



The Bucks Freemasons' Magazine Concord

Spring 2017

victa

Visually Impaired Children Taking Action

www.victa.org.uk

*Helping youngsters with
sight problems - see p4*



Regular columns

Freemasonry in the Community p4-9

Royal Arch p14

Sport sponsorship p18-19

Ladies clubs p20-21

Mentoring p15

Features

Recruitment & Retention p3 & p22

Promotional Team p10

300 years of freemasonry p11

Festival focus p12-13

Technology p22

Shaw Gifts for your Ladies' Festival

Suppliers of Quality Gifts and Printing Services

Whatever the event give us a call

on

01753 537404

sales@shawgifts.com

www.shawgifts.com



something for everyone

Whether you have a
lump sum or only a small
amount every month, we
have accounts to suit all

Accounts for companies, charities and other organisations

Fixed Term Accounts

Cash ISAs

Regular Saver accounts

Junior Savers

Notice accounts

Easy Access accounts

SIPPS

And we do mortgages too!



T: 01494 879500

www.bucksbs.co.uk E: info@bucksbs.co.uk

Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Registration number 208022

Buckinghamshire
Building Society 
doing the right thing

www.bucksbs.co.uk

PGM'S VIEW

The subject of membership numbers has been high on the list of priorities in Buckinghamshire for many years and much effort has been directed towards this particular topic.

During this time, we have introduced new schemes and ideas to assist with the image and promotion of Freemasonry and many hours have been spent on introducing these ideas to the membership and a wider audience. The article on this page from our Provincial Membership Officer is just one example of how hard many are working to achieve good results.

I have therefore decided to include a graph in this foreword to illustrate how this hard work is beginning to pay off. The graph is taken from ADELPHI 2 and shows the

percentage growth comparison with the UGLE average from 2012. You will notice that there are peaks and troughs but, from 2014, there has been a slow and steady improvement and, as of the beginning of 2017, we have moved above the zero line into growth. This does not mean that our problems are solved, far from it, but what it does demonstrate is that it is possible to reduce the rate of decline if we all work together and continue to make an effort.

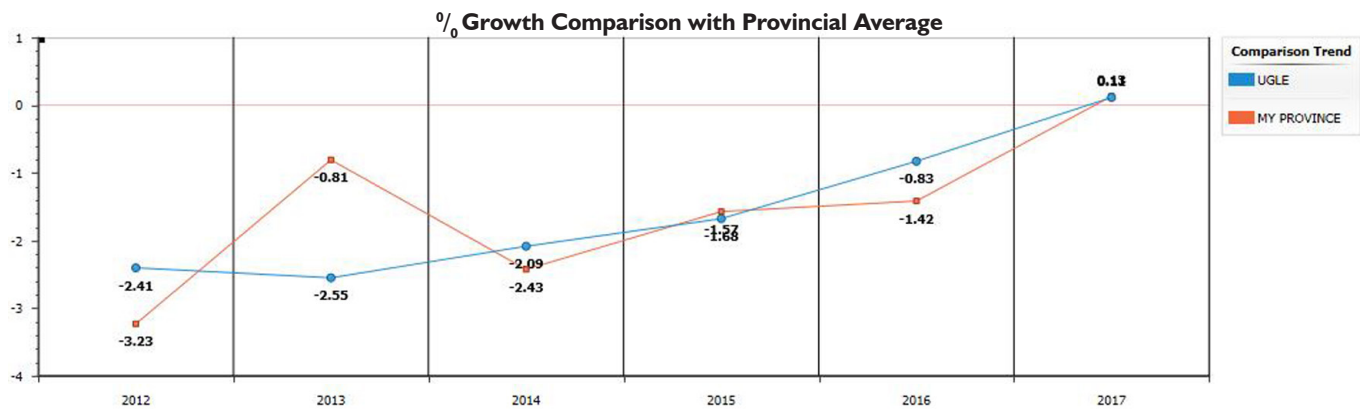
I congratulate all of the lodges and members who are striving to achieve results and who are contributing to these excellent statistics. There are too many involved to single out any one person; however, I am truly grateful and your efforts are beginning to make a difference.

The 2017 celebrations, both in Buckinghamshire and nationally, will

undoubtedly bring many enquiries, and our membership team is prepared and ready to go. With the help and support of the Province as a whole we can continue to improve our membership figures and this will be beneficial to us all.

Please enjoy this issue of Concord: it takes a lot of hard work to collate and edit the information. Consider passing it on to someone who may not normally read it: what better way to demonstrate and promote what we do. May I thank those who have provided articles and pictures and congratulate those who put in the effort which leads to an article in the first place. Thanks must also go to Sue Dorman, our Editor. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Gordon



Finders, keepers!

Many organisations of all types suffer from falling numbers from time to time and Freemasonry is not immune to this.

With this in mind, in early 2016 the Provincial Team appointed Peter Kemp as Provincial Membership Officer to stabilise and then grow membership.

A Provincial Membership Strategy Group was formed consisting of brethren from the five main centres. Their main aims were to:

- Coordinate on-line enquiries and reach out to possible interested people.
- Develop lodge membership focus groups to interact with the local communities by displaying at shows and events.
- Create a lodge history guide and 'Introduction to your lodge: how would you tell a prospective candidate why they should join your lodge?'.
- Create a *Planning the Lodge Future* guide that steers the lodge in understanding the dynamics of future membership numbers and actions to take.
- Create a social media template which each lodge can adapt and expand. Does it work? Yes it does! (See case study above.)
- Develop YouTube videos: there is a web designer and an international film director on the team.
- Develop easy to learn ritual techniques to help members learn comfortably without the angst.

Case Study

In 2014, Marlow Bridge Lodge launched the first version of its own website, www.marlowbridgelodge.co.uk.

Over time, the lodge has seen a slow but steady increase in the number of visits to the site which has resulted in a joining member return to freemasonry after a twenty year gap and a new member who was recently initiated.

Using social media effectively

John Waller of St Giles Lodge started a Twitter link that put the Bletchley Centre on the map.

It now has over 1,500 followers from all over the world who now know more about freemasonry.

St Giles Lodge also uses WhatsApp for arranging Lodge of Instruction meetings: a quick method of spreading the word.

See also the article on Bucks Masonic Wanderers on page 21.

- Identify lodges that require help and assistance with rejuvenation and retention schemes which could attract an expanding membership by possibly becoming a special interest themed lodge, eg motorcycle, classic car, ritual excellence (*Old School House Lodge*), sports, hobbies and many others.

Please let Peter know your lodge special interest or if you wish to form a new lodge as candidates constantly come along who could be interested. For example, Industria Lodge has a number of musicians who would like to form a Silver Band.

- Form a Membership Focus Group at each centre to share ideas and help with the online recruitment and retention for lodges meeting at that centre.

Willing volunteers are needed with energy and drive to help: there is no requirement for seniority. Can **you** help?

2017 promises to be a great year for membership enquiries and we need to be ready to manage the interest and gain from the opportunity of 300 years. We owe freemasonry our effort to ensure we make the next 100 years as successful as our past brethren have done for us.

For your copy of the *Planning the Lodge Future* guide, go to www.buckspgl.org-information/bookcase.

FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

Practical help

Founded in 1967, Buckingham Pre-School Playgroup (BPSP) takes in children between two and four years of age and guides them through the Early Years Foundation Stage of their development, providing them with a caring and safe environment to interact with other children and adults.

The playgroup identified a need for an Interactive Board for use by the children. These are invaluable in helping youngsters develop their phonic, numeracy and literacy skills, as well as being an excellent way of introducing them to technology and enhancing their motor and coordination functions.

Jamie Robinson, a member of Wineslai Lodge, whose daughter Gracie attends the school, contacted the Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund on behalf of Karen Clarke, the BPSP Play Leader; the BMCF was delighted to allocate the £2,000 needed.

Not only that: David Lowey, Managing Director of Interactive Installs in Milton Keynes – whose daughter, coincidentally, had also attended the Playgroup – ensured that his company covered the costs. Once installed, Jamie constructed a cabinet to protect the screen when not in use.

