

CONCORD

BUCKS Big Festival FORTNIGHT

Everything you need to know
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#BucksBFF



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CONCORD

Spring 2019

Editorial Submissions
concord@buckspgl.org

Membership Officer
membership@buckspgl.org

Bucks Provincial
Communications Officer
comms@buckspgl.org

Editor
editor@buckspgl.org

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The Buckinghamshire Freemasons' Magazine

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“ It is now just over a year since I was installed as Provincial Grand Master in this wonderful Province, and in that time we have seen many quantum leaps in our efforts to drive the Province forward in terms of membership and organisation.

Welcome to this new style edition of Concord. As some of you will know, after many years as Editor of Concord, Sue Dorman has passed the editorial baton on to a new team. On behalf of the Province I would like to thank her for the support she has given to the Province during that time.

With this new Concord, we have strived to produce more a contemporary look and feel so that it can be more easily distributed to the public at large. This will further highlight the fantastic work that we do throughout the Province and the enjoyment and camaraderie we share doing it.

Helipad Interface launched

This year our Deputy PGM has implemented a Provincial interface that links in to UGLE's Adelphi system. This new interface is part of a larger Bucks Provincial developed system called 'Helipad'. This link has enabled the Provincial Grand Secretary to remind Lodge Secretaries who have yet to submit applications for any members eligible for promotion within their Lodge. This has prevented a number of very worthy members being missed this year.

The New Visiting Officer Scheme Success

We have seen the new Visiting Officer scheme rolled out by the Deputy PGM. Each V.O. now has the authority to call in help to a struggling Lodge from the Bucks Masonic Wanderers, Stewards Lodge and Provincial Executive. This has been hugely successful in Chalfont St Peter Lodge, where at their recent

Burns meeting over 60 people dined. I would like to thank Eraldo Guarino for his work in making this happen. Eraldo has been a member of the Provincial Executive in an advisory capacity since February 2018 and I would like to thank him for his continued support, frank opinions and guidance.

Matt Perkins has put together the new Provincial Demonstration Team under the guidance of our Director of Ceremonies, Andy Collins, to assist Lodges with ritual. Your V.O. can also arrange this for you if you need any help or would like a very special ceremony for a new candidate or Fellowcraft. Please get in touch with Matt if you would like to become a member of the team. The first major outing for this team was at the Buckinghamshire Classic Car Lodge Installation Meeting at Brooklands Motor Museum on the 20th April. This meeting was a huge success with a delightful festive board enjoyed by all who attended.

Phil Blacklaw and his Mentoring team have made great progress with supporting the smaller Lodges with under 20 members and I have focused my visits to these Lodges primarily. We have seen these Lodges supported by many groups and have enjoyed some superb meetings.

Don't Wait to be Asked

In this edition you will find an envelope entitled "Don't Wait to be Asked". This envelope contains a trifold leaflet and I would like all Freemasons in Bucks to give this envelope to someone



who they think would make a good Freemason. If we all do this, we will have nearly 3000 potential members finding out all about us.

North East Corner Club

We have also made giant leaps with the North East Corner Club, led by John King, who has transformed this club into a very social environment for all new masons.

Every one of the smaller Lodges I visit seems to have a great number of members of the NECC in attendance.

Figures currently suggest that this new initiative has virtually eliminated losses of our newest members in the first year.

One of the most exciting things we have been working on is a new Marketing initiative led by Phil Witney. The first stages of this work, conducted over the last year, will be launched to promote our Province by the time you receive this edition of Concord.

Phil was instrumental in developing the new show team style and Kop Hill event some years ago and has been one of those working in the background for many years unseen by most. Phil is responsible for the "Don't Wait to be Asked" catch-phrase.

He is a Deputy DC and I am delighted to tell you that in line with the Under 50 Rule, for his work in

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the Province and for serving on the Image Development Group subcommittee under Gordon Robertson for UGLE in 2017 has been awarded Acting Grand Standard Bearer by Grand Lodge. This Rule allows an additional Grand Rank for those under 50 with an outstanding track record who will work very hard for us in the future.

Other Grand Rank first appointments include Paul Webb PAGStB for a long career in the Province but specifically for his work in delivering the great success of the Marlow Centre. Andrew Hough has been awarded PGStB for his many years in the Province and for

the great success he has made of the Universities Scheme at Buckingham for Grenville Lodge and his more recent efforts with Bucks New University at High Wycombe. Richard Skym our Provincial Organist has been awarded PAGDC partly for his work at the Aylesbury Centre and also for his work in the Province of Oxfordshire.

Tony Cersell has been promoted to Past Junior Grand Deacon for his sustained commitment to the Province in delivering the Rock Ride events which raised huge sums of money for the Province and for taking on the

role of Senior V.O. among a list of achievements too long to mention here.

As you will all know, we are half way through our 2021 Festival for the Masonic Charitable Foundation and I am looking forward to the Festival Fortnight in June. I would ask you all to support the main events and encourage you to put on your own to raise some money for your Lodge's contribution.



John

R. W. Bro. John Clark
Provincial Grand Master

DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED!

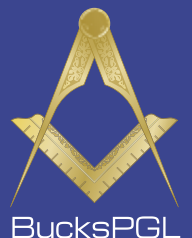
Inside this issue of Concord you will have found an envelope with the slogan "Don't Wait to be Asked".

This new campaign, will be an initiative run throughout the Province to introduce interested friends, colleagues and family to the possibility of joining Freemasonry.

All the Province is asking you to do is to hand the envelope to a person you know who may need a little more information or you know is interested in joining our fraternity.

We believe that if every brother gives away an envelope to a an interested party the membership has the possibility of growing significantly.

So we thank you in advance and look forward to helping you welcome in new members throughout the coming year.



BUCKSPGL COMING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY



“ For the last decade Bucks has proudly hosted one of the most elegant and comprehensive provincial websites in the country. A team of dedicated brethren under the technical leadership of Paul Brissenden-Hemstock keeps the site up to date and more importantly, secure and operational.

Today, our lives are run through websites and mobile apps and it has become time for the Province to get a lot more up to date. For the last few years the primary method of communication has been email with a dedicated email marketing service from Constant Contact being used to keep the brethren informed and up to date. For this to work, it is necessary to ensure that we keep as accurate a record of everyone's email addresses. Our Provincial Grand Registrar, David Durn, has the role of keeping these records up to date and stored within the central database 'Adelphi' run by United Grand Lodge. David is further assisted by the Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary, Derrick Ardron, who maintains the list of Provincial email addresses and maintains the Constant Contact mailings and contact list.

New email addresses

Derrick is now spearheading a campaign to promote email addresses through the buckspgl.org domain. In practical terms this means that when an address is published for a particular event or story, wherever possible that address will be an **@buckspgl.org** address. Our strategy here is to define addresses by function, so you will see addresses like **charity@** and **necc@** etc. This means that as the appointments of particular roles change, you don't need to change the email address, we can just change who it points to.

For some years the office has automated the process of collecting changes of brethren's details, these are submitted through an online form known as the BP1. The form is online and details are submitted by Lodge secretaries which are then processed by the Provincial Office. What has become clear though is that particularly with changes of email address, not all brethren are informing their secretaries and as a result, Adelphi is not kept as up to date as we would like.

To help remedy this, the Provincial Directory which was previously known as the 'Blue Book' is about to be published online. This will be a secure website which will only be accessible to subscribing Bucks masons. To gain access you will need to register and then access via a secure login page. Once logged in, as well as being able to see the details of Lodges as you could in the old Blue Book, you will be able to update your own contact details as and when they change. This will hopefully reduce the workload on secretaries and serve to ensure our Adelphi records are maintained as accurately as possible.

Testing the process

We have been testing the registration process of the new directory with this year's nominations for Appointments and Promotions. In past years this has been a manual task of Lodge

secretaries completing paper forms and submitting them to the provincial office. There, each form was manually scored and details entered into spreadsheets.

This year the full process is automated with secretaries registering and completing the application form.

This information is then instantly available in electronic form within the office for processing. The feedback received from secretaries has been extremely positive and the process of registration has proved to be very effective. This has given us the confidence to be able to get ready for the full roll out of the online directory which will happen very soon.

