

CONCORD



BUCKS Big Festival FORTNIGHT

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CONCORD

Autumn 2019

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The Buckinghamshire Freemasons' Magazine

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“ During the summer we held our mid festival fortnight event in which some quite magnificent challenges took place, with people Skydiving, descending Zip wires from the top of a mountain, abseiling off very tall buildings, cycling many miles and many other exciting challenges.

For my part I undertook a 26 mile Marathon Canoe challenge from Henley-on-Thames in Oxfordshire to Windsor in Berkshire covering the length of the river Thames in Buckinghamshire with Gary Brodie, Simon Williams, Peter Lawrence and my son Jack Clark. Gary and I thought this would be easier and safer than jumping out of planes and off buildings and mountains, that is, until Mark Duncan pressed us into a practice session and we discovered that we could barely manage a mile

Some intensive training took place over the next 4 weeks and I am pleased to say that two very unfit masons and two younger ones completed the task in 9 hours raising over £7000 for the 2021 Festival. The whole thing was a superb group effort with a great deal of help from the Stewards' Lodge.

Along the way we were met by our Grand Superintendent and his wife, John and Wendy Keeble, in Bourne End, the PGM of Berkshire, Anthony Howlett-Bolton at Clifton House and in Maidenhead we were greeted by the MCF themselves at Boutlers lock.

We started the festival fortnight with an outside showing of Bohemian Rhapsody at Pinewood Studios and it ended with a Gala Ball at the Double Tree Hotel in Milton Keynes, which was arranged by Bill Smithson. Over 450 attended and we were entertained by Ray Lewis and other superb acts.

I would like to personally thank everybody who took part in these events, which raised an additional £70,000 for our MCF 2021 Festival.

Nomadic Lodge

I would also like to welcome the Nomadic Lodge into Buckinghamshire. This new lodge aimed at Caravan, Motorhome and Camping enthusiasts was consecrated in a field in Winslow in a very large tent. The marquee was surrounded by motorhomes and was a very enjoyable occasion. It was a great privilege to perform the Consecration with my team. I wish the lodge every success for the future and I look forward to visiting.

John and Wendy Keeble

As many of you will know by now, John Keeble, our Grand Superintendent recently announced his retirement. I am very sad to see John step down, as he has been a great friend to me offering guidance and assistance on many occasions. John will leave a great legacy as he has delivered outstanding results in the Royal Arch with numbers increasing in the last year for the first time. John has instigated a seamless link with the craft where we now jointly plan for the future.

It is also with some sadness that John's wife, Wendy, also stood down in her role as chief cook at the Masonic Salmon and Trout Fishing group at their recent event held at West Wycombe Park a few weeks ago. Come rain or shine Wendy has always been there from dawn till dusk and on behalf of the team I thank her most sincerely for all of her efforts.

Both John and Wendy will however continue to take an active part in the province with John continuing on the Executive in the Craft and Wendy



taking on a new role proof reading and assisting in the Production of Concord.

Introducing HeliPAD

During the last 12 months our Deputy PGM has developed and delivered a new provincial directory called HeliPAD. HeliPAD is unique and enables each member to update their individual record, which will enable the provincial office to correct any individual errors on Adelphi such as email address. The full details of this superb system are available in this edition of Concord. Please sign up and update your details today and make use of this valuable tool.

On behalf of all of our members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hugh for the many thousands of £'s worth of work he has completed on this project in the last year and in his own time with no cost to the province. I would also like thank Paul Brissenden-Hemstock for his assistance in completing the project.

The members of this Province never cease to amaze me, with their ability to rise to and exceed any challenge.

At Five Points Lodge, which has been struggling for years, last week they proposed 3 Initiates and 2 Joiners on the same night! I am now looking forward to seeing you all at the Provincial Meeting on the 28th October at Freemasons Hall.

John

R. W. Bro. John Clark
Provincial Grand Master



HeliPAD is the new Online Provincial Directory system for Buckinghamshire. If you are a subscribing member of a Buckinghamshire Lodge you will be able to register for access at heli-pad.buckspgl.org.

HeliPAD is the secure and private website for Buckinghamshire Masons to provide details of lodges within the Province. The aim is to enable each member to take ownership and control of their own contact information and allow them to update that data as required. The United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) uses a centralised database system for all members which is known as Adelphi. It is used by the Provincial Office and a small number of registered users within the Province. The email addresses which are stored in Adelphi are used to send the Constant Contact messages out to members, but we know from experience that a significant number of those addresses are out of date or no longer exist.

Previously the Provincial Office relied on Lodge secretaries submitting a form BP1 each time a member changed their email address or contact details. HeliPAD streamlines that process by allowing each member to update their own contact details directly.

However its not just about keeping personal data up to date, the system provides useful and interesting statistics on each lodge. For example the percentage of members who are also members of the Royal Arch, the average age of members and even the average distance travelled to a lodge meeting. It should be of no surprise that many of the lodges where members travel a very short distance to meetings seem to be thriving as they enhance that community spirit at a very local level. HeliPAD also allows each member to upload a headshot photo of themselves.

It is hoped this will be adopted across the province so that visitors are more easily able to recognise brethren.

In today's environment of the legal requirements to maintain data security, HeliPAD requires each member to pass through a registration process that ensures only subscribing Buckinghamshire Masons gain access. This starts by first collecting a few details about you and the lodges you subscribe to. An email is then immediately sent to you to verify that the email address you provided can

be used to contact you. Once that is established, the Provincial office verifies the details you have sent and links your account to your Adelphi record. This process can take a couple of days and it is important to register using the email address you have registered with Adelphi. Once checks are complete you receive a second email advising your account is active and you can login. From this point on, any changes you make are pushed back to Adelphi to keep both the Province and UGLE up to date.

To Register

Go to heli-pad.buckspgl.org and complete the registration panel. A few points to help you:

- Enter your full name including any middle names, this helps verify your details against your Adelphi record.
- Enter a username, this can be more or less anything you want (as long as no one else has already registered it), you will type this in when you login to HeliPAD so choose something you will remember.
- The password must be at least 8 characters and can contain letters, numbers etc. It is case sensitive. Choose something secure.
- The email address you enter should be the one registered on Adelphi, if you don't know what that is, it is the one used to send you Provincial messages through our mailing system Constant Contact. If you really have no idea what email address is registered in Adelphi, just use your day to day address and if it isn't the correct one, the approval team will be able to assist you once you have clicked on the link in the first email you receive.
- To select the lodge(s) you belong to, type the number of the lodge or part of the name, as you type a list will form below the selection box with matches, just click on the one you require. If you are a member of more than 1 lodge, enter up to three of them, this helps identify you in the approval process.
- Finally click Register

Immediately you click Register an email will be sent to you for the purpose of confirming your email address. In this message there will be a link which you need to click on. If you haven't received the message within a minute it might be worth checking your SPAM folder to see if your email provider has decided to hide it from you. If you have not received the message within a few hours and can't find it in your SPAM filters, you can request a replacement by contacting the Provincial Office. Once you have received it (only the latest version will be active) just click on the link and wait for the Provincial Office to verify your details. Once approved you will receive a second email advising that you can login.

 A screenshot of the 'User Registration' form. The form has a title 'User Registration' and a sub-header '* Required field'. It contains several input fields: 'Your full name *', 'Your desired username *', 'Password (min 8 characters) *', 'Confirm Password *', 'Email Address *', 'Confirm Email Address *', 'Lodge', and 'Lodge(s) (include up to 3) *'. Below the 'Lodge(s)' field is a text input with the placeholder 'Type or select some options'. At the bottom are two buttons: 'Register' and 'Cancel'.

Adding a Photograph

One of the useful facilities of HeliPAD is that it allows each member to upload a photo of themselves. Ideally this would be a headshot and is used to help identify members by putting a 'face to the name'. If you are uploading a photo, the system will resize for you, but ideally you want a head shot with the face centred on the image, ideally around 500 pixels square. If you don't like what you have uploaded you can always change it.

Changing Your Details

There are two screens which control your details:

- **My Details -> Personal Details**
- **My Details -> Change Password/Photo**

The Personal details page allows you to change your telephone, address and occupation details. It also contains your Grand Lodge Reference number which is used by the Adelphi database and any correspondence with UGLE. To edit any of the data on this page, scroll to the bottom and click the edit button. Note that you are not able to change your name as this is the one printed on your Grand Lodge Certificate.

The Change Password/Photo page allows you to change your password, your photo or your email address. Note that when updating any of these, unless you want to change your password, you can leave the 'password' and 'confirm password' fields blank.

SOME OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST:

Lodge Details

HeliPAD enables you to search lodges by name or number and display useful information about them, this includes:

The lodge banner logo, details of meetings and venue. The next couple of meetings, contact details for the Secretary, Almoner and Charity Steward. A set of lodge statistics which provides useful information about the lodge and its members. A list of all members in the lodge along with when they joined, their rank, photo, type of joining and whether they are members of the Holy Royal Arch. One of the 'hidden' features in the Subscribing Members section is that if you hover over a brother's name, you get his full name shown. As you scroll down at the bottom of the screen is the list of current officers of the lodge.

