

The Bucks Freemasons' Magazine

Concord



Summer 2018

BucksPGL

See story page 11

N°2458

ETON LODGE



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■ Screen shot from one of the videos currently on the website

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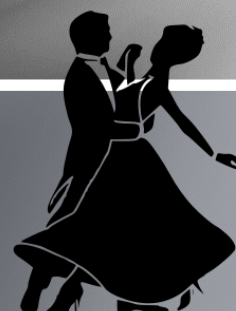
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PGM CORNER

Brethren

I am sure by now that many of you will have received letters offering promotion and first appointment in the Province.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your achievements. I am looking forward to investing you all at our Provincial meeting at Freemasons' Hall in October. On this occasion we will be inviting the partners of those receiving honours to attend Provincial Grand Lodge to see them being invested. To achieve this, we will be opening Provincial Grand Lodge at 2:30pm for the official business of the day and then closing before inviting in our partners and non-masons to witness the investiture. The guests will then attend a special banquet with entertainment while our Festive Board continues as usual. We will then rejoin them to enjoy their company for the rest of the evening.

We are now half way through the second year of our MCF 2021 Festival. Quite a number of lodges have already achieved Grand Patron Status with contributions of over £20,000 and I am delighted with the support and enthusiasm with which you have embraced this.

As you all know, in Buckinghamshire we are very well supported by the MCF and historically we have received more money than we have contributed. In the future we will have many older members as we are blessed with living longer and we will rely on the MCF more and more.

Many lodges are generously still contributing huge sums to other charities, which is to be commended, but going forward the next three and a half years, I ask you all if you would consider diverting the bulk of your efforts to supporting our festival. I know that the members of this Province are both generous and determined and I know you will all rise to the challenge.

Motorcycle madness

I have been asked to take part in a Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge 'Mad Dash' in support of the Festival. This is being run by Gary Brodie who has challenged me to do the whole day, visiting all sixteen of our masonic centres. Those of you who know me well will realise that the idea of sitting on a motorbike for twelve hours in any weather sounds like hell to a fine weather biker like me who rarely goes on any journey of more than an hour! In order to make this worthwhile I will be asking for you to sponsor me to do the full day. Just go to this link: <https://e2021.everydayhero.com/uk/bucks-mad-dash>.

In order to give support to lodges with lower numbers attending or where lodges need assistance with ceremonial work, I have asked our incoming Provincial DC Andy Collins to assemble a demonstration team under the auspices of the Deputy DC Club to help where necessary. If you would like assistance with any ceremony then please get in touch with Andy.

As you will see from the cover story of Concord, I conducted two promotions in the field (details on page 11) and Phil Blacklaw conducted another for John Trippett who is the Secretary of St Barnabas Lodge.

Watching your waist

On Saturday, 26th May, the first meeting of **Bucks Waist Watchers** was held at Bletchley. Twenty-seven brethren attended, all of whom are looking to change their lifestyles to improve not just their waist lines but general health.

Nick Hills Sands-Potter from St Martins Lodge heads this six month pilot programme with the first meeting having been an amazing success. Brethren were weighed and given their own booklet to record key body measurements throughout the programme, along with even a tape measure which was big enough for all!

A health coach was invited to give a talk on the psychology of being healthy and how

small changes can have huge effects and what we can do to make that difference. Brethren were asked to set their own personal goals and share them with the group. Without putting any pressure on him, APGM Graham Dearing's goal was to lose three stone in the six month period so, if you see him, give him – and anyone else you know who may be on this course – some encouragement.

Eating late in the evening at festive board and a number of wine takings can take its toll on our health. We thought as a Province we should do something to encourage healthy lifestyles and from the initial response it has been very well received. The programme will include talks on exercise, diet, diabetes, healthy hearts and healthy festive boards over the six months. You can join at any time and if you would like to know more please contact Nick Hills Sands-Potter (nicholashills@hotmail.com) or Graham Dearing (grahamdearing@aol.com). Good luck to all involved.

You Can Do It With YouTube

I would also like to ask you to make full use on the films on our YouTube channel to drive membership. We now have a good stream of enquiries coming via our website and in the near future we are going to invest in some marketing in our Province to try to deliver more membership enquiries from potential initiates for your lodges.

Finally I would like to wish you all a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

And don't forget to sponsor me in the Mad Dash for our Festival 2021. Donations via the following link: <https://e2021.everydayhero.com/uk/bucks-mad-dash>

If you have a big idea like this to raise money for the 2021 Festival then please contact Mike Clanfield: mc.pg1charity@yahoo.com.



Two new 'special interest' lodges



Are you prepared?

As the result of remarks by PGM John Clark in his address at his Installation and in the Spring 2018 edition of Concord, there are plans to found a new lodge in

Buckinghamshire for those interested in Scouting and other youth organisations (eg the cadet organisations, CCF, ACF, ATC and Sea Cadets).

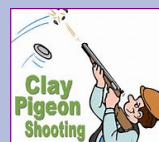
Freemasonry and scouting have many things in common, for example, did you know that the Grand Master is also the President of the Scout Association? A large percentage of freemasons have been scouts so it would be good if even a small

percentage of past and current scouts can be encouraged to become freemasons.

One of the objectives of the lodge will be to foster good relations between youth organisations and freemasonry in Buckinghamshire and to develop and strengthen the links between the organisations.

There will also be links to Scout Lodges in nearby Provinces and other orders (there are Scout Lodges in Mark Masonry too).

If you are interested in taking this initiative forward please contact Simon Thorpe (simon@simon-thorpe.com) to register your interest.



Take aim...

Are you interested in joining a Buckinghamshire Shooting Lodge or know a brother who would be interested in joining or getting involved?

To register his/your interest please contact Roger Gills on rjg@bodger51.plus.com or 01628 522878.

Everyone is welcome, not just clay shooters.

Thanks to hospice

Bob Newton, Master of Marlow Bridge Lodge, recently presented a cheque for £600 to the Thames Hospice in Windsor in memory of his mother.

As Bob explained: "Some twenty years ago it was discovered that my mum had a huge cancerous growth in her chest. It wasn't long after that her health deteriorated very quickly.

"The last two weeks of her life were spent in the Windsor Thames Hospice where they made her comfortable, treated her with respect and allowed her to die with dignity.

"I shall be eternally grateful to them."



■ **Bob Newton, Master of Marlow Bridge Lodge, presenting a cheque for £600 to Sandra Scott (left), community fundraiser for the Thames Hospice, and Alison Evans, Head of Community & Events**



The BMCF has granted £20,000 to the 'Same Chances' programme, designed to work with young carers as they transition into adulthood and independence whilst continuing to provide unpaid care for an ill or disabled family member.

In the UK there are an estimated 700,000 young carers, 2,500 of them in Buckinghamshire. The Young Adult Carers service started in September 2015 with the target to support 50 young carers living in this Province within the first 18 months.

In just over two years, the team has connected with and supported double that figure within the county.

Sally Mansi, Young Carers Service Manager, said: "We're very grateful to Buckinghamshire Freemasons for their generous grant. It will support 80 young carers as they move into adulthood, giving them some of the same life choices and opportunities as their peers."



■ **Pictured (l-r): Joe Anning, Sarah Collin (Young Adult Carers Project Lead), Mike Clanfield, Provincial Representative on the MCF, Taisha Egan and Emma Hollings**

For more information, go to the Young Carers Bucks website at www.youngcarersbucks.org.



Rise and shine!

Phil Blacklaw, APM, and Andrew Hough, BMCF Secretary, presented two new Rise and Recline chairs to Willen Hospice recently.

In the past year alone, the hospice has treated over 1,000 patients with terminal illness. The chairs will help patients experiencing pain by allowing them to adjust their position and will also help prevent falls by assisting with sitting and rising.

Staff also benefit as the chairs reduce strain by making transfer and the provision of care easier.



■ **Trying out one of the new chairs: fundraiser Susan O'Dell watched by Phil Blacklaw and Andrew Hough**

Susan O'Dell, Trust Fundraiser, commented: "The support from the Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund has contributed to our efforts to make a real difference for patients reaching the end of their life, ensuring they receive the comfort, dignity and respect deserved and ensuring that their end of life experience is as pain-free and comfortable as possible."



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Back to school for Winslow masons

It was back to school for a party of Winslow masons recently when they attended the presentation of a specially adapted minibus at Furze Down School.

Freemasons from the Eliot Hall Masonic Centre in Winslow and representatives of the BMCF, together with Lady Taverners, gathered to hand over the minibus to the school.

Furze Down School, which has over 100 students between the ages of two and nineteen with complex special educational

needs, admits youngsters from a wide area of Buckinghamshire.

The new minibus is specially adapted to enable easy wheelchair access, including a lift to the rear entrance doors and seats which can be reconfigured to allow several wheelchair users to travel securely. Previously, such students would have had to travel separately from their more able-bodied classmates when on trips and visits.

Despite the inclement weather, the

students enthusiastically gathered for photographs during the handover to their Headteacher, Alison Rooney.

This was followed with a lively assembly in which the students thanked those present and everyone who had worked to make it possible. The children had also made cards to express their appreciation which were presented to the lodge members and the members of the BMCF.



