place in the history of his Mother Lodge, Tollesbury and was eagerly looking forward to its Centenary in September 2025.

Sadly, for Rodney that milestone was not to be. However, he made sure his beloved Tollesbury would be remembered, when it was announced his Will included a bequest to the Lodge. With the full support of his wife Margaret she, graciously presented a cheque for £5,000 to the Master, W.Bro. Graham Poulter, with members looking on.

It was unanimously decided by the members that - as Rodney had for many years held the office of Secretary - the bequest would be used to create a uniquely bespoke solid oak desk, with an engraved brass plaque in his honour and now sits with pride of place in the Masonic Centre's Temple as an everlasting memory of his service and achievements.



## SIMPLY THE BEST



As Worshipful Master of North Essex Masters' Lodge No. 9831 (NEML), the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VV.Bro. Nick Franklin, appropriately attired in his tartan trews, made sure that Friday 13th May 2022 was a lucky day for all the NEML brethren as they met on this occasion at the Braintree Masonic Centre, Howard Hall.



The regular business of the Lodge included the elections of Graham Poulter as the Worshipful Master and Brian Dack as Treasurer for the ensuing year, both brethren are Past Provincial Junior Grand Wardens (PPJGWs) and Brian is also the Lodge Organist.

The NEML Brethren were then most fortunate to receive an exceptional demonstration of a North East Scotland Third (NEST) Degree from 'The Degree Team' led by from o'er the Border. Although their degrees are the same, Scottish workings can be more dramatic and theatrical when compared to workings in England and this was no exception. In addition, it was also noted that the NEST Degree, as demonstrated, gave much more explanation than ours does.



The NEML brethren enjoyed seeing the differences compared to our own workings as they watched the candidate being handled much more rigorously in a way which would be an unforgettable but meaningful experience. Although essentially the same ceremony as ours, the NEST Degree is embellished with 'fun', is 'louder' as opposed to ours with its quieter demeanor but does not lose any of its gravitas and adds further to the meaning.

The journey south by the very experienced and committed 'The Degree Team', led by Steve Barker, was greatly appreciated by all the NEML brethren. It was performed to a packed house which added to the powerful effect on the audience who enjoyed something very different but equally connected. For those brethren who have seen many demonstrations over the years they could be forgiven for thinking of 'The Degree Team' as the 'Tina Turner Team' as it was 'Simply the Best'.

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# Philip Lovelock - A Role Model to Us All

At the Grand Officers' Mess on 24th May 2022 at Upminster Masonic Hall the Provincial Grand Master (PGM), Paul Tarrant, announced that Philip Lovelock will be promoted and invested as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters (APGMs) at the Installation Meeting of Essex Masters on Thursday 29th September 2022.

At the Annual Meeting in March 2022, when Philip was invested as the ProvSGW, he was given a special mention by the PGM who thanked him for his hard work over the last five years as the Provincial Grand Secretary (ProvGSec). It was the late Rodney Bass who first asked Philip to be the Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary (ProvDepGSec) in 2016 and ProvGSec in 2017 in order to restructure the Provincial Office, which Philip did with Paul Reeves. They made a big step forward with computerisation, vastly improving the administration processes with less paperwork and easier access to much more information. Philip explained "Over the last decade Freemasonry has become much more open. With more on the web, one of the biggest challenges is to make sure we keep the enjoyment we

get from our meetings and not get tied down with too much information. Change is inevitable. More recently we have seen the minimum age lowered to 18 years to encourage a younger membership, Freemasonry for women is becoming more mainstream so there could be challenges ahead and our festive boards are becoming more relaxed occasions whilst maintaining the formality we all enjoy."

Learning about Freemasonry from his father, who was a Freemason but who did not go through the Chair, Philip was Initiated in 1981 into the Lodge of Good Fellowship No. 276 at Chelmsford Masonic Hall. Being the Worshipful Master in 1989 for the Bicentenary of the Lodge was a career highlight and one which Philip is very proud of. Another very nice highlight was to Initiate his own son into Freemasonry.

First promoted to Provincial Grand Steward (ProvGStwd) in 1990, Philip progressed steadily to Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden (PPJGW) in 2004 and to Grand Rank in 2014 as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (PAGDC). Good mentoring helped every step of the way. Two Brethren have made a big impact on Philip, one is the late Ron Knott, "who was always there", and the other is Alf Mitchell. Likewise, there are two key 'words of wisdom' Philip himself will happily give to new initiates: "Ask your Mentor to explain anything you do not understand and make a daily advancement by learning a few lines every day."



