

CONCORD



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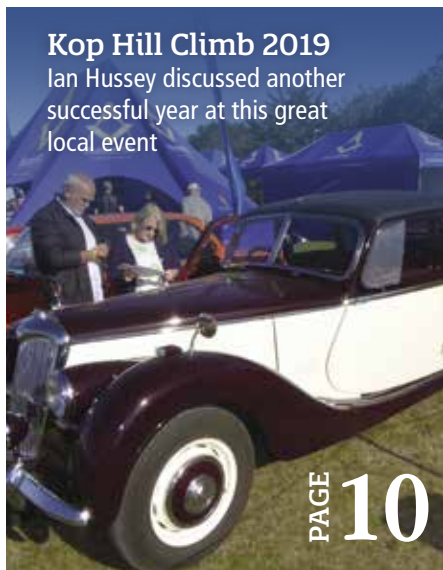
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Welcome

From the Provincial Grand Master

During the last two years we have achieved some outstanding results with our Mentoring and Northeast Corner Club.

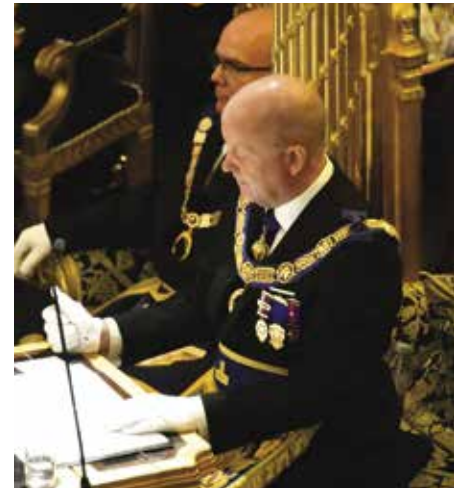
This has forged together a majority of the new members in the province and made them into a very social group. They now visit each other's lodges regularly. The appointment of John King as Provincial Mentor is a very exciting one as he, along with Phil Blacklaw APGM, were responsible for delivering a completely new North East Corner Club. The new Passport scheme has also been a great success and encourages new members to visit all centres in the province and get a signature from the lodge secretary. I once witnessed 19 new members line up to get their passport signed at Verney Lodge meeting at the Yeomanry Hall in Buckingham.

It may interest you to know that I did not know John King until a few years ago and his tremendous contribution to the Province was the result of a chance meeting with me at Wolverton. As a result of these initiatives being driven, we are now in a much better place with respect to retaining and looking after our new members.

HeliPAD, the new masonic information system for Buckinghamshire has been running for almost 6 months and in that time, it has already attracted a third of our members to register. More facilities are being added each month with this year's Appointments and Promotions being handled through it.

This has become the first point of call for many members and Lodge Secretaries to gain the most up to date information about their members and the Province. The headshot photos of members in each lodge has provided a useful aid when visiting and already a third of those who have registered have uploaded a photo. Best of all though is the improvement in contact details, we have now put each member in control of their own data which has resulted in more than 1000 updates to personal and contact information. If you are not already registered, please visit helipad.buckspgl.org now and see what it has to offer for you.

I have recently appointed Matt Perkins as the Provincial Communications Officer and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking John Waller for his exceptional contribution over the last few years. I am sure you will be seeing much more of John who has been a great asset to the province. I have also appointed Simon Williams as Provincial Membership Officer. Simon, whose background is in sales and marketing, will be introducing an automated process to look at the way we receive and process new enquiries. This will enable us to look after them right through to their joining a lodge. Simons team will then pass them to the mentoring team who will look after the prospective members for the next two to three years. I would like to thank Paul Gausden who has stepped down as Provincial Membership Officer also for his superb work over the last few years. I am sure that Paul will be kept very busy in the future also.



We will all be very sad to see John Keeble step down as our Provincial Grand Superintendent. John has been outstanding in the role, having turned around the membership numbers during his time. I am looking forward to Graham Dearing's installation as our new Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in March at Sindlesham. I am sure that Graham will deliver a very exciting future for the Royal Arch in our province and I am looking forward to working with him very much indeed.

As you know we are well over halfway through our current festival and some great results have been achieved so far and I would like to ask you all to contribute as much as possible and build on that outstanding generosity from this point forward.

As you will be aware the provincial team are working very hard on your behalf to promote our organisation and support your lodges. I ask you all to take an active part in driving your lodge forward. You are all very talented individuals and I ask you to turn those talents to improving ceremonies and festive boards to make the whole experience as special as possible for our new candidates.

Please try to introduce at least one candidate into every lodge each year and work hard to find suitable, kind individuals, who would enjoy this wonderful organisation.

John

R. W. Bro. John Clark
Provincial Grand Master



I trust everyone is well and looking forward to the remainder of this Masonic season. In the next few weeks we will see many changes in our Royal Arch Province.

Most notably our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent John Keeble will be stepping down from that role on February 28th. John has presided over this Province for the past 5 years, in which time we have seen a period of growth in the number of members in the Royal Arch in Bucks. Not only have we seen our numbers increase but we have seen what John described at last year's convocation as a real "Buzz" around our wonderful order. I will have much more to say about John over the coming weeks and at our convocation which I trust you are all booked for.

Further to John standing down, I have been delighted to accept the appointment of Most Excellent Grand Superintendent and look forward to carrying on John's great work. He has been a great source of help to me over the past few years. I will continue to use his vast experience and he will be a great resource for me personally.

At this year's convocation I will be making some new notable appointments. With every new appointment it also means a companion will be standing down from his role.

At this point I would like to pay tribute to the following companions who have worked so hard in making this Province one where companions are proud to be a member. Richard Reano has been our Third Principal for the past two years and in that time has conducted himself with dignity and enthusiasm, a credit to himself and to the Province. It is also worth noting that Richard, before becoming 3rd Principal, was our Provincial DC for a period of 7 years, setting a standard which others now aspire to. Stephen Barnes is one of our original Assistants to Provincial Grand Principals (APGPs). This is a two year appointment and in that time Stephen has been a great source of help and assisted many members and Chapters and I cannot thank him enough for all his efforts. This also applies to our Charity Steward Derek Watts who has acted in that role for 5 years. Our Festival donations so far of circa £50,000 is testament to the work and effort Derek has put in.

This means we now have some new Senior Officers in the Province. I will say more about them at our convocation, they are:-

- **Comp Mike Stephens**
Deputy Grand Superintendent
- **Comp Stan Green**
Third Provincial Grand Principal
- **Comp Richard Lewis**
Assistant To The Provincial Grand Principals
- **Comp Stephen Knight**
Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah
- **Comp Mel Shah**
Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra
- **Comp Nick Wilson**
Provincial Grand Almoner/Mentor
- **Comp David Adams**
Provincial Grand Charity Steward
- **Comp Stephen Kirby**
Provincial Deputy DC

For a full list of all appointments please visit www.buckspgc.org.



We have now launched our New Royal Arch Vision Club, which was successfully launched by the North East Corner Club on Feb 1st.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all those involved, it was a great success and we are looking forward to the first full meeting of the RAVC Club in Bletchley on 16th May. Please remember this is a club not just for young or new to the Royal Arch members, but a club where we can all learn more about this wonderful order, have a better understanding of it and dispel some of the myths surrounding the work.

In conclusion, the future is very bright for our wonderful Royal Arch Province. We have a very solid base laid down by a legacy left to us by our predecessors. My role as your new Grand Superintendent is, with your help, to build on these foundations, grow our number, increase our knowledge and have fun. Let us not forget, as John Keeble would say, to continue to keep the "Buzz".

I look forward to seeing those who can attend on March 23rd at my Investiture and our Provincial Convocation.

**Fraternally
Graham**

Chain Letters

Each issue, one of the Provincial Executive will update us on provincial activities that are their responsibility.

Since October 2017, one of my major tasks has been to introduce The Members Pathway to all the Buckinghamshire Lodges particularly those with less than twenty members.

With the assistance of W.Bro. Eugene Matthias as the then Provincial Mentor and W.Bro. John King heading up the North East Corner Club, in the Spring of 2018 the Pathway Steps were demonstrated at every major Centre in the Province as a guide to help Lodges attract, introduce and retain members. In most cases, this structured approach for Lodges to follow has been most successful but it is still very much 'work in progress'.

The Provincial Mentoring & Pathway Team, the North East Corner Club, the Bucks Masonic Wanderers, the Provincial Stewards, the Ritual Support Team and the Orators Team all work closely together to support every Lodge that may be encountering difficulties with sustaining a sufficient membership and carrying out any one of the three Ceremonies and an Installation meeting.

To add value to this support, I have recently been tasked with the administration of the Visiting Officers Scheme. A Visiting Officer's key objectives are to encourage

Recruitment, Reduce Resignations, Promote the Royal Arch and encourage attendance at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in October and to evaluate and implement any assistance that a Lodge may require. To enable them to inaugurate Provincial Support, the Visiting Officers file detailed reports via Helipad and the ten Senior Visiting Officers and I are made aware if a Lodge is encountering any problems.

To assist the Visiting Officers to inform Lodges of the Provincial support available, a Visiting Officers Handbook has been produced and is available in both printed and pdf form. Currently, not every Lodge in the Province has been allocated a VO. If you are a Past Provincial Officer and a member of the Royal Arch and would like to support the Province by acting as a VO, please contact me by email: **pblacklaw@buckspgl.org**

I also work closely with the Provincial Almoner, W.Bro. Stephen Knight, who has encouraged Lodges to be aware of any of their members who may be experiencing health and mobility issues which may prevent them from attending their Lodge meetings. Stephen and his area assistants endeavour to identify these members and liaise with Lodge Almoners to organise transport to and from meetings. This is a most important



service to assist long serving members attend their Lodges and maintain their fraternal friendship with Brethren they may have known for many years. If you can be of any assistance to such a member of your Lodge, please approach your Lodge Almoner and volunteer your interest.

The culmination of the MCF 2021 Festival is now only some eighteen months away and I take this opportunity to encourage all the Lodges to support the Festival as much as they possibly can. The MCF gives tremendous support to our members and their families who have experienced unexpected life changing circumstances whether it is bereavement, terminal illness, debilitating condition, redundancy etc. In my six years as Provincial Almoner, I witnessed first-hand the vital and essential support given to Bucks Masons and their dependants in times of extreme distress and anxiety.

Please support the MCF Festival, perhaps one day you or your extended family may call on its support due to unforeseen circumstances, you just never know.

**Phil Blacklaw,
AsstProvGM**

HER MAJESTY'S FORCES

'Thank you'

For the second year running, Bourne End Lodge - meeting at Marlow Masonic Centre on the second Saturday of November - opened their Festive Board to specially invited Guests.

After a normal working meeting, where a former member of the RAF was passed in excellent manner, a steward retired early to 'present the tables' for the festive board and welcome the visitors.

This year there were two 93 year olds, members of Blind Veterans UK. One was a former Land Girl, and the other an Infantryman, real WW2 survivors! Also attending was an invalided Royal Navy seaman (visually Impaired) along with his wife, several serving ranks from RAF Halton and Wycombe including a serving Wing Commander, officers who assist in the management of Marlow British Legion and more.