Karen said: “We are absolutely delighted to have this piece of modern technology for use by our children. In the short time it has been in place, the children absolutely love the way they can interact with some of their favourite characters and, of course, they are learning at a much quicker pace than some of the traditional methods of numeracy and literacy teaching. We would like to thank the BMCF for their generous donation and David Lowey and Jamie Robinson for making it all happen.”

Steve Smirthwaite added: “With two grandsons under five I am particularly aware of the need for youngsters to gain as much confidence with technology as they can. For them to be learning their basic life skills



■ Harriet Grace and Gracie, showing learning can be fun! The interactive board is housed in a cupboard made by Gracie's Dad, Jamie Robinson of Wineslai Lodge

of language and numbers at the same time is an added bonus. We at the BMCF were delighted to fund this project.”

Help for VICTA

The BMCF was recently approached by VICTA for £500 of funding towards helping a young person take part in the Barclays Sailing Adventure scheme.

The money will enable the young person to take part in this exciting sailing buddy event which will be a truly life-enhancing experience for all the participants involved.

VICTA is a charity which gives children and young people to the age of 29, who are

blind or partially sighted, the tools to allow them to shape their own positive futures.

Founded in 1987 by a group of parents in Milton Keynes to help one another, VICTA supports children, young adults and their families across the UK and aims to be the *little charity with the biggest impact*.

One young person summed up perfectly what the charity sets out to achieve: “VICTA has certainly helped me develop as a person. My family was very quick to notice how much more confidence I have gained, how willing I am to say yes and give something a

go rather than back down, how my level of independence has developed and how far I've come since being in an isolated world after going totally blind.”

Andrew Hough, Secretary of the BMCF, said: “We were delighted to help with this wonderful project. We hope that the sailing goes extremely well and that all those involved have a wonderful experience.”

For more information about VICTA, go to their website: <http://www.victa.org.uk/>



■ Scaling the heights! A VICTA group in Snowdonia, a regular destination for these adventurous young people

Support for jobseekers

MK Executives Action (MKEA) is the local branch of Careers Action, a charitable organisation set up to help people who have become unemployed.

In presenting a cheque for £500 to John Dale and the organisation's trustees, Kim Stopher, IPM of Secklow One Hundred Lodge, explained that he was himself made redundant some five years ago. Thanks to a local business club, he received the practical support needed to start his own business.

Kim selected MKEA as one of the charities he supported during his year as Master of Secklow Hundred Lodge.

MKEA meets at Bletchley College every Wednesday evening throughout the year. For more information, please contact John Dale via www.executives-action.co.uk.

Grant for audio library

The Calibre Audio Library, which is based in Aylesbury, has been awarded a £30,000 grant by the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF).

The library provides a subscription-free postal and internet service for audio books to people with sight problems or other disabilities which prevent them reading print.

Steve Smirthwaite visited the library and presented a certificate to Liz Clarke, Head of Fund Raising and Marketing, to mark this donation.

Also in attendance was local resident Michael Brackley who has been a member of the library for many years. Mike explained to Steve the pleasure that he, and the other members, get from the service provided by the library.

He said: "When I joined the library, the books were on cassettes and were awkward to handle. We now have CDs and memory sticks which are so easy to use that I can listen to my books on my mini player or headphones without help from anyone else to set them up or play them for me.

"On behalf of all the members of the Audio Library I would like to offer my sincere

thanks to the freemasons for this most generous donation."

Liz added: "I would also like to add my thanks to the MCF for this grant. It will go a long way in helping the library to maintain its wonderful service, subscription free, for our 15,000 members and 80 book clubs throughout the UK."



Pictured (l to r): Steve Smirthwaite, Terry Squire, Trust fundraiser, Michael Brackley and library fundraiser Liz Clarke

BMCF rallies to help!

Forest Bridge School in Maidenhead has been awarded a donation from the BMCF for funding to buy a heavy duty outdoor table-tennis table.

Forest Bridge is a Special Free School for children and young people with a primary diagnosis of autism. Opened in September 2015, it will eventually cater for pupils between the ages of four and sixteen years.

Jane Balmer, Chair of the Friends of Forest Bridge School, approached the BMCF which was delighted to donate £1,000

towards the cost and installation of the table.

Jane said: "We would like to thank Bucks Freemasons for their very generous donation. The table is now in place and the children make great use of it whenever they can."

Barry Sparks, a member of the BMCF committee, went along to meet Jane and see the table in place, despite the rain. He added: "The school is truly inspirational, and I felt very privileged to meet some of the staff and students."

On yer bike!



Chris Beach, Head of Physiotherapy, setting up the bike for Peter Cella who receives weekly treatment at the Centre and who volunteered to show it in operation



Jane Balmer, Chair of the Friends of the Forest Bridge School and Barry Sparks, BMCF committee member, sheltering from the downpour as Reece and Maximillian show their talents on the table

The Chilterns MS Centre in Wendover has been providing advice and care to people with multiple sclerosis (MS) and their families for over 30 years.

The charity's main goal is to help people gain greater control over their MS so that they continue to lead happy and healthy lives.

The centre provides comprehensive and holistic care, including physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, oxygen therapy, acupuncture and massage, to over 330 people each week.

A need was recently identified for a specialist wheelchair-adapted exercise bike

for use by the many local people with MS who need physiotherapy. This type of bike costs more than £2,500 and needs a physiotherapist to supervise those using it. Grenville Lodge donated this amount towards the overall cost and Andrew Hough, secretary of the BMCF, organised a donation that covered the full purchase cost, leaving the lodge donation to be used for running and maintaining the bike.

For more information on the MS Centre, check out their website at: <http://www.chilternsmcentre.org/>

FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

TLC for MK and Stoke Mandeville

Last autumn, the Paediatric Accident and Emergency department of Milton Keynes Hospital received its regular consignment of 144 Teddy Bears. These bears are part of the *Teddies for Loving Care (TLC)* initiative.

Started in 2001, this admirable masonic charity has distributed over one million teddy bears to children's A&E departments across the UK.

Not only do the teddy bears comfort and calm the children, they really do make the nursing staff's job easier in appraising and befriending the often distraught kiddies.

Lou Amey, a member of Fenny Stratford Lodge, has been involved with the delivery of the teddies to MK Hospital for several years. On this latest delivery he was accompanied by



■ *Recuperating (l-r):* APMG John Clark, Lou Amey, Claire Norton (nursery nurse), Sarah Clark and Megan Lovell (staff nurse) with Mel Shah acting as a patient!

the APMG, John Clark, and his wife Sarah, and TLC co-ordinator Mel Shah.

Mel, who manages the distribution of the teddies throughout all of the children's departments in Buckinghamshire hospitals, said: "This delivery of teddies represents just one month's supply and brings the number of bears delivered to Milton Keynes to 650 this year alone. They have made such a difference to the sick children, comforting them during their recovery. All the teddies are purchased by funds raised and donated by local lodges."

The power of teddies



■ *Right: Mark and daughter Emily with that teddy!*



■ *Making friends with TLC teddies (l-r):* Gemma Heath, Paediatric Lead for Theatres, Graham Dearing, APMG, and Ayesha Khan, Healthcare Assistant

The Paediatric Daycare Surgical Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital is the latest recipient of teddy bears from TLC.

On a cold snowy morning in February Graham Dearing, APMG, accompanied by Mel Shah, descended on the Unit to deliver 120 teddy bears.

On hand to receive them were Gemma Heath, Paediatric Lead for Theatres, Ayesha

Khan, Healthcare Assistant, Kym Natneast, Anaesthetic Service Improvement Nurse and Dr Marc Davison, Lead Paediatric Anaesthetist.

Gemma had seen the effect the bears have on children attending A&E. She put in a request for toys for her department and TLC had no hesitation in supplying the Unit with some teddy bears.

When Mark Bowyer was installed as Master of Cowper & Newton Lodge in 2015 he made TLC one of his chosen charities, raising over £1,000.

He explained that, as a parent of two young children, he wanted some way of helping children in distress. He won a TLC teddy in a lodge raffle some while ago and was intending to raffle it again. However, his daughter spotted it and fell in love! Despite having dozens of teddies, this is the one that comes out when she is poorly. Mark commented: "I have seen first hand the power of the TLC teddies."