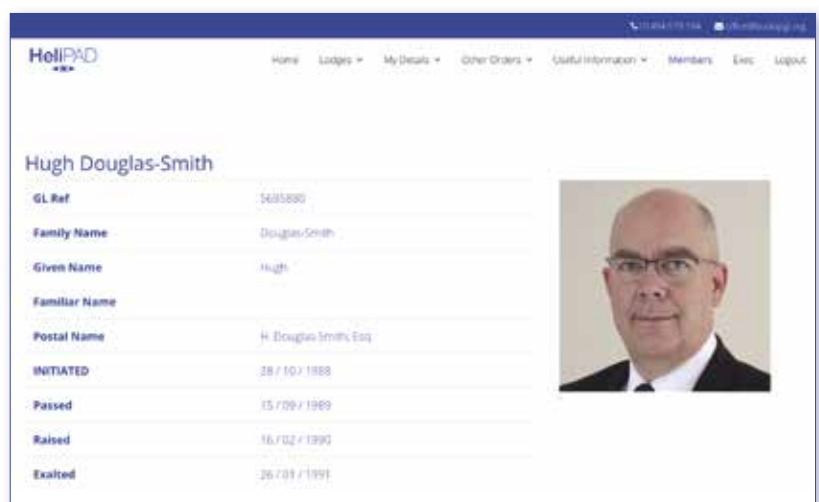
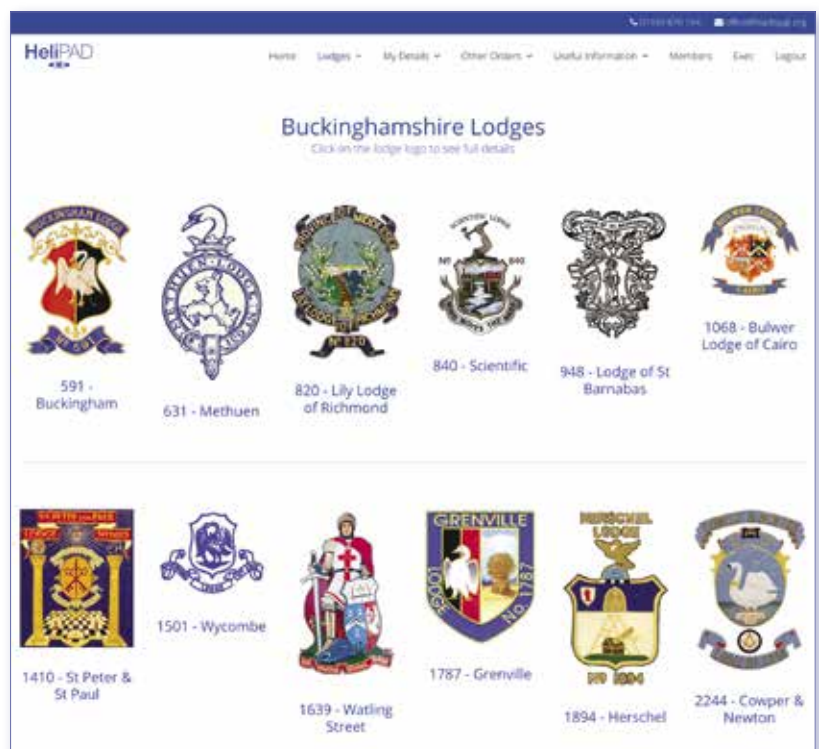
Member Details

The member details page shows a list of all members in alphabetical order along with any photo and the lodges they belong to (if you hover over a lodge number you will see its name). Clicking on the lodge number takes you to the lodge detail page whilst clicking on their family name shows you the details about that member.

There is a search facility at the top of the page where you can type in a name and search across the Province for it. The page shows up to 20 members, but if there are more than 20 in the list, a series of numbers at the bottom of the list allows you to jump to further pages.

Useful Information

There are also pages of what is hopefully useful information, this will be added to over time but includes useful information on the Buckinghamshire centres including a Google map of their location and hints on where to park.



Pig Roast and Garden Party

The latest Annual Inter Lodge Pig Roast and Garden Party was held at Radnage Village Hall on Sunday 26th May 2019. Tony Martin of Wycombe Lodge, the main organiser, said "it was another wonderful day, although the weather was not too kind to us, so no sunbathing. Food and drink were plentiful and the day was attended by 90 members, guests and their children from 16 different Lodges, which made it all worthwhile." The assembled guests were treated to a musical extravaganza for the afternoon by the Jenny Coutes Band.

Thanks to the generosity of the people who attended, the various sponsors, the sale of raffle tickets and the sale of left-over drinks, the day raised £1,330 for Charity.

The money raised will be donated to the following great causes: £500 will be going to the Marlow Opportunity Playgroup. They provide a happy and caring environment for children under 5 with disabilities in an environment where they can learn through play in a secure and experienced setting. The sum of £400 is going to the Freemasonry in the Community Group, The Beaconsfield Young Carers'. This fabulous organisation provide much needed fun days for

many young carers from the whole of Buckinghamshire, including Christmas parties, fishing days and Clay Pigeon shooting days. A further £230 is being donated to a Duchenne charity and the remainder to a further local children's charity.

Tony would like to say a big thank you to W J Webb and Sons, Marc McLaughlin, Lifestyle Mortgage Management, Keith Ward, Mark Harry, Charles Coste, Peter Moody and Bill Thomas who provided various levels of sponsorship for the day and to all the help from various Lodge members for the setting up and clearing up on the day. The Lodge looks forward to receiving as much fantastic support next year.



New Kitchen for The Princes Centre

Bucks APGM Philip Blacklaw recently visited The Princes Centre based in Princes Risborough following the pledge of £4000 towards the cost of a new kitchen, on behalf of BMCF (Buckinghamshire Masonic Centenary Fund).

In 2012 the centre at Princes Risborough was due to close when Alan Turner, a local Town Councillor and member of Carrington Lodge proposed that a community-led 'Social Enterprise' be established to take over the running of the centre and save it from closure.

In the years since then, it has turned from a loss-making facility into a sustainable award-winning centre of excellence. Last year the centre took on Bourne End Day Care Centre which was also faced with closure and together they provide day care for 140 clients including those with dementia, mental health issues, learning difficulties and the frail elderly.

Both centres provide award-winning care to vulnerable members of society as well as enabling much needed respite for their full-time carers.

Members of Carrington Lodge have supported the centres with both practical and financial assistance over the years.

As a special surprise on the 7th birthday of the centres, it was announced that they had been awarded "The Queens Award for Voluntary Service".





TURKISH NIGHT

Magiovinivm Lodge No 8091 held a "Turkish Night" at the Pasha Restaurant in Bletchley in aid of the Big Bucks Festival. Sixty-Five people attended, (including three potential new candidates). A good time was had by all, although some of the belly dancing by the Worshipful Master was, by all accounts, a little bit dodgy. A total of £925 was raised on the night!



PROVINCIAL MARKETING UPDATE

“ Well brethren, it's been some 5 months since we “deployed” our new provincial Joining page (www.buckspgl.org/info) and it is already starting to see some results. It has received some 60 + “I'm Interested” enquiries which have been passed through to our membership team resulting in a number of new members with many ongoing applications.

A high percentage of these enquiries have been generated through various advertising campaigns across advertising mediums. The best results seem to be from social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We have been deploying a number of different short videos showing the fun element of Freemasonry. One of the new “infomercials” used is under the “Think Again” banner. These short 20 second videos show some of the challenges that our Provincial Executive completed for the Bucks Festival Fortnight asking the question “Think Freemasonry is Boring?.....Think Again!” inviting the viewer to take a link button to the new Joining page.

It is important to note that these advertising campaigns have been directed at non masons across the province so we hope that this will bring fresh new membership to all Lodges throughout the province.

You can see these videos at our YouTube Channel.....
just type into Google :-

BucksPGL - YouTube

And take a look.....and be sure to subscribe to keep informed of upcoming new videos.



Moving Forward

Having now been through some positive testing of the new Joining page over the past few months we are now looking to push forward with more targeted and higher volume marketing across all platforms. We are also looking to implement a new contact management system that will enable us to collate, track and improve on active enquiries. We will be working very closely with the membership team to ensure that every enquiry has its best chance at a successful outcome!

The new provincial Marketing team are highly motivated to help the province increase our membership via social

media platforms, so please keep an eye out for any promotions or marketing activity you see online and we need every bit of help we can get so.....

SEE IT, LIKE IT, SHARE IT.

Remember we are all ambassadors for Freemasonry. Don't be afraid to speak up about our membership, be proud of who and what we are and what we stand for.....spread the word accordingly Brethren.

”

Phil

Phil Witney
AGStdB

FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

What does 'FIC' mean to you?

'Freemasonry in the Community' may be your first thought but what about some of these ideas?

FACES in the Community

FELLOWSHIP in the Community

FOOD in the Community

FARMS in the Community

FISHING in the Community

FUN in the Community

Can we broaden our horizons further on FIC and be more pro-active, getting out there amongst our local communities? The following articles have been 'themed' with some of the above interpretations of FIC. Have any of your Lodge members participated in something that could be written about in a similar style? If yes, then why not write your own article and send it in, with pictures, for the next edition of Concord? What's your interpretation of FIC?

Tony Robinson

AsstPGM

Fellowship in the Community

On 16th July, the Province's Prebendal Close, part of the Masonic Housing Sheltered Housing Scheme, held its Annual General Meeting. The AGM was very well attended by the residents, staff, volunteer Committee Members and other invited guests.



FISHING in the Community



The Buckinghamshire Group of the MTSFC (The Masonic Trout and Salmon Flyfishing Charity) has been providing a day's fishing for school children since 2004.

The team of volunteer casters is co-ordinated by Dave Hollis, Paul Sambrook and Steve Blair. The youngsters and the volunteers are well catered for during the day, with BBQ breakfast, BBQ lunch and coffee provided by a small group of dedicated wives and other volunteers.

The casters are all very experienced fishermen and, after the students

have received a thorough safety introduction, are assigned to a particular student for the day. Initially the caster will bait the hook, cast and reel in any catch but as the day progresses, and the children's confidence develops, they will often do most of these tasks themselves

The students on this recent day, at Cublington, were from the Alfriston School in Beaconsfield. At the end of the day every student was presented with a certificate and a 'goody' bag by Jean Robinson a past teacher at the school. On some fishing days, the students are allowed to take their catch home!

Prebendal Close, in Castle Street, in the heart of Aylesbury, has 31 flats (all occupied) and several social areas, the Lounge is shown in the picture. It is organised by a resident Scheme Manager and Assistants along with a volunteer Committee consisting of local Freemasons.

During the AGM, Committee Chairman, Mark Duncan (centre in picture), expressed everyone's gratitude and best wishes to Margaret Farrow, left in the picture, who was retiring as the Scheme Manager. In Mark's words, "She has been the stalwart and backbone of Prebendal Close for the last twenty three years, seeing off many of the local House Committee members!" Mark then introduced Beverley Mills, (right picture), the new Scheme Manager and everyone wished her all the best for her time ahead.



FARMS in the Community



Eighteen Young Carers aged 6-10 years old were treated to a visit to Odds Farm, Burnham, Bucks, on 17th April for an Easter treat by the Beaconsfield Committee for Freemasonry in the Community and kindly sponsored by the Beaconsfield Masonic Ladies Club. We also provided an Easter egg for each of the youngsters as an extra treat.