The Festive board was adorned with memorabilia, but most poignant and respected, is the table dressed for the Unknown soldier to dine with us - a candle, 303 Rifle, maps, shell casings, camouflage and Port for the diners to partake with him.

The evening's food and in some cases transport were funded by the members of the lodge, who sponsor a retired or serving HMF guest and we had 19 HMF visitors in attendance.

A lively festive board was enjoyed. Afterwards, the Port from the unknown soldier was dispensed by 2 Brethren to those who wished to partake, the carafe returned to his table...stopper left off.

After a good old fashioned sing song, Bro Peter Goodwin delivered an explanation of how the 'Unknown Soldier' came to fruition. Bro Sgt Russ Barber demonstrated Rifle drill for us all to watch in awe, all in front of the Unknown Soldier,

Reg said he last wore his beret 70 years ago but it was the first time that he felt that anyone genuinely was saying thank you to him. He also said he had become a bit of a recluse but was so glad he didn't cancel as he really enjoyed himself...

followed by a rousing round of applause and lumps in throats.

After more singing, W.Bro Lee Buckingham took his stance behind the Unknown Soldiers table, where the Last Post followed by silence and completed by Reveille was played live, which again was met with applause and tears.

This is our second event for HMF appreciation, which started to mark the Centenary of 1914-1918 and will not be our last. We now have a new tradition.

Sue Simms, liaison for the 'Blind Vets Association' said *"I wanted to pass on a huge thank you for organising for the Blind Veterans to attend the meal on Saturday evening. Please pass on our best wishes to everyone involved and those in particular that took the time to support all the members. Everyone has said how much they enjoyed the evening."*



I Would Walk 500 Miles, and I Would Walk

260 Miles

More...

Over the summer, inspired by the Provincial Executive, many Buckinghamshire Freemasons completed a range of challenges to raise funds for various charities and the 2021 MCF festival. Amongst these was W.Bro. Dave Harfield who undertook the 1 Million step challenge to raise funds for Diabetes UK.

In total, thanks to the generosity of many Freemasons, friends, and work colleagues, Dave raised (including Gift Aid) £1,007.70. To achieve this he took 1,657,072 steps, covering 760.92 miles, and lost over a stone whilst completing this challenge.

David has kept up his walking, despite the challenge being over. This is already proving useful as his recent promotion to Provincial Grand Steward means a lot of festive boards over the coming year!



Lodge Secretary Simon Hill left handing a cheque to Dr Ruxandra Dafinca.

Motor Neurone Research

was the focus of the fundraising activities at Grenville Lodge 1787 over the last 12 months, culminating in the presentation of a cheque in the sum of £2,500 to "All About Ali", a charity based at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. Their research looks at infected stem cells to try to identify the infection and look for a way to prevent the infection in the first place. The picture in the background is a stem cell under high magnification.



The Skye's the Limit

Granddaughter of W.Bro. John Skelson (Buckingham Lodge 591) is an international Judo player who is supported by Bucks Freemasons. Skye is British, European and World Champion and also won a Gold at the Special Olympics (held in Abu Dhabi) in 2019. It is hoped that she will be able to compete in Tokyo 2020. WBro John has worked

with local lodges and other organisations to raise in excess of £8500 to fund her attempt to add a Paralympic medal to her tally. Another £4000 is needed to enable her and her father to travel to Tokyo so any further assistance would be gratefully received.

W.Bro. John would like to thank all those who have helped in the fundraising so far.

60 Years for Jim!

W.Bro. Jim Wagstaff was initiated into Observatory Lodge 6094 in the Province of Buckinghamshire on 14th October 1959 at the age of 29 and obtained the chair in 1974, 2000 and 2001. Jim has held several offices in Mark and Chapter Degrees and obtained Provincial Rank in each.

He initiated both his sons into Freemasonry and both hold provincial ranks. Jim was also a founder member of Planet Lodge 8142 in the Province of Buckinghamshire and was master in 1972 and 2018. Jim was presented with his 60 long service certificate at the Slough Masonic Centre, Ragstone Road Slough by W.Bro. Tony Robinson Assistant Provincial Grand Master on Wednesday 13th November 2019 and was attended by over 40 members and guests.



Pictured above: W.Bro. Jim, his two sons, W.Bro. Tony Robinson and W.Bro. Mark Duncan



It's All Relative!

L-R Bryan Harfield; David Harfield; Brian Miles; James Miles; Lloyd Harrison; Raymond Harrison

At the last Buckinghamshire Stewards Lodge 9222, all 8 of the new Provincial Stewards became members. This meeting was attended by 110 brethren from 11 Masonic Provinces, which included 23 honoured guests representing Stewards Lodges in neighbouring provinces with whom we share amity in attendance.

As a consequence, of their acceptance into the Stewards lodge, two of the 2019 cohort joined relatives who are Past Stewards. James Miles joins his father Brian Miles, and David Harfield joins his twin-brother Bryan Harfield, which is understood to be the first

set of twins to be members of the Buckinghamshire Stewards Lodge.

Other Buckinghamshire Stewards joining the 2 new family groups at this meeting, are brothers Lloyd and Raymond Harrison.

A Family Occasion



The Marlow Valley Lodge Meeting held on 25th September featured proud Grandfather, W.Bro. Bill Stacey, Master, raising his grandson Bro. Henry Sherwin. Grandfather W.Bro. Bill, has presided over each of Henry's three degrees.

The evening was further enhanced by the visit of Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro John Clark.

No Humbug in Marlow!

Earlier this year W.Bro. Tony Martin was recounted a tale of a young girl, who on being presented with a gift at a Masonic Young Carers Christmas party, refused to open it, as it would be the only gift she would have to unwrap on Christmas day.

Having thought long and hard as to how he could help, he approached his fellow members on the Marlow Masonic Centre Committee to get their agreement to a Christmas gifts collection at the Centre for "children in need of help".

Tony Martin contacted masons far and wide and requested that they confined "Scrooge" to the pages of history. Gifts duly arrived from many Lodges, Chapters and individuals, including a sizeable gift of toys from W.Bro. Tom Davies, all culminating in a donation to Barnardo's of 280 wrapped gifts to be distributed to many children before Christmas day.

Kathryn Hammond from Barnardo's came to the Marlow Centre to collect the gifts from Tony Martin, and she expressed the grateful thanks from herself and her colleagues for the donations, said that they would make a huge difference to the children and young people that they work with. Grateful thanks go to all those who contributed.



Above: Kathryn Hammond from Barnardo's pictured accepting gifts from W.Bro. Tony Martin.

Scientific Lodge

Wolverton based lodge Scientific 840 has completed another successful year of supporting local and national charities. A coffee and cake morning for the Macmillan Nurses raised £575.00. This was boosted by a very generous contribution from W.Bro. Ian Devereux bringing the grand total to £1575.00.

Yet again the flying Amigos of Bro Steve Brown and W.Bro. Carl Devereux joined by other like minded brothers, scaled the heights of the Northampton Lighthouse and raised £3340.00 for the E2021 fund. Given Steve's fear of heights Scientific donated £350 to Thame valley Air ambulance (just in case!)

Observatory Lodge



W.Bro. Barry Sparks presented a 50 year service award to W.Bro. Peter Turner (above) on the same evening that Bro Luke Birkett was initiated (below).



Pictured above: Brethren and guests of Beaconsfield Lodge.

Beaconsfield Lodge held a brief formal meeting before closing and inviting partners and friends of both the Beaconsfield and Wraybury Lodges to join them in the small Temple at the Slough Masonic to hear a talk about "What we Masons do".

A presentation was given, aimed at debunking many of the myths and misconceptions that continue to circulate about Freemasonry. This was

well received with those participating enjoying a relaxed, convivial and light-hearted atmosphere. A number of questions were asked by an engaged audience, all of which were answered in a suitable manner.

After the presentation concluded, a light meal was had in the main dining room, which included a combined general knowledge and Freemasonry quiz, followed by a bumper raffle.

Bucks Classic Car Lodge 9945

Kop Hill

CLIMB 2019



The Kop Hill Climb Festival, Princes Risborough, celebrated its 10th year since being reinstated as an historic car event on the weekend of 21st/22nd September 2019.

I was fortunate in being invited to exhibit my classic car on the Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Lodge stand along with other members and their cars of the Bucks Classic Car Lodge. This was the third consecutive year that Buckinghamshire Freemasons have had a stand there and the Brethren manning the tent attracted a tremendous amount of interest. In fact, they signed up 72 potential new members, including two prospective Lady Freemasons. There were also over 100 entries for the free hamper draw, with the winner being a prospective joiner from Maidenhead.

W. Bro. Andy Sutton and his team worked tirelessly setting up and manning the event over the weekend with Harry Holloway and Paul Williams

on night-watch duty, assisting with the security of the stand over the two consecutive nights.

I have been a Bucks Freemason for over 37 years and have seen a great deal of change in Freemasonry over that period. But I found the experience at Kop Hill was an exciting new approach to Freemasonry, combining the diverse interest many of us have in all things mechanical with the camaraderie provided by Freemasonry. This must be the way forward in attracting new members to Freemasonry, by providing specialist lodges as Buckinghamshire has done with the Classic Car Lodge, the Motorcycle Lodge and the Nomadic Lodge (motorhome, caravan and camping).

The Saturday of the Kop Hill Climb weekend actually coincided with the date of our meeting for the Bucks Classic Car Lodge, so it was decided to combine the two with an Al Fresco White Table afterwards. After obtaining the necessary dispensation, we held our Lodge meeting at the close of the show in the Star Tent,



closed off to the public with our waiting wives, families and friends outside. The Worshipful Master R.W. Bro. John Clark, ProvGM, presided over this brief but enjoyable meeting; in fact it was the shortest meeting I have ever attended lasting only eight minutes! Is this a record?

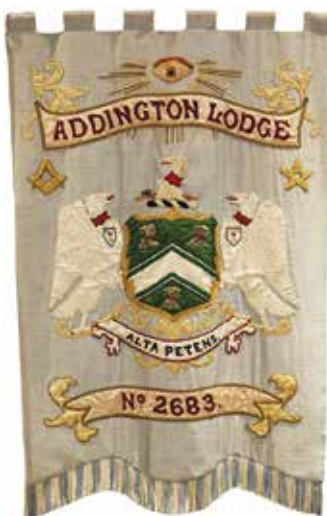
Thanks must go to the AsstProvGM, W. Bro. Tony Robinson for his gastronomic skills on the barbecue and also to his lovely wife Jean who assisted him over the two days and provided us all with plentiful amounts of tea and coffee.

To summarise, it was an exciting and invigorating boost to my Masonic experience combined with attracting a great deal of interest for potential new Freemasons.

W. Bro. Ian Hussey

Bucks Classic Car Lodge 9945

Buckinghamshire launches new Acting Provincial Grand Officers Lodge



Addington Lodge No 2683 has been 're-purposed' as the Acting Provincial Grand Officers Lodge for the Province of Buckinghamshire.