New vehicles for Community First Responders

Lodges meeting at Eliot Hall in Winslow have teamed up with the BMCF to provide a small fleet of 4 x 4 vehicles to serve all areas of rural Buckinghamshire.

PGM John Clark recently presented the latest addition to the fleet at Horwood House, assisted by APGMs Graham Dearing and Phil Blacklaw.

Community First Responders (CFR) are all highly trained volunteers: they do not get paid for the many hours they give in support of their communities. Neither do they receive support from the NHS or local government.

Each CFR lives and works in the community served and is able to start life-saving treatments in a wide variety of medical emergencies such as stroke, choking and serious injuries, prior to the arrival of an ambulance. The CFRs can also transport medical staff from the air ambulance landing point.

In rural areas it is often difficult to reach incidents in the responder's own car and an off-road capability is invaluable. Steve Acton, the CFR for the Winslow area and a member of Saxon Lodge, first highlighted the need over two years ago. Since then the BMCF and the Winslow lodges have worked together to build the fleet and extend the area of Buckinghamshire covered. The fundraising has been boosted by the generous bequest of the late Rodney Meerza who was also a Winslow mason.

The vehicles provided all have the 4X4

capability essential at some incidents on local farms and bridleways and are fitted with scene lighting bars for night use as well as alley lights to enable the user to see street numbers easily at night. They have been placed to serve the communities of Winslow, Marlow and Thame/Haddenham.

Earlier in the year, all three vehicles were regularly called on to assist in areas of heavy snowfall or muddy conditions and have definitely helped to save lives in times of medical emergency.

Pictured at Horwood House (l-r): Steve Acton (Saxon Lodge and First Responder), APGM Graham Dearing, Dave Hamer (Operations Manager for the community and engagement team), Vanessa Casey (Executive Officer for south central ambulance charity), PGM John Clark, Sarah Clark, Rob Jackson (First Responder), APGM Phil Blacklaw, Peter Cooper (First Responder)



Provincial cheque presentation evening

The most striking feature of the recent cheque presentation evening was the broad range of charities represented, all championed and supported by Buckinghamshire Freemasons.

The representatives of the charities enjoyed a buffet and the chance to network with other charities and freemasons from all over Buckinghamshire.

The evening was compered by APMG Graham Dearing, ably assisted by Mike Clanfield, Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

In a packed programme, charities, both local and international, described their work and explained how the funds they had received would enable them to continue and expand.

Among the recipients was the Cancer and Haematology Fund, based at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Receiving the cheque for £25,000 on its behalf were Dr Helen Eagleton and June Wilson, OBE. Although long retired, June was the first Clinical Nurse Manager in this field and received her honours for her work and tireless fundraising.

Dr Darayus Motivala from the Chiltern MS Centre based in Wendover told the audience how their new building offers over 300 treatments a week. These have limited or no availability on the NHS but can be invaluable for MS sufferers and include hydrotherapy, reiki and yoga. Paul Crockett from the MCF presented a cheque for £30,000.

Based in St Albans, Crohns and Colitis UK received £2,500 from John Waller of St Giles Lodge. This will enable the charity to continue research into these conditions as well as assisting with its grants programme for sufferers. Rachel Covey from the charity informed the audience that they receive no government funding yet Crohns and Colitis affect one in two hundred of the population.

A cheque for £2,500 was presented to the Bede Griffiths Charity Trust. This started in 2003 and helps young, old and those in between in India. The money will support a school for 300 primary students, a home for the elderly and continuing courses to retrain women, enabling them to enter the workplace. Their representative explained

how far the money would go in India and what it could achieve.

The evening was brought to a close by the PGM, John Clark, who had previously received contributions for the MCF from many lodges in the Province. He explained the work of the MCF and thanked all those who had organised and supported a very worthwhile evening.

The total amount presented was nearly £161,000 which exceeds previous amounts presented.

Other charities that benefitted from the monies raised, together with the lodges that raised the money, are as follows:

- Above and Beyond (Chilterns £500)
- The Alzheimers Society (Ferdinand de Rothschild £500 & Neleus £1,000)
- The Bede Griffiths Charitable Trust (Temple Manor £2,500)
- Brain Tumour Clinic (Hampden £9,000)
- Carers Bucks (Ferdinand de Rothschild £350, MCF £20,000 & Wendover £1,000)
- Bucks Masonic Prostate Fund (Marlow £250)
- Heritage House School (Hampden £1,500)
- Marlow Opportunity Playgroup (Marlow £250 – see also picture top right next page)
- Medical Detection Dogs (MCF £15,000 + Manor of Swinburn £2,000)
- Milton Keynes Hospital (St Martins £1,000)
- MIND (Ferdinand de Rothschild £350 & Manor of Swinburn £1,274)
- MK SNAP (Grand Union £552)
- MS Society UK (Five Points £500)
- The Multi Systems Atrophy Trust (Cestreham £1,000)
- Princess Centre (Princes Risborough £3,800)
- Puzzle Centre (Wendover £1,500)

Continued on next page...



FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

- Riding for the Disabled (*Freemasonry in the Community* £250)
 - The Riley Park Trust (*Marlow* £250)
 - Scannappeal (*Marlow* £250)
 - Sebastians Action Trust (*Industria* £1,600)
 - Stroke Carers (*Ferdinand de Rothschild* £350)
 - Teddies for Loving Care (*Cestreham* £800)
 - Thames Valley Air Ambulance (*Cestreham* £1,000, *Ferdinand de Rothschild* £500 & *Marlow* £250)
 - Willen Hospice (*Longueville* £2,300 & *Manor of Swinburn* £1823)
 - Young Carers (*St Martins* £600)
- Additionally nearly £23,000 was raised for the 2021 Festival.

The BMCF also made the following awards:

- Rennie Grove Hospice £1,850 for two new computers which will be used by Hospice at Home Nurses to enable more efficient work practices whilst visiting patients, mainly in Buckinghamshire, saving admin time and increasing patient contact time.
- Young Deaf Activities £5,000 for various trips including summer holiday outings. (YDA website www.yda.org.uk)
- Aylesbury Youth Motor Project (AYMP) was awarded £952 for the cost of computer software to allow students to complete Functional Skills Qualifications which form part of an extension course for students who have struggled with academic qualifications and to enable them to raise self-esteem and confidence to make learning easier.

From September 2018 AYMP will be providing Functional Skills qualifications alongside the usual Motor Vehicle qualifications and the Office suite will enable the students to complete the ICT section of the qualification.
(www.aylesburymotorproject.co.uk)

- Citizens Advice, Aylesbury Vale Branch, has been granted £5,000 for ten new computers, laptops and associated equipment to provide seventy volunteers access to services over a wide area.

- Poplar Grove Surgery Friends were awarded £500 to buy landscaping material and a gazebo to create a garden area (see photo below). There was also enough to help with the establishment of a café.

- First Holtspur Scout Group were awarded £500 to help provide equipment for their new scout headquarters.

- £2,500 to the Milton Keynes Branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association to help with the cost of converting the existing bathroom facilities to a wet room.

The BMCF Committee takes this opportunity to thank every lodge and its members for supporting the Centenary Fund.

If you are aware of any Buckinghamshire non-masonic charities, but not national ones, which you think may be eligible for assistance from the BMCF, please contact your area BMCF representative:

Slough: Warren Gell
Marlow: Tony Martin
Beaconsfield: Nigel White
Aylesbury: Peter Cranmer
North of the Province: Frank Byrne

Application forms can be obtained from the BMCF Secretary: andrewhough51@gmail.com.



You raised how much? One of the children at the Marlow Opportunity Playgroup receiving the cheque for £1,000 from Marlow Masonic Centre Chairman, Paul Webb, and Deputy Chairman, Tony Martin. The money was raised at the annual Marlow Centre Christmas raffle and carol concert. The playgroup provides a happy and caring environment for children with disabilities where they can learn through play in a secure environment



Medical Detection Dogs charity received a total of £17,000



Mike Clanfield, Provincial Grand Charity Steward (fourth from right) pictured with members of the team enjoying a visit to Poplar Grove surgery



FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

All aboard!

A visit to the Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway Line took place in April for a group of thirty children on the autistic spectrum between the ages of six and fifteen.

The visit, for the children, their parents and their carers, was arranged by Sean Boardman and Andy Sutton of Hall Barn Lodge, Andy Barr of Frederick Lawson Lodge and Graham Thorn of Penn and Tylers Green Lodge, who are also members of the Beaconsfield Freemasonry in the Community Committee.

The carriage next to the engine was reserved for the enthusiastic children who each received a lunch bag to sustain them on the journey to Princes Risborough and back.

Both Sean and Sarah Snow, the coordinator for the Engine Shed community group, would like to thank Ray Gomm and all the staff of the Chinnor railway for their help.

■ Driver Mike Fincham and the children who all had a great day out on the steam train

Mike Fincham of Cliveden Lodge, the driver for the day, allowed railway enthusiast Andy Barr to ride on the footplate for part of the trip, "making his day".

After their obvious enjoyment and excitement, the children were allowed to explore the restored and preserved railway. Their knowledge of railways is quite amazing.



