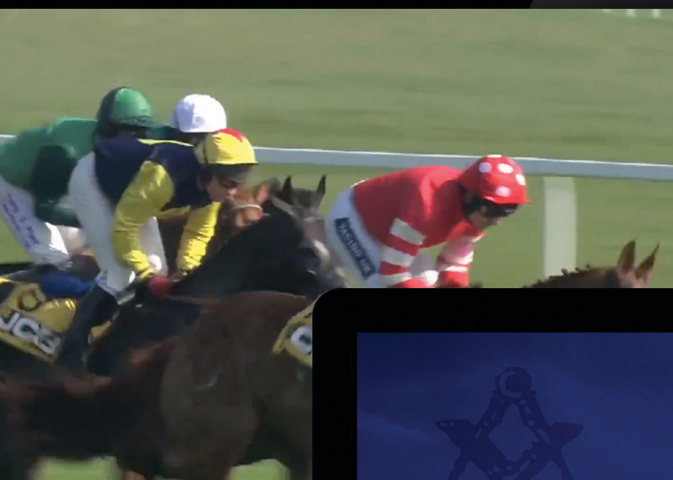
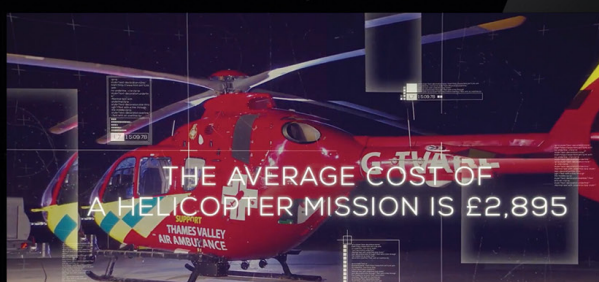
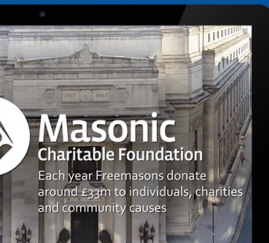




The Bucks Freemasons' Magazine Concord

Autumn 2017



Help us to launch our new
youtube channel at Youtube
BucksPGL – see page 3
for more details

Inside

Freemasonry in the Community	p4-7
300 years of UGLE	p10-11
Festival focus	p12-13
Royal Arch	p14
Rose Croix	p15
Around the Lodges	p16-17
Sport	p18-19
Ladies Clubs	p20



Set in 38 acres of beautiful Buckinghamshire countryside, Horwood Estate boasts bespoke dining & event space. We believe in offering our Masonic guests the ultimate event, fine cuisine, fine wines and exceptional service.

Bespoke Masonic packages include:

Elegant arrival drinks reception
4 course dinner, including fresh coffee and mints
Half bottle of wine per guest
Private bar open until 12am
10% of bar sales donation to charity
Complimentary organiser accommodation
A complimentary wine & menu tasting session for up to 4 organisers

From £48 per guest or
£82 inc accommodation with breakfast

DE VERE
HORWOOD ESTATE

De Vere Horwood Estate
Buckinghamshire
Tel: 01296 722100
www.phcompany.com/de-vere/horwood-estate

FOREWORD

As the four seasons inevitably change, our Province is now undergoing its inevitable change from one Provincial Grand Master to the administration of a new one.

On 23rd October Gordon Robertson presided over his last Provincial Grand Lodge. On behalf of the whole Province, I would like to thank him for the sacrifices that both he and his wife, Frances, have made in their commitment to his term in office, leading the Province so successfully through yet another period of change and modernisation.

I'm also sure that I speak for all in congratulating Peter Moody on his retirement after six years of total commitment and unique leadership. He too will surely be missed.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate all those brethren who received their first appointments or promotions this year, in particular Phil Blacklaw on his very popular appointment to APGM after an outstanding period of service as Provincial Almoner. I would also encourage all those appointed and invested to acting rank to take every opportunity to support their executive and embrace the unique opportunity they have been afforded during this current masonic calendar year.

Looking forward to February, may I wish both John and Sarah Clark every success and happiness in the coming years. I would encourage as many as possible to support our new PGM at his investiture meeting and make it a special day to remember.

I am sure there will be many changes in the Provincial team and in the direction the new PGM will lead us. Three changes of significance were announced at the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge on 13th November: the new DPGM, APGM and Provincial Grand Secretary.

The appointment of Hugh Douglas-Smith (pictured below) to DPGM will come as no surprise as Hugh has worked with John successfully as aide-de-camp on many projects of significance over recent years. I am sure that his considerable IT knowledge will be a great asset to the Province and be fully utilised in the restructuring and updating of provincial procedures.



The elevation of Tony Robinson (pictured above) to APGM comes after his baptism into the Provincial Office as Secretary demonstrating his unquestionable organisational talents and a complete understanding of the workings of the Province. His experience will be invaluable to the new team.

Barry Sparks (pictured below) moves into the Provincial Office as Provincial Grand Secretary after more than demonstrating his enthusiastic commitment as Provincial Senior Grand Warden this past year. His many successful years both in Bucks and London as Lodge Secretary will surely be put to the test.



Unknown to many outside London, Barry's qualities were recognised when he was invited to be a founding member of the Metropolitan Grand Stewards Lodge in 2005.

I would like to wish those three brethren in particular every success in their very demanding, influential and critical roles in the years that lie ahead.

And finally may I, on a personal note, say a big thank you to the whole membership for their outstanding support that both Cynthia and I have received over the past six years whilst serving on the executive and in particular during my illness over the last 12 months.

May the Province continue to embrace and adapt to our changing society but, above all, to continue to enjoy the considerable gift that is Freemasonry.

*Robert Wharton
Deputy-in-charge*

Front page story Great innovation for a new era

To help launch our new BucksPGL Youtube Channel, please sign in, click on Like then Subscribe and then send the BucksPGL Youtube address to all of your friends and ask them to do the same.

This is our opportunity to show the world how proud we are of our organisation. With your support in this we can start to promote this wonderful organisation.

These exceptional new videos were produced entirely as a Bucks initiative and are a wonderful portrait of the many facets of Freemasonry. The MCF video was produced as a trailer for the Royal Albert Hall Tercentenary event and is the first time we have actually sold the wonderful works we do to the public at large. This was also produced



■ A snapshot of some of the videos on the Bucks PGL YouTube site

by Bucks as part of our work for the Tercentenary Planning subcommittee.

Another first for Bucks

The Grand Finale of the Tercentenary Celebrations was streamed live from the Royal Albert Hall on 31st October.

A Bucks team was responsible for the filming and streaming and also the superb new MCF promotional films which were shown at the start and end of the show. Lloyd Harrison led a team of 22 stewards who received great praise for their stewarding efforts on the day. We hope to have additional footage from the RAH event soon. You can view the recorded stream of the entire show at rah300.org.



■ The grand finale of the Tercentenary celebrations was a great hit

£55k raised through overnight walk

Saturday, 24th June saw nearly 500 women dressed in pink T-shirts and flashing bunny ears take on the challenge of a six or thirteen mile overnight walk for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's Midnight Walk.

More than 50% of the marshalling team were freemasons from Buckingham, Concordia, De Bohun, Fairway, Ferdinand De Rothschild, Haddenham, Pegasus, Vale and Wendover Lodges, as well as St Mary's Lodge, Oxfordshire.

"This was a magical night and we are so grateful to all the Midnight Walkers for participating and creating such a wonderful atmosphere," said Jo Turner, Head of Fundraising at Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. "A fantastic £55,000 has been raised to help us provide care to patients."

Cat Jelly, a Staff Nurse at the Hospice, helped to register the walkers and commented: "I would just like to say a huge thank you to all the amazing people who did the walk and who helped out."

Lee Buckingham, Charity Steward at Haddenham Lodge, who took over from Graham Dearing as coordinator for the marshalling team, said: "The Florence Nightingale Hospice does such wonderful work and we have supported them for many years. It was great to see so many ladies out there raising funds and we were really pleased to be able to assist them and ensure they had safe conditions for their walk. I would like to thank all the participating lodges and give special thanks to Mark Duncan who stepped



■ The marshalling team ready to go

in to take on the marshalls' briefing as I was at work until midnight!

"I look forward to organising the troops again next year for what is a great cause and the biggest fundraiser of the year for the charity."



Pegasus Lodge Ladies Festival held in May raised £1,000 for the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity.

Pictured with Jeff Swain, Worshipful Master of Pegasus Lodge (second from right), and his lady, Carolyn Gibbins (in the red dress) are Emma Carroll (right) and members of her Hospice Charity Team.

For more information about the charity go to their website: <http://www.fnhospice.org.uk/>



You are warmly invited to the traditional, historic Bristol working of the third degree ceremony at Canynoges Lodge, Bristol, on 2nd December 2017.

Pick up/drop off points across the province; cost dependent on numbers – transport and dining included.

The programme includes a conducted tour of the masonic hall with a presentation of the history of the Bristol Province by George Henderson, PPrGChaplain.

To secure a place, email your name, lodge and nearest masonic centre to hatssec@outlook.com.



Sproull & Co is the trading name of Sproull & Co Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales with registration number 7596772. Registered to carry on audit work in the UK and Ireland and regulated for a range of investment business activities by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Registered with the Chartered Institute of Taxation as a firm of Chartered Tax Advisers.