I have been honoured to be asked to become the new Secretary of Addington Lodge so I would like to give you a little bit of the background into how it became the Buckinghamshire Acting Provincial Grand Officers Lodge and what we hope to achieve for the benefit of the Lodge and the Province.

Addington Lodge has a proud history as a Hallstone Jewel Lodge. However, time has taken its toll and, despite their best efforts, it has been reduced to a very small membership, most of whom are based in Kent. The Lodge was finding it difficult to continue; a fact that was quickly recognised by the Province. As it happens, the Provincial Executive had been discussing how in previous times many Brethren who became Acting Provincial Officers [APO's] basically fell off a 'virtual cliff edge' once they had completed their active year in office. It was strongly felt by the Executive that these Brethren had received an active office for good reason. They had demonstrated certain skills and, perhaps more importantly, a high level of commitment to Masonry both inside and outside of their Lodge. The

Executive felt strongly that this talent and commitment should not be lost after their year as an APO came to an end.

The re-purposing of Addington Lodge was seen as a perfect solution in their resolve to re-engage with those who have previously held an Active Provincial Office and to continue to embrace their enthusiasm and skills. This helps with their own Masonic development and as a valuable resource for the Province itself. The Province already has the Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge which plays a great part in assisting the Province in any way it can. It is intended that Addington Lodge can complement what they do and assist the Province in other ways too.



Golden Fleece Country Pursuits Lodge 4739 *Aiming for 100*

Golden Fleece Country Pursuits Lodge 4739 formerly Golden Fleece Lodge 4739 has changed its name so that it can attract new brethren and reach 100 years and beyond!!! It is now a lodge for enthusiasts of country sports such as shooting, hunting and fishing. The Lodge meets at the Wolverton Centre on a Tuesday.

W.Bro. Andrew Campbell - former Olympic Shooting Champion - has joined the Lodge to run shooting events for the members and also attract new brethren to Masonry who are also interested in the Sport!

The Lodge will be attending "Country Fairs in the Summer" to further attract new brethren!!!

All past, present and future APO's throughout the Province are strongly encouraged to join Addington Lodge. The Lodge will meet three times a year, twice in Slough and once elsewhere within the Province. Every meeting will be attended by the Executive to provide an open forum for a two way discussion on what can be done to improve the Province of Buckinghamshire. Should you require any further information or wish to join Addington Acting Provincial Grand Officers Lodge, please contact W.Bro. Phil Manning addingtonapgolodge@gmail.com I look forward to welcoming lots of new members to Addington Lodge and for us to become a strong, dare I say 'Premier' Lodge and a great resource for our wonderful Province of Buckinghamshire.

Yours sincerely & fraternally

W. Bro. Phil Manning ProvAGDC

Memorable MEETINGS

In each edition of Concord we will be running a Memorable Meetings feature. These will be features on lodge meetings that have unique and special characteristics that will stay in the memory for a very long time. It may be held in an unusual location, attended by special guests or be truly emotional and sentimental.

If you are aware of any such meetings, then email concord@buckspgl.org

BUCKS MOTORCYCLE LODGE

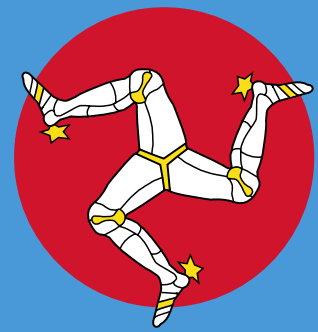
INTREPID 23

GO TO THE ISLE OF MAN

Buckinghamshire has now consecrated and re-purposed a number of lodges as 'special interest lodges' which are a strong part of the rejuvenation of the province. These lodges are strongly supported and are characterised by unique meetings, often with a twist on the regular ritual and a light hearted atmosphere. One such lodge is the Bucks Motorcycle Lodge, which recently took a special road trip through some pretty ropery weather to bring another brother into Freemasonry.

Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge may only be 3 years old but it is already gaining a reputation for being both different and exciting, having already held ceremonies in Chipping Norton, the National Motorcycle Museum Birmingham and the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. On the 11th October, 23 members of the lodge set off from the Beaconsfield Masonic Centre to the Port of Heysham in Lancashire en route to the Isle of Man, home of British Motorcycling. The weather was unkind but all of the members braved the cold, wind and water to arrive at the ferry in plenty of time. After a fair crossing, with plenty of laughs to make the time fly, the members arrived in the Isle of Man ready for this very special meeting.

The group was warmly received by Masons from the Isle of Man including members of their Stewards Lodge and the TT Lodge. On Saturday, the 'Rabble',



as they are fondly known, rode from Douglas to the Ramsay Masonic Centre. Once there they held a meeting where they initiated a new member, Kevin Ansell, in front of 50 Masons including the Deputy Prov GM of the Isle of Man VW. Bro. Roger Southon. The brethren of the lodge wore their customary bike gear beneath their regalia and the atmosphere was relaxed and jovial whilst the ritual was exceptional.

At the meeting, the APMG W. Bro. Gary Brodie had the great honour of performing a field promotion on behalf of the RW PGM John Clark (also a member of the Lodge). W. Bro Herbie Waser was promoted to the rank of PPSGW in recognition of his



tremendous efforts on behalf of the Lodge and Freemasonry in general. After a wonderful Festive Board, the Brethren toured the 37.5-mile-long mountain course and at the start/finish line were treated to a talk on road racing on the Island by W. Bro. David Downie MBE a member of the TT Lodge. Various presentations were exchanged and a great time had by all.

The Lodge would like to extend their thanks to W. Bro. John Cretney of the TT Lodge for the invaluable assistance he gave in making the trip such a success.

More 'ride out' meetings are planned in future and anyone interested in visiting Bucks Motorcycle Lodge, biker or not, is assured of a warm welcome and a meeting with a difference.

NOT ALL SUPERHEROES WEAR CAPES

'SOME WEAR APRONS'



This initiative stems from Freemasonry in the Community is in recognition for the hard work undertaken by Buckinghamshire Freemasons.

All of our brethren give their money to help the local communities and some give their time as well. However, there are a number of brethren within our province who are giving huge amounts of time and effort in an attempt to improve their local communities.

Buckinghamshire Freemasons Superhero scheme recognises these exceptional individuals. In each edition of Concord, there will be a feature on two such brothers (although this edition features just 1 such hero). It will highlight to their brethren and the wider community the precepts that make Freemasonry unique. Each brother will also receive a Superhero lapel pin and certificate to recognise their achievement. These will be presented to them at an annual Superheroes dinner. With only 6 awards per year in the whole province, this really is a prestigious accolade.

Here we focus on Martin Lucas of Cymbeline Lodge who's tireless work with the homeless makes him a worthy winner of the first Superhero award!

When I moved from London in 1999, I found a new congregation to worship with in Hemel Hempstead. The congregation welcomed me in, with the help of my brother who was already a member.

Being part of a Church group gives me a real sense of purpose. On a Friday evening, around 7.30pm, I set off from my home in Dunstable to work with the homeless. Over the years, many things have changed. People have been moved on in an attempt to hide this problem. Some are in housing but others are not so lucky. I have been fortunate enough to get to know some of them quite well and to be able to help them with their needs of clothing, food and bedding and sometimes just to be there to listen.

Every Friday for the last 15 years, a group of us take a minibus from the church in Watford. We often receive specific requests from those we help, and we bag and label these prior to going out. Men's shoes, socks, underwear and jackets/coats are always in short supply, along with toiletries. We load up with the sandwiches, tea, coffee and soup and a giant urn of hot water. The sandwiches are made every week by the ladies of the Church.

We set off after a prayer and make two stops which alternate each week. The first stop is Lincoln's Inn Fields, which is just at the end of the road where Grand Lodge sits. The second is just over Waterloo bridge under the railway arches.

On arrival at the locations, there could be up to 30 to 40 people on the streets waiting for us. One thing I have noticed is that rain, cold sleet and snow makes no difference to whether they will be there. We open the rear of the bus and set up tables to put the tea and coffee making facilities on. We spend time talking to them, seeing how they are and make

notes of anything that they need for the team the next week to look into.

At the time I started this, Freemasonry was not even an idea in my mind, I was doing this because it was the right thing to do. I had only met Freemasons once, my father-in-law at the time was a Freemason in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia at the time) and had friends and family in the UK who were members. I was lucky enough to attend a Ladies festival at the Café Royal in London and see and hear a lot of what they did. I eventually joined in 2010 and have never looked back.

To me, being a Freemason allows me to actively participate in my Christianity as well as allowing me to help more people, both locally and further afield, by having fun and working hard with the other members of our fraternity.

Making the decision to become a Freemason is one the best things I ever did. Having a group of real friends who really want you to be the best person you can be and actively want to help you achieve that. It has given me more confidence in speaking to others and, as an adult teacher in my church bible class, it has brought my abilities to speak in front of others to a new level.

From Gary Brodie - Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

Martin, we thank you for what you are doing quietly supporting others with true Masonic values. We are proud to have you as the first member of this exclusive club.

We would like to hear what Brother's are doing in our Province, if there are or you know of any other 'Masonic Superheros' please get in touch with W.Bro. Eugene Matthias at info@eugenematthias.com.



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Sixty carers attended the annual Christmas Lunch organised by the Beaconsfield Committee for Freemasonry in the Community on Sunday 24th November at the Beaconsfield Masonic Centre.

Our Assistant Provincial Grand Master Worshipful Brother Tony Robinson and his wife Jean attended helping to make it a day to remember.

During lunch a general knowledge quiz was held along with Bingo, a game of True or False and Pass the Parcel! The games were played and enjoyed by all and there were fabulous

prizes for all the winners. A free raffle - donated by Frederick Lawson Lodge - was held and a goody bag was provided for all the carers donated by Hall Barn Lodge.

W.Bro. Tony welcomed the carers and Ann Whiteley, the Carers Service Manager, thanked the Freemasons on behalf of all the carers attending and hoped it would be held again next year.

Members of the committee attending were Steve Matthews Chairman, Tony Dyckes, Rob Knock, Sean Boardman, Andy Sutton, Andy Barr and Graham



Thorn ably assisted by their wives. Cestreham Lodge provided the table waiting staff, the Beaconsfield Ladies Club did the Meet and Greet and also made a generous donation. Kevin Taylor provided the music for the singing and dancing and a fitting finale.

Thanks go to all of the volunteers who made the event possible.

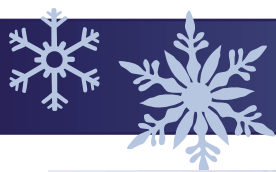
Scientific 840 do Santa!

One of the famous faces around Wolverton Milton Keynes is W. Bro. Carl Devereux AKA Santa. Every year Carl dons the Christmas suit and undertakes surprise visits to hundreds of children and adults alike in schools and businesses.

