

the essex mason



The Official Journal of the Masonic Province of Essex

Spring Special Edition

#essexfreemasonscare



Essex Freemasons Lockdown Edition



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PGM's Foreword



Brethren and Companions, I am conscious that this Special Edition of Essex Mason reaches you during an extraordinarily difficult time in the history of our country and indeed the whole world. The COVID-19 pandemic has totally disrupted our normal masonic programme and activities but the message must be for us all in Essex

to continue to observe the rules set down by the Government and to stay safe. I hope therefore that this Edition will bring some cheer and masonic communication particularly to those of us who must perforce remain at home.

You will read in the magazine that a number of Essex Freemasons and members of their families have sadly died from the virus and we send their families and friends our heartfelt condolences.

We are promoting a number of initiatives (as much as possible in conjunction with the MCF and UGLE) through our recently established Essex Freemasons Community Fund and with the broader charitable efforts and initiatives of many Lodges, Chapters and Masonic centres. These are currently rightly focussed largely on combatting the virus, giving tangible support for the NHS and care homes, and effectively supporting our own members through our Provincial Almoner's network. I hope you support these objectives and they demonstrate that Essex Freemasons are still very active, relevant and committed to the community. Many masons, including the Executive and myself, are also keeping in touch by telephone or videophone or arranging virtual meetings.

Congratulations to all who recently received first appointment or promotion in Grand Rank or Provincial Grand Rank which regrettably neither the MW the Grand Master nor myself respectively was able to confer personally as the investiture meetings had to be cancelled. This will, I am sure, have been a disappointment but the ranks are just as valid and deserved.

Rodney L. Bass, ProvGM/GSupt

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this special 'Lockdown' issue of Essex Mason, the Official Magazine for the Province of Essex.

Due to the current unprecedented situation that we are experiencing being in the midst of a pandemic that has prevented us from attending meetings, socialising and conducting our Masonic business as usual, the Editorial Team thought that it would be a positive initiative to reach out to all the Brethren in the Province by producing a 'Special Lockdown' issue of the Magazine to provide an update and insight into some of the excellent work that is being undertaken by the Brethren of the Province to support those in need at this difficult time and looking after our own and to communicate those Brethren who don't have access to Social Media and other electronic communication platforms.

The Essex Mason online shop remains open for business www.essexmason.co.uk to supply you with your Masonic Regalia and items in preparation for when we are able to resume our Masonic activity.

The next regular issue of Essex Mason will be circulated in August 2020 so please submit articles to be considered for inclusion in this issue to magazine@essexmason.co.uk with a copy deadline of the 31st July 2020.

Stay Safe Brethren - Essex Mason Editorial Team



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Feedback & Articles

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Provincial Grand Lodge

Brethren, may I echo the congratulations expressed by the RW Provincial Grand Master, in his foreword to this special edition of the Essex Mason magazine, to all those who have been appointed to, or promoted in, Provincial Grand Rank. My especial congratulations go to those who had earned appointment to Acting Provincial Grand Rank as of 26th March 2020.

By VW.Bro Paul George Reeves
DepPGM



They have already missed out on nearly two months of the year in which they should have been active so if the suspension of masonic meetings continues much longer we are minded to leave them in post again for the year 2021-2022. The Acting Officers for 2020-2021 are:-

ACTING PROVINCIAL GRAND OFFICERS									
1	ProvSGW	Colin Felton	Leigh-on-Sea	4708	36	ProvAGDC	William Bixby	Mersea Island	5534
2	ProvJGW	Jeffrey Conway	Belfairs	4730	37	ProvAGDC	Andrew Sargeant	Lodge of Amity	5753
3	* ProvGChap	The Rev Mick Scotchmer	West Essex Round Table	9310	38	ProvAGDC	Brian Lytle	Old Libertian	6096
4	* ProvGTreas	John Hoeffler	Shenfield	8416	39	ProvAGDC	Tony Shepherd	Chingford Meridian	7465
5	ProvGReg	Andrew Montlake	Upminster Daylight	9788	40	ProvAGDC	Brent Lay	Thomas Paycocke	8200
6	* ProvGSec	Philip Lovelock	Lodge of Good Fellowship	276	41	ProvAGSwdB	Glenn Brown	Theydon	6012
7	* ProvGDC	Geoff Turpin	Warner	2256	42	ProvAGSuptWks	Neil Smith	United	697
8	ProvGSwdB	Mark Harrison	Henry de Gray	6627	43	* ProvGOrg	Bob Allder	Chigwell	453
9	* ProvGSuptWks	Andrew McLeod	Lodge of Saint Mary	1312	44	ProvGStB	Graham Lucas	Thames Estuary	4043
10	* ProvDepGChap	The Rev Michael Bradley	Brooke	2005	45	ProvGStB	Duncan Whitehead	Aldborough	5586
11	* ProvDepGReg	Danny Tsang	Sancto Claro	9486	46	ProvAGStB	Keith Page	Lodge of Hope	433
12	* ProvDepGDC	Neil March	Saint Cedd	6519	47	ProvAGStB	Aron Priest	Benfleet	3798
13	* ProvDepGDC	Dave Hawtin	Beeleigh Abbey	7017	48	ProvAGStB	Brian Chenier	Colcestria	7123
14	ProvDepGDC	Martyn Cartwright	Martello	7121	49	* ProvDepGOrg	Gerry Scott	Old Parkonians'	4709
15	ProvDepGSwdB	Paul Thurgood	Albert Lucking	2717	50	ProvGPurs	Gurmuke Singh	Leygrove	7003
16	* ProvGAlm	Nick Clarke	Blackwater	1977	51	ProvAGPurs	Richard Horley	Easterford	2342
17	* ProvGChStwd	Colin Felton	Leigh-on-Sea	4708	52	ProvAGPurs	Gary Mitchell	Seven Kings	2749
18	ProvGMen	Pierre Waddoups	Daylight Lodge of Hutton	9806	53	ProvAGPurs	Glen Richards	Lodge of Borrowed Light	9054
19	* ProvGOrat	Mark Smith	Loughton	8455	54	ProvGStwd	Paul Morris	Royal Victorian Jubilee	2184
20	ProvSGD	Andrew Hastings	Old Parkonians'	4709	55	ProvGStwd	Timothy Mackenzie	Brownwood	4272
21	ProvSGD	Ashley Coleridge	Stanford-le-Hope	5217	56	ProvGStwd	Mark Jones	Hutton	4640
22	ProvSGD	Terry Kerr	Lodge of Fraternity	5916	57	ProvGStwd	Daniel Jackson	Dagenham	4699
23	ProvSGD	Garry Hollands	Wansford	7101	58	ProvGStwd	Gary Soars	Leigh-on-Sea	4708
24	ProvJGD	Keith Bartlett	United	697	59	ProvGStwd	Paul Bates	Thorpe Bay	4803
25	ProvJGD	Darren Bartlett	Epping Forest	4263	60	ProvGStwd	Paul Roseman	Hadleigh Castle	5447
26	ProvJGD	Bradley Thurgood	Pitsea	4837	61	ProvGStwd	Timothy McManus	Deo Confidimus	6253
27	ProvJGD	Anthony Dempsey	Upminster Hall	7573	62	ProvGStwd	Roland Carpenter	Southend-on-Sea	6484
28	* ProvAGChap	Gordon MacLean	Lodge of Saint Mary	1312	63	ProvGStwd	Ian VanDoorn	Spero	6825
29	* ProvAGChap	Barry Smith	West Essex Round Table	9310	64	ProvGStwd	Jeffrey Palmer	Martello	7121
30	ProvAGReg	Douglas Watkins	Langthorne	1421	65	ProvGStwd	Darren Elsey	Tendring Hundred	7623
31	ProvAGReg	Colin Fisher	St Osyth's Priory	2063	66	ProvGStwd	David Thorp	Forester	7760
32	* ProvAGSec	Alistair Barnwell	Hutton	4640	67	ProvGStwd	Christian Webb	Lodge of Beneficence	7978
33	ProvAGDC	Christopher Sullivan	Warner	2256	68	ProvGStwd	Daniel Gearing	St Helen and St Giles	9133
34	ProvAGDC	Stuart Cass	Colne	2477	69	ProvGStwd	Daniel Broyd	Braintree St George	9774
35	ProvAGDC	Sean Fitzgerald	Valence	5388	70	ProvGTyler	Mick Hughes	Hockley	6204
						* Re-Appointed			

Provincial and Grand Rank 1st Appointments & Promotions

In addition the following brethren were honoured with 1st Appointments or Promotions in Grand Rank:-