Help for hospice

Allison Waterhouse of the Willen Hospice fund raising team with John Morris, Secretary of Chilterns Lodge, recently received a welcome donation in memory of John's late wife who spent her last few weeks in the care of the hospice.

Since losing his wife, John has become an active committee member of the Friends of Willen Hospice.

Any help other lodges, especially in the north of the Province, would care to offer is always gratefully accepted.

■ *Fund raiser Alison Waterhouse with John Morris and the cheque for £250*



Happiness is hot water!



■ Sarah Lewis and Centre members Marcel and Mark, enjoying the newly refurbished coffee bar at the Queens Park Arts Centre

The Queens Park Arts Centre in Aylesbury underwent a facelift in recent months towards its Limelight Theatre Refurbishment Project.

As part of the fundraising for the project, Sarah Lewis, the Artistic Director at the Centre, approached Andrew Hough, Secretary of the Buckinghamshire Masonic Centenary Fund committee, with a request

for a donation; the BMCF was delighted to award the cost of a new catering boiler as part of the upgrade of the Centre's coffee bar.

Sarah said: "We are very grateful to the BMCF and Bucks' Freemasons for this generous donation. The old water heater was in poor condition and it now means our visitors can benefit from a hot drink whenever we are open."

Coming clean!

Heron's Lodge is a Guide Centre situated near local parks and lakes in Milton Keynes which helps bring the guides closer to nature.

The venue is also used by Rainbows, Brownies and Scouts, and hosts many other local events and meetings.

St Martins Lodge has had a long association with the centre: each year it uses the grounds for its annual Fun Day attended by 150 local young carers, their friends and families.

Parts of the Centre were in need of a facelift and update, especially the shower block. Nick Hills, a member of St Martins Lodge, approached the Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund (BMCF) for funding of £1,500 to cover the cost of purchasing and installing eight new shower units.

Nick said: "St Martins Lodge has a wonderful rapport with the Guide Centre and are delighted that the BMCF was able to help out with this most important part of the refurbishment."

On presenting the cheque, Nick commented that this year's young carers' day is already being planned.



■ Nick Hills presenting the cheque for £1,500 to Wendy Thirlwell and Betty Mills for the new Guide Centre shower units

Remembering the fallen



■ Tony Richards and Vaughan Davies admiring the wallhanging commemorating the fallen of World War One

The Bucks Masonic Golf Society (BMGS) has funded a sign for a unique wallhanging which now has a permanent place in Wendover Community Library after being shown around the area for various community groups to see it.

It commemorates the men, women and children of the community who suffered as a result of the First World War.

Tony Richards, a member of the newly-formed Bucks Motorcycle Lodge, and Vaughan Davies, of Cestreham Lodge, were present at the unveiling ceremony held in the library on Remembrance Day, 11th November 2016, along with members, young and old, who made the wallhanging.

Vaughan, who is a volunteer and Trustee of the Library charity, commented: "I just wanted to say thank you on behalf of the Friends of Wendover Community Library. This is a lasting reminder of the sacrifice made by so many."

FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

Cadets become upwardly mobile

In recent times, the cadets in local Air Training Corps (ATC) Squadrons have suffered by not having the opportunity to gain flying experience.

This was caused by a reduction in funding and a lack of available and suitable aircraft for the cadets to have time in the air.

An initiative by the Halton Aeroplane Club (HAC) Chairman, Group Captain Mark Manwaring, allowed Air Cadets from the Hertfordshire & Buckinghamshire Wing to enjoy flights provided by the HAC. The members of the club gave the cadets a full

day of briefings, aircraft checks and 30 minute flights around the Aylesbury area.

Part of the funding for the initiative was provided by Cymbeline and Entente Cordiale lodges.

One of the lodge members, Paul Brissenden-Hemstock, who is also a member of the HAC said: "When we heard about the problems the cadets were having we were determined to assist if we could, and as part of the Freemasonry in the Community initiative, we were able to help 160 cadets gain some much needed air experience."



■ Paul Brissenden-Hemstock (fourth from the left) with some of the other pilots and cadets who enjoyed a great day out at the Halton Aeroplane Club, in front of a Chipmunk trainer

Charity AYMEs to help youngsters

The Association of Young People with ME (AYME) is a UK charity based in Newport Pagnell that provides support for children and young people aged up to 26 who have ME/CFS.

ME, or Myalgic Encephalopathy, is often referred to as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) or Post Viral Fatigue Syndrome (PVFS). The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) recently donated £5,000 to the charity.



Mary-Jane Willows, CEO of AYME, said: "ME causes a wide range of symptoms, including intense tiredness, aches and pains, and can make it very difficult to concentrate or perform everyday tasks easily. Symptoms can come and go and will vary from person to person.

"We are extremely grateful to Bucks Freemasons and the MCF for this most generous donation as it will really help in our continuing work to bring more awareness of this condition to a wider audience. In the 20 years since we were founded we have helped more than 10,000 children and young adults and this donation will be used in our 'Children in Distress' programme to help alleviate the symptoms of those youngsters who are particularly badly affected or are seriously ill."

More information on AYME can be found at: <http://www.ayme.org.uk>.

■ ME/CFS sufferer Skye Wheeler, 18, who has benefitted from AYME's support

Keeping Finley mobile



■ (l-r) Finley's mum Rosie, Finley, Malcolm Summers (Aylesbury Lodge Secretary) and Tony Bromage (Master of Aylesbury Lodge)

Three year old Finley Newell from Haddenham has suffered from spinal muscular atrophy type 2 since birth.

This is a rare and progressive neuromuscular condition that affects his arms, hands, head and neck. Breathing and swallowing are also badly affected so he is extremely susceptible to chest infections. Finley has been in and out of hospital all his short life and will never be able to walk.

Tony Bromage, Master of Aylesbury Lodge, was delighted to present a cheque for £500 to Finley's mother, Rosie, to help with the purchase of mobility equipment and the structural modifications needed to his home to make life that little bit easier.

Finley has his own Facebook page which can be found by searching for *The Finley Newell Mobility and Equipment Fund*.

Tony said: "Finley is such a wonderful young lad who deserves all the support he can get. The members of Aylesbury Lodge have been keeping an eye on him for a long time and we wanted to do something to help him and his family. I was delighted to present this cheque to help towards the heavy financial burden that caring for Finley has imposed on his loving and dedicated family."

FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

Comforting cushions

Following the excellent care St Martins Lodge IPM Jimmy Cooney and his wife received following the birth of their son, Oliver, Jimmy donated £250 to the Milton Keynes hospital maternity unit from his masters list.

Jimmy explained: "My wife, Becky, made contact with the maternity unit and asked if there was anything they needed and they requested maternity CUB cushions.

"These cushions allow women to give birth while sitting in an upright position and are a better alternative to the balls they use currently."

Vanessa Holmes, head of fundraising for the hospital, said she was delighted with the donation.



Are you sitting comfortably! Midwives Tracy Rutherford, Caroline Jennings (seated), Natalie Payne and Lydia Stratton-Fry. Becky Cooney is second from the left with Jimmy on the right

Remembrance Day lunch

Colin Cruse of Roman Way Lodge welcomed around 140 war veterans and ex-service men and women to the ninth annual Remembrance Sunday Lunch held at the Bell Hotel, Winslow, last November.

Hosted by Phil Menday of Wineslai Lodge and his wife, Julie, the lunch is sponsored by Winslow and Buckingham lodges as part of Freemasonry in the Community.

Although everything is provided free of charge, a collection box was available at the exit to the dining room for those wishing to make a voluntary contribution. Just over £250 was collected which was given to the Winslow branch of the Royal British Legion.

Postscript: This year, due to generous contributions made by the Winslow and Buckingham Lodges, the Province has agreed to donate £500 to the Bucks Air Ambulance which will be made at the next cheque presentation evening.



Is that all for me! One of the visitors at the Remembrance Day lunch



It was this big! Tall tales at the Remembrance day lunch

NEWS IN BRIEF



Richard Martyn of Wycombe Lodge receiving a Paul Harris Fellowship from Louise Rollins, President of the Rotary Club of High Wycombe, at a charity dinner in aid of Helen & Douglas House. This award is named after the founder of the Rotary movement and is presented to someone who has given exceptional service to the community and Rotary. The event also raised £500 for the charity.