This year as part of Scientific's Freemasonry in the Community, Carl extended his goodwill to include support for the vulnerable of our community. Working with Aldi, Thames Valley Police and Stantonbury Parish Council, Carl presented 20 Christmas hampers to surprised and delighted house bound senior citizens. The visits were unannounced and they all enjoyed Santa's company for a while. Scientific 840 also laid on a sumptuous full Christmas dinner for 32 senior residents of Wolverton and Greenleys Senior Citizen Club.



Pictured above is W. Bro. Carl Devereux with 95 year old Ben and June, a representative from Aldi.



Beaconsfield Young Carers Christmas Party



Beaconsfield Masonic Centre was once again the venue for 40 young carers between the ages of 7 and 14 for their Christmas party.

They were entertained firstly by Magic Jack (Jack Cohen), then on to eat and drink as much as they could and join in the party games. They also had a chance to get their face painted by Helen Matthews, wife of Steve (chairman of the organising committee). After all of that Father Christmas arrived with a gift for everyone! Finally, the DJ made sure they had the right music to use up any remaining energy and we sent them home completely tired out with party bags put together by Andy and Debbie Sutton from Hall Barn Lodge.

To make all this possible thanks must go to members of the Beaconsfield

Freemasonry in the Community Committee present, Graham Thorn (aka Father Christmas), Andy Barr, Tony and James Dyckes, Sean Boardman, and Steve and Helen Matthews, who I think also enjoyed the party immensely. Also a big thank you to Lodges, Chapters etc. meeting at Beaconsfield Centre for their donations to top up the budget from the Province, these are gratefully received and faithfully applied.

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

For more information, visit www.carersbucks.org

CarersBucks

Father Christmas IN THE COMMUNITY



Haddenham Lodge members, pictured above, receive final instruction before marshalling the very first Village Santa Dash (below), in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice.



Marlow Centre members laid on a Christmas Luncheon with a visit from Father Christmas ...with presents!





Bletchley Memorial Day Silent March

Bletchley Centre Freemasons were pleased to support a Silent Memorial Day March organised by the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Province of Buckinghamshire and Bletchley Freemasons by Wayne Bentley who served in the Grenadier Guards in the 1980s and was posted to Belize in Central America, and Northern Ireland and by the newest member of Bletchley Freemasons Danny Gilbert who was recently initiated into Bletchley Park Lodge.

After the march, those attending were invited to Bletchley Masonic Centre for refreshments. We were pleased to host Iain Stewart MP and the Mayor of Milton Keynes Sam Crooks along with many others.



Many thanks to Nigel Beaven for the photos



Everything stops for Tea!

Residents at Independent Living in Leighton Buzzard were recently treated to afternoon tea at St Leonards Church in Heath and Reach. It was organised by David Ball who has represented Freemasonry in the Community at Gables Hall in Linslade for the last ten years.

The event commenced with a quiz to sharpen the mind and appetite and was followed by a splendid tea prepared by David's wife Jean and two helpers. The afternoon fun continued with a guest comedy slot from Freemason Bernard Freiss and concluded with a game of Bingo.

In all, 40 guests enjoyed the afternoon and left with a smile on their faces.



MARLOW LADIES CLUB

Well another year over and a new one just begins! 2019 was eventful with ladies and gents enjoying a variety of outings and listening to some fascinating talks.

Our final trip of the year was to Winchester Christmas Market and the nearby Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery. With gifts from the market, and tours and tastings at the gin distillery, the group soon started to feel, well and truly, in the Christmas spirit!

So, on to 2020. The committee are working hard to present a varied and interesting programme to the members. The year kicked off with the ever popular Quiz, Cheese & Wine evening on 28th January. We also presented a cheque to 2019's nominated charity, 'The Admiral Nurses'. These nurses not only look after dementia patients, but care and support their families too. Our members raised a fantastic £1,100 for this worthy cause.

February can be a dark month, so to lighten the mood, we have an amusing talk, entitled, "I'm not really old, it's those tablets!" organised for 25th. In March we will be visiting the Tutankhamun Exhibition, where specially discounted prices have been offered to our members.

August is usually a quiet month for the ladies club, so in addition to our programme below, we're working hard to arrange an informal, local social gathering to make the most of the summer month – more about this as plans come to fruition!

■ Fancy joining us?

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

MARLOW CENTRE LADIES CLUB Programme of Events 2020

TUESDAY 28 JANUARY

Cheese & Wine & Quiz

TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY

Liston Hall - talk by Hugh Granger
– *I'm not really old, it's those tablets!*

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH

Tutankhamun Exhibition
– *Saatchi Gallery, London*

TUESDAY 28 APRIL

Liston Hall - talk by Mark Lewis
– *The girl with the windswept Hair*

THURSDAY 21 MAY

Eltham Palace, Greenwich

SUNDAY 14 JUNE

Charity Lunch

TUESDAY 14 JULY

Sudeley Castle and Broadway

TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

Bletchley Park

TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER

AGM and talk by pilot, Graham Laurie
– *Royal Flying*

DECEMBER (Date To Be confirmed)

Christmas Lunch

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

BEACONSFIELD LADIES CLUB

In November we had a really enjoyable evening with a talk by a local Wildlife photographer.

The photographs of the animals in their natural habitat were wonderful and stories of how they were taken were intriguing. We will certainly be looking forward to a return visit.

2019 events closed with the Christmas party. Once again this was a well-supported evening of laughs, good company, good food and - singing - not quite so good!

There was no meeting in January, so

we started off 2020 with the AGM on Monday February 3 followed by tea and cakes.

At alternate meetings we hold a raffle with the money raised going to a local charity voted for by the members annually. The money raised this year will be handed over at the AGM.

Please note that, except for the summer months, our meetings will now be in the afternoons, starting at 2.00 p.m. This is to accommodate those of us who are unhappy about driving in the dark especially if it is bad weather.

After the AGM, the next meetings will be on Monday 2 March and Monday 6 April, starting at 2.00 p.m.

Should you be interested in coming along, or know anyone who would like further information about BCLC, please contact Yvonne for dates/times and any other information. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Yvonne Cawte, Secretary,
01494 562638;
yvonnecawte@btinternet.com.**



W Bro. John Clark,
Masonic Centre
Old School House
Windsor East
Bucks
HP9 3JW



4th October 2019

Dear John,

On behalf of Thames Valley Air Ambulance I would like to express my sincere thanks for the donation of £4,000 which has been awarded from the Masonic Charitable Foundation on behalf of the Provinces of Buckinghamshire. Please accept this letter as an acknowledgement of your kind gift.

Every day, someone in our community could be in need of our service. The support of the Buckinghamshire Freemasons enables us to continue to deliver advanced medical care across Buckinghamshire to people in an emergency. Your donation helps to save lives - thank you so much.

With our kind regards and best wishes,

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With our kind regards and best wishes,

Amanda Collins
Amanda Collins

Buckinghamshire Freemasons

were proud to donate £4000 to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

This fantastic cause has been supported by us for many years and is a project close to many of our hearts. They do invaluable work and save many lives every year. We were pleased to receive this latter, thanking us for our latest donation.

MK Hospital Tea Party

APGM Tony Robinson joined some Bletchley Freemasons to serve tea to the hospital staff at the Milton Keynes Hospital Tea party recently. Tony then presented a cheque from Buckinghamshire Freemasons for £300 to purchase items such as bean bags, stress balls, a back massage chair and free standing punch bag and gloves for a new A&E staff restroom to help relieve stress during well-deserved breaks.



Paul Strong Trust Fund Raiser for the Milton Keynes Hospital Charity said "The very kind donation of £300 will make a huge difference for the staff in our A&E department. With this generous gift we will be able to purchase equipment and furniture for a stress-relief room, which staff will be able to visit to release some of the stress caused by the particularly traumatic cases they deal with on a regular basis. The ability to utilise the facilities in this room will not only have benefits for staff but will also help to ensure that each and every patient visiting A&E will be given the very best medical and emotional support available. "



W. Bro. Christopher Lynch or as we know him the at St Giles Lodge No. 8555 "Prof" received his first appointment at the Bucks Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in October.

He received the appointment of Bucks "Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon" in recognition of the work he has done for the community.

The Professor is a retired but well known Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecological Surgeon and is well-loved and respected both in Milton Keynes and indeed worldwide. He was also physician to the Queen Mother. Although he is now dealing with physical problems himself, until recently he has been travelling the world giving lectures to medical institutions.

He is the inventor of the Lynch Stitch which has saved over 2 million women's lives worldwide and is still in use today. A google search for "lynch stitch" will give you a flavour of what he has achieved.

• The photo show Christopher being congratulated by Bucks APGM Phil Blacklaw on his appointment and receiving his appointment from Bucks Prov GM John Clark at the Bucks Provincial Grand Lodge meeting at Queens Street in London.

Florence Nightingale 30th Celebration



On 16th October 2019, sixteen Buckinghamshire Freemasons along with their partners and friends were invited to a private evening at Waddesdon Manor by Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity in celebration of their 30th anniversary and to give thanks for all that Buckinghamshire Freemasons do for their charity by way of fundraising, donations and volunteering.

They were greeted by the hospice team and led up the lovely drive to the house where they were met by a team of Manor curators, and treated to a private tour. The tour ended with an overview of Ferdinand de Rothschild, who was a Freemason.

This masonic lodge in his name was established in Aylesbury in 1892. Its consecration took place at the Five Arrows Hotel, Waddesdon on 30th May 1892. Its name is derived from Baron Ferdinand who it was intended should be the first Master. However, at the time he was in France and was taken ill and was unable to be

present. He was subsequently installed as second Master in June 1893. The initiation fee was seven guineas, joining fee three guineas and annual subscription three guineas.

The Manor was built in the 1870s to house the Rothschild's global collection. A purpose-built Victorian manor of extreme opulence, with rooms specifically sized, designed & decorated to hold specific items. Very eclectic, but everything of the highest possible standard and quality.

During the tour, two statues caught their eye and they pointed them out to the curators. From the photographs taken you will see why. Once the tour had concluded, they were led down to the world-renowned Rothschild Wine Cellars.

Mark Duncan of Ferdinand de Rothschild 2420 lodge gave a lovely speech on what we as Freemasons do, and linking it all in with what Florence Nightingale Hospice does. Jo Turner, the current CEO of the hospice gave a wonderful speech of thanks and explained the importance of Freemasons help - both financially and volunteering wise - also giving an



overview of what the charity does, and is planning.

They were then treated to a very detailed wine tasting session with the estate wine sommelier explaining the provenance of the wines we were tasting and a history lesson on the Rothschild's global vineyards and wine varieties. The evening was very personal and enjoyable, for which they were all very grateful for being invited to be part of a truly memorable event.

**Happy 30th Birthday
Florence Nightingale Hospice.**



Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting 2019

One key strategy of the Provincial executive is to make Freemasonry in Buckinghamshire as inclusive as possible and to involve partners and non-masons wherever feasible.

The Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in October was a prime example of this and all of those attending witnessed another grand day in Great Queen Street. This year a two-part day was organised to accommodate the Provincial business meeting and to allow family, friends and visitors to witness the ceremony of those individuals and lodges receiving appointments, promotions and special awards.