GRAND RANKS – CRAFT 2020			
First Appointments		Promotions	
Mark Simon SMITH	AGSwdB	Graham Leslie DICKERSON	PSGD
Robert Ernest Edward ALLDER	PAGDC	Clive Francis Richard REES	PSGD
Laurence Trevor FRETWELL	PAGDC (per Berks)	Lee TAYLOR	PSGD
Paul James HARRIS	PAGDC	David Leonard CLARKE	PJGD
Brian Michael McGUINNESS	PAGDC	Ian Stanley SIMPSON	PJGD
Robert Keith STONE	PAGSuptWks	Brian George HEASMAN	PAGDC
John Raymond BOND	PGStB	Headley Peter O'BRIEN	PAGDC (per London)
Paul Daniel WITHAMS	PGStB	Issa Khamis TAHHAN	PAGDC (per London)
GRAND RANKS – ROYAL ARCH 2020			
First Appointments		Promotions	
Gerald Duncan SCOTT	PGStB	Nicholas James FRANKLIN	PGSwdB
Joseph Louis David SHEARER	PGStB	Raymond Keith PASCOE	PGSwdB (per Suffolk)
John ARLETT	PAGDC (per London)	James Alexander MCCREADIE	PAGSoj
Roger George DAVIS	PAGDC	Rev Michael Leslie SCOTCHMER	PAGSoj (per London)
Christopher HICKS	PAGDC	David Peter BRANCH	PGStB
Ian Christopher MARSHALL	PAGDC		
Keith William TAYLOR	PAGDC (per Cornwall)		
David Andrew James WILSON	PAGDC		



Bereavements Due to Coronavirus

I would also like, on behalf of the RW Provincial Grand Master and his Executive, to take the opportunity to pass on our condolences to the friends and families of the Essex brethren who have succumbed to the Coronavirus and to the brethren who have lost members of their family.

As of 28th April those we are aware of are:-



W.Bro Frank Tomlin, PPJGW
Aged 88
Died 26/03/2020



W.Bro Peter J.G. Saggars, PPSGD
Aged 90
Died 27/03/2020



W.Bro Tony Matthews, PPJGW
Aged 91
Died 26/03/2020



Ms Salina Shaw
Aged 37
Died 12/04/2020
(37 year old partner of Bro Abdul Bangura, Southend on Sea Lodge who had given birth to their child 5 days earlier)



W.Bro Peter J.C. Langston, PPGReg
Aged 84
Died 02/04/2020



Mrs Lynsay Coventry nee Hoggett
Aged 54
Died 02/04/2020
(NHS Midwife, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, daughter of W.Bro Alan Hoggett)



W.Bro Jim T. Walker, PPGSwdB
Aged 74
Died 25/04/2020



Bro John Carr
Aged 75
Died 03/04/2020



Bro Roger Brash
Aged 77
Died 10/04/2020



W.Bro Stuart Jacobs. PPJGW
Aged 83
Died 31/03/2020



W.Bro Malcolm Tayler, PPJGW
Aged 89
Died 13/04/2020



W.Bro Ray Harris, PPJGW
Aged 77
Died 18/04/2020



W.Bro Brian W.F.V. Dilloway, PPAGDC
Aged 81
Died 20/04/2020

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

By VW.Bro Paul George Reeves
DepPGM



Supporting Care Homes and Hospitals

By VW.Bro Paul George Reeves
DepPGM

Essex Provincial Almoner's COVID-19 Appeal

Thank you to all those who supported the Provincial Grand Almoner's Appeal, which started with a £10,000 grant from the Essex Freemasons' Community Fund but to which Essex Lodges, Chapters and individual brethren have added almost £40,000 more, allowing W.Bro Nick Clarke and his team to support a number of brethren in financial crisis as a result of the coronavirus and a big thank goes to him and his team for what they are doing to look after us in these difficult times. See page 18 for more details.

3D Printed PPE



Our thanks are also due to W.Bro Paul McGuinness of Sibelius Lodge No. 9448 and his non-mason cousin Lee McGuinness, who are producing thousands of head bands on their 3D printers (used to relieve discomfort caused to NHS staff wearing face masks with bands that clip over the ears for prolonged periods). W.Bro Paul has also purchased a second 3D printer to increase production of the bands, which are in great demand. Well done also to his fellow lodge member, W.Bro Steve Drury and W.Bro Jack Saunders who have been delivering them.

Facial Visors to Support NHS Staff, Care Home Workers and Hospice Staff

Supported by a further £30,000 in grants from the Essex Freemasons' Community Fund W.Bro Lee Taylor, APGM has been doing a sterling job of coordinating the procurement and supply of facial visors and other essential PPE equipment urgently required in 35 Essex Care Homes that currently have coronavirus outbreaks in their home and in 270 other Essex Care Homes fighting to prevent infection taking hold, as well as some NHS hospital coronavirus wards and Community Nurse Teams across Essex. So far 5,000 visors have been delivered with a further 10,000 still on order and individual hand sanitisers (with refills) for every Care Home worker in the 49 Essex Care Homes identified as most at risk. Plans are also in hand to provide similar assistance to Essex hospices following a public appeal by St Francis' Hospice in Havering-atte-Bower asking for visors.

Special thanks are also due to the brethren who have volunteered to deliver the PPE equipment as outlined in W.Bro Lee's article on page 8.

If there is one person you can rely on in a crisis it is an Essex Freemason. [#essexfreemasonscare](#)

And finally.....

At midday on 17th March 2020, six days before HM Government put the country into lockdown due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the MW The Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent, took the sensible precaution of suspending all masonic meetings for a period of four months; but there is every possibility that will have to be extended. As a consequence the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting on 26th March and the annual Investiture meetings of UGLE and Supreme Grand Chapter on the 29th & 30th April were cancelled.

In Essex the following significant meetings have, or will, also be cancelled but the RW ProvGM and his Executive will ensure they support the lodges concerned to help them celebrate later this year:

17th April	Tuscan Lodge No. 6067 - 75th Anniversary
18th April	Consecration of Chapter of XV No. 9944
6th May	United Chapter No. 697 - Centenary
14th May	Iceni Lodge No. 6066 - 75th Anniversary
27th June	Thames Estuary Lodge No. 4043 - Centenary
4th July	Ixion Chapter No. 2501 - 125th Anniversary
24th July	West Essex Lodge No. 2561 - 125th Anniversary

When this is over it is our intention to ask the Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral to hold a Remembrance Service for us to honour the brethren and their families lost to the Coronavirus so please ensure the death of any Brother or, with their permission, a member of their family, related to this pandemic is promptly reported to the Provincial Office and, where possible, please provide an unedited photograph of the Brother that can be used on The Cube and for that service.

Be safe brethren.

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Supporting Care Homes and Hospitals

By W.Bro Lee Taylor
APGM

Essex Mason Donates
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Victoria & Sydney along with 68
volunteers made contact with over
500 Care Homes

Dear Brethren,

I do hope that you are all well and keeping safe and managing to keep yourselves busy and in contact with the other members of your Lodges.

I have been asked to write this article to update you all on the initiatives that we have been running whilst the country is in Lock Down.

The Provincial Grand Master has been holding regular conference calls with the Deputy PGM, the APGM's and other Members of the Executive and it was during one of the calls that the initiative for us to supply PPE to Hospitals, care homes and other community based Nurses etc. was born.

The initiative was to be funded from the Essex Freemasons Community Fund (EFCF).

If I can jump ahead slightly and say that the reporting on the News is correct, in that Care Homes and Hospitals are really struggling in some places to get adequate PPE.

This statement is based on the feedback from Nurses in Hospitals and Care Home staff, so clearly it was the right thing to do.

After some research we quickly identified that we would not be able to supply the disposable day to day items that would be required, simply on a cost basis as we simply wouldn't be able to buy enough gloves, aprons and face masks to make a difference across the 5 Essex Hospitals and the 506 Registered Care Homes in Essex.

You will have seen across the media, stories of individuals 3D printing visors and supplying them to the NHS, so we explored this idea and identified that the process of 3D printing was quite slow and labour intensive, we then stumbled upon Andy Gale from Oaklair Packaging in Norfolk who alongside running his business was supplying at cost, laser cut visors at a price that could not be matched anywhere else that we could find and more importantly, he was able to supply.

The Deputy PGM then went to the Trustees of the EFCF and a grant was given of £20,000 towards the initiative.

So on the 17th April we placed our initial order of 10,000 units, to be delivered in batches of 5000 a week.

You will have seen the Team Brief for the call of support and I was inundated with offers of help, to assist in the administration and delivery of the items, but we hadn't even spoken to the care homes at this point!

A team of 24 Masons and W.Bro Robert Brown's (Lodge of Fraternity No 5916) Daughter and Grand Daughter (Victoria & Sydney) from the 70 volunteers were then tasked to contact the 506 Care Homes to identify if they needed Visors and how many they needed.

Within 48 hours I had all of the information, including whether any of the Care Homes had Covid 19 cases, which we obviously put these Homes at the top of the list for a delivery.

