

CONCORD



BUCKS: PROJECT TRANSFORM

An exciting new experience
in Freemasonry

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07 THE FORGET
-ME-NOT AND
FREEMASONRY

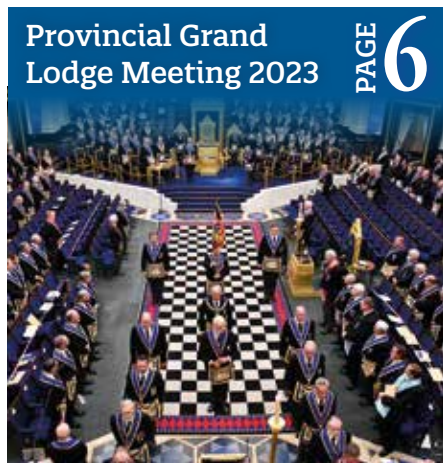
17 70 YEARS
LOYAL
SERVICE

36 BRAVING
SUMMER
STORMS

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Editorial Submissions
concord@buckspgl.org

Membership Officer
membership@buckspgl.org

Bucks Provincial Communications Officer
comms@buckspgl.org

Editor
editor@buckspgl.org

Welcome

From the Provincial Grand Master

Welcome to the summer edition of Concord magazine. A bumper issue again which goes to show how much exciting stuff is going on in our wonderful Province. It is a credit to you all and the work you do.

I was delighted to witness my son David being exalted into Princes Risborough Chapter earlier this year with his brother Jack acting as PS. My Dad would have loved to see it.

Who could forget "BIG" at Freemasons Hall in 2021 when we initiated 100 new members in a single day in magnificent surroundings? In September, the Royal Arch in Buckinghamshire will embark upon "BIG RED" which will result in over 50 new members being exalted in a single month, another record, I am sure.

In Bucks we have led the way in so many areas and will strive to continue to do so.

Project Transform has now been rolled out across the province by Tim Anders and I have delivered 3rd degree ceremonies to launch each new installation at our centres. By the time you read this I shall have launched Transform in Marlow at Neeld lodge on the 5th and in Beaconsfield at Lodge of Concord on the 12th of September. Attention to detail and rehearsals have enabled us to deliver some theatrical ceremonies the likes of which

have not been seen before. These new lighting and top-quality sound systems really do transform the ceremonies, ***another first for Buckinghamshire.***

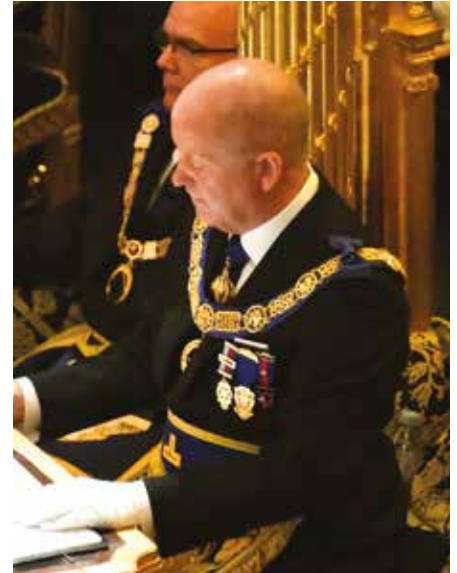
Don't be fooled into thinking that these new systems are easy to coordinate. You must practise with both lighting and sound at your Lodge of Instruction to make the night the best it can possibly be for the candidates, members, and guests. Timing is everything and Tim has prepared detailed instructions and a playlist which fits the ceremony perfectly. Please feel free to use classical music in ceremonies whenever you wish and combine it as appropriate, with an organist.

I have received so many positive comments and letters from people both in and out of the Province who have been astonished by the difference that Project Transform has made. Training on this can be arranged via the Provincial Grand Secretary.

We continue to revive a few struggling lodges and the list of successes is long. Some of these have been repurposed as speciality lodges and have gone from strength to strength. Typically, lodges who are embracing the new initiatives are now thriving.

In my 6 years as Provincial Grand Master, due to the very hard work of my Executive team, we have never closed a single lodge. WE NEVER LEAVE A LODGE BEHIND

We now have numerous speciality lodges for Motorcycles, Classic Cars, Caravans (affectionately dubbed the 'Shed Draggers' by one APGM!), Rugby, Military, Aviation, very soon. History & Research, Fine Dining, Wine, Beer, and, more lately, Cricket,



Walking, and Shooting, all of which have been runaway successes and many were recovered and repurposed, driven by exceptional individuals putting in a great deal of time and energy to make it happen. ***We are now going to create a Football lodge, details are on the back cover of this edition. Be the first to sign up for one of 40 places as a founder.***

I do hope you all had a good rest during the summer break and that you will come back refreshed and ready to go. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Provincial meeting at Freemasons Hall on Saturday 7th October which as you know has been moved to the first Saturday in October to enable those that are working to come along with their families and friends at the weekend rather than taking a day off work or losing a day of holiday during the half term which the old date conflicted with.

Our membership is now increasing for the first time in our history, and this is no accident but due to the hard work of you, ***the brilliant people in this Province.***

Please use the opportunity to attend and encourage your friends to join and share the enjoyment. There is no better place to do this than by bringing them and their families along to the Provincial meeting at Freemasons Hall in the Magnificent Grand Temple.

I am looking forward to seeing you all very soon.

John Clark

*Provincial Grand Master for
Buckinghamshire*

ONE JOURNEY ONE ORGANISATION

I hope you have enjoyed some summer Masonic break; we all need it. I find that the short break enables me to recharge my battery, so that when our meetings start up again, I am excited and eager to get to as many meetings as possible; I am sure I am not the only one. Being part of something so special is a privilege and an honour that I, and I urge us all, not to take for granted.

Starting the Masonic season with a bang is not an issue for us. As I write this, I look forward to the BIG RED, a simple idea symbolising the enthusiasm, passion and love for the Royal Arch in Buckinghamshire. With 50 new exaltees, all looking forward to carrying on their journey in Masonry, discovering more about Freemasonry in general and learning more about themselves.

The phrase, 'One Journey, one organisation', clearly and concisely demonstrates to everyone that the Craft and the Royal Arch act as one and are as one. As an entered apprentice, you learn that Masonry is a journey of discovery. I have been in Masonry for nearly 30 years, and I genuinely believe I am still learning and developing as a Mason and person. Every day for me is part of my Masonic journey.

It is one of the fundamental reasons we wanted to hold the BIG RED month. We wanted to ensure that all

THE INDISSOLUBLE LINK IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FREEMASONRY



RW Bro John Clark and Grand Superintendent Graham Dearing

Buckinghamshire masons were invited to take the next part of their journey. There would never be any arm-twisting or telling people they had to join; it was our obligation and duty to explain why they should, and it then needed to be the individual's decision.

At this point, I must thank my amazing BIG RED team, headed up by my Deputy Phil Blacklaw and Scribe E Mel Shah, for their

hard work in making this possible. I also need to acknowledge and thank our PGM RW Bro John Clark and his team for their support. BIG RED is a joint venture; without the full support of the Craft, this would not have been possible. It again demonstrates the unbreakable bond between the Craft and the Royal Arch in Buckinghamshire.

The photograph at the top of this page is my favourite Masonic snapshot. It certainly has had the most comments. By working together we will continue to ensure that Buckinghamshire is a Province where everyone can feel proud to be a member and know there will always be support throughout everyone's Masonic journey. Wherever that may lead them.

THE
BIG
RED
SEPTEMBER 2023



PERSONAL JOURNEYS IN THE ROYAL ARCH

Journey of a 3rd Provincial Grand Principal – Joseph Le Roi-Smith

It was the summer of 2020. We were in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. At that time, I was a Past Provincial Grand Sojourner, pretty content with my lot having already served the Province as a Steward.

Imagine my surprise at receiving a phone call from our Grand Superintendent, EComp Graham Dearing, offering me the opportunity of becoming an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals (APGP). Would I be up to the job? Well, after careful deliberation, I decided that I could not decline such a huge honour so, at the Provincial Convocation in 2021, I was duly invested as an APGP.

I spent the next 2 years working particularly with the chapters with which I had been entrusted – but also supporting many others when the opportunity and/or need arose. I reported in 2021 to the 3rd, then in 2022 to the 2nd, Provincial Grand Principal. I was enjoying every minute attending meetings,

occasionally occupying an Office when a key companion was unavailable, presenting Grand Chapter certificates, delivering the Address to the Principals at Installations and generally getting to know the Companions and their chapters.

Then, in the summer of 2022, came another unexpected offer – to become the Province's next 3rd Grand Principal in 2023. Again, after another period of soul-searching, I was proud and honoured to accept. And, just a month after my Installation in March, I was Invested by the Pro First Grand Principal as a Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (PAGDC).

This year has seen a slight shift in responsibilities between the Provincial Principals but, in essence, we work as a team supporting all the Province's chapters. In line with the Provincial Craft, our chapters have been designated the Omega group, under the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, Stephen Knight, and the Alpha group, under myself.

In support of our chapters, a Provincial representative attends every convocation

and offers assistance if requested and needed – never forgetting that our chapters are autonomous and that their members have aspirations. So I don't accept lightly. This support is becoming clearer to chapters which have not been afraid to ask for help during the Big Red month to deliver their Exaltation ceremonies – and where we have been delighted and honoured to accept such invitations to help ensure a great event for each of the candidates. I even accepted the kind invitation from one chapter to act as MEZ for their Exaltation ceremony.

I am looking forward to the rest of my year, visiting, working with and enjoying the companionship of our wonderful Buckinghamshire Royal Arch members and, from time to time, representing the Province at the annual convocations of other RA Provinces. *What's not to enjoy?!*



KRUPESH JETHWA

Bowen Chapter Exalted in 2023

(Soon to be Appointed a new Royal Arch Ambassador for Buckinghamshire)

A new chapter, a new part of my Masonic journey

Wow, what an evening!

In the days leading up to my exaltation, I felt excited and nervous at the prospect of experiencing something so different and new, but at the same time was comfortable in the fact that I was more aware about what I might expect having been initiated into craft some time ago.

The evening started in the expected manner, but I was certainly not expecting the very moving and powerful ceremony that I was lucky enough to have been a part of.

From what I have understood thus far from the ceremony, it is a continuation of the story that we hear as a Master Mason, but with a greater emphasis on the spiritual aspect of the history and teachings.

I was lucky enough to be exalted into Bowen Chapter where I was met with many familiar

faces from Bowen Lodge, this certainly helped put me at ease. As well as this - I was honoured to have been able to be exalted at the same ceremony as Bro Mark Lucas and at the same ceremony where W Bro Mark Berry joined the Chapter.

The whole evening made me appreciate that Freemasonry does not stop with Craft and there is a lot more to learn about yourself and the Masonic world in general.

Even the festive board was quite different and there was certainly a wonderful atmosphere at the dining tables where Mark and I were seated either side of the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent which rounded off a very special evening indeed.

All in all, I would whole heartedly and sincerely encourage any Master Mason who can do so to join a Chapter (preferably Bowen Chapter), as soon as they can to be able to experience this superb ceremony and new found companionship.



WHAT THE BEST DRESSED EXALTEES ARE WEARING THIS YEAR FOR BIG RED

Every exalte in BIG RED will be presented not just with their RAVC memory cube, but also with a pair of these very fetching BIG RED socks which can be worn at Chapter meetings. These will be very much a collectors item in years to come. Lets put our best foot forward and support the BIG RED.

Welcome



This year's Provincial Grand Lodge meeting will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at Freemasons' Hall, Headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Freemasons' Hall is a magnificent Art Deco structure created as a peace memorial to commemorate the thousands of Freemasons who served and died during World War I.

The Annual General Meeting is the highlight of the Masonic year, when members of the Province meet in London to hear the Provincial Grand Master's annual speech and selected brethren are appointed and promoted for meritorious service. If you see members of your lodge receiving an award, be sure to cheer them on.