About The Engine Shed: the community group was initially set up in 2009 with an UnLtd Award.

Some of the group's aims are to provide a unique, special interest facility for children and young people on the autistic spectrum and their families; and to give an opportunity for families to share and learn new strategies for promoting the learning and social skills of their children, using their love of trains as an entry point.

Easter treat

Twenty four young carers aged between six and ten visited Odds Farm in Burnham for an Easter treat.

The Beaconsfield Committee for Freemasonry in the Community provided an Easter egg for each of the youngsters.

Steve Matthews of Hall Barn Lodge, this year's Provincial Senior Warden and also chairman of the Beaconsfield Committee, presented the Easter eggs to the excited and appreciative children.



■ Steve Matthews with some of the young chocoholics

Cheque: a 'personal tribute'

Jesse Eatson, IPM of Wendover Lodge, presented a cheque for £1,500 to Judith Duguid, Cystic Fibrosis specialist nurse and outpatient senior sister at CF Care based at Frimley Park Hospital.

The CF charity is dedicated to helping Frimley Park Hospital provide the best possible treatment and care for teenagers and young adults in Surrey, Hampshire and adjacent counties. The amount donated by the lodge will be displayed on the tree in the form of a star.

Kelly, the daughter of Jesse and his wife Caroline, was born with CF which is a genetic disease affecting the movement of salt and water across the cells within the body.

This can lead to thick mucous congesting the internal organs, particularly the lungs and

bowel, making it harder to breathe and absorb food.

It is estimated that one in every 2,500 babies born in the UK will have cystic fibrosis and there are more than 10,000 people living with the condition in this country.

Kelly's health suffered badly as she got older and it was only after moving to Surrey and attending Frimley Park Cystic Fibrosis Care unit that her life was turned around.

As part of his Master's charity, Jesse was pleased to present the cheque as a small token of appreciation for the treatment given to Kelly.

■ Jesse Eatson with his very personal thank you, a cheque for £1,500 for the Frimley Park Hospital Cystic Fibrosis charity



MTSFC 2018

Now into its twelfth year, the Bucks Masonic Trout & Salmon Fishing Charity (MTSFC) has exciting plans for 2018.

The first event of the season took place at the Dashwood Estate, West Wycombe on 27th April.

The weather was quite atrocious but the pupils from Chiltern Wood School didn't mind one little bit. With the help of the casters they soon got stuck in and, with a bit of patience, caught a few trout.

PGM John Clark and his lady, Sarah, attended, together with MTSFC President Roger Croome and Vice President Mike Higginbotham, all of whom walked the lake and chatted to the youngsters during the course of the day.

The primary reason for the PGM's visit was to congratulate Dave Hollis on gaining Grand Rank for his fourteen years' hard work on behalf of the charity.

After a couple of hours' fishing, everyone made their way to the barbecue. It's amazing how much a youngster can eat! The 'dinner

ladies' as usual did a great job and everyone was well satisfied.

After a little more fishing it was time for presentations. Accompanied by lots of cheering, each pupil received a framed certificate to take home as proof of their achievement, and it certainly was an achievement for these youngsters, all of whom have some form of special need.

Without the casters and the ladies who catered, this day would not have been possible, so a very big 'Thank You' for their time.

Finally a very big thank you also to Peter Lawrence, a Middlesex mason, who very kindly sponsored the day to the tune of £350. It was very much appreciated.

How you can help

Steve Blair, the Caster Secretary said: "We urgently need masons and non-masons to add to our ranks, especially for coarse casters, as we expand in 2018. We depend on the generosity of casters to help us support 15-20+ children on a day and would appreciate more joining us."

The MTSFC has a number of volunteers

and not all of them are anglers. Help is welcome, from preparation and organising an event through to the many tasks on the day itself. You do not need to be a freemason to be involved.

Whether you can spare a day or two yearly for the actual event or perhaps a few hours a month to get involved with the organisation and setting up an event, your help would be most welcome.

How you can join in

It is easy to register to join as a fly or coarse caster to participate with other Buckinghamshire masons in MTSFC events.

You can register your interest by going to: http://www.mtsfc.org.uk/casterhelper-reg-form.php?county_id=3 and completing the application form.

Alternatively, if you would like to join as a caster or nominate a school, please contact the Buckinghamshire leader, Dave Hollis on 07801 149237 to discuss joining.

Dates for your diaries

22nd June

Lakeside Farm, Cublington, Aylesbury
Coarse fishing

13th July

Milton Pools, Great Milton, Oxon
Coarse fishing (new venue)

September

Date and venue to be confirmed
Fly fishing

■ Middlesex mason

Peter Lawrence handing over the sponsorship cheque to the PGM



■ PGM John Clark congratulating Dave Hollis for achieving Grand Rank, with the MTSFC team looking on

■ The ladies who worked hard to provide refreshments (l-r) Kerry Hudson, Ann Cook and Wendy Keeble



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Flying the flag

Cymbeline Lodge hosted its second event for the NECC in April.

This was their now (in) famous St George's meeting and variety show.

Brethren from other lodges and the APGM Philip Blacklaw also attended.

Eugene Matthias, Provincial Grand Mentor, announced he had a supply of the new NECC lapel badges which were snapped up very quickly.



The Brethren of Cymbeline would like to thank all the visitors who made a fun evening into a fantastic event.

Nick takes over

There was strong support at Beaconsfield on Wednesday, 28th February to see Nick Holden, Steward of the Beaconsfield Masonic Centre, Installed as Worshipful Master of the Chalfonts Lodge of Mark Master Masons by John Stribling, Provincial Grand Master Overseer.

The Lodge was well supported both by members and guests, including the Provincial Grand Master, David Tremaine, and other high ranking officers from the Order.

An excellent Festive Board rounded off a most enjoyable evening.



Pictured (l-r): Tom Quinn (London DPGM), Keith Bristow (Bucks DPGM), David Tremaine (Bucks PGM), Nick Holden (WM of Chalfonts Lodge of Master Mark Masons), John Stribling (ProvGMO and Installing Master), Peter Sands (Berkshire PPGM), Peter Harborne (Bucks PPGM)

Nonagenarian Stan still going strong

Beaconsfield Lodge is proud to celebrate 60 years of dedicated service by Stan Brooker, PPSGW.

Stan was born in West London on 5th May 1925. He joined the army aged 18 years and, whilst on active service in Normandy, he was seriously wounded. Stan was repatriated and subsequently discharged as medically unfit for active service.

Stan was made a Chevalier in the Order National de la Legion d'Honneur by the French Government in recognition of his service in the liberation of France.

After the war Stan married Joan and they lived happily for 71 years. Sadly Joan recently passed away after a long illness. They had a son and daughter who in turn gave them grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Stan joined Beaconsfield Lodge in April 1958 and twelve years later became WM. He served as the lodge secretary for thirteen years through the late eighties and early nineties where he proved to be a superb



Stan Brooker being presented with his 60 year certificate by APGM Tony Robinson during the installation of David Harfield as WM of Beaconsfield Lodge

Notarius update



The next meeting of Notarius Lodge will take place on Monday, 3rd September 2018 at the Slough Masonic Centre, starting at 4.30pm sharp.

Notarius Lodge is unique. Its purpose is to provide 'Best in Class', innovative meetings twice a year, in January and September, at different centres around the Province.

It is open to all Secretaries and Scribes, past, present and incoming in particular but not exclusively. The subscription is currently £85pa.

The aim is that every meeting will have a keynote speaker. For the next one, the Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Master, Sir David Wootton, will present **Creating our Future: Lodge, Province, Grand Lodge.**

In addition, Hugh Douglas-Smith, DPGM, will give a live demonstration of the new dining plan, using the actual Festive Board as the example.

If you would like to be a part of the Notarius experience, please contact: the Secretary hullmick@aol.com for details.



administrator, very knowledgeable on rules, regulations and etiquette. He was a regular attendee of Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge and received his 50th certificate from the former PGM, Ray Reed.

For the lodge centenary in 2001, Stan put together a fully researched lodge history and organised a centenary meeting at Sindlesham which was presided over by the then PGM, Lord Burnham.

Stan has been a member of three craft lodges, in Bucks, Middlesex and Hampshire, along with achieving senior rank in Royal Arch Chapter, Mark, Rose Croix, Red Cross of Constantine, Knights Templar and Knights Templar Priests.

For 60 years Stan has devoted a great deal of his time and effort in supporting the many and varied aspects of freemasonry. At 93 years of age his support continues and we owe him our thanks.

First ride-out for Motor Cycle Lodge..

..and a surprise for Eton Lodge

It was a fantastic day with the boys on their 'hogs'!

One of the key features of the Bucks Motor Cycle Lodge is to arrange ride-outs as well as holding meetings. Since the conception and consecration there have been a number of ride-outs but this was the first working one, a second for the passing of Graham Clements from sister lodge, the Bucks Classic Car Lodge.

The meeting was held at Chipping Norton in Oxfordshire with participation from brethren of other motor cycle lodges plus the Classic Car Lodge. Thanks must go to Herbie Wasser for his splendid organisation.

The Provincial Director of Ceremonies, Gary Brodie, was there to receive the riders, closely followed by the IPM, the PGM John Clark.