Sproull & Co (established 1928)
Chartered Accountants and Tax Advisers

Our services include:

- Personal and business taxation
- Accounting and bookkeeping
- Auditing
- Payroll
- HMRC enquiries and investigations
- Inheritance tax planning

For a free initial consultation, please contact Warren Gell

Telephone: 020 8427 2757

Email: warren.gell@sproull.co.uk

Visit our website: www.sproull.co.uk

Support for counselling charity and hospice

Relate Mid Thames & Buckinghamshire, the relationship charity, recently received more than £1,000 through the **Heart of Bucks Foundation** for the purchase of a new computer and some phone compatible headsets for use by their counsellors and appointments team.

The charity has offices throughout Buckinghamshire and East Berkshire. It is a member of the national Relate Federation but is entirely independent, relying on its own fundraising to provide professional counselling to local people regardless of their ability to pay, through its Bursary Funding Scheme.

Relate is now much more than a marriage guidance organisation. It supports more than 1,000 people in the local area each year, on matters such as depression, cancer (in association with Macmillan nurses), mental health issues and all types of relationship problems (including loneliness).

Andrew Hough, secretary of the BMCF, commented: "Relate does extremely necessary and important work throughout our area and we are very pleased to be able to help them with this donation."

Fiona Greenfield, the Centre Director of Relate Mid Thames & Buckinghamshire said: "We would like to thank Buckinghamshire freemasons for this very generous donation. Our appointments team and counsellors work extremely hard for our clients and having the use of a modern headset to talk will leave them able to take notes while taking calls from clients."

For more information on Relate Mid Thames & Buckinghamshire go to: <http://www.relatemtbt.co.uk/>



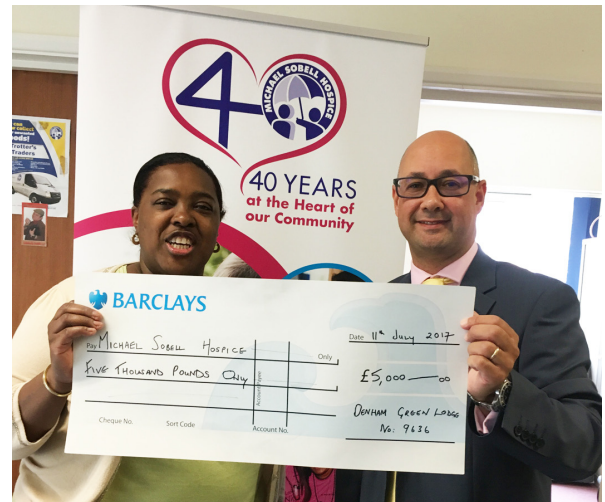
■ Fiona Greenfield of Relate, before the arrival of the headset, juggling the phone whilst trying to take notes

David Durn, Secretary of **Denham Green Lodge** visited **Michael Sobell House Hospice (MSH)** in Northwood, Middlesex in July to present their **Events and Community Fundraising Manager, Ophelia Chambers-Henry**, with a cheque for **£5,000**.

The money was raised by the lodge during Richard Broadway's year as Master. Denham Green has supported MSH for the last couple of years, contributing £7,900 in total from lodge events and charitable giving by its members.

An additional £7,000 was raised from private donations, a summer soirée and a 'jail and bail' whereby the lodge secretary, David Durn, was arrested, imprisoned and not released until he made £1,000 (in fact he made £1,500).

Ms Chambers-Henry said: "The support we get from Bucks Freemasons is amazing and really helps with our work



■ Denham Green Lodge Secretary David Durn presenting the cheque to Ophelia Chambers-Henry, MSH events and community fund raising manager

providing care, comfort and support for local people facing life limiting illnesses."

For more information on the work carried out by the Hospice, visit their website at: <https://www.michaelsobellhospice.co.uk/>

Ladies' Night raises £13k+

Martin Peck, Worshipful Master of **Seer Green Lodge**, held his **Ladies' Night** in June and wanted to raise funds for the **Rennie Grove Hospice** which supported his wife and family throughout her illness.

Martin's daughter, Fran, organised the event in the beautiful setting of **Creslow Manor** in Aylesbury.

Generous donations were received for the raffle and auction which included holidays, a catered home dining package, an exercise bike and a round of golf. Magicians and a live band entertained the guests.

A most enjoyable evening was had and the event raised the fantastic sum of £13,400.

Martin said: "My family and I were extremely grateful to all at the Hospice for everything they did for us. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone at the Ladies' Night. To raise such a magnificent sum on the evening exceeded our expectations and I know it will go a long way in helping others at the Hospice."



■ Martin Peck and his daughter Fran hosted the fundraising dinner in support of Rennie Grove Hospice

For details about the wonderful work done by Rennie Grove Hospice go to: <http://www.renniegrove.org/>

Concord: Official Publication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Buckinghamshire
Editor: Sue Dorman

Editorial copy and photo attachments should be sent by email to: sue.dorman@virgin.net

Published by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Buckinghamshire,
The Old School House, Windsor End, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2JW
www.buckspgl.org Tel: 01494 670194

Royal Arch: www.buckspgc.org

FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

Eye care

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Asifa Shaikh, recently received a donation of £2,500 on behalf of Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, towards research into the effects and treatment of glaucoma.

The money was raised during John Hubble's year as Master of De Bohun Lodge which meets at the Aylesbury Masonic Centre.

John's wife Doreen has suffered with glaucoma for a long time and was full of praise for Miss Shaikh and her team. She said: "Asifa has been wonderful in helping me with my condition and I'm really pleased

■ *Helping with glaucoma research (l-r): John Hubble, Consultant ophthalmic surgeon Asifa Shaikh, Doreen Hubble and Sandy Attfield, Day Surgery Sister*

that John and the other members of De Bohun Lodge were able to make this donation to help others in a similar situation."

Miss Shaikh commented: "On behalf of the Trust, I am so pleased to receive this donation to help with our continued and ongoing efforts to provide the best glaucoma care and treatment for our patients."



Medical Detection Dogs update

De Bohun Lodge has donated £2,500 to Medical Detection Dogs (MDD), in addition to a grant of £15,000 from the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF).

Daniel Howard OBE, Chief Operating Officer of the Milton Keynes-based charity, said: "We are extremely grateful for these most generous donations. We are all incredibly aware of the Freemasons' role in helping us."

Malaria detection dogs

MDD has also received a Grand Challenges Explorations Grant for ground-breaking research in global health and development, an initiative funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, for a project entitled *Using medical-detection dogs to identify people with malaria parasites*.

Parkinson's Disease Detection

One of the charity's newest projects is looking at whether the MDD dogs can detect

early stage Parkinson's disease. The charity is working with Manchester University to conduct a two year study, funded by Parkinson's UK and The Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

As there is currently no definitive test for the condition, it is hoped that this research will be able to help detect this disease earlier.

MDD CEO, Dr Claire Guest, said: "Parkinson's is pernicious and to be able to extend the quality of life for those affected would be a highly significant step forward."

Exhibition display

MDD also approached Paul French to see if he could help with funds for a pop up exhibition display stand that could be used at fund raising events in the Lecture Theatre at MDD HQ as well as at other venues.

Paul approached some of the lodges based at the Eliot Hall in Winslow and they combined to provide a cheque for £700 to pay for the new display.



■ *Barbara Jenney, Mayor of Rushden (Northants), who supported the Bucks-based charity as her Charity of the Year, pictured with Helen Care and Midas from MDD, and Tom Borland, Manor of Swanburn Lodge*

For more information, visit the MDD website at:
www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk



■ *Above: Lexi sniffing a sample on the carousel*

■ *Left: John Hubble Past Master of De Bohun Lodge (centre), his wife, Doreen, and David Dyson, Charity Steward (standing), presenting a cheque for £2,500 from the lodge to Daniel Howard, OBE, of MDD and bio-detection dogs Kiwi and Bumper*



Members of the lodges, along with their wives, were invited along for a talk followed by a practical demonstration of the dogs at work. During the demonstration, control samples were placed in different positions on a carousel and, on each occasion, the dogs correctly detected the positive sample.

Three Peaks challenge

Newly initiated Martin Robinson of St Giles Lodge took part in the Three Peaks challenge in June, his second charity event since joining.

Unfortunately, due to time constraints caused by bad weather, the organisers decided that there wasn't time to climb the third peak on this occasion. Not to be beaten, Martin completed the challenge a month later.

The first mountain was Ben Nevis (1345m/4413ft), a tough climb with freezing sleet mixed with heavy rain and a 30mph wind.

Not many climbers reached the top but Martin made it in five hours. The heavy rain continued, making it slow progress to the



■ Poor visibility didn't stop Martin Robinson from completing the Three Peaks challenge – eventually!

summit of Snowdon (1085m/3560ft).

The organisers pulled the plug on Scafell Pike (978m/3210ft) as there was not enough time to complete the climb but Martin reached this peak on 22nd July, commenting: "It was well

worth the effort. I kept true to myself and reached all three peaks, completing the challenge in full. Would I do it again? Yes I would!"

All in all, it was an epic climb with little sleep but Martin raised £525 for this year's Master's Charity Crohn's & Colitis UK.

Ride for MS



Members of Denham and Observatory Lodges have raised a total of £530 for the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society on behalf of keen cyclist Ben Hames, son of Observatory Lodge member Steve Howes' partner Amanda.

"Doing the RideLondon 100 mile challenge was my way of saying thanks for supporting my mum, who suffers from MS," said Ben.