The Province's current and past Provincial Officers, Masters, Wardens, and Past Masters are now invited to attend this meeting at the Grand Temple, Freemasons' Hall. Masons and non-Masons alike are both invited and encouraged to attend.

The first half of the meeting, beginning at 2 p.m., is reserved for Master Masons alone. Guests and non-Master Masons will be able to enjoy refreshments and entertainment during this time. The second part will begin at around 3.15 p.m., when everyone is welcome to attend and must be seated on time.

Following the meeting, there will be a fantastic dinner at the Connaught Rooms, complete with entertainment and speeches.



All Brethren and their guests must reserve online by visiting www.buckspgl.org/events by Saturday, September 16th.

Please do not miss out on this fantastic opportunity and bring your friends and family with you.

Forget Me Not

Many of us wear a lapel pin of a forget-me-not. I wear mine to work as if to raise a discreet Masonic flag to Brothers I have not yet met but it has also been the catalyst of many conversations that has sparked much Masonic interest in my colleagues.

But why a Forget-me-not, what does that have to do with Freemasonry?

Well here is the story behind it, which is set in pre-war Germany.

After the Nazis came to power, Freemasons became 'enemies of the state' and, like many others, were persecuted. In 1934, Wilhelm Frick, the Reich Minister of the Interior, declared: 'Freemason's Lodges should disappear in Germany...and if this is not realised in Masonic circles, I will soon help them in this direction'.

That same year, the 'German Grand Lodge of the Sun', perhaps seeing the writing on the wall, replaced their traditional lapel pin of the Square and Compasses with one with a blue forget-me-not flower. It had first been adopted as a Masonic symbol in 1926, mainly because its colour resembled the pale blue found in Masonic regalia.

Coincidentally, four years later, the same manufacturer made similar lapel pins for the Nazi party's welfare branch's annual charity campaign, as it was rumoured to be Hitler's favourite flower. This unwittingly providing cover for the Freemasons who wore the lapel pin.

As the Nazis tightened their grip over

the civilian population, Masonic Lodges in Germany 'went dark' and Freemasonry largely disappeared from the Third Reich, its occupied territories, and in Fascist Italy and Spain.

It is estimated that at least 80,000 Freemasons died in Nazi concentration camps alone, and a further 120,000 died in Nazi-occupied countries.

Freemasons in Russia faced a worse fate. Following the dissolution of all Masonic Lodges under the Bolsheviks, Stalin had Freemasons hunted down, arrested, and often executed. So exactly how many Freemasons lost their lives will never be known.

The reasons why both fascist and communist leaders felt threatened by Freemasonry is best explained in their own words. In 1938, Reinhard Heydrich, Himmler's deputy and head of the Nazi secret police, wrote in the preface to his book, 'Freemasonry, Its World View, Organisation and Policies':

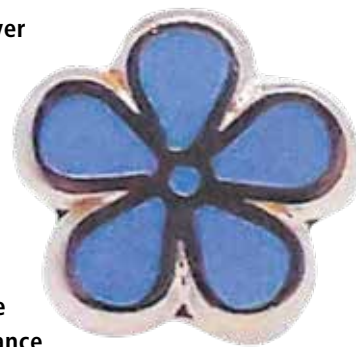
'Masonic Lodges are associations of men who, closely bound together in a union employing symbolical usages, represent a supra-national spiritual movement, the idea of Humanity...a general association of

mankind, without distinction of races, peoples, religions, social and political convictions.'

Written by one of our worst enemies, this is an excellent summary of Freemasonry.

In the end, Freemasonry survived the best efforts of the forces of darkness to suppress it, and the Grand Lodge of the Sun reopened in Bayreuth in 1947. The following year, the United Grand Lodges of Germany held their first annual convention and adopted the Forget-me-not as its official emblem. Today, it symbolises the survival of Freemasonry in adversity, and the desire never to forget our Brethren who died for their beliefs.

So for whatever reason you wear your Forget-me-not, next time you pin it to your lapel remember the deep significance of its meaning.



Get your Forget Me Not lapel pin here
shopatfmh.com/small-forget-me-not-pin

The Lodge Almoner plays a vital part in the life of every Lodge and Province, but they can only help if they are made aware of a need.

The Almoner's role is recognised and acknowledged by Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodges to be of great importance. With people now living longer and remaining in their own homes, the role of the Almoner will continue to expand.

The Lodge Almoners need the help of the rest of the members to make sure that any need for help is fully recognised. Please all keep in touch and look after one another. We must be mindful that, due to the current financial situation, some may have lost jobs or businesses, or may be struggling to afford household costs.

If you know or suspect that a Brother or his dependants may require assistance, can you please try and make contact with them and share their dilemma, and encourage them to request help if it is needed.

My team and I are only too willing to help if and where we can. Everything is carried out in confidence, but I am fully aware it is not easy for some to admit or ask for help for a number of personal reasons, but there is a will and opportunity to help if necessary.

Brethren if you need our assistance, either talk to your Lodge Almoner, the Masonic Centre Almoner Assistant, or the Provincial Grand Almoner.

If you are eligible for support the Almoner's team will contact you to take you through the process of applying to the MCF, or offer to help you from the BMBF.



The BMBF can help with:

- **Mobility Aids**
– *Mobility Scooter, wheelchairs, Stair Lifts*
- **Help with advice.**
- **Immediate Financial help**
– *to relieve those in need*
- **Provision of School uniform**
– *to Masonic families in need.*

The MCF can help under four main headings:

- **Financial** – *Essential daily living costs, Funeral grants, Emergency home repairs*
- **Family** – *Education expenses for children, University Scholarships, Support for exceptional talent in music, sport or the performing arts.*
- **Health** – *Medical treatments, mobility aids, Counselling, Home adaptations*
- **Care** – *RMBS Homes, Respite Care. (Homes are operated by RMBS Services and are available to people with either private or public funding)*

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF HELP PLEASE CONTACT US

ProvGAlm@buckspgl.org

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

W.Bro Tony Martin
Provincial Grand Almoner
Email: ProvGAlm@buckspgl.org

Family Ties



On 25th February 2023, Princes Risborough Chapter No. 5203 Exalted their latest Companion, David Clark, where his father, John, and brother, Jack, are members.

David was Raised exactly 1 year ago to the day making this a date he won't forget in his continuing journey in Freemasonry. The Exaltation ceremony was conducted by Most Excellent Zerubbabel, Paul Brissenden Hemstock with an outstanding first time stepping up to Principal Sojourner for Jack Clark.

As David is a keen supporter of Five Points Lodge, John Clark's Mother Lodge, members of Five Points Lodge were in attendance for the Convocation, then members of Princes Risborough Chapter went on to a Meeting of Five Points Lodge in the afternoon. This is a great demonstration of how close the indissoluble link between Craft and the Royal Arch is in Buckinghamshire Freemasonry.

Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Graham Dearing, then presented Supreme Grand Chapter Certificates to two of the newest members and also presented them with the new USB Altar, containing more information about the Royal Arch.

Finishing off with some great news, Scribe Ezra, Peter Bennet, had the pleasure of announcing that the Chapter has 4 Candidates for Exaltation as well as a Joining Member, reiterating how the Royal Arch Province of Buckinghamshire is leading the way with a thriving membership.

If you have yet to start the next part of your Masonic Journey, then speak to your Lodge's Royal Arch Representative or Secretary for more information on how to join this rich and beautiful degree.



Princes Risborough Lodge 5203 open their Summer BBQ with the Town Crier

Early in June, members of Princes Risborough Lodge, held their Annual Summer BBQ at Bedrose Farm, Amersham, with thanks to the WM Jim Olney and the farm owner Carol Hance, with almost 100 members, family and friends in attendance.

The venue was excellent as was the weather on the day and soon everyone was enjoying their food and drinks. Regular supporters of

The Rock Choir, our Choral Entertainment



Castro and Dangalan families

our Lodge functions, Anette Brown and Julie Rutt helped prepare the mountains of food.

The event was officially opened by Mr Dick Smith, the Beaconsfield Town Crier, who has held this privilege for over 40 years. And the entertainment was melodiously supplied by the Rock Choir. Recent members Bros. Romel Castro and Eli Dangalan attended with their families. Romel provided and, ably assisted by Eli, cooked some very succulent Filipino style



Mr Dick Smith, the Town Crier, opens the BBQ

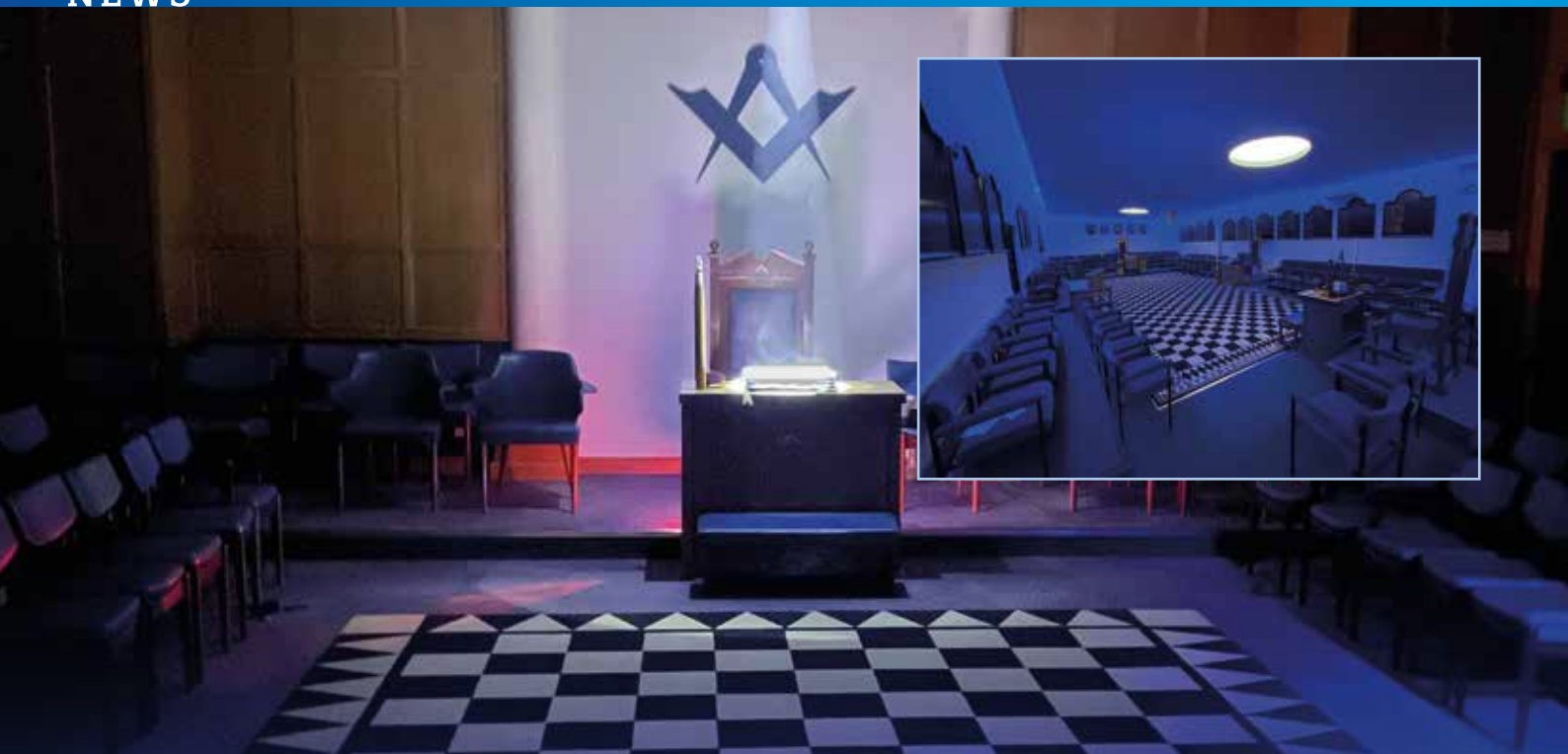


Jean Robinson & Bros. Eli and Romel. The 'BBQ Queen and Princes'

pork, which complimented the burgers, sausages and chicken cooked by W Bro Tony Robinson and his wife Jean. The 'bar' was expertly managed by W Bro Steve Lee and his wife Dianne.