A week later 15 volunteers including Victoria and Sydney attended Chelmsford Masonic Hall, where W.Bro Phil Lovelock (Provincial Grand Secretary) had taken delivery of 5000 Visors that morning and within an hour, all of the Visors were on their way to the four corners of the Province.

In all and by close of play on Saturday 25th April, all of the visors had been delivered to 186 care Homes.

We were also contacted by Alexandra, a Community Nurse Manager and were able to provide over 200 of her staff Visors to assist them in keeping safe whilst visiting members of the Essex Community on their rounds.

At the time of typing this article I am coordinating the second delivery of another 3,500 visors to the remaining Care Homes in Essex, meaning that every Care Home Worker in Essex that needed a Visor has now received one, donated by you, Essex Freemasons.

We are also going to be directly supporting all of the Hospices within Essex and we will supply them Visors as well, along with the Air Ambulance, Community Mental Health Teams across the Province, so watch this space.

One other Initiative that has been driven by the feedback from the care homes with Covid 19 cases is the distinct lack of PPE available to them and in particular Hand Sanitiser.



#essexfreemasonscare

We have had a further £10,000 grant from the EFCF to progress this initiative and we are initially going to be providing the 36 care Homes that we know who have Covid 19 cases with a quantity of hand sanitisers, in the form of 500 individual bottles for the Carers and a 5 litre top up bottle which will provide 50 top ups per home.

I have had contact now with a number of the care homes who have received our PPE donation and on behalf of the Carers at the homes, District Nurses, Community Nurses etc I thank you for what you (The Masons) have done and are doing, it is really appreciated.

Thanks also go to the volunteers who have and are assisting in this initiative, whether it be calling care homes, delivering Visors or simply offering to help, it really is quite humbling to be at the other end of it all.

It just goes to show that #ESSEXFREEMASONSCARE



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Teddies for Loving Care



Do you have a TLC "Teddies for Loving Care" Bear... how about digging him out, placing him in your window with the year you received it for exercising passers by to view.. who has the oldest? Don't have one, encourage your family and friends to display theirs... who has the oldest or biggest?



Essex Freemasons deliver first batches of PPE protection



Taking delivery from left to right – Nurse Jo-Anne Legg, Alexandra Bartlett and Jody Dyer, Senior Healthcare Assistant

Essex Freemasons have delivered the first batch of 5,000 PPE visors to front line nursing teams in Southend and Castle Point as part of a new £30,000 Covid-19 campaign aimed at providing essential equipment for local hospital and care home staff.

Some 400 care homes across the County, local hospitals and front line community nursing teams received packs of visors on Friday (April 24th) with further deliveries planned over the next two weeks.

Nursing Team Leader Alexandra Bartlett who took delivery of the first batch of visors at the Thundersley Clinic said: "We are part of a network of some 200 community nurses across the Southend and Castle Point areas dealing with patients at home, some of whom have been discharged from hospital with Covid-19."

"Each nurse is seeing around five patients a day so the visors are very welcome and I want to thank Essex Freemasons for their generosity and for thinking of us."



The visors fit – from left to right Nurse Ellen Boyd and Team Leader Alexandra Bartlett.

Essex Freemasons initially agreed a £20,000 grant via the Essex Freemasons Community Fund to purchase thousands of vitally needed PPE visors, but another £10,000 has been added to purchase equally urgently needed hand sanitiser for all front line staff.

A further £100,000 has been allocated to Freemasons in the East region by the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Freemason's own charity, which will be focussed on areas of greatest need – and it does not end here, say Essex Freemasons who have said that more money will be pledged if needed.

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Just a normal day as a Mason.

By Bro. Leslie Bond

"Like everyone else. Dragged my sorry !! out of the bed, 3 coffee's later thought I better get myself in gear. Got a really important task to do today. If all goes to plan, I will be dropping off some visors to some local care home's."

All donated by the Essex Freemasons Community Fund

"First job to do is print off some additional instructions, just in case they are needed, next print off the letter of introduction from the Gaffer. RW Bro Rodney Bass OBE - Lastly check who the recipients are and work out the best way to get them to them."

"Right then, 4 care homes, 180 visor's. 100 for one 50 for another, 20 & 10 for the other 2 -Route all sorted."

"Just wait now for the notification from Lee Taylor to say they arrived, Yeehhh they got there."



Can pick them up at 3pm.

"Off we go, Sun is shining so got to have the roof down on the car. Mistake Bondy, flipping windy going down the A12. Cant go to slow either as I only left myself 45 minute's to get there from Harwich."

Arrived with 2 minutes to spare, Gave my name to Peter Lovelock who was looking relaxed as he perched on the flower pot outside, and he pointed me in the direction of the boxes.

"Right now, time to show off that I can count. They come in boxes of 50, so I need 180, that's 3 full ones and 30 loose, Lee said to decant them, so right then, open box just over there counted out the odd 30, grabbed an abandoned box and bag from off the floor for the odds."

"Car loaded, off to the first drop. Acorn Village in Mistley. Called them, told them I was on way and they said just leave them outside and we will collect them. Downer I was hoping for a piccie for PGL. No worry there is still 3 more after that. Anyway, got a selfie, as no-one would come out. Then as soon as I got in the car to leave a lady popped her head round the door and shouted "thank you ever so much".

"Right then on to number 2, Lime trees in Gt Oakley. What a fantastic reception from the staff there, Monica the one on the right in the photo could not thank us enough.

And even got a colleague to pose with her for a photo."



"Next stop, Waters View in Little Oakley. Again, a fantastic reception from the staff. So grateful for our kind donation.

The lady in the photo was a little camera shy, however her colleague behind her ran straight back into the office as soon as she saw the camera"



"Now for the last drop of the day. The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust in Dovercourt.

Like all the other's so happy to receive the visor's, these are potential life saver's was the reaction from the young lady who received them. And yes another camera shy one peeping from behind the door."



"Well what a day, woke up this morning full of trepidation and anticipation as I would be representing my lodge. The Star in the east, masonry in general and the Province.

Got home and sat down to dinner, with an overwhelming sense of pride doing what masons do best and accomplishment. Knowing that my community and many others around the province have seen that freemason's care."

[#essexfreemasonscare](#)

Hope this brings a little smile to your face.

Well done all at Essex PGL and the volunteers

Albert Lucking Lodge & Chapter 2717

Donation Given of PPE to Local Hospital for COVID-19 Crises

The Albert Lucking Lodge and Chapter recently voted to donate £500 from each unit to fund PPE for Local Hospitals. A combined total of £1,000.00 (One Thousand Pounds).

Once the donation(s) were agreed; the Lodge and Chapter joined forces (by forming a dedicated project group) to deliver on an initiative from Bro Chris Bull to source and deliver much needed PPE to local Hospitals.

Another example of Fraternal compassion and concern shown from our Masonic Brethren, with direct successful actions taken during the COVID crises; express thanks must go to all those involved.
L to R Bro / Comp Chris Bull, Senior Ward Nurse Amy Hardly-Wallace at Basildon Hospital and W.Bro/ E.Comp Paul Marshall Lodge Deputy Almoner.



Absent Brethren

9 O'clock Toast



**Lockdown
can't
stop our
masonic
enjoyment**



Freemasons from around the Province of Essex are still meeting despite the global lockdown.

Hundreds of Freemason from the four corners of Essex are using technology to stay in touch.

From the Pathway Team App, to Whatsapp and Zoom brethren are using technology to hold virtual LOI and GPC meetings - or just a general catch up.



Staying In Touch



WhatsApp



Zoom



TeamApp



Freemasons pledge support for hospitals and care homes across Essex

Essex Freemasons have mobilised its 9,000 members from across the County to join the fight against COVID-19 with a major new campaigns aimed at providing essential equipment for local hospitals and care home staff as well as providing extensive free car parking for front end emergency workers.

Some £20,000 has been allocated immediately by the Essex Freemasons Community Fund to purchase thousands of vitally needed PPE visors. These will be distributed to hospitals and care homes in every part of the County.

In a second initiative the Essex Cornerstone Club, which represent some 200 young Masons across Essex, has launched a separate appeal to help support a desperate plea from NHS Doctors and Nurses for any old but working electronic tablets / iPads.

And in Hutton and Upminster Freemasons have opened up their doors – or to be more precise – their car parks to NHS and other key workers who need to travel to London, so that they can leave their vehicles free of charge, helping them to avoid parking charges at nearby stations.

Nationally, UGLE has through the Masonic Charitable Foundation launched a nationwide Appeal to help fight the Covid-19 outbreak - and to provide even further support for this incredible cause - will match fund up to £1 million on any donations it receives.

More than £100,000 has been allocated to our region to be spent at the discretion of local Freemasons. The good news is that any money donated to the Covid-19 Appeal will immediately be credited to the Essex Festival2022 target. This means that any money that you as individuals, or as Lodges or Chapters were intending to donate to the Festival can now be directed towards the UGLE Covid-19 campaign and it will still count.