Preparation and planning commenced soon after the 2018 meeting. There are many aspects that need to be addressed for a Provincial Grand Lodge meeting,

especially when it is held in Grand Lodge. Logistically, having a two-part day created a further challenge. Programmes, Show Team equipment and a host of other essential items needed to be transported to Grand Lodge prior to the event. Practice sessions for the two meetings have to be undertaken to ensure the ceremonial delivery meets the high standard Buckinghamshire has set for itself; those involved were required to be on site early in the day to enable practice to occur either side of the formal business meeting.

Administratively a PGL meeting creates a huge task for the Provincial Office team. Agendas, creating programmes, seating arrangements in the Lodge, details of processions, dining arrangements and table plans are just some of the tasks; although most of us enjoy a smooth-running day the effort to deliver all of these organisational tasks is enormous.

The other essential ingredient for success is the large team of volunteers who provide ceremonial assistance, working parties and guides. The various teams from Stewards lodge and Addington, and other stalwart Provincial supporters provided effective cover on the day.



Both meetings were delivered as planned and with style. Processions of distinguished brethren included a parade of Lodge Banners and a significant number of ruling masters from across the province. A large number of lodges were awarded certificates for reaching Patron and Grand Patron status as a result of their enviable charity funding raising in support of the forthcoming festival. Our partners and guests were able to share the highlight event of the Provincial calendar and many very positive messages of praise were received.

W.Bro. Andy Collins
*Provincial Grand Director
of Ceremonies*



Secretaries' New Year Conference



Over sixty secretaries attended the New Year Conference held at the Beaconsfield Centre.

They enjoyed presentations from Hugh Douglas-Smith (A&Ps and HeliPAD), Phil Blacklaw (Working with your Lodge VO), John King (Working with your Lodge Mentor), Stuart McCurry (the role of the ProvGSuptWks in supporting Masonic Meeting Places) and Derrick Ardron (introducing Damian Waite and Provincial Office processes). Each presentation was well received with a short Q&A session after each. The over-arching message from the Conference was the importance of the accuracy of the information on our members stored by UGLE. Accurate and up to date information on Lodge members will greatly assist Lodge Secretaries in their administration of their Lodge and also assist Lodge Mentors, Almoners and VOs in their roles.

The Conference was concluded with a light hearted, but never the less intriguing, quiz on some of the less well known rules of the Book of Constitution

Appointments & Promotions (A&Ps)

As we progress through Freemasonry the colour and size of our aprons and collars change. As an Entered Apprentice the array and diversity of aprons around the room can seem spectacular as well as somewhat confusing. From the light blue rosetted apron of a Master Mason, through the barred version of a Master or Past Master to the dark blue of a Provincial or District Grand Officer, the range of central badges and their symbols can take a while to understand.

What, however, appears to be more steeped in secrecy, legend, rumour and mystique is the tales of how the individuals came by those badges. This article sets out to dispel some of the myths and bring some transparency to the process.

Each year the Provincial Grand Lodge of Buckinghamshire like other Provinces awards individual brethren with what are known as 'honours'. These are designed to recognise the work and effort that a Brother has put in to both their Lodge, the Province and the wider community. At the start of each year each Lodge decides on the Brothers to be put forward for consideration and an application is filled out by the Lodge secretary. There are rules as to who is eligible to be put forward. Basically, for a first appointment, a Brother becomes eligible 6 years after being installed into the Master's Chair. Then five years after an appointment he becomes eligible for a first promotion and five years after that for a second promotion.

Like most things, there are some exceptions. It is possible to receive an appointment without going through the chair. The principals applied are that the Brother in question has provided sterling support for his Lodge as well as Masonry or his community. Typically, to even out the timescale of working through the offices and the Chair, a Brother who has not been through the Chair would expect to have served around 14 years before being put forward. The other exception is the annual

appointment of Provincial Stewards who are entitled to wear the red Stewards' aprons. These are typically appointed early (around a year out of the Chair) and are selected by the Provincial Grand Master and his executive for the work they are doing in both their individual Lodges and the Province in general.

The application process and awards are done on a very objective basis with Lodges putting forward an application which describes the work of the Brother in question. These applications are then scored and rated within the batch of applications for that year before being scrutinised by the Provincial Executive. Each year the scoring system varies to match the objectives and strategy of the Province. In the last couple of years a large emphasis has been put on the Royal Arch and whether the Brother in question is a subscribing member. In addition, the key focus of the current executive is Membership so attention is given to whether the Brother has been active in recruiting new members for his Lodge.

Sometime in the second quarter of the year, the offer letters of Appointment and Promotion are sent out. These need to be replied to in order to accept the offer which is then conferred at the Provincial meeting in October. It has always been a tradition that as many recipients as possible attend the meeting to receive their honours.

VW.Bro.Hugh Douglas-Smith
Deputy Provincial Grand Master

Your province needs you!

During the past 20 months we have been working hard to reinvigorate and improve the support you receive from the Province. We have introduced new and exciting initiatives for Lodges and individuals, all with the simple aim of increasing your enjoyment of Freemasonry and growing our numbers.

To this end I thought it timely to remind you about the clubs and groups working on your behalf. All those involved in these groups have a passion for Freemasonry and an immense desire to see the Province, and Freemasonry in general, develop and prosper. Their time is given voluntarily, and their dedication and innovation are a credit to them, to the Province, and to our wonderful hobby. We have a huge pool of talent within Buckinghamshire, helping to

deliver our success, either by direct contribution or by simply joining in. You do not need to be a Provincial Grand Officer to help. In fact, some of our most successful initiatives are, and have been, developed and run by Light Blues, Fellow Crafts and Entered Apprentices. If you would like to join us, or just join in, then you will find contact information and a short description of the groups below.

Over the next 12 months you will see more innovation and developments, from encouraging visiting, to electronic communication. I challenge you to embrace this change with me and the executive, so we thrive and grow together.

John Clark
Provincial Grand Master

North East Corner Club (NECC)



Our aim is to develop our newer members understanding of Freemasonry and support them as they progress in the craft. We will do this by creating and delivering a series of events and opportunities to enhance their masonic experience,

Whether you want to learn or teach, the North East Corner Club welcomes you.

To join contact NECC@buckspgl.org
<https://bucksmentoring.teamapp.com/>

Bucks Ritual Team

This team provides exceptional ritual for Lodges who require stand ins either for individual pieces for ceremonies or full ceremonies and demonstrations.

If you would like to become part of this team please contact Lloyd Harrison via lloydh591@gmail.com

Orators Team

The Provincial Orator has a team who will provide Orations that complement ceremonies or can be stand alone when a lecture is required instead of a ceremony.

The Team use Solomon extensively and provide multimedia presentations.

To join the Orators team please contact neil.g.robertson@gmail.com

Bucks Masonic Wanderers



The BMWs visit Lodges in the Province to help boost their numbers and give the meetings more atmosphere. If you enjoy visiting and want to help other Lodges then this is an ideal group to join.

If you are interested contact them via darren@dpmcarpentry.co.uk

Mentoring & Pathway

The Provincial Grand Mentor works with Lodge Mentors to help induct and develop individuals and grow Lodges. Whether this is through the EA, FC and MM handbooks which form the basis for personal Mentoring or by encouraging the use of Pathway which will help your Lodge to grow and prosper. As part of Pathway we have developed a Lodge recovery template to help struggling Lodges concentrate on increasing membership whilst the support groups provide excellent meetings and Festive Boards on their behalf.

For more details contact mentor@buckspgl.org

Visiting Officers

The VO Scheme is designed to offer lodges a very pro-active Visiting Officer who will try to attend all of your meetings. They will fulfil two vital roles: To act as an Ambassador of the Province and provide updates and communications from the Provincial Executive.

To become the INDEPENDENT advisor to the Lodge where required. Each VO is being appointed for a period of three years and they have the backing of a Senior Visiting Officer who will assist them when required.

If you are a Provincial Officer past or present and would like to become a VO then contact philipblacklaw@gmail.com

Bucks Masters Lodge No. 3305

Open to all Masters and Past Masters in the Province. Meetings are an opportunity to meet other Masons; listen to talks and lectures on Masonic and non-Masonic topics and to have the chance to talk to Masons with a lot of experience in Masonry.

To join contact the secretary via ianbailey44@btinternet.com



WANTED

Press Relations Lead

The Buckinghamshire Freemasons Communications Team is looking for someone to assist in Press Relations. This will be part of the team responsible for social media, website and Concord, working under the Provincial Communications Officer.

This role will be to liaise with local media and press outlets (newspapers, online news outlets, radio and TV) to promote Bucks Freemasonry and the works we do for our local communities. Experience preferred but an enthusiastic and hard working team member will be given training if needed.

Please email: comms@buckspgl.org for more details and the PCO will contact you. This is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference for the province.

Marketing Team

The marketing team is there to assist in recruiting new members.

We will run recruitment campaigns targeting specific areas and communities. We can also support your own recruitment drives.

If you would like to help or require marketing support. Contact phil@odyssey.co.uk

Provincial Membership Officer

The PMO and his Team are responsible for dealing with all enquiries received via Provincial Website and UGLE for those looking to become Masons in Bucks, or those who are already Masons and wish to join a Bucks Lodge. They contact and meet with each 'Candidate' and establish their suitability with the normal questions, and if all is well, will pass their details to a Lodge to progress in the customary manner.

Contact pauldgausden@aol.com

Communications Officer

The role of the Bucks PCO is to communicate what we do, both internally and externally by sharing how we raise money, donate or help in the local community. This is done by using social media, Concord, the BucksPGL website and local press.

Please share your stories and photos by emailing comms@buckspgl.org.

Show/Events Team

We provide support to Lodges and the Province when attending or holding events. From supplying shows and events kit, assisting with organising events... Leaflets... General support and advice... We are on hand to help.

We need new team members for 2020 onwards so if you can help, please let me know...

Transporting kit...

Setting up and striking kit...

Organising events or whatever needs doing...

Please contact me andyicsutton@aol.co.uk

Learning & Development

- Secretaries/Scribes E,
- Masters Elect
- Directors of Ceremonies Workshops.

The Annual Workshops for all the above are scheduled for **18th April (Bletchley Centre)** and **25th April (Slough Centre)**.

Assembling with tea/coffee at 8.30 am, bacon rolls mid-morning and finishing around 1.00 pm.

Secretaries/Scribes E:

Nigel Bowater
nbowater@eep.co.uk

Director of Ceremonies:

Steve Barnes
barnessteve@hotmail.co.uk

Masters Elect :

Mike Clanfield
vale.sec6632@btinternet.com

Open Lodges of Instruction

The following offer a chance to practice any piece of ritual or Office you want. Learn to open and close before you reach the chair, practice your perambulations, the list is endless.

- **Manor Lodge of Instruction** meets in Bletchley on Wednesdays. Contact **Lou Amey** for details louamey@yahoo.co.uk
- **Beaconsfield Open LOI** meets every Monday. Contact **Tim Gerrard** for details timmygerrard@hotmail.com
- **Winslow Sunday School of Instruction** meets in the Bell Hotel Winslow every Sunday Morning at 9.30 am for coffee before moving to the Eliot Hall. Contact **Caleb Walton** calebpwalton@yahoo.co.uk

Master Elect/Secretary & Scribe E/Director of Ceremonies/Visiting Officer Workshops 2020

The Province will be running these Workshops on the following days in April, at Bletchley Centre and Slough Centre.