Shading from the sun, caught by the 'spy in the sky!'



Buckinghamshire Embrace ‘Project Transform’

- Sound and Lighting Systems for Enhanced Ceremonies

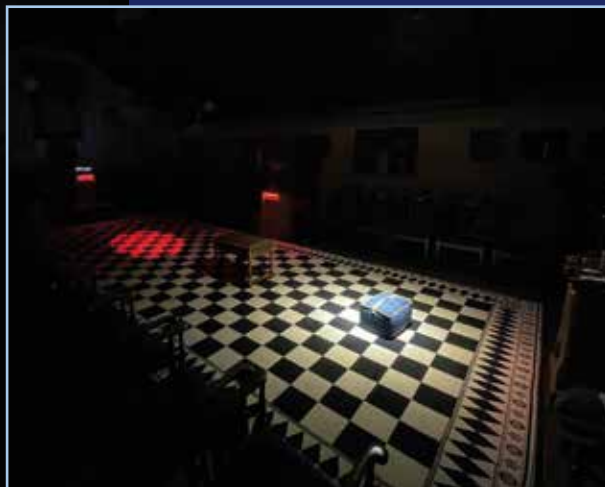
In a bid to elevate the Masonic experience for candidates and members alike, Masonic Lodges throughout Buckinghamshire are welcoming the ground breaking initiative of the installation of state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems.

This transformative project aims to enhance the atmosphere and overall impact of ceremonies held within their Lodge meetings, making them even more memorable and engaging for all involved.

Tradition and symbolism are at the core of Masonic ceremonies, and the introduction of advanced sound and lighting systems is seen as a significant leap forward. The new systems promise to create

an immersive and captivating environment, amplifying the importance and significance of the rituals conducted within our Lodges. The subtle interplay of lighting effects, coordinated





with the soundscapes and the ceremonies, will heighten the emotional resonance and create an ambience that aligns perfectly with the solemnity of the occasion.

Candidates undergoing initiation or other rituals will now be enveloped in an atmosphere that enhances the weight and importance of their journey. The use of carefully synchronised lighting will evoke a sense of reverence and awe, underscoring the transformative nature of the ceremonies.

Not only will the new sound and lighting systems enhance the experience for candidates, but they will also elevate the involvement of all members attending these ceremonies. The integration of audio-visual elements effectively brings our Masonic teachings to life. Members will be able to witness the ceremonies in an entirely new

way, fostering a deeper connection with the principles and values that underpin Masonic traditions.

The Masonic Lodges of Buckinghamshire are now calling upon all their members to actively encourage their respective centre committees to embrace this exciting initiative. By supporting the installation of advanced sound and lighting systems, they can collectively enhance the Masonic experience for all new candidates and members for generations to come.

Project Transform believe that this investment will create a lasting impact on the engagement, inspiration and understanding of Masonic rituals, fostering a stronger sense of unity and purpose and will engage new members in using the systems and assist with membership and retention.

Stephens Lodge flourishing after years of low membership

After a few years of low membership Stephens Lodge was injected with a seven man resurrection team. In addition to them, this year we have initiated three new members with the assistance of the Province, and furthermore have two initiates in the pipeline thanks to Andrew and David Murray.

The Lodge will be carrying out an initiation in July and will be looking to progress our new candidates in emergency meetings planned in September, October and November.

Two joining members, Bro Jordan Parmenter and Bro Charlie Bitowt, have already performed excellently, including some fantastic ritual feats such as the tracing board, charge and filling many of the offices before joining.

On Saturday 10th June, Stephens Lodge hosted the Installation of W Bro Jim Hunt, the second master since the Lodge's resurgence and reshape into a special interest Walking Lodge, following on after W Bro Steve Pratt. A fantastic ceremony was had, with W Bro Steve Pratt flawlessly acting as Installing master. Each of the working tools was expertly delivered by a Master Mason, a Fellow Craft and an Entered Apprentice in Bros Charlie Bitowt, Anton Pascaru and Andrew Murray.

During the investitures, the Wardens were uniquely presented with outdoor themed hats and the deacons were given deer antler walking sticks in the theme of our monthly social walks.

A wonderful festive board was had with an electric atmosphere, music, hats, laughs and great enjoyment.



Left to right - Bro Anton Pascaru, Bro David Clark, WB Jim Hunt, Bro Jordan Parmenter, Bro David Murray, Bro Andrew Murray, Bro Charlie Bitowt

The Stephens Walk

Stephens has been touring the Province on the third Sunday every month, completing a social Sunday country walk, getting exercise and catching up with friends and families outside the masonic environment.



Sunday 9th October 2022, setting off for our inaugural walk from the famous location where the Vicar of Dibley was filmed. We took on some challenging hills for incredible views and finishing with a lovely lunch at the Stag and Huntsman.

2 Hambleden



Sunday 27th November, tackling puddles, rain and finishing at the Sports Bar in Hambleden where an excellent buffet, drinks and service were provided by the staff.

Sunday 26th March, with the Provincial Grand Master of Berkshire in attendance and his two lovely dogs! We toured the scenic Black Park Lake with some adverse conditions and finished with a splendid brunch at Black Park Cafe.

5 Black Park



6 Wendover, Coombe Hill



Sunday 16th April, setting off from Coombe Hill car park, we scaled some challenging mud however were rewarded with amazing views from the Wendover Monument where we enjoyed a great picnic.

3 Marlow



Sunday 1st January, New Year's Day! Great opportunity for our ramblers to exercise off their New Year's parties. Setting off from the Marlow Centre along the river and back, finishing in the Old Brewery for Sunday lunch.

7 Dorney Lake



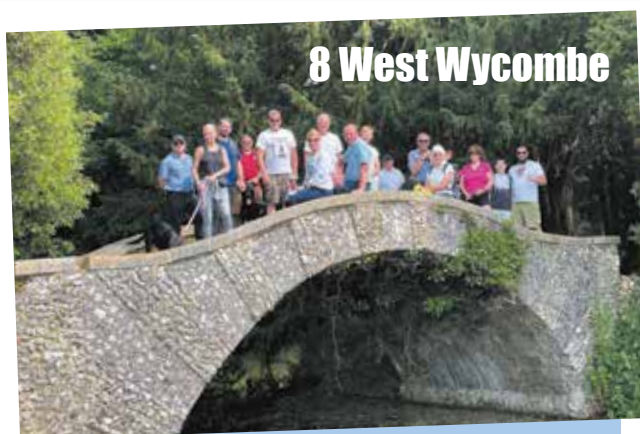
Sunday 21st May, the good weather finally arrived, with brilliant views of the lake, the Thames path and finishing with an outdoor Sunday lunch at the Palmers Arms.

4 Bourne End, Spade Oak



Sunday 19th February, revisiting the Thames Path to walk from Bourne End down to Cookham and back and enjoying the lovely Spade Oak pub.

8 West Wycombe



Sunday 18th June, a picturesque tour around West Wycombe with short hills, brilliant views and culminating in drinks with friends and families at the Walled Garden.

If you would like to take part please email, davidclark25@icloud.com to be added to the WhatsApp group.



Left to right: E Comp Norman, Comp Leonard Tossell, E Comp Glenwyn Evans, E Comp Mark Evans. Seated: E Comp (Peter) J.P. Sargeant

Seventy Years Loyal Service

On 23rd April 2022 E Comp John Peter Sargeant PAGDC, PPGSN, known as Peter, was presented with a certificate issued by the Provincial Grand Chapter of Buckinghamshire in recognition of his seventy years of loyal service to the Royal Arch Chapter in general and the River Chapter No.5126 in particular. This was a double occasion for celebration as it was also Peter's 95th birthday.

Peter's father, E. Comp Kenward May Sargeant, was a Founder member of the River Chapter No. 5126 which was Consecrated on 11 February 1950. Peter was a member of Ballbrook Lodge No. 7967 (Berkshire) and Berkshire Masters Lodge No.3684. On 8 September 1951, at the age of 24-years, he was Exalted in the River Chapter to which he has subscribed continuously for the past seventy-one years and it is only in current times, due to illness, that he has been forced to miss the recent Convocations of the Chapter. During the presentation and celebration, a small gathering of his fellow Companions learnt a little of Peter's impressive history in Masonry. In April 1963

he was appointed in Royal Arch Chapter to the Rank of PPAG Soj and in February 1969 he was Promoted to the Rank of PPGSN. He served in the Office of First Principal in 1961, 1967 and 1986. For ten-years, from 1990 to 2000, he held the Office of Scribe E. He was subsequently Promoted to the Grand Rank of PAGDC.

Although he resides in Combe Martin, North Devonshire, he has been a loyal and regular attendee of the River Chapter Convocations which are held three times annually at Slough, Berkshire. Through his personality and powers of persuasion he was able to encourage five other Companions from North Devon to join the River Chapter.

During his Masonic career Peter has been involved in over thirty Lodges covering most aspects of Masonry in their various formats. He was a Founder member of two Craft Lodges and four other side Degrees. He is admired by all Companions for his ritual, always word perfect, clear and distinct in his delivery.

The Presentation took place at Peter's home in Combe Martin, where he resides with his wife, Mary, daughter, Elizabeth (Liz),



E Comp Norman Sanders with E Comp (Peter) J.P. Sargeant.

and Brother-in-Law John. The Companions who were present at this unique occasion were E Comp Norman J. Sanders PPG Reg, who made the presentation on behalf of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Buckinghamshire, and accompanied by E Comp Glenwyn Evans PPGReg, E Comp. Mark Evans, PPGStd B and Comp Leonard Tossell.

Although, due to his present circumstances, E Comp Peter was unable to travel to Slough to be with his fellow Companions of the River Chapter to witness his presentation, they were with him in spirit on his special day. E Comp John Peter Sargeant (Peter) is a true ambassador for Freemasonry and everything it stands for. We all wish him well for the future.



Marlow Masonic Ladies are Busy Enjoying Themselves

Since the last copy of Concord we have been busy enjoying a very varied and interesting programme.

January was our annual Quiz Night – a light hearted and fun evening – nothing too serious! February we changed to an afternoon meeting to compensate for the dark evenings and had a very enjoyable talk called 'Air Miss', reflections on joining the RAF in the late 1960's and also included some fantastic cartoon illustrations drawn by our speaker to complement her talk.

In March some of us spent a very interesting day at the British Museum and all remarked that we hadn't realised just how many

fascinating things there were to see. April was another talk and what a talk it was! It was entitled Wallis Simpson and her King. Wow, did we learn some very eye-opening things about Wallis herself, some of the facts only recently having come to light. Riveting stuff and so good we have booked the speaker for next year for his talk about The Mountbattens!

Our next outing in May was to the very beautiful Polesden Lacey. Lovely house and grounds and a wonderful exhibition of Faberge items and other treasures. (photo of grounds).

June is always our Charity Lunch and this year was again held at Moor Hall, Cookham.

Excellent food and company and a good fund raiser for this year's charity, One Can Trust.

As I write we are off to the Cutty Sark at Greenwich in July and so many have said 'I haven't been there since a school trip!' Next stop Bentley Priory in September which was the headquarters of RAF Fighter Command during the Second World War.