Visitors came from Wales, Suffolk, Berkshire, Wiltshire, Bedfordshire, Kent and Oxfordshire. The Buckinghamshire boys started from Beaconsfield on a well-planned route with others joining along the way to support the candidate.

The locals were amazed at the gathering of bikes, asking questions about freemasonry, the connection with bikers and so on as they did not know what was going on.

Brethren and officers processed into the lovely temple in their bike gear: leathers, waistcoats and patches, white collars and ties, adorned with aprons, gloves and gauntlets for the WM and Wardens. The Secretary of the lodge was the newest Acting Grand Lodge Officer, Matthew Eaton, occupying the Junior Warden chair.

The Festive board was enjoyed by all and concluded with the riders wishing each other a safe journey home.

Surprises for Eton Lodge

This was the first part of a two part day, the second being for as many of the Bucks and visiting riders as possible to dash back to Beaconsfield where a meeting was being held by Eton Lodge. The PGM had a surprise for two of the brethren, the delivery of field promotions.

The PGM talked about the strength and growth of Eton Lodge, with the main focus and coordination down to one person in

particular, Kevin Ambrose, who was appointed Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden.

Then the PGM presented a second award to Tim Arnold, not only for his work in the growth of Eton Lodge but primarily for his media and journalistic services to the Province. Tim was appointed Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon.

A fitting end to a great day.



Above: lots of smiles from new appointments Kevin Ambrose (left), Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden, and Tim Arnold, Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon, together with the PGM



Left: the bikes on their way to Chipping Norton, led by PGM John Clark

Below: letter from Andy Spencer

Dear Provincial Grand Master
On Behalf of all the members of Eton Lodge we would like to thank you for attending Eton on Saturday with the Motor Cycle Lodge (I loved the fancy dress!). It was a great surprise to us all and this would never have happened a few years ago as, when I joined, we were not permitted to even speak to the PGM.

I and the lodge members are so pleased that you have honoured both Kevin and Tim, the two people who saved Eton Lodge from returning its Warrant, which had been planned to happen just over a year ago after the installation in 2017.

Kevin and Tim have worked tirelessly for Eton Lodge and the Province and the honour that you gave them was thoroughly deserved. I also know that they will continue to support Eton Lodge and the Province.

This day will go down in the history of the Lodge, a day I will never forget, and I feel very proud to have been there and able to witness you giving out two field promotions, something that does not happen every day. I hope that the younger members realise the significance of this very unusual and important occasion as it's something that they may never see again.

Please thank the Motor Cycle Lodge for the support that they gave to you and thank you all for giving up your Saturday Bank Holiday (with or without your management consent) to spend a little time with us to make our Lodge meeting so very special.

A unique and special day for Eton Lodge

Yours faithfully and fraternally

Andy Spencer

PPSGW Senior PM & member Eton Lodge



Go to this button at www.buckspgl.org



From Festival Chairman
Graham Dearing



Festival update

Welcome to sixth edition of the Festival Focus and a big thank you for all your support for the first 20 months of the Festival.

I thought I would take a different approach in this edition in the form of a letter which is addressed to everyone in the Province and look at the history of masonic giving.

I also thought you would like see Festivals in numbers, who has done what, as it gives an idea of what has been and could be achieved.

As always, if you or your lodge have any questions regarding the Festival, please either talk to your Festival Representatives – or the Provincial Grand Charity Steward Mike Clanfield – who are all doing a magnificent job and need all our support.

The latest rounds of Charity Steward Seminars were well attended and thank you to all of those Charity Stewards who made them. It is only by sharing experiences that we can hope to achieve our own goals.

Every month that now goes by is a month close to the end of the Festival so in short we have work to do.

Masonic festivals in numbers

1. The highest total achieved in any one Festival is thought to be £7,746,319 for Hants and IOW 2016
2. The highest per capita figure is currently held by Nottinghamshire at £1,070 per member
3. The total amount raised through the four Festivals that ended in 2017 was £10,838,399. If this was represented in £1 coins it would weigh 102,964,790 grams or the same as fourteen London Routemaster buses
4. The Relief Chest scheme handles on average 23,000 gift aid envelopes **per month!!!**
5. Over the past twelve months £1.2million was claimed from HMRC through the Gift Aid Scheme

Festival 2021 in aid of the



A brief history of masonic charitable giving

1725 The premier Grand Lodge sets up the Committee of Charity

1788 The Royal Cumberland Freemasons' School for Female Objects, named after the Duchess of Cumberland, is founded by Chevalier Bartholomew Ruspini

1789 The first anniversary of the Royal Cumberland Freemasons' School is celebrated with a church service and dinner. Collections are taken, making this the first fundraising 'festival' for a masonic charity

1814 Soon after the union of the Grand Lodges, the Committee of Charity joins with other committees relieving hardship among masons, to become the Board of Benevolence

1850 The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI) is established, and the first RMBI home opens in East Croydon

1914 It is decided that the daughters of serving freemasons who die or are incapacitated during WWI should receive a grant of £25 per year

1920 The Freemasons' Hospital and Nursing Home opens

1933 The Royal Masonic Hospital opens at Ravenscourt Park

1934 The girls' school moves to Rickmansworth Park. The school is officially opened by HM Queen Mary with 5,000 ladies and brethren in attendance

1973 Lord Harris Court opens in Sindlesham, Berkshire, and Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court opens in Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan

1980 The Grand Charity is established

1982 The masonic institutions for girls and boys merge their activities to form the Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys

1984 Grand Charity hospice support begins

1986 The Grand Charity establishes the Relief Chest Scheme

1990 The Masonic Samaritan Fund (MSF) is established, assisted by a £1.2 million grant from the Grand Charity

1992 The Grand Charity awards more than £2 million to charities that care for people with learning difficulties

1994 UGLE recommends that all masonic organisations adopt the Relief Chest Scheme

1999 To commemorate the millennium, the Grand Charity donates more than £2 million to good causes

1999 Lifelines is established by the Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys as a Millennium Project to provide assistive and educational technology packages for children's hospices across the British Isles

2001 The TalentAid scheme is introduced by the Trust to support young people with an exceptional talent in music, sport or the arts, with 75 supported in the first year

2003 The Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys becomes the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys (RMTGB)

2004 The Grand Charity donates £1 million for research into testicular and prostate cancers

2005 More than £1 million is donated by freemasons and the Grand Charity to help with recovery efforts following the Asian tsunami

2007 Special funding for Air Ambulances begins

2008 All four central masonic charities move into shared office space in Freemasons' Hall, London

2008 The Grand Charity donates £500,000 to The Scout Association, enabling more than 23,000 young people to join, and £1 million to Ovarian Cancer Action

2008 The MSF makes its first grant in support of medical research, and respite care grants are introduced

2010 Stepping Stones, the RMTGB's non-masonic grant-making scheme, is introduced to support disadvantaged youngsters

2013 The MSF Counselling Careline service launches

2015 Following a 30-year partnership, the Grand Charity's grants to the British Red Cross now exceed £2 million

2015 The MSF marks its 25th anniversary by awarding over £1 million for medical research

2016 The four masonic charities join



Continued on next page

Open letter from the Chairman

I am writing on behalf of our wonderful Province of Buckinghamshire and as Chairman of the Bucks 2021 Festival.

I would like to share my thoughts with you on something that is very important to not only our RW Provincial Grand Master John Clark and every member of the executive but every member of every lodge.

In October 2016 we, as a Province, launched the Buckinghamshire 2021 Festival in aid of the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF). In the first two years we have made good progress but, with three years still to go, we, both as individuals and lodges, need to be doing more. Not only by achieving our own aspirations in terms of money raised but by continuing to fulfil our duties as freemasons to support our charity, the MCF, which supports our own members and other charities within Bucks.

My letter to you is very simple: it is to ask you to get involved and be aware of what your lodge is doing the Festival. Your Charity Steward will be able to tell you how much your lodge has donated so far to the Bucks 2021 Festival, ask him the question. Please don't get confused with what is in your lodge relief chest: we need to focus on the Festival Relief Chest and the donations that have gone into our 2021 Festival.

Disappointingly, only 25% of members of the Province currently have a direct debit payment set up in favour of the Festival. I know some members have payments going into their own relief chests and I am sure that money will be transferred over to the Festival at some time.

On this note I would be grateful if I could encourage lodges that are looking at transferring money from their relief chest to the Festival to either do it or let the Provincial Grand Charity know. It would help immensely in trying to plan for the future.

The total raised at the last Bucks Festival in 2010 was £2.64 million which equated to £654 donated by each member of each lodge over the five year festival period. I am not saying that this should be an objective, far from it, I know that some lodges will do more and that others do not have the ability to do that. The goal is for every member and every lodge is to do its best and do something. Even very small lodges could achieve a high donation per member figure.

Along with the PGM and the rest of the Executive, I am always delighted and proud to hear of donations going to local and national charities from lodges in Bucks. However, I would ask that, during the Festival, we should be looking at this first for donations. We only have this five year period to support and, as I have said many times before, Buckinghamshire receives more back from the MCF than we contribute. It is therefore our duty to ensure others in the future are able to access their support.