Table planning system

Other developments include the new table planning system designed to assist Lodges in producing an easy to read and elegant looking table plan for their festive boards, but more importantly to alert the Lodge Almoner, Mentor and Secretary to any brother who starts to miss consecutive meetings. As a Province we have now stopped the losses of newly initiated brethren through engaging them in the NECC and getting them more actively involved in visiting and masonry in general.

...Continued overleaf



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We are looking to the table planner to provide an alerting tool which will monitor and alert the Lodge to brethren that have stopped attending so that they can be contacted and assisted to be brought back. Having been trialed by a number of Lodges which has prompted some excellent updates and improvements, the table planner is now available to any Lodge that wants to use it. I strongly encourage you to have a go, it is easy to use and will assist in helping you within the Lodge with regard to your member retention.

Provincial Events are now being booked online with payment being made through either PayPal or in some cases with an optional bank transfer. This is all done through the provincial

website and for the Grand Ball being held at the end of the Festival Fortnight on Saturday 22nd June, the booking can even include your choices of menu. Later this year you will see other events and the Provincial meeting being booked in a similar way. This serves to reduce the work behind the scenes in running these events and means you can have immediate confirmation of your booking.

The world is changing as more and more activities are conducted online, it has been heartening to see that individuals in Lodges are looking after the less 'I.T.' active brethren by making block bookings for events which include them. This is what Freemasonry is all about, helping our fellow brothers and those around us. I also think that

as more and more social connections move into a virtual world, the benefit of those face to face events like Lodge meetings, L of Is and social events become all the more important. We will therefore continue to develop our online world, but always remember that the social side and involvement of our families and friends is equally important. Buckinghamshire has been leading the way with its online presence and other Provinces watch us closely as they attempt to follow. Please ensure you keep us up to date with any changes of contact details so we are able to keep you fully informed.

V. W. Bro. Hugh Douglas-Smith
Deputy Provincial Grand Master

Welcome to Instagram

The Provincial Lodge of Buckinghamshire has further added to its stable of social media platforms by launching its own Instagram page.

Instagram is a social media platform that is very much championed by the Grand Lodge of England, with all the Provinces being encouraged to have an Instagram presence. Instagram is a photo and video social networking service owned by Facebook. It was founded in 2010 and has over 1 billion users including a significant masonic community.

As an organisation we are working hard to be more outward looking. Not only delivering to our members but also to further inform the general public about our work in the community. Instagram is certainly a positive way in which we can communicate to potential new members, inquisitive members of the public and the membership within Freemasonry itself.



We plan to share our news, charity work, pictures of our members, pictures of our centres and temples as well as all the different masonic activities that happen throughout the Province.

If you have content from your own centre or Lodge that you would like the Province to share then please

e-mail both the photo or video (as long as it is less than 1 minute in length) with the appropriate text to: instagram@buckspgl.org

We look forward to utilising this contemporary tool to actively promote Freemasonry across the Province of Buckinghamshire in the months and years to come.



THE RITUAL RESOURCE TEAM, HELPING SUPPORT LODGES TO DELIVER EVEN BETTER CEREMONY.

“Many great attributes stem from Freemasonry and at the heart of these are the ceremonies and rituals which form the basis of our learning and understanding of the ancient craft. Good ceremony is enjoyed by all but excellent ceremony is a particularly uplifting and enjoyable experience for participants, spectators and especially the candidates.

Buckinghamshire is well known for leading the way in striving for innovative initiatives to attract newcomers and to develop its present membership. Successive PGM's have brought about continuous improvements to ensure that the Province stays ahead of 'what's trending' in Freemasonry today. One such initiative has landed this year after a request from the PGM to form a group of like minded masons with a common desire to deliver first class Emulation ritual.

Under the guidance of Andy Collins, ProvGDC, and direct leadership of Matthew Perkins, ProvGPurs, the Buckinghamshire Provincial Demonstration team has now established itself in that role. Their raison d'être is to assist Lodges who are in need of support, especially if they have low membership and are undertaking ceremonies, to provide ongoing support to those same Lodges and to assist Lodges on an ad hoc basis with specific officers or pieces of ritual for a particular meeting.

Ritual renaissance

Early response to the initiative for creating a Provincial Demonstration Team has been overwhelming. We held an audition day at Beaconsfield Centre in January which was attended

by a large group of those aspiring to join the new team and subsequently the stable membership has already swelled to 50! Matt Perkins is now leading the team and they have already displayed their capability at three meetings with a further three requests for assistance diarised; feedback has been excellent. A separate article on the team features in this edition of Concord.

Nomad's journey

The formation of the Buckinghamshire Nomadic Lodge, a bunch of avid caravan, motorhome and camping enthusiasts, is now well underway. Having shown their firm commitment through some trial runs and subsequently a formal request for Consecration having been submitted to UGLE for approval, I attended the first Consecration preparation meeting in the Winslow this month.

It is intended to Consecrate the Lodge in grand thematic style in a marquee pitched in a field near the Bell Hotel, Winslow, on Friday 14th of June. The formation has been timed to coincide with the many other exciting events planned for the 'Festival Fortnight' and the unique venue and nature of the Lodge make this a Consecration not to be missed; the Provincial website and Concord will both offer further updates as they develop.

Escorts' agenda

As always the Provincial Escort Team, supported by a select few of the previous Escort groups, continues to respond positively to their primary duty of supporting the PGM and his senior team in visiting Lodges, Province-wide. A number of new initiatives to assist in Lodge support have increased their visit agenda significantly in the current period but with positive attitudes and unfaltering willingness to provide a first class service, I am extremely grateful to all involved for their loyal, dedicated service to Buckinghamshire - a huge thanks to you all.

- If you would like the opportunity to join this growing, elite team please follow the application at buckspgl.org/lodge-demo-team and you will be able to specify which pieces of ritual you would be willing to deliver. You can be of any rank to join the team, and we look forward to seeing younger brethren and more experienced craftsmen alike.
- If you are a Lodge looking for the assistance of the Team please visit: buckspgl.org/lodge-demo-request

Andy Collins

Andy Collins

ProvGDC

We are excited to announce that BUCKSPGL has a new Webpage linked to our website to encourage members of the public to enquire about joining Freemasonry.

It is specifically designed to appeal to a broader Non-Masonic audience and over the coming weeks and months will be marketed via a number of external advertising platforms :-

- **Facebook / Instagram / Twitter / Google –**

There are many people who use these social media platforms every day. We plan to promote and advertise Freemasonry in Buckinghamshire using these platforms and driving their enquiries to the new “Membership Joining Page”. Please keep an eye out and get involved with promoting it.

- **Magazine Advertising –**

We have identified and negotiated advertising deals with a number of local publications throughout Buckinghamshire. Some of these adverts will be accompanied by full page “Advertorials” providing additional information on Freemasonry in Buckinghamshire, the fun you can have with it and the good that it does for the surrounding community.



We feel that actively engaging with the public via these external marketing routes and the new “Membership Joining Page” will give Freemasonry in Buckinghamshire a more open and welcoming feel and help to increase joining enquiries and more importantly new members across the Province.

However, we need your help to promote this webpage by liking, sharing, forwarding and showing it to people who might be interested. So please keep an eye out over the next

few weeks and months and help to promote this new marketing initiative.

Remember we can all make a difference by being open about Freemasonry and sharing our positive experiences of it. We're all Ambassadors for Freemasonry and can all play an active role in “Promoting the Art”..... so let's get out there, be proud of who and what we are, show the world the good we do and how they can become a part of our great organisation.

www.buckspgl.org/info

Digital Workshop

The UGLE Digital team are willing to provide Digital Workshops to our Province.

Many of you have already expressed an interest in attending a workshop, but the more the merrier.

The workshops are aimed at helping you to promote your Lodge, the Province and Freemasonry in general.

The Digital team are happy to tailor the workshop and are willing to run a course at a couple of locations within the Province.

Some of the areas they are willing to cover are listed below, however if you would like any other items covered please let me know;

- Content writing tips
- Article submission guidelines for the FMT website
- Freemasonry Today overview
- Social media tips
- Overview and benefits of social media platforms
- Other (please specify)

If you are interested to join a workshop, send your name, location and Lodge name to:

John Waller
comms@buckspgl.org
Buckinghamshire
Communications Officer

BUILDING ON EXPERIENCE

Heart of Bucks, the Community Foundation for Buckinghamshire, has awarded a grant of £4,830 to Black Park Shed thanks to a donation of £3,799 from the Bucks Masonic Grass Roots Fund.