- **Bletchley Centre**
Saturday am 18th April 2020
- **Slough Centre**
Saturday am 25th April 2020

Workshops will run from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided at 8.30 am and later in the morning.

If you are a Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, DC or Assistant DC or a Visiting Officer, or aspiring to any of these roles, then these Workshops are for you.

The Workshops are not only to bring you up to date with the practical aspects of your Office but are also about sharing ideas and thoughts with other Brethren. Many will have the same feelings of excitement and trepidation that you may be feeling.

Further details will be sent out but contact the presenters, below, with any queries or further information:

- **Master Elect Workshop**
Peter Wake
p.d.wake@btinternet.com
- **Secretary/Scribes E Workshop**
Nigel Bowater
nbowater@eep.co.uk
- **DC Workshop**
Steve Barnes
barnessteve@hotmail.co.uk
- **Visiting Officer**
Phil Blacklaw
philipblacklaw@gmail.com

The Complete Ladies Festival Package

Eugene Matthias and Paul French present...

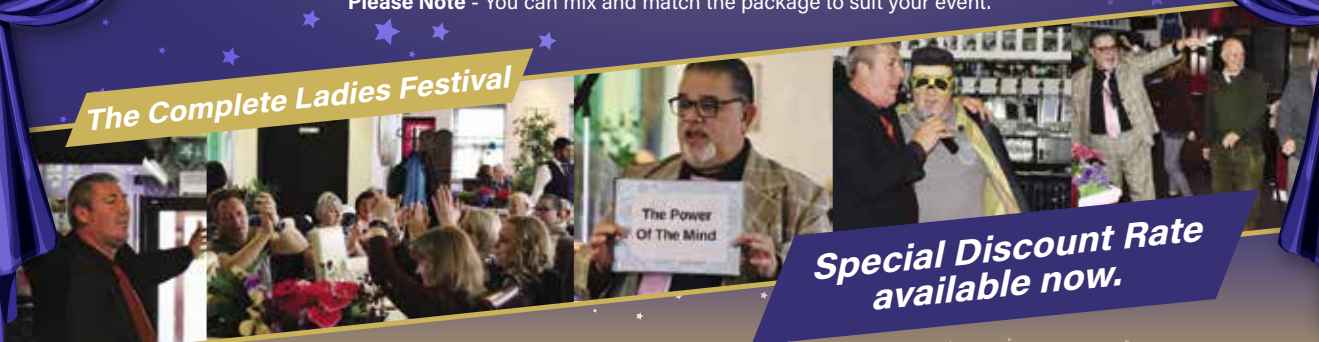
MAGIC, MUSIC & MAYHEM

The Complete 'Ladies Festival' Package includes:

Guidance with planning your Ladies Festival • Meeting and greeting of members and guests • Toastmaster to officiate the whole ladies festival • Ladies Song • Hosting of fundraising (Raffle and Auction) • Evening entertainment - Variety Show with Eugene (comedy magic) & Paul (singer) • Evening ends with a Disco

Please Note - You can mix and match the package to suit your event.

The Complete Ladies Festival



**Special Discount Rate
available now.**

If you are interested or have any questions please feel free to call Eugene on 07730 11111 or email info@themagicclub.com



Claydon Lodge 9178 Installation Meeting 9th January 2020



I joined freemasonry being initiated in Claydon Lodge 9178 in 2012. January 9th was the culmination of 8 years hard work to

get to the chair of King Solomon. My installation was especially memorable as the Provincial Grand Master and the entire Provincial Team attended the meeting, which made it feel even more special.

I had spent the last few months leading up to the meeting learning all the words and approached the meeting with a sense of nervous anticipation. When I arrived at the meeting everyone wanted to wish me luck prior to the ceremony and everyone took the time to give me their congratulations afterwards

The support that I received from both the executive and members of Claydon Lodge was truly humbling and will stay with me forever.

The moment that you finish installing your officers and look out over your lodge is truly magical.

The meeting itself also was used to launch the Travelling Titfer initiative where myself and five other Masons will be attending a meeting at every centre across the province during 2020, which added another fun and different dimension to the meeting and festive board as well.



After the meeting I found myself clearing away the various items I needed to take home with me (raffle prize, hat, social event collateral etc) and had the first chance in about 5 hours to have a minute to myself. I took a moment to let the events of the evening sink in against the backdrop of an empty dining room that was in stark contrast to the energy that had filled the room only 30 minutes earlier.

Part of me was filled with a tinge of sadness that I will not be able to experience that feeling of becoming Worshipful Master for the first time again, but it was also a moment of personal achievement knowing that I had finally achieved this significant milestone in my masonic journey.

One of the things I enjoy most about Freemasonry is the camaraderie I feel with my fellow brothers and this was never more evident that my Installation meeting.

This occasion is something that I will never forget and has left me feeling energised and determined to do a great job for my lodge during my year as Master.

The support that I received from both the executive and members of Claydon Lodge was truly humbling and will stay with me forever.

W.Bro. John Palman

Buckinghamshire Provincial Charitable Activities

Mike Clanfield - Provincial Grand Charity Steward reports on Buckinghamshire Provincial Charitable Activities.

As you are all no doubt aware, Buckinghamshire is approaching the final stretch of the 2021 Festival in aid of the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) and our Province continues to excel in all aspects of charitable giving. The Festival has received over £1.4 million already and Charities in Buckinghamshire have benefitted from grants from the MCF from these donations.

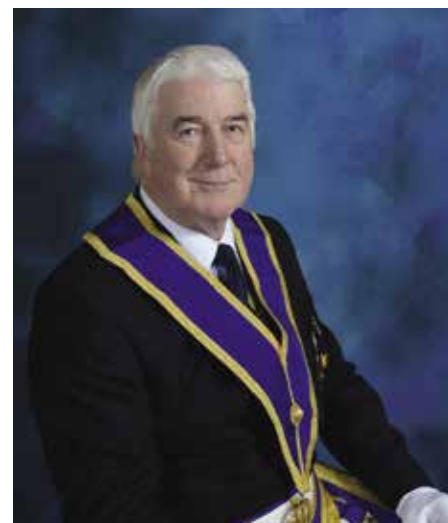
The Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund (BMCF) has also made many grants to Buckinghamshire charities and will continue to do so. Details of some of these grants are highlighted elsewhere in this issue of Concord.

Each year, the MCF supports around 5,000 freemasons and their families with grants and services totalling more than £15 million. It also supports around 500 additional charities in all communities with an additional fund of £5 million.

Uniquely, the MCF have entered into partnerships with leading charities. These include Age UK, Hospice UK and now Home-Start UK. The massive advantage of this initiative is the increased efficacy of the money

given. These large charities already have infrastructure, resources and an intimate knowledge of the needs of their beneficiaries.

Last year, the MCF supported Buckinghamshire Freemasons and their families with 82 grants – that's almost one for every lodge in the province. These grants totalled more than £130,000. These grants are helping families who are struggling to make ends meet. They are encouraging greater independence for people with disabilities, and giving young people the opportunity to succeed in their education. They



also providing high-quality care and medical treatment for older, disabled or seriously ill people. On top of all that, hospices, the air ambulance, and other local charities in this province received grants totalling more than £70,000.

Freemasons across the country alongside this central grant giving means that Freemasonry under the United Grand Lodge of England give £48 Million per year which makes us a force to be reckoned with with regards to charitable giving. Something of which we should all be immensely proud.



2021 Festival Progress

At the Provincial Meeting at UGLE in October 2019, lodges who had obtained Grand Patron or Patron Honorifics were presented with a certificate from Les Hutchinson, Chief Operating Officer of the MCF. These were in recognition of the hard work and generosity of the members of these lodges and they should be rightly proud of their achievements. To these Lodges and all those that I am sure will follow, thank you! It really is appreciated.

The following Lodges were represented:

L4450	Marcellians	Grand Patron
L8647	Manor of Swanburn	Grand Patron
L9518	Bletchley Park	Grand Patron
L6632	Vale	Grand Patron
L7345	Heatherden	Grand Patron
L1787	Grenville	Grand Patron
L7943	Bourne End	Grand Patron
L5214	Industria	Grand Patron
L9641	Grand Union	Grand Patron
L8985	Fenny Stratford	Grand Patron
L8944	Haddenham	Grand Patron
L8175	De Bohun	Grand Patron
L8143	Temple Manor	Grand Patron
L6154	Burke	Grand Patron
L6968	Brickhill	Grand Patron
L6674	Cestreham	Grand Patron
L9178	Claydon	Patron
L5254	Iver	Patron
L5637	Pegasus	Patron
L9616	Wendover	Patron
L8091	Magiovinivm	Patron
L3375	Misbourne	Patron
L2420	Ferdinand De Rothchild	Patron
L9004	Cymberline	Patron
L5876	Penn and Tylers	Patron
L6308	Hughenden	Patron
L2309	Christopher	Patron
L9533	Roman Way	Patron
L3062	Neleus	Patron

Further certificates will be awarded again this year at the Provincial meeting in October 2020.


As a reminder the honorifics for Lodges are;

GRAND PATRON	£20,000
PATRON	£15,000
VICE PATRON	£10,000
SUBSCRIBER	£5,000

The amounts being donated each month by lodges to the Festival amounts to £30,000 on average.


Everything the MCF do and achieve is only made possible by the generous donations of Buckinghamshire Freemasons and their families, and of course the hard work of the fundraisers and charity stewards that encourage this generosity. My thanks go to all those who are doing so much throughout the Province to support our work.

And let me assure you – your support means the world to our beneficiaries. Every donation, large or small, has the potential to change someone's life.



Overview of our work in 2018/19

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE




WE HELPED

47 FREEMASONS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS WITH GRANTS TOTTALLING **£131,693**


£80,727


TO HELP PEOPLE COVER THEIR ESSENTIAL DAILY LIVING COSTS



£28,853


TO GIVE ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING AND LIFE-CHANGING HEALTH SUPPORT





£22,113


TO HELP FAMILIES WITH CARE AND EDUCATION COSTS



OUR ADVICE & SUPPORT TEAM CARRIED OUT VISITS, CALLS & EMAILS



96

PEOPLE ACCESSED OUR COUNSELLING SERVICE



WE AWARDED

9 GRANTS TO LOCAL CHARITIES TOTTALLING **£77,535**

Discover what else we achieved: impact.mcf.org.uk/2019

Cheque Event



Representatives from lodges receiving a certificate from Les Hutchinson.

There will be another Cheque Presentation event this year on Sunday 17th May 2020 and we will again be using the Holiday Inn, Aylesbury for the venue following the success last year. Lodges will be invited to attend to give exposure to their chosen charities for grants received or being donated.