When you make such a donation please ensure that you mention the names of Lodges and Chapters so that they can be credited as if they had donated to the Festival Appeal – ensuring that you will be helping the Province reach its target while at the same time ensuring that your money is going where it is most needed.

You can donate in a number of different ways:

- Online by clicking this link: <http://everydayhero.co.uk/event/covid-19>
- By making a transfer from your Relief Chest using the Green Form to the MCF Relief Chest "COVID-19" Send your voucher to the MCF in the usual way
- Use your Mobile to text Covid-19 to 70500 to donate £5
- Use a regular single donation form which can be obtained via your Charity Steward or downloaded via the CUBE using this link: <https://essexfreemasons.org/folders/file/1416> Please ensure that you cross out Festival2022 and replace with Covid-19. It will still be credited to the Festival.

Young Masons leading the way

The Cornerstone Club Appeal for Ipads and Tablets get right to the coal face of greatest need.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis patients are not allowed to receive visitors in hospital. This initiative will give patients, many who are elderly and frail and do not have access to smart devices and who may be nearing the end of their life, the opportunity to speak to family and loved ones via video calls. The devices, regardless of age, need to be wiped clean of data, in working order and able to hold a charge and be able to run FaceTime/ Skype or video calls.

Anyone wishing to donate their old electronic tablets are asked to click on the following link to know more:

<https://forms.gle/yMu9x6uJZ8XWzovA9> (see full article on page 20)



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

Essex leading the way

at care homes

Visors, essential PPE equipment for front line workers, is extremely short in Essex care homes where many deaths have been reported and these will receive supplies as quickly as possible thanks to the Essex Freemasons Community Fund grant of £20,000.

Paul Reeves, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Essex Freemasons, commented: "It is clear that there is a massive shortage of vital equipment and I am delighted that we have been able to respond immediately to support our hospitals and care homes.

We have been in contact with suppliers and are assured we will quickly receive visors. These will be distributed via or network of Freemason volunteers, many of whom already provide TLC Teddy Bears for traumatised children in A&E units – so we are ready to go."

Every effort will be made to ensure that vital equipment reaches the right people as quickly as possible and Essex Masons want the visors to reach those in greatest need first. If you know of a care home or hospital ward in need please e-mail lee.taylor@essexpgl.org.uk with the name of the unit and details of the person to contact there.



Essex Freemasons

provide free parking for key NHS workers

Upminster and Hutton centres are offering free car parking to emergency workers. The Upminster Centre in Deyncourt Gardens is just metres away from the mainline 'C to C' station into Fenchurch Street, has some 70 spaces and is policed with CCTV cameras and lighting 24 hours a day making it ideal for shift workers.



The Hutton Centre in Mount Avenue is directly opposite the busy Shenfield station into Liverpool Street and offers 52 parking spaces with staff permanently in the building for additional security.

Both car parks are usually full each day with Essex Freemasons attending meetings, but like everyone else they are on lockdown for the moment so what better way of saying thank you to the people who are making such a difference for the rest of us.

While our car parks are empty both centres believe it is only right to allow NHS and other key emergency workers to use these facilities free of charge. However, like car parks everywhere vehicles are left at the owner's risk."

Key workers wanting to use the car parks simply need to drive in and leave their vehicles. If possible they should leave a sticker in the windscreen to say who they are, but it is not compulsory and it's hoped that non-essential workers will respect the initiative.

Freemasons are not expected to resume meetings until September so the facility will remain open for NHS workers throughout the shut down and it is hoped that as many as possible will use the facilities over the coming critical months.



Clacton Masons

Thank Local Ambulance Service

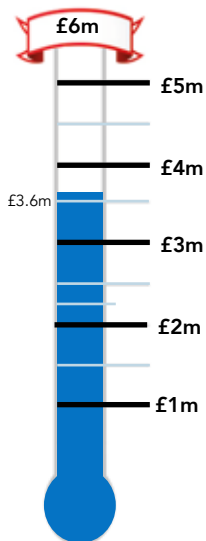
Mr.Ali Bartlet and co-worker, from Clacton Ambulance Station, receive a small token of appreciation from the Worshipful Master and Members of St.Osyth's Priory Lodge No.2063. Junior Warden, Brother, John Richardson, delivered the goodies to the pandemic front line drivers on behalf of St.Osyth's Priory Lodge who meet at Colvin Memorial Temple in Clacton and We thank them for their continued commitment and dedication during these challenging times.

Don't lose the opportunity to benefit our NHS and the Festival Appeal

NHS



Festival Thermometer



At the time of going to press, the Essex Festival 2022 had banked some £3.6 million towards its target of £6 million. It is a fantastic effort with around two years left before the Appeal comes to an end, but with Britain and Freemasonry in lockdown, it is now difficult to predict what the final total might be.

As Provincial Charity Steward I am acutely aware of the number of times we have come knocking on your door to ask for your support for yet another worthy cause and I particularly understand that it is impossible to give to everything.

So I apologise for once again asking you to dig deep, but I hope you will understand why and how everyone of us can make a real difference by assisting our NHS and care home staff while at the same time actively helping our Province reach its Festival target.

You have all received details of how to support UGLE's Covid-19 Appeal. I do not have to tell you that this initiative is making a real difference and it comes with a real bonus. When you donate money personally or as a Lodge or Chapter via your Relief Chest or Benevolent Funds, that money will also be credited as if it had been donated to our Festival.

It's a wonderful gesture and an opportunity to use our money where it is needed most without detriment to the Festival which is vital if future funds are to be available for Essex. It is worth recording that even if we are in Festival or not nearly £500,000 comes back to Essex every year to distressed brethren and their families – and that is in addition substantial grants which are made available to local charities.

Our £6 million target is a lot of money and if we reach that amount it will approximately represent a donation of £700 per Essex Mason over a five year period. The Province of Middlesex has just completed its Festival with a total of £4.5 million which represents over £1,000 per member and the Province of Nottinghamshire has recently recorded similar per capita donations.

It is of course easier for smaller Provinces to be more flexible. Under the same expectations we would have to hit at least £8.5 million so in that context we really should be able to hit £6 million knowing the legendary generosity of most Essex Freemasons.

So Brethren, a big thank you for your support so far and with the opportunity to help our frontline NHS and care worker teams and our Festival – let's go for it.

W.Bro Colin Felton. ProvGChStwd

Stisted Hall

residents take a canal trip

I am quite sure that all of the Lodges, Chapters and other side degrees in the Province of Essex have made contributions to Stisted Hall Masonic Home either as annual donations or one-off contributions and have supported their annual fund raising Garden Party and these efforts are applauded. Our Charity Steward had a "light bulb" moment while listening to a Presentation by a charity called "Canalability" that raises funds to buy, modify and operate canal boats to enable wheelchair users and other challenged people to take trips and group holidays on our canals. His idea was not only to support the fabric of the Stisted Hall but to treat the residents to an adventure via a trip on a canal boat.

He persuaded the Walden Chapter No. 1280 to support the idea.

With the help of Dani Lane, the Activities Co-ordinator at Stisted Hall a date was arranged and a boat booked to take twelve people on a four hour trip.

The trip was a great success and the attached letter of appreciation and pictures, illustrate better than any words of mine how much it was appreciated by Dani and her charges.



£10,000 grant will keep the coast safe at Shoeburyness

Essex Freemasons have donated £10,000 to help save lives and protect those using the beaches and coastal waters near Shoeburyness. The money will be used to replace a vital watch station near the Town's East Beach which has kept vigil over swimmers, kite surfers and boat enthusiasts for more than 20 years.

The money was presented to NCI Southend, part of the National Coastwatch Institution, a registered charity formed in 1994, which provides a visual presence to ensure that families and visitors using the beach and local waters remain safe.

That essential work, handled by a team of local volunteers, was put in jeopardy last winter when severe storms damaged the roof and infrastructure of the watch station, but even after months of fund raising, the charity still needed further funds to proceed with necessary replacement.

That is when the Essex Freemasons Community Fund stepped in to make up the difference to allow NCI Southend, to make plans to complete the vital work to its station.

In presenting the cheque to Rodney Hyne-Jones, the Station Manager, Deputy Provincial Grand Master Paul Reeves, commented: *"Our Community Fund is intended to support projects like this, where we can see a real benefit for local people, visitors and their families."*

"If anyone is any doubt about this, then just 24 hours prior to this presentation NCI Southend prevented a potential fatality with a kite surfer who was seen to be in difficulty. Swift action by these volunteers helped prevent a tragedy. After volunteers called out the lifeboat the kite surfer was rescued which perfectly illustrates what the charity is about."