Lisa Kelly, a Young Carers Coordinator at High Wycombe, thanked the Committee on behalf of the children for what she described as a day they would not forget!

Carersbucks is a registered charity and part of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers Network; it supports unpaid family carers across Buckinghamshire offering information, support and advice. They currently support 7000 of the 43000 family carers in Buckinghamshire. Their web site is www.carersbucks.org

- Above you can see W Bro Rob Knock of Hall Barn Lodge a member of the Beaconsfield Committee representing the Beaconsfield Ladies Club presenting an Easter egg to the very excited and appreciative children.

FACES in the Community

Bucks APGM Phil Blacklaw recently joined with the Winslow Rotary Club and the Lions Club of Winslow at the St Laurence Church in Winslow.

A number of members from the local community were present to hear the presentations given by the three groups.

The event was organised by Reverend Lightbown to give an overview of the good work in which the three groups are involved.

Neil Smith of Winslow Rotary Club was first up followed by Tony Morley of the Winslow Lions.

Bucks AGPM Phil Blacklaw was the last to speak and he pointed out that all three organisations had similar charitable objectives and that could, perhaps, collaborate more in the future.



Phil then went on to present all the work in which Buckinghamshire Freemasonry is involved.

After the presentations, all three organisations had a very productive discussion about how they could help each other going forward.

Food in the Community



For almost ten years Haddenham Lodge has supported the Haddenham community by providing the BBQ at the Summer and Winter Beerfests. The summer event is attended by over four thousand visitors and the members of the Lodge often BBQ some five hundred each of burgers and sausages! All proceeds are donated to local charities. This year's Summer Beerfest took place on 6th July and once again the Lodge members were flying the flag. Lodge members, Lee Buckingham, Geoff Smith, Richard Forrest and Chris Money, preparing for the day.

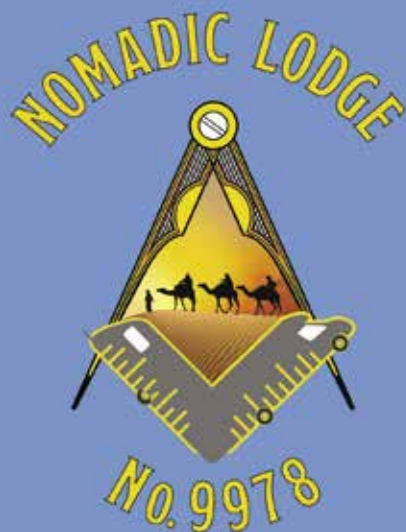


Olly Murray (Worshipful Master) and Hannah Austin presented a united 'Freemasons presence' by serving customers whilst wearing their Freemason styled BBQ aprons!



The Lodge Charity Steward, Lee Buckingham was interviewed for the Red Kite radio station which is based in Haddenham and supports local Freemasonry.

Nomadic Lodge Consecration



A new lodge in Buckinghamshire has been established for freemasons with an interest in caravanning, camping and motorhomes

Nomadic Lodge No. 9978 will meet four times a year both in Buckinghamshire and nearby counties.

The lodge meeting will take place in the nearest masonic hall to the chosen site and will be followed by a festive board or barbeque back at the campsite, which will be open to friends and family members who are attending the event.

The consecration was also unusual as it was held in a large marquee at the showground in Winslow on 14 June 2019, where many of the founders had gathered in an array of caravans and motorhomes. A spectacular ceremony was conducted by the Provincial Grand Master John Clark, with Michael Clanfield installed as the lodge's Primus Master.

Contact nomadic@buckspgl.org for information.



A first for any Masonic Lodge, the consecration of the Nomadic Lodge took place at the showground in Winslow on Friday 14th of June. The new Lodge has been established for those Freemasons with an interest in caravanning, camping and motorhomes. It will meet several times a year both in Buckinghamshire and nearby counties. The Lodge meeting will take place in the nearest Masonic hall to the chosen site and will be followed by a festive board or barbeque back at the campsite which will be open to friends and family members who are attending the event.



Friday's consecration was also unusual as it was held in a large marquee at the showground where many of the founders had gathered in an array of caravans and motorhomes. A spectacular ceremony was conducted by the Provincial Grand Master, John Clark and Worshipful Brother Michael Clanfield was installed as the Lodge's Primus Master.



Over 160 attended the event and the Lodge is keen to welcome members and guests from Buckinghamshire and further afield.

What's Cookin' in Buckingham?

It was time for tea recently when Bucks BMCF representative Andrew Hough visited Buckingham Youth Centre to see the new kitchen and flooring which was installed courtesy of a BMCF grant of £3500. The centre had previously suffered a burst pipe which had flooded several rooms and damaged the kitchen facilities beyond repair causing it to have to close temporarily.

Andrew was welcomed by Katie Cleminson (Deputy Youth Club Leader) and John Barnett (Director/Trustee) who gave him a tour of the centre and showed how the Bucks Freemasons donation had helped.

The Youth Centre is an award-winning charity (Action 4 Youth Organisation of the Year 2018) which provides a safe place for young people between the ages of 11- 19 to socialise, play sports and learn new skills. It also provides work experience, Duke of Edinburgh placements as well as training and mentoring Young Leaders.

The centre is also used by a variety of groups including Young Carers and Clearly Speaking and the new kitchen facilities mean that the teaching of cooking skills to young people with Autism and Aspergers can continue.

The new kitchen also makes the centre more attractive to a wide variety of user groups which will ensure the important work of the centre will continue to be supported.



Katie Cleminson (Deputy Youth Club Leader) and John Barnett (Director/Trustee) sharing a tea.

We're H. A. P. P. Y. with our new trailer



The scouts on one of the first of many adventures with their new trailer.

1st Bourne End Scouts received £500 from the BMCF (Buckinghamshire Masonic Centenary Fund) to help buy a new trailer.

The successful 1st Bourne End Scouts now provides scouting for 250 youngsters in the Bourne End and Marlow areas. Due to their growth, they have had to purchase additional camping equipment to accommodate all the young

people who want to participate in its many activities and events. This has, however, led to a further challenge for the group. All the equipment needs to be transported to the campsites which would be impossible in a car. The group now have a large trailer thanks to Buckinghamshire Freemasons which could be easily towed behind a car or minibus.

Secklow Hundred Entertains...



Earlier this year, Stony Stratford based Lodge Secklow Hundred 9669, had the idea of opening up the lodge to friends and family as part of a white table meeting.

Once the formal meeting itself had concluded, the lodge's guests were treated to a short talk about the various offices in the lodge. For many, it was a first chance to glimpse the inside of a lodge room.

Those who dined were treated to a good range of dinner jazz, sung by Paul French, WM of Verney Lodge and fellow lodge member David Williams. As the diners finished their food, Paul and David got into their stride and moved on to an upbeat and humorous selection of soul, rock 'n' roll, and standards. With the audience happily feet tapping away a few of the brethren stepped forward to join in the act.

The raffle raised £325 which will allow the WM to present a cheque for £500 to the 2021 Festival Fund at the Secklow Hundred installation meeting in September.

The evening was so successful, Secklow Hundred organised a second event in June in support of the Festival Fortnight.



The Pace Centre receiving a cheque for £350 from Chilterns Lodge no 4634, at the Cheque Presentation Event



Learning goes on at a PACE

The Pace Centre recently received a grant from The Buckinghamshire Masonic Centenary Fund for £3,980 enabling it to buy materials to construct a set of bespoke PODD books for ten of its students.

PODD stands for Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display and the books take 24 man-hours to compile. They are used by children with complex communication needs and consist of selected and organised sets of symbols. Many of the students have movement problems in addition to their communication difficulties (such as cerebral palsy) and can select the symbols by eye movement allowing communication with

their communication partner. The advantage of this low- tech system is that it is portable and can be with the student at all times allowing their essential needs to be understood as well as allowing communication with teachers, parents and peers. This can alleviate discomfort, frustration and unhappiness both in the school environment and in and out of the home.

The Pace Centre had two sites in the Aylesbury area and serves children from the whole of Buckinghamshire as well as some from adjoining counties. The school has 34 students on the roll but supports over 300 children. The centre commented that the books will have very heavy use and will need to be expanded as each child's vocabulary increases allowing them to maintain academic progress.



Some of the children the donation for the PODD books has helped, along with Speech and Language Therapist Amy Bennett, Bucks APGM Phil Blacklaw and Andrew Hough BMCF Secretary.



One of The Pace Centre's two sites



Florence Nightingale Hospice

Florence Nightingale Hospice, based in Aylesbury, received a grant of £400 from the MCF which is part of a £600,000 grant made to 237 Hospices across England and Wales.

W. Bro Peter Thomas (MCF Area Rep) presented the certificate on behalf of the MCF to Jo Turner CEO of the charity.

Sue commented "Thank you very much to the Foundation and to Peter

for delivering this generous donation."

The hospice, which is now celebrating its 30th anniversary, has an in-house and day hospice service. In addition, the hospice team also run 'Florries', which is a service specialising in supporting children with life limiting illnesses and their families, in their own homes. The MCF donation has been earmarked for that very important support.

Summer Celebrations

BUCKS
Big Festival
FORTNIGHT

Follow up

The Festival Fortnight culminated with a Celebration Ball at The Double Tree Hotel, Milton Keynes. The RW Provincial Grand Master hosted the largest social event the Province of Buckinghamshire has ever held, with nearly 450 Masons, Family and friends in attendance.



towers, golf days and film nights; the ProvGM congratulated everyone on the diversity of the fundraising as well as the participation of so many lodges and individuals.

The Chief Operating Officer of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, Les Hutchinson, then described how important the Buckinghamshire 2021 Festival was as the first Festival since the amalgamation to one central fund. He explained where and how the money is dispersed, and then congratulated the members of The Province of Buckinghamshire for their continued and ongoing support. Without explanation everyone was asked to bring a bottle, and five wheelbarrows were filled with wine, champagne & spirits and subsequently auctioned, raising over £2500. Adger Brown of Chelsea Lodge then raised the fundraising profile higher with his comedic genius at the main auction, contributing a further £10,000.



Former lead singer of The Drifters, Ray Lewis & his backing band headlined the fantastic entertainment, backed up superbly by warm up acts Heidi Ann and the irrepressible Lionel Vinyl. Ray commented on social media "I had no idea Freemasons did so much and had so much fun doing it, and Buckinghamshire really know how to do it".