Black Park Shed is a newly established organisation which has been set up to help combat the negative effects of isolation and loneliness on a person's health and wellbeing.

Shed members are often retired or unemployed and welcome the opportunity to share experience, knowledge and skills in a safe and enjoyable environment.

The funding has helped them to create

a meeting place that is both safe and fit for purpose and, going forward, members will be able to raise funds by repairing items or making items for sale.



Nigel Quince, Charity Steward of Wraysbury Lodge, was impressed when a friend told him of the excellent treatment he had received at Butterfly House Community Hospice in High Wycombe.

Nigel contacted the hospice to find out what masons could do to help and a plan was devised to turn a drab dining area and small conference room into 'The Butterfly Bistro'.

With the help of Phil Manning they transformed the area into a comfortable and homely space and the Lodge donated £500 for new crockery to complete the project.

That, however, was not the end of the story. It was apparent that the kitchen facilities did not meet current food and safety standards. Nigel, being the director of an industrial kitchen company, put out a call for



help to his suppliers. As a result a fully compliant catering kitchen worth around £20,000 has been installed.

The grateful hospice had yet another surprise when Phil and Nigel organised a free gala evening for the staff and sold tickets to raise additional funds for the hospice. The event was supported by DPGM Hugh Douglas-Smith and two tables of masons with their partners raising £1,800 on the night.

The Chairman of the Trustees thanked Wraysbury Lodge for all the help and support.



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Roman Way supports Merebrook Forest Schools project

Roman Way Lodge recently became aware of the urgent needs of Merebrook Infant School which was attempting to introduce a Forest Schools project.

This initiative helps children to develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences both in the school and outdoors. The school has a total of 128 pupils aged between 4-7 years with 24 classified as underprivileged.

Graham Mitchell of Roman Way Lodge, together with Tracy

Hurwood, the Head Teacher for Merebrook, got the ball rolling. Roman Way Secretary, Mick Hull, approached the BMCF for support and was granted £1,000. This has been used by the school to purchase clothing and equipment to allow the children to play outside in all types of weather.

Ms Hurwood commented, "This is a very generous donation from Bucks Freemasons and will make a huge difference to the children. We are all extremely grateful."



Pictured (l-r) with some of the children: Executive Headteacher, Soheila Mathison; Jo Beckett, stepdaughter of Graham Mitchell from Roman Way Lodge; Graham Mitchell; Forest School Lead, Carol Lawson; Teaching Assistant, Lisa Randall; Head of School, Tracy Hurwood.

HELPING TO SPREAD A SMILE

Eddie Irwin (Iver Lodge) and Tom Davis (Temple Manor Lodge) recently presented a cheque for £1,000 to the Spread a Smile charity to help with the fantastic work the organisation does entertaining children and teenagers who are seriously and terminally ill in hospital.

The charity organises hospital visits a with their entertainer, art workshops, ice cream drops and therapy dogs. This enables them to see over 500 patients per month – over 6,000 young people reached every year.

Spread a Smile is proud to work with Great Ormond Street Hospital, University College Hospital, Royal London Hospital, St Mary's Hospital and the Evelina London. Their visits can lift a child's spirits, giving them something to look forward to.



Eddie Irwin, Josephine Segal, Marina Constantinou and Tom Davis with the cheque for £1,000

Josephine Segal, Spread a Smile Co-founder commented: "We are very grateful to Tom Davis and Eddie Irwin on behalf of the Bucks Freemasons for making this generous donation. The money will allow us to continue to send entertainers into hospitals to see children who are seriously and terminally ill and to bring a smile to their face when they really need it."



For more information, visit www.spreadasmile.org or Twitter @spreadasmileuk.



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BMCF supporting children



(l-r): Bucks APMG Phil Blacklaw, Elisabeth Scott and Darcy Scott-Hindmarch (of Emily's Star), Andrew Hough (Bucks MCF Rep), Mick Clanfield (Bucks Provincial Charity Steward)

One hundred and thirty three children, their parents and carers had a wonderful pre-Christmas day out at Mead Open Farm thanks to a grant of £1,200 from the BMCF.

The charity behind the event is Emily's Star which exists to raise awareness of Trisomy 18, a life-limiting condition of new born babies, and help the families to enjoy normal activities.

The children, who belong to families in which a sibling has a life-limiting condition, met Santa and took part in a variety of fun activities. The event was attended by Bucks APMG Phil Blacklaw, along with Mike Clanfield (Provincial Grand Charity Steward) and Andrew Hough (BMCF Rep).

Let's hope Santa made all their Christmas wishes come true!

TRAIL BLAZING!

The BMCF awarded £3,200 for the purchase of a trailer for Alfriston School based in Beaconsfield. Mike Clanfield recently went to the school to meet the Headmistress and girls who will be using it.

Alfriston is a special school for girls with learning difficulties and their main aim is to help their girls to gain the confidence and skills needed to be able to enjoy and participate in life as contributing adults.



Some of the girls from Alfriston School with Headteacher Jinna Male and Mike Clanfield

Headteacher Jinna Male of Alfriston school commented: "This trailer is being used to take our girls out of their home environments on expeditions and trips. Some of them are learning to ride bikes and we have taken mountain bikes out to the woods to give them an exciting and inspiring setting in which to learn. Others have been on adventurous residential trips such as to the New Forest, where the trailer has been used to take the large equipment needed.

"The school curriculum can now include a wider and more varied programme of adventurous and outdoor activities that will develop their personal attributes such as resilience, perseverance and co-operation to equip them for life beyond Alfriston.

"We are delighted to be supported in all of this by the Buckinghamshire Freemasons who kindly gave us the trailer for our minibs to enable us to provide invaluable experiences for our girls."

RIDING HIGH!

Last summer eight members of the Ride High charity enjoyed an unforgettable few days at the Fortune Centre of Riding in the New Forest thanks to an award from the BMCF of £2,433.

The children enjoyed long sunny days building their riding skills, confidence and friendships. Fundraising Manager, Helen Dixon, thanked the BMCF and Bucks Freemasons for the award which resulted in worthwhile and beneficial experiences for all the children.



Laptops for Rennie Grove Hospice

The Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund (BMCF) donated £1,850 to buy two laptops for the Rennie Grove Hospice at Home nurses to support patients living in Buckinghamshire.

Clare Joyce, Trust Fundraiser, pictured left, said: "We are enormously grateful for the generous support that we have received from the Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund which has enabled us to purchase these laptops."





Marlow Centre Ladies Club ended 2018 with a trip to the Imperial War Museum in London, timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the ending of WW1.

This allowed them the opportunity to see a section of the Weeping Window poppy installation originally at the Tower of London.

At their well attended AGM in October, members were told that, sadly, Eveline Martin had resigned as chairman due to poor health. Christine Dyckes is the new chairman, Trudy Weller is secretary and Moria Turner vice chairman. Eveline was presented with a gift and flowers in recognition of her many years on the committee.

The speaker for the evening was Bill Stacey who stepped in when the booked speaker was unable to

attend. He entertained the ladies, their husbands and partners with his life story as a lock keeper on the River Thames.

The new year should have started with the annual cheese, wine and quiz evening but, due to a sudden snow storm, it had to be cancelled. It is hoped this will be rearranged soon as the event includes the charity fund raising cheque presentation which this year goes to Cancer UK.

The talk in February was by Steve Dimmer on Agatha Christie. In March there is a visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea followed in April with part two of a talk by Malcolm Nelson on 'Forty years catching smugglers' and in May the ladies will visit Audley End and Saffron Walden.

▪ BLETCHLEY LADIES LUNCH CLUB

The Bletchley Masonic Centre ladies lunch club continues to thrive with membership currently standing at 64.

The AGM took place in November and there were some committee changes. Denny Dorrell is chairman, Celia Boyer is Secretary and Rose Milton is the club's Treasurer.

November was a busy month with a trip for members and friends to Birmingham Christmas market. At the November meeting Sue Watkins gave an interesting and fun talk about her life running the Alpaca Farm at Cosgrove. She brought along goods made from the Alpaca wool which proved popular with many sales being made.