The Southend Branch was set up in 1998 to cover the area of Shoebury East Beach which was out of sight of the local Coastguard station. In addition, there is no Lifeguard cover there and the Charity's primary aim is to spot, plot and report any incident.

A spokesman from Coastwatch, Southend, commented: *"If we had been unable to replace the cabins at our existing station within the year we would have been unable to sustain our watchkeeping activity because the existing premises would have been unsafe to use."*

"This in turn would have been a significant loss to the local community and other visitors in terms of us no longer being able to support the safe use of the beach and waters around Shoeburyness. This grant of £10,000 means we can carry on and we cannot thank Essex Freemasons enough – the money will make a real difference."

NCI Southend is the first contact for incidents on the north side of the Thames Estuary with the nearest manned Maritime and Coastguard Agency station as far away as Dover. In an emergency Dover Coastguard are contacted and it is they, in turn, who call out the Lifeboat or any other emergency services.

When required, Coastwatch volunteers can also liaise with the lifeboat by VHF radio to guide them to the casualty. They also monitor key marine radio frequencies and can report any incident to Dover Coastguard if not picked up by them directly.

All watch keepers are volunteers but are fully trained to deal with emergency situations and the station has Declared Facility status with the Maritime Coastguard Agency meaning they are recognised as part of the UK's Search and Rescue capability.



Provincial Almoner

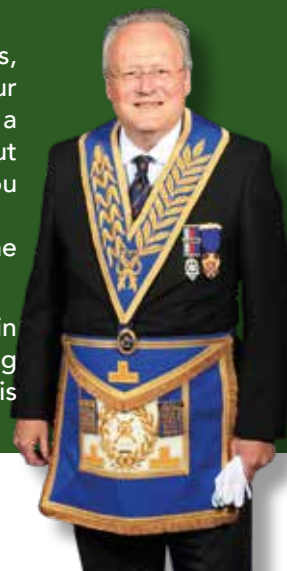
As we remain in the season of Easter when you will be receiving this special edition of Essex Mason, let me open with a reflective message.

W.Bro Nick Clarke

"I have said to many people over the last few weeks whilst we have been confined to our homes, that you don't need to visit special buildings or have groups of people around you to be with your God, you just need peace, a focused mind and a willingness to think and reflect. Maybe it is in a corner in the house or a small space in the garden, where we can close our eyes and think about who we are, our friends and family, those we know who may be in distress and to say thank you for all that we have and to consider how we can help others less fortunate"

This simple reflection underpins all the work that so many of you will have been doing and the Almoner's team is no exception.

I have been steadfast in trying to get our "Call for Action" message out to Lodge Almoners in particular and to all masons in general within Essex Lodges and Chapters. Not just in delivering the message but also, I hope in trying to ensure that the message is understood. Thanks to this special edition of Essex Mason I have another opportunity to explain the message.



The Message

A Call for Action

As we now know, these are uncertain and very worrying times for all people but especially for those that live alone, at the centre of every Almoner's work is giving pastoral care and I have therefore suggested, if such measures have not already been put in place, that each Almoner sets up and leads a system of "buddies" within their lodge to ensure that the vulnerable people are kept in contact with by telephone.

It is a huge job for one person to keep in touch with so many people, but it is a relatively easy task for many people to undertake, as the saying goes "many hands make light work." I have asked that each Lodge Almoner takes the lead on this and he asks his lodge members to keep in touch with just a few of their widows and members of their lodge.

I am not asking for home visits but simply to make regular phone calls or even send emails to people who may be by themselves, to check that they are well and that they have enough essential food and medicine.

The Provincial Almoner's Team have already started this buddy system and each have an average of 6 unattached widows they are phoning, as well as their own claimants that they look after. The response has been wonderful and many of the widows have said such things as "it is so nice to have a voice to listen to" and "it is good to see that masonry is so caring."

The Masonic Charitable Foundation and the Essex Provincial Almoner's Team are not able to make any home visits at this time but we are doing it by telephone. We have found that it is not just the visit that is important, it is the phone call that really matters and it helps to reassure people about what is going on. With good communication and good reassurance, we can, in these extraordinary times, ensure that the elderly and vulnerable brethren and widows have comfort, food, medication and support. Most of us now, due to isolation restrictions, have even more time to make those phone calls and think of others less fortunate than ourselves.

So, I hope that by now these or similar simple plans have been put into place and that all our members have been encouraged to make that call today, tomorrow and the next day and not put off this essential action.

Let us act generously during these uncertain times and all make a conscious effort to reach out and help somebody the elderly and those with health problems.



The Provincial Almoners Coronavirus Fund

A Call for Action

The Essex Provincial Charity Fund (EPCF) has generously provided the Provincial Almoner's Fund with a wonderful start-up grant of £10,000, and a wider appeal has been launched for Lodges, Chapters and masons to support the 'Provincial Almoner's COVID-19 Appeal'. Details have been sent to all Lodge Almoners but please get in touch with me if you need more information: Nick Clarke, Prov.G. Alm. 07768 067817

The response has been excellent and as at the 27th April 2020, we have received private donations of £3,035, Lodge/Chapter donations of £18,816 and donations to the Just Giving Site of £17,225. A total of £39,076. All these figures exclude the start up donation we received of £10,000 from the EPCF.

The money is being used now to initially assist those vulnerable people who have an Essex masonic connection, to be given immediate cash support to enable them to either purchase food or have it bought for them. We have so far issued £19,881 in grants and have set a guideline of £100 for a single person, £150 for a couple and £200 for a family, but these figures are flexible. Repeat grants are now being given if they are needed.

A Summary of what we have done

A Call for Action

- The Provincial Team, using the buddy system, have been asked to contact their unattached widows and all their existing claimants who they think may be vulnerable
- Lodge Almoners have been asked to set up a buddy system offering help and to identify those people in their lodge, including their widows, who may be in need
- The Province has made funds available
- Lodges, Chapters and individuals have made, and continue to make, donations to the fund
- Cash payment awards have been made to brethren and widows identified as being in need within 24 hours and a process of follow up awards has started
- Follow up messages have been sent to all Lodge Almoners asking for their support in identifying those in need and a hard copy letter has been sent with the details of the scheme and with their Provincial contact details.
- An Essex Lodge Almoner's 'Z Card' has been sent to every Almoner explaining the role, giving contact information of relevant charities and sign-posting methods they can use in the pursuit of helping others

The process is very simple for giving help via this fund, each person that is identified as a person in need, is reported Almoner to their Almoner who in turns notifies his Deputy Group Almoner who then makes arrangements for an immediate cash payment to be paid to the claimant.

There is no red tape, no means testing, just plain old fashioned trust and instinct. The scheme empowers judgement calls to be made quickly, either by the Lodge Almoner or the Provincial Almoner's Team and of course with the knowledge of the potential claimant.

We have so far made awards to all applicants of £11,050 in the first three weeks. The demand spike for claims is clearly no where near its peak and we are expecting many more claims as time goes on, not just for cash support (typically for food), but also for other coronavirus related issues such as possible funeral support, short term daily living expense needs and even virus tests if we are going to be asked to pay for such things.

The Next Steps of Empowerment

A Call for Action

I have personally spoken to many Lodge members recently about the call for action and to my surprise, despite the message having been received, when I mentioned it again and asked if they had people we could help, some of them did not fully understand that we had cash readily available to assist, and that it was simply based on their feedback, without the need for close financial scrutiny.

So, this is again a call for action to all masons, if you know of a person connected to the Essex Masonic family and who you think may need some help at this difficult time, please tell your Lodge Almoner.

You all know your brethren and widows better than anybody, therefore I would like to ask you please to just make sure that you help me to leave no stone unturned in trying to reach out to all those who need our help.

The Role of the Almoner

A Call for Action

The current pandemic has reinforced even more, just how important the role of the Almoner is. Below are a few thoughts about what I hope to be developing, as well as implementing over the coming months. These points would have been discussed at the conference we had planned in April.

- Lodges to consider appointing Deputy Almoners if not already in place, and to align the skills in the job with the skills of the person.
- To encourage all masons to recognise that the role of the Almoner has changed and it is not just giving a report in the unit about the brethren who are ill, it is seeking out those who are in need and sign posting them to receive help.
- To encourage all Almoners to promote their work by using and showing others their Z Card. These have now been sent by post to all Almoners and more are available via the Deputy Group Almoners.
- To ask that Almoners report any of their changed personal contact details as soon as possible to their Deputy Group Almoner. Don't wait for the Installation Return to be sent in please, we need to know as soon as possible how to get in touch with an almoner.
- To hold a Lodge Almoner conference around the end of April 2021 and to arrange a workshop in 2021 for new Almoners. The former will be in Southend as it is the only venue capable of holding such a big event and the latter would be in the north and in the south of the Province for newly appointed Almoners. The aim will be to offer them guidance on the Almoner's role and, as we have been requested, to hold a Q&A session. This Autumn of 2020 is too risky to arrange anything.
- To effectively manage the Coronavirus fund that has so generously been created and after the virus news headlines and the cameras have disappeared, to continue encouraging and delivering support for individuals and families, who have been affected by the pandemic.
- To hold a free Men's Health Day at Essex County Cricket Ground, probably in early May 2021.
- To enhance and roll out our current Social Isolation Scheme and put new initiatives in place to reduce loneliness.