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Philip regards being a good communicator as one of his strengths and is a good listener both in person and on the phone. In his role as an APGM, he is keen to help turn the fortunes around of some lodges with falling memberships by encouraging them to get in touch with past Brethren. Also, there are over 300 lodge secretaries with whom Philip corresponded with as ProvGSec, so he is now looking forward to meeting many for the first time and renewing friendships with those he has met.

Getting together at Christmas as a family with their son and daughter is a tradition valued by Philip but it does not always happen, so another favourite way of spending time together as a family is having a BBQ in the garden. As well as Freemasonry, gardening is Philip's other main hobby. On his odd days off, or very rarely an odd week, he is found outside in the garden especially during spring and summer which are his favourite seasons of the year.

Enjoying the eternal spring and warmer weather of the Canary Islands, Philip and his wife, Lorna, try to arrange three or four visits a year to Gran Canaria where they know a number of the locals and are made welcome. About six years ago they went to the Dominican Republic where the hotel waiters were convinced Philip was the famous Canadian actor, Donald Sutherland.

Two famous people in history Philip would like to have dinner with are Winston Churchill and Albert Einstein. "Winston, to learn how he got through the war and Einstein because he was a very great man whose inventions helped humanity." Isambard Kingdom Brunel, with his designs which changed the lives of so many in the Victorian Age, is someone Philip would like to travel back in time to meet to see how the famous engineer built his bridges, steam railways, tunnels and ships.

*After 16 years of volunteering, Philip is the President of the Masonic Housing Association's Hamilton Court House Committee and Lorna is the Housing Secretary, a role she could never have foreseen when she first met Philip 41 years ago, in the same year he joined Freemasonry. With a strong desire to remain together in the family home, a deep sense of caring for people, the environment and living the 'Values we value' as Freemasons, Philip Lovelock is 'A Role Model to Us All'.*

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# the essex mason extra



The Online supplement with additional stories

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A photograph of a restaurant dining room. In the foreground, a table is set with white plates, silverware, and a white cup on a saucer. A red napkin is tucked into a glass vase. In the background, other tables are set with yellow napkins. The room has large windows and a modern interior.

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

please keep your stories coming  
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## Sigebert Lodge

### Grand Patron Platinum Plus

A presentation made by W.Bro. Robert Eels (APGM) to W.Bro. Eric Broadbent (ADC & Charity Steward) and W.Bro. Richard Large (WM) of Sigebert Lodge 7572 during their May 16th regular meeting to mark the Lodge achieving the "Grand Patron Platinum Plus" award for contributions made towards FEST2022 by the Lodge members, and most especially for the magnificent legacy left by the late W.Bro. David Walton, which has enabled Sigebert L7572 to be the first Lodge in Essex to be presented with "Platinum Plus" for which we are all extremely proud and honoured.

## Chafford Lodge

### 50 year certificate

# 50

Please find attached Photo of W.Bro Ray Phillips receiving his 50 year certificate from W.Bro Peter Hollingsworth APGM at the Chafford Lodge 5510 Meeting held on the 19th February at Upminster Masonic Hall and would appreciate it being included in the next issue of the Essex Mason, Ray is the second member of his Family to be awarded a 50 year certificate as his brother received his in 2014



## Netteswell Cross Lodge

### Double Initiation

Netteswell Cross Lodge No 9280 have not wasted any time in trying to get back to some sort of normality after the difficulties of the past 2 years.

Netteswell Cross carried out a Double Initiation Ceremony on the 4th February 2022, followed by another Initiation on the 25th March 2022. Both Ceremonies were carried out by W.Bro Gary Harman who received his Provincial Grand Steward's Red apron the day before at the Essex Provincial Grand Lodge meeting on the 24th March 2022.

Pictured with W.Bro Gary Harman are new Initiates Bro Chris Matthews (right) & Bro Sam Charville (left), Brother Kris Taylor



## Charity Stewards' Lodge up and running with a SNAP

Written by Chris Hicks



**B**urntwood Lodge (the Charity Stewards' lodge) No. 8016 started its new purpose and structure with a SNAP on Tuesday 7th June at Hutton.

The SNAP was the charity Special Needs and Patients, [www.snapcharity.org](http://www.snapcharity.org), and more than 40 Lodge members, family and visiting Charity Stewards were treated to a very interesting presentation by Karen Boath, CEO, and Sara Clifton, Fund Raising Manger who they are and what they do.

SNAP is an Essex charity for families with children and young people who have any special need or disability. SNAP's aims are to inform, encourage and support parents and carers so that they can grow in strength and knowledge and become better equipped to give the best possible help to their children.

From its Brentwood base, SNAP offers a helping hand to thousands of families in need of support. No formal diagnosis or professional referral is necessary to access SNAP services, which are available to families with children and young people aged up to 25 who live under Essex County Council, Thurrock, and Southend.