Ben is doing an advanced apprenticeship as a mechanical technician and, instead of just achieving his BTEC, he will go on to complete an HNC in engineering. On top of all of this, he is also completing an NVQ. He said; "Being mechanically minded, I carry out all the maintenance and servicing on my bicycles and car myself."

Ben will go far – with or without wheels – and will make a fine freemason in due course! He is also going to do the ride again next year and aims to finish in under four hours. Look out for his JustGiving page if you would like to sponsor him.

'Floor' they are jolly good fellows!



Bucks Masonic Grass Roots Fund (administered by the Heart of Bucks Community Foundation) recently provided a grant of £2,500 towards the replacement of the Little Horwood Memorial Hall's floor which had suffered from problems with damp.

The grant was supplemented by funds from the Memorial Hall and the Little Horwood Social Amenities Association.

Jeremy Bull, Chairman of the Hall Committee, said: "We are very grateful for this generous donation by Bucks' Freemasons which ensured that the project could go ahead.

"Special thanks must go to all those members of Little Horwood Memorial Hall who helped in various ways to ensure the make-over has improved the hall for hirers and the local community for years to come."

■ Paddy McCowen, Patricia Curtis and other local residents enjoying 'drop-in Tuesday' at the Little Horwood Memorial Hall

Big teddy comforts little boy

Martin Brooks of Cestreham Lodge won the huge teddy bear raffled by Andrew Mais, Worshipful Master, which raised £110 at a white table event in June.

Martin donated the bear to Adam Keely, a new mason who was initiated into Cestreham Lodge in April. Adam's son, Henry, had just undergone major heart surgery and the bear proved a huge comfort to the little boy.

Andrew has also previously raised over £350 for TLC – one of his three chosen charities for his year as Master – and ran the Teddy Bear Hunt at the Bucks Teddy Bears' Picnic in July.



■ Little Henry Keely and new best friend

Fun for young carers

Bletchley-based St Martin's Lodge recently held their annual fun day for Milton Keynes Young Carers, giving them a much needed day off from their busy life and duties.

Held at the Herons Lodge Centre in Great Holm, over 150 people attended and were entertained by live music, a barbecue, a petting zoo, bingo and bouncy castles.

Following a cut in their funding nine years ago, Milton Keynes Carers found they were unable to afford the annual fun day for young carers in their area.

Jurassic park adventure

The Masonic Province of Dorset, as part of the UGLE tercentenary celebrations, organised for 200 children, with their carers and group leaders, to spend a week at Weymouth's Jurassic Coast Youth Adventure Park.

The children were chosen and sponsored by fourteen different provinces, including Buckinghamshire. Steve Matthews, chairman of the Beaconsfield Freemasonry in the Community Committee, was charged with finding two deserving young carers from Carers Bucks, in High Wycombe. Marcus Ashford (13) and Eisa Mehood (14) were the two extremely



excited youngsters chosen for what was sure to be the adventure of their young lives.

On arrival, every child was presented with two specially designed T-shirts, a matching baseball cap and £20 in pocket money.

During their stay, they all enjoyed many different activities, directed and supervised by the professional organisers, including Dragon boat racing, raft building, fencing, rifle shooting, archery, abseiling and much more.

Marcus and Eisa were presented with their Certificates of Achievement by the Assistant Grand Master, Sir David Hugh Wootton.

Everyone declared the 'holiday' an exciting and enjoyable experience.

Inspired by Mike Blane, Past Master and honorary member of St Martin's lodge (now living in Australia), members of various lodges that meet at the Bletchley Masonic Centre stepped in and have organised the fun day ever since.

St Martin's Lodge also holds an annual summer ball, the proceeds from which supplement the funding for the young carers. Sally Mansi, Service Manager for Young Carers, Bucks and Milton Keynes, said: "On behalf of the young carers, their families and our staff, I must say how much the ongoing funding, interest and support from St Martins Lodge is appreciated.

"It has enabled many young carers to participate in a range of different and exciting



■ Youngsters trying to catch bubbles at the St Martin's Lodge fun day for Milton Keynes Young Carers

activities including laser tag, bowling, ice skating, swimming and visits to Gulliver's Land and Woburn Safari Park. It has also enabled them to go on residential breaks, allowing them to have respite from their caring responsibilities."

Who wants to be a train driver!



In July, 26 children between the ages of six and fifteen, along with their parents or carers, were treated to a day out at the Holmer Green Model Railway.

Arranged by the Beaconsfield Freemasonry in the Community Committee, the visit was to give the children, who suffer from autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and their siblings and families a day of fun and enjoyment in a safe, interactive environment.

Organisers were the FIC team of Steve Matthews, Sean Boardman and Andy Sutton (Hall Barn Lodge) and Barry Sparks (Penn and Tylers Green Lodge), along with Eric Stephens, Events Secretary of the Model Railway Club, and his members.

The children and parents had unlimited rides on the steam trains driven by John Matthews and Bill Richardson (members of the model railway club). There was also a barbecue and some delicious homemade cakes.

■ Some big kids riding the locomotive at Homer Green Model Railway!

After lunch, some of the children had the chance to drive an electric locomotive.

Co-ordinator at the Engine Shed, Sarah Snow, and the parents thanked all concerned for a wonderful day which they would remember for a long time.



For more information about Engine Shed take a look at their website: <http://www.theengineshed.org.uk/>

Safety equipment helps youngsters at ALF

The Adventure Learning Foundation (ALF) operates activity villages throughout the Home Counties, including the beautiful Green Park estate in Aston Clinton.

They recently identified the need for some replacement safety equipment at their adventure centre, especially for use on the 10 metre high climbing wall which is very popular, especially with families, schools and those booking birthday parties or activity days. The equipment is essential for the centre staff to run these activities in a safe and secure manner for the youngsters.

Heidi Nugent, Development Advisor for ALF, approached Andrew Hough, secretary of the BMCF, and the committee was extremely pleased to authorise nearly £4,000 for the purchase of a range of safety equipment. This included helmets, ropes, belay devices and, most importantly, a trunk and posture support harness for use by people with posture and mobility disabilities which preclude them from being able to support their own weight when climbing.

Jonathon Boulton, Activities Manager at Green Park, said: "We are so grateful to Bucks' Freemasons for this grant as it enables us to take our youngsters onto the climbing walls and other equipment in complete safety. The posture harness is particularly useful as it allows many of those who are wheelchair-bound to experience the same fun as those who are able to climb without assistance."

Steve Smirthwaite, who is on the BMCF committee, recently attended an 11th birthday party for Poppy and her pals and was able to see the equipment in use.

Steve said: "We at the BMCF are especially pleased when we can give grants to those groups which provide support and services to the younger members of our society."

More information on the Adventure Learning Foundation can be found at: www.alfvillages.org.uk.



■ Climbing the two-sided wall at Longridge – learning how to work as a team

Students visit zoo

Year 6 pupils from Cippenham School in Slough recently enjoyed an end of term day out at Whipsnade Zoo thanks to Old Paludians Lodge, a former Grammar School Lodge which meets at the Slough Masonic Centre.

At £3,000 it was a big ask for Old Paludians to fund the whole trip so Bob Cole, lodge secretary, approached Andrew Hough, Chairman of the BMCF, which donated half the cost; the lodge members funded the rest.

The children had a wonderful time as can be seen from a letter from one of them: "Dear Freemasons, this has been wonderful trip and a fantastic experience. We had an amazing time. It was a trip that we will never forget. On behalf of Year 6 I would like to say ... Thank You!"



■ Birthday girl Poppy being helped to climb the wall by Green Park Activities Manager Jonathan Boulton

The ALF facility at Longridge on the Thames was recently awarded a grant of more than £3,500 from the Bucks' Masonic Grass Roots Fund through the Heart of Bucks Foundation. This was towards equipment for their climbing and high ropes facilities, including harnesses, helmets, carabiners, ropes and belay devices which will be used by those participating in climbing activities.

Longridge has a state-of-the-art 13 metre, two sided climbing wall which also incorporates the Leap of Faith and Jacob's Ladder. All of the activities encourage groups to work together, as these activities often take people outside their comfort zone.

At a recent activity evening, a group of year 6 pupils from Stokenchurch Primary School were given a taste of how to work as a team whilst using some of the safety equipment provided by Bucks' Freemasons.



■ Cippenham school students at Whipsnade Zoo, a trip funded by the BMCF and Old Paludians Lodge



Teddy Bears' Picnic

If you went down to the woods today – you would have missed the great TLC Teddy Bears' Picnic!

As part of the 300th birthday celebration of UGLE, Provinces around the country held Teddy Bears' Picnics, supported by Teddies for Loving Care (TLC).

The Bucks event, held at the Drayton Parslow Sports and Social Club, was organised by TLC Secretary Mel Shah and his team, and sponsored by Cymbeline and Entente Cordiale Lodges who also supplied the prizes and ran the competitions.

The main event of the day was the Teddy Bears' Treasure Hunt with 48 entries and the prize of a 5ft teddy bear. Other attractions were face painting, archery and a bouncy castle. The newly formed Bucks Classic Car Lodge was represented and the First Responders vehicle, sponsored by Winslow freemasons, was on display. There was also an excellent barbecue, ably manned by Mark Duncan and Tracey Gausden.

After lunch a mass ride took place with members of the Bucks Motorcycle Lodge and the South East Widow's Sons Bikers' Association, some of whom had come all the way from Southampton.



Stoke Mandeville and Milton Keynes hospitals also attended and thanked all the freemasons for the support they have had over the years.