The December meeting was a festive meal attended by more than 80 members and guests who were entertained by Freemason and singer Paul French. A Christmas themed raffle raised a good sum of money.

2019 began with a talk from Vic Botterill entitled The History of Nursery Rhymes. This was much enjoyed by our members and opened their eyes to the links to history over the centuries.

A full and varied programme is planned for the for the rest of the year.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested in finding out more then please contact Club Secretary Denny Dorrell on 01908 397338.



Above: Christine Dyckes and Eveline Martin

Marlow Ladies are always very pleased to welcome new members. If you would like more information please contact either the chairman Christine Dyckes on 01494 814991 or the secretary Trudy Weller on 01494 817205.

▪ BEACONSFIELD

It seems a long time since Beaconsfield Ladies enjoyed a fun but somewhat frustrating evening trying their hands at making Christmas hats using the origami technique.

All the individual folds need to be linked up to make the hat and all went reasonably well until the final one when they kept unravelling!

The Christmas party theme was Red, so the hats were made, decorated and taken home to have something red added to them. Everyone then turned up to the party wearing their festive hats.

For 2019, it had been decided to trial afternoon meetings in those first few months when the weather can be at its worst.

The AGM in early February was the first of these preceded by thick snow which fortunately had all gone on the day and the meeting was well supported. This was followed by a ploughman's lunch and an opportunity to catch up with friends.

If your wife/partner would be interested in coming along, please let her know about the meetings. She will be most welcome and friends are also invited. For more information please contact Yvonne Cawte, Secretary, 01494 562638; yvonnecawte@btinternet.com.

BUCKS Big Festival FORTNIGHT

Celebrating our achievements by involvement
7th - 22nd June 2019

#BucksBFF

SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2019

Celebration Ball

Reception Drinks from 7.00pm, Carriages at 1.00am

★
WINE AUCTION

★
Everyone is encouraged to Balloon Raffle
Charity Auction

★
COMPERE & AUCTIONEER
Adger Brown of The Grand Order of Water Rats

★
ENTERTAINMENT
Ray Lewis, with Guest singer and his Band.

★
DOUBLETREE HOTEL, STADIUM WAY,
WEST BLETCHLEY, MILTON KEYNES MK1 1ST

Tickets available at www.buckspgl.org/events

★ £70 per person ★

DRESS CODE: Black Tie for Gentlemen,
Cocktail or Long Evening Dress for Ladies



RAY LEWIS Former Lead Singer of THE DRIFTERS

In the mid-late 1970's, a talented young singer named Ray Lewis joined one of the world's biggest bands, The Drifters. The existing lead singer, Johnny Moore, was leaving the band, and the group's management, the Treadwell family, decided that Ray was the ideal person to replace him.

Ray was born in Los Angeles, and grew up singing in church. One of his first jobs as lead singer was to re-record all of the original Drifters' hits, so the public would recognise him as the voice of The Drifters. He performed alongside the late Bill Fredericks and Johnny Moore as well as Ben E King and went on to become one of the longest serving members of the band, finally leaving in the late 1980's to pursue a solo career.

Since then he has performed around the world as an artist in his own right.

★ **We look forward to watching Ray's performance at the Celebration Ball on 22nd June.**

BUCKS Big Festival FORTNIGHT

Saturday 22nd June The 418' Challenge



Some things are just not meant to happen, and in that list, we would include both the DPGM and APGM being tied up together with straps, webbing and ropes in readiness to dangle over the edge of the world's tallest permanent abseiling tower. But is it all in the name of charity.

In a race to the very bottom, Hugh and Phil will close their eyes and leap (probably somewhat hesitantly) into the abyss (Northampton). If they make it in one piece, they should be seen later at the Gala Ball and in need of a very stiff drink. At 418 feet tall (about 40 floors) that makes it taller than Centrepont in Tottenham Court Road London.

Please sponsor us now at
www.buckspgl.org/abseil

PGMs Paddle Part 1...



1st Challenge: 15 June 2019

As a supporter of the October 2016-October 2021 Festival and the Festival Fortnight, I was delighted to accept the responsibility of ensuring I could get two fine athletes to paddle the length of a marathon down the River Thames to raise money for charity.

My thoughts quickly turned to what elite team I would be working with: Redgrave, Pinsent, Foster... the choices were endless. However, it was when the team sheet arrived that the sinking feeling set in.

- **John Clark PGM**
- **Gary Brodie APGM**

I now realise the sinking feeling was quite apt, as simple physics tells me there may be boat load issues and

'sinking' may well be what they experience on 15th June 2019. Although I have been assured that John & Gary have been through rigorous Festive Broad training, I can only liken this to Cool Runnings on water, but I accept the challenge!!!

2nd Challenge: June 2020

Both John and Gary have agreed (I have witnesses!) that as long as we can raise enough money for the first challenge they will paddle 150 miles down the Thames over 5 days.

So what are you waiting for?
Please sponsor us now at
www.buckspgl.org/paddle

And if you would like to join in either or both of the challenges, please email me: simon.w@bowaterprice.com

ZIP WIRE CHALLENGE



"If we have the longest and fastest cable runway in Europe ... why not test it out and video the descent!"

For their 2021 Festival Challenge, AsstProvGM, Tony Robinson, and Provincial Grand Secretary, Barry Sparks, will be testing out the 'Velocity 2' zip wire in Snowdonia, speeds well over 100 mph. 'Flying' for 1,555 metres (almost 1 mile) over the Penrhyn Quarry.

Please sponsor us now at
www.buckspgl.org/zipwire



BUCKS Big Festival FORTNIGHT

FLYING HIGH FOR THE 2021 FESTIVAL

**As the
Buckinghamshire
Provincial
Communications
Officer, I wanted to
do something for the
2021 Festival.**

Last year my wife bought me a Skydive from 10,000 feet. I survived that so clutching my insurance policy tightly she thought this year it would be nice if I did a 13,000 feet Skydive. My main challenge this time round will be maintaining a scream for the extra 3,000 feet.

So weather permitting I'm jumping at the Sibson Skydiving school on the 4th of May.

It's all for a good cause and your support will be appreciated. A link to my fundraising portal is below.

John Waller

<https://e2021mcf.everydayhero.com/uk/john-waller-13-000-feet-sky-dive>

Verney Lodge Cycling Challenge

Members of Verney Lodge 8849 and supporters will be cycling around the entire Province in the weekend of 8 and 9th June to kick off the Big Bucks Festival Fortnight.

They will be cycling from Slough to Aylesbury on Saturday 8th June and Aylesbury to Olney day after. This is all for the Masonic Charitable Foundation and the Festival 2021

Members Paul French, Ian Bamsey, Frank Byrne, Ewan Gordon, Simon O'Dell will be cycling, with Grae Laws and Grenville Lodge member Gavin Lannen on a Tandem.

We welcome riders and support drivers of every level - you could for instance ride with us between two Lodges.

<https://e2021mcf.everydayhero.com/uk/verney-lodge-cycling-challenge>

CINEMA OUTDOORS

BOHEMIAN

RHAPSODY

GATES OPEN AT 7PM

for picnic and drinks
(bring your own food, drinks,
picnic blankets etc).

FILM SHOWING AT 9PM

as it gets dark

Close 11pm

Free Parking available on site

Open-air

FRIDAY 7TH JUNE 2019

£20 per adult (£10 under 16's)

Supporting charities in Buckinghamshire and beyond.

500 tickets first come first served.

To book visit buckspgl.org/pinewood

VENUE

**PINEWOOD
STUDIOS**

**PINEWOOD RD
IVER HEATH
SLO 0NH**

What's on

The events shown below are those already identified and promoted in support of the Festival. As they become available, more details of these and other events will be found on the **BucksBigFestivalFortnight Facebook page**, and the Bucks PGL website: www.buckspgl.org/bucksbff.