Facilities at the centre include a training room, multi-purpose activity hall, multi-sensory room and specialist IT suite.

SNAP needs around £750,000 a year to fulfil these services and their aims, and at the end of the presentation, the Lodge made a donation to help SNAP carry on the good work.

This was the first Burntwood meeting under its new format and, even with a few hiccups, proved very successful. In addition, over £150 was raised in the raffle.

The next Burntwood Lodge (the Charity Stewards' lodge) meeting will be on Tuesday 6th September, at Hutton, the charity to present has yet to be confirmed.

At the November meeting, on Tuesday 1st, again at Hutton, there will be a presentation from the Trigeminal Neuralgia Association.

The locations for meetings in 2023 have now been confirmed, but the presenting charities are still to be decided.

- Tuesday 4th April 2023 – Hutton (Installation)
- Tuesday 6th June 2023 – Braintree
- Tuesday 5th September 2023 – Colchester
- Tuesday 7th November 2023 – Southend



## Monkhams Chapter No. 4161 1946 – 2021



As news-stories about 'meeting for the first time since before lockdown' have run their course, some fine accounts are emerging of Essex Companions whose enjoyment and enthusiasm for Royal Arch Masonry has gained momentum. They give inspiration and remind us how special the Royal Arch is with over 40% of Craft Freemasons being members. Most Excellent Zerubbabel (MEZ) Keith Wood of Monkhams Chapter No. 4161, which meets at Harlow Masonic Hall, merits special attention.

Firstly, when Keith was Installed as MEZ in October 2019 by Excellent Companion (E Comp) Tim Holland, Keith demonstrated to all present that he was going to be a remarkable First Principal. He invested his Officers in an exemplary manner, each one was given encouragement with a rarely seen and well delivered explanation of the duties of their Office.

Secondly, one of the benefits Keith likes about being a Royal Arch Mason is that Companions are welcome to attend Royal Arch convocations around the world. So, next he visited Shannon Chapter No.1, in St John's Newfoundland, Canada, part of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland and Labrador, just before the first lockdown.

Being part of bringing two jurisdictions together and discovering similarities as well as differences is a great experience. Keith was warmly welcomed at Mount Pearl Masonic Centre by the Most Excellent High Priest Harlow Snippen (MEHP is their equivalent to our MEZ) and a new inter-continental Royal Arch companionship between Essex and Newfoundland was firmly established.

Thirdly, the Companions of Monkhams Chapter were getting ready for their 75th Anniversary in February 2021 but the celebratory convocation was postponed until April 2022. Nevertheless, Keith wanted to do all he could to make the event a memorable occasion, so he compiled a 31-page 'Short History of Monkhams Chapter 1946 – 2021'.

In this first-class piece of work, which is an outstanding example to all Chapters of what can be done to commemorate a special anniversary or event, there are three outstanding features:

It is easy and interesting to read, well researched, clearly referenced and nicely laid out with many good photos and scanned images of people, medals, documents, summonses, items and a feature article from The Essex Mason.

There is a first-rate account of how the COVID-19 pandemic affected Essex Freemasonry. The contents can be saved by all Chapters and Essex Royal Arch historians to use as a reference or template for future publications and histories covering this period.

The memory of the loss of E Comp Paul Thomason, a Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah (PPGSN), is recorded with sadness. The late Paul is the son of Peter, a Past Provincial Grand Registrar (PPGReg), and the father of Ben, the Scribe N of Monkhams Chapter. This conveys one family's ardour, appreciation and love for the Royal Arch in Essex across three generations.

Presentation of Vice Patron Certificate for Festival 2022 to Chapter Charity Steward and 2nd Principal E.Comp Andy Stevens.

Also MEZ E.Comp Derek Dale PPGStB and Chapter 3rd Principal E. Comp Roger Amestoy PPGStB and E.Comp John Crudgington Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals PGStB .



## Wivenhoe and Colchester Masonic Centres Sponsor Scouts to South Korea Jamboree

A united band of brethren from both Wivenhoe and Colchester Masonic Centres were joined by the 1st Wivenhoe Scout Group members on the 14th April 2022 at Wivenhoe Masonic Hall for a special presentation.

Two of the Scouts, Tillman and Charlie accompanied by their leader, Karen Pilgrim, were presented with a cheque for £2,000 to go towards the cost of sending the Explorer Scouts to the World Scouting Jamboree in South Korea in 2023.

Watch the video interview in which both Tillman and Charlie expressed their delight at the donation by the Essex Freemasons and highlighted how it would not only help them but also Scouts from disadvantages background to attend the event in South Korea.

Paul Fell and Bob Needham, the Secretaries of Ostrea and Colne Lodges respectively, were key in bringing the cause to light. In their video interview they explained that over nine Freemasons Lodges from the Wivenhoe and Colchester Centres were involved in donating to this very worthy cause.