The day was hosted by Eugene Matthias; Mike Southon, Mark Birch, Kevin Taylor and Paul French entertained; and the event ended with everyone singing and dancing to *Show Me the Way to Amarillo!*

Outgoing PGM Gordon Robertson, his wife Fran and family, together with David Hopkins, the Mayor of Milton Keynes, and the Lady Mayoress, supported the day. (The Mayor's grandfather had been a member of the Manor of Swanburn Lodge.)

Since its inception, TLC has given away over one million teddies to children in distress when they visit hospitals.

Allsop Durn & Dearlove

Solicitors

Allsop Durn and Dearlove are committed to providing the best advice in the following areas -

Residential Property

Lasting Powers of Attorney

Commercial Property

Probate & Estate Administration

Wills & Trusts

We are a proactive and modern firm who pride ourselves on old fashioned service.

COMMITTED TO YOU

With close communication and attention to detail, we ensure that our legal guidance reassures and protects you and your family.

Please contact us for assistance

St. Martins House,
17A High Street,
Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 7AU

info@addlaw.co.uk

www.addlaw.co.uk

DX: 153480 EASTCOTE 2
Tel: 01895 612400
01895 621777



Classic cars join the celebration

A Classic 300 car event took place at Windsor Great Park earlier in the summer.

Many beautifully restored and maintained classic cars of all ages were on show and the Grand Master, HRH Duke of Kent, was escorted around the display prior to leading off the car run, a twenty mile trip through Ascot and Wentworth and back via Staines.

Individuals were encouraged to join in the 300 mile walk, made up of one mile stretches up to the Copper Horse.

Bucks PGM designate John Clark, Master of Bucks Motorcycle Lodge, along with other members of the lodge and members of Northamptonshire-based Milton Lodge, joined in the fun.

For details of other car runs planned around the country as part of the Tercentenary celebrations, visit the website: <http://www.masonicclassicvehicleclub.co.uk/>



■ A 1964 Sunbeam Alpine belonging to Andrew Ludlow, Past Master of Cestreham Lodge and a member of Notarius and Stewards Lodges, was one of the classic cars on display

All the fun of the fair at Windsor

On 24th June 1717, four London Masonic Lodges met at the Goose and Gridiron Tavern near St Paul's Cathedral and formed the first Grand Lodge of England.

300 years later, freemasons from the Provinces of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire, along with their friends and families, joined together at Royal Windsor Racecourse for a celebration of this momentous date in the history of freemasonry.

Open to everyone, the event was attended by more than 10,000 people and included a full race card, a free funfair, gourmet food and beautiful weather.

The grand finale concert with Tony Hadley, former lead singer with Spandau Ballet, rounded off a brilliant day.

Sponsored by the UGLE, the celebration was attended by Peter Lowndes, Pro Grand Master, and the Provincial Grand Masters from each of the three host Provinces.

Outgoing PGM, Gordon Robertson, said: "This event has been in the planning for many years, not quite since 1717, although I'm sure that the team who organised it feel as though it has been that long!"

"It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying themselves in this very special year for freemasons throughout the world. There are many people who contributed to the success of the day but I must pay particular tribute to APMG John Clark, Bill Smithson, Webster Springer and Phil Witney who steered this whole event.

"Also, my sincere thanks to Anthony Howlett-Bolton, Paul Buck, Robin Kent, John Holsman, Brian Wilson, Hugh Douglas-Smith and Stephen Knapp who were tireless in their efforts to ensure the day went smoothly.

"There are many fun days still to come during the next few months, culminating with our Tercentenary Celebratory event at the Royal Albert Hall on 31st October."

Kop Hill Climb

September 22nd and 23rd saw the second visit to the Kop Hill Climb event in Princes Risborough.

The organising committee of Matt Eaton, Alistair Hunt, Webster Springer, Graham Thorn and Phil Witney built on last year's success by putting together a collection of cars and bikes from every decade of motoring from 1910 to the present day. Brethren from the newly consecrated Bucks Classic Car and Bike Lodges provided a wide range of vehicles for the show.

Cars included a 1960's Formula Junior single seat race car, a Willey's Jeep, a Lancia Delta Integrali and an Audi Quattro. Bikes included a 1932 Francis Barnett, 1950 BSA Gold Flash and 1960 BMW, all of which generated a lot of interest.

The centrepiece was Primus Master of the BCCL, Sir Stuart Hampson's beautifully restored E-Type Jag which he ran up the hill a couple of times to much applause.

It was also an opportunity to celebrate the Provincial Grand Secretary's birthday. Tony Robinson and his wife Jean had given up his special day to be master chef for the weekend, so it seemed only right to spoil him with champagne and cake.

The weather was quite kind and the weekend was a tremendous success with a number of enquiries about freemasonry in Bucks, as well as a great deal of fun for all those involved.



■ **Kop Hill Climb proved to be a very successful event**

Many thanks go to all who helped to put this great event together. Your enthusiasm and hard work was a shining example of what freemasonry is all about.

If you are interested in getting involved with organising these events, please contact the 'Supreme Events Team Leader', Webster Springer, at webster.springer@gmail.com.

Young or old – get involved!!



From Festival Chairman
Graham Dearing

Festival update



Welcome to the fourth edition of Festival Focus.

We are now a year into the Festival and, in that time, have made great progress in ensuring that every lodge is fully engaged in raising much needed funds for the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

I never miss an opportunity to remind everyone that, when raising money for the MCF, we in Bucks have received over £2.75m of support for our members and charities in the past eleven years. Freemasons in Buckinghamshire and their dependants get valuable support when in need from the MCF and it with this in mind that I ask everyone (if their circumstances permit) to support our Festival.

I am always mindful that not every lodge can give large donations; there will always be smaller lodges that cannot achieve big totals. However, the really positive thing is that every lodge is doing something and supporting this wonderful Province and its members.

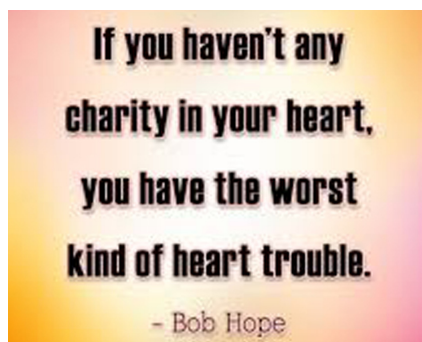
I enjoy sharing information with everyone, so for those who like facts and figures here we go:

- Currently only 20% of Bucks freemasons have a regular donation set up for the Festival Relief Chest.
- 10% of members have made a lump sum payment directly to the Festival Relief Chest.
- Potentially 70% of the Province is yet to actively participate. (There will be a number of members who will be donating to their own lodge's relief chest with a view to this being transferred later in the Festival.)
- Over 55% of lodges and their members have already donated or pledged over £5,000.
- Ten lodges have already donated over or pledged over £15,000 and one lodge is now over £25,000.
- Every year, Buckinghamshire Freemasons and charities receive approximately £250,000 in support from the now newly formed Masonic Charitable Foundation.
- If every lodge between now and Christmas got five members to donate £10 per

month (that's one cup of coffee per week) until the end of the Festival, with gift aid that would raise £348,000 further towards our Festival total.

We currently have pledged and donated a total £806,000 to our 2021 Festival. Whilst this is a lot of money and looks like we are doing very well, there are still four years until the end of our Festival. However – and it is a big however – the issue is that this figure not only takes into account all actual donations into the Festival Relief Chest but all regular donations (ie monthly payments) which are pledged over the next four years but have not yet been paid.

There are lodges that have been collecting donations for the Festival via their own Relief Chests, and for that a massive thank you. I would, however, ask that you consider transferring the money over in a timely manner and not wait until the end of the Festival.



You may want to consider attending the Provincial cheque presentation night which will be held in March 2018 to hand over any lodge donation. It will be a wonderful opportunity to support our new PGM, John Clark, who, as you all know (and hopefully have in your diary), will be invested on 9th February at Great Queen Street, something not to miss! The date and venue for the next cheque presentation will be with you soon.

To every lodge and every freemason who has donated or is in the process of doing so I say a huge thank you.

Information & help required

If your lodge is holding an event for the Festival, or if you are undertaking a sponsored event, please let either me or our new Charity Steward, Mike Clanfield, know. Whilst we cannot advertise it across the whole of the Province, we would be able to help you promote it in your area. We will also try to attend as many functions as possible and supply information and display material to help support your event.

If you have an idea for an event and are not quite sure how to go about it, or if you just want to help us with our events, again, please contact us and we can help talk you through it.

Freemasonry should be fun, and arranging and holding events to raise money for charity

is a great way to have fun. It also acts as a great way to invite potential candidates along to show them what we do and why. Contact details are: Graham Dearing grahamdearing@aol.com or Mike Clanfield mc@pglcharity@yahoo.com.

For local assistance, that is, if you need more gift aid envelopes, forms or information packs, please contact the following:

Provincial Festival Representatives Area representatives

Area 1

David Dyson: daviddomappliance@tiscali.co.uk

Aylesbury, Thame, Kimble, Linslade & Penn lodges

Area 2

Steven Matthews: steven.matthews2@btinternet.com

Beaconsfield & Denham lodges

Area 3

Gary Charnock: gary.chnock@hotmail.co.uk

Olney, Stony Stratford & Wolverton lodges

Area 4

Bobby Cole: bobcole8@live.com

Slough lodges

Area 5

Steve Perry: perrys7@sky.com

Bletchley, Winslow & Buckingham lodges

Area 6

Mark Stock: mstockcfs@aol.com

Marlow lodges

They are all here to help and support you or your lodge.