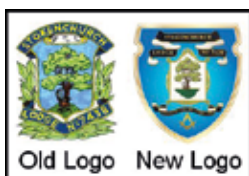
As you can see we run a very varied programme throughout the year and we have some really interesting things planned for the future so if you would like to join us then please contact: Christine Dyckes 07971 905848 or Trudy Weller 07956 801836

Initiation for Stokenchurch in Marlow

**On 24th April 2023,
Stokenchurch Lodge
No.7438 Initiated
Phil Morris.**

The Master, Jason Lowe, invited Derek Waldron to occupy the chair for the ceremony which he carried out with great sincerity and the Working Tools were presented by Lee Richards. John Colling conducted the Charge After Initiation and Phil was so impressed by the delivery, he commented that he will remember it for the rest of his life.

At this meeting a new version of the Lodge Logo was unveiled, designed by Jason and Derek, with a crisper and more modern look, whilst at the same time retaining the elements of the original logo from when the Lodge was founded in 1956.



Everyone agreed what a great job had been done.

The Festive Board had a special meal consisting of platters of salad, meats and cheeses which took its rise when the Lodge was formed almost 70 years ago. Back then the bulk of the members were butchers who supplied not only the meats but also a boar's head which was paraded around the room. Everyone was also supplied with clay pipes to smoke after the meal - how times have changed!

Visiting Officer Gerry Baldock gave an update to the Brethren on Project Nurture including the 'Mind the Gap' initiative. With this being the last meeting of the Masonic year and the Lodge not meeting again until October, it's important for the Brethren to keep in touch, particularly with their newest member. The Lodge is filling the gap with a Ladies Night in Bournemouth and a horse racing night, both of which Phil is already signed up to.



Lee Richards, Visiting Officer Gerry Baldock, Phil Morris with his framed poem and Master Jason Lowe

Finally, Gerry presented Phil with a very informative Welcome Pack that he produced including the information Buckinghamshire Province produces for all new members and also a framed copy of the poem 'His Initiation'.

It's a lovely touch to keep Lodge traditions going and at the same time modernising and making new traditions. Everyone present had a great time and it made the meeting very special for Phil.



Sue Cooper, W. Bro. David Cooper, Son of W Bro Keith Jarvis, W Bro Keith Jarvis, Wendy Jarvis, Angela Redington, W Bro Anthony Redington, W. Bro Tony Robinson, W Bro Martin Weller, Trudy Weller, Dawn Strong, Bro Ian Strong, Louise Adamson, W Bro Mike Adamson.

Nomads at it again

Here we were then, all ready and keen to enjoy ourselves – oh, with a little bit of masonry thrown in for good measure.

Firstly, let me say that you don't have to be a camper to join the Nomadic Lodge. You are welcome to become a 'day visitor' or make use of local hotels, b&b's for longer 'mini-breaks', with or without your partners and families.

Of course, most of you already know, that The Nomadic Lodge 9978, is based around camping, caravanning and motorhoming. We have several comical nicknames - the 'shed pullers' or the 'shed tuggers' being just two. But, what is apparent, is that our members love to get together over a weekend (or more), in a way that lets us enjoy two hobbies at once – Freemasonry and camping. The latter is always very sociable, not only amongst our brethren, but with our partners, who, as they spend a few days in each other's company each time, know each other well. We also welcome families and friends (of all ages) to join in with us!

What some of you may not know, is that we sometimes have our meetings, observing very formal dress code, in a local Centre (which of course varies according to our campsite venue), and sometimes, in more appropriate

attire, on the campsite within our large gazebos. Our festive board is always a 'white table', again, sometimes with a communal bbq or similar at the campsite, and other times, at the local Centre, pub or restaurant. We even have camping 'gatherings' purely for social reasons, with no Masonic meeting involved!

Anyway, as it happens, in May, we camped at Wallingford and held our meeting at Thame (both last minute change of venues due to flood problems – but that's another story!). The meeting went very well, especially with our guest, David Osler, giving the traditional history in a most entertaining and expert manner. Our candidate, Ian Strong enjoyed the ceremony immensely.

Afterwards, we headed back to the campsite to prepare our white table festive board – well festive barbeque!!! After changing back into 'civvies', we set up the bbq area, in order to cook our own food in a most convivial manner (read that as – with plenty of wine!). Although, we all ate our own choice of food, we did all eat together. Then, afterwards, everyone was treated to port and cheese courtesy of the Lodge, which went down rather well, we must say.

And so, the rest of the day, being rather lovely weather, was spent generally chatting and imbibing until it became too dark and cold to stay out any longer (it was, after all, only May), and continued the evening in our caravans, tents or motorhomes, some until the wee, small hours.



W Bro Mike Adamson, W Bro David Cooper, Bro David Haylor, W. Bro Martin Weller, Bro Ian Strong, W Bro Keith Jarvis.

Of course, you cannot camp without noticing the smell of early morning bacon. So, next morning, our charity steward, Ian Strong, organised bacon and/or egg rolls for breakfast, which were offered to all for a 'small charitable donation'. They were very soon 'sold out'. A great idea Ian (but one you may live to regret!?)

So, you can see that we are very different from your 'normal' lodges. We like to think that we are one of the most inclusive, welcoming and friendliest Lodges around.

So, what are you waiting for – why not come to one of our meetings or gatherings and see for yourselves? You're very welcome!



Trudy Weller & Bro Ian Strong



Bro Robert Anderson, W Bro Anthony Redington, W Bro Matt Durbin, W Bro David Osler, Bro Yashpaul Anderson, W Bro Mike Clanfield, W. Bro Martin Weller, W Bro David Cooper, W Bro Mike Adamson,

Taplow Lodge installation night - It's a Kind of Magic!



Magician W Bro Eugene Mathias with WM David Lamsden



Presenting a long overdue Charity Jewel to a very worthy member of Taplow Lodge No 3111, W Bro Bernard Friess, Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer. He is the secretary and charity steward, for some one job would be enough.

Taplow Lodge 3111 installation meeting on May 17th was a **MAGIC MOMENT** for all concerned after a fabulous ceremony where W Bro David Lamsdon was installed for a 2nd year, Brethren retired to the festive board for a four course meal and to be entertained by fellow W Bro Eugene Mathias, a member of Chelsea Lodge whose magic touch caused a lot of laughter in the Lodge.

Eugene, a comedy magician, had the WM mind transmitting with the help of a kitchen whisk amongst other hilarious tricks.

W Bro Bernard Friess, Secretary, said 'we decided to make our festive board special for all our members and guests and do something a little different'. Everyone said how wonderful the evening was and how different it was. Would we do it again? YES! We now intend to make all installations different in the future. We need to make sure we make these meetings a delight for the Brethren to attend as it helps us retain and introduce new joining members, and that means good food, good wine, good friends and laughter!

Taplow Lodge meet at the Gables Hall Linslade Leighton Buzzard.

Sean Bolton reflects on his year as WM

As my year drew to a close as Worshipful Master, I thought I would look back at my journey in Freemasonry and that I am very happy to have made it into the chair.



I could not have done that without the support of Five Points Lodge and its members.

I found that I was able to do all the speaking parts, the long sections were a bit difficult to deliver and challenging to learn. I had the view that I must try and do everything. What I found was that I was trying to do everything but not necessarily very well. My suggestion to all members is to follow the advice given to me by our Prov GM, John Clark, which is to concentrate on the areas you do well and not focus too much on areas you do less well.

I think I have shown that having a disability may not be a barrier to going through any chair of any degree in Freemasonry. I sincerely hope that all those brethren who were my candidates felt that they went through the same process that they would have done if I did not have a disability, and that they had the same experience as anyone else.

One of the challenges for me is that when I became a Mason back in November 2000, in Bristol, the opening ceremony was different. Appointments are used rather than names, and although a minor thing, it took me a while to get to grips with but I got there in the end.

Thank you to everyone at Five Points Lodge who managed to get me to the Chair. I had a great year, as I am sure you all did as well.

Slough Daylight goes with a bang.

On 11th March 2023, Slough Daylight Lodge No. 9699 marked their 100th meeting by relaunching as a Shooting Special Interest Lodge.

There was a busy schedule for the day so the meeting had an early 8:30am start to Initiate Andrew Rendell. The initiation was carried out by the first outing of the 'Light Blues Brothers' Demonstration Team. They were formed during the 12 Days of Christmas event when Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Matthew Eaton, recognised the talented ritualists involved. Many months of covert rehearsals lead to an absolutely outstanding performance in initiating Andrew without any hesitation or the need for prompting. The ceremony was so slick that the entire meeting was just over an hour long.

Being a morning Lodge, the festive board is always a hearty breakfast and this proved a great preparation for the afternoon activities to come. Departing from Slough Masonic Centre, those taking part in the inaugural clay shoot sojourned to Common Leys Clay Shooting Ground near Oxford. The shoot was open to shooting Masons and non-Masons alike. Indeed, those without a shotgun certificate at all were also able to shoot, with a special rate having been arranged for them including gun hire and cartridges. The experienced shooters shot 100 clays over 10 stands with a gentler introduction of 50 clays for the others.

After the shoot everyone reconvened in the cosy clubhouse and over a drink next to the

roaring fire, reflected on what a fantastic day it had been. It was especially so for Andrew having the double thrill of taking his first regular step in Freemasonry and taking up clay shooting on the same day. Everyone commented on what a memorable day it had been and those who had shot for the first time said how much they wanted to get their own shotguns.

Future events will include rifle shooting and also a Lodge meeting held away at a shooting ground. If you are already a shooter, Slough Daylight Lodge would love to count you among their rapidly growing membership. If you have always wanted to have a go at shooting then they will be pleased to welcome you on the next shoot. Likewise,

if you are a shooter who is interested in becoming a Freemason, they will be delighted for you to join them.

Email secretary@sloughdaylight.org.uk for details of the next meeting or how to join so that you don't miss out on all the fun.





Ryan Pyke, Alan Downie, David Segal, Andrew Hodge, Martin Lucas, Chris Barton, Richard Myhill, WM Frank Duncan, David Brazier, Paul Brissenden- Hemstock, Andy Elwyn, Keith Bull, Colin Cummings, Charles Noxon, Robbie Devery, Peter Parsons, Tim Harris, Peter Gehnich

CYMBELINE LODGE

Having spent many years overseas being an Unattached Mason, I was very lucky to be introduced to Cymbeline and quickly became a Joining Member.

After serving the Lodge as Chaplain I found myself back on the ladder as Senior Warden and then Master. What a great honour and pleasure it has been to be the Worshipful Master of Cymbeline Lodge. Since being Installed in September 2022, I have enjoyed every moment and experienced great personal satisfaction from working with the Officers of the Lodge as a close team to achieve such wonderful results. It has been a very full year of Ceremonies and without the close support and hard work of all it would have been impossible to achieve these results. My sincere thanks go to everyone for working so hard on their ritual and for making this year such a happy and harmonious one – Many thanks, well done!

We have been blessed with so many wonderful Candidates and all have now progressed to become at least Fellowcrafts.

SEPTEMBER

Regular Meeting – Installation

OCTOBER

Emergency Meeting – Double Initiation

NOVEMBER

Regular Meeting – Double Passing

DECEMBER

Emergency Meeting – Initiation for the twelve days of Christmas in Aylesbury

SUMMER ISSUE



Frank Duncan

JANUARY

Emergency Meeting – Double Passing

Regular Meeting – Burns Night

FEBRUARY

Regular Meeting – Double Raising in Slough

MARCH

Regular Meeting – Double Passing
Ladies Festival

APRIL

Regular Meeting – St Georges Night

I very much look forward to Installing our Master Elect, Bro Andy Elwyn, as my successor into the Chair of King Solomon in September and can only hope he enjoys his year as much as I have. I know that under his leadership the success of Cymbeline will continue.

Cymbeline Lodge has been my second home and I consider all the members as close Friends and Brothers in the purest sense, and I can only wish that all those reading this enjoy similar feelings for our wonderful Masonic Fraternity.