In short, our goal is to have every brother and every lodge do something for the Festival. I will continue to work hard, together with the Executive, to ensure that our wonderful Province of Buckinghamshire delivers the best Festival possible, which is fun for everyone and finishes on a total we can be proud of.

If you have yet to donate and would like to set up a direct debit online please go to: www.bucks2021.org.

Please do not leave it to others; none of us can know if we or our families will ever need the support of the MCF. I, the PGM John Clark and the rest of the executive thank you for your continued support in our joint endeavours.

Sincerely and Fraternally
W Bro Graham Dearing APGM
Festival Chairman Bucks 2021

together to form the Masonic Charitable Foundation

2016 The first official Festival is launched by Buckinghamshire for the MCF in October

2017 Over £33 million is donated by the Masonic Charitable Foundation in its first full year

2021 The first ever Festival for the MCF ends with Buckinghamshire achieving £..... ?????

Brethren the last one of the list is the question: What history can we in Buckinghamshire make when our Festival finishes in October 2021? Only you can help.

Go to www.bucks2021.org now and let's make history so those who follow us will be proud to say Buckinghamshire Freemasons in 2016-2021 did their duty and helped others.

"One person can make a difference, and everyone should try."

— John F. Kennedy

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We would encourage you to 'recycle' Concord when you have finished reading it by putting into your local doctor's or dentist's surgery etc

Royal Arch: www.buckspgc.org

Summer LOI 2018

For Beaconsfield and Marlow based Brethren and those willing to travel to these Centres over the summer

The Summer LOI was founded over ten years ago and has become very successful.

Its aim is to help those who may have just joined Freemasonry or are now advancing through the progressive offices.

Not only does Summer LOI provide you with a platform to learn new ritual or floor work; it also gives you the opportunity to make new friends, have a laugh and extend your masonic network.

The Summer LOI is here for you: if there is something you would like to practice, or need help with, let the team know and they will endeavour to help with anything from ritual to presentation skills.

Please do not feel that you need to know the ritual before joining as most, if not all, start with open books and slowly and steadily learn as the summer season progresses.

You can also sit on the sidelines and watch what goes on so that the ceremonies become clearer.

During the LOI there are breaks for discussion to clarify any points that are unclear or to talk about differences in workings such as Taylors, Universal, etc. This is where Brethren joining the summer sessions can meet and enjoy each other's fellowship in a relaxed social atmosphere.

First event was the ever-popular kick-off curry night held on 23rd May at Chutneys in High Wycombe and attended by a record twenty-six masons from a dozen lodges based throughout the Province.



Light Blues Social Night

New for 2018 is the Bol – Beer of Inspiration Night – where Brethren participating will be meeting for a purely social evening at The Bounty Pub, Cookham (see below) for a 'Light Blues' meet, greet and socialise.

Finally, the summer season will close with a curry night at the Basmati in Beaconsfield where, once again, the Brethren who supported each other over the summer can enjoy each other's company while reminiscing about what they have learned.

At the end of the summer, the participants have an opportunity to demonstrate their new found skills and perform a first degree ceremony in an open lodge.

To be consistent, the classes conform to Emulation Working and include the following:

- Open the lodge in the relevant degree(s)
- Learn and perfect the first degree
- Learn the two remaining degrees (if the number of attendees allows)
- Close the lodge in the relevant degree(s)

Brethren should be aware that successful multi Lodges of Instruction are now held at most of the centres in the Province and

some continue throughout the year. For information about your local LOIs, please contact your nearest centre or the Provincial Office for details.

Summer 2018 Dates

Marlow Centre Dates

(13th, 20th and) 27th June and 11th July (7.30pm start)

5th July Bol (Beer of Inspiration) social night at the Bounty Pub, Bourne End (6pm-9pm)

Beaconsfield Centre Dates

18th and 25th July and 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd August (7.30pm start)

29th August: Cliveden Officers Night

Closing night

12th September Basmati Restaurant, Beaconsfield (7pm start)

Do join in and make this another successful year for the Summer Lodge of Instruction.

For further details please contact: stephen.cleary71@yahoo.com. General contact: LOI@buckspgl.org.

A hair-raising experience!



Before and after! Marc's amazing haircut

The new WM of Heatherden Lodge, Tarek Qutteineh, decided to complete various challenges to raise money for his chosen charities, the Thames Valley Adventure Playground in Taplow and the Alzheimer's Society, culminating in his first triathlon and raising £500.

Marc McLaughlin, a long time regular visitor to the lodge, offered to have his hair cut – which he had been growing for eight years – and contribute a share of any sponsorship to Tarek's list.

After carrying out the final ceremony of his year, Marc fulfilled his promise and allowed Neil Ashby, Heatherden's DC, to cut his hair, raising £340 to be split between a homeless charity that Marc supports and Tarek's charities.

Beer of Inspiration Night

For many years, people of all ages have consumed a variety of beverages to quench their thirst. Freemasons participating in this summer's Marlow and



Beaconsfield Lodge of Instruction are running a new special evening for Light Blues called the **Beer of Inspiration Night**. This is an opportunity for all masons in the province, particularly those who have white or light blue aprons, to come out, meet others and enjoy a pint and a meal.

This is a first for Buckinghamshire, in the same tradition as London's Light Blues evenings.

It will be held at the Bounty Pub in Bourne End, Cockmarsh, Bucks SL8 5RG on 5th July from 6-9pm. The Bounty is on the Thames waterfront, with a large garden down to the river.

There is easy parking in Cookham Common or beside Bourne End train station: a short walk will lead you to the gathering.

A Fairway Union made in Aylesbury!



When the Royal Arch Chapter of Buckinghamshire was formed on 16th February 1891 the Very Rev John Studholme Brownrigg, MA was appointed as Grand Superintendent.

At that time there were only three Royal Arch Chapters in the Province, St Barnabas, Buckingham and St George's, with a total of seventy-seven members.

Over the next hundred years or so the Royal Arch in Buckinghamshire developed and expanded and today there are more than one thousand Companions in Buckinghamshire.

The union and amalgamation of two Royal Arch Chapters in Buckinghamshire has been rare in occurrence.

On 11th April this year an extraordinary convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall in Aylesbury to oversee only the second such amalgamation, when Aylesbury Chapter combined with Fairway forming the Aylesbury Fairway Chapter. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, John Keeble, presided over this meeting, assisted by his Executive and Acting Officers of the year and witnessed by

a great number of distinguished guests.

On 14th May 1947 EComp Major Alfred GT Smith, the then Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, consecrated the Aylesbury Chapter at the Aylesbury Masonic Hall. At the consecration, the aspirations and hopes of the Chapter founders were celebrated. Some thirty-five years later, on 22nd September 1982, EComp Sir Ralph Verney, Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, consecrated Fairway Chapter, with those same ideals.

At that time freemasonry was still in a period of growth and its future seemed secure. However, Aylesbury reached a position where it found itself unable to continue and was faced with two options: surrender the Charter or seek an amalgamation or 'Union'.

The companions who attended the convocation participated in an excellent festive board.

All who were present at the successful amalgamation of Aylesbury Fairway are convinced of its future to flourish with new members and its continued enjoyment of the Royal Arch.

Exchange visit a great success



Superintendent John Keeble, accompanied by his executive and acting officers of the year, had the pleasure of hosting a three Provinces fraternal exchange visit to the Royal Arch Province of Buckinghamshire.

The visit was held at the Beaconsfield

Masonic Centre at a regular convocation of Hall Barn Chapter. The visitors were from the Royal Arch Provinces of Berkshire and Oxfordshire, led by James Hilditch, the M E Grand Superintendent of Oxfordshire and Ian Hopgood, the M E Grand Superintendent of Berkshire, accompanied by their executives



Change of District Recorder

After eight busy years as Buckinghamshire's District Recorder, Illustrious Brother Peter Carter 32° is stepping down from the office.

Very Illustrious Brother David Sawyer 33°, the Past Inspector General, and current incumbent Peter Harborne 33°, are both very grateful for their District Recorder's meticulous attention to detail, his knowledge of the various rules and regulations; and his uncanny ability to spot the mistakes his Inspector General is about to make and to save the day before anyone else notices!

Peter Carter will hand over formally on 1st August to Illustrious Brother Peter Moody 30° of Merlaue Chapter No 1145. And no, it is not compulsory to be named Peter to hold the post (even though the holder previous to Peter Carter was Peter Erlen!)



Peter Moody,
the new District
Recorder

and acting officers of the year.

All ninety-two companions present at the convocation had the pleasure of witnessing Jasbinder Sian, who was raised in the Wanderers Lodge in 2010, exalted into Hall Barn Chapter, in a well worked and enjoyable ceremony led by the acting MEZ, Stephen Dampier, along with the outstanding ritual of the Principal Sojourner Andy Sutton.

The convocation was followed by a hearty festive board. Altogether a fine example of the fraternal friendship displayed in the Royal Arch.

Welcome return for Ron



■ PGM John Clark, together with his APGMs and his provincial DC, made his first visit to Longueville Lodge to witness the installation of Ron King, PPJGW, PPG Charity Steward, who was marking his return to freemasonry after a short break by going into the chair. He was supported by Ron Everett who was Primus Master

It's 60 for Bob...