Neil Anthony, the Centre Communications Officer for Colchester, Wivenhoe & Brightlingsea Masonic Centres added "I was pleased to have been present and been part of demonstrating the strength that joint charity drives between local centres can have a proactive and positive effect on those recipients of it."



Friday 22nd April saw Belmont Lodge No. 9623 celebrate its 25th anniversary and 100th meeting at Chingford Masonic Centre. 46 members and their guests celebrated the event with the initiation of Bro. Matt Butcher by the Worshipful Master Roy Hardy. W.Bro. Oliver Smith-Jones delivered the Preamble and Charge after Initiation in an exemplary manner witnessed by the Deputy Provincial. Grand Master W.Bro. Nicholas Franklin, who was accompanied by the Provincial Team. Also present was the Lodge's previous APGM W.Bro Lee Taylor and the Deputy Grand Superintendent W.Bro Elliott Chevin. The festival board was enjoyed by all present and the Initiate thanked all present for making his special night one to remember, especially W.Bro. Phil Smith-Jones for his beautiful rendition of the Initiate Song.



**The LODA Presentation Team in Action**

What a superb evening was had on 3rd May 2022 at the Lodge of Daily Advancement No. 9979 (LODA), following on from Gerald Reilly's thought-leadership oration in February. Both Graham Larke and David Badger, the co-leaders of the LODA Presentation Team made sure the Lodge lived up to its name and everyone made a 'daily advancement'.

For all those who have stood at Wembley Stadium and sung their hearts out, full of emotion, pride and with tears welling in their eyes, Graham Larke explained the story behind the hymn 'Abide with Me', the Anthem of the FA Cup. The full oration is available from Lawrie Morrisson, the Secretary of the Lodge of Daily Advancement. In bygone times, 'abide' had a similar meaning as 'remain' so the singer of the hymn is asking God to stay with them in times of trouble.

David Badger, the Lodge ADC; Ian Simpson, WM and Peter Thomas, Lodge Mentor and Education Officer, all gave a splendid demonstration of a Lodge of Sorrow entitled 'Roses and Evergreen - An Aspect of American Freemasonry'. It is convened at convocations of Grand Lodges working in the USA and is a marvellous way to recognise recently departed brethren. All those present were amazed by the poignancy of it all - you really could hear a pin drop!



For their first time out as a team together, David said "It went very well and I was pleased with the end result" he continued "it was Patrick Wilkins, of the same mother lodge as Paul Tarrant and myself, Lodge of Fraternity No. 5916, who introduced the work to the UK about 15 years ago."

Not on an official visit this time but as a guest, Trevor Darby PAGDC was seen enjoying the Meeting. Although the future role of VGOs is still being considered, Trevor was pleased to be at LODA and said "I was impressed with the interesting and informative talk given by Graham Larke on the origin and use of the popular hymn 'Abide with Me'. It was appropriate given what followed. I was equally impressed with the demonstration of a Lodge of Sorrow, as performed by Grand Lodges in the USA."

You can book the LODA Presentation Team to visit your Lodge to present an oration or to give a demonstration of the Lodge of Sorrow ceremony. To book the team for either a special occasion or for a regular meeting, contact Lawrie Morrisson, whose details are in the Provincial Handbook on the Cube. Likewise, if you want to help others make a daily advancement as a member of the LODA Presentation Team, Lawrie will be pleased to hear from you.



On Thursday 7th April 2022 over 60 members and guests witnessed an emotionally charged meeting as Bro Mark Lawrence was installed as Worshipful Master of Easterford Lodge No. 2342. The lodge was opened in due form at 1700hrs in the presence of a retinue of Grand Officers including RW.Bro Ian Yeldham, Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk, a personal guest of the Master Elect and RW.Bro John Webb PPGM.



Unfortunately, the Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro Stewart Eastbrook PProvJGD was delayed with work commitments, on any other occasion several other Easterford brethren would have stood up and taken the wand, however on this instance he was to install his Brother-in-Law as the Master Elect.

The lodge minutes were read, slowly, visiting Master's welcomed, Brethren thanked for their year in Office, all with the aim to claim those extra few minutes to the allow the DC, who had arrived by this point, to adorn his Dinner Jacket and Regalia.

Upon W.Bro Stewart's entrance, the WM, W.Bro Derek Palmer, by this point relieved to see the DC, requested that he occupied the Master Chair to conduct the ceremony of Installation. Bro Mark was then installed into the chair of King Solomon in an impressive manner with a moving atmosphere in what was an excellent ceremony all round.