Our Normal Work Continues

A Call for Action

The MCF is closed until further notice and the Provincial Almoner's Team are unable to make house visits, but the ongoing and longer-term claim work still continues and we are all busier than ever before.

- *Daily Living Expenses and Emergency Large Grant applications are still being assessed and policy guidance is in place on how we have to assess income in the many scenarios faced by our applicants (e.g. furlough, zero hours contracts, self-employment, etc).*
- *Families who have a current grant from the MCF have been contacted to remind them that we can provide essential IT equipment to support education and well-being.*
- *The MCF are no longer accepting new applications for mobility equipment and medical treatment, except for cancer care, urgent cardiac care and urgent ophthalmic care. Any person making an enquiry about other forms of medical treatment are asked to contact the MCF at a later date.*
- *The RMBI, at the time of writing this article, remains open for admissions and for respite care.*
- *The MCF Telephone Counselling Care Line continues to be provided, but there may be a longer than usual wait for an initial assessment.*
- *An email has been sent to all existing Daily Living Expense (DLE) beneficiaries to confirm that their grant will continue to be paid and that their reviews will still take place at the appropriate time.*
- *At the point that visits were suspended, the MCF had around 300 commissions awaiting completion. They have now contacted nearly all those individuals by telephone to commence their application.*
- *New applicants are being asked to contact the Provincial Team and either we or the claimant can then get in touch with the MCF Claim Team via help@mcf.org.uk or 0800 035 60 90.*

An Almoner's Conclusion

Let me close with an edited extract of some very appropriate words, some of which I have been given by the Metropolitan Grand Almoner in London.

"The great majority of us have had no previous experience of the harrowing times we are currently experiencing. No doubt, it will bring out the very best in people and in some cases, sadly the worst. We, the Almoners, now and in the months to come, are having to be at the forefront of our Lodges and Chapters in delivering the pastoral care that is so critical to the welfare of all our Members.

When this has passed, we will be defined and judged by how we met the standards of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, the compassion we showed, the assistance we provided and the care and empathy, we willingly gave to our Brethren in need.

For this coming period, no Lodge officer has more responsibility than we, the Almoners, in discharging our pastoral duties. Let time show that we lived up to and exceeded the expectation and that it was a great honour to have been able to serve our Brethren, who have placed their trust in us.

This is what we committed to, when we were invested with our collars and I know we will willingly and ably take up that responsibility.

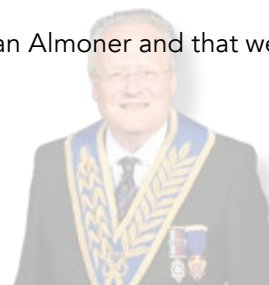
The Provincial Grand Almoners and their teams across all Provinces, are providing nationwide coverage with regard to being able to contact a Brother or a widow, no matter where in the UK they live, and arrange for assistance to be given as appropriate. Distance is no barrier to giving assistance. Let us know the problem and we can try and do something about it.

Almoners have a very challenging job, which requires us to be on call 24/7. Lodges must give some thought as to what happens if the Almoner is taken ill and this is why we have always recommended that a deputy is appointed"

Let us hope that our actions during this crisis make us proud to be an Almoner and that we were there when we were needed.

Thank you for all you are doing

Nick Clarke



ESSEX ALMONERS
POCKET GUIDE

The Almoner's Z Card

Pocket Guide

Communicating effectively to people is at the heart of getting everybody concerned to work together with one purpose. We have thought long and hard about how best to do this for Lodge and Chapter Almoners and in addition to newsletters, workshops and conferences, we came up with the idea of producing a Z Card for Almoners in Essex. Why? Well it is easy to read, and simply to carry about.

The card explains a summary of the Almoners role, provides all the most popular contact details, gives a summary about the core charities and helps to sign post people to the right destination if they need assistance. It will fit into any pocket and wallet, it is light in weight and it takes up no room at all.

We believe that we are the first province to launch such a product for Almoners and it has now been distributed to all Lodge and Chapter Almoners and their Deputies. The feedback has been very good and all new almoners, on appointment, will be sent one by their Dep. Group Almoner in the post.





ESSEX CORNERSTONE

FOR YOUNG FREEMASONS



Essex Cornerstone Club

supporting through the COVID-19 crisis

It is often been said that, necessity is the mother of all invention and in these testing times, a number of inventions have been put to use that have gone quite some way to ensuring that we are not alone.

Virtual Social Events

At the Essex Cornerstone Club, we have emphasised that although self-isolation is absolutely vital to help protect the NHS and the country as whole, it doesn't mean that we shouldn't keep in touch. Despite the Covid-19 restrictions, modern technology through social media allows us to catch-up with one another and share a drink or two!

As part of our efforts to stay connected, we have held a series of social events that take place on 'Zoom' an online platform which enables brethren from several lodges to video-call each other from the comfort of their own homes. The zoom platform offers us an opportunity to update our members on the news around the province and also provides a means by which we can all let off some steam!



Recently, we held an inter-club social event on Zoom where Essex Cornerstone Club was joined by Brethren from two other New and Young Mason clubs, Prorum Semper of Gloucestershire and The Sarsen Club of Wiltshire. The event was a huge success with over 35 brethren attending and information about each club and its members were shared. Shaun Butler, UGLE Communications Manager joined us to update on the efforts of Grand Lodge during this difficult time. We're working to extend this initiative out across the UK by hosting more virtual events with other New and Young Mason clubs.

Our NHS iPad appeal

The Essex Cornerstone Club are helping to support a desperate plea from NHS Doctors & Nurses for any old working electronic tablets / iPads. Due to the COVID-19 crisis patients are not allowed to receive visitors in hospital.

This initiative will support patients (many who are elderly and frail and do not have access to smart devices) who may be nearing the end of their life the opportunity to speak to family and loved ones via video calls. The devices, regardless of age, need to be wiped clean of data, in working order and have FaceTime/ video call capabilities.



Donations have already been made and are making a difference. Our such case is Gilberte Abouharon, she underwent live saving surgery but was unable to have visitors during recovery. Her grand-daughter Annabelle said "It's made all the difference being able to see loved ones during this trying time, this such a fantastic idea. Thank so much for giving us an opportunity to speak to our Nan'

If you'd like to donate your old electronic tablets or if you'd just like to make a cash donation so that we can purchase new ones, please contact barry@essexcornerstone.com for more information.



pictured right: Gilberte Abouharon (91) contacting her family via Facetime with Club Chairman Dr. Jack Gilliland.

Essex Cornerstone Club update.

One of the main aims of the Club is to connect young masons spread across our large Province. We've held social events from Colchester to Southend so that new connection and friendships can be made. Since September we've also held a few larger events that educate members as well as raise money for charity.

Go-Karting

To support the mental health charity CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably), the Club organised a race evening at Raleigh indoor Karting centre. 20 speedy drivers competed tirelessly for 1st place over a series of rounds with newest club member Harry Bambridge taking the chequered flag and trophy.

£200 was raised and donated to CALM. It's an event that will be happening again soon!



New Masons evening



The Club hosted a free event for all young masons at the Chelmsford Masonic centre. The aim of the evening was to highlight the various orders like the Holy Royal Arch, point out the differences in Masonic aprons and the structure and roles within a Lodge. This educational evening was really well attended that left those who joined with a better understanding of Freemasonry and its various parts.

There will be another free event in the future highlighting in detail the progressive orders such as Knights Templar, Mark and Rose Croix.

Churchill War Rooms

History was made in Churchill War Rooms – an underground bunker that allowed Britain's leaders to plot the allied route to victory during the Second World War. This labyrinth of rooms and corridors that stretch below Westminster sheltered Winston Churchill and his war cabinet from the German bombing raids.

Last February this historic and beautifully preserved piece of British history hosted the 2020 Essex Cornerstone Annual Dinner. 60 members and selected guests met to celebrate the 4th Anniversary of the Club at this wonderful black-tie event. The Club said goodbye to previous Club President Reiss Duthie and welcomed in the new President Barry Hayward. During his speech Barry Hayward said "This club is shaping masonic journeys and connecting young masons for the good of themselves, the Province and Masonry in general and I'm passionate in doing more to enable this during my time as President"



Essex Cornerstone Lodge No 9968

The last Essex Cornerstone Lodge meeting was held in December where W.Bro Paul Palmer was installed into the Chair of King Solomon. This was followed by a Bavarian themed Festive Board for our 120 members and guests with Oompah band and unlimited beer! W.Bro Reiss Duthie has been nominated as the next Worshipful Master of the Lodge and will be installed once Lodge meetings can commence. Guests are welcome to any of our special meetings, to be added to our mailing list please contact the Lodge Secretary on JackG@essexcornerstone.com

Joining 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 to find out how you can be part of one of the best New and Young Masons Clubs in the Country.