HATS Chinese New Year



Vincent Leiu joining in with the Dragon dancers.

On 28th January, at the tail end of the week of Chinese celebrations, HATS in association with Magiovinium Lodge, held their Chinese New Year event at the Bletchley Masonic Centre.

As a 'first' in the province it proved a great success, and was well over-subscribed. With plenty of cheongsam dresses and mandarin collar shirts



Martin Wing, Vincent Leiu from HATS plus Sunil Odedra and Mark Dennaforde the IPM of Magiovinium all dressed for the occasion.

on display, one hundred of us enjoyed shouting at evil spirits to drive them away and usher in good luck for the year of the rabbit, joining together to mix the Yee Sang salad with our long-handled chopsticks whilst again shouting aloud, before enjoying a classic Chinese New Year dinner. On hand was a team to perform a dragon dance and the evening was topped off with a disco. The magnificent sum of £1350 was raised through the generosity of those attending, on behalf of the MND Association, Cancer Research and SOS Children's Villages.

For further information on Hands Across the Seas login to www.h-a-t-s.uk

Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Chapter Convocation 2023



Executive - Deputy GS Phil Blacklaw - 2nd Principal Stephen Knight - MEGS Graham Dearing - 3rd Principal Joseph Le Roi-Smith.

On 27th March 2023, almost 300 Companions sojourned at Sindlesham Court in Reading for the very enjoyable and entertaining Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Chapter Convocation.

With the assistance of the other Provincial Officers, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Graham Dearing opened the meeting and then addressed the Companions.

Over 17 other provinces were represented on the day, with 10 Grand Superintendents giving hearty support. On the day, Joseph Le Roi-Smith was appointed as the Third Provincial Grand Principal, Stephen Knight as the Second Provincial Grand Principal, and the Buckinghamshire Masonic legend is Phil Blacklaw as Deputy Grand Superintendent. A very formidable team indeed.

This year, three new Provincial Officers were also appointed for the first time – Dave Adams as Membership Officer, Steve Adams as Communications Officer and John Palman as Mentor. They will add new skills to the already solid Executive Team, enabling the Province to grow and go from strength to strength.

A delightful surprise of the day was for the Buckinghamshire Craft Chaplain, E Comp Rev Peter Waterson. In the middle of his address, our Grand Superintendent went for his usual walk-about and promoted Peter in the field

to Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah. Peter is much loved in the Province, and the loud applause which followed his in-the-field appointment demonstrated that affection.

As always, the Grand Superintendents' address was entertaining; it carried a message of positivity and focused on what we can achieve if we do it together. During his address, he launched the BIG RED initiative, which, as we now all know, has been a game changer for the Royal Arch in Buckinghamshire. Our Grand Superintendent was, however, quick to remind us that we must not push people into the Royal Arch but ensure that we create an engaging, enjoyable, fulfilling environment in every Chapter. Companions, we seem to be doing just that.

The whole meeting was coordinated to perfection by Scribe E Mel Shah and Director of Ceremonies Paul Bird, assisted in the early morning by many willing volunteers who set



Previous MEGS - John Keeble



The Indissoluble Link - Graham Dearing - John Clark.

up the Chapter and Dining rooms.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and evening enjoyed by everyone with good humour and warmth of companionship, which is the distinguishing feature of the Royal Arch.

If you have yet to continue your Masonic journey into the Royal Arch, ask your Royal Arch Representative or Secretary for details on how to continue your own Masonic journey.

Always remember the Craft and the Royal Arch are one. To get the full benefit of being in the Craft, you must seriously consider being part of the Royal Arch.



Companions All

Members of St Peters and St Pauls lodge 1410 - Sikh Gurdwara

St Peters and St Pauls Lodge 1410 made a visit to the Sikh Gurdwara Temple in Kiln Farm, Milton Keynes, by the kind invitation of Bro Tarsem Ubhi on Sunday 26th March 2023.

On arrival, we were greeted by Bro Tarsem and given head coverings as visitors. We were then led into the dining hall and welcomed by members of the Sikh community and provided with a selection of light snacks, which had been freshly made by the voluntary chefs of the day. The snacks included pakora, sweet biscuits and a chutney dip, accompanied by a drink of tea. Several high-ranking members of the Gurdwara spoke to us to explain how the Sikh community come together for prayers and meetings.

After a general introduction and a summary of the programme of events, the group made its way into the prayer hall, where we listened to ARDAS prayers in front of the living guru, Siri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, and HUKAM a message or order to all. There were also reports from the temple secretaries and then our WM Ian Townsend thanked the Gurdwara members for their hospitality. It was mentioned that a donation had been given from Lodge members towards the building of a



new entrance at the Gurdwara. The Sikh Gurdwara president presented WM Ian Townsend with a Siropa to acknowledge his visit to the Gurdwara. As part of the service, some sweet prasad was passed to all for them to eat. When the prayer service had finished we took an opportunity to take some photos. We were then invited to join them in the dining room for a

vegetarian meal of Daal, chapatis and a sweet dish. The food was very tasty and filling. During the lunch, other members of the Sikh community came and spoke to us and said that members of the Lodge were welcome to attend at any time, with or without an invitation, as the Gurdwara was welcoming to all. The visit was very informative and enjoyed by all.

Longueville 9322 and Grand Union 9641 Joint Meeting



As each Lodge had two Initiates ready to advance to the 2nd degree, Longueville Lodge arranged an emergency meeting at Bletchley Masonic Centre on 12th April and invited daughter Lodge, Grand Union, to participate. W Bro Wayne Hancock opened for Grand Union after which the Grand Union team conducted the ceremony of Passing their two candidates up until the obligation. The Lodge was called off and after being called on, W Bro Sam

Everett resumed the ceremony with the Longueville team and Passed their candidates up until the Obligation. All 4 candidates then received the 'long' version of working tools and an explanation of the 2nd degree tracing board from W Bro Sam Everett, PPSGD, and his father, W Bro Ron Everett, PAGDC. The attendance of over 40 members and guests made for a most enjoyable meeting and a festive board reminiscent of pre COVID meetings.

Tommy Fleming update



Tommy Fleming update.
Support for Tommy continues through fund raising events sponsored by Nightingale Lodge of Mark Masons and Grand Union Lodge.

Tommy has been fed through a tube to his stomach since birth and the main issue has been blockage of the tube when food is not finely liquidised. In that case the tube needs to be removed, cleaned and re-inserted.

At the request of his Parents some of the money raised through our Tommy Fleming appeal has been used to purchase a 'super' blender which is now being used.

A note from Sarah, Tommy's Mum:
'Nightingale Mark Masons and Grand Union Lodge members just wanted to say thanks for the funds to pay for the blender. Tommy started his new diet today with a banana and soya yoghurt and so far so good. It's an amazing machine and the consistency of the blended food was perfect. We will be trying it on other foods as we go but it is a professional grade so should have no problems at all!'



Dry Spell Over for Iver Chapter

On 17th June 2023 Iver Chapter, No. 5254, exalted Preston Brooker from Heatherden Lodge, No. 7345.

Heatherden Lodge held a fish and chip supper to explain what the Royal Arch is all about and what it has to offer. There were 6 prospective candidates in attendance and 3 of them went on to express an interest in joining Iver Chapter, one of whom was Preston.

A full Provincial Team headed up by Most Excellent Grand Superintendent (MEGS) Graham Dearing watched a wonderful ceremony performed by First Principal Mick Sharp with the Principal Sojourner's work being split between Graham Alexander and Kevin Ell. The Signs were explained in excellent form by Paul Lear.

Our MEGS welcomed Preston to our rich and beautiful order on behalf of the Province. Rather than have cumbersome paper documents, Buckinghamshire Exaltees are presented with a memory stick hidden away in

a tiny version of the Altar. It contains a vast array of useful information about the Royal Arch for new Companions to read and digest at their leisure.

The Companions broke bread together at the lively Festive Board which was full of fun and laughter. At the end of the evening, Kevin presented Preston with a donation to the Slough Food Bank, which he is a keen supporter of.

The Chapter is taking part in Big Red with the second candidate from the fish and chip supper, the third being Exalted next year. The enthusiasm for the Royal Arch shown by Graham and his team is paying dividends as all Chapters throughout the Province are going from strength to strength.

Preston thoroughly enjoyed his Exaltation ceremony and is looking forward to continuing his Masonic journey investigating the Royal Arch.

If you'd like to continue on your own Masonic journey by joining the Royal Arch then ask your Royal Arch Representative or Secretary for details.



A Special Evening for St Giles

Wednesday 17th May was a special evening for St Giles and our new Master Mason, Charlie Bitowt. St Giles no 8555 were proud to be chosen by the Provincial Grand Master, RW John Clark, to perform a raising using the newly installed sound and lighting system at Bletchley. This has been installed as part of Project Transform which is being rolled out by W Bro Tim Anders who also took part in the ceremony.

Those present were treated to a magical ceremony during which Tim was able to demonstrate how the lights and sounds could dramatically enhance the ceremony. The Provincial Grand Master was ably supported by the Wardens and Deacons of St Giles. As well as performing the Senior Deacon role, Bro Paul Harrison gave an exemplary rendition of the 3rd degree working tools.

Brother Charlie was due to join St Giles for the BIG meeting at Grand Lodge in London held during September 2021. However, his partner contracted covid so he was unable to attend. Although disappointed to miss the



BIG meeting, Charlie was finally initiated in January 2022. Since joining St Giles Charlie has been keen to learn ritual and has faultlessly presented many parts of the ceremony that most do not present until later in their Masonic career.

Charlie is a very popular Freemason around the Province and has delivered ritual and speeches to other Lodges that have impressed many. After the meeting we were joined at the festive board by over 30 guests for an enjoyable meal together.

Recognition for outgoing Master

It was a most pleasing occasion for W Bro David Sawyer, the Founding Secretary and now the Chaplain of the Eric Deung Lodge No 9695, to visit W Bro Ian Nicholson in his home in order to present a Token of Recognition to W Bro Ian for his Services to the Lodge as the Worshipful Master for the two years spanning March 2021 to March 2023.

Unfortunately W Bro Ian has not been well during the last few months and therefore was unable to attend the Installation meeting of his Successor.

W Bro David found Ian to be very positive in spite of the all too regular hospital visits

required at the present time!

However, W Bro Ian suggested that he certainly would need to 'christen' the Engraved Silver Pewter Tankard that evening at - yes - 9.00 o'clock!

The Lodge Members, and all those who know W Bro Ian from Winslai Lodge are holding Ian and his family in their thoughts and prayers at this time.

Sadly, since this article was written, Worshipful Brother Ian has now passed to the Grand Lodge above.



Chris Gillies talks about his passion for sport

I am a member of the Golden Fleece Country Pursuits Lodge 4739. Outside of work and Freemasonry I am a Karate Instructor, and have been training for around 50 years. I am currently 5th Dan having competed Nationally, Internationally, and at World Championship level with our organisation, Shotokan Karate-Do International Federation (SKIF) Japan. I have been enjoying teaching adults and children for around 30 years in my spare time.

The photos are of my grading and training in Tokyo under the scrutiny of our Chief Instructor Worldwide, Master H Kanazawa, 10th Dan, to the left of the photo). The other, Karate related, image was at a National Championship prior to covid.





Very successful Provincial PSA Testing Session in Slough and Bletchley

During the month of June the Province held two very successful PSA Testing Sessions, with almost 200 members and friends attending. Regular testing of your PSA level can indicate that some further investigation may be required into the condition of your prostate.

Early detection of prostate problems is essential for successful treatment.

Those attending our Provincial Sessions are offered the opportunity to become part of a nationwide screening programme managed by CHAPS (Men's Health Screening Charity) and Tackle (Tackle Prostate Cancer)

Results are usually available the following day and, depending on the result, further action may be recommended. This may include a special MRI scanning programme.