My final requests to you all is this: if you have not donated or pledged a regular donation and can afford to please do so. The easiest way is go to www.bucks2021.org and set up a regular donation online.

Make it your daily advancement in Masonic Knowledge by visiting www.mcf.org and find out more about the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer break, now it's back to work!



(Kathy Calvin is President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Nations Foundation)



**Wear your Festival Jewel
with pride**



£58k community awards

Six local charities have benefited from a series of special Community Awards following an unprecedented public vote of nearly 179,000 people across England and Wales.

The Community Awards are a major part of the 300th anniversary celebrations with the Masonic Charitable Foundation distributing £3million to 300 charities across the country. The public vote decided the range of awards from £4,000 to £25,000.

The full list of Community Awards in Buckinghamshire is:

➤ Stoke Mandeville cancer care and haematology fund based at Stoke Mandeville Hospital: £25,000 (www.cchf.org.uk)

➤ Medical detection dogs based in Milton Keynes: £15,000 (www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk) – see also story on p6

➤ Lindengate based in Aylesbury: £4,000 (www.lindengate.org.uk)

➤ The Graham Fulford Charitable Trust: £4,000 (www.psatests.org.uk)

➤ Hearing dogs for deaf people based near Princes Risborough: £6,000 (www.hearingdogs.org.uk)

➤ Karen's Big Smiles charity trust based in High Wycombe: £4,000 (www.karensbigsmiles.org)

It is estimated that half of freemasonry's total charitable expenditure of over £33m goes to charities in communities across the country.

On top of these awards, the MCF is in the process of supporting three other Buckinghamshire charities with donations totalling over £42,000. So this will mean that the MCF will have donated over £100,000 to local charities this year – another fantastic reason to support our Festival.

If you are a freemason or close family member of a freemason and need support with a financial, health, family or care need, call the MCF's confidential enquiry line on freephone 0800 035 60 90 or email help@mcf.org.uk.

If you are a representative of a charity, please visit mcf.org.uk/community to find out more about the Charity Grant programme, or call 020 3146 3337 for more information.

The MCF is also contactable on social media:

Website: mcf.org.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/themcf

Twitter: @masonic_charity

Instagram: masonic_charity

Gone to the dogs!

Nearly 200 people joined in the fun at Towcester racecourse last month to raise money for the 2021 Festival.

Organised by Vincent Leiu, Charity Steward of Buckinghamshire Masters Lodge, the event raised a magnificent £1,800 from a raffle, auction and race sponsorship.

■ Pictured with Newline Shane, one of the winning dogs, are (l-r) Sue Dorman (Editor, Concord), Vic Dorman (Bulwer Lodge of Cairo), dog owner Trevor Dodd, Susan and Vincent Leiu and dog handler Beth Smith



The Festival Jewel with honorific bars is now available and should be ordered via your Charity Steward. Wear it with pride!

**Real generosity
is doing
something nice
for someone
who will never
find out.**

~Frank A. Clark~

(Frank A Clark is an American lawyer and politician)

Master Elect Workshops 2018

As a Senior or Junior Warden of your Lodge, you are probably a Brother in line to become Master.

Why not attend the 2018 series of Warden/Master Elect workshops? The aim is to cover everything, except for ritual or individual lodge-specific working practices.

The workshops are about sharing ideas and thoughts and for you to meet others who may have the same feelings of trepidation and excitement that you may be experiencing.

You may attend the Bletchley Centre on Saturday 3rd February 2018 for the first part and Saturday 7th April 2018 for the second part.

Alternatively, you may attend the Slough Centre on Saturday 24th February 2018 for the first part and Saturday 28th April 2018 for the second part.

Each module will start at 9.30am and finish at 12.30pm. Refreshments will be provided.

If you would like to attend, please contact Peter Wake on p.d.wake@btinternet.com.

ROYAL ARCH

Colts win

At the beginning of the season, the Royal Arch Chapter of Buckinghamshire made a donation to the very enthusiastic under tens Colts football team for some new strip (see *Concord Spring 2017*).

They played well throughout the season and finished winners of the Wendover Tournament Under Tens. Well done the Colts!

Note: If anyone knows of a local good cause that is in need of some financial support, please contact E.Comp. Derek Watts, ProvGChStwd, on derek.watts1@btinternet.com.



Colts under tens with their winners' trophies

New date for talk

The talk on *A History of Early English Freemasonry*, to be given by Brian Baker – whose new masonic booklet is now on sale (see below) – previously advertised for 15th November 2017 at 6pm will now take place at the Christmas White Table of St Giles Lodge on **Wednesday, 20th December at 5pm** at the Bletchley Masonic Centre.

Wives, partners, family and friends are all welcome to attend and afterwards take part in the Festive Board and Christmas Celebrations that the Lodge traditionally holds.

Bookings for the white table, including dining, should be made to John Wright on 01908 234669, no later than Friday, 15th December. The cost is £17.50 per person, exclusive of wine.

Great catch for young fishers



Castors and children enjoying the day's fishing

Pebble Brook School and Stoney Dean School enjoyed a day's fishing with the Bucks Masonic Trout & Salmon Fishing Club at Cublington in June thanks to very generous sponsorship by Brickhill Lodge.

The fishing was particularly good, with one of the young participants catching 55 fish. Brickhill Lodge WM, Chris Goodman and secretary Peter Wake, joined in the fun.

In July there was a joint outing with the Province of Oxfordshire at Milton Pools for the Tercentenary celebrations. The lake had an abundance of large carp which were very keen to get themselves caught and the young fishers from Chilternway Academy were kept very busy pulling out some very big fish.

The day finished with the presentation of certificates to the young fishers by the PProPGM (Middx) Roger Croome.

Thanks go out to all the casters, who are so good with the youngsters, and to the ladies who served up an excellent barbecue lunch. Without their support these events just could not happen.

NEW MASONIC BOOKLET NOW ON SALE

MASONIC MISCELLANEA
Volume Four

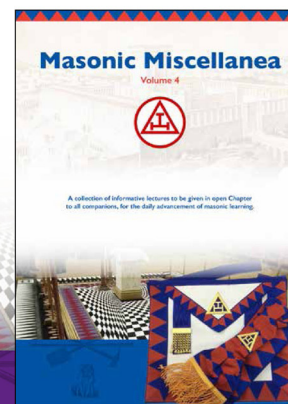
COLLECTED SHORT TALKS FOR NEW COMPANIONS

By Comp. Brian Baker
of Oliver Chapter No. 2812

12 collected talks that explain some of the symbolism for new Companions.

Limited Stock - Just £7.50 (+£2.50 P & P)
All proceeds to the Buckinghamshire Masonic Benevolent Fund (BMF)
Electronic Copy is available at the same price.
For details apply to bakerb4@sky.com

Order from: Comp. Brian Baker
52 Milton Grove, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5BH
Payments can be made by cheque payable to "St Giles Lodge"



FABBS
ESTABLISHED 1887

FOR ALL YOUR
MASONIC SUPPLIES

QUALITY REGALIA MADE TO THE HIGHEST
STANDARDS AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

Call and speak with one of our experts
1 The Barns, 1 Longham Farm Close,
Ringwood Road, Ferndown,
Dorset. BH22 9DE

Tel:- 01202 571600 • Fax:- 01202 571779
Website: www.fabb.co.uk
Email: fabb@fabb.co.uk

Local agent for collection and drop off
R.H. Sands & Sons
52 Queen Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire. SL6 1HY

IG's Forum

At the meeting of the Buckinghamshire Higher Degrees Chapter Rose Croix at Bletchley on 1st November, Very Illustrious Bro Peter Harborne 33° held his Inspector General's Forum at the end of his first year in office.

Amongst various aspects of the Perfection ceremony and the Chapter proceedings which he discussed, he referred to the 1st and 2nd Generals now being permitted to confer the Intermediate Degrees and to explain the collar and signs (which had previously been the preserve of sovereigns only).

He congratulated Harry Hunter and Bill Thomes on their running of the Beaconsfield Chapter of Instruction which was improving the standard of ritual delivery in the South of the District and hoped that a similar scheme would be set up further north in due course.

He also expressed his wish that Chapter Recorders should send summonses for meetings not just to their own members but to the Recorders of the other ten Chapters in the District as well – this would promote increased visiting to the benefit of all. District Recorder Peter Carter has generated the District Handbook which will be distributed shortly.

Additionally, he announced the number of occasions on which the Travelling Rose had been transferred from one chapter to another by Bucks members during the last year. In recognition of the Rose's travels, Peter will make a donation to the 2021 Festival on behalf of St Nicholas at Kimble Chapter which had recorded the most transfers, mostly at the hands of David Eeles, Chapter Recorder.



Inspector General Peter Harborne in full garb, with the double-headed eagle jewel on a chain instead of a collarette

Not in vein!

Bob Dennis, Treasurer of Fenny Stratford Lodge, works at Willen Hospice and also regularly visits MK General Hospital.

He discovered there was a piece of equipment, called AcuVein, that can identify the location of a suitable vein when trying to obtain a blood sample or give an intravenous injection to a child.



Above: MK Hospital Ward Manager, Natalie Ward, demonstrates the AcuVein on Bob Dennis and left, Natalie with Vanessa Holmes, head of fundraising, at the new toy shed in the ward quadrangle



The lodge was able to purchase an AcuVein and it is now in regular use at the hospital, reducing time and, more importantly, the chance of pain, thus hugely lessening the children's fears.