■ Pictured (l-r): Gary Brodie, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, APGM Phil Blacklaw, DPGM Hugh Douglas-Smith, PGM John Clark, Bob Graham, WM Martin Peck, APGM Tony Robinson, Richard Church (who gave the historical presentation)

In April 1958, Bob Graham embarked on his Masonic Career in Bedlington, Northumberland, with St Cuthbert's Lodge which was constituted on 23rd June 1881.

Bob and his father were initiated together. Bob was passed to the 2nd degree in May 1958 and in June of that year was raised to the 3rd degree, becoming a Master Mason.

Teacher Bob and his family moved to Tripoli and then to Kampala, where he eventually become Head of Nakasero School. Whilst in Uganda, Bob discovered the true international nature of freemasonry as he met another expat when they first arrived who was in a local lodge and also discovered that his headmaster was a mason! In March 1967, Bob joined the Victoria Nyanza Lodge.

On returning to England, the family settled near Seer Green and, to cut a long story short, Bob became one of the 18 founder members of Seer Green Lodge which was consecrated on 4th December 1982 at the Bellhouse Hotel, Beaconsfield.

Bob took the office of Junior Warden and served the lodge as Worshipful Master in 1984 and again in 2006. He will return to the Chair of King Solomon at the October Installation meeting.

Bucks mason gets high honour



On 3rd March 2018 in Salzburg, Austria, Professor Christopher B-Lynch of St Giles Lodge was invited to and inaugurated as a member of the European Union Academy of Science and Art, a most distinguished organisation for outstanding work in those fields.

Professor B-Lynch (pictured third from left) has been acclaimed internationally for saving the lives of over two million women in child birth. Details of his achievements can be viewed at <http://www.cblynch.co.uk>.

...and 50 for John

Earlier this year, Lily Lodge of Richmond afforded John Zammit the honour of occupying the chair to enable him to celebrate 50 years in Freemasonry.

John was presented with his 50 year certificate by Tony Robinson. John commented: "Lily is an old lodge and, despite the fact that I am a comparative new boy, I really want to see it grow. I have felt at home there since my first visit some time ago. Over the past 15 months we have had three initiates and one new joining member."



For the mason at leisure...

The Province of Buckinghamshire now has an approved supplier from whom you can purchase a new range of casual clothing which would be ideal to wear at Provincial and lodge events.

The range includes a polo shirt and a fleece in a choice of two designs. There is also a baseball cap for when the summer sun proves too strong! These items can be further personalised with your name or a lodge name for a small extra charge.

The polo shirts are available in sizes from small to 3XL, while the jackets go up to a generous 4XL, so there is sure to be something to suit you.

Take a look at <https://plschoolwear.co.uk/product-category/provincial-grand-lodge/>.

Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund

An interview with Andrew Hough, Hon Secretary, BMCF

Q When and why was the Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund set up?

A It was set up as a charitable trust in December 1991 to celebrate 100 years of Freemasonry in the Province.

The object is to 'apply the income for or towards such charitable institutions and/or the relief of poverty and distress at such time and in such a manner as the Trustees may in their absolute discretion think fit'.

Q: Who are the Trustees?

A: The Trustees are Hugh Douglas Smith (Chairman), Graham Dearing and Phil Blacklaw.

The BMCF committee comprises the DPGM, the Provincial Almoner, Provincial Charity Steward, Treasurer, Secretary and Communications Officer, plus area representatives from Slough, Marlow, Aylesbury, Beaconsfield and North of the Province.

Q: Where do the grants go?

A: They go to non-masonic local charities or to individuals in Buckinghamshire who are struggling to finance a particular need or device, for example, a stairlift. Lodges and individual members are encouraged to identify local charities. The committee will also consider supporting individual lodges with additional funding.

We do occasionally go outside the Province, for example, Slough and the Rennie Grove Hospice which is actually based in Hertfordshire but serves a lot of the Chilterns and therefore people who live in Bucks.

Q: How do charities apply?

A: We now have a formal application form and a charity can only apply once every three years. The Committee, on behalf of the



Trustees ensure due diligence when vetting the charities or individuals to ensure they are genuinely in need.

Another area is supporting the mayoral charities, particularly if they are local.

Q: Where does the money come from?

A: Some money comes from the original investment that was raised and the revenues generated from that, and that's variable. There are also bequests from private individuals. One such bequest enabled us to buy the first two First Responders vehicles.

However, the main income is from voluntary contributions made by each lodge in the Province. Currently there is only a 75% uptake from the lodges with each lodge member paying an annual contribution of just

£3 as part of the subscription. Last year we distributed about £42,000.

The accounts are properly audited and the auditors ensure the governance of the funds is correct.

Q: What do you want people to do?

A: We can only give if we get. There are around 3,800 lodge members at the moment so, if we could get all lodges contributing, we could do a lot more.

Q: How are you raising awareness?

A: We want to raise the profile through Concord, through the Provincial Grand Officers Club, Lodge Secretaries, Visiting Officers.

Additionally, from October the Provincial Wardens – Webster Springer (Senior Warden) and Darren Mantell (Junior Warden) will be on the committee and they will have an important role in raising the profile of the BMCF.

Recipients receive a plaque or some form of recognition that they have received funding from the BMCF and nearly all of them are happy for the donation to be publicised.

The important part of the story is the impact: it's not giving the cheque, it's what impact has the money made to this organisation? It's the special chair for Willen Hospice or the additional physiotherapy for MS sufferers or an exercise bike or a defibrillator or an activities holiday for young deaf people, that's the most important thing.



YouTube: first three months of 2018

- > Total time watched: 1985 minutes
- > Number of views: 1377
- > 'Real Secrets Revealed' video top with nearly 300 views



A picture really is worth a thousand words: Andrew Hough presents a cheque for £30,000 to the Chilterns MS Centre from the MCF



BMGS

The first meeting of 2018 of the Bucks Masonic Golf Society, the Winter Cup, was held at Three Locks Golf Club on 9th April, despite the wind, rain and mud, in support of the new Captain, Stan Green.

The competition was highly contested with only a couple of points between first and third places. However, Neill Elliott reigned supreme to win and was presented with the trophy by Stan.

The annual Inter Province match took place on the 24th April against Bedfordshire. After losing by just one point last year, the Bucks team excelled themselves this time, beating Beds by 65 points and the cup is back where it belongs.

On 21st May, following a two year reign, the team from Wolverton Trinity Lodge was deposed! Tony Martin and Nigel Gough from Entente Cordiale Lodge won the Inter-Lodge Shield at Wycombe Heights with a mighty 46 points. Eleven teams representing a number

of lodges and chapters enjoyed a great day of golf followed by an excellent meal and the prize giving.

The next match is the Founders Trophy at Weston Turville on 25th June. Non-members are welcome to play as guests.

If you would like to play and for all other information, please contact Brian Shepherd, Secretary, BMGS, on: 01628 671458 or bfs8114@gmail.com.



New Bucks Captain Stan Green (centre) with the Inter Province Shield, flanked by winners Tony Martin (left) and Nigel Gough



BMBA

The Bucks Masonic Bowls Association (BMBA) team was victorious in its match against Berkshire MBA by 132 shots to 110. The highest winning rink was Jim Lumsden, Dorothy Benn, Dave Larkin (guest) and Dot Simmons.

The half time competition, which was won by Brian Faulkner of the Berks team, raised £49. Together with £53 from the raffle and £15 from the auction of one of Margaret Hearn's delicious cakes, a very gratifying £117 was achieved for the President's chosen charities which include the Festival 2021.

The BMBA team match against Bucks VPs on 6th March at Foxhills IBC was led by debutant Captain Ken Tucker for the final indoor match of the 2017/18 season.

Despite a poor start at over 40 shots behind, the team recovered well to finish just 27 shots behind at 87-114. The highest winning rink was Colin Sear, Ken Tucker, Roger Tyerman and Graham Carter (guest) and the half time competition was won by a member of the Bucks VP team.

The BMBA took on Aylesbury Town BC on 1st May. To accommodate all players who had signed up from both sides, the match comprised four triples and a rink.

The match was played in the friendliest of spirits but, regrettably, Bucks lost on all rinks by 65 shots, 55 - 120.

The half-time prediction competition raised £29 for charity and Jim Lumsden made the nearest prediction of the final score.

The BMBA played Chesham BC on 17th May when the fine spring weather allowed a very pleasant game of bowls to be played, the soon to be regular fixture against Chesham.

Seven triples were contested and the BMBA put on a good show, winning on two rinks, drawing on one and losing on four.

Highest winning rink was Angela Ekins, Ken Tucker and Mick Tumbridge. The overall score was Chesham 124 and BMBA 97.

The shot difference competition raised £36 plus £3 from donations for the charity account and was won by the President, Alan Brindle, who then donated a bottle of whisky.

Aston Clinton Bowling Club were the opponents on 24th May. It was a closely contested game but the BMBA lost by an overall margin of just 15 shots. The charity competition raised £32.

Motorcycle Madness and other ways to raise money for the Festival 2021

Don't forget to sponsor the PGM, John Clark, in the Classic Motorcycle Lodge's Mad Dash for our Festival 2021.