We team up with the Graham Fulford Trust, which provides the phlebotomists and test administration for our sessions. Our sessions have become a regular social gathering and many members are accompanied by their wives/partners and family, all enjoying complimentary refreshments.





Hero To Zero

An evening with Paul 'Tug' Hartley GM

On Friday 28th April 2023 the Household Division Lodge held its regular meeting at Slough Masonic Centre.

The final meeting in the Lodge's Masonic calendar before the installation saw the Worshipful Master Adrian Martin and his officers carry out the third degree ceremony for both Bro Martin Yeomans, former Life Guards, and Bro James Nash, former Scots Guards. The 65 Brethren in attendance witnessed additional aspects of the ceremony including "Yonder Book" carried out by the Senior Warden, W Bro Danny Cummins, as well as Ecclesiastes Graveside Address carried out by guest of the Lodge W Bro Roger Tomlinson.

Following the ceremony, the Brethren retired to the bar and met wives, partners and friends of the Lodge, including a number of potential candidates. Eighty eight people sat down for a four course

dinner before the evening was handed over to Afghanistan veteran and George Medal Recipient - Paul 'Tug' Hartley GM. Tug had served in the British Army with the Royal Engineers, completing P-Company training before his parachute jumps course. He later transferred to the Royal Army Medical Corps as a combat medic, going on to complete the Serpent Medic Course, which enabled him to deploy alongside UK Special Forces across the world. Tug spoke of his time at Kajaki Dam, Afghanistan, with the Parachute Regiment in which he found himself in the middle of a minefield with injured friends around him. The actions in that minefield earned him the George Medal and was adapted for the screen with the movie 'Kajaki'. But Tug's story went beyond that incident! Tug discussed how the medal made him a hero in the eyes of the Army's hierarchy but dealing with own problems he felt he was less than that and ultimately



resulted in him feeling at his lowest point. Tug's story goes on to talk about how he rebuilt his life with his family and today finds himself in a different place; he isn't defined by a six hour period of his life, he is much more than this and the medal he was awarded.

Throughout the evening the generosity and charitable giving of those present made over £2000 for the Worshipful Master's chosen charity, Royal Star and Garter, as well as two charities that Tug is an ambassador for Hull 4 Heroes and Pilgrim Bandits.

HATS in Epernay

It has to have been a good trip when those on it want to book the hotel for the next year before they've set off on the return journey home, but that's how it was on the latest HATS champagne run to Epernay over the late May bank holiday weekend.

Numbers were reduced due to the lack of available hotel rooms in the town, so early booking paid dividends for the intrepid 8 champagne guzzlers who, with the benefit of local knowledge, took shameful advantage of champagne houses and vineyards willing to provide free tastings of some very fine champagnes. Of course, sometimes we had to pay for the occasional bottle or two but there are definitely worse ways to pass the days than sitting sipping champagne in the sunshine in the gardens of elegant houses on the Avenue de Champagne.

Of course, local knowledge isn't everything as Martin Wing found out when they turned up to a very smart restaurant only to be told he'd reserved a table for a month later - June 27. But Matt Perkins saved the day, successfully insisting the waiter at a nearby restaurant move six diners about to seat themselves at their table and add another two chairs for our group. Would you argue with a 6 ft 7 inch (2 metres) hungry Briton who'd spent the day in the sunshine drinking champagne?



clockwise from the front Webster Springer, Martin Wing, Denise Springer, Matt Perkins and his fiancée Sarah, Sue Smithson, Teresa Wing and Bill Smithson, after Matt had requisitioned the table



Florence Nightingale Hospice Briefing

The Briefing was held this year in a glorious historic Country House.

On the 24th May, W Bros Phil Blacklaw and Tony Robinson, accompanied by his wife Jean, attended the Annual Florence Nightingale Hospice Briefing, held at Nether Winchendon House. The weather was as glorious as the venue and we were able to sit outside in the sunshine and enjoy a delicious afternoon cream tea. This was followed by a presentation by two of the FNH staff on the



support services provided by their organisation.

Our thanks go to Liza Brissenden-Hemstock for keeping us fully aware of current events at FNH.





Provincial Grand Charity Steward Mark Duncan at the opening of the Pirate Ship at the Rainbow Preschool in Winslow.

Rainbow Pre-School Pirate Ship Opening

On behalf of Buckinghamshire Freemasons, it was my great pleasure to attend the official opening of the Pirate Ship at the Rainbow Pre-School in Winslow.

Bucks Freemasons gave £5,000 towards the cost of it. I was told that several teachers have husbands that are local Freemasons, which means that they know about Freemasonry and how we collect and distribute our funds.

I was talking to the Headmistress Samantha Dimpleby, a Parent Governor, Adam King, and the school business manager, Karen Francis, who all echoed how amazed and grateful they are by the way in which Freemasons have contributed

towards their playground equipment, shown. I was shown around the facilities before the children did a mutinous takeover of the ship in true Pirate style. I have never been in the company of such well-dressed and friendly Pirates, they all made the effort to dress up and knew all the words to the sea shanties.

This is another example of what can be achieved by the generosity and munificence of all our Masonic links. Staff, parents, grandparents and children never stopped coming up to me to express their thanks and appreciation for what WE have done for them.

This is a classic example of how the generosity of Freemasonry has benefitted one of our local schools.



I was very proud of our brethren today, as I always am when I attend on your behalf. You should also be proud, as together we make a tremendous difference to a lot of people's lives.

Thank You

Mark Duncan

Provincial Grand Charity Steward

Bucks Masonic Fishing Charity



Events at Stowe School and Cublington

The Bucks group of the Masonic Fishing Charity has enjoyed two very successful days fishing and entertained pupils from Stoney Dean School and Chalfont Community School.



W.Bro. Tony Robinson, and his wife Jean, on BBQ duty!

Our first day out, on Saturday 3rd June, as part of the Public Schools Lodge's Council Festival event, held with the Stowe Lodge at Stowe School, and fishing in the Octagon Lake. This was held on a Saturday so the pupils were accompanied by their parents as well as staff. There were plenty of fish being caught and the parents were as excited as their children when the floats started bobbing up and down!



W.Bros. Steve Blair, Derek Watts, Mary Blair and W. Bro. Dave Hollis

The second event was held at Lakeside Fisheries, Cublington, with pupils from Chalfont Community School. A well-stocked lake provided a superb days fishing and there was a constant cry of excitement as fish after fish was caught and landed.



Parents excited and eagerly taking pictures of their children.

These days could not go ahead without the volunteer organisers, casters, BBQ catering crew and the teachers. All of whom have our sincere gratitude for their support.

We are always looking for more casters and support helpers, if you would like to help please contact Paul Sambrook via email psambrook@talktalk.net or Steve Blair via email w1scblair@icloud.com or Dave Hollis via email at davejhollis@gmail.com

Supporting Slough Food Bank



Bro Preston delivers.

Slough Masonic Centre:

With the rise in food inflation to over 20% this year, the work of food banks has become more critical in enabling disadvantaged families to have regular and nutritious meals.

Following on from work providing hot meals for the homeless and child carers during lockdown and marshalling at the Covid vaccination centre, the Slough Masonic Centre's response to this was to adopt the Slough Food Bank as a sponsored charity under the Freemasonry in the Community banner for 12 months, with the professed aim of making a difference to individuals within the community in which it operates.

A collection box suddenly then appeared in the entrance lobby for individuals and Lodges to place food donations into and Lodges and Chapters were contacted asking them to encourage their members when attending L of I's, C of I's and meetings, to drop-off an item or two. The box is clearly marked and is now regularly emptied. In fact, by its second week more food was collected at the Centre than was left at the Taplow Tesco collection point.

Heatherden Lodge:

Heatherden Lodge 7345 were recently called upon to assist Slough Food Bank with critical items on their list. Bro Preston Brooker is one of the designated drivers for the foodbank, and it was through Bro Preston that the appeal was made on 16th May.

As Heatherden had their next regular meeting due on Saturday 20th May, a "call to arms," was made on the Lodge WhatsApp group to bring items to Slough Masonic Centre that day. The brethren of Heatherden rose to the challenge and provided numerous carrier bags filled with the critical items, along with others that are always needed. Bro Brooker delivered the items to the Slough Food Bank warehouse after enjoying the festive board, having acted as Inner Guard for a double initiation.

Laura Cole, manager of Slough Food Bank commented:

'Thank you for your generous donation of 47kg food to Slough Foodbank. It is much appreciated and all goes towards helping those in need'.



Nadia Madarbukis, Slough Tesco's coordinator for charity donations, Martin Wing, Preston Brooker and Gary Strickland from Heatherden Lodge, fashionably attired in their dayglo Freemasonry in the Community hi-viz jackets whilst collecting from the Slough Tesco store.



Foodbank Item List

FOOD:

Urgent:

Tinned Fruit
Tea
Long-life Fruit juice
Tinned Carrots
Instant Mash
Sponge Puddings
Pasta Sauce

Always Required

Tinned Fruit
Tinned Fish
Coffee
Long-life Milk

TOILETRIES & BASIC ITEMS

Urgent:

Washing up Liquid
Toilet Rolls
Deodorants
Shampoo
Shaving Foam / Gel

Always Required

Toothpaste
Shower Gel / Soap
Strong Carrier Bags



Commonly referred to as BMCF, the Buckinghamshire Masonic Centenary Fund was first set up in 1991 with the objective of helping non-Masonic Charities, groups or individuals within Buckinghamshire.

The donations are completely funded by Buckinghamshire Freemasons and are awarded to good causes who receive little or no assistance from national charities. The BMCF is a great example of Freemasons caring for the local community.

A few examples of requests that have been awarded with recent donations from BMCF are included in this Concord Magazine and it is only due to the generosity and kindness of many Buckinghamshire Masons that many more have been and continue to be funded.

It is planned that future projects will be included in the Concord Magazine to make transparent where your donations are being received.

All requests are fully considered by the Centenary Fund Committee consisting of 8 members who are all Freemasons. This ensures donations are only made to genuine needs and where they can be most effectively used. The qualifications of our awards are:

- Non-Masonic charitable causes dealing with poverty and distress with strong Buckinghamshire connections.
- Specific projects or facilities rather than general appeals or requests to fund routine activities.
- Buckinghamshire charities that deal solely with causes in Buckinghamshire.
- Buckinghamshire charities that also have connections in adjacent areas
- Individual causes within Bucks or individual cases outside Bucks only if there is a strong Buckinghamshire connection.

Charity is famously very close to a Freemasons heart and if your Lodge is not already supporting this great cause we appeal to all Masters, Charity Stewards, Secretaries and Masons to consider donating to the BMCF where every donation can make such a difference to the benefit of those that are so deserving of our assistance.



Action4Youth, first set up in 1994 in Aylesbury, opened a Youth Centre in High Wycombe in 2021 and are requesting support for a Music Studio there. They open 7 days a week and offer crisis support for disadvantaged people between the ages of 12 to 19 and includes counselling and mentoring, fitness and wellbeing, photography and the music studio. There are currently two music sessions for up to 30 young people at a time and the grant is to help with new equipment so that these sessions can be increased to 7 days per week.

BMCF have Donated £1,500 to this Charity to enable them to buy more equipment and support their planned expansion



Keeping Kids Off The Streets

was started in 2016 to offer free Football and Boxing classes at sixteen sites in and around Milton Keynes and is currently helping over 500 children a week by guiding them, instilling discipline, respect and good manners. This is a very popular and worthwhile project with more children joining every week.

BMCF have funded this project with £2500 towards a new High Platform Boxing Ring to help further expansion.



K.K.O.T.S.
KEEPING KIDS OFF THE STREETS
& HELPING THE HOMELESS

The Lady Ryder Memorial Gardens

opened in 2012 in Freith, helping Children and Adults with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or Dementia to learn and enjoy gardening through working with volunteers in a relaxing atmosphere including a sensory garden. This helps to build self-confidence and esteem.