During 2019 members of the Province carried out numerous charity fund raising events and as we all know the members of the executive led by example by paddling up the Thames in canoes, abseiling down a tower in Northampton and Zip wiring down a Welsh mountain. A number of individual lodge members also made terrific efforts by arranging fund raising events and there are too many to mention. The Big Festival Fortnight was a huge success culminating with the Festival Ball at the Double Tree Hotel, at MK Dons, raising over £14,000.

There will be a number of Charity events this year including another outdoor film night at Pinewood Studios following the successful screening of Bohemian Rhapsody raising over £5,000. Please continue to support the Provincial 2021 Festival in as many ways as possible to ensure that we achieve the best possible result. If there are funds in the Lodge Relief Chest please consider transferring donations to the Festival now and this will be a great way to boost our final total and your lodge's individual total.

The individual lodge Festival donations are available each month, on request and if any advice or support is required, who to contact, I am always available and happy to help.

Haddenham Lodge: 15 years of 'Summerfest'



Haddenham Lodge marked a milestone in its partnership with the Haddenham Beer Festivals Trust 'Summerfest'.

Since its inception in 2004, the lodge has provided the BBQ as the official and only beer festival charity food outlet.



In the 15 years of the beer festival's (summer & winter) the lodge BBQ has now "flipped" its 25,000 burger and raised approximately £35,000 all of which has been donated to local charities, causes & societies.

This year was our 2021 Festival BBQ, as part of the extended Festival Fortnight.



This year saw 130 different ales, 35 Different ciders, 15 different gins, Pimms & Prosecco Tent, world Lager Tent, 12 food outlets and entertainment from 7 different bands.

Approximately 4000 people were in attendance as the UK's biggest one day beer festival. Our presence at the event is now a given and we are part of the family, long may this continue.

A true and established representation of 'Freemasonry In The Community'



Walking in Honour of My Father

In honour of my father, a member of Industria Lodge who is living with Alzheimer's disease, and to raise funds for the 2021 Festival and Alzheimer's Research UK, I undertook a solo 525 mile, 22 day trek through southern Italy along the Via Francigena - an ancient pilgrim route that links Brindisi to Rome.

During the first section of the route from Brindisi I averaged over 30 miles per day with the route travelling via a mixture of rugged coastlines and quiet inland paths through olive groves and vineyards.

I then cut across Italy towards Naples with the route taking me through the mountains of the Campania region. The landscape and weather took a dramatic change with me hitting the first of the significant inclines and experiencing the first of the thunderstorms.

After Naples the route zig-zagged between inland and coastal landscapes in the Lazio region with many climbs towards Rome.

My final day became an adventure in itself as I tackled heavy rain, thunderstorms, waterlogged paths and a hailstorm of biblical proportions but despite the weather I successfully completed my walk in St Peter's Square and was afterwards presented with "The Credential" that proved I had completed the pilgrimage.

I received wonderful assistance from the supportive and caring people of Southern Italy and putting aside the poor weather conditions and a few rather scary encounters with angry wild dogs, this most certainly is an adventure that I will never forget and was most proud to complete.

W.Bro. Steve Smith



WALK STATISTICS:

DISTANCE: 524 miles

STEPS: 1,180,398

FLIGHTS CLIMBED: 449

MONEY RAISED:

£8,000 (to date)

Buckinghamshire Freemason completed 52 Marathons on 52 Weeks

Member of Cowper & Newton, Neil Briggs completed 52 Marathons in 52 Weeks on Christmas Eve.

Neil started running in 2011 which helped him to stop smoking and keep his fitness up. He ran his first marathon in 2013 in Bournemouth. In 2017 Neil joined Freemasonry and that year ran 3 marathons.

Early in 2018, Neil decided to challenge himself by running 12 marathons in 12 months, however, by the end of the year, he had completed 21 marathons in total! So with the dawning of 2019, it seemed like a good idea to run 52 marathons in 52 weeks. and, being a passionate Freemason, Neil thought the ideal charity to run for would

be the Bucks 2021 Festival in aid of the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF).

The year did not start too well for Neil as he was due to run a double marathon over the weekend of the 5th and 6th of January but had an injury that meant he only completed the one. After some physiotherapy, he was back running and completed the marathon he had missed.

Some of the achievements he has completed over the year have been the "Quadzilla" which is 4 Marathons in 4 days in February and



another being "week at the knees" which is 7 marathons in 7 days back in March. During October, Neil also competed the Snowdonia Marathon and has run a few 50k races (roughly 31 miles).

Neil completed a 50 mile run in Wendover woods in November. On Christmas Eve 2019, he managed to complete this incredible challenge so far raising over £1000 for the Buckinghamshire 2021 Festival in aid of the MCF. Cowper & Newton Lodge No 2244 donated £520 to help with this stupendous effort.

Donations would be gratefully received at

<https://e2021mcf.Everydayhero.com/uk/52-marathons-in-52-weeks-1>



MK Hospital Radio

The BMCF (Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund) recently awarded a grant £2,500 to the Milton Keynes Hospital Radio to purchase a Second mixing desk.

This is part of a new studio that is being created in the hospital at a total cost of £30,500.

There is a need to expand the service offered in the hospital. Currently there are restrictions training new members and providing patients with a variety of programmes.

The new studio will also enable live broadcasting to allow interaction with patients. Buckinghamshire Freemason Alan Clarke of Grenville Lodge not only presents an evening programme but is also secretary of the station.

Grenville Lodge and its members have supported the station with donations over the past few years of well over £1,000.

Allan Commented *"Both Hospital Radio and Masonry have similar missions, to make life better for everybody which is something I admire and enjoy"*

Photo Shows Left to Right: Martin Thorpe - Deputy chairman Studio 2 Project Manager; Alan Clarke - Secretary MKHRS and member of Grenville Lodge; Andrew Hough - Secretary BMCF; Phil Blacklaw - Bucks Assistant Provincial Grand Master.



Solving the Puzzle

The Puzzle Centre in Middle Claydon were delighted when their application to the BMCF for £4000 was approved recently.

The money enabled the centre to purchase desks and seating for their Outreach Team as well as nursery furniture and materials for their Picture Exchange Communications System (PECS). The Puzzle Centre is a charity which promotes and delivers early intervention for young children with Autism or communication difficulties and provides training and outreach to families and practitioners across the UK. Materials purchased

with the grant will help to make picture cards and emotion fobs which allow non-verbal children to express themselves and for parents and teachers to give simple instructions.

Sarah Dolder, from The Puzzle Centre, thanked the BMCF for the donation and included comments from parents whose child had benefitted and progressed due to the use of the PECS system and the interventions of the centre.

High Tea for MK Carers

The BMCF (Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund) were delighted to award MK Carers £330 to enable them to treat 30 adult carers to an afternoon tea at Dobbies Garden Centre in Bletchley.

Many of the Carers look after loved ones who are incapacitated and require round the clock care.

Being able to leave home even for a short time requires a lot of organisation. The afternoon gave them a chance to catch up with other carers to have a light-hearted chat, tea and cakes.

APGM Phil Blacklaw, Andrew Hough, Mike Clanfield and John Waller were invited to attend by Beth Sawyers, Fundraising Manager. It was an



enjoyable afternoon, with good company and well-deserved break for the carers.

One of the carers said *'It was so nice to have some time away from my responsibilities and meet other carers who really understand. It is impossible to overestimate the benefits trips like this mean to carers so thank you to the Freemasons.'*

Animal Antiks

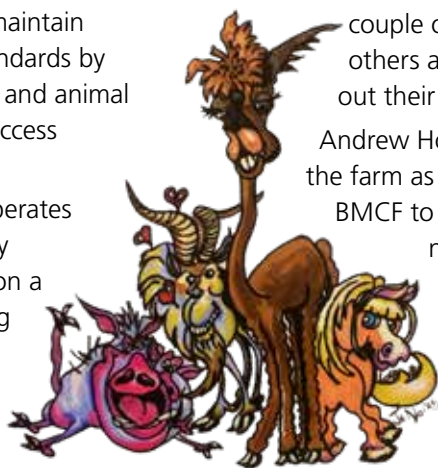


Pictured above from Left to right: Sarah (CEO), Theo (member) Limahl (alpaca), Andrew, Tina (alpaca), Denise (staff) and Pam (Trustee)

The BMCF (Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund) recently awarded a grant of £2500 to Animal Antiks.

This has gone towards the installation of new gates at the facility which will enable a fully flexible layout and permit service users to access all the different animals even in wheelchairs and pushchairs. As well as this, the gates will be fitted with baseboards which will help maintain high hygiene standards by containing straw and animal waste, keeping access walkways clean.

Animal Antiks operates an alternative day provision based on a 230-acre working farm in North Marston, near Buckingham.



It welcomes and supports children and adults who are experiencing various challenges in their lives. This can include physical and mental health difficulties, difficulties accessing mainstream education or being at risk of school exclusion or experiencing social isolation and exclusion. It supports around 50 people a week and caters for all ages - with their youngest being 5 and their eldest in her 50's. Some just attend for a couple of hours a week, whilst others attend full time and carry out their education onsite.

Andrew Hough recently visited the farm as the Secretary of the BMCF to see the difference the new gates had made for those with mobility and motor skills issues. He enjoyed his visit helping to muck-out and feed some of the animals.

Want to find out more about Animal Antiks? Then just go online and visit their website at www.animalantiks.co.uk



Having a ball!

A group of children from the Milton Keynes area had an enjoyable time recently while taking part in tennis coaching sessions helped by a grant from the BMCF which provided £140 for two buckets of tennis balls.

The sessions, for children between the ages of 6 and 10, were run by MK Inclusive Tennis and had a particularly important purpose. All the children involved are diabetic and the course aimed to show them how exercise can help regulate insulin levels and increase sensitivity to it. Blood sugar levels were checked before, during and after lessons to illustrate they were under control.

The children enjoyed the lessons in a safe and friendly environment with an instructor who has the same condition.

Emma Maitland, The Development Manager at MK Inclusive Tennis thanked the BMCF for the donation which allowed the course to go ahead.

Buckinghamshire Freemasons help Dexter to help other visually impaired children



The BMCF (Bucks Masonic Centenary fund) recently donated a £1000 to purchase a large guillotine, materials and artwork, to help produce braille books for young sight-impaired children.

Back in 2018 Buckinghamshire Freemasons raised over £3500 which included a donation of £500 from Winslow Lions to buy young Dexter Ward who is severely visually impaired due to Congenital Glaucoma, a braille Machine. This was to enable his parents to make him braille books as there are limited suitable braille books for young children.

Dexter's parents have now produced 4 books for him to enjoy which follow the exploits of "Scruffy the Uffy". The books are all in a giant font, tactile and in braille. The drawings have been produced with visually impaired children in mind.

Dexter's mother Julie-Ann has received requests from a number of parents of children with visual impairment, for copies of the books, so far they complied a few books but would like to produce more. The books cost over £8 to produce and

an hour to make. The donation from the BMCF will make it possible for them to produce even more books.