Then another twist, a report at the door was received and the lodge informed that Bro Brian Lawrence requested admission, a somewhat surprised WM granted his father's request. His entrance was received with great acclaim, as Bro Brian had only been discharged from Colchester Hospital at 4pm that afternoon. Following the usual father & son banter he took his seat in the lodge to enjoy the remaining proceedings.

The address to the Master was delivered by Master's father-in-law, W.Bro Norman Eastbrook PPGJW. With W.Bro Rob Lancashire ProvGPurs and W.Bro Martin Bevan GStwd delivering the addresses to the Wardens and Brethren respectively. The Master appointed his officers for the ensuing year with his well-known charisma and expressed his pleasure at a busy year ahead.

The lodge was closed in due form and the brethren retired to take Sherry and enjoy the renowned experience and culinary delights of the Easterford festive board with Smoked Salmon, Roast Rib of Beef, Sticky Toffee Pudding, Cheese and Biscuits and Port.

To continue the family traditions the response on behalf of the guests was given by W.Bro David Wilson PGStwd, MetDepGDC, SLGR and son of former Easterford member W.Bro Gordon Wilson PDepGSuptWks. All in all, a night for all to remember.





## My Sec's Life

By Dr Gerald Chevin

**W**Bro Dr Gerald Chevin is a member of Earlham Lodge No. 7266 and an experienced Lodge Secretary. In Craft he is a Past Grand Standard Bearer (PGStB). In Royal Arch he is the Scribe E (secretary) of Earlham Chapter, a Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah (PPGSN) and also holds Senior London Grand Chapter Rank (SLGCR). His amusing story gives us an insight into his Sec's life.

So, as the last of our members troop out of the Masonic Centre all that remains for me to do is to check to see who has left their mobile phones/cases/coats or indeed all three (there will be frantic calls on the morrow). As the old computer adage says 'first in, last out' yes that's my Sec's Life.

Day after the meeting...wake up very early get ready for work, (or Masonic Business) type up the minutes of the meeting held yesterday from my copies details almost "illegible" scrawl. . . Can that be right yes of course Bro x said this and Bro y Proposed that . . . . .

Print out the first of many updates and amendments somehow it looks different on paper than the screen the mistakes seem to have multiplied exponentially on the print-out!!! Oh well back to the Word Processor at last just one or two more amendments there goes the phone "Yes it was a great meeting I agree shame about the . . . ."The telephone does not stop ringing off the hook regarding last night's meeting and some members/guests asking about their lost property "Yes, I have it in my case don't worry"

"Yes, I'll make sure that you sit next to Bro z next meeting and not with Bro q"

"Yes, I will ensure that your fish is grilled not fried next meeting"

"Yes, I will try to arrange . . . . ."

This goes on for some time and I am still trying to "clean up" the minutes for circulating.

At last a hiatus in the telephone situation I might just get some actual work done now but wait . . . . .

I must just check with our Worshipful Master (WM) about the next meetings schedule, and give him my suggestions for the meal. That "brief" call took nearly forty minutes.

Still I can now e-mail the members with my draft minutes for their approbation. I can also upload them onto our Lodge WEB SITE. Back to some real work, but first I must just produce the layout for the next summons.... wow that's eaten away another hour.

Time for lunch as soon as I take this telephone call from one of our members. To inform me he is on a special diet so could I ensure he gets what he needs at the next meeting not what I order.

I sometimes wonder if we refused to supply "special meals" and offer the only choice as take it or leave it would we have so many people actually leaving it?!!!!

Just a quick bite of my sarnie as I really must talk to the Director of Ceremonies (DC) to ensure that Bro's a b c & d are up to the work they have volunteered to do at the next meeting.

After a long chat covering almost everything but the main reason for my call, he refers me to the Preceptor who is apparently intimately involved with the various members capabilities. Now where is the rest of my lunch, oh under this pile of photocopies of the minutes of last night's meeting.

Ok just a quick munch on my apple, the phone rings again it's the Preceptor.... well it saves me a call, we chat about last night's meeting and what we could do to improve at the next meeting.

We finally get to the various Brethren's Masonic grasp of the ritual and finalise who is doing what but I should call them in turn to ascertain their level of happiness and availability for the next meeting.

Oh, the apple has turned a horrible shade of brown; I best "bin it", and have a coffee just to keep my throat lubricated all this talking (I really must try to do some work as well)!

I try to contact all the nominated Brethren but run up against a brick wall as some are actually doing a paid job and are unavailable at this particular moment in time, but I do get many promises (usually unfulfilled) that a return call is on the cards.

I must just produce the dining slip and wait, Bro h has moved, and Bro j has a new telephone number. Oh, how I wish that they would change their details in alphabetical order, it would make my life so much easier!!!