They supply fruit, flowers and vegetables to the local community and the Retreat House nearby and any surplus is delivered to "One Can Trust" foodbank in High Wycombe.

BMCF have donated £2,000 to The Lady Ryder Memorial Gardens to support the project.



Al's Pals is a charity set up in 2019 to support Cancer Patients in Milton Keynes and the surrounding areas in Hospitals, Hospices and now face to face support at Home in the Community using specially trained volunteers. This improves patient confidence and wellbeing with emotional support to reduce anxiety and worry as well as practical help and respite care.

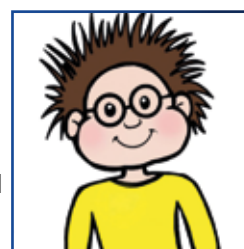
BMCF have supported this Charity with a grant of £1200 specifically to expand their Home Support Services which have involved 50 patients over the last year



Scruffy and Uffy have published nine previous Giant Print and Braille books since 2019 and the latest will be "Dexter and Gracie Live on the Moon" which will be published by their son Dexter Ward in August 2023.

Dexter is a visually impaired (VI) eight year old with bilateral congenital glaucoma and Gracie his partner on the moon is deaf/blind and the story is about their adventures to entertain and educate other children with similar disabilities.

BMCF have donated £2,000 to enable an initial print run of 300 books to be published and distributed.





Left to right: Assistant Provincial Grand Master W Bro John King, the Mayor of Aylesbury Cllr Tim Dixon, the Mayoress of Milton Keynes Cllr Amanda Marlow, RW Provincial Grand Master Bro John Clark, the Mayor of Slough Cllr Dilbagh Parmar, the Mayoress of Slough Mrs Amarjit Parmar and Assistant Provincial Grand Master W Bro Matthew Eaton.

Freemasonry in the Community and the Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund BMCF



Caption here?

The BMCF invited local charities along to celebrate their awarded donation and to talk about the impact that it has had on them. It was very well attended by more than 60 people including members of our Executive and 3 Mayors.

It was a fantastic day which was held at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Aylesbury on Sunday, 2nd of April. There were a few laughs and some tears as well from the stories that were told.

Since its inception in 1991 the BMCF has given away 1.4 million pounds, not too shoddy for what is itself a 32-year-old registered charity.

The average for those of you that are good at maths is £44,000 per year over the entirety. The BMCF gives grants or donations solely to non-Masonic charities which must have strong Buckinghamshire connections.

W Bro Andrew Hough organised the very successful day which was the conclusion of a 10-year tutelage of him being the secretary. He will now hand over the reins to W Bro Tim Anders who has a tough act to follow and big pair of boots to fill. A great Hoorah, as all who attended congratulated Andrew on his 10 year tenure and agreed that it was one hell of a day to conclude on. Thank you to all that attended and congratulations to W Bro Andrew Hough, Past Grand Standard Bearer on staging an excellent finale.



Caption here?



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Fundraisers from Denham Garden Village, Jenny Message (left) and Janice Barlow receiving the cheque for £800. Lodge members also present, clockwise, Derek Kemp, Derek Thacker and Kevin Mitchell.

Denham support Food Bank

Denham Community Support was initially started as a community response to the 2020 Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic.

A Group of volunteers came forward to offer their services and support to neighbours and residents of Denham who were struggling to get their prescriptions or their shopping, all aided by a Telephone Helpline. It soon became apparent that families were also struggling to put food on the table and so Denham Food Bank was established. Initially financial support was assisted by Denham Parish Council and Bucks County Council, but it now relies solely on general public food and money donations. For information about Denham Food Bank and Denham Community Support go to: www.denhamcommunitysupport.co.uk

The £800 has been raised as the result of the generosity of Denham Lodge. A recently held ladies festival contributing £700; and a further £100 raised by Kevin Mitchell when he acted as DJ for an entertainment evening. On behalf of Denham Lodge, Derek Kemp comments: "charity has always been a core principle of Freemasonry and our members make an important contribution at a local and national level every year. The organisation is one of the largest charitable givers in the country, raising many millions a year for deserving causes. But it is not only about donations, more than 18 million hours of volunteer work are undertaken by Freemasons every year as well." Denham Masonic Lodge is a friendly Lodge which meets four times a year in the Village Hall at Denham Garden Village.

New members would always be welcome and to find out more please contact Kevin. His email address is Kevinmitchell7571@yahoo.com

By way of compensation for disrupting the weekly bingo sessions Denham Lodge will donate £20 towards the bingo jackpot at every future Lodge meeting.

Industria Lodge 5214

The 2023 Masonic season for Industria Lodge has been another successful year with our main donations going to our chosen worthy charity, Domestic Abuse Stops Here (DASH), which we have supported continuously for a number of years. Christmas last saw our campaign effort to buy presents for both children and parents who are in refuge homes mainly around Slough and Windsor areas, although



DASH CEO Nicola Miller with a few of Industrias donations

there are refuge homes further afield too. This year staff at DASH, of which there are many volunteers, were on the wish list, so they also received some help from us. Moving along to Easter season, we used funds raised at past Festive boards to buy Easter Eggs for the children, these were delivered to staff who distributed to the families in need.

Later this year as the Masonic season re starts for us in October, all Lodge members hands will be on deck as we prepare to present a very exiting charity concert in the form of an afternoon of Hot Jazz and Dance Music from the late 1920's and the 1930's performed by the extremely popular and famous 'Pasadena Roof Orchestra' at the Winston Churchill Theatre in Ruislip. To secure a suitable venue to suit all requirements it has been necessary to step over the border into Middlesex, where you will be assured of a great afternoon's entertainment. The date is October 8th at 3pm, this date follows the Buckinghamshire Provincial Meeting and so you will be able to enjoy a whole weekend of Masonry in its finest form. I hope to organise both a Masonic and a DASH presence on the day.

As we progress through summer with its excellent weather so far, we use the time to enjoy family bonding and holidays. Once again, a massive thank you to all who make my money raising task a little easier. See you all in October!



Easter Card to Industria from DASH Children

Hits and humour from the 20s & 30s including tunes from Duke Ellington, Irving Berlin,
Cole Porter & George Gershwin – performed by the Rolls Royce of Dance Bands

The Pasadena Roof Orchestra



BACK ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Sunday 8 October 2023
3pm

Box Office

Tickets £25.00

W: www.hillingdontheatres.uk T: 01895 250615 Winston Churchill Theatre, Pinn Way,
Ruislip HA4 7QL Presented by Industria Lodge part of Freemasonry in Buckinghamshire
Tickets also available at Slough Masonic Centre.



Walkers brave summer storms to raise over £20,000 for Florrie



Fundraisers with Florrie the Bear and Dept Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire



Nearly fifty walkers, led by Buckinghamshire Freemasons, completed a 50-mile cross country trek last weekend in spite of heavy rain, nettle fields and gale-force winds to raise over £20,000 for the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity.

The Pilgrims' Walk covered much of north Bucks, starting in Newport Pagnell on Friday morning and passing through Winslow and Hardwick before finishing at the Bletchley Masonic Centre on Saturday afternoon.



Florence Nightingale

HOSPICE CHARITY



From left: Sue Smithson, Bill Smithson, Lee Lloyd, Paul Brissenden Hemstock, Kerry Beet and Ewan Gordon

Bill Smithson, Director of Ceremonies for the Buckinghamshire Freemasons joined the walk on day two for a short stint. He said *"I'd never heard of a fully medical 'cuddle bed' until this fundraiser started, and a month ago I'd never really considered my own mortality."*

In my own contemplation of 'meeting my maker' I never thought it was going to be now; unlike those who enter Florence Nightingale Hospice.

So, to be able to think that a determined group who faced the most horrendous weather on Friday, got back up and did it all again Saturday can rest well today, knowing they have given the most unfortunate among us, a gift of love and dignity in their last hours."



A 'Cuddle Bed,' a hospital-style double bed that will enable spouses and children to sleep in the same bed adjacent to their loved ones in their last days and hours, will be purchased with the funds earned via public contributions and during freemasons meetings.

Hospice fundraising manager Lee Lloyd supported the walkers on both days.

He said: *"Thank you so much to Buckinghamshire Freemasons for preparing so well for this event. Pleasure walking with you all, albeit for only part of the route. Memories of the rain on the Friday, and seeing you all emerge, drenched but smiling, from the field in Thornton will stay with me for a long time. This money raised will provide a much needed and well received resource to our hospice".*

Local Freemason Captain Bill Holland oversaw all of the planning and preparation, which included lots of training treks and several dry runs of the course.



We'll let the Captain have the final word: *"Today, I am feeling very humbled and emotional by this group of amazing people who donated, supported and walked the Pilgrims Way for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity."*

BLOOD BIKER

By Day, W Bro Paul Lear plies his trade as a mortgage broker, but several times a month he now dons his Hi-Viz and reports for duty as a blood biker. We asked Paul why he volunteers for the charity and how it fits in with Freemasonry.

Paul, who is a founder member of the Bucks Motorcycle Lodge, DC of Bucks Emergency Services Lodge and an active member of the Widows Sons' Masonic Bikers Association (WSMBA), wanted to give something back and given these links decided to bring both these interests together by joining the blood bikers. You feel you are really doing something important and potentially saving lives.

Masonic Lodges have always been regular contributors to the Blood Bikers, having previously funded a bike and supported the charity's ongoing costs. WSMBA is also a regular contributor. But Paul's personal interest was first sparked when he was marshalling at the Reading Toy Run and there were blood bikers there as escorts. The first stage of his journey was to qualify as an advanced rider via the IAM. He then had to join a waiting list until a slot opened up. In May this year he was invited for an interview. Having passed this, he embarked upon the training programme which consists of a day in classroom training, followed by navigation runs and then finally a bike familiarisation session. He completed the training in June and did his first run almost as soon as he qualified due to a shortage of available riders. His first ride was tiring, starting at 7pm in the evening and not finishing until 2.30 the next morning having delivered to Milton Keynes and Northampton hospitals.

Blood bikers have to be available for 3 shifts in a row each month and are generally on call outside normal hours - taking over to support the NHS overnight and 24/7 at weekends. Paul volunteers with SERV-OBV (Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers - Oxfordshire, Bucks and Northamptonshire) which by coincidence is chaired by fellow mason Bro Kamran Irani, an Oxon mason, and joining member of the Bucks Motorcycle Lodge and WSMBA.

This area centres on the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford and deliveries can be to all



the hospitals in the area from as far south as Reading / Slough up to Kettering in the north. The bikers transport blood, platelets, together with medical samples from community hospitals and donor breastmilk for premature babies. This vital service relies totally on funds raised by the charity to keep going and

fund the bikes, many of which now have over 100,000 miles of regular use on them, and bikers even pay for their own 'blood hi-viz' jackets. Being a volunteer rider can be pretty full on but it is a commitment Paul feels is in keeping with the ethos of Masonry and he hopes to have many more years of service.



On Saturday 22nd July the Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge enjoyed a hugely successful Installation meeting. Almost 60 Brethren were present to see Colin Scottow aka 'Beemusup' installed as Master in a wonderful ceremony performed by Giorgio Guarino aka 'AWOL', assisted by Gary Brodie aka 'Back to Front'.

Afterwards the Brethren enjoyed their customary hearty 'Slough Full English' at a vibrant festive board where the raffle raised £350 which was duly presented by the RW Provincial Grand Master aka 'No Nonsense', a member of the lodge, to Kamran Irani the head of the area 'Blood Bike' group. The lodge now makes such a donation on an annual basis to what is a very deserving cause.

The next meeting of the Lodge will see both a banner dedication performed by the visiting Provincial Team and a third degree ceremony which will benefit from the new sound and lighting system provided by the Provincial 'Transform' initiative.