Ray Norris celebrating 54 years in free-masonry with the newly installed Worshipful Master of Amersham Lodge, Dave Morris, his two wardens, Nick White and Dave Lisley, and Barry Sparks on his first visit to a lodge as the Provincial Senior Grand Warden



Bill Nugent of Seer Green Lodge and Chapter – pictured with his wife, Joanna – celebrated his 90th birthday at the Beaconsfield Masonic Centre together with over 100 guests. Instead of presents, Bill asked his guests to buy raffle tickets and £410 was raised for the Masonic Charitable Foundation

PROMOTING THE PROVINCE



The Provincial Shows team does great work during the summer months in promoting freemasonry throughout Buckinghamshire at many different events.

There is always a lot of work, both behind the scenes and ‘at the front’, to ensure freemasonry is shown in the best and most friendly way.

Help is needed transporting the equipment, erecting and dismantling the gazebos and tenting, setting out the display, talking to members of the public and then returning all to storage.

Some of the events are internal, such as white tables and cheque presentations. Others are external events, including the Winslow Show, the Kop Hill climb and so on – see table above.

All are welcome to assist whether a Grand Officer or an Entered Apprentice and everyone gains from promoting the Province to both existing and potential members. You would not be expected to remain all day but any help, even just setting up or taking down, is always very gratefully received.

With this being the Tercentenary year and the start of the Provincial Festival there are a number of additional events and the more volunteers the better! For most shows, as a volunteer, the entrance fee will be included, although for certain events there are limited entrance tickets. Unfortunately, entrance does not include family members.

To offer your services and for those brethren who have helped in the past, please send the following information to webster.springer@gmail.com: your name, email address, landline, mobile, address (including postcode) and lodge name and number, plus the dates that you are definitely available.

Webster can also be contacted on 07845 628571.

22/04/2017	Saturday	Silverstone Vintage Sports Car Club VSCC Carers support
23/04/2017	Sunday	Silverstone Vintage Sports Car Club VSCC Carers support
21/05/2017	Sunday	Windsor Great Park Run
21/05/2017	Sunday	Chiltern Hills Vintage Vehicle Rally, Aylesbury
10/06/2017	Saturday	Stokenchurch Show
02/07/2017	Sunday	Windsor Race Day Three Provinces – Tercentenary event
08/07/2017	Saturday	Newport Pagnell Carnival
09/07/2017	Sunday	Newport Pagnell Carnival
09/07/2017	Sunday	Amersham Carnival
16/07/2017	Sunday	Teddy Bears Picnic, Drayton Parslow, Bletchley
17/07/2017	Monday	Bucks Armed Forces day, Aylesbury Rugby Club
21/07/2017	Friday	PennFest
22/07/2017	Saturday	PennFest
28/08/2017	Monday	Winslow Show
31/08/2017	Thursday	Bucks County Show, Aylesbury
02/09/2017	Saturday	Stoke Hammond Show
02/09/2017	Saturday	Chalfont St. Giles Show
10/09/2017	Sunday	Amersham Heritage Day
16/09/2017	Saturday	Kop Hill Climb
17/09/2017	Sunday	Kop Hill Climb
31/10/2017	Tuesday	Royal Albert Hall 300th Anniversary [Audio/Visual Distribution] various locations



■ That’s the way to do it! Erecting the tents with the new design, from the top:
Checking the parts are all there
I think this goes here!
What a great display





Diary dates – 2017

OPEN DAY

Saturday, 24th June, 10am-5pm
Freemasons' Hall,
60 Great Queen Street, London
Free admission – no booking required

To mark the 300th birthday of Grand Lodge, and in association with the Metropolitan Grand Lodge and the Masonic Charitable

Foundation, the Library and Museum is hosting an Open Day which will include informal music performances, exhibitions and a chance to view the architectural highlights of the building. An ideal opportunity to celebrate the birthday and show friends and colleagues what lies inside!

DISCOVERING MASONIC ANCESTORS

Thursday 30th March or Tuesday 16th May
10am–1pm

This half day event provides an introduction to finding information about freemasons using Ancestry and how the on-line catalogue of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry can help up you to find additional resources for family and local history. It will also provide information about accessible resources yet to be added to the catalogue.

Tickets are free but space is limited so you must book in advance.

To book a place at one of these events please email libmus@freemasonry.london.museum marking your email Discovering masonic ancestors and providing your name, email address and a telephone number in case of emergencies. You will receive an email acknowledgement.

LONDON OPEN HOUSE

Sunday 17th September 10am-5pm
Freemason's Hall,
60 Great Queen Street
Free admission – no booking required

Self guided tours of the Grand Temple and ceremonial areas are available as part of this London-wide festival of architecture.



Come and join us for a Fabulous Day of Horse Racing and Family Fun

Brethren, you are cordially invited to the world famous **Windsor Racecourse** for a day of top class horse racing in order to celebrate **300 Years of Freemasonry**. The event is to be hosted by the Masonic Provinces of **Buckinghamshire, Berkshire** and **Oxfordshire**. It is open to everyone, whether a Freemason or not, and we would like to invite you, your family and your friends to join us.

There will be a full Race Card as well as funfair activities for children of every age.

The day will conclude with Tony Hadley of Spandau Ballet providing the early evening entertainment immediately after the final race of the day (approx 6pm)



There will be high quality horse races throughout the afternoon, in addition to many attractions to keep everyone interested. There is plenty of parking and by arriving early for the first race, you and your guests will have time to picnic or enjoy the hospitality with plenty of bars and catering to suit all budgets, from Fish and Chips to Fine Dining.

Go to the following website to book your ticket online now:

www.300yearsoffreemasonry.co.uk



From Festival Chairman
Graham Dearing



Festival update



Welcome to the second edition of the Festival Focus.

I am sure everyone is aware that the 2021 Festival was launched by the Provincial Grand Master, Gordon Robertson, at the Provincial Meeting last October. A cheque for £200,000 was handed over by the PGM to the President of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, Richard Hone QC, to help kick start the Festival. It was a great beginning to the Festival and something we should all be very proud of.

It is very encouraging to know that, whichever lodge any member of the Executive or Visiting Provincial Officers goes to, the Festival is being discussed. Charity Stewards are encouraging members to start regular donations using gift aid; proposals are being made and carried to donate monies from lodge relief chests to the Festival; and gift aid envelopes are being used to collect alms to assist in raising extra funds.

I cannot tell you how good it is to know that we, as a Province, are so fully supportive of the Festival. As it does not finish until October 2021, we have a long way to go. However, as long as we make it fun and enjoyable and understand why we are raising the money and how it is being applied, we will succeed.

We are starting to get the first full sets of reports from the Buckinghamshire Festival Relief Chest and I am pleased to announce that currently over 80% of all Bucks lodges have already donated or have brethren pledging regular donations. This means that there are 20% who have not yet started, but we are aware of some lodges that are using their own relief chests and will transfer to the Festival when the time is right. In short, I know every lodge is doing something, which is great.

A big thank you...

...to every lodge and brother who has donated or is in the process of doing so.

It is understood that there are times in life when circumstances might preclude you from donating, such as family and personal needs which must come first.

Nevertheless, here are some good reasons to donate:

Masonic Charitable Foundation Facts for last year

- 4739 masonic families were helped
- £14,212,584 was spent helping those families
- £4,853,036 was spent supporting non-masonic charities

In the last five years, Buckinghamshire freemasons and charities have received grants and donations totalling £1,178,665, averaging £235,733. Whatever we give in Buckinghamshire will come back to help Bucks masons and their families in time of need and support Buckinghamshire-based charities.

You can log on to the website www.mcf.org.uk/festivals/buckinghamshire2021 and pledge a regular sum or a single donation. It's easy easy to complete and only takes minutes.

The Festival website can also be accessed via the Provincial website www.buckspgl.org.

How to donate

There are several ways to donate to the Buckinghamshire Festival 2021 (Relief Chest Number E2021) including:

- Online at www.mcf.org.uk/festivals/buckinghamshire2021 making a pledge for a regular sum or single donation
- By telephone: 020 7395 9313
- By text: to donate £5 text BUCKS2021 to 75000 and follow the link to complete details
- One off donation
- Regular donation by covenant (also known as a direct debit mandate)
- Credit or debit card payments

Log on to the website: www.mcf.org.uk/festivals/buckinghamshire2021 and pledge a regular sum or single donation. It's easy to complete and only takes a few minutes.