BUCKS Big Festival FORTNIGHT

■ 4th May

John Waller Sky Dive

13,000ft over Buckinghamshire Bucks <https://e2021mcf.everydayhero.com/uk/52-marathons-in-52-weeks-1>

■ 19th May

Hughenden Lodge Car Treasure Hunt

Starting at Marlow Masonic Centre at 10.15 am. £20 per adult and 10 U16s. Contact Les Hampson for further details: 07836 204315 (text), email les.hampson@tvandsatellite.co.uk

■ 7th June

Film Night at Pinewood Studios

Watch Bohemian Rhapsody outdoors. Doors open from 7pm
Film showing at 9pm, Provincial Grand Lodge of Buckinghamshire

■ 8-9th June

Verney Lodge Cycling Marathon

Bike ride between every Masonic Centre in Bucks
<https://e2021mcf.everydayhero.com/uk/verney-lodge-cycling-challenge>

■ 9th June

Roman Way Garden Party

Roman Way Lodge are holding a Garden Party in aid of the MCF hosted by Jax and Mick Hull, tickets can be obtained from John Petrie, who can be contacted on 01908 526674, tickets are running out fast!

■ 13th June

Golfing Par-athon

Cliff Drake shall be looking to play as many rounds of golf as possible, to score as many (gross) PARs as I am able in one day, at North Hants Golf Club
<https://e2021.everydayhero.com/uk/the-2019-golfing-par-athon>

■ 14th June

Nomadic Lodge Consecration

Winslow. Contact Caleb Walton

Turkish Night

Magiovinivm Lodge No 8091 are holding a Turkish night at June at Pasha Restuarant Bletchley details available from Martin Wolfe, Charity Steward. martinwolfe68@gmail.com

■ 15th June

Putt & Pint Crazy Golf Family Fun Day

St Giles Lodge. For more information, contact John Waller
<https://stgileslodge8555.weebly.com/15th-june-putt-pint.html>

■ 18th June

Zip Wire Challenge

AsstProvGM, Tony Robinson, and Provincial Grand Secretary, Barry Sparks, will be testing out the 'Velocity 2' zip wire in Snowdonia.
www.buckspgl.org/zipwire

■ 22nd June

Celebration Ball

Provincial Grand Lodge of Buckinghamshire. Reception drinks, followed by at 7pm at the Double Tree Hotel in West Bletchley, Milton Keynes. Wine Raffle, Balloon Auction and entertainment from Drifters Lead singer, Ray Lewis.

Flying Amigos Abseil Challenge

Flying Amigos of Scientific Lodge - WBro Carl Devereux -Bro Stephen Brown and our newest member Bro Danny Wright will be abseiling down the Northampton Lift tower.
<https://e2021mcf.everydayhero.com/uk/flying-amigos-scientific-lodge-840>

40 floor Abseil Challenge

Hugh Douglas-Smith and Phil Blacklaw will abseil down 40 floors whilst being strapped to one another for company!
<https://e2021.everydayhero.com/uk/hugh-phil-s-abseiling-challenge>

Hughenden Car Treasure Hunt!



Hughenden Lodge No. 6308 is hosting a Car Treasure Hunt, in aid of the 2021 Festival on 19th May 2019 starting at Marlow Masonic Centre on Starting at Marlow Masonic Centre Finishing at 'Who knows where?'

- Meet at 10.15 am for briefing at 10.30
Departures between 10.45 and 11.15
- £20.00 per adult/£10 under 16 entry fees to include finger buffet food at the finish.
- You'll need a phone with camera and Google Maps.
- No clues for your route just destinations to go to, in any order, where you'll need to find answers to questions or get objects.

Prize for the winner and booby for the loser!

**Contact W. Bro. Les Hampson for further details
07836 204315 (text) les.hampson@tvandsatellite.co.uk**

SPORTS

Bucks Masonic Golf Society

The last golf meeting of 2018, held at Aylesbury Park GC at the end of September, was the Bucks Open which was combined with the President's Scratch competition.



Keith Panes won the Bucks Open and was presented with the trophy by Captain Stan Green (above).

The Scratch competition was won by Stan Green and Brian Shepherd presented him with the trophy (below).



The new masonic golfing season starts 8th April 2019, full details in the table on the right.

There are three competitions with other provinces in 2019 and Bucks are currently holders of all three trophies. Bedfordshire is the competition in April and in June there is a three-way competition between Bucks, Berks and Middlesex to be held at Lambourne.

Bucks Masonic Bowls Association

A new season for the Bucks Masonic Bowls Association started off hopefully but again the Club has had mixed fortunes.

On **10th October** at the West Berks Indoor Bowls Club, the BMBA played the second leg of the annual Bucks v Berks Rose Bowl competition, with Berkshire winning by a margin of 22 shots. The contest started again with a home indoor fixture at Foxhills IBC, Aylesbury, on **21st February** which unfortunately the BMBA lost by two games to three. The next match was on **5th March** against Bucks VPs.

A match against Slade BC on **17th October** ended with the BMBA losing by 19 shots while on 30th October the Club lost by just five shots to Oxfordshire (98 shots to 93).

On **15th November**, the BMBA was host to the Bedfordshire Vice Presidents' Bowling Association at the Foxhill Indoor Bowls Club in Aylesbury, the final result being 114 to 95 in favour of Beds VPs. Bucks VPs were the winning opponents on **5th December** at Foxhills IBC, the final score being 107 to 68.

The first match of 2019 was against Foxhills IBC on **17th January**. BMBA lost by 130 to 77 but the competition, cake auction and raffle raised a wonderful £95.

However, the match against Oxfordshire MBA on **24th January** proved a triumph for debutant captain and senior VP, Brian Bristow. At half time Bucks led by just one shot (32–31) with the final score Bucks winning 94–80. Total monies raised on the day: £80.

The outdoor season started on **17th April** with a home match against Hazlemere, followed by matches on **9th May** (away to Winslow) **16th May** (away to Chesham), **23rd May** (away to Aston Clinton) and **28th May** (away to Aylesbury Town). Thereafter there are four or five matches each month with the first round of the Rose Bowl Competition at home to Berkshire on **19th June**.

- **The Association is always on the lookout for new players – of any level of skill. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary, Jim Lumsden, at jim.lumsden@btinternet.com.**



GOLF FIXTURES FOR 2019

21st May:	InterLodge at Wycombe Heights
20th June:	Tri-Province at Lambourne
27th June:	Founders Trophy at Three Locks
19th July:	Derek Trice at Harleyford
19th August:	Grenville Trophy at Weston Turville
24th September:	Bucks Open at Aylesbury Vale

Attendance will be open to all members of the Society at these and all of the venues.

Captain Stan Green sends everyone best wishes for 2019 and looks forward to enjoying the company of members on the golf course and continuing the society's charitable efforts throughout the year.

- **If you would like further information about the Bucks Masonic Golf Society, please contact Brian Shepherd, Secretary, on 01628 671458 or email golf@buckspgl.org.**



BUCKS FREEMASONS ON THE BALL!

The BMCF recently sponsored the under 11 team at Waterhall Stars Football Club with a grant of £1,000 for kit and equipment.

The club was established in 1995 and has teams in the Milton Keynes Border Counties and Milton Keynes Development District League. The club is run entirely by volunteers and funded by parents and sponsors. Their aim is to provide an opportunity for children to enjoy playing football in a safe and friendly environment.

The under 11 team, managed by George Watts, has won numerous summer tournaments and started last season in great shape, winning two and drawing one in their first three games.

Chairman Viv Dixon, commented: "The club operates on the simple principle of providing football for all in a fun, safe, structured and sociable environment that will enable each child to develop and reach his or her own potential."



Above: Waterhall Stars Under 11's in their new kit.

Clay Pigeon Shooting Association

The Bucks Masonic Clay Pigeon Shooting Association held its second Summer shoot of 2018 at Common Leys shooting ground at Waterperry Common, Oxfordshire in early September.

The participants were joined by Tony Robinson, APGM who managed an impressive 50% on target under the instruction of Roger Gills, secretary of the BMCPSA.



Tony later presented the trophies to:

- **High Gun (guest)**
Michael Blackwell – 85
- **Runner up (guest)**
Barry Newall – 78
- **BMCPSA High Gun**
Dave Hollis – 76
- **Runner up**
Phil McDonald – 75
- **Ladies High Gun**
Charlotte Holmes – 70
- **Runner up Anthea Mearns – 61**



CHARITY SHOOT RAISES £800

Roger visited the Macmillan Cancer Support unit at Wexham Park Hospital on 24th January to present a cheque for £800 to Patricia Thornhill, Macmillan Information and Support Assistant.