The evening proved to be everything a celebration should be, reminding us all of why we are freemasons and why we undertake to make the world around us a better place to be. After an excellent meal, the APGM Gary Brodie welcomed everyone then invited The RW ProvGM John Clark to highlight the events of the fortnight. From Cycling the Province to Rowing the Thames, jumping from aeroplanes and abseiling giant

SKY DIVE

Buckinghamshire Provincial Communications Officer, John Waller's sky dive took place under mainly sunny skies on the 19th May after a cancelled attempt on the 4th May. John describes the whole fundraiser event as a "Fantastic Day!". John was supported on the day by his family who kept their feet firmly on the ground.

John described the jump, "I sat at the door of the plane and the instructor pushed us off, from there it was a simple plummet from 0 to 120 miles per hour in a matter of seconds. The view was spectacular during the freefall and when the chute was deployed, we headed for a cloud that had a hook shaped hole which we drifted through. The remainder of this lovely experience was a gentle float to the ground and an easy landing."

John would like to thank all those who supported him in his fundraising efforts during the Bucks Big Festival Fortnight.



Paddling the Thames



Above: Jack & John Clark

At 6.00am, on Saturday the 15th June the quiet of the morning was broken by the dipping of paddles in the Thames as five intrepid Brethren, the PGM John Clark with Jack Clark, the APM Gary Brodie with Simon Williams, and Peter Lawrence in a single canoe, set off on this, the first 3.2 mile leg, of their 26 mile Festival Challenge.

Passing under Henley bridge, where the carved faces of Old Father Thames and Isis gaze up and downstream respectively, they passed Phyllis Court and the Leander Rowing Club onto the famous Regatta course itself, already laid out for the upcoming Henley festivities. In a mile, they passed Temple Island and then entered a gentle sweep to end the first leg at Hampden Lock. Eager hands of the support team plucked them from the water and transferred the canoes to the other side of the lock.

Muscles now relaxed and warm, off they went, using a steady synchronised rhythm. The next 3.6 miles saw them pass Medmenham Abbey, home of the Hellfire Club, Danesfield, where Vikings once settled, and onto Hurley Lock. Refreshments were handed out, as the canoes were transferred across the neck of the Lock Island and back into the River.

Passing Harleyford Marina, where boats bobbed like white ducks waiting to be fed, they completed the shortest leg of .64 miles to Temple Lock.

The next section took them 1.68 miles to Marlow Lock, passing Bisham Abbey, which belonged to the Knights Templars until 1307 when it was acquired by King Edward II. Marlow

Regatta was in full swing with scullers, in their stick-insect like boats, flashing past to the finish line. Arriving at Marlow Lock, serious refreshment was taken on board; tea, coffee, sandwiches, energy bars, chocolate and water.

Half Way There

All were feeling good as they entered the water for the four miles to Cookham Lock. At the Spade Oak, the paddlers were greeted by John Keeble, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendant of Buckinghamshire and his wife Wendy. At Bourne End they passed the Bounty Inn, where the Summer LOI met last year, and also Bourne End Marina where Thames Mariner Lodge was conceived. On to Cookham and the Ferry Inn, where the NECC had its first ever meeting. At Cookham, it was with a sense of achievement that the canoers celebrated the half way mark.

Important Choices

The next leg of just over two miles took them past Cliveden House, famous for the Profumo scandal and the cottage in the grounds used by Christine Keeler. They were greeted well here by the PGM of Berkshire Anthony Howlett-Bolton. On leaving him behind with a cheerful farewell,

the canoers suddenly stopped and came together as if in trouble. The safety boat held station to offer assistance but was not needed, as they were only changing their music choices on their iPhones! On reaching Boulter's lock, they were greeted by the DPGM Hugh Douglas Smith and Sarah Clark. The DPGM may have been practicing his abseiling down the sides of this, the deepest lock on the Thames.

Under the Bridge

Over the next 2.3 miles to Bray Lock, the paddlers passed under the old bridge at Maidenhead which carries the A4, and under Brunel's brick railway bridge which has the longest brick span of any bridge in the world. Now entering Millionaires row through Bray they passed Sir Michael Parkinsons house and houses once owned by Ernie Wise, Terry Wogan and Gerald Ratner. The Waterside Restaurant, reputed to be Her Majesty the Queens favourite restaurant, rests where the river bends towards Bray Lock and is overlooked by Bray Church where the Vicar of Bray famously changed his religion according to which Monarch was on the throne.

The 3.17 mile stretch to Boveney Lock passes under the M4, past the abandoned Old Bray Film Studios, which now resembles a crumbling dried out cake, and then Oakley Court Hotel, which featured in the Hammer House of Horror series and St Trinians. At Boveney Lock a rest for refreshment and the greeting of friends was taken, with the PGM of Berkshire and his dogs turning up for a second round of support.



Above: the support crew working hard.

The next leg of 2.3 miles took the paddling team by Windsor Racecourse and then around a series of bends to the magnificent view of Windsor Castle brooding under leaden skies. Passing Eton on the left bank, they reached Romney Lock which was manned for many years by Bill Stacey the current Worshipful Master of Marlow Valley Lodge.

The Final Stretch

Serious refreshment was taken on here, including the cracking of several bottles of beer to fortify the intrepid team for the last 3 miles to the finish. Back in the water, and with resolve and determination, the paddling team supported each other on this last leg, offering encouragement to each other so that everyone arrived at the finish line together.

A worthy reception group cheered them on, and congratulations and jubilation greeted the weary but plucky marathon canoers of The Province of Buckinghamshire. The glow of a job well done pervaded the air, and with over £7000 raised so far for the Bucks 2021 Festival, this was indeed a mammoth feat of endurance and tenacity, with richly deserves the congratulations of us all.



The full support crew and team, pictured above.

BUCKS Big Festival FORTNIGHT

Follow up

St Martins Lodge Festival Bowls Night



St Martins Lodge based at the Bletchley Masonic centre held a bowls night at Bletchley Leisure Centre to raise funds for the Bucks Festival Fortnight. Thirty players took part playing on four rinks in teams of four.

All games were played in the best sporting spirit, even though some players had never seen a bowl – called "a wood" – before!

St Martins members wives provided the tea and cakes. Players bought raffle prizes. By the end of the evening, £300 had been raised for the Bucks Festival. The winning team was presented with a Trophy by the St Martins WM Raymond Crossley.

The captain of the winning team pictured below, was Captain Alan Bindle the team members being Brian Bristow, Roger Tyerman, Tony Martin from the BMBA (Bucks Bowls Association) who beat the St Martins Meddlers 27-5 in the allotted time.



GREAT FILM, GREAT PEOPLE AND GREAT FUNDRAISING

The Festival Fortnight kicked off with the open air showing of Bohemian Rhapsody in the gardens of Heatherden Hall, Pinewood Studios, Iver on Friday 7th June 2019.

260 tickets had been sold and over 200 came out on what could have been a very wet night but we amazingly dodged the rain and settled in to a great evening.

Everyone was suitably dressed in case of showers but managed to enjoy the picnic and drinks brought with us in the company of great people in a great setting.



Organised by the Provincial Grand Registrar, W.Bro. David Durn and Bro. Andrew Smith, Charity Steward of Denham Green Lodge 9636 and a Director of Pinewood Studios. Pinewood had kindly donated the gardens, screen, toilet facilities and staffing at no cost to the Province but at considerable cost and time to themselves to assist in charitable fundraising. **The evening raised over £5,000 for the Festival and was a great success.**

A big thank you to everyone who braved the weather and turned out and to Pinewood for giving us this amazing opportunity.

Velocity 2 Zip-wire descent

AsstProvGM Tony Robinson and the ProvGSec Barry Sparks accompanied by their wives, Jean and Julianna, travelled up to Penrhyn Quarry, Snowdonia, for their intrepid Festival Challenge.

They successfully rode the 'Velocity 2' zip-wire run, the longest and fastest in Europe, almost one mile long and a vertical descent of over five hundred feet at speeds well over 100 mph!

They were strapped into a harness and suspended from the cable and, even whilst dangling at the top of the run and unable to see the landing area far, far below, they could still manage a "For the Festival" and "Think again" cheer as they were released and



plummeted head first along the zip-wire down and over the quarry lake.

The total donations raised were very close to their target of £3,000 and their appreciation and thanks go to everyone who supported and sponsored them. On the day they were also supported by our ProvGM John Clark and his wife Sarah, who had driven up from Buckinghamshire.

BUCKS Big Festival FORTNIGHT

Follow up

GOING DOWN!

In one of several daredevil feats by the Buckinghamshire Provincial Executive Team, Bucks Deputy Provincial Grand Master Hugh Douglas Smith, along with the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Phil Blacklaw were convinced to abseil down the old Northamptonshire Lift Tower to raise money for the Bucks Masonic 2021 Festival.



The lift tower stands a daunting 420 feet high and it was with some reservations the intrepid duo ascended to its summit. Indeed, Hugh readily admitted to a cunning plan to avoid the adventure by attempting to eat enough to make himself too heavy for the ropes, thus preventing his participation! Fortunately the ropes had been upgraded and allowed those of a much greater size than Hugh to take part!

Meanwhile, Phil had taken the precaution of not telling his nearest and dearest of his planned descent, so they received a lovely surprise on the day.

On what was a lovely June afternoon, both men arrived unscathed at the foot of the tower having raised over £2,500 for the 2021 Charity Festival.



Cycling the Province

BUCKS Big Festival FORTNIGHT

Follow up



Ewan Gordon, Secretary of Verney Lodge, himself a seasoned charity challenge participant, invited members of Verney, Wineslai and Grenville Lodge to undertake a 'pleasant ride around the Province'.

Between Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th of June, six riders and three support crew made that trip visiting every meeting centre in the Province:

- **Steve Weingart**
Grenville Lodge
- **Grae Laws**
Verney and Eric Deung
- **Simon ODell**
Verney and Wineslai
- **Steve Acton**
Saxon and Verney
- **Frank Byrne**
Verney
- **Ian Bamsey**
Verney, Wineslai and Eric Deung

Supported by: *Steve Acton, Robin Harding, Carol Bamsey and Ewan Gordon.*

Day one began in Slough, cool air and an overcast sky that threatened rain could have deterred the faint of heart. However, when it comes to charitable pursuits, Freemasons are a determined bunch. The team received

a great send off from The Provincial Grandmaster and Deputy Provincial Grandmaster. Throughout the day the PGM and his wife, Sarah, rode with us on their motorbike – there was much slipstreaming to be done...