The Festival website can also be accessed via the Provincial website: www.buckspgl.org.

Cheque presentation evening

The next cheque presentations will be held at Aylesbury Masonic Centre on Sunday, 7th May.

Invitations to all lodges have been sent to Charity Stewards and Secretaries. This event is an ideal opportunity to invite your nominated charity along to receive a donation from you. It gives them the chance to tell us about their work and you an opportunity to let others know why you chose them. The stories we have heard over the years are truly amazing and inspiring.

It is also an opportunity to show support for the Festival if you would like to give a donation to the Bucks 2021 appeal.

Details of how to book in for this event are available from your Charity Steward and any questions can be directed to andrewhough51@gmail.com who will be collating bookings.



■ Pictured (l-r): Michael Wallace, Kevin Taylor, Mick Melia, Kevin Ambrose, Jimmy Findlay, John Irving (piper) and Tim Gerard at the annual Cliveden Lodge Burns Night meeting in January; this white table event attracted 60 attendees with the raffle raising £360 for the Festival

Festival events

Saturday, 4th February

Bletchley Centre Blues Brothers

Many thanks to all who organised and all who attended the above event. A massive 'well done' to Ralph Waghorn from Bletchley Park for arranging the evening which raised an amazing £3,600.

Friday, 28th April

Murder Mystery night at Missenden Abbey

Details of this event, along with others, will be sent to the Charity Steward and Secretary of every lodge.

Saturday, 20th May

Team travelling the Grand Union Canal

Join Grand Union Lodge travelling the whole length of the Grand Union Canal!

The Grand Union Canal is 220km long and will be divided up into approximately 10km lengths, with access and exits from bridge to bridge. Teams can walk, cycle, run, use human powered craft or even a mixture to cover their chosen distance.

Lodges or teams will commit to a given distance in lots of 10km, some who choose to walk may commit to 10km only, whereas cyclists or boaters may choose, say, 30km.

There will be no baton passing between teams but Grand Union Lodge will start the proceedings in Birmingham and the Provincial team will finish in London. Start times are your choice but the event must be completed on the day.

Each team will find its own sponsorship in aid of the MCF which can then be totalled together. Lodges in the North of the province will be allocated lots towards Birmingham, lodges closer to London will be allocated lots closer to London to reduce travel as much as possible.

For details of this event or booking information please contact Neil Gibbard Charity Steward of Grand Union Lodge at lodgecoms@gmail.com.

If you have events coming up in aid of the Festival please let Graham know and he will be happy to get them on the Festival website and circulated if appropriate. He will attend as many events as he can. You can contact him at: grahamdearing@aol.com.

Thanks again to every lodge and brother for donating to this wonderful charity which does so much to help others.

If you want know more about the MCF and what your donations pay for please visit: www.mcf.org.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Great start! Temple Manor Lodge has made an initial donation of £10,000 to the Provincial 2021 Festival. WM Bob Quinn presented the cheque to Andrew Hough, ProvSGW, at his Installation meeting.



Honestly, it's really tasty! Gary Charnock on his bread and water challenge

Gary Charnock is a member of St Giles Lodge and an area representative for the Provincial Festival.

He carried out a Bread and Water challenge (no mean feat for Gary!) with the lodge and visitors raising £78 for the Festival.

Gary hopes to get all of the Brethren to complete a challenge.

The lodge website will be updated as each member of the lodge completes a challenge. Have a look at: <http://stgileslodge8555.weebly.com/gary-chnocks-challenge.html>.

The Editor has just heard of the sad passing of John (Jack) Surridge at the age of 83. He was a Member/Honorary Member of five Craft Lodges and one Chapter and had been the Tyler for more than twenty Lodges and Janitor for over twelve Chapters. He also raised many thousands for charity. A full obituary will appear in the next Concord.



Province of Buckinghamshire presents
Teddy Bears Picnic 2017



Sponsored by Cymbeline Lodge 9004 & Entente Cordiale Lodge 9490



Fun Family Games



Variety Show



Family Treasure Hunt

Bring Your Own Picnic - Food & Bar will be available

Tickets: **FREE** - Under 10s receive a **FREE** Teddy Bear - Limited to 300 people

Date: July 16th 2017 Time: 12.00pm - 5.00pm.

Venue: Drayton Parslow Sports and Social Club.
Main Road, Drayton Parslow, Bucks. MK17 0JS.

To Book Your Tickets email **Mel Shah: nilmel2@btinternet.com**

Wiltshire visit



■ The two Grand Superintendents: John Reid of Wiltshire (left) welcomed John Keeble

Friday, 27th January 2017 saw the Grand Superintendent, John Keeble lead a team of twenty-one from the Royal Arch Province of Buckinghamshire to the Royal Arch Province of Wiltshire.

Accompanying the Grand Superintendent were the Deputy Grand Superintendent, Paul Savage, the Second Provincial Grand Principal, Rob Chaproniere, Mike Stephens, Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, and seventeen other acting officers. The delegation was most warmly welcomed by the Grand Superintendent of Wiltshire, John Reid, and his team of officers.

The host Chapter was the Highworth Chapter, meeting at the Planks in Swindon.

All present were then entertained to a splendid exaltation ceremony of the highest quality performed with great sincerity and dignity, this was followed by a hearty and happy festive board. Altogether a fine example of the fraternal friendship displayed in the Royal Arch.

Grant for Sophie

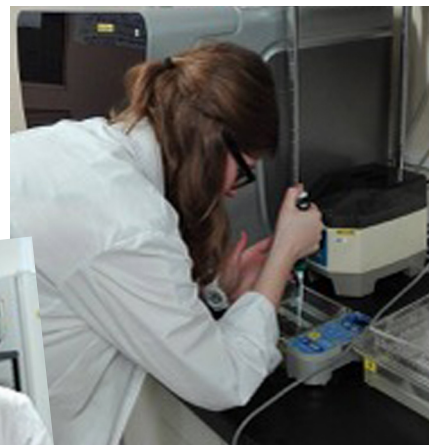
A grant of £500 was made recently to Sophie Alexander, a third year Medical Biochemistry student at Leicester University.

Sophie's ultimate objective is to become a doctor specialising in obstetrics. She has a student loan and has also been working part time for an agency as a carer to help towards her living costs.

She now has an amazing opportunity to add a year to her degree, studying in Japan as a research student. In this Study Abroad Program she will learn in laboratories at Nara Women's University the techniques and protocols of cutting-edge equipment that she has only had the chance to do in short term experiments at Leicester.

The donation from Tom Davies, raised through his regalia re-cycling scheme, has made all the difference to Sophie.

See also the story about MK Wanderers Kestrels football strip on page 18.



■ Sophie Alexander who received a grant to help her extend her degree term in Japan

Meet the Mark



A unique opportunity for Craft Masons to make a further advancement in your Masonic knowledge.



The R.W. Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Degree, R.W. Bro David Tremaine would like to extend an invitation to all Craft Freemasons who have not yet taken this very important step in Freemasonry to an open evening to learn more about the Order. This will take place at the:

Bletchley Masonic Centre and will be hosted by the Bletchley Mark Lodge on Thursday 9th March 2017 at 7.00pm.

The suggested dress for non-Mark Masons is smart casual. Mark masons will wear Mark regalia. The evening will consist of an explanation of a Mark Lodge setup, its officers and the regalia and some its history and origins. It will give Craft Freemasons the opportunity to meet Mark Master Masons in the Lodge and to discover the appeal and world-wide friendship of the Degree. There will also be a chance to ask any questions you may have. The evening will be rounded off by all those present and who wish, to join us for a steak pie, mash & beans followed by tea/coffee supper. This will be at a cost of £10.

I hope very much that you will take this opportunity to make a further advancement in your Masonic knowledge.

If you wish to attend would you please notify Nigel Dyke at nigel39@virginmedia.com

If you wish to stay for supper would you please forward a cheque to Nigel Dyke made payable to Provincial Grand Lodge of MMM of Buckinghamshire
Yours sincerely & fraternally
David Tremaine
Provincial Grand Master

Nigel Dyke, 97 Plantation Road, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 3HJ.