The money was raised at two charity clay pigeon shoots in the last quarter of 2018. Patricia was delighted to accept the cheque on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support and thanked the BMCPSA and all who attended on both days.

- **More information on Macmillan**
can be found on their website
macmillan.org.uk



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE MASONIC C.P.S.A. PRESENT *The Masonic Home Counties Inter-Provincial Competition 2019*

SATURDAY 10TH AUGUST 2019

**Venue: E.J.Churchills S.G. Park Lane, Lane End,
High Wycombe, Bucks. HP14 3NS.**

The shoot will be 100 clays on an English Sporting layout off 10 stands. The day will begin with bacon rolls coffee/tea and registration at 09:00. Shooting begins at 10:30 (all shooters must be registered by 10:00)

The cost is £65.00 per person

- Includes a buffet lunch and the bacon roll, Coffee/tea on arrival.
- If you do not wish to have the lunch, the cost is £55.00 shoot only.
- Food only Lunch £10.00
- Bacon roll Coffee/Tea £5.00

All shooters will be required to present an up to date Shotgun Certificate at Registration, (No certificate No Shot).

The competition is open to all Freemasons' families and friends and will be squadded 6-8 (mixed groups).

*Please return the entry form(s) with cheque made payable to Buckinghamshire Masonic C.P.S.A. by 27th July 2019 to:-
Dave Hollis, 76 Hambleden Village, Henley-on-Thames OXON. RG9 6PR (01491 579157 / 07801 149237), or
Roger Gills, 5 Pearce Drive, Cookham, BERKS. SL6 9TE. (01628 522878 / 07711 088462)*

TROPHIES

**Home Counties Inter-Provincial Trophy
(Home Counties Provinces)**

**Top Masonic Team & Runner Up
(top three scores)**

**Masonic High Gun and Runner Up
Top Non-Masonic Team & Runner Up
(Top three scores)**

(as Masonic team, County Team only)

Non-Masonic High Gun (men),

Ladies High Gun

Junior High Gun (18 and under on the day)

ROYAL ARCH

TRAVELLING ALTAR OF COMPANIONSHIP INCREASES VISITING

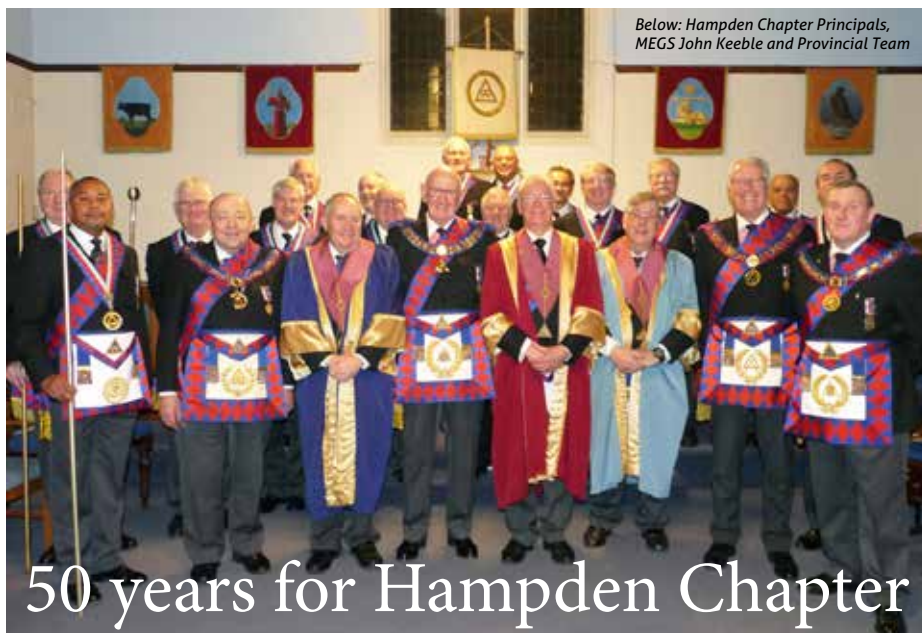
The Travelling Altar of Companionship arrived at the Installation meeting of Wolverton Trinity Chapter on 26th January at the Masonic Hall, Wolverton and accompanied by members of St George's Chapter. They had received the Altar at their last meeting from members of Inglefield Chapter.

The travelling Altar has increased visiting and the further enjoyment of companionship between Chapters

At the meeting, attended by 28 companions, the outgoing MEZ E Comp, Graham Penfold, installed his popular successor E Comp David Hawkins as First Principal and David installed E Comp Tim Long as Second Principal. The ingoing Third Principal could not be present and will be installed at the next meeting.



Above: The Principals and members of Wolverton Trinity receiving the Travelling Altar of Companionship from the MEZ and members of St George's Chapter



50 years for Hampden Chapter

On 6th February Hampden Chapter celebrated fifty years since its consecration with a special installation meeting held at Aylesbury Masonic Hall.

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent John Keeble, accompanied by his executive and acting officers of the year, had the pleasure of joining Hampden Chapter in the celebrations.

More than sixty companions present at the convocation had the pleasure of enjoying the Installation of Terry Meek as First Principal and Mike Humphrey as Third Principal.

Second Principal Elect Dave Vallis was not present and will be installed at a later date. The Installation ceremony was led by installing MEZ Colin Piper.

The convocation was followed by a festive board and the toast to the founders of the Chapter was given by John Money who was exalted into Hampden Chapter in 1997. John knew many of the founders and gave an interesting insight into the characters and the history of the Chapter, ending his toast with the motto of the Chapter: "Vestigia Nulla Restorsum" (No way back).

Wally Randall PAGDC Birthday honours

At the meeting of Beaudesert Lodge of Mark Master Masons on 28th October, the Grand Secretary, Ryan Williams, and the PGM, David Tremaine, were in attendance to celebrate the 103rd birthday of Wally Randall PAGDC, Tyler for the Lodge.

In his address, the Grand Secretary mentioned that Wally was probably the oldest Mark Master Mason still active in the whole Constitution. He also said that the MW Grand Master had taken a special interest and had issued a certificate congratulating Wally on his amazing age and commitment to the Order.

The Grand Secretary presented Wally with his certificate and then

announced that the MW Grand Master had authorised a promotion in Grand Rank to Past Grand Junior Overseer, making Wally a Very Worshipful Brother.



Above: One hundred and three year old Wally Randall receiving his certificate from the Grand Secretary, Ryan Williams (left) and Mark PGM, David Tremaine



Last October, the Mark Province of Buckinghamshire was proud to present a concert by the famous Royal Marines Association Concert Band at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. The Provincial Grand Master, David Tremaine (pictured below), is a member of the band and the event raised money for local and masonic charities as well as for the Royal Marines charity. The PGM would like to thank all those involved, both organisers and audience.



MARK MASTER MASONS

New mobile treatment vehicle for St John Ambulance



On 3rd October, the Provincial Grand Master, David Tremaine, was privileged to

present a new Mobile Treatment Vehicle to the St John Ambulance for Buckinghamshire at the Sir Nigel Mobbs Centre in Milton Keynes.

This was just one vehicle for which the Mark Benevolent Fund has donated £3,000,000 to provide treatment vehicles or ambulances to every St John County in England and Wales.

Elizabeth, the Countess Howe, Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire and Past President of the Order in Buckinghamshire, welcomed everyone and the event was well attended by members and senior officers of the



Mark Province of Buckinghamshire including DPGM, Keith Bristow, together with a large contingent of members, former members and cadets of the St John Ambulance. The vehicle was dedicated by the Vicar of Wolverton, the Reverend Gill

Barrow-Jones and the PGM had great pleasure in handing over the keys to the senior active officer. In thanking the Mark Benevolent Fund it was announced that the vehicle would be put into instant use the following day.

Managing Masonic Centres – young(er) people needed!

Peter Harborne, a Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, a Past Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Master Masons and currently Inspector General of Rose Croix, is also Deputy Chairman of the Beaconsfield Centre board. He makes a plea on behalf of the aging members of the boards of all the Bucks masonic centres:



Buckinghamshire Lodges meet at sixteen different meeting places and, although only eleven are run primarily for the Lodges and other masonic units which meet there, most have committees to make sure the centres are 'fit for purpose'.