65 miles later, having stopped off at Slough, Denham, Beaconsfield, Marlow, Penn, Great Kimble (The Chiltern Hills are relentless...) and Thame (much welcomed coffee and a Danish pastry). They finally arrived in Aylesbury at 4pm receiving a warm welcome from the ever cheerful Lloyd Harrison. Special thanks to Stephens Lodge in Marlow who 'called off' their meeting to allow the team to gate crash their meeting for photos with the WM, members and guests.

Day two proved to be equally rewarding as their 55 mile journey started in Aylesbury and stopped off at Linslade, Bletchley (tyre blow out that made people on the high street duck for cover), Little Horwood, Winslow, Buckingham, Stony Stratford, Wolverton, Newport Pagnell (had a pint of ale!) and finally reaching Olney at 3.30pm. They picked up Mike Clanfield for part of the ride, choosing the hardest stretch in which to ride with us.

For some of the riders this had been the first time that they had visited the centres and in recognition of this, the team prepared a special Masonic passport that was signed by a greeting party at every centre. Team leader of the NECC, David Winterburn met them at Winslow and informed the riders that should they be able to make a meeting at the Buckinghamshire room in Freemasons Hall, they would all receive a set of the prized NECC cufflinks.

So far, the lodge have raised £830 for this epic adventure, with all participants feeling that effort was worth it. The general was consensus was – 'So what's next?'.

The answer was quickly forthcoming as they celebrated on Sunday evening back in Winslow with a pie and a pint at the Bell Hotel!

St Barnabas Jewel Presentation

St Barnabas, number 948, met at the wonderful Gables Hall temple in July and carried out a 3rd-degree ceremony, raising Bro Jack Muir to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

One agenda item was to present Honorary Jewels to those brethren who had achieved particular levels of personal donation towards the Bucks 2021 Festival.

The Jewels were presented by W Bro Mike Clanfield, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, who was accompanied at the meeting by W Bro Phil Blacklaw, Bucks APGM.



Members of St Barnabas proudly showing their new jewels.

St Barnabas Lodge have, together, raised over £10,000 to date towards the Festival, and their fundraising efforts continue with a Race Night later in the month, with further events being planned.

Mike spoke passionately about the objectives of the festival and the different ways of helping reach its objectives.

St Barnabas Charity Steward W Bro Andy Cross said: "We are determined to do the very best we can for the Festival, and knowing the generous nature of our members, I have no doubt we will achieve great things over the next couple of years".

Thames Hospice receives £60,000 from Freemasons



Buckinghamshire and Berkshire Freemasons have teamed up with the MCF to give Thames Hospice a £60,000 donation.

These two neighbouring provinces have collaborated with the central masonic charity, the Masonic Charitable Foundation ("the MCF") to enable this significant sum to be donated for the benefit of the community.

Thames Hospice, currently based on Hatch Lane in Windsor, will use the donation to help towards the build of two dedicated rooms in the new £22 million hospice currently under construction by Bray Lake. These will be quiet areas for reflection and remembering loved ones as well as offering help and advice.

Thames Hospice first opened in Windsor in 1987 but is now no longer able to keep up with the increasing number of people who need their care and services. As well as seeing more patients, the charity is also dealing with more complex and challenging medical conditions. In 2017 the Hospice was granted planning permission to build a brand new state-of-the-art facility, increasing inpatient beds from 17 to 28, as well as providing a dedicated space for therapeutic and social activities to support patients. The new hospice will open in summer 2020.

Buckinghamshire Freemasons have charitable funds they use to support people and charities within their distinct areas. This is the first time they have combined their efforts with Berkshire and the MCF, specifically to support one organisation.

The MCF is the central charitable arm of Freemasons in England and Wales. It is one of the largest grant giving organisations in the UK and makes donations that not only support freemasons and their families but many other charitable organisations in the UK and overseas as well. In 2018 it continued to support, with significant funds, hospices throughout the UK.

Debbie Raven, Chief Executive Thames Hospice said: "I cannot thank the Freemasons enough for their generous support towards our new hospice. This donation comes on top of several others from their Charitable Funds and the incredible support they have given us over many years. It will make a significant difference to our patients and their families."

John Clark, Provincial Grand Master of Buckinghamshire said, "The Freemasons of Buckinghamshire are delighted to be part of this joint initiative supporting the essential work performed by Thames Hospice. We look forward to establishing a long term and fruitful relationship with them."

MEGS Consecrates New Chapter in Suffolk!



Our ME Grand Superintendent John Keeble was invited to take part in the consecration of a new Chapter in the Royal Arch Province of Suffolk, by the ME Grand Superintendent of Suffolk, David Boswell.

The consecration of the new Chapter "Sparta No 9771" was very special as the consecration team was our ME Grand Superintendent as J, The ME Grand Superintendent of Bedfordshire Z, The ME Grand Superintendent of Hertfordshire was H and Scribe N was the MEGS of Norfolk.

The consecration took place on Friday 2nd of August 2019 at the Masonic Centre, Bury St Edmunds on a beautiful and warm summer day and over 140 Royal Arch Companions gathered to witness the consecration.

In attendance there were seven Grand Superintendents, eight Deputy Grand Superintendents and many heads of other orders. David Boswell, MEGS of Suffolk was installed as founding MEZ, Ian Yeldham, PGM of Suffolk was installed as founding H and Bill Dasture, MEGS & PGM of Cambridge was installed as founding J.

The new Chapter was sponsored by the Laconic Lodge No 9771 with a total of 28 Founders. One of the basic precept of Laconic Lodge is brevity and so Sparta Chapter has continued in this vein with the motto "*Per breviloquium*" meaning "*Through brevity of speech*"

The whole consecration ceremony was a wonderful mix of sincerity, humour and of course brevity!

TRAVELLING ALTAR OF COMPANIONSHIP

On Saturday the 1st of June, the Travelling Altar of Companionship arrived at a regular meeting of the Princes Risborough Chapter No 5203. The meeting was held at the Thame Masonic Centre. The Travelling Altar of Companionship was accompanied by members of Oliver Chapter No 2812 who had received the Altar at their last meeting from members of Roman Way Chapter No 9533.

The Travelling Altar has increased visiting between Chapters and the further enjoyment of companionship. In recent years Princes Risborough Chapter has been expanding its membership at a fast rate its membership, at this meeting the expansion continued with a double exaltation James Wells of



Princes Risborough Chapter receive the Travelling Altar of Companionship from Oliver Chapter, Comp James Wells, H Paul Brissenden-Hemstock Z George Lambert, J Peter Bennet, Comp Stephen Smith.

Wendover Lodge and Stephen Smith, of Hughenden Lodge were exalted in to the Chapter in a well worked ceremony, led by First Principal George Lambert.

The meeting was followed by a superb festive board, good cheer, good companionship. A wonderful masonic occasion.

ROYAL ARCH



EXCHANGE VISIT FROM THE ROYAL ARCH PROVINCE OF WILTSHIRE

One of the highlights of the year as an acting Provincial Royal Arch Officer of the year, is the Exchange visits between Provinces where both Provincial Teams meet at a private chapter within one of the Provinces. In the last few years Buckinghamshire Royal Arch has exchange with Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, Bristol, Gloucestershire & Herefordshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

At a regular meeting of Herschel Chapter to be held at the Slough Masonic Centre on Thursday the 7th of November 2019, our M E Grand Superintendent John Keeble, accompanied by his executive and acting officers of the year, are to have the pleasure of hosting a fraternal exchange visit to the Royal Arch Province of Buckinghamshire, from the Royal Arch Province of Wiltshire.

The visit to Buckinghamshire will be led by the M E Grand Superintendent of Wiltshire, John Reid, accompanied by his executive and acting officers of the year.

If you would like to attend and take part in this wonderful opportunity of fraternal friendship as displayed in the Royal Arch, please contact our Provincial Assistant Grand Scribe E, **Mel Shah**.

A Date for your Diary

Provincial Grand Chapter of Buckinghamshire annual Convocation is to be held on Monday 23rd of March 2020



Luckily Nobody was Beheaded or Hung Drawn and Quartered!

W. Bro. Pat Miller of Iver Lodge No. 5254), arranged a private tour of the Tower of London.

Sixty-four Freemasons, partners and guests took part in the tour on the evening of Saturday, June 8th. A fantastic **£2650** was raised for good causes.

The tour was conducted by W. Bro. Terry Briggs who is a Past Master of Iver Lodge and one of the current 37 Yeomans at the Tower.

After a very informative tour which included a detailed history of the Tower's historical occupants and gory past, they were privileged to witness the Ceremony of the Keys which dates back more than 770 years.

The guests then retired to the "Keys" for refreshments.

This is the Yeomen's private bar and they very kindly donated a number of raffle prizes which enabled £670 to be raised.

An additional £500 was added from the proceeds of the event and this was donated to the Yeoman's Charity of choice, leaving a balance of £1480 which will be donated to the Bucks 2021 Festival.



Neeld No 3720 Garden Party

On June 22nd The Neeld Lodge had a very successful garden party in aid of the Buckinghamshire Festival. There was a great turn out of approximately 130 people including children, and the entertainment was exceptional. Everyone had a jolly good time.

A special thank you to all of those that contributed towards supporting and paying for the food, drink, cabaret and raffle and those members also who gave up their time in helping to run the event, namely Paul Penton, Mike Symons (who provided and manned the pizza oven) Bobby Brown (for the loan of the barbecue), Andy Tate and their respective partners.



The lodge raised £745 from the members which went a long way in purchasing the supplies that were needed for the event. The raffle went exceedingly well, raising £535. Ticket sales raised £1,615, allowing us to raise a grand total of £2,150 for the benefit of the Buckinghamshire Festival Charities.



The Bucks Classic Car Lodge Installation

The Bucks Classic Car Lodge had a very special installation recently at Brooklands race track.

Bucks Provincial Grand Master R W John Clark was installed in the chair of King Solomon.