Ok, just about ready to finalise the dinning slips when one of the more senior members calls me and relates many apocryphal stories about the "old" days culminating in the standard line of how things were so much tougher/better/cheaper (perm any one out of three) in his time!!!!





I really must get on and do some work... but wait a moment all three lines are ringing off the hook, it's some of the returned calls I was promised (oh ye of little faith).

At last, I crossed the T's & dotted the I's I am ready to create the Summons. Last minute checks are carried out it's on the way. Skip forward FORTY days . . . I did manage to do some real work in between.

Fantastic just before the standard call to the caterers to order the meal type and quantity and at least five members have replied but based on the replies so far, the WM, Wardens, Deacons, ADC, DC and IG will not be coming.... this is par for the course but the Candidate has confirmed his intention to be there, well I guess we could just give him the ritual book and he can Initiate himself!!!!

I must spend some time contacting the various members (almost all of them it seems) who have not responded, some have changed their mobile numbers, and/or e-mail addresses without informing me so even more time wasting is called for.

Skip forward SIX hours. So from five members confirmed the numbers (with guests) has dramatically increased (along with my phone bill) to eighty three!!!!!!!

I also know (from bitter experience) that on the day of the meeting some people will "cry off" others will turn up unannounced with guests wanting to sit with them and have their specific choice of meal!!!! You get used to it but what a way to behave!!!

Skip forward to the day of the meeting the morning is full of calls from members who for various reasons, "crying off" wanting more guests, a different selection of food or just enquiring when the meeting is being held !!!!!!!!!!!

I usually leave in early enough to get to the venue in plenty of time, with fully loaded briefcases extra supply of summonses etc etc.

*Finally, the meeting gets underway.*

My head is spinning it seems to me that as a general rule of thumb that when the meeting goes well the WM is held in high esteem by all. But if hiccups occur then what an inept Secretary we have, c'est la vie . . .

So as the last of our members troop out of the Masonic Centre all that remains for me to do is to check to see who has left their mobile phones/cases/coats or indeed all three (there will be frantic calls on the morrow). As the old computer adage says 'first in last out' yes that's my Sec's Life.

Please let me be very clear that contrary to the above observations, it may seem traumatic, and you may wonder why anybody would undertake the onerous task of Secretary. It is, let me assure you, very rewarding, and I enjoy it immensely.



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## 50th Anniversary Presentation For Lynne Wilson PPJGW

Written by The Rev Martin Howse

At the first meeting in 2022 of the Upminster Daylight Lodge (UDL) No. 9788, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master (APGM) for Group 3, Rob Eels presented Lynne Edgar John Wilson, a Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden (PPJGW), with a Certificate on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master to celebrate Lynne's 50 years as a Freemason.

The Worshipful Master (WM), Eddie Murphy, allowed Lynne, who is now registered as blind and is brought to meetings by members of the Lodge, the special privilege of sitting in the Master's Chair during the presentation.

Lynne was a founder member of UDL when it was Consecrated in 2004 at Upminster Masonic Hall, by Colonel Sir Neil Thorne, and was WM in 2009. He was initiated into Thamestide Lodge No. 8147 on January 4th 1972, but work commitments meant he moved on to Langdon Hills Lodge No 8477 before helping to found UDL.



## 50th Anniversary Presentation For Terry Lockhart PJGD

W.Bro. Terry Lockhart PJGD was pleased to receive a 50 year certificate on 16th March by the APGM, W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth at the Daylight Lodge of Hutton No. 9806. Terry said he was honoured to be a Founder of the Lodge in 2005 and Master in 2007. He is also a member of the Round Table Lodge of Essex No. 8217, currently Scribe E of Hutton Chapter No. 4640 and Chairman of the Southchurch Masonic Study Circle which meets at Saxon Hall.

For the last 22 years Terry has given masonic talks at Lodges and Chapters in Essex and the Home Counties on 192 occasions. This year is rather special too because in addition to his 50 years in Freemasonry Terry and his wife, Eileen celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in September.



## 50th Anniversary Presentation For Graham Peirson

On Wednesday 26th January 2022 a very unique event happened at a meeting of Rosslyn 1543 at Braintree. The Worshipful Master, W.Bro Mike Peirson Initiated his two brothers, James and David Peirson, who then became his Brothers.

On the same evening their father, W.Bro Graham Peirson, was presented with his 50th Anniversary Certificate by W.Bro Tony White, our Lodge APGM. Graham was able to witness his Brother, the Master, Initiate his two other sons and therefore become his Brothers.