Donations can be made via the button at www.buckspgl.org (see below).

For other ideas to raise money for the Festival, please contact Mike Clanfield on mc.pglcharity@yahoo.com



A quick reminder

Because men look good in pink bunny ears too!



Midnight Walk 2018 - Saturday 23 June

NEW 5 or 10 mile routes

starting and finishing at Aylesbury College

MEN AND BOYS WELCOME TO WALK TOO!

fnhospice.org.uk/midnightwalk



Supporting total hospice care for local people

Registered Charity: 1119499



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BMCPSA

The 'Beast from the East' had returned and the snow was falling as members and friends of the Buckinghamshire Masonic CPSPA arrived for the first charity shoot of 2018 on 17th March at the West London Shooting School, Northolt.

After breakfast and a short health and safety talk by one of the WLSS instructors/referees, the 33 brave (or maybe a little mad) shooters, who included six from Middlesex, headed out to take on the 100 clay course.

With just about every type of clay being thrown or rolled the only thing that made any of them change was the strong wind. Overall High Gun, with a score of 91, was non-mason Michael Blackwell. He was followed by Phil McDonald of Chenies Lodge with 89, who took the title of Masonic High Gun. Nine shooters were in the 80s (33%), showing the high standard on the day.

There was also one novice shooter, APMG Graham Dearing, who, with the help of the instructor and the encouragement of the members of his group, managed to hit a score of 44.

The raffle made £255 towards the final total of £500 and was followed by the all-important prize giving.

Graham Dearing presented the prizes as follows:

Masonic High Gun

Phil McDonald (89) Bucks

Masonic Runner up

Jason Nandall (87) Middlesex

Guest High Gun

Michael Blackwell (91) Overall High Gun

Guest Runner up

Chris Stibbs (87)

BMCPSA High Gun

John Hopcroft (82)

BMCPSA Runner up

Dave Hollis (78)

BMCPSA Vets High Gun

Phil Goddard (77)

Ladies High Gun

Louise Jennings Hoole (64) Lancs

Ladies Runner up

Jessica Campbell (61) Middlesex

Pool Shoot

Peter Allen (5 out of 10) Bucks

The money raised went to the Milton Keynes-based Alpha-1 UK Support Group Charity, Anti-Trypsin Deficiency. This is a condition where the protein that protects the lining of the lung is not made correctly in the liver, causing severe debilitating lung disease. This genetic condition is a killer.

Graham, Dave and Roger thanked everyone for attending and contributing so generously to the charity. Special thanks went to John Hunter who was unable to shoot due to a hand operation but still turned up and helped out.



■ Photos from the top: Masonic High Gun Phil McDonald of Chenies Lodge in the dreadful conditions and Ladies High Gun winner, Louise Jennings Hoole, receiving her trophy from Graham Dearing who also presented BMCPSA High Gun winner, John Hopcroft, with his trophy

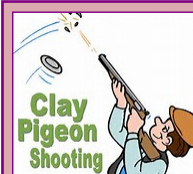
■ Below: Dave Hollis presented Emma Hunt of the Alpha-1 charity (and wife of Jim Hunt, WM of Bourne End Lodge) with a cheque for £500. Emma has lost six relatives, including her mother and brother, to Anti-Trypsin Deficiency



The BMCPSA has four shoots a year: one in March, two in the summer and one in December (Christmas Shoot). For more information contact: Roger Gills, Secretary, BMCPSA at rjg@bodger51.plus.com

For more information about the Alpha-1 UK support group check out their website: www.alpha1.org.uk

Details of the West London Shooting School are found at www.shootingschool.co.uk (020 8845 1377).



**Bucks Masonic
Open Sporting
Charity Clay
Pigeon Shoot**
in aid of



Amazing dogs. Transforming lives.

Saturday 30th June 2018

Registration 09.00 / Shooting starts 10.00

Dining from 12.30

Open to all freemasons from Bucks and other Provinces.

Family and friends also welcome.

Trophies will be presented to:

Masonic High Gun and runner up
(open to all masons from all Provinces)
Bucks Masonic High Gun and runner up
(Bucks only)

Bucks Masonic Vet High Gun
(over 65 / Bucks masons only)

Guest High Gun, and runner up
Ladies High Gun and runner up

The shoot will be 100 clays of English sporting over 10/12 stands

No game cartridges, fibre wads only

Bacon roll and coffee/tea on arrival followed by 100 bird English sporting with a two course meal and presentation

all for £60.00

There will be a bar serving beer and wine.

Have a go

Would you like to have a go at clay pigeon shooting but are frightened you could look silly in front of other more expert shooters?

Don't be: come and join our beginners 'have a go' course (Saturdays only).

You will get 25 cartridges, 25 clays, gun hire, protective clothing, full insurance and bacon sandwiches plus tea or coffee on arrival.

Minimum 10 people at the Oxford Gun Comp.

£35.00 per person.

For more info contact Roger
01628 522878 / 07711088462
or rjg@bodger51.plus.com

LADIES CLUBS

Marlow

Marlow Centre Ladies Club has been enjoying a great few months.

The February speaker, Pamela Harmon (the Pam Ayres of Bourne End!), gave a delightful and sometimes hysterical rendition of her personal life in the form of *Poems and Odes* which proved to be most entertaining.

March saw the ladies visiting the historic and glorious St Pauls Cathedral. The audio guide was very useful and the weather was wonderful which proved ideal for a guided walk by Sally Botwright around the surrounding streets and alleyways, delving into secret highlights most people do not realise are there but are easy to see once they have been pointed out.

In April the talk was by Keith Parry from the Maidenhead Historic Society who described the *Thames-side Millionaires*. This was a highly interesting history of how local 'millionaires' had acquired their wealth and land over the centuries. For legal reasons he was only allowed to talk about past events and not about those who were still alive, so in effect the story will be continued!

In May the ladies visited Hever Castle in Kent, the historic home of Anne Boleyn.....

The annual charity lunch will take place in June, again at Phyllis Court in Henley. This year's charity is Cancer Research. The Ladies Club chairman has recently undergone lifesaving chemotherapy, radio therapy and surgery for lung cancer. She has been given the wonderful news that they managed to



■ Keeping royal company at Hever Castle (l-r): Amanda Birkett, Kate McGowan Smyth, Fran Robertson, Marie Moody and Graham McGowan Smyth

remove all the cancer but she has been left with serious nerve damage and recovery is slow and very painful.

We hope members and friends will support this worthwhile charity by attending the luncheon and/or buying raffle tickets. One of the many prizes will be afternoon tea for four at Phyllis Court, kindly donated by the management committee.

If any readers would like to attend or donate please contact Christine Dyckes for further information (*contact details below*).

Marlow Ladies are always very pleased to welcome new members or guests. Future events include a visit to Olney Market and Kathy Brown's garden in July. September's trip is to Woburn Abbey, gardens and Deer Park. In October there will be a talk by Richard Poad entitled *Doctor at the Dean* and in November a visit to the National War Museum. If you would like more information please contact the Club Secretary, Christine Dyckes, on 01494 814991 / 07971905848.

Beaconsfield

Calling all wives, partners and widows of Beaconsfield masons!

The Beaconsfield Ladies Club (BLC) has something for you all.

For fifteen years this friendly group has enjoyed entertainments, trips out and interesting and stimulating talks at their regular monthly get-togethers. To find out more about what is on offer, why not get in touch; you may find that you already know one or more of the members.

The AGM was in February but we had to reschedule the March speaker due to the now infamous Beast from the East. The April meeting was a fun quiz and raised much laughter.

Upcoming events at the Beaconsfield Centre include a talk on 2nd July at 7.30pm with the fascinating title *Digging into your past*. On 6th August there is an afternoon tea starting at 2.15pm with the theme of *The Suffragettes*. Many more entertaining and enjoyable events will follow on in the autumn.

If you would like to have a chat about the Ladies Club or come along to any of the events to see for yourself, please give the Secretary, Yvonne Cawte, a call on 01494 562638 or email yvonnecawte@btinternet.com. She would love to hear from you.

Gentlemen – be sure to let your ladies know about the Ladies Clubs!

Bletchley

The BMCLLC is looking forward to the summer break when it hosts informal get-togethers instead of the regular monthly meetings.

There will be a boat trip from Windsor with afternoon tea in June and a more local visit to Billing Garden Centre in July.

The May speaker was Tony Eaton who gave an amazing talk on *The Disappearance of Glen Miller* with the latest information on how and where he went missing, obtained from WW2 German files newly released by the Russians!

The new lunch menus have encouraged around fifty members to enjoy a two course meal every month with a speaker, providing an enjoyable outing.

The luncheon club will reconvene in September with another varied programme of speakers for the autumn, including *Travelling Women* from Louise Reed and a talk on turkeys in October.

A guided visit to Milton Keynes Museum with a light lunch is also planned for October, as well as the usual meeting.

The BMCLLC is always happy to welcome new members. For any further information please contact Pam Nicholson at pamlamary@gmail.com.

Who's 007!