For more information about the Mark Degree in Buckinghamshire, visit our web site www.markmastermasonsbucks.co.uk



FABBS
ESTABLISHED 1887
FOR ALL YOUR MASONIC SUPPLIES
QUALITY REGALIA MADE TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

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

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

Local agent for collection and drop off
R.H. Sands & Sons
52 Queen Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL4 1HY

MENTORING

Mentoring Best Practice

With a complete set of documentation available for lodge mentors, new members and personal mentors, the Provincial Mentoring programme was launched in February with a series of seminars at five centres. Moving forward, Best Mentoring Practice will be featured within lodges and centres throughout the Province in the coming months.

Freemasons who meet at the Eliot Hall centre in Winslow started the process, with a mentoring team being formed during a Conference in Aylesbury.

Following a presentation by James Blackhurst about the North East Corner Club (NECC), several mentors from different lodges based at Eliot Hall suggested forming a Saturday Morning Club (SMC), complementing the NECC. The SMC is made up not only of mentors based at Eliot Hall but others who will help to educate newer members with regard to masonic knowledge.

Eliot Hall has hosted several of these meetings and all masons who live within travelling distance are invited to attend; this includes members of neighbouring Provinces. The objective is to encourage mentoring for all.

Whilst many of the topics covered at these gatherings are aimed at newer brethren, some more experienced masons have commented that they have also advanced their masonic knowledge.

Topics covered so far have been the Festive Board, etiquette and visiting officers. The last meeting covered the first degree, with pauses for commentary on what had taken place.

Future topics include: the Formation of UGLE, the history of masonry in Winslow and 'What is the BOC?'. The subject matter is taken from three sources: the Provincial mentoring plan, which forms the basis of the SMC; subjects requested by attendees; and guest presentations.

The SMC provides a safe environment that lends itself to a relaxed discussion of topics, as well as the essential Q&A sessions

It also enables more experienced brethren to be involved in passing on their knowledge. The mentoring documents are discussed and prime areas of interest for a new brother agreed. Subjects covered are varied and include such things as salutes, etiquette, the wearing of gloves, jewels and anything highlighted in a mentoring plan.

Much of this is backed up with information from the UGLE mentoring website which has a vast amount of information available and helps prove that there is rarely one correct answer to anything masonic.

Some of the ideas brought forward from the meetings are: after each degree the candidate receives information on that ceremony; the questions for the next degree; and the mentoring plan for the next stage.

It has been proposed that specific mentoring nights are allocated to introduce newer brethren into the Lol system of their lodge as early as possible.

At a meeting/ceremony when a brother has to leave the lodge for some time, it is recommended the lodge mentor or a senior mason goes with them and material is provided for them to discuss whilst outside.

It is also beneficial to involve new brethren in organising dining. This introduces them to all their lodge members in a short space of time. Also, being seated with different lodge officers at the Festive Board helps gain an understanding of the different roles.

All this may not work for everyone but appears to be working for those using Eliot Hall.

If your lodge or centre has a Best Practice story which will help others please contact Caleb Walton at: mentor@buckspgl.org.



New Inspector General

Last November David Sawyer 33° retired from his appointment as Inspector General for Buckinghamshire after seven years in post.

He announced at the recent Buckinghamshire Higher Degrees Chapter meeting that Supreme Council had selected Peter Harborne 33° to succeed him.

Peter has previously served as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master for Buckinghamshire Craft and as the Provincial Grand Master of Buckinghamshire Mark.

Officially described at present as Inspector General Designate-in-Charge

Rose Croix corner



Inspector General Designate-in-Charge, Very Illustrious Bro Peter Harborne 33°

(a nice tongue-twister for the Directors of Ceremonies of our Chapters!), Peter will be installed formally by a delegation from Supreme Council at the regular 19th April meeting of Via Phari Chapter at Beaconsfield.

Peter Carter is continuing to serve as District Recorder.

Travelling Rose

David Sawyer introduced the Buckinghamshire Travelling Rose in 2016 to encourage Rose Croix members to visit other Chapters in the District more frequently.

New Inspector General Peter Harborne has issued a challenge to the members of the District that, each year, he will donate £5 to the 2021 Festival for every recorded movement of the Rose between Bucks Chapters.

District Recorder Peter Carter will inform the brethren at the Higher Degrees meeting each March how much the enthusiastic visiting by Buckinghamshire's Rose Croix masons is to cost the Inspector General!

CHRISTMAS ROUND UP

Beaconsfield adult carers' lunch

APGM Graham Dearing welcomed the guests who were treated to a three course lunch prepared by David Pryor, the centre caterer, and his staff.

There were games and quizzes as well as a free raffle. The afternoon was rounded off with entertainment from Kevin Taylor, with everyone receiving a goodie bag as they left.

Sally Hearn, Adult Carers Support Team Coordinator, thanked all the helpers for such an enjoyable event. These included Beaconsfield Centre committee members Tony Dyckes, Sean Boardman, Graham Thorn, Rob Knock, Barry Sparks and his wife, Juliana from Cestreham Lodge and many others, including the Beaconsfield Centre

Ladies Club who helped in the planning, preparation and hosting of the event.

Additionally, committee Chairman, Steve Matthews, thanked all those lodges that meet at Beaconsfield for their donations to top up the budget from the Province. He said: "Without this extra cash we could not create what we consider to be a fitting 'thank you' to those people who work tirelessly day and night caring for their loved ones."



Young carers' lunch

The Beaconsfield branch of Freemasonry in the Community held a Christmas party for 45 young carers between the ages of 8 and 11 at the Beaconsfield Masonic Centre in December.

CarersBucks supports unpaid family carers across Buckinghamshire offering information, support and advice. It currently supports 7,000 of the 43,000 family carers in Buckinghamshire.

As well as lunch, magician David Weeks enchanted the children with his tricks; there were games organised by Maxine Lansdell, a Young Carers activity worker; face painting by Helen Matthews, the wife of Steve, chairman of the organising committee; and a disco by Ryan, the DJ from Phase Two Music.

Santa Claus (aka Graham Thorn) brought a sackful of presents for the children.

Thanks to all the Beaconsfield Freemasonry in the Community Committee who helped on the day: Graham Thorn, Tony Dyckes, James Dyckes, Christine Dyckes, Sean Boardman, Steve Matthews and Helen Matthews who ensured the success of the afternoon and the enjoyment of the young carers.

Maxine Lansdell commented: "Our sincere thanks go to the Beaconsfield Freemasons for a fabulous Christmas party. The children and the rest of the young carers' team had a wonderful afternoon."



Another resounding success for Wolverton Masonic Centre with its annual Christmas meal for the Wolverton and Greenley's pensioners, supported by other lodges based at the centre. Carols were sung by Malcolm Aspinall and volunteers from family and friends of lodge members helped to serve the meal

Lunch at Linslade

The Deputy Mayor of Leighton-Linslade, Syed Rahman, attended a Christmas Luncheon at Stanbridge Rugby Club.

Hosted by St Barnabas and Taplow Lodges, the guests of honour were 58 residents of the local sheltered housing project.

David Ball, a past Master of Taplow Lodge, acted as head steward and the sumptuous meal was prepared by Jean Ball MBE, David's wife, ably assisted by some of the other wives and lodge members.

Following the luncheon, local vocalists, The Friday Club Singers, sang songs from the 1950s and 60s and Peter Gearing of St Barnabas Lodge tried his hand as the caller for the game of bingo.

The afternoon concluded with a raffle and tea.



■ Deputy Mayor of Leighton Buzzard, Cllr Syed Rahman, flanked by sheltered housing residents Vera Watts (left) aged 88 and Yvonne Stanley, 82

Senior Citizens Christmas lunch: Marlow

The members of Marlow Masonic Centre hosted a Christmas lunch for 79 senior citizens in December.

Members of the various lodges which meet at the centre served a traditional three course Christmas lunch and entertained their guests with some festive entertainment.

Joining the guests from the White Lodge Care Home, Stokenchurch Day Centre, Fingest Tea Club, and Marlow Age Concern were the Mayor of Marlow, Councillor Bob Johnson, and his wife Shirley.