Additionally, the lodge provided a shed to store the children's toys.

PSA testing

Over 130 freemasons and friends from Bucks lodges attended a PSA testing session at Bletchley in August.

Since mid-July 2014, the Graham Fulford Trust, which has been organising these free tests, has tested in excess of 5,300 freemasons who have attended the sessions from around the country.

In Buckinghamshire, over 900 men have been tested. Up to the beginning of 2017, some thirteen have had a prostate cancer diagnosis confirmed. Most had no symptoms and have made a good recovery.

PDPGM, Mike Stimson, said, "Early and regular testing is vital for this disease which is one of the leading killers of men. I am so pleased with the numbers who are regularly getting tested. It is good for our joint futures and we must continue to carry them out."

It is also good to see the Graham Fulford Trust working with the Medical Detection Dogs on a two year trial with Milton Keynes University Hospital as a way of improving the detection rate. It is amazing to see these two great charities working towards the same end."

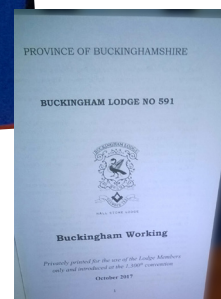
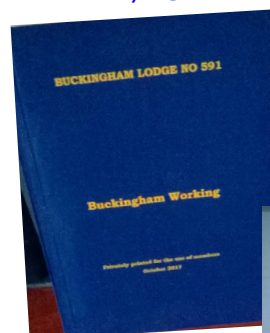
Lodge ritual

Buckingham Lodge has always been known for its unique working of the ritual.

In its 165 year history this has never been published but passed on orally, although many brethren do make notes in an Emulation Book of the variances.

The Lodge of Instruction (which itself was inaugurated in 1883) has now sponsored the publication of the definitive version. This was made available at the Installation meeting, or Convention, in October which was the 1,300th Convention of the Lodge.

Copies are available at a cost of £14.00 including postage by sending a cheque to: Richard Skym, 37 Frederick Street, Waddesdon HP18 0LU. An electronic version is available at a cost of £10.00 from: richardskym@outlook.com.



Fifty years of instruction



The Province of Buckinghamshire can rightly boast a number of Classes of Masonic Instruction. Of these, the oldest is the Manor Class of Masonic Instruction based in Bletchley and founded in 1967.

This provides weekly masonic tuition to brethren living in or near Milton Keynes who, for various reasons, are either unable to attend or wish to supplement the learning at their own Lodge of Instruction.

Membership is really expensive – the grand sum of £1.50! The class helps in preparing the locally-based brethren for taking office in their own lodges by regularly rehearsing the Craft ceremonies.

On 30th June, the preceptors and members, past and present, gathered at Bletchley to celebrate fifty years.

As part of the celebrations, members of Manor Class who had not yet been Installed into the Chair of King Solomon put on a demonstration of the First Degree ceremony.

The brethren taking part should be proud of their achievements and the preceptors, Ken Rayment (Chairman), John Noakes (currently ProvG Tyler), Jim Stafferton, Gareth Lloyd-Davies, Colin Milton, Lou Jacquest-Amey and Brian Sweet, of their tutelage.

An alms collection and raffle in aid of the 2021 Festival raised a total of £300 and a donation of £100 to the Bletchley Masonic Hall Building Fund was given as a thank you for the on-going use of the premises.

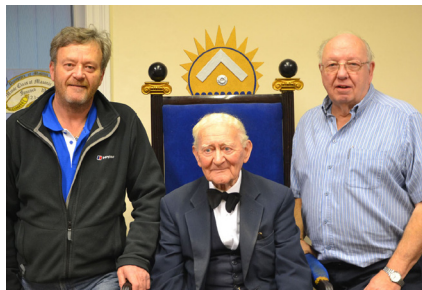
Success story continues

At its recent AGM, Manor Class of Instruction made donations of £1,550 to local charities, a remarkable achievement for a small, independent masonic organisation, thanks to a sustained and growing membership and their kind generosity through weekly subs of just 50p on attendance.

Nine charities benefitted:

- Willen Hospice
- Medical Detection Dogs
- Motor Neurone Disease Association
- Alzheimer's Society
- MK University Hospital Charity
- TLC MK A&E (children's department)
- Thames Valley Air Ambulance
- The Henry Allen Trust (children's cancer charity)
- Children with Cancer (Great Ormond Street)

This was a great outcome but Preceptor, Michael Crome, reminded the members that Manor Class of Masonic Instruction was not founded with the sole purpose of raising money for charity: "Its prime aim is, and always has been, to teach."



(l-r): Pete Carter, Secretary, Ken Rayment, Chairman and Colin Milton, Treasurer

Biggest Beerfest BBQ



(l-r) Lee Buckingham, Tony Robinson, Jean Robinson, Brian Murray and Richard Forrest taking a well-deserved break from cooking

The annual Haddenham Beerfest in July saw members of Haddenham Lodge once again playing their part in the local community, when they were in full cooking mode on the barbecue.

Thought to be the largest single day beerfest in the country, more than 3,500 visitors came through the doors.

The event featured a live stage with local bands, a full food court area, including a fish and chips van, fresh pizzas and, of course, the famous Haddenham Lodge barbecue.

The lodge has manned the barbecue for more than ten years and this year 650 burgers and sausages were served, raising more than £1,500.

Martyn Broughton from the Festival Committee said: "The Haddenham Lodge barbecue is part of the institution that is the Haddenham Beerfest, whatever the weather. Every penny they make goes to local charities and we are extremely grateful for their continued support."

Lee Buckingham, the barbecue organiser, said: "The Haddenham Beerfest has become quite a famous local institution and we in the local lodge are extremely proud of our involvement in helping to make this such a popular day in the village calendar."

Listen up!



Peter Finegan and Bob Dennis of Fenny Stratford Lodge recently presented eighteen radios to Ward 18 at MK General Hospital for their patients as there is no music or television in the ward

The Future of the Craft – the IDG speaks

Notarius Lodge recently hosted the second in a series of talks regarding the future of Freemasonry. The guest speaker was Third Grand Principal and RW Provincial Grand Master for South Wales, ME Companion Gareth Jones.



■ Gareth Jones, Deputy Chairman of the IDG, during his talk on the future of the Craft and Royal Arch

As Deputy Chairman of the IDG (Improvement Development Group) at Grand Lodge, he entitled his talk *Delivering the Future of the Craft and Royal Arch*.

He spoke about the emergence of the IDG in 2016 from the original Membership Focus Group, then under the Chairmanship of Ray Reed, which is now tasked with securing the future of Freemasonry.

Gareth said that one of the issues was with quality and that lodges needed to get away from the "It'll do" culture and that lodges should not be afraid to say no to a candidate, perhaps referring him to another, more suitable, lodge. He also advised that the focus should be on Quality Ritual.

He spoke about the image of Freemasonry and its relevance to the community; the virtual learning environment; the need for accountability in decisions taken; the importance of Orators and delivering orations within ceremonies; and especially the need to expand Lodges of Instruction to include a real educational element rather than just practice ceremonies.

Gareth also spoke about the Royal Arch which had an overall conversion rate of 40%, although this was only 35% in Bucks.

Grand Lodge intended to publish a strategy document which would set out guidance for all lodges (and members) to follow. His message was that continuous improvement has to be the order of the day.

Gareth's talk was, in every respect, a very positive and thought-provoking session, heavily slanted towards a question and answer format.

Notarius Lodge's membership is drawn from Secretaries and Scribes E within the Province, both present and past. It acts as a conduit for the exchange of information between the Secretaries and the Provincial Executive and aims to be the *Centre of Excellence* for this most important of offices.

Notarius meets twice a year, in January and September, keeping its ritual to the minimum and always providing a speaker on matters of relevance to Freemasonry in the modern world. It is expected that, at the January 2018 meeting, PGM-designate, John Clark, will talk about his strategy and vision for his time in charge of this great Province.

For more information, please contact: secretary@9662.co.uk (yes, two ys!).

Graham's classic first

Saturday 30th September saw the first Initiation for the Bucks Classic Car Lodge (BCCL).

Worshipful Master Sir Stuart Hampson ('Chief Mechanic'), ably supported by his Officers ('technicians'), initiated Graham Clements in a very successful and enjoyable ceremony.

The work was split between a number of the officers and a splendid time was had, both at the meeting and at the Festive Board.

Graham, a classic car enthusiast, approached PGM-designate John Clark at the Kop Hill event last year and expressed an interest in Freemasonry. John, never one to let opportunity pass by, took Graham's details, kept in contact, and was his Proposer into the BCCL.

Graham joined the brethren on various drive-outs before becoming a member.

All members of the BCCL would like to congratulate Graham on becoming the first initiate and look forward to many years of



■ Right: First Initiate for the Bucks Classic Car Lodge: Graham Clements with WM Sir Stuart Hampson

fun and friendship.

Anyone interested in joining the Buckinghamshire Classic Car Lodge should contact mattheweaton@hotmail.com. Twitter: @BucksCCL9945.

Surprise for Leo

A surprise dinner was organised at the Bell Hotel, Winslow, on 15th June by Howard Wells, OBE PPGSuptWks, PDGChaplain (HK&FE), to mark Leo Kyte's 80th birthday.



Leo has played the organ for fourteen Buckinghamshire lodges for a number of years, is also a stand-by organist for five more and, in addition, plays regularly for three outside the Province!