Recently Dexter who is now 4 was visited by Bucks Assistant Provincial Grand Master Phil Blacklaw accompanied by Bucks Provincial Communications Officer John Waller to see how he is doing. They took him a TLC (Tender Loving Care) teddy which he loved.

Dexter has had a number of surgeries and lost all vision in his right eye however he still has some limited vision in his left eye. That doesn't stop him running around, chatting and enjoying life. He wanted to show Phil and John his toys and really seemed to enjoy the visit.

Julie-Ann intends to write new books for Dexter as he gets older and make them available to other children who are visually impaired.

Shaun and Sean go for Gold!

The BMCF recently funded two men to attend the Nihon Dutch Shensho Judo tournament in Eindhoven, Holland.

Shaun Banks and Sean McKellar competed against individuals worldwide in a tournament for those with learning difficulties.

Shaun and Sean are both members of Stokenchurch Judo Club and have competed in many tournaments in the past. At 52, Sean McKellar was the oldest in the group and had to compete in four challenging contests before emerging victorious with a gold medal. Shaun Banks also competed in four contests and managed to beat an impressive



challenger who was much bigger than him. He gained a bronze medal. Jean Cleere, who organised the funding and accompanied the group to the event thanked the BMCF for the contribution which facilitated the two competitors success.

Teddies for Loving Care Update...

The (MCF) Masonic Charitable Foundation, are now centrally administering the TLC (Teddies for Loving Care) Masonic Charity, but importantly, it will remain locally-led.

At the MCF/TLC Regional Forum at Freemasons Hall, the Program's new logo was revealed. It features a heart-shaped nose, as in the MCF Logo, with the Red and Orange head and ears symbolising an adult and child hugging.

Brand new Teddies for the Children's Hospitals will soon be rolling in, together with new environmentally friendly packaging, and full compliance certification.

To date, 2.5 Million Teddies have been donated to Children's



A&E units across the country since it's dawning 18 years ago. Buckinghamshire Freemasons currently donate around 3000 Teddies per year to various Children's Hospitals throughout the Province, which are always warmly welcomed by the Nursing Staff, who see just how powerful a Teddy can be in calming a distraught and bewildered sick or injured child.

A huge Thank you to every Lodge and indeed, every Freemason for supporting this wonderful heartfelt Masonic Charity.

Bletchley Ladies Club

The Bletchley Ladies Lunch Club are now in their thirteenth year. They have meetings on the 2nd Thursday of nine months of the year – January to May and September to December. They meet at the Bletchley Queensway Masonic Centre.

In October they enjoyed a talk about Antiques – Behind the Scenes at Charles Ross Auctioneers, Woburn. As part of his interesting and humorous talk Evan Willison kindly brought along some antiques for ladies to handle and have fun guessing their value.

Over 80 members and guests gathered in December to enjoy a three-course lunch and 'A Christmas Cracker' talk by Vic Botterrill. The New Year 2020 began with a gentleman from The Food Cupboard, Milton Keynes, advising the ladies of their work in the community. Donations of food were provided by members. After lunch, Steve Dimmer regaled the life of June Whitfield – a humorous glimpse of this much loved actress's life of TV and stage.

For February, they were delighted to welcome Bill Hamilton to present his very interesting talk on 'Man on the Spot – Reflections of a Journalist, Broadcaster and BBC TV News Correspondent'.

Ladies are looking forward to having a social occasion next month. They have been invited to share their hobbies and interests by taking along associated items which can be seen, admired and chatted about. There will be a hat competition in preparation for Easter the following month.

The programme will continue this year with talks on: Joyce Grenfell (May), and Afternoon Tea (April). Then it will be the Club's summer break. Their programme for 2021 is well underway.

New members are always welcome. If you would like to find out more about our meetings, then please contact: Denny Dorrell, Chairman BMCLLC on 01908 397338.



The MCF give \$150,000 for victims of Australian bush fires

People who have lost everything in the catastrophic Australian bushfires will be among those to benefit from a grant of AUS\$150,000 (£79,000) from the MCF to the Disaster Relief Funds set up by Freemasons in Australia.

The grant from the English and Welsh Freemasons' charity will see AUS\$50,000 given to the Australian Freemasons' Disaster Relief Funds in each of the three states most affected by the blaze: New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

The unprecedented fires have seen 27 deaths, including a number of firefighters, with 2,136 homes destroyed in New South Wales alone, more than 1,200 of which have burned down since New Year's Eve. Thousands of Australians are living in more than a dozen large evacuation centres, having been forced to flee the blaze.

Meanwhile, hundreds of homes and businesses have been lost in Victoria and South Australia. Many Australians have lost everything and the impact on the livelihoods of ordinary people is vast. The economy will take many years to fully recover.

An estimated 18 million acres of land have been burned, an area almost as large as Ireland. There has been an enormous impact on the environment, with up to a billion animals being killed. The death toll among koala bears alone has led to calls for the animals to be placed on the endangered species list.

Freemasons from Buckinghamshire have contributed to the grant that comes through the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which is funded by Freemasons, their families and friends, from across England and Wales.



Southern African food crisis victims receive £50,000 from the Masonic Charitable Foundation

Thousands of people at risk of starvation in Southern Africa will be receiving emergency food packs and urgent humanitarian assistance, thanks to a grant of £50,000 from the MCF to Plan International UK.

An estimated 45 million people across Southern Africa are likely to be affected by record high temperatures and low rainfall, which has led to the worst drought for 35 years.

The world-famous Victoria Falls has become a trickle and Lake Kariba, a critical water source for both Zambia and Zimbabwe, is only 16 per cent full. An estimated 70 per cent of rural water sources in Zimbabwe have dried up.

Last year, Cyclones Idai and Kenneth caused widespread and very destructive flooding across the region, leaving already fragile communities in a poor state to deal with this fresh catastrophe. Families have been forced to reduce the quantity and frequency of meals, and often forgo healthcare.

Freemasons from Buckinghamshire have contributed to the grant that comes through the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which is funded by Freemasons, their families and friends, from across England and Wales.

Rose Caldwell, Chief Executive of Plan International UK, said:

"We're very grateful for this generous grant which will allow Plan International to reach thousands of people suffering from severe shortages of food. It is critical that we act now to provide this support to those most at risk"

Large Grant Awarded to Bucks Based Charity, Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases - £62,725 over 2 years

The Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases is the only registered UK charity providing professional support to people affected by Mucopolysaccharide (MPS) and related diseases. MPS and related diseases are a group of 25 genetic conditions which cause progressive physical disability and severe degenerative neurological deterioration resulting for many in

early death. Every eight days, a baby born in the UK is diagnosed. There is no cure for any of these diseases. The charity reaches over 1,500 people annually through its support, information, advocacy and advice.

The grant will fund an Advocacy Support Worker who will provide support to children, young people and their families through regular phone calls, emails and home visits. The support includes emotional support, expert advice, help with filling in forms, e.g. for additional support at school, signposting to relevant local services, help applying for grants such as for lowered light switches and powerchairs, access to peer to peer support and help with independent living. On average, support will be via emails and calls each month as well as



approximately forty face-to-face visits each year. 205 children and young people in England and Wales will be supported each year, and including families the project will help around 500 people.

Memorial Golf Day

The amazing amount of £1904 was raised recently when Grand Union Lodge held a Memorial Golf Day in memory of the late Colin Cruse, a Past Master of the Lodge.

The event was hosted by Peter Critchley at The Three Locks Golf Club, Stoke Hammond and the winning team "The Capitanos" were from Brickhill Lodge. Money raised from the event, which will now be held annually, was sent to support Colin's favoured charity, Medical Detection Dogs.



From Left to right: Joy Rooks, Eric the Ambassador Dog, Trisher Cruse, Wayne Hancock



Bucks Masonic Golf Society

The Society held a Presentation event on 27th October 2019.

Stan Green as our immediate Past Captain presided over the event. Stan welcomed all of the members and their guests and Tony Robinson and his wife. Tony is the APGM responsible for sports in the Province. Stan presented Tony with a society tie and appointed him an honorary member of the Society. To avoid being improperly dressed Tony put on the tie and thanked Stan and the members.

The members and guests then enjoyed a delightful meal after which followed the purpose of the event which was to formally present the

winners throughout the year with the trophies they had won.

With the assistance of our President Mike Powell and Tony Robinson, Stan presented the trophies to the winners after which they assembled for a group photo.

This being his swan song Stan thanked all for the support he has received during his captaincy and wished every success to Robin Knock who succeeds Stan as Captain aided by Paul Smith who had been appointed Vice-Captain.

2020 is our 50th anniversary and as well as our usual competitions we are planning some special events. The details will be circulated and published when finalised.

We would welcome any Bucks Freemason to join the Society, we have members with a wide range of handicaps so do not feel that your golf may not be good enough. The Society handicap system quickly awards and penalises handicaps depending upon your performance after each match. Most of the events are friendly in-house competitions but we do play against Bedfordshire, Berkshire and Middlesex provinces once a year, these matches are keenly fought by all sides.



Great picture of Tony Robinson accepting the cheque for £900 from Ken Tucker, President of the Bucks Masonic Bowls Association at the annual lunch on Thursday 3rd October.

If you would like further information about the Bucks Golf Society please contact the Secretary of the BMGS via bfs8114@gmail.com

Why not try Masonic Rugby

This brethren, is a call to arms to all of you who have the urge to play with odd shaped balls. I can hear the panic, but there's no need to worry.

I'm talking about the formation of a Bucks Masonic Rugby Team.

What started as a very small light at the end of a very long tunnel is slowly starting to come to fruition. The club constitution is very close to completion, there is a web page and a WhatsApp group, also, at the time of reading, we would of held our first training session, more will follow on that at a future date.

So how do you get involved I hear you cry?

The answer is that it couldn't be easier.

Go to the website at www.bucksmasonicrfc.com or find us on Facebook and register your interest. If you can manage 80 seconds or even 80 minutes it matters not. If you don't wish to play but could offer support please register and you will be made very welcome indeed.

So, what you waiting for. Become part of something truly special, really, you won't regret it.

www.bucksmasonicrfc.com

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE WIN THE HOME COUNTIES

Buckinghamshire Masonic Clay Pigeon Shooting Association hosted this year's Home Counties Championships on 10th August 2019 at E.J.Churchill's.

The wind was strong and gusting which kept the scores lower than expected. 80 shooters from 11 provinces attended the shoot. One of Buckinghamshire's APGMs, Gary Brodie, presented the trophies at the end of the event.

Although it was very close Bucks (219) came out on top by one clay beating Middlesex (218) in to second place, so Bucks became the Home Counties Champion's for 2019.

The shoot and raffle together raised £1400.00 for The Buckinghamshire Masonic 2021 Festival. Although there were 15 Bucks Mason's taking part the three highest score only counted, so Dave Hollis (Cap), Phil Goddard and Phil McDonald made up the Bucks winning team with a score of 219.



Pictured above: Terry Attewell From Essex shooting with Donald Campbell from Middlesex watch's on.

Pictured right: Phil Goddard, Gary Brodie A.P.G.M. Dave Hollis (Cap). And Phil McDonald with the Home Counties Championship trophy.

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