■ Pictured in their best James Bond gear are (l-r) David Durn, APGM Graham Dearing and Andrew Smith, Charity Steward of Denham Green Lodge

Members of Denham Green Lodge enjoyed the company of the APGM, Graham Dearing and his wife, Karen, at a James Bond themed charity evening held in March at Pinewood Studios.

The event, which raised an impressive £2,500 for the Buckinghamshire Festival 2021 and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, was organised by David Durn and Andrew Smith and included a red carpet welcome at the John Barry Theatre for 110 people who enjoyed an evening of glitz, glamour and a screening of *Goldfinger*.

Web brought me into freemasonry

Texan Steve Blair, the Provincial Website Editor, came to the UK in the mid 1990s and moved to Marlow in 2010.

As a youngster, he had seen some old pictures in his grandmother's house of 'men in dark suits' and subsequently discovered that several members of his family, including his paternal grandfather, had been freemasons.

He eventually decided to investigate what freemasonry was all about and, as an IT man, looked on Google. This now being 2010, he found the original Bucks Provincial website.

Steve explained that the website was exceptionally helpful because it's without any pressure: "It points you into the masonic world, gives a reasonable overview of who we are and what we do and a basic understanding of what goes on."

Having clicked on the link, he was directed to the form which, however, gave him no idea of what he might be getting into! A couple of weeks later he was called by Provincial Grand Secretary, Derek Watts, who invited him for an informal meal with their wives.

Derek took Steve through the basics and asked him why he wanted to become a freemason to which Steve replied: "I like helping others without taking credit".

"I like helping others without taking credit"

Having made the decision to join and having given Derek details of family members who had been masons, Steve explained that, because of his work schedule, a lodge meeting on a Saturday would be ideal. By coincidence, Derek belonged to a lodge that met on a Saturday, which was Bourne End.

Steve was then invited to a garden party being held by lodge member Jim Tilbury and his wife, Jo, where he met Dave Hollis of the MTSFC. Again, by coincidence, Steve had been fishing since he was about five years old and, to jump forward a few years, is now the Casting Secretary of the MTSFC!

Steve was invited for interview to discuss the possibility of his joining Bourne End Lodge and one of the questions was: "How long do you intend to stay in this country?" to which the answer was: "I have a mortgage, I have an English wife and two English stepsons. I don't intend to leave any time soon!"

Steve was subsequently initiated into Bourne End Lodge in 2011 and will be installed as WM in October this year.

Steve commented that Bourne End had been very supportive and was exceptionally good at mentoring: "Whoever proposes you typically mentors you in the lodge but everyone will help out. It's a very welcoming attitude."

As well as taking most offices in the lodge,



■ Steve Blair: a man on a mission, pictured with the steering wheel of his Caterham classic car

Steve has also been involved in running the Freemasonry in the Community garden at Marlow Bridge station.

However, his main involvement has been with the MTSFC, finding people to be casters. He explained that, in the last seven years they had taken more than 500 kids fishing and, since it started some 12 years ago, more than 1,000 children had benefitted: "It is incredibly heartwarming and enriching to help them and see the looks on the kids' faces."

It was at an MTSFC event that Steve met PGM John Clark who invited him to take on an IT role in updating the Provincial website, along with Hugh Douglas Smith, who had built it, and Paul Brissenden Hemstock.

Steve is determined to maintain a consistent 'face' through social media, using not only the website but Facebook and Twitter as well. As he said: "It's full circle – I came to freemasonry through the website. Now I'm helping produce it and taking pride in what we've got out there. It's a treasure trove of information and people should use it more. If you've got a friend who's interested in freemasonry, send them to the Provincial website, to the page that says 'Enquire about being a freemason'. There are several thousand of us in this Province and, when friends and family ask what we do, send them to the website. That's us! And if they ask, how do we know if this really works, well, the guy who's the editor came to freemasonry through the website!"

"If you've got a friend who's interested in freemasonry, send them to the website"

"Later you should look at 'Beyond the Craft' to find out about the other orders. It helps you understand the journey you're going to go. I joined Royal Arch in Bourne End Chapter."

Steve is also a member of Nelson Cork Lodge and was a founder of the Classic Car Lodge, another of his passions.

OBITUARY



**Norman David Christy FCA, CA
13th May 1937 – 8th May 2018**

Norman Christy was well known throughout the Province as Treasurer for many lodges and organist for many more.

He was a great supporter of the Beaconsfield Masonic Centre and was Treasurer and Company Secretary to Beaconsfield Masonic Centre Ltd and Treasurer for Beaconsfield Masonic and Community Centre for 32 years.

He was initiated into Boston Manor Lodge in the Province of Middlesex in 1965 and joined Hundred of Stoke Lodge in Buckinghamshire in 1970. Altogether, he was a member of ten lodges, including two in London.

He was appointed Provincial Grand Treasurer for Middlesex in 1985, an office he held until 2015. He received the Grand Rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1990 and was promoted to Past Junior Grand Deacon in 1998.

He was exalted into Ditton Chapter in the Province of Surrey in 1968 and joined Windsor End Chapter in Buckinghamshire in 1994.

Norman joined George Hay and Company, Accountants, in 1953, was Articled to the late George Hay and qualified in 1959. He became a partner in 1967, Senior Partner in 1974 and was a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland.

Norman had many interests outside freemasonry. He was a devout collector of ephemera, especially concerning railways! The collection includes many model engines still in their original boxes, as well as station signs and bus stops. He was also a founder and treasurer of The Squirrels (a charity that provides support particularly to the elderly in and around his home in Bourne End) and was a director of the Dart Valley Railway.

He leaves five children and seven grandchildren and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

FROM BEHIND THE DESK OF...

John Waller, Bucks Provincial Communications Officer

Have you ever wondered what duties are entailed in the work of the various Officers of the Province?

In a return to a series of articles, we look at the work of the *Provincial Communications Officer for Buckinghamshire, John Waller.*

“ Since starting this role last November, I have found it to be both demanding and interesting.

APGM Phil Blacklaw and I meet up regularly to discuss what is coming up and how to best use the articles I have. Phil is very supportive and has assisted me in settling into this new role.

Most days I receive emails regarding upcoming events or about events that have recently taken place.

Some contributors are very good and send in articles and photos that can be published with very little effort. Other contributions, however, might be a little sparse on information or the photos are either too low definition to be of use (they should be at least 1 Megabyte) or are out of focus or don't mention who is in them.

Where possible, photos should show how the donation was raised or used, rather than showing a (small) cheque being presented. For example, photos illustrating a hard slog up a hill or children enjoying new equipment, better illustrate how much effort was made to raise money for a charity.

I always welcome good photos that we can use. We are lucky in this province to have some very talented photographers who will attend events if requested and are available.

There is an 'Events' form that I can email on request. When completed with as much information as possible, this can really help us promote your event.

I also have the help of Rob Marston (a retired English teacher) to help write articles. Rob is very good at editing stories and making them more interesting.

Additionally, I receive requests from the MCF (Masonic Charitable Foundation) and BMCF (Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund) to help publicise how they spend the money that we donate to them. In such cases, I organise photographers and a senior member of the Province to attend a photo session.

As part of my PCO responsibilities I sit on the BMCF Committee and have a vote on what is donated and follow and report how the donations are spent.

To promote what we do as a Province I submit articles to Concord, the Provincial website team (who also post on Twitter), *Freemasonry Today* and the local press.

I look after the Provincial Facebook site which I find is a useful way to promote upcoming events and post the stories, photos



and sometimes videos of events that have taken place.

I would appreciate help from anyone who would like to be a media spotter! I send stories to media all over the Province but I don't always know if they have been printed. If you would like to be added to my list and could send me a scan, photos or links to articles it would be a great help.

In my opinion, reporting what we all do for freemasonry helps us understand what a fantastic organisation we are part of and why we are freemasons.

We need to promote the message: "Don't wait to be asked." There are many good men out there that we need to encourage to join us. By letting them know what we do, hopefully, we will reach them.

The links to the Provincial website and social media are:

Website: www.buckspgl.com

Facebook: [BucksMasons](#)

Twitter: [@BucksPGL](#)

I can be contacted at BucksPCO@gmail.com.

Passport to Freemasonry



At the recent relaunch of the North East Corner Club, those present received an interesting challenge as well as a demonstration of the first degree ceremony with commentary.

All were issued with a 'passport' which contained details of every centre in the Province. The challenge was to attend a meeting at each centre and visit the Buckingham room at Grand Lodge. The first 25 who complete the challenge will receive a pair of NECC limited edition cufflinks.

The schedule for 2018/19 was also unveiled including summer events which include visits to Grand Lodge, presentations and a White Table event:

5th June Lodge of the month: Golden Fleece
19th August NECC Exhibit at PSA testing in Bletchley

29th September UGLE Museum visit and tour

1st October Lodge of the month: St Martins
22nd October NECC members' dining table

at the Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Lodge meeting

17th November Presentation on the links between UGLE, Province and the lodge

March 2019 White Table event, bring a non-masonic friend

A newsletter will be sent out shortly describing these events in more detail. If you would like to register with the NECC and join the challenge please contact: johnthosk@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

Hare Hatch Showroom: Ladd's Garden Village, Bath Road, Hare Hatch, RG10 9SB Open 10 - 4 Mon - Sun

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