Leo thought that he was just having a private dinner with Howard and was bowled over to find more than fifty people present. Simon Shirley was the occasion's unofficial Master of Ceremonies and Darran Hamer gave the Grace. APM Peter Moody proposed the toast and this was followed by the presentation of gifts.

£100 was raised from auctioning the flower arrangements on each table, gifted by Philip Mendis, for charities of Leo's choice, to which he added a further £100.

Sure & Stedfast

On 3rd June, Sure and Stedfast Lodge Initiated Tristan David McDonald (who will be familiar to the brethren of Marlow) at Dore Masonic Hall in his hometown of Sheffield, in the presence of some visiting brothers from Buckinghamshire who made the trip north to support Tristan.

Eddie Irwin, Paul Lear, Trevor Mitchell and Nelson Ellis were among some 54 visitors and 75 brethren. A very emotional ceremony was conducted by the candidate's father, Richard McDonald, PAGDC. Further family involvement included his cousin as Junior Deacon and uncles John and Stuart McDonald, PAGDC, who delivered the first degree charge and working tools respectively.

Following the ceremony and the festive board, the afternoon was rounded off by the response for the visitors by Eddie Irwin.

The Worshipful Master and brethren of Sure and Stedfast Lodge would like to thank those who travelled from Buckinghamshire, and are hoping to reciprocate in November when Tristan is raised at Marlow Masonic Centre.

Golf season ends

The final meeting and AGM of the Bucks Masonic Golf Society season for 2017 took place in September at Chartridge Golf Course, Chesham.

The members decided to donate the £1,100 raised from raffles and various other competitions as follows:

- £100 to the Horse Trust chosen by Shirley Trice, in memory of her husband Derek, a past captain of the society who died very suddenly in August.
- £200 each to Prostate Cancer, Child Bereavement UK, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Childhood Cancer
- £200 from the Twos Competitions to the BMCF

Other important items on the agenda were the changes to the committee. Paul Savage relinquished the captaincy to Stan Green; Brian Shepherd took over as secretary from Rob Knock; and past captain Mike Powell took over as President from out-going PGM Gordon Robertson.

Matches during the year against Berkshire and Bedfordshire were unfortunately lost, but there was a win against Middlesex. There were the usual eight society days and an extra tournament at Lambourne Golf Club with 64 players in teams of four representing Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire competing for the Tercentenary Championship. This was a very close contest with the BMGS Team 1 of Paul Savage, David Hawkins, Andy Sweeney and Steve Smirthwaite winning the day.

Looking forward to next year, if anyone is interested in joining the BMGS as a member or as a guest at any of the meetings, you would be very welcome. Contact: Brian Shepherd, 20 Bray Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 1UE, telephone: 01628 671458 or 07769948313, email: brian@bfs-international.co.uk.

2017 winners

Winter Trophy

Mick Hull (Roman Way Lodge)

Inter Lodge

David Hawkins & Tony Martin (Wolverton Trinity Lodge)

Bucks Open

Andy Sutton (Hall Barn Lodge)



■ Outgoing team captain Paul Savage presents Peter Smith of Observatory Lodge with the Grenville Trophy

Ferdinand de Rothschild Trophy

Steve Barnes (Grenfell Lodge)

President's Scratch Trophy

David Hawkins (Wolverton Trinity Lodge)

Grenville Trophy

Peter Smith (Observatory Lodge)

Founders Trophy

David Hawkins (Wolverton Trinity Lodge)

Knockout 2017

David Talbot (Manor of Swanburn Lodge)

Woodman Salver

Tony Martin (HW)

(best two scores over Spring, Summer and Autumn meetings for Over 65s)

Keith Timms Putter

David Hawkins (best two scores over Spring, Summer and Autumn meetings)

Festival Trophy

David Hawkins

(total three scores starting Autumn 2016/ Spring and Summer 2017)



BMCPSA 2017

The Bucks Masonic Clay Pigeon Shooting Association raised over £600 for charity at its first shoot of the year.

Thirty+ shooters enjoyed a well set out course with some very tricky targets, resulting in scores from 35 to 85 out of 100 being posted.

Shooters from Oxford, Middlesex and Metropolitan also took part and the competition was intense. The overall High Gun was won by a non-masonic guest from Bucks, Chris Stibbs; the Masonic High Gun was won by Dave Brown (Met); the ladies trophy went to Lea McDonald (Bucks) and the BMCPSA members' High Gun was won by Dave Hollis.

In September, the United Grand Lodge of England, with the help of the National Association of Masonic Clay Shooting Societies (NAMCSS), organised the Jonathan Spence Tercentenary Challenge Cup, to celebrate 300 years of UGLE.

Jonathan Spence, Deputy Grand Master, and President of NAMCSS attended the shoot at Eriswell Lodge Shooting Ground in Suffolk and made the presentation of the cup to the winning team.

The shoot was a 100 clay English Sporting over twelve stands, all sponsored by member Provinces of NAMCSS. Over 200 attended the presentation and meal at the end of the shoot.

Three Bucks masons (Dave Hollis, Peter Allan and Roger Gills) and one guest (Steve Watts) were shooting and, although they did the best they could, were unsuccessful.

The team event was won by West Lancs with a score of 256 out of 300. Surrey came second with 253.

The Masonic High Gun was Daniel Bishop from Hants & Isle of Wight; runner up was Steve Whitelock from Hertfordshire.

This shoot was the biggest and by far the most important that has been organised by UGLE and NAMCSS and was a great success.

■ Jonathan Spence, Deputy Grand Master, and President of NAMCSS (right) at the BMCPSA Tercentenary challenge match



* Complete Breakdown Service
* Full Boiler Maintenance
* New Boiler Installation
* New Central Heating Design & Installation
* Energy Efficient Condensing Boilers

* Oil, Gas & LPG Systems
* Gas Safety Inspections
* Power Flushing Available
* Solar Installations & Maintenance



555782

HEATING & PLUMBING ENGINEERS

01494 714803 email: tony_dyckes@btconnect.com

New nets for under nines

On a sweltering hot Sunday afternoon in mid-Bucks, the under 9s teams of Hawridge & Cholesbury and Ballinger Cricket clubs entertained the large crowd cheering on their respective sides.

Stirring performances by the local choir and a live band added to the atmosphere.

As the afternoon drew to a close it was time for the official opening ceremony of the new two lane practice nets provided from fundraising by the local community and a grant of £5,000 from the Grass Roots Fund which is administered in conjunction with the Heart of Bucks Foundation.

Brian Ralphs, Chairman of Hawridge & Cholesbury Cricket Club, said: "In the short time since the nets have been in place, there has been a new sense of enthusiasm in all of our players. Members, young and old, are really enjoying the new facility, which gives a good approximation of what they may experience in the 'middle'."

Peter Costello, Chief Executive of the Heart of Bucks Foundation, added: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with Bucks' freemasons in helping to give many grants such as this one each year to local communities and charities within the county."



■ The new nets in full use

BMBA 2017

The Concord Editor was delighted to meet the Bucks Masonic Bowls Association's President, Allen Wetherell, earlier this year and to catch up on match details.

The BMBA play regularly and have had a mixed bag of results this year, losing their matches in May, June and July.

In August the association held its annual pairs tournament at Flackwell Heath Bowls Club, with twelve pairs competing for the American Tournament Cup. Four matches of six ends resulted in a win for the pairing of John Mansfield and Bill Pipe; runners-up were Harold Richardson and Margaret Pipe.

Also in August the BMBA played High Wycombe Bowls Club. Seven rinks were laid out and seven triples matches were played. The result was close and the BMBA lost by only eight shots. Highest winning rink was Peter Davis, Harold Richardson and Jenny Ware.

The end of August saw the end of the losing streak with the BMBA beating the London MBA on all rinks by a total of 43 shots.

The last outdoor match of the season was played against Hazlemere Bowls Club. Despite very poor weather the team did well with one winning rink but still lost by 21 shots.

The Association's Annual Luncheon took place on 5th October at Chesham Bowls Club and was attended by Margaret Langley-Roberts who represented the Bucks Bowls Association Benevolent Trust, Jo Woolf, Chief Executive of South Bucks Hospice, and Michael Bailey, President of Chesham Bowls Club. Competition winners and runners-up were presented with their trophies and the Clubman of the Year award was presented to John Mansfield. Nominated charities received donations totalling £1,500 and a bumper raffle raised £250 towards next year's charity fund.

The second leg of the Centenary Rose Bowl Competition against Berkshire MBA took place on 11th October. Bucks MBA started with a 25 shot deficit from the first leg



■ Top: BMBA President presents the Clubman of the Year award to John Mansfield and (above) a donation to Jo Woolf, Chief Executive of South Bucks Hospice

(played outdoors in June) and unfortunately Berkshire again proved too strong and retain the trophy for another year.

The most recent match, played on 18th October, resulted in a draw against Slade with £25 raised for charity and a lovely meal cooked by BMBA Vice President, Robin Galvin.

If you are interested in joining the BMBA, most of their home indoor matches take place at Foxhills Indoor Bowls Club at Wendover Road, Aylesbury HP21 9NJ.

For more information, contact the Secretary, Jim Lumsden, on 01525 378915, email jimlumsden@btinternet.com.

Watch out for a glossary of bowls terms in the next edition of Concord!



■ Members of the Bucks Masonic Bowls Association with President Allen Wetherell (centre)

LADIES CLUBS

Bletchley

In October, the Bletchley Ladies Luncheon Club celebrated its tenth anniversary in style with the Lincoln Noel Jazz Trio providing very enjoyable entertainment.