## 50th Anniversary Presentation For Gerald Blagrove

The Manor of Newland Lodge No.6403 celebrated its Annual Burns Night meeting the 27th January 2022. During the course of the meeting W.Bro Gerry Blagrove was presented with his 50 Year Certificate by our visiting APGM, Worshipful Brother Peter Hollingsworth. The presentation was both humorous and informative as it turned out that both W.Bro Peter and W.Bro Gerry had conducted business together in times gone past. The culmination of a very successful evening was the following Burns Night Supper where the Haggis was duly Piped and Stabbed. During the course of the Festive Board the Lodge's Charity Steward, W.Bro Henry Bass, presented W.Bro Peter with a cheque for £500.00 as a donation to the FEST22 Celebrations.





## North Weald Bassett Lodge No. 8403 50 years and a field promotion to PPJGW

North Weald Bassett Lodge No. 8403 celebrated their 50th. Anniversary on Friday 11th. March 2022, at Harlow Masonic Centre, in the presence of APMG W.Bro. Tony White, together with a Provincial team of Provincial Grand Officers.

During the meeting, W.Bro. Tony White presented W.Bro. Gordon Munro with a Certificate and other mementoes to celebrate his 50 years in Freemasonry and to mark his service to both this Lodge and the Province, Freemasonry and to mark his service to both this Lodge and the Province,

Gordon was also promoted to PPJGW in a 'Field' promotion ceremony, rarely seen in Lodges. W.Bro. Tony White also presented Bro. David Airlie with his Grand Lodge Certificate.

All those attending were treated to a very informative and interesting presentation on 'Crime and the Craft' by W.Bro. Mike Neville, who has written a book on the subject, which was very well received.

## Essex Quadrant Lodge 7143 W.Bro. Roy Watkinson 60 years in Freemasonry



At the Essex Quadrant Lodge (7143) meeting of the 7th April 2022 held at Hutton Masonic Hall, the Lodge was honoured by an official visit from its APGM, W. Bro. Graham Dickerson PSGD accompanied by W. Bro. Martyn Cartwright Provincial deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Also attending the Lodge meeting was the Very Worshipful Paul Reeves PGSwdB PDepPGM

During the course of the meeting, W. Bro. Graham Dickerson presented a certificate & lapel badge to W. Bro. Roy Watkinson PProvGStB to mark his 60 years in Freemasonry, having been initiated into Yarborough Centenary Lodge 6991, a London Lodge. W. Bro. Roy retired in 1994 after 30 years in the Metropolitan Police Force.

At 83 years of age, W. Bro. Roy attends Lodge of Instruction on a very regular basis & is a valued & indeed active member of the Lodge. He is currently Junior Warden in the Lodge.

The attached photos show our APGM, W. Bro. Graham Dickerson PSGD presenting the certificate to W. Bro. Roy Watkinson PProvGStB, then with Essex Quadrant Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Chris Barrett, and then finally with members of the Essex Quadrant Lodge.



## Hockley Lodge No. 6204 75th anniversary



Hockley Lodge No. 6204 had its installation meeting yesterday February 26th coupled with a celebration of the lodge's 75th anniversary having been consecrated in 1946. We were honoured with a visit from the Provincial Grand Master RW. Bro. Paul Tarrant and W. Bro. Neil Beverley our Assistant Provincial Grand Master. During the meeting the PGM honoured the Secretary of the lodge (me!) with a field promotion to PPJGD. There were 55 brethren at the meeting and 51 dining at the Festive Board.

# MacNab Consecration





Macnab Lodge No. 10017 was 'finally' consecrated after being disrupted by COVID for two years at a well-attended and energetic consecration in Saxon Hall, Southend on June 10th.

Macnab was sponsored by fellow thematic (rugby) Lodge of XV No. 9944 who opened the proceedings before handing over to the Provincial Consecration Team lead by the Provincial Grand Master, Paul Tarrant.

The consecration packed out Saxon Hall's main temple and visitors and guests were treated to a first-rate ceremony with some very unique Macnab based twists!

The Primus Master, Neil Beverley took the Chair and installed the Macnab officers all of which were also founders of the lodge.

The celebrations at the Festive board really ramped up the atmosphere with representatives from all of Essex's sporting thematic lodges in attendance, including the aforementioned, Lodge of XV and the also recently consecrated Cricket Lodge of Essex No. 10009 each in fine and competitive voice throughout the evening. Macnab's new Immediate Past Master, Neil Anthony, serenaded the festive board with a gutsy rendition of the Master's song and brethren enjoyed a sumptuous meal with the main venison course being shot by one of Macnab's founding members!

Macnab Lodge looks forward to an exciting programme of shooting and fishing events linked in with lodge meetings over the coming year alongside what promises to be a highlight of the masonic calendar – the November Theme Night with special entertainment being provided.





<https://essexfreemasons.org.uk>



<https://essexroyalarch.org.uk>



## 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 **Deported 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](mailto: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.