After a very successful ceremony a white table was held. Over 130 Freemasons, Wives and partners attended.

NORTH EAST CORNER CLUB (NECC)

The North East Corner Club NECC is the Light Blue Club within Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Lodge which champions the journey which light blue Masons will take in the Province. The ethos of the club being;

Nurture – Equip – Communicate – Champion.

We are now coming out of the traditional Masonic summer break period and the NECC have continued to be busy during this time with a couple of events held, including;

- Taking your first steps with ritual workshop, held at The Bell Hotel in Winslow on the 27th of July 2019. This was well attended and was designed to help the Brethren build confidence and to learn some basic tips and hints on how to learn your first pieces of basic ritual.

Now that the Masonic season is starting to gather speed, the NECC has been active at a number of Lodge meetings, including;

- Brentham Lodge, No. 4980 at the Beaconsfield Masonic Centre on the 7th September 2019, where they held a First Degree ceremony for Bro. Chris Warman, who was presented a NECC pack during the Second Rising, by the NECC Team Leader, Bro. David Winterburn.

- Quarterly Communications Meeting at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London on the 11th September 2019.

There are a number of exciting NECC events coming up, including;

- Army and Navy Lodge, No. 2738 on the 21st October 2019, where they will be holding a meeting actually in the Buckinghamshire Room at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street. This will be a fantastic opportunity to get your NECC Passport signed.
- Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Lodge AGM at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London on the 28th October 2019, where again, the NECC will have a table outside the main doors to the Grand Temple. Please come and visit us to sign up to join the NECC or just to have a chat.

- Royal Arch Introduction presentation at the Slough Masonic Centre in January 2020.
- Upton Manor Lodge, No. 5115 at the Marlow Masonic Centre on the 1st February 2020, where a NECC presentation on The Roles of Officers will be given

The NECC continues to support the junior Brethren within the Buckinghamshire Province and as you can see, there are some good interesting NECC events coming up. If you would like to join the NECC or have any ideas for an event, please sign up using the North East Corner Club Team App. Just download Team App from the Apple or Google Play App Store.

Sign up to Team App and follow the instructions sent to you by email. You can also contact the NECC on NECC@buckspgl.org and we look forward to hearing from you.

Instagram



The Buckinghamshire Instagram page continues to go from strength to strength since being launched just a few months ago.

The account has just shy of 1,000 followers drawn from across the globe, already making it one of the most popular provincial accounts on the platform. Pictures are often re-shared by the United Grand

Lodge of England's page which is a great endorsement of the quality of the content that is being shared on from the Provincial account.

This page gives potential candidates a view of exactly what freemasonry in Buckinghamshire is all about and will in time become an important recruiting tool for us. Thoughts echoed at the recent Social Media workshop where it was confirmed that more and more

young people (20 - 39 years old) are utilising this form of social media and confirming why this is such an important communication tool for us.

We will continue to keep the content up-to-date and relevant and would once again urge anyone reading this article to e-mail any relevant content that you think would be appropriate to share to buckspglinstagram@gmail.com



Above: Those present at the meeting. Inset: R.W. John Clark presenting the New Masters collar to W. Bro Derek Watts.

Bucks Provincial Stewards Lodge 100th meeting

The Buckinghamshire Stewards Lodge no 9222 held their 100th meeting on Saturday the 11th of May 2019 at the Marlow Masonic Centre.

The Lodge was consecrated on the 14th March 1987, the current Worshipful Master being Derek Watts.

Bucks Provincial Grand Master John Clark occupied the Master's chair and presented the current Worshipful Master with his new regalia. Bucks Provincial Deputy Grand Master Hugh Douglas-Smith then presented

new regalia to the Senior Warden and Bucks Assistant Provincial Grand Master Gary Brodie presented new regalia to the Junior Warden.

The rest of the officers then rose in turn to receive their new regalia. In every case, the Officers of the Lodge accepted the regalia on behalf of the Officer who had received it at the Consecration of the Lodge.

After the meeting, the Members of the Lodge, partners and guests met at the Leander Club in Henley on Thames for a white table. After a sumptuous luncheon, they were entertained by an after-dinner talk by W. Bro. Richard Anderson about his life at Sandhurst Military Academy.



Master of the Bucks Provincial Stewards Lodge no 9222 W. Bro Derek Watts with W. Bro Dr John Rawstron who was Master of the Lodge in 1998.



Introducing Mr William (Bill) Vine

Mr William Vine is 91 years old and will be Initiated in the Herschel Lodge 1894 at the Slough Masonic Centre, 5pm on 15th October 2019. William's Grandson W.Bro Julian Keen Prov SGD (Designate) will be performing the ceremony.

After a full and active life William retired aged 55 and surviving 3 wives, he moved to America in 2003 at the age of 75 to marry Ms Marian Coch age 47.

After the sad and sudden death of his wife during Christmas 2017 William moved back to England with the help of his Grandson and is now living with

Julian and his partner Amanda.

William expressed an interest in joining Freemasonry after attending several social functions and enjoying the company of "likeminded" people. He will be the oldest initiate to grace the carpet at Slough and possibly even in England (records to be checked of course).

Come and see this spectacular event and show this wonderful man what it means to be a Brother amongst us all. To Book your place please contact juliankeen79@gmail.com

Bournemouth Zip Wire

Martin Wolfe, Charity Steward of Magiovinivm Lodge No 8091, along with his wife Linda were attending a Ladies Festival in Bournemouth. During a conversation it was suggested that they both try the Bournemouth PierZip to raise funds for the 2021 Festival. The PierZip stretches 250m from the end of Bournemouth Pier, 25m above the sea, ending at the beach.

Martin explained that he was both an OAP and frightened of heights so maybe this was not the challenge for him, but his protestations were in vain and after a couple of drinks he agreed that he and his wife would do it. The tricky part was explaining to Linda that she had also volunteered.

Showing her support Linda agreed to accompany Martin down the zip wire. Their flight was a great success and together they managed to raise £420.



Heatherden Mini Cheque Presentation Evening



Pictured from left to right APGM Gary Brodie, W. Bro Nigel Powell the previous Charity Steward, Chloe Greaves, Valerie Butler, WM Gary Strickland and previous master Peter Taylor.

There were beaming smiles at the Slough Centre when Heatherden Lodge presented cheques to the previous four Worshipful Masters' chosen charities following their March meeting. £11,000 had already been donated to the 2021 Festival and other charities from their lists over the previous four years. On the evening an additional £12,000 was presented to Gary Brodie APM for

the 2021 Festival (£6,318), Valerie Butler representing Macmillan Cancer Support (£1,768) and Chloe Greaves along with her parents Catherine and Gary, representing Thames Valley Adventure Playground. Unfortunately, Shooting Star Chase, the recipients of £1,384 were unable to attend. After the presentations the honoured guests joined the members in the bar.



Bletchley Litter Pick

Members of St Giles Lodge based in Bletchley, donned their high-vis jackets and spent a Saturday morning picking up litter along Watling Street (From St Martins Church to the Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout).

They collected a hefty 8 bags of rubbish, including such items as a cup from a bra, a baby's dummy and a pair of underpants!

Master of the lodge, Michael Perkins said "we enjoyed each other's company whilst doing something for the community, I would like to thank the members of St Giles that gave up their Saturday morning to support me".

SPORTS

Match Report: BMBA v Aylesbury Town

This was a game between Aylesbury Town and the Bucks Masonic Bowls Association and it took part on Tuesday 28th May.

"What a great game at Aylesbury on Tuesday. The weather was kind and the rain held off all afternoon. The result could not have been closer and really came down to the last end of the last game! Unfortunately, we lost by 79-78 points, a really sterling effort by everyone especially as it was their home ground.

We had two winning rinks out of five, the highest skipped by Colin Sear with Dot Simmons, David Lord and Colin Ware, they won 22-14, so very well done. Ted Choulerton had the other winning team with a score of 21-18, considering this team had a combined age of over 325 (I was the boy at 72) it was a great result. Thanks again to everyone who played. Thanks to Roger for collecting the money and sorting out the charity money which raised 38 pounds. Thanks again to Peter Davis for raising the flag. We did actually have a couple of winners on the raffle and Aylesbury supplied us with a great meal. Very good hosts.

Attached you will find the team for the Flackwell Heath game on Thursday 6th June at 2,00pm. Dress Whites. We have a team of 16 so if anyone is unable to play please let me know as soon as possible.

Hopefully we can actually score a win this time as the two previous games have been just so close. Thank you everyone for your great support.

Look forward to seeing you all again on Thursday."

Ken Tucker (President)

Bucks Masonic Bowls Association



We won - hooray!

Absolutely delighted that we had our first win with me actually playing. We beat Bucks VPs 71-57 so a great result. We played in good conditions, the weather was not too hot, the greens were good and we enjoyed a very nice meal afterwards.

Our highest rink was skipped by Ted Choulerton supported by his wife Phyl and Chris Tumbridge. They won 22-13. We had another two winning rinks and the last rink was all square after 17 ends, but they unfortunately lost by one point.

The competition raised £24, the raffle £25 and Margaret Hearn's lovely cakes raised another £20. Considering we only had 24 players on the rinks this was again an excellent result. Ted put in an extra pound to make it an even figure of 70 pounds.

Once again thank you all for attending at Stoney Stratford and for playing such a good game.

**Ken Tucker
(President)**

The Rose Bowl

At Wednesday's match against Berkshire MBA, they brought along the Rose Bowl which is played for annually between the two Provincial Masonic Bowling Associations. The Rose Bowl was presented about 30 years ago by the widow of former BMBA member W. Bro Jim Davis in loving memory of her husband. At the time, Jim was the Assistant Provincial Grand Master for the Buckinghamshire Province.

Over the past 30 years, or so, Bucks have only won the Bowl on two occasions, in 1991 and 1994. So it is 25 years since we last had possession of it.

As Ken said in his report, it is most unlikely that we will recover from a 52 shot deficit in the second leg of the contest this year, which I trust will be as usual, at the start of the next indoor



season in October, away in Berkshire.

I took the opportunity to take a photograph of this magnificent rose bowl (I'm sorry, but the reflections somewhat distract from its splendour) and in sending you a copy, I am hoping it will inspire us to strive that much harder to once again win this trophy in the very near future.