Royal Arch

Provincial Executive



Staying in very close contact with every Chapter across the province with regular connections to all Scribes E to ensure we are supporting wherever we can.

- Updates from the executive, through social media and across our website.
- Regular connection between the Royal Arch Executive to ensure we are connected and offering our support to companions across Essex.
- Updating the latest information from Supreme Grand Chapter on the Royal Arch website.
- Very focused on the 9 o'clock toasts (we do like a nice glass of wine) and we were delighted to join the Stewards Lodge for their special toast, celebrating their 90th regular meeting, back in March.
- About to launch a series of engaging educational updates through social media. A great way to utilise your downtime!
- Will be holding a live, interactive Q&A with the Executive - more on that soon.
- We're looking forward to hosting an interactive Royal Arch quiz soon - so definitely an opportunity to gen up on the Royal Arch!



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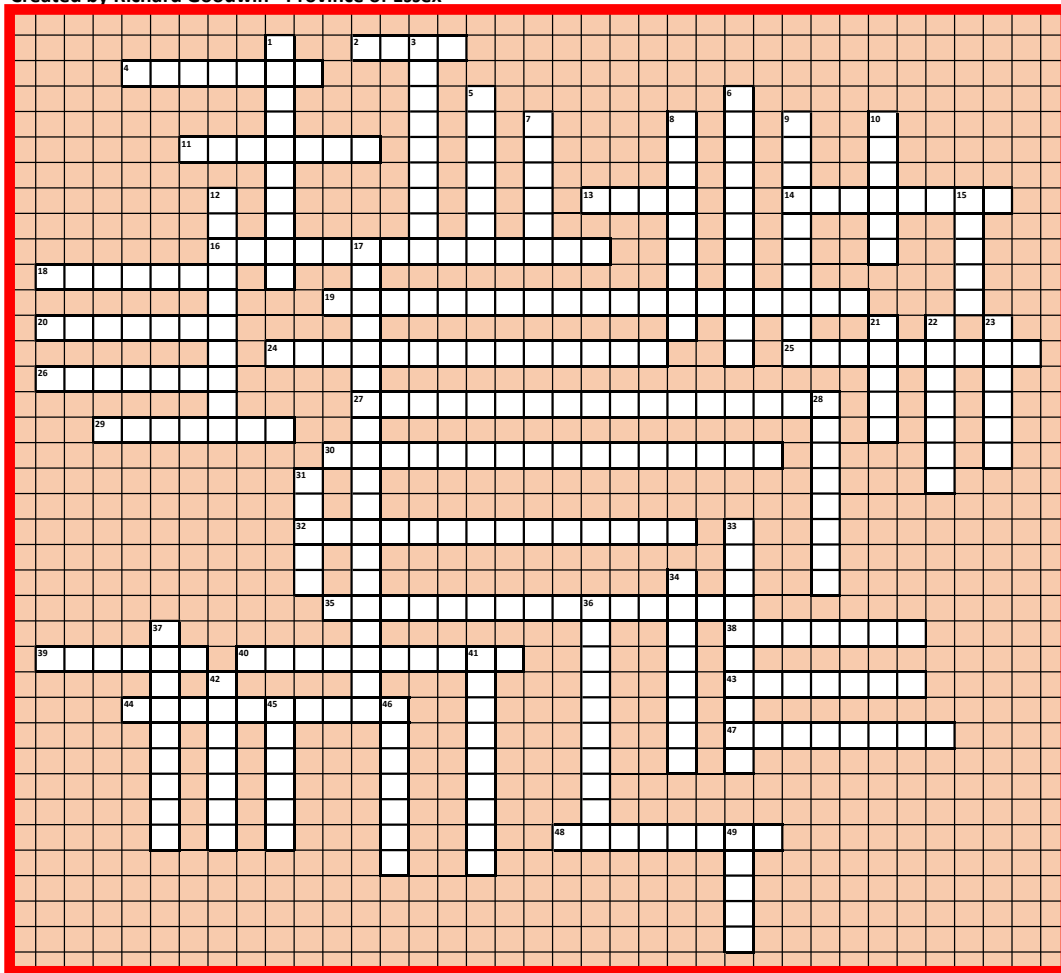
50 yrs

a royal arch mason



On 5th December 2019, John Carpenter PADGC (R.A) (an Essex Mason since 1974), was presented with a Royal Arch 50 year Certificate in his Mother Chapter in London by E.Comp. John Burnapp PJGD, PAGSoj. Metropolitan Grand Inspector.

Created by Richard Goodwin - Province of Essex



Across

- 2 Removed on opening of meeting. 4
- 4 Prepares the room. 7
- 11 One of the twelve tribes of Israel. 7
- 13 Not taken with sign. 4
- 14 Every Chapter must annually produce. 8
- 16 Responds to reports. 6,8
- 18 Prepare Candidate. 7
- 19 Sure indications of merit. 8,3,8
- 20 Proper working implement. 7
- 24 Arrives at the crown of. 7,7
- 25 In Royal Arch Masonry we acknowledge. 4,5
- 26 A type of Royal Arch ritual. 7
- 27 On the plate of gold. 8,3,5
- 29 Where the Master Masons came from. 7
- 30 Man, a Lion, an Ox and an Eagle. 9,7
- 32 Principals in shape of. 10,4
- 35 Type of Obligation. 6,3,6
- 38 State of Pedestal during Exaltation. 7
- 39 Should prove in favour before joining. 6
- 40 The Crowbar is an emblem of. 10
- 43 Another type of Royal Arch ritual. 7
- 44 Figuratively winch forth. 4,6
- 47 Candidate receives after Exaltation. 6
- 48 Candidate kept in a state of. 8

Down

- 1 There are three in the West. 10
- 3 Type of robe clothed in. 9
- 5 Candidate is known as. 7
- 6 Type of Royal Arch meeting. 11
- 7 He who assists Zerubbabel. 6
- 8 What a Master Mason becomes. 9
- 9 Compasses represent the exquisite skill of. 5,5
- 10 Found in the vault. 6
- 12 Third Principals Lecture. 10
- 15 Given to Candidate at Festive Board. 5
- 17 Lights arranged in the form of. 11,8
- 21 Amount of steps to the sacred shrine. 5
- 22 Carried by Candidate. 7
- 23 Janitor responds to. 6
- 28 Circle is an emblem of. 8
- 31 Our forefathers Abraham, Isaac, and. 5
- 33 We three are. 10
- 34 Found on the Sceptres. 8
- 36 Some say he is in charge of the Chapter. 6,4
- 37 Obligation sealed. 4,5
- 41 Zerubbabel, the son of. 9
- 42 Not a Warrant. 7
- 45 Number of Ensigns. 6
- 46 Each of the three have one. 7
- 49 Found with the Trowel. 5

Send your completed puzzle to magazine@essexmason.co.uk - the correct answers will be place in a draw to receive a £50 gift voucher to spend at Essex Mason Shop



Old Parkonians Chapter 4709 met on Zoom at the same time the Chapter meeting was scheduled.

This virtual get together was enhanced by the attendance of E.Comp Elliott Chevin 3rd Provincial Grand Principal. Elliott was scheduled to attend the convocation to present 2 companions with their 50 year certificate - sadly to 2 members were unable to attend the zoom meeting due to "technology issues" however, E.Comp Elliott will be attending the next available meeting to present the certificates in person.



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

Welcome Brother



THREEmasonry FAMILY Connection!



At the last Installation meeting at, Monkams Lodge 4161 on the, 9th January 2020, a unique occasion was witnessed by all, as three members of the same family were all involved the Installation ceremony.

W.Bro. Ben Thomason was a installed as Worshipful Master, the Installing Master was his father, W.Bro. Paul and his Grandfather, W.Bro. Eric was also involved, delivering the Master's address and the Master's Song at the Festive Board.

Thereafter, W.Bro. Ben invested his officers, including his father as, Almoner and his grandfather as Organist, the occasion was certainly enjoyed by all present.

This being a particular poignant year for both, Monkams Lodge and the Thomason family, as at the next meeting W.Bro. Ben will be hopefully initiating his Uncle and Monkams will be celebrating their Centenary later in the year! Now that will be a year to remember!



At the 127th Meeting of Netteswell Cross Lodge No 9280 on 7th February 2020 at Harlow Masonic Hall. W.M W.Bro Gary Harman conducted a Initiation Ceremony, in the presence of W.Bro. Peter Hollingsworth APM.