## Roding Lodge No. 3090



At the December 2021 Christmas Meeting for Roding Lodge 3090 held at the Loughton Masonic Centre, the lodges regular visit of APGM Clive Rees coincided with the Brethren handing over a cheque for £5500 for the Essex Festival 2022.

This donation ensures that Roding Lodge is now a Grand Patron of Festival 2022, and the cheque was presented by the Worshipful Master Marc Spurrell (right) and Charity Steward Stuart McMillan (left) to APGM Clive Rees.

APGM Rees thanked the brethren of the lodge and presented the lodge with its Grand Patron Certificate, afterwards the brethren enjoyed a "very festive" festive board along with Christmas songs.



In June 2022 the Master of Danehurst Lodge 4541 , Tom Kelly, accompanied by IPM Michael McCartney presented a cheque for £1664 to Charlotte Durham of St Clares Hospice in Harlow . This represented the proceeds from a recent Ladies night Tom held for his wife Karen .

## An 'Eggcellent' and Tasty Result Written by David Badger



More than 1,000 Easter Eggs were delivered to local care homes, hospitals, a women's refuge, and food banks in Thurrock recently by Essex Freemasons meeting at the Cross Keys Masonic Centre.

Thanks were due to Henry de Gray Lodge, Thurrock Lodge and St John's Lodge for their donations and to all the brethren involved especially Clive Cheeseman, Dave Barton, Chris Bushell and Mick Draper.

The donations included: 100 Easter Eggs and 100 Creme Eggs to Changing Pathways Women's Refuge, which covered an Easter Egg for each and every child in the various refuge centres in Thurrock with enough left over for an Easter Egg hunt which they are now arranging.

- 150 Easter Eggs to the Children's Wards of Basildon, Southend and Chelmsford Hospitals to cover a gift for every child admitted over the Easter weekend.
- 100 Easter Eggs to Little Havens Children's Hospice, 60 Easter Eggs and 100 Creme Eggs to Bennet Lodge care home, 60 Easter Eggs + 100 Creme Eggs to Carolyne House care home.
- 40 Easter Eggs to Foot Steps, a Special Needs Youth charity in Stanford le Hope. 200 Easter Eggs to be divided between all 10 local Thurrock food banks and another 20-30 that will go to another care home, near North Stifford.



## Rainham Lodge 3079

Rainham Lodge 3079 always have a Christmas card collection rather than sending cards to each other and donate this to St Lukes annually

However, one of our most enthusiastic past masters recently lost his wife to cancer and she was helped at St Lukes greatly, so on her passing it became his and her wish that monies from friends, family and Rainham brethren should go to St Lukes and together Graham and 2 past masters took two cheques in person, 1st March this year.



W.Bro Stephen Karanicholas Adams receiving platinum certificate from W.Bro Jeff Cripps. Platinum certificate awarded to Theydon lodge 6012 for their generous contribution to Essex Festival 2022.



## Respect for Wildlife

Written by Tony Hales

An experienced professional photographer had an enjoyable photo shoot on a visit to Hanningfield Reservoir Nature Discovery Centre in Essex.

Mike Barrett is the official photographer for the Essex Freemasons Provincial Communications Team and a member of the Provincial Charity Team. He works hard as a volunteer and travels many miles each year to take photographs of masonic charity endeavours and other special events involving the 8,000 plus Essex Freemasons.

On 4th July, Mike accompanied the Provincial Grand Master of Essex, Paul Tarrant, and the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Chris Hicks, to discover how a £6,000 grant made through the Masonic Charitable Foundation one year ago is helping Essex Wildlife Trust in their conservation work. Colin Felton, an Assistant Provincial Grand Master Grand Master, explained "The Trust has used the money to help protect bees and other endangered insects."

Like many Freemasons and their families, Provincial Grand Master Paul Tarrant and his wife Jenny are very keen on environmental issues. They are Wildlife Trust members as well as the RSPB. Paul said "We are concerned that man-made climate change is having an impact on wildlife, the country and the world which is why we are supporters of Wildlife Trusts in general."

Essex Freemasons share their respect for wildlife with Freemasons across England and Wales. Durham Wildlife Trust received £3,600 to raise awareness of wildlife during lockdown which led to 23,846 new online users. A £50,000 Wildlife Appeal has been launched by Surrey Freemasons to help transform an impoverished 20-acre floodplain meadow into a nature reserve with a purpose-built wildlife hospital for the Wildlife Aid Foundation.

Not just the respect for wildlife but also the overall charitable impact of Freemasonry is much understated by its supporters. In 2020 alone over £51.1 million was contributed to local and national charities and deserving causes and more than 18.5 million hours of volunteer work is undertaken every year.