St Giles Putt & Pint

Great fun was had by all when St Giles held a Putt & Pint event at the Abbey Hill Pirate adventure golf course. The St Giles WM Michael Perkins, his wife Jenny and their children dressed as pirates to set the mood. Thirty lodge members, family and friends met up to play a round of mini golf and raise funds for the 2021 Festival Fortnight. The rain held off allowing the children and adults to have a great time playing the various obstacles. Afterwards, it was back to the bar where a raffle was held raising £170 for the Festival.

Wraysbury Lodge Brave the Heat

Wraysbury Lodge No 8689 held a Charity Golf Day at Lambourne Golf Club on what turned out to be the second hottest day in UK recorded history.



This didn't stop over 50 players taking part in what was a very enjoyable days golf, everyone survived the heat to enjoy a splendid lunch afterwards.

The event was kindly sponsored by John Murphy, himself a member of Wraysbury Lodge. Gary Brodie APGM attended and presented the prizes to the deserved winners.

The Men's overall winner was Neil Ashby and the Ladies overall winner was Sophie Blackmore. Gary then kindly acted as auctioneer to realise some fantastic winning bids for the auction items.

This was followed by a raffle and the event raised a whopping £3,600 for the 2021 Festival. Gary Brody thanked everybody for attending and John Murphy in particular for his generous sponsorship.

He also said that it showed what a relatively small Lodge can do to support the 2021 Festival and was sure there would be even more players next year. He is already booked in!

Bucks Masonic Golf Society



Above: Bucks Masonic Golf Society at Huntswood GC for the first meeting in June 2019.

Huntswood Golf Day

A hardy band of Brothers met at Huntswood G.C. in April for the first meeting of Bucks Masonic Golf Society in 2019. The weather was kind and the day was enjoyed by all. The course was in excellent condition and there were some good scores returned. The day was topped off with a light meal and a beer.

The match was won by a new society member for 2019, Steve Long who was only initiated into Freemasonry in November 2018. Our Captain Stan Green had much pleasure in presenting Steve with the trophy.

This was the first meeting of a packed series of competitions in 2019.

Inter-Lodge competition at Wycombe Heights

May 21st, a gloriously sunny day, the Society held the Inter-Lodge competition at Wycombe Heights. Although called the Inter-Lodge competition it is open to any Masonic order based in Buckinghamshire.

The competition was won by one of this year's new members, Mike Kitching with his partner Dino Borge (guest) representing Neleus Chapter. This competition was a close-run thing, the winners taking the victory by just one point.

All who took part, enjoyed the day followed by a soothing cool beverage and a two-course dinner. Following the dinner our Captain Stan Green presented Mike and Dino with the Inter-Lodge Shield.

The Derek Trice Memorial Trophy competition at Harleyford Golf Club

After 3 weeks without rain, the heavens opened on 19th July when the society held the Derek Trice Memorial Trophy competition at Harleyford Golf Club. Fortunately, the rain stopped before the first tee time and after a well-fought match, John Elliott of the Scientific Lodge proved victorious. Fear not, his golfing handicap will be given a severe haircut.

After a great day on the golf course, followed by a soothing beverage we enjoyed a great meal and convivial company.

We were privileged that Shirley Trice, Derek's widow, was able to join us after golf to present the trophy to John.

After the usual prize giving and raffle, Stan Green thanked all for a very successful day said how much he was looking forward to the last few competitions of 2019, this being his final year as Captain.

Our Captain Stan Green sends you all his best wishes and looks forward to enjoying your company on the golf course and to continue our charitable efforts throughout the year.



Above: Shirley Trice presenting trophy to John Elliott

Cheque Presentation Event Held at the Holiday Inn Aylesbury

Charities small and large recently gathered to attend The Bucks Masonic Cheque presentation event which took place in new surroundings.

Still in Aylesbury, the event took place at the Holiday Inn on the outskirts of the town. It was held in the afternoon, instead of its usual evening slot and was attended by both the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, Mrs Julia Upton MBE and the new Mayor of Aylesbury Mike Smith.

Among the many recipients was Aylesbury Women's Aid who received a cheque for £800 from W Bro Martin Lucas on behalf of Cymbeline Lodge. The centre shelters and supports women and children escaping domestic violence. April Benson, who received the cheque on behalf of the centre, reported that the money would be used to arrange trips out and activities for children which would help them enjoy simple pleasures that have been lacking in the difficult situation in which they found themselves.



W Bro Martin Lucas presenting cheque to April Benson

Attending the recent Bucks Masonic cheque presentation event in Aylesbury recently was Mr and Mrs Darayus Motivala, representing the MS Centre at Wendover. Mr Motivala spoke about the way Multiple Sclerosis progressively affects many functions of the body, impairing mobility, dexterity and even speech. The centre at Wendover seeks to assist sufferers with the things the NHS cannot provide such as ongoing physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and counselling. It also seeks to assist with the needs of the carers. All this comes at a cost of £1.1 million a year, of which only 5% is NHS funded the rest must come from fundraising. Peter Thomas of Vale Lodge presented a cheque for £500 to continue Bucks Masons support for the centre over recent years.



Top: (from left) Mayor of Aylesbury Mike Smith, Mrs Julia Upton MBE and R. W. Bro. John Clark.

Val and Jon Corteen attended the event with their dog, representing Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. Val explained the many ways the dogs assist their owners in everyday life with each dog costing £47,000 over its lifetime to train and maintain. The scheme received a cheque for £2000 from W Bro Paul Dixon of Denham Green Lodge.



Val and Jon Corteen with W Bro Paul Dixon

Rob Thomas from Amersham Lodge presented a cheque for £500 to Missenden Walled Gardens which supports young people with learning disabilities, providing help and experience to enable participants to access employment opportunities.



Rob Thoma presenting check to Missendem Walled gardens.

PACE representative, Carolyn Bennett, spoke about the difference early intensive support can make to children suffering from Cerebral Palsy and the ongoing support provided by a school established to aid development.



PACE Representatives with Stuart McCurry (left) and John Morris (Right).

She received a cheque for £350 from Stuart McCurry and John Morris of Chilterns Lodge.

Buckinghamshire Freemasons donated £1000 to buy new strips and footballs for the Waterhall Stars under 11 football team earlier this year. George Watt and Sue Redband attended the Buckinghamshire Masonic Cheque presentation Event to report on the effect the donation has made to the team. Waterhall Stars, which draws its young players from a deprived area of Milton Keynes, were in need of new strip which the grant from the BMCF allowed them to buy. George explained to the audience the remarkable rise in morale experienced by the team culminating in cup success this season. In his first speech as Mayor, Mike Smith, commented on the success of the occasion and the huge variety of charities who had benefitted. Over the course of the afternoon in excess of £120,000 was received by over 20 different charities.



So far this year, Marlow Ladies have had a busy and exciting time!

Following our very successful cheese and wine evening in February, our first outing of the year was to The Kings Road and then onto the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.



Here, one of the pensioners gave an escorted tour which proved very interesting and amusing.

April arrived and brought with it, our first taste of Spring and an entertaining and very intriguing talk, by Malcolm Nelson, entitled "40 years of catching smugglers"!!

So, onwards through May, when we ventured eastwards to Saffron Walden and Audley End House. Beautiful weather only enhanced the charms of this market town and beautiful house.

This trip was closely followed by our annual charity lunch. Harleyford Golf Club in Marlow hosted superbly and everyone enjoyed an excellent 3 course lunch, with all the usual accompaniments. Whilst having a wonderful afternoon, the ladies and their guests also raised £640 towards

our charity - 'Admiral Nurses', who not only give support to dementia patients, but also their families too.

So, what's next?

- October 22nd - Our AGM and talk entitled 'Failed to Return', will be held at Liston Hall, Marlow
- November 26th - Well, we are currently putting the final arrangements together for visit to Winchester Christmas Market and maybe even a gin factory tour!

Fancy joining us?

We are a friendly, sociable club and we are always pleased to welcome new members. (Non-members are welcome to our events, but our members get 'first dibs' and preferential rates!) We look forward to seeing you!

If you would like more information please contact either the Club Chairperson Christine Dyckes on 01494 814991 or the Club Secretary Trudy Weller on 01494 817205, or email tweller34@gmail.com

▪ BLETCHLEY LADIES LUNCH CLUB

Bletchley Masonic Centre Ladies Lunch Club are now on their summer break. Our next meeting will be on the second Thursday in September at the Bletchley Queensway Masonic Centre.

The club had three very enjoyable and different meetings during March, April and May. In March we had a lively quiz. Members split into teams of four or more, and Pat Hodges our quiz master had a very varied sets of rounds to test us all.

April's meeting commenced with an EGM, due to the unexpected retirement of the Chairman. Denny the Club Secretary was proposed and seconded to take on the role of Chairman until the AGM in November. Other positions were filled from within the committee. Chris Day from Buckingham Garden Centre spoke on the subject "House Plants Made Easy". Chris brought along

a wonderful selection of house plants, and talked us through how to look after them, which ones liked shade, light, sun etc. Plants were on sale at the end.

In May we were thrilled to have Christine Wallace, a previous Great British Bake Off contestant. She regaled us with the ups and downs of being a contestant on such a popular programme, and her amusing tales kept us all enthralled.

Our programme is planned for the coming months, and into 2020, with some very interesting and entertaining guest speakers to look forward to. During the past three months we supported Milton Keynes Homeless with a collection of clothes, bedding, towels etc. The support from members was tremendous. Also we regularly support Milton Keynes Food Cupboard, and in May a



collection of suitable food items were donated by members for this worthwhile cause.

Donations were made to two charities chosen by our members. The beneficiaries this year were Keech Cottage Children's Hospice, based in Luton, but covering the Milton Keynes area, and Alzheimers MK.

New members are always welcome at our meetings. If you would like to come as a guest initially, or find out more about our meetings then please do contact me. Denny Dorrell, Chairman BMCLLC tel: 01908 397338

Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital



WM Michael Read of Cowper & Newton Lodge no 2244 presented a cheque to Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital in Haddenham recently.

Mike and his wife Joan were given a full tour of the hospital including areas which are normally restricted to regular visitors.

There is a common misconception that Tiggywinkles treat only hedgehogs, in fact they treat every British wild animal and the work they do is truly amazing. During our visit the resident vet was mending the leg of a baby blue tit. With so much of our wildlife in danger I am glad as a lodge we could support them.