Informal contact with managers at several centres has revealed that few if any in Bucks are managed by teams with an average age below 70. Those of us who have retired are of course likely to be the ones with more time available for running our centres but how might the loss of a key member of the Board affect the safe and efficient running of daily activities?

Most businesses have some form of formal business continuity plan to deal with the sudden non-availability of staff, product, fuel, power, premises etc and masonic centres should be no different. We would hope our centre management teams have continuity plans concerning areas such as building maintenance, catering and bar support, accounts monitoring (including payroll,

bookings and invoicing), insurance, first-aid response and Health & Safety reporting.

Primary responsibility for these factors may well be vested in specific individuals but each 'head of department' must have a deputy/alternate who is aware of plans, progress or procedures in each area of expertise.

Which brings us back to the age question at the beginning of this article. We should be recruiting younger members to our teams so that they can start acquiring the corporate knowledge of the committee; then, in time, they can take on the work.

If you are not currently involved in the management of your centre but have still read this far, perhaps you are interested in being one of those helping to maintain a good service for the wider membership at your centre. Management teams should always be on the lookout for keen, new (and younger?) committee members. If you might be one, make yourself known to your Chairman – he will be delighted to hear from you.

Pathway

Pathway is a series of steps designed to help weaker Lodges grow and strong Lodges maintain their progress. It was launched in Bucks in March 2018 and has been steadily progressing since then. It assists a Lodge to focus on what it does well, and identify and improve areas of weakness. It then leads a Lodge into planning for its future, discovering its identity, and formulating a recruitment plan that plays on its strengths. Once this is done, Pathway provides guidance on how to conduct interviews with potential candidates who are known or unknown to Lodge members, and how to induct them into the Lodge.

Before a candidate is initiated, the Pathway introduces Lodge Mentoring to him. Mentoring is there to develop and maintain a new Brother's interest and enjoyment of Masonry. This will involve other teams such as the NECC.

At a later stage, the Royal Arch is introduced to enable a Master Mason to complete his journey in Masonry.

To get on the Pathway, the first step is to complete a Lodge Health Check. This document is available from the Provincial Grand Mentor via mentor@buckspgl.org. He will also arrange for a presentation to your Lodge - either at an LOI, Committee or Lodge Meeting - which will help you to begin the process. In addition, the Pathway & Mentoring team are there to support you and your Lodge, as you pass along the Pathway.

Mentoring

In Buckinghamshire, we have a Mentoring package which provides Lodges with enough support to take an initiate from Entered Apprentice through the Chair. This is achieved by using our Mentoring Handbooks.

They can be used in two ways. Firstly, an Entered Apprentice Handbook is immediately presented to the Candidate on his Initiation and he is asked to attend the next LOI with the book. This will form the basis of his Mentoring. As he is passed and raised, Fellowcraft and Master Masons Handbooks are added. Each one contains a list of questions that an EA, FC, or MM should be asking before reaching the next degree. The questions can also be used at a Festive Board to break the ice when seated with Brethren not yet known to them and asking them to help answer some of the questions. With the aid of these questions, an EA, FC or MM begins to bolster their knowledge and interest in Masonry. More importantly, they don't feel excluded or undervalued when attending Meetings or Festive Boards.

Secondly, we recommend a set of Handbooks is placed in an appropriate place in the Masonic Centre. These can then be used by any Lodge when a Brother has to spend some time outside the Temple.

The Handbooks are of an organic nature, so as they are used and more questions arise, they can be revised and added to.

What is the role of a Provincial Grand Mentor?

To promote mentoring good practice across the Province and to assist, guide and support Lodge Mentors to help them be effective. The tools and techniques used might include:

- Production of local guidance and other materials
- Talks in Lodges
- Regular meetings with, and of, Lodge Mentors
- Training workshops
- Visits to Lodges
- One-to-one coaching.

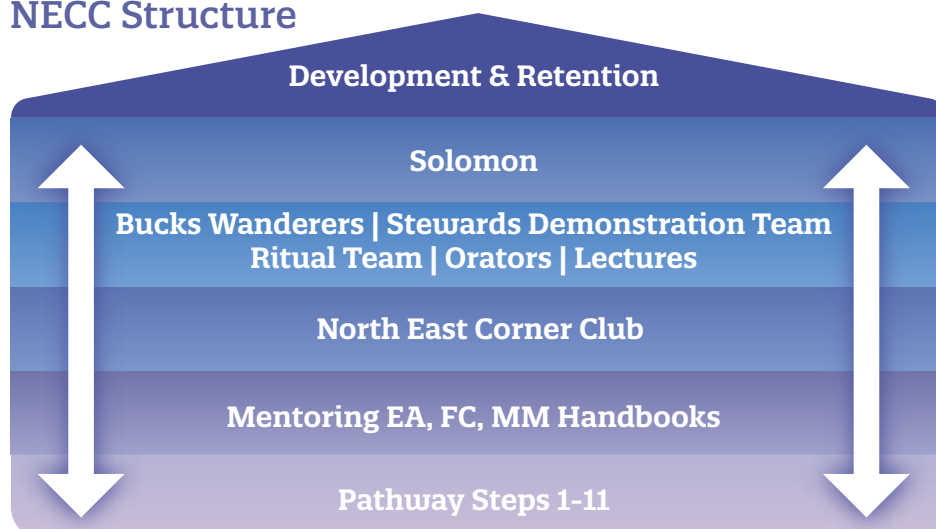
The Provincial Grand Mentor also monitors mentoring across the Province, and reports on its effectiveness and results to the Provincial executive.

A Lodge Mentor's role is:

- To implement and co-ordinate Mentoring within their Lodge
- To Mentor the Lodge and its processes through Pathway.
- To promote a planned approach to Mentoring, so that all new members receive the information, personal contact and encouraging support, appropriate to their individual needs.
- To help new members to enjoy their Freemasonry, and derive satisfaction from it, so that they become lasting, committed and contributing members.

The above is only the tip of the iceberg. For more information do not hesitate to contact the Provincial Grand Mentor at mentor@buckspgl.org.

NECC Structure



NORTH EAST CORNER CLUB (NECC)

The NECC is open to all Buckinghamshire Masons. We have a simple aim: Develop and retain.

We are part of the overall support offered by the Province to Lodges and work with the Pathway, Mentoring, Bucks Masonic Wanderers and the rest of Provincial Support, in enriching your experience in Masonry. We are passionate about Freemasonry, and believe the NECC is the glue which binds all our support functions together. Our focus is on newer Brethren, and we aspire to help them get the most from their early years in the Craft.

Upcoming Ceremonies

Many Lodges provide us with details of their upcoming ceremonies, which we publish on Social Media and the NECC App and website. This allows Mentors and NECC members to select Lodges for their newer Brethren to visit, enabling them to witness the ceremony they have just been through. If you would like to encourage others to visit your Lodge, and help newer members at the same time, then send your ceremony details to necc@buckspgl.org

Lodge of the Month

We are continually on the look-out for interesting ceremonies, or Lodges that do things a bit differently. We then try and increase attendances by promoting these meetings to all NECC members. Details can be found on our Facebook page and on the Hallstone Visitor site.

Passport Challenge

In May 2018 we launched the NECC Passport Challenge and provided members with a passport which has the addresses of all Masonic Centres in Bucks. It also includes space to have the passport signed at each centre. Our aim is to increase attendances at Lodges, help Brethren get to know their Province and build up their knowledge of Masonry.

The challenge is to collect signatures at each centre visited. The first 25 completing the challenge, including visiting the Buckinghamshire Room in Freemasons' Hall, receive a set of limited-edition NECC cuff links. So far 3 members have completed the challenge, with several more waiting in the wings.



NECC Events

We have run several events during the year, two of which were to help explain Basic Etiquette. At the last meeting we had over 50 attendees. In February we held a Burns Breakfast at Upton Manor Lodge, which attracted over 60 members.

In the pipeline we have a seminar on The Officers in the Lodge, their roles and responsibilities. We are also working on an event to help with the learning of ritual.

Our Newsletter, App and Facebook page will keep you fully up to date on all future events.