If you are a biker or just have an interest in bikes or if you would just like to attend a different but extremely enjoyable meeting, please come along to Slough Masonic Centre on Saturday 9th September, you can be sure of a warm welcome. Brrrm Brrrm !!!

For details of the next Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge meeting contact Gary Brodie at; garybrodie@btinternet.com



Visit to the Ride High Charity



Phil Blacklaw and I went to visit the Ride High Charity to see the impact of the MCF grant of £15,000 which will be spread over the next 3 years and was given on behalf of Buckinghamshire Freemasons.

This is one of many local Charities where our festival money is donated. This proves, if proof were needed, that our 6 years of fund raising and giving to the festival did not go in vain. This would be a worthy local charity for newly installed WM's to support with a

donation as they are in Milton Keynes. The fee for just one child is £4,500 and for that they get to sign up for a whole 12 months of horse-riding lessons. The charity specialises in supporting young, disadvantaged children and they don't just get to ride horses all day, they also help with mucking out, washing, brushing and feeding them.

They also get involved with arts and crafts and scientific experiments and they eat on site. Volunteers from Ride High also pick every student up from their home and return them back again. It was a truly humbling experience to have been in their company and

to have a guided tour of the premises.

They offer to do talks to Lodges and will happily come along to one of your white table events to explain in more detail just exactly how beneficial they are for these youngsters.

If you would be interested in such a visit or talk then, please email me and I will give you their contact details.

Mark Duncan
provghstwd@buckspgl.org



The Large Conifer blocking the light through to the windows.



Danny Peacock is photographed with his employee, not a Mason but ironically name Lewis.

Freemasons answer a call for assistance

Earlier this year, when a call was put out on Facebook for gardening assistance at the Prebendal Close Masonic Housing in Aylesbury, we had immediate responses from two worthy Masons.

Danny 'The Tree' Peacock from Cestreham Lodge 6674 immediately offered the services of his Company to help us by removing a very large conifer which was both blocking light to resident's flats and potentially damaging the drainage system.

Then Lee Richards of Stokenchurch Lodge 6438 asked what his property management Company could do to help. He visited and made some great suggestions in the Secret Garden section created by Sheila, a 91 year old resident, during the Covid lockdown. Thanks to Lee a number of features were added to both

enhance the appearance of the garden, to improve safety and increase accessibility.

Both Danny and Lee in a truly Masonic way, not only shared their expertise but more importantly and valuable, gave freely of their time. Lee even persuaded his wife and daughter to come along and to help out!



Sheila in the Secret Garden she created during the Covid Lockdown



Adding extra features to the garden

Response from Lee Richards

Right: Lee Richards is photographed with his wife Debbie and daughter Annaliese. Lee came into Freemasonry on the Big Sunday initiation



Dear Mark,

Thank you for your e-mail, it was a great pleasure to be able to assist with the garden project at Prebendal Close. My family and I enjoyed meeting the residents and staff and it is a delight to know that the residents are pleased with the results and will enjoy the gardens in the lovely sunshine we have been enjoying recently.

It was great to work with Sheila and Peter and just a great opportunity to do something nice and make a difference. At the same time it is a privilege to be representing Stokenchurch Lodge and the Buckinghamshire Province promoting Freemasonry in the Community, something that is very important to Stokenchurch Lodge in particular.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visits to Prebendal Close and I can honestly say that we were well looked after with tea, coffee, bacon rolls and even ice creams! If there is anything we can assist with in the future please feel free to contact us.

May I also take this opportunity to thank you, the Provincial team and the members of Stokenchurch Lodge that made the day possible on the 12th September 2021. It was a very special day and an experience that I will remember and cherish for all time. I am thoroughly enjoying my Masonic journey and with the support of the brethren in Stokenchurch Lodge this has allowed me to develop myself in so many ways.

Yours Sincerely and Fraternally

Lee Richards
Stokenchurch Lodge 7438



The Autism Early Support Centre (Registered Charity No: 1141868) helps with early intervention and specialist nursery care and outreach services in Buckinghamshire to meet the needs of those suffering communication difficulties including Autism. This includes care in our nursery, families at home and parental portal

BMCF have donated £3,150 to help support this project and have recently received the following Testimonial :-

On behalf of everyone at Autism Early Support, thank you for your generous donation of £3,150 from the Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund. Your support is greatly valued and appreciated. Please accept this letter as a receipt of your donation and confirmation we will spend the donation on the IT equipment detailed in our application (excluding the licences).

"I don't even know where to begin when talking about The Circle Centre – our lives have totally changed since our son joined. Not only has he been embraced, understood, and loved by the staff but so have we, as his parents. I remember standing by the gate on his first day with tears in my eyes at the relief I felt that we were able to have him attend a few days each week and Sarah, the CEO, telling me to soak up as much support as we could."

Gryff's Mum

Without supporters like you, we couldn't help local autistic children and their families – like Gryff and his mum – at our Circle Centre nursery and through our Outreach Services.

Thank you.

Ellie Walsh
Trusts and Giving Manager

Presentation of a Wheelchair

On a cold, wet and windy day in March at Winslow Bowls Club, it was once again my privilege to represent Buckinghamshire Freemasons at the presentation of a bespoke electric wheelchair to Debbie Russell, a long standing resident of Winslow.

The Freemasonry in the Community fund, on behalf of Winslow Masons, donated £1,000 towards the £8,500 cost. Debbie has complex medical issues and a normal wheelchair would just not be functional enough for her to continue her life without extreme difficulty.

She does not rely solely on state benefits and still works 5 days per week at RAF Halton in Bucks. She is driven there in a specially adapted vehicle and driven home again by a group of volunteers.

There were many others who donated in attendance including (pictured) Stephen Boardman from Winslow Rotary club and Dennis Corben from The Lions club of Winslow.

It was an honour to partake in the collaboration of 3 worthy associations and others, all working for the common good.

Freemasonry once again demonstrating and practising munificence, by remembering the obligation we all took in the North East Corner of the Lodge, thereby increasing somebody's quality of life without detriment to ourselves or connections.



Prebendal Close handover

Chairman Mark Duncan is pictured handing over the reins to the new Chairman Terry Stocker.

Mark has been on the local house committee of Prebendal Close since 2017 and took over as Chairman from W Bro Geoff Smith.

In March 2020 we had the first Covid 19 Lockdown and all the associated challenges that go with it. We have 33 flats within our facility which have been stoically managed, then on the 31st of October we had the second Lockdown, so a tough period for all. During those difficult times for residents, Mark put his heart and soul in to ensuring that everybody received the best possible support, a good example being organising meals for the most vulnerable. His 6-year commitment to the scheme has been absolute.

He has spent a lot of time on site supporting events and listening to concerns and strongly



left to right, Terry Stocker, Martin Clarke, Mark Duncan

championing the residents of Prebendal Close best interests to the Board of the Masonic Housing Association in London.

He takes all the best wishes from the residents and committee into his new role as Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

Denham Green goes gardening

W Bro Terry Porter received a call from Bro Mike Gorman saying that he had a major problem with his garden due to his serious medical conditions and that he had not been able to maintain his garden for many years.



From Left: W Bro Nas Haque Oliver Porter, Tom Porter, W Bro Paul Dixon, and W Bro Terry Porter, and also the WM of Denham Green Lodge and Paul's son, Lewis Dixon



Terry asked for volunteers from Denham Green Lodge and over the next three weekends, including the bank holiday, the 180 feet, very overgrown garden was cut down and disposed of.

Well done to the members and families who worked very hard. As you can see from the photos the garden was in a very bad state.



From left: W Bro Phil Harpin, Mrs Cynthia Watson and Mr Ian Summerfield

Lodge of St Barnabas MS donation

Following his year as Master of The Lodge of St Barnabas, W Bro Phil Harpin was pleased to be able to give a donation of £1,500 to Mrs Cynthia Watson and Mr Ian Summerfield on behalf of the Leighton Buzzard branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Cynthia's husband Peter was diagnosed with primary progressive MS in 1983 and this friend and neighbour was steadily robbed of his motor facilities by a disease that has no cure. Despite the trauma associated with this gradual and irreversible physical impairment Peter was sharp of mind and wit to the end, passing in 2022 around the time that W Bro Phil was installed into King Solomon's Chair. It seemed most fitting therefore that the MS Society be nominated as the charity of choice by the newly installed WM, particularly as Peter had chaired the local MS branch for several years, a position which Ian now fills. Such a change in a person's physical capabilities has a profound impact, not only on the individual but also on his or her family as well, and at branch level the MS Society provides both social and practical support to the affected parties as they come to terms with, and live with, the disease and the inevitable lifestyle changes that result.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE MASONIC C.P.S.A. V. GRAND MET.

Bucks Masonic Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot in aid of Aylesbury Vale Prostate Cancer Support Group, was held at Tittershall Lodge S.G. Kingswood west of Aylesbury just off the A41 on Saturday 20th May 2023.

The sky was blue as the sun shone down on the 40 attendees as they looked forward to a good day's shooting. This shoot was also a competition between Bucks Masons, and G Met. Masons who had sent along a five-man team. There were 17 guest shooters, and the rest were all masons; three from Monmouth and the five from G Met, the rest were all from Bucks which included three from the Slough Daylight Lodge No.9699, a newly formed Shooting Lodge.

The shooting started at 10am sharp, and went very well. Everyone enjoyed themselves with some very good scores being returned. At the end of the shoot all the shooters enjoyed a very good home-made burger in a bun, and a drink from the bar as they sat outside in the sun where the raffle and presentation was made in front of the club house. The raffle raised just over £200.

The trophies were presented to:

Lady High Gun:

Linda Pearce with a score of 44.

Guest Runner Up:

Cullum Mills 79.

Guest High Gun:

Paul Tilbury with a score of 90 which was the Highest score of the day.



Winning Bucks Team, Roger Tomkins, Dave Hollis, Phil Goddard.

Masonic Runner Up:

Dave Hollis 85 (Bucks).

Masonic High Gun:

Phil Goddard 86 (Bucks).

The team event, which takes the three highest scores from each team, was won by Buckinghamshire with a score of 243 out of 300. The three shooters for Bucks were Phil Goddard 86, Dave Hollis 85, and Roger Tomkins 72. G Met Recorded a total score of 219 out of 300 their three shooters were Dave Brown 81, John Perrin 75, and Bob Parry 63.

After the presentation Roger Gills thanked Mike Readman and his team at Tittershall for the great shoot and the lovely food they served up. He then thanked everyone for attending the shoot and supporting Bucks Masonic C.P.S.A. with this charity shoot. He then wished them a safe journey home.

THE SHOOT AND RAFFLE RAISED A TOTAL OF £440.00 WHICH WILL GO TO AYLESBURY VALE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP, THANK TO THE GENEROSITY OF THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THIS SHOOT.

Football's COMING HOME



Special interest lodges are thriving in freemasonry. In Bucks, we have some amazing and innovative lodges which cater for a range of interests including Rugby (Dagmar Lodge), Cricket (Lily Lodge of Richmond) and even Walking (Stephen's Lodge).

Football is one of the most watched and most participated sports in the country and there are a number of football lodges around the country. The Provincial Grand Master has asked the Provincial Executive to put a team together to consecrate a new lodge dedicated to the beautiful game.

Lodge consecrations are a very special event and to be a lodge founder is a rare and exciting prospect. We already have our first master, Gary Brodie, and our first wardens, Neil Robertson and Matthew Eaton but need other officers, lodge members and ideally new initiates in the pipeline.

Consecrating a new lodge enables the founders to decide on the format and style of the lodge, as well as introducing quirks and idiosyncrasies that make special interest lodges so exciting to attend.

If you are interested in becoming founder of the new Football Lodge, please email me on APGMJustice@buckspgl.org and we will be putting together an initial meeting.

It is hoped that we will also receive a presentation from the Football Lodge of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