75th D-Day Anniversary Celebration

Cymbeline Lodge 9004 celebrated the 75th D-Day Anniversary with a lunch at the Bell Hotel in Winslow.

The event was hosted by lodge member and member of Chelsea Lodge 3098 W. Bro Eugene Matthias.

After an enjoyable lunch, there was a show with lots of fun, laughter, flag waving, and audience participation.

The show included entertainers Eugene together with singers Sue Coombs and Kevin Taylor.

Sue is the widow of a Cymbeline Past Master W. Bro Chris Coombs and is an opera singer but had not sung since he died 4 years ago. Singing with Kevin was a major event in her life. Performing in front of the Brethren of the lodge, many of whom she had not seen since her husband's death was wonderful. To see her back singing again and entertaining the audience for a good cause was a delight for all.

Over £900 was raised for the Festival Fortnight.

Supporting the MNDA

W.Bro Bob Clements has decided that the Motor Neurone Disease Association would be the main charity on his Master's List as he embarks upon a second year in the chair of Marlow Bridge Lodge 8616.

With overwhelming support from all the members of his Lodge he was able to present volunteers Janet and Cyndy, from the Chilterns branch of MNDA, a cheque for £2,625 to enable them to continue their excellent work helping victims of this devastating condition.

When Bob's wife's good friend, Sue was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, inevitably it was a sad blow to her, the family and to her friends.

Whilst it is a challenging illness, treatments are available to help relieve the symptoms and maintain quality of life. However, 18 months later she was given the devastating diagnosis of also having Motor Neurone Disease, which has a very different prognosis. With MND, messages from the motor neurones gradually stop reaching the muscles, causing them to weaken, stiffen and waste. It is life-shortening and currently there is no cure.

From the initial diagnosis, the Chilterns branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association was there to help. Practical help and equipment to make life as comfortable as possible for Sue and moral support for her family. Their help was invaluable and greatly improved the quality of the short time Sue had left.



Congratulations

Leo Kyte, who many of us know as a wonderful organist at our Lodge meetings, recently received his 50th year certificate and promotion to PPSGD from the Bucks Provincial Grand Master John Clark at the Grenville Lodge no 1787.

Leo's talent and humour as an Organist is enjoyed at 13 Lodges in three Provinces.

The Bucks Freemasons have donated towards a £16,000 grant to help victims of a cyclone in the Puri district of Odisha, India.

Cyclone Fani hit Odisha at the end of April and the start of May this year, and was reportedly the strongest tropical storm to hit the country in decades.

Millions of people across the Indian state saw their lives devastated and were given emergency supplies of food and materials to rebuild their homes, thanks to a grant from the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Freemasons' charity.

A grant of £16,000 was donated to Plan International UK which is working to help the most vulnerable survivors in 70 communities in the worst hit areas of Odisha's Puri district. Bucks Freemasons were among the freemason groups from across the country that contributed to the fund. A further £1,250 was sent to the Freemasons in Bengal, as they

requested, to support local relief efforts on the ground.

The grant from the Freemasons to Plan International UK will help to provide dry ration kits of rice and other basic food to 5,000 families, along with household essentials like blankets, mats, mosquito nets, buckets and soap. A further 2,000 households will receive shelter materials such as ropes and tarpaulins so they can begin to repair their homes, while 2,000 children will be provided with notebooks, stationery and other educational materials so they can get back to school as soon as possible.

More than 10 million people have been affected across 11 districts of Odisha by Cyclone Fani, which had recorded winds of 200kph.

Tanya Barron, chief executive of Plan International UK said: "We're hugely grateful to the Masonic Charitable Foundation for supporting our disaster response in India.



"This generous grant will make a big difference to many thousands of people affected by this devastating cyclone and help them get back on their feet."

David Innes, chief executive of the Masonic Charitable Foundation said: "Cyclone Fani has devastated the lives of many thousands of people across a huge area of Odisha.

"I'm very pleased that the Masonic Charitable Foundation was able to move so quickly and provide funds for Plan International UK's vital work at the heart of the disaster zone."

Armed Forces Day

Buckinghamshire Freemasons were proud to support the Armed Forces day on a blisteringly hot day at Wycombe Air Park on the 29th of June.

The show team pitched up with the BucksPGL show stand ready to get the "Don't wait to asked message" out there.

Steve Cleary, Andy Sutton & John Morris were supported by members of the Bucks executive who arrived to give their support.

The show team had a number enquires from the public and from lapsed masons who were interested to re-join.



The BBMF Lancaster flying over the show stand. (Top Right. Steve Cleary, Isabel and Bucks APGM Phil Blacklaw, Bucks APGM Tony and Jean Robinson, Buck APGM Gary Brodie, Sarah & Bucks PGM John Clark, Andy Sutton, John Morris.

Freemasonry Supporting Education

W Bro Eugene Matthias for many years been using magic as vehicle in education to motivate, inspire and build confidence in students.

W Bro Phil Blacklaw Assistant Provincial Grand Master saw first-hand the positive effects Eugene's show had on students and how it introduced Freemasonry to the parents at the school, when Eugene took his educational magic show to a school as part of the Bletchley Centre's 'Freemasonry in the Community' week events.

Earlier this year W Bro Mehmet Adali of Eton Lodge No 2458 spoke to Phil looking to do something in his child's school Holtspur School & Pre-School. Phil put Mehmet in touch with Eugene who again took his show to the school. As you can see from the email below (from the head teacher), it was another successful opportunity for Freemasonry in Buckinghamshire with the head teacher and the parents singing our praise. Eton Lodge No 2458 have said



they will now look at way to build links with and support the school.

To show how effective this approach is for introducing non-Freemasons to Masonry. Recently Eugene was approached and agreed to put on his fundraising show for Newton Longville Primary in Milton Keynes. Parents and kids had a great fun evening and the school raised over £600 which is a lot of money for a primary school.

The show demonstrates Freemasonry supporting the local community to

over 250 parents and children who attended. We were not just giving a financial handout to the school but engaging and supporting the school's PTA enabling them to put on a very fundraising event which most would not have had before.

During the break two people came over and spoke to Eugene asking about Freemasonry, each leaving with a 'Don't Wait To Be Asked' leaflet and a Mason from a London Lodge came over and said hello. A great success for Freemasonry and parents of children at primary school are at a good age for joining Freemasonry.

Eugene's show now includes singer Sue Coombs who has supported him on numerous charity shows.



The Province is happy to support this project, if your child is attending a Primary school and you would like to support them and offer a fundraising show, you can contact Eugene at:- info@eugenematthias.com.

From: Fiona O'Reilly
To: Mehmet Adali
Subject: Re: Feedback

Hi Mehmet,

The Magic Club entertained the entire school with a brilliant show about the importance of healthy eating, paid for by the Freemasons.

Sprinkled with tricks and illusions, the vital message about the dangers of too much fat and sugar was delivered to all ages in an engaging and fun way.

The children (and parents who attended!!) had a chance to participate fully in the show using visual aids and as assistants.

The children came away with a much better idea of nutrition and balance within their diets, which led to further discussion and activities in the classroom.

This was a fantastic launch pad for a whole school focus on this relevant and important aspect of healthy living.

Thank you to the Freemasons for providing us with the opportunity to bring this subject to life and instil some lifelong positive messages about healthy eating.

Kind regards,

Fiona O'Reilly

Headteacher

Holtspur School & Pre-School

St Giles Summer BBQ

St Giles No 8555 held their annual BBQ, hosted by Mark Jackson and his wife Francie. They were ably assisted by Javaid Iqbal and his wife Tahira (*pictured right*) on BBQ duty, with John Wright cooking a delicious Paella.

The event was well attended by members of the Lodge, Friends and family. Bucks APGM Phil Blacklaw and his wife also attended which was greatly appreciated.

The bumper sum of £570 was raised by a raffle and contributions for the food and drink. This was donated to the 2021 Festival Fund.



Denham Lodge Presentaton

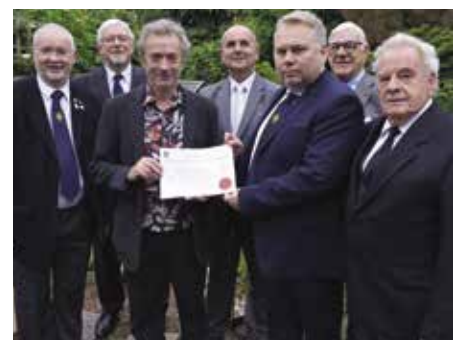


W.Bro Eric Connelly was initiated into the Denham Lodge 5950 on 28th May 1968 and was W.M. in 1978, 1996 & 2009 and in February 1991 was also a founding Principal of Denham Chapter 5950. Eric was loved and highly respected by all that knew him. Eric lost his beloved Wife Edna in 2002 and eventually moved from Hillingdon to St. Albans in 2010.

Regrettably Eric passed to the Grand Lodge above on 2nd June 2019 having spent the previous 14 months in a care home, before which, he was cared for by his daughter Carole and Son-in-Law Mr John Aikman.

Sadly, the lodge members never got the opportunity to present Eric with his long service award, so on 25th June 2019 seven members of Denham Lodge 5950 proudly presented it to his Son-in-Law.

W.Bros, Kozlowski (W.M), Langan, Knight, Ken Verity, Richard Verity (photographer & IPM), Caraco & Bro Colin Russell were in attendance.



A Cheque for £250 was presented to Mr Aikman in Eric's memory for the benefit of Muriel Green Nursery School.

Supporting harry's rainbow



The BMCF (Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund) are pleased to announce their support for Harry's Rainbow a Milton Keynes based charity which supports siblings and parents who have suffered a child bereavement. The charity needed a grant of £1,898 to replace two aging and unreliable laptop computers which the BMCF was happy to supply.

The new laptops will allow more efficient assistance to bereaved children and also allows the team to continue to provide assistance

to families experiencing these very challenging circumstances. This small charity provides a wide range of assistance including memory boxes and monthly Rainbow Group meetings, allowing bereaved children to meet and talk with others in similar circumstances. The meetings help to bolster self-esteem and help children realise it is ok to smile and have fun. Harry's Rainbow also provides free caravan holidays and trips with the aim of helping families to create some new happy memories.

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