Hambleton Village choir, led by Christine Wells, provided entertainment, with everyone joining in with the carols.



■ Santa's little helpers (l-r): Claire Hollis, Chris Rake, Bob Smith, John Keeble, Wendy Keeble, Derek Waldron, Pam Gibson, Paul Webb, John Gibson, Trudy Hollis, Richard Challoner and Team Leader Dave Hollis (kneeling)

Senior Citizens' Christmas lunch: Stony Stratford

Stony Stratford Masonic Centre hosted a traditional Christmas lunch for 70 senior citizens in December with members of Roman Way Lodge serving.

Bucks APGM Graham Dearing joining Mayor of Milton Keynes Steve Coventry and Lianne Lacey, Lady Mayoress, for the festive fun.

The guests also enjoyed Christmas carols sung by children from Emerson Valley School, led by their music teacher, Tina Gray Rampello.

Paul French, a member of Wineslai Lodge, was on hand to 'croon' a few old songs and tell some Christmas jokes. Father Christmas



(aka John Petrie of Roman Way Lodge) also made a surprise visit with gifts for the children, who spent time chatting with the elderly visitors before returning to their school.

Music teacher Tina Gray Rampello said: "The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience. For many of them it was the first time they had sung to an audience. They were so pleased with their gifts and loved meeting Santa."

■ Steve Coventry, Mayor of Milton Keynes, chatting with young and old

Panto treat

Lane End Players hosted a group of more than fifty children to a special performance of the pantomime *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, at Lane End Village Hall.

Organised by David Hollis and members of Bourne End Lodge, the children – who belong to Bucks Young Carers and South Bucks National Autistic Society – were treated to cakes, biscuits and drinks during the interval and invited on stage after the performance to meet the cast.

David said: "It is always great fun hosting these young carers who do so much for their own families without asking for reward. This is a wonderful way to show how much they are appreciated. They really enjoyed the day."



■ Lane End Players brought the magic of the Middle East to youngsters, courtesy of Bourne End Lodge

SPORT SPONSORSHIP

New strip for young footballers #1



■ Members of the Prestwood Colts under 10s football team showing off the new kit, with (back row l-r) E. Comps Jonathan Callaly, Derek Watts and Tom Davies and Grand Superintendent John Keeble

A very generous donation from Tom Davies to the Provincial Royal Arch Charity Fund, has enabled two grants from the Buckinghamshire Royal Arch Chapter to be made to worthy local causes.

The first request was from Jonathan Callaly who is a coach for the Prestwood Colts Boys and Girls under 10s football club. The club is non-profit-making and run by volunteers for 5-18 year old boys and girls.

They desperately needed a new strip so a grant was given and the Grand Superintendent John Keeble, accompanied by Tom Davies and Derek Watts, made the presentation on a bitterly cold Sunday morning in November.

The cold did not affect the team one little bit, for they were terribly excited and proud of their new strip, so much so that they went on to play two matches that day and won both of them.

See page 14 for details of another grant from Royal Arch.

New strip for young footballers #2

Recently a call for help came from MK Wanderers Kestrels under 10s football team for new home and away kit.

The Kestrels are a new side starting up in a young football league.

The call was answered by Scientific Lodge of Instruction, supported by St George's Lodge. They provided sponsorship of £570 for the football strip and also funding for the end of season trophy awards for best player and the players' player, voted for by the young team.

Each member of the squad also received a trophy for winning the league: they won nearly every match they played in this season with resounding results.

Some members of the lodge went along to watch and support the team on match days.



■ We are the Champions! Members of the newly-formed MK Wanderers Kestrels under 10s football in their new kit and showing off their trophies

SPORT SPONSORSHIP

Let there be light!

Haddenham United has held a long and proud record in the local leagues around Aylesbury since its inception in 1910.

Like most amateur football clubs, the team holds its training and practice sessions after work and there have been problems with artificial lighting during winter.

The club decided that it needed some portable lights of its own in order to utilise more of the area of the playing field and even have practice matches during training sessions.

However, the lights cost nearly £500 each and up to eight of them were needed to illuminate the area properly.

Tim Finch, a member of the club's committee, approached his friend, Steve Smirthwaite, who he knew to be a member of Haddenham Lodge to see if they could help and Steve approached the BMCF.

Gavin Way, the Team Manager, said: "We are extremely grateful to the BMCF as we are now able to hold our sessions at any time and on better areas of the playing field. This also helps to protect those areas of the pitches and playing fields which may otherwise get overused."

Steve, who recently visited the players on their first training session of 2017 under the new lights, was very impressed with the area that just four of the lights could cover.



The team under one of the lights with Manager Gavin Way (front left)



Martin Fifield, Worshipful Master of Cestreham Lodge, at a recent League match with the girls wearing their new dresses in club colours

Cestreham sponsors netball team

Chesham Stags Netball Club, which was formed last August, are already successfully fielding three teams in local leagues.

The netball girls join the Stags, well established women's and girls' rugby teams which have a proud record of 25 years of playing rugby.

Cestreham Lodge was approached to see if they could contribute towards playing outfits for the girls which the lodge was happy to do.

The design includes a square and compass and the Cestreham Lodge logo. The 'Deer friends' scarf is part of an ongoing fundraising campaign by the Stags to build a community clubhouse.

Sproull & Co

Chartered Accountants

Sproull & Co is the trading name of Sproull & Co Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales with registration number 2065772. Registered in England as a public company limited by guarantee and authorised for a range of investment business activities by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Registered with the Chartered Institute of Taxation as a firm of Chartered Tax Advisers.

Sproull & Co (established 1928)
Chartered Accountants and Tax Advisers
Our services include:

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

For a free initial consultation, please contact Warren Gell
Telephone: 020 8427 2757
Email: warren.gell@sproull.co.uk
Visit our website: www.sproull.co.uk

LADIES CLUBS

Bletchley

The Bletchley Masonic Centre Ladies Luncheon Club gathered together for the following events.

Their AGM took place in November, followed by a lovely lunch and a fun quiz. Members of the committee were re-elected for a further year.

Early in December a festive afternoon tea at a local garden centre was much enjoyed. The food was delicious, the setting comfortable and the atmosphere and ambience Christmassy.

Over eighty people – members, partners and guests – sat down to the December luncheon. Pianist Lincoln Noel made a repeat appearance and was very amusing and entertaining with his varied programme of music and songs.

At the January luncheon speaker Dawn Blunden explained how she was ‘Cake Maker to Royalty’, and amazed the ladies with illustrations of the many wonderful iced cakes she had made and her fascinating stories. There were cakes for christenings, birthdays, weddings, exam success, anniversaries, and more.

February brought a very informative and interesting talk entitled ‘Dress With Success’ by Susan Rasmussen. The ladies were advised on fashion, colours and what might be best for them, bearing in mind certain criteria. They will be looking through their wardrobes with a keen eye!

The club has continued to support the local Food Cupboard, raising funds for the charity through book sales at luncheons. Members have recently voted to make a donation this year to the Alzheimer’s Society.

A varied programme of speakers is in place through to 2018. It is hoped that there will be two trips during this year, one of them to the ‘Downton Abbey’ location in July. Celebrations are planned for the Club’s 10th Anniversary in October.

Club membership is increasing and guests and new members are always welcome. Please contact the Membership Secretary, Dorothy Runacres, on 01908 510830.



Above: Pianist Lincoln Noel entertained the Bletchley ladies in his own inimitable style



Right: Susan Rasmussen helped BMCLLC ladies Chris McKinnon and Linda Teale with their colour coordination

Marlow

At their well-attended AGM in October, Marlow Centre Ladies Club enjoyed a talk on *The Curious Disappearance of Glen Miller* by old favourite, Tony Eaton.

In November the ladies went to the Birmingham German Christmas Market. It was a bright, very cold day but there were plenty of stalls selling hot gluhwein to warm the ladies up. The market showcased the best of German craftsmanship together with food and drink. The decorated stalls and music helped put everyone in the Christmas spirit. Some members also took the time to visit the Saxon Hoard exhibition displayed in the museum.

This year started with a cheese, wine and quiz evening, attended by sixty members and guests, which has become a favourite. The occasion was also used to present a cheque of £1,168 to a representative of Marie Curie which was raised at a charity lunch last June.