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



Bro. David Pearce jnr being greeted by his father Bro. David Pearce snr at the Goodwill 7904 meeting on the 10th January.

Bro. David is following in his father and grandfather in being initiated into Goodwill also his Great Uncle W.Bro. Tom Pearce was the first Master of Goodwill in 1963.



On Tuesday the 10th March 2020 I was delighted to be the Master of St Philip Lodge 4221 and able to initiate my son Lee Jackson and his father-in-law, W.Bro. John Engledew took the post of Junior Deacon. It was a great day with many guests present. We were delighted to have present DepPGM Paul Reeves and W.Bro Tony Rayner.

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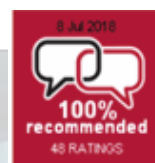
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W.Bro Jack Golding

60

The APGM, The Rev Martin Howse presents W.Bro Jack with his Certificate in recognition of 60 yrs service to Freemasonry, WM W.Bro Sam Gerrie looks on in the background.

In November 2019 W.Bro Jack Golding completed 60 years in Freemasonry at Saffron Walden. Jack was initiated into Audley Lodge in Nov 1959, was WM in 1970 and followed this with spells as Almoner, Asst Sec and DC, where he helped formulate the Audley standardized ritual we use today.



Along the way he was promoted to PPJGW, and found time to become a founder member of Chypping Walden Lodge No 9617 and North Essex Masters lodge No 0831 He also served on the Saffron Walden Masonic Hall management committee for many years, was Chair when the disastrous fire destroyed most of the building in July 1999 and prominent in helping the clear-up and restoration.

Exalted to Walden Chapter in 1967 Jack progressed and mirrored most of the posts he held in craft and was promoted to Grand rank PAGDC in 2004. The Jewel worn by successive IPZ's is one Jack recovered from the ashes of the 1999 fire, had professionally restored and presented to the Chapter.

One- time member of Rose Croix Guild of Holy Trinity and Knights Templar Artur Dentieth Preceptory Jack has been a fine servant to Saffron Walden Masonry.

Celebrate your Lodges Long Serving Members - Send a Story & Photo to magazine@essexmason.co.uk



W.Bro Derek Birkumshaw (centre) receiving his 60 year certificate from W.Bro Lee Taylor, APGM, (right) with W.Bro Bob Parsons, the Master of the Lodge of St Peter No1024 (left).

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Essex Armed Forces Lodge of Mark Master Masons



Tea @3 with the Essex Armed forces Lodge and many more Mark Master Masons.



Mark Well

After the success of the T@3 campaign, the PGM Right Worshipful Brother Terence D. Sheern has thrown down the gauntlet to all his Lodges in the Province!

He has expressed his wish for all Lodges to hold a video conference with its members and take a screenshot, either post it in our Facebook group or email it to essexmarkcomms@gmail.com and the Media Team will post it on your behalf.

The screenshot below was taken at Essex Armed Forces Lodge No.2016 T@3 video meeting.

Does your Lodge have any unusual characteristics? If so, we would love to see the screenshot.

Armed Forces Lodge wear their military head dress after the meeting in the bar whilst they partake of refreshments. It is worn until they receive instructions to remove head dress from the Director of Ceremonies prior to sitting down at the Festive Board.

Combined Stewards Lodge of Mark Master Masons

T@3



As with all masonic orders throughout the UK, Essex Mark Combined Stewards Lodge were unable to hold their regular Lodge meeting, but this did not stop the members, including the Mark PGM (TS) and the Deputy PGM, from holding a virtual meeting, unofficially of course.

The Mark PGM had the privilege of presenting the new Lodge banner to the members, with the actual banner dedication scheduled for a later date

Additional Orders



Essex Meals on Wheels Commences Delivery



Sunday the 19th of April saw the Meals on Wheels Sunday Lunch initiative commence in Essex, the project is funded by a grant of £23,750 from the Mark Benevolent Fund.

The aim of the project is, of course, to supply a two course Sunday meal to vulnerable or housebound members of the Essex Mark Province and is planned to run for the next 13 weeks, with a three week rolling menu. The meals are being prepared at the Orsett, Chingford and Brightlingsea Masonic Centres although, as per the main story, it is envisaged that we will cover the entire Province.

The first event was supported by the Orsett Centre with the other two coming on stream as of next week. A team of willing volunteers arrived at Orsett Masonic Centre to deliver the 70 meals that had been prepared. The meals were cooked and packed in microwaveable containers and were collected by the meals on wheels drivers, and delivered to the recipients who had booked. All meals were dropped at the respective front doors, observing social distancing rules. The meals are also supplied with comprehensive reheating instructions as well as allergen information.

The Mark PGM V.W.Bro Terry Sheern, "I am delighted and proud that we have begun this initiative, the speed in which the MBF agreed and paid the Grant was magnificent and I'm also very impressed with the willingness and efficiency of the masonic centres in helping us. In these troubling times it is good to see our members "ever being friends".

Please do not hesitate to contact the following email address if you or anyone you know are vulnerable or housebound. If you cannot use or access email then contact your Lodge Almoner or a friend to do it on your behalf.

Contact email mbfmeals@britishmasons.uk



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The Essex Provincial Grand Stewards London Bridges Walk



The Essex Provincial Grand Stewards London Bridges Walk took place on Saturday 29th January.

A total of 52 people signed up for the walk. 21 were masons & 31 non masons. Wives, children & even a grandchild of masons all took part.

The day began with heavy rain & wind & train lines closed. This didn't put us off.

We met at Battersea Park Station and afternoon a quick photo outside the aptly names pub "The masons arms" across the road, the group set off to begin the 10 mile walk.

During the early stages the walkers had to struggle through heavy rain and wind but thankfully the weather improved as did the morale of the walkers.

Some walkers challenged themselves to complete the walk without stopping, whilst some took their time and enjoyed the sights along the river.

All walkers finished the walk and whilst some were nursing aching feet and the odd blister, all agreed that the walk was worth it, with charity being the winner on the day.

The walk raised in excess of £5000 going to 12 different charities.

Look out for the date of next years walk.



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Hamilton Court Update

Robert Mathew

Well, what a difficult time we are all going through with this dreaded Virus.

Unfortunately we suffered one confirmed loss with Covid 19, which as soon as the resident went to Hospital on an unrelated illness we put in place a total lockdown. I use the word lockdown as we simply stopped all visitors from entering Hamilton Court. This has helped us to remain Virus free for the time being, but who knows what will happen in the future. Our Scheme Manager had to go into self-isolation as she had spoken to our resident before she went to hospital. Sarah has now returned in good health.

Some of our ladies still go out shopping but those who cannot the deliveries are dropped off at the entrance and they will come down and pick them up from there.

We have still permitted the residents to have full use of the garden and lounge provided they maintain the 2 metre distance. The cooler is full of wine which they have our blessing to help themselves. It is important to keep in mind the mental state of those who have little or no contact with their families.

If it were normal times I would be reporting on the social functions we would be having but all I can say is that the Xmas party was excellent and we had a talk from Mark Smith which everyone really enjoyed.

At Easter we arranged for a gift and card from the committee which was delivered to their front doors. I must say that we were overwhelmed with the

response of cards, e-mails and telephone calls from many of the residents expressing their thanks and that we have not forgotten about them during this time that we are unable to visit ourselves.

We will, no doubt, send other gifts over the coming months. I am in daily contact with the other Chairmen and we report to each other and the MHA on the assistance we are getting from their Provincial PGM's APGM's Almoners and Light Blues.

My thanks go to those Masons who have offered their assistance and for providing a thermometer following a request from Sarah.

My thanks must go to all my Committee members for their help and we must all try and remain positive and like all of my residents keep smiling till we all meet again.



READER'S LETTER

Dear Sir & Brother,

Following on from your post on the Essex Masons Facebook page please see below the initiative introduced by Essex United Service Lodge No. 3804: Upon hearing about the proposed lockdown the General Purposes Committee of the Essex United Service Lodge No. 3804 jumped into action. An emergency GP meeting was held where the

brainchild of the 'Buddy System' was outlined by W.Bro Craig Kirk (Secretary) with the full support of the Worshipful Master, Director of Ceremonies, Almoner and the GP members. The 'Buddy Systems' sole purpose was to ensure the vulnerable Brethren and widows were in direct contact with one of the designated GPC members. This regular contact would ensure well-being and fulfil any needs during these unprecedented times. A total of 26 Brethren were identified as vulnerable and split between the GPC members with huge ongoing success.

In true Masonic fashion we have also reached out to historic members of EUSL who were quite surprised of the thought and consideration – a true testament of Masonic values, Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth.

It would be good to see this replicated across other Lodges as some have not even called their members yet.

W.Bro Craig Kirk



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