Membership of the BLLC has grown to seventy, with many of the ladies present at the anniversary lunch having been members from the start.

In July ladies and friends enjoyed touring Highclere Castle and its gardens while those at the September meeting learned a great deal about the work of a Community First Responder and first aid. Following a demonstration by Pat McGlone, ladies practiced placing a 'patient' in the 'recovery position' and tried using an automated external defibrillator to resuscitate one of the well-known models, 'Resuscitation Annie'.



The BLLC Committee 2012-2017 (l-r): Pat Layer, Sue O'Brien, Ann Hircock, Chris McKinnon, Dorothy Runacres, Celia Boyer and Val Dumbleton; below: the lovely tenth anniversary cake

PProvSGW Pat McGlone demonstrating a finger pulse test to Catherine Grimes, Sally Gentle, Ros Parker, Shirley Stimson and Pauline McGlone



The AGM will take place in November to elect a new committee. After lunch, a club member will talk about 'Yoga for Fun' with

some gentle exercises.

A trip to Bath Christmas Market has been arranged for early December and members are looking forward to their Christmas lunch with entertainment by The MK Rock Chorus.

This year, the BLLC has supported The Motor Neurone Disease Association and Help

or Heroes, the latter funded through book sales.

A very varied programme of speakers is being organised for 2018.

New members are always welcome: please contact the Membership Secretary, Dorothy Runacres, on 01908 510830.

Marlow

The Marlow Centre Ladies Club started the summer with a charity lunch at Taplow House Hotel in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

More than £1,000 was raised and the cheque will be presented to an MSS representative at the January 2018 meeting.

In July the ladies went on the Watercress Line, a Heritage railway in Hampshire running from New Alresford to Alton. A coach then took them to Jane Austen's House in Chawton. It was a beautiful day, much enjoyed by everyone.

September's trip was a tour of the Cotswolds, including Burford where a coffee stop was enjoyed. Then on to Bourton-on-



Sarah Clark, Maria Guarino, Christine Dyckes and Cynthia Wharton enjoying the sunshine at Bourton-on-the-Water

the-Water for lunch and to browse the local shops which provided a variety of lovely gifts. The final stop was Stowe-on-the-Wold, a small market town on top of an 800ft hill!

The ladies held their AGM in October when a new committee was appointed. The new chairman is Eveline Martin and secretary Christine Dyckes and two new members were elected to the committee: Moira Turner and Lynda Gough.

The speaker for this meeting was Mr Poad whose talk was entitled *Granny flew Spitfires*.

In December an afternoon tea at Hartwell House is on the menu for members.

If you are interested in joining Marlow Ladies, please contact Christine Dyckes on 01494 814991.

Beaconsfield

The ladies from the Beaconsfield Centre heard a really good speaker in June: Jacqueline Aviolet provided a very entertaining evening called *I'm a Tulip, What Are You?*

It was a funny but informative look into plants which had the same name as the members attending. Jacqueline is a speaker to be recommended.

Over the past months the ladies have enjoyed a talk on Cliveden entitled *Then and Now* and one on *Whistful Thinking* – a peek into how the parents of one of the members met, the letters they wrote during the war and a hint of how they lived their lives.

The Beaconsfield ladies also indulged themselves with a delicious lunch in August; and a lovely day was spent at Bourton-on-the-Water in September.

There are two events still to look forward to this year: an interactive evening on 6th November and the Christmas party with entertainment on 4th December.

The ladies will meet again on the first Monday of February for their AGM.

If you would like to join the BCLC in November or in the near future, they would be happy to have a chat with you. Please send an email or call either Yvonne Cawte, Secretary, 01494 562638, yvonnecawte@btinternet.com or Magda Smart, Programmes, 01895 254415, magda@magdalene.free-online.co.uk.



Joining in the fun was long-standing member of the BCLC, Grace Dell, currently residing just round the corner from the Beaconsfield Centre, pictured here with Joanna Nugent and Pam Stephens

Fifty years - and counting!

After the recent Bourne End Lodge annual installation meeting, the newly-installed Worshipful Master, Jim Hunt, called for a 50th certificate for former Bucks PGM Ray Reed.

Peter Lowndes, the Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master, then took to the floor, gave a rousing and humorous personal testimonial to Ray, presented him with his certificate and thanked him for his amazing service to Freemasonry.

There were 82 dining at the festive board and Jim Webster led a highly amusing *This is your Masonic Life*, Ray Reed, reminding all of Ray's fifty years of achievements. A bouquet of flowers and a cake were then presented to Ray and Doreen by Chef Eddie Irwin.

The Lodge raised almost £1,000 on the night from alms and a raffle.

■ Ray and Doreen Reed with Eddie Irwin, Marlow Centre Chef



Goodbye Gordon!



■ PGM Gordon Robertson pictured at the last Provincial Grand Lodge meeting before he retired; with PGM-designate John Clark, new APGM Phil Blacklaw, APGM Graham Dearing and Mike Blane, formerly of St Martin's Lodge who emigrated to Australia a couple of years ago and was visiting the UK

Spruced up Slough

Following a facelift of the bar area last year, Slough Masonic Centre has undergone a further refurbishment programme.

Extensive work has been carried out in a number of areas, particularly the heating/air conditioning; and new ceilings, lighting and flooring have been installed in the two newly-decorated dining rooms. Lighting has also been enhanced in the two lodge rooms.

The work was completed on time by 1st September ready for a private function in the main dining room, a Ruby Wedding Anniversary celebration, followed by a 50th Anniversary party later in September.

The Centre Management is pleased to be able to offer members and their guests improved and refreshed facilities and also a greater opportunity to host social events. The first of these will be held on Saturday, 16th December, *Jazz Up Your Christmas*, a three course meal with a jazz quartet to enhance the Christmas spirit.

Acknowledgments and thanks go to:

Dave Jelleyman (Centre Secretary)
SMHC Directors
David Williams (Carpenter)
Excel Interiors & Refurbishment UK
G&S Flooring
Colours of Distinction
Degrees of Comfort



■ Above: one of the refurbished dining rooms at Slough Masonic Centre and below the refurbished lodge room





The Bell Hotel



Special offer for your lodge event

Arrival Drink and 3 Course Carvery or Plated Meal

From £25 per person

No room hire charge

Wine and Prosecco available from £15 per bottle

Call us now to book your next lodge event,
all group sizes up to 100 catered for.

Small parties very welcome, our function room divides into
two so is perfect for your group, whatever the size.
We could be just the perfect venue for your next ladies night!

Function Room

The function room at The Bell is the perfect
venue for your meeting, wedding, wake and all
social occasions.



The Bell Pie Shop

Picking up 11 awards at the 2017 British Pie Awards,
The Bell Pie Shop is home to a fantastic selection of pies.
Open all day every day, located behind reception.



Accommodation

A traditional coaching inn with 39 en suite bedrooms
comprising of single, double, twin, family and executive rooms.
Prices start from £59 per night.



Dining and Drinking

Breakfast available from 7am – 3pm

Bar food available from
11am – 9pm

Afternoon Tea available from 12pm

Join us in the bar, or on the terrace.

In a rush? Have a coffee to go from
our vending machine!



The Bell Hotel, Market Square, Winslow, Bucks. MK18 3AB
01296 714091 www.thebellhotel.co.uk info@thebellhotel.co.uk



Uncomplicated **savings**
accounts & mortgage
products to suit you



Call: 01494 879500

www.bucksbs.co.uk

Buckinghamshire Building Society, High Street, Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, HP8 4QB

Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Registration number 206022.

Shaw Gifts for your Ladies' Festival

Suppliers of Quality Gifts and Printing Services

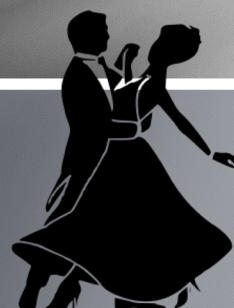
Whatever the event give us a call

on

01753 537404

sales@shawgifts.com

www.shawgifts.com



We've arranged a bunch of reasons to choose a beautiful worktop from us

KITCHEN
MAKEOVER SPECIALISTS
Free Home Consultation



- Bespoke worktops that fit on top
- Fitted in one day, with no mess or demolition
- Over 50 colours to choose from
- Installed by our own professional fitters
- Friendly advice & free home consultation
- We also fit new kitchen doors!



Visit our showroom, or call to book a free home consultation, and we'll show you how easy it is to transform your kitchen with our granite, quartz or recycled glass worktops.

Call now 01491 875359

At Granite Transformations we offer a complete package for updating your work surfaces, splashbacks, doors and appliances. Fitting a new worktop is fast and effective with each top custom made to your exact requirements. There is no need to remove old worktops, we simply fit directly over your existing surfaces, guaranteeing complete peace of mind from start to finish.

Wallingford Showroom: Unit S9, Greenlands Farm, Cow Lane, Moulsoford, OX10 9JT Open 10-4 Mon to Sat

DH Watergardens: Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield On Loddon, RG27 0HL Open 10-4 Mon to Sat

Bagshot Showroom: Long Acres Garden Centre, London Road, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5JB Open 10-4 Mon to Sun

Alton Showroom: The Avenue Display Showroom, Avenue Road, Lasham, Alton GU34 5SA Open 10-4 Mon to Sun

Parking available at all showrooms

 **GRANITE**[®]
transformations
Kitchen makeover experts

www.granitetransformations.co.uk/reading