A varied programme of speakers is in place for the rest of 2017 including *Travels with Auntie* about life with the BBC World Service by Alastair Lack in February; and *Forty Years of Catching Smugglers* by Malcolm Nelson in May.

Trips will include a guided tour entitled



Marlow Chairman Cynthia Wharton presenting a cheque to Hazel Bendon from Marie Curie Milton Keynes

Barrow Boys and Bankers, Petticoat Lane to the Square Mile in March and Arundel Castle in April when the famous display of tulips should be in full bloom.

The charity lunch this year will be in June at the Taplow House Hotel.

If you are interested in joining the club please contact either Cynthia Wharton on 01844 347913 or Christine Dyckes on 01494 814991.

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

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

555782

HEATING & PLUMBING ENGINEERS

01494 714803 email:tony_dyckes@btconnect.com

Beaconsfield

The Ladies of the Beaconsfield Club have had an enjoyable time of late.

There was a pleasurable trip to the Bath Christmas Market in November, even though it was a cold and windy day, which was only to be expected.

The Christmas Party was great fun this year comprising line dancing interspersed with some great food, singing, laughing and even playing Pass the Parcel – a very silly time was enjoyed by all!

Christmas, New Year and the long January days passed and the next event was the AGM at the beginning of February. This was followed by a very interesting talk on the disappearance and subsequent deaths of both Amy Johnson (pilot) and Lesley Howard (actor) from Tony Eaton. Tony's enthusiasm for researching and giving talks about the mysterious disappearance of famous people is not to be missed.

Future events for the Club consist of a trip to Bourton on the Water, interactive evenings including a quiz, and some interesting talks. The first of these is on '101 things you didn't know about birds' by Chris Ward on Monday, 6th March at 7.30 pm at the Masonic Centre in Beaconsfield.



■ Marion Taylor and Nesta Bance chat up Father Christmas at the Bath Christmas Market

If anyone is interested in joining the Beaconsfield Ladies but is unsure what it entails, please email or call Yvonne Cawte, Secretary, on 01494 562638, yvonnecawte@btinternet.com or Magda Smart, Programmes, 01895 254415, magda@magdalene.free-online.co.uk, who will be happy to talk to you.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New man in St Giles

At their 15th February meeting, St Giles Lodge welcomed a very special new member.

He is Prof Christopher B-Lynch, a retired Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecological Surgeon who now gives lectures around the world.

John Waller, WM of the lodge explained: "Prof Lynch invented the Lynch stitch suture which I understand has saved over two million lives to date. St Giles are proud to have him as a joining member." (See: (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B-Lynch>.)



Bucks Masonic Wanderers (BMW)

This initiative was introduced in 2009 with some success and is now being re-launched.

The support of the BMW group is always well received and appreciated in lodges and its success depends entirely on the enthusiasm of Brethren throughout the Province.

Many lodges are experiencing a drop in the numbers attending and being able to conduct the ceremonies; the BMW group can provide some support.

Visiting is an important part of freemasonry and you are encouraged to join the group and receive notifications of forthcoming meetings that would benefit from some support.

Please see the adjacent details and register your interest to join the BMW group now.

Bucks Masonic Wanderers BMW

**Supporting network for all craft members,
lodges and centres throughout the Province**

The role and aim of the Bucks Masonic Wanderers, or BMW, is to help those lodges which, through no fault of their own, are low on numbers and require physical support, particularly at special meetings or on important occasions.

We have all attended meetings where it has been a bit thin on the square.

Or where a lodge was holding a special meeting such as an Initiation, lecture, white table or receiving visiting dignitaries and so on.

Maybe you're already part of a visiting group or maybe you're a Brother sitting at home, wondering what's going on somewhere else in the Province. You may just fancy a night out at a different centre that you have not had the opportunity to visit before, or the chance to meet new brethren and friends.

BMW is here to help and support the whole Province

If you are a lodge that requires physical support or a brother who would like to register with BMW as a Wanderer, contact bucks.m.wanderers@googlemail.com.

BMW members/visitors would be expected to pay for their own dining/travelling.

**Join us and support Buckinghamshire lodges
and make new friends.**

Video conferencing: saving time and money

The United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) has issued a licence for Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Lodge to hold Webinars, short for web-based seminar.

This is an exciting development in terms of reaching our members, often in their own home, via computer access.

Many of you will have experienced a video conference call, Facetime, Skype or other webcam-type interaction. The Webinar has developed into a popular tool across businesses and public service bodies and we are very fortunate that we are now included in this effective method of communication.

It is now being rolled out by the Provincial Mentor, Almoner and Charity Steward and it is expected many others will take advantage of it. Buckinghamshire Provincial Royal Arch Chapter has also started to use the Webinar in the same way.

A Webinar can be a powerful training and outreach tool. When determining whether it is the best medium for our needs, the following should be considered:

The audience:

- There's a large physical area to cover in this Province
- Webinar will give big savings by reducing travel costs and time
- It will allow training and information to be delivered from a central point (even from home)
- It will enable connection with a wide audience across the Province
- The tool is easy and intuitive to use (but training will be required)
- No special hardware is needed

Concord: Official Publication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Buckinghamshire

Editor: Sue Dorman
Editorial copy should be sent by email and photos should be sent as attachments to:
sue.dorman@virgin.net

copying in:
ssmirthwaite@aol.com
Stephen Smirthwaite
Provincial Communication Officer
tel: 07798 844505
www.buckspgl.org

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

Royal Arch: www.buckspgc.org



The subject matter:

- The audience can range from one to 100, so different groups can be targeted
- The tool will run on different devices so that even those who only have an iPad can attend
- Everyone is becoming more proficient in the use of Power Point to enhance the topics
- More than one speaker can address the audience and show documents, slides, forms etc
- The keyboard and mouse of any participant can be taken over by the presenter to help

Time:

- The time needed to cover a topic can vary
- Most online audiences tend to lose interest after about two hours (or less)
- The licence allows any length of seminar and any number (but not two simultaneously)
- The entire Webinar can be recorded, including audience participation, and shown again, reducing the need to produce

copious notes

- Any participant can 'raise their hand' and everyone can comment at will under the moderation of the organiser
- While Webinars work well for some topics, they're not suited to every training need

The Provincial licence holder is Mike Clanfield, PPGSwdB. He is available for support and training as required and can be contacted at: vale.sec6632@btinternet.com or by telephone on 01908 222983 or 07850 423045.

A day in the sun

After spending 50 years in this country, Chris Comissiong, former member of Hall Barn Chapter and Frederick Lawson Lodge, and his wife Viv, decided to retire to the island of Grenada where he was born and still has family.

Taking time out from a cruise, Rob Knock, Barry Sparks and their wives, Frances and Juliana, spent a day with Chris on Grenada in the home he and Viv built for themselves on the outskirts of St George's, a typical Caribbean port.

After a sightseeing tour of the local area they went to the local rum factory for a little tasting, followed by lunch at a nearby club, before returning to the ship.

Chris has joined a Chapter, Lodge and Mark on the island; his visitors missed a lodge meeting by one day.



■ Enjoying the sunshine in Grenada (l-r): Barry Sparks, Chris Comissiong and Rob Knock

Chris would be pleased to hear from anyone who remembers him: he will be back in the UK a couple of times this year so who knows, you may see him at a meeting.

Your Masonic event at Horwood House

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

Bespoke Masonic packages include:

- Elegant arrival drinks reception
- 4 Course dinner, including fresh coffee and mints
- Half a bottle of wine per guest
- Private bar open until 12am
- 10% of bar sales donation to charity
- Complimentary organiser accommodation
- Complimentary wine & menu tasting

From £45 per guest or £79 inc accommodation



Horwood House
Milton Keynes







www.horwoodhouse.co.uk

PH hotels

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

**KITCHEN
MAKEOVER SPECIALISTS**
Free Home Consultation



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



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

Call 01491 875 359

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

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

Twyford Showroom: Sheeplands Hare Hatch Garden Centre, London Road, Reading, RG10 9HW Open 10 - 4 Mon to Sun

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

 **GRANITE**[®]
transformations
Kitchen makeover experts
www.granitetransformations.co.uk/reading