Download our awesome new app now and stay up to date with all the latest information!

Install the N.E.C.C. App on your smartphone or tablet now!

Follow these steps:

1. Download Team App from the Apple or Google Play app store.
2. Sign up to Team App. You will be sent an email to confirm your registration.
3. Log into the App and search for "N.E.C.C."
4. Choose your applicable access group(s).
5. If you don't have a smartphone go to bucksmenoring.teamapp.com to sign up and view this App online.



Why not join us now? We can be found at:

bucksmenoring.teamapp.com/

Email: necc@buckspgl.org

NorthEastCornerClub

BucksNECC

bucksnecc

THE FAB-GERE FOUR

Hassle-Free Masonic Entertainment



Entertainment for the whole evening ♦ Every style of music

band@fabgerefour.co.uk

Free advice and whole-event assistance, if required

Thames Valley Air Ambulance

A grant of £4,000 to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance from the MCF has brought the total masonic support given to air ambulances across the country to £2.3 million since 2007.

This grant will help helicopter and critical care response vehicles to reach more people across Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

DPGM Hugh Douglas-Smith, APMG Phil Blacklaw, Bucks MCF representative Andrew Hough and Provincial Charity Steward

Mike Clanfield recently attended the Air Ambulance office based in Stokenchurch.

Adam Panter, Director of Operations, who has worked for TVAA since May 2017, gave an excellent and insightful demonstration of the simulation suite, explaining how and who the service helps. Matt Jarman, one of the Senior Critical Care Paramedics, was also on hand to demonstrate some of the specialist equipment that the crews use when they are dispatched to an incident.



Above: Mike Clanfield, Hugh Douglas-Smith and Andrew Hough presented Matt Jarman (second from right) of TVAA with a cheque certificate for £4,000

GRANTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE



Above: Phil Blacklaw, Andrew Hough and Mike Clanfield presenting the cheque certificate for £45,000 to fund the Grandmentoring scheme in Milton Keynes

Young people leaving the care system in Milton Keynes will be given the support they need, thanks to a grant from the MCF to the charity Volunteering Matters.

The £45,000 will fund the award-winning Grand Mentors programme, which will see volunteers aged 50 and over trained to provide mentoring for young people leaving care during their transition into adulthood and independence.

The Grand Mentors project is inspired by the accepting and nurturing relationship between a young person and a grandparent. This life changing volunteer programme is already running in six areas across the UK and has now come to Milton Keynes.

The launch event for the project, held at Milton Keynes Civic Chambers, was in partnership with Computer Xplorers Bucks. Attendees got involved in Lego robotics and coding, which helped potential mentors and mentees to meet each other in a relaxed, fun and innovative way.

Oonagh Aitken, Chief Executive of Volunteering Matters, said: "We're very grateful to Buckinghamshire Freemasons for their generous grant, which will help young people leaving the care system. Our vision is that every care leaver in the country has access to a Grand Mentor, should they choose, and we're deeply thankful to the Freemasons for helping us to work towards that vision."

For more info about the project visit volunteeringmatters.org.uk.

harry's rainbow

Andrew Hough and Mike Clanfield recently presented Odette Mould and Emma Gilead with a certificate to mark a donation of £2,500 made to Harry's Rainbow Trust by the MCF.

Harry's Rainbow Trust supports bereaved children and young people in Milton Keynes and surrounding areas through memory boxes with books and information relevant to their circumstances.

The Trust holds a Rainbow group once a month which provides children with the opportunity to spend time with others in similar circumstances, helping them feel less isolated and lonely.





Support for Sea Cadets

Past Master of Wycombe Lodge, Robert Martin, above, recently presented a cheque for £500 to the officers and cadets of TS Jaguar, the High Wycombe based Sea Cadets. Head of the committee, June Taylor,

happily received the cheque from Robert, who was a Corporal in the Marine Cadets at TS Jaguar when he was younger. The money was raised at a Ladies Night held in conjunction with Entente Cordiale Lodge.

Giant leap for Jenson

Jenson aged three is from High Wycombe and has cerebral palsy. He was born at 29 weeks, weighing just 2lb 5oz. He spent eleven weeks in special care but when he was nearly a year old he was sent for an MRI which indicated that he had CP.

A relatively new operation called SDR is now available and Jenson has been accepted for the surgery under the NHS which should rid him of all tightness and pain in his legs and possibly allow him to walk unaided.

However, the operation is only half the story. Afterwards he will need years of intensive physiotherapy for him to make any gains from this operation but this isn't funded.

Jenson's Mum explained: "This is why we are fundraising for Just4Children. At between £50 – £80 per session and Jenson needing a number of sessions a week in the first few months, we



Jenson is on the right in his father's arms, his twin brother, Austin is on the left Mum Vicky. Provincial Grand Secretary, Barry Sparks, pictured centre with Tom Davies, has known Vicky all her life and was best man at her parents' wedding. (Also, both her grandfathers were Freemasons.)

are hoping to raise £30,000 so that hopefully after this amazing operation we can get him all the physio he will need. This will enable Jenson to live more comfortably without the tightness in his legs, learn to walk like his twin

MAINTAINING MILITARY MIGHT

Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund representative Andrew Hough recently presented a grant of £1,300 from the BMCF to the Buckinghamshire Military Museum Trust to purchase a fully computerised 'Modes' system.

This will enable them to fully document and record exhibits preserved in Buckingham Old Gaol. The grant will allow the trust to meet Arts Council Accreditation requirements; enable those interested in stored items to access them; and increase knowledge and accessibility for the public.



Lt Col Simon Wilkinson, Chairman of the Buckinghamshire Military Trust, receiving a further donation from Mark

brother and maybe just maybe run, jump, climb and dance with him too." A generous donation of £1,000 has come from Bucks Freemasons helping to bring the total donated so far to £18,000 with a further £12,000 sought.



Grand Union Lodge, based in Bletchley, supported Scotty's Little Soldiers with a cheque for £1,500.

Scotty's Little Soldiers is a charity dedicated to supporting children and young people who have lost a parent who was serving in the British Armed Forces.

Inspired by the experience of army widow Nikki Scott, following the death of her husband Corporal Lee



Mark Randle of Scotty's Little Soldiers and Bill Rothwell, WM of Grand Union Lodge

Scott in Afghanistan in 2009, the charity is currently providing support to hundreds of bereaved Forces children around the UK. This includes fun activities such as holiday breaks and group events, personal development assistance through educational grants and access to professional bereavement counselling.

Nikki and Lee have two children, Kai and Brooke, so she saw first-hand the effect the loss of a loved one in these circumstances can have on a child. It was on a family holiday some nine months after Lee was killed that Nikki saw her son Kai, aged five at the time, laugh and smile for the first time since his Dad's death. She realised that there must be many more children who had also lost a parent serving in the British Armed Forces but hadn't had that opportunity to smile again.

She decided to set up the charity Scotty's Little Soldiers to do just that: to help their children smile.

Tree of Life

Bletchley Park Lodge has raised £1,500 over the past year through raffles and events for WM Rob Marston's chosen charity, Willen Hospice.

Rob chose Willen following its exceptional support and treatment of his late wife in the final stages of her struggle with cancer.

The money has been used to 'plant' a Tree of Life in the grounds of the hospice, designed by local artist and blacksmith, Will Jones. The installation will allow family members to dedicate a leaf on the tree to a loved one and provide a place of quiet contemplation within the grounds.

Carolyn Green, Community Fundraiser, commented that the tree was one of many ways of supporting the work of the hospice and thanked the members of Bletchley Park Lodge for their support.



Support for Willen Hospice

Willen Hospice, based in Milton Keynes, received a grant of £1,535 from the MCF which is part of a £600,000 grant made to 237 Hospices across England and Wales.



Mike Clanfield, Bucks Provincial Charity Steward, explained that the Hospice does an outstanding job of helping people with life-limiting conditions, as well as supporting their families through very difficult times.

The Hospice needs to raise £4.7 million a year to provide specialist end-of-life care and this donation will help them to continue caring for patients, provides therapy sessions and support for friends and family.



Above: Mike Clanfield with Bob Dennis (Fenny Stratford Lodge who has been a long term volunteer at Willen) and Wellbeing nurses Helen, Carole, Mandy and Angela

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