HALL STONE OBSERVER

Issue 7 November 2026

Welcome to the November edition of the Hall Stone Observer.

Brethren,

Reading through this edition of the Hall Stone Observer, I'm reminded just how much is going on across Buckinghamshire, and how much effort our members put into making it happen. Thank you to everyone who organises, supports or simply turns up and joins in. It all counts, and I'm very grateful. There's certainly plenty of variety in these pages. From Concorde's fiftieth anniversary celebrations to golf, clay shooting, brewery visits and the NECC's paintball afternoon, our members are finding all sorts of ways to get together and enjoy themselves. I can also confirm that the zip-wire across Twickenham was quite an experience!

It's great to see friendships developing between members of different Lodges, with families and friends joining in too. I've often said that I want our members to enjoy their Freemasonry, and these articles show that happening. The NECC's renewed programme is particularly encouraging, giving newer members the chance to meet people, get involved and feel part of the wider Province. Our involvement in the community is equally pleasing. The support for Florence Nightingale Hospice, Amersham's Silver Sunday and the 24-hour Womble-thon are good examples of members seeing a need and doing something about it. As Christmas approaches, New Urban Lodge's toy appeal and support for the Christmas Day lunch in Aylesbury deserve our encouragement. A present for a child or some company on Christmas Day can mean a great deal.

Our links with the Armed Forces also feature strongly, through the clay shoot, the forthcoming veterans' breakfast and Dougie's wreath-laying in Calais. As we approach Remembrance Sunday, I hope many of you will join your local communities to pay your respects. With our 2032 Festival now launched,



With our 2032 Festival now launched, there is much to look forward to. Let's bring that same enthusiasm to the years ahead, with ideas that get people involved, raise funds and give us plenty to enjoy along the way. Please keep supporting one another, trying something new and sharing what your Lodge is doing. These pages give us plenty to be proud of, and that is down to you.

Tim Anders
Provincial Grand Master of Buckinghamshire

Around the Province









2032 Festival Launches

A Festival is a Masonic fundraising appeal run by a Province in support of the Freemasons' Charity. Over several years, members of every Lodge, Chapter and Order come together to give, to raise money and to enjoy doing it. The money helps Freemasons and their families, and people in the wider community who are facing hardship.

What is BUCKS2032?

BUCKS2032 is the Buckinghamshire 2032 Festival Appeal, launched on 3 October 2026 by our Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Tim Anders, as Festival President. It runs for five years under the banner "One Journey, One Organisation, One Festival", following a last Festival that raised more than £2 million. Our ambition is to make this our greatest success yet. The Festival began with a soft launch in July this year, when seven riders from Buckinghamshire, led by our Provincial Grand Master, set off on a 24-hour challenge to cycle from Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street, London, to the Eiffel Tower in France, raising money for the Festival. It set the tone for what is to come: ambitious, a little crazy and done together. A quarter of everything raised comes home to Buckinghamshire to support local charities, and funds returned from the last Festival have already helped Florence Nightingale Hospice buy eight cooling units for its patients.

How can I get involved?

Give. Make a regular monthly donation or a single donation to the BUCKS2032 Relief Chest. Anyone who donates a qualifying amount becomes a Festival Steward and receives the Steward Jewel, with honorific levels from Bronze (£7 a month for 60 months) to Platinum (£22 a month). Every gift supports the Freemasons' Charity, and Gift Aid can be claimed in addition.
Give your time. If you can spare a few hours, there will be plenty to do, from helping at events and spreading the word in your Lodge to lending a hand with the Festival Team.
Take on something a little crazy. Our riders have shown what's possible. Dream up your own challenge, involve your family and friends, and have fun. The Festival Team can help with ideas, sponsorship forms and material.
Questions? Ask your Charity Steward, see the Festival FAQ, or email the Festival Team at bucks2032@buckspgl.org.





Zipping Along

On a crisp, chilly Sunday morning, the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Tim Anders joined eight fellow Bucks Freemasons for a rare and exhilarating opportunity to zip-wire across the pitch at Twickenham Stadium, the home of English rugby. The event was organised in support of Heart UK, a Maidenhead-based charity dedicated to helping people manage high cholesterol and raising awareness of its prevention Taking on the challenge alongside the Provincial Grand Master were W Bros Ashley Dunnicliffe and Peter Christer, and Bros Phil Morley, Herbie Kinsey, James Poole, Gonçalo Ferreira and Scott Jardine, all members of Marlow Bridge Lodge, together with Bro George Anders of Temple Manor Lodge. Between them, the team has raised an impressive £1,500 so far, with hopes of reaching their ambitious target of £3,000. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable experience, combining a little adrenaline with a great deal of goodwill for a very worthwhile cause. And, as for the descent itself, only one brave soul reportedly screamed all the way down!





A Flight to Remember







This year marked Lodge of Concorde's fiftieth year flying high, and has been marked by numerous events and days out across the Country. The final celebration of this milestone year came with a prestigious night out in London. The Lodge hosted drinks and dinner at the historic Royal Air Force Club on Piccadilly. The guests met for a drinks reception before going for a superb dinner in the truly beautiful Sovereigns room. After the meal WM Charles Noxon proposed toasts to the Royal Air Force and to 50 more years of success for the Lodge before the brethren and their guests retired to the bar. A truly unique evening for a truly unique Lodge.

Remembering the Fallen

This Remembrance Sunday, 8th November 2026, Freemasons across Buckinghamshire will join their communities to remember those who gave their lives in service. We warmly invite Brethren, families and friends to attend a local Remembrance service, stand with veterans and show our respect. Wear your poppy with pride. Last year Buckinghamshire Freemasons attended cenotaphs near our local Masonic Centres to pay their respects to the fallen. We look forward to seeing you. For more information, contact the Provincial Armed Forces Representative at afc@buckspgl.org or speak to your Lodge Secretary.



Florence Nightingale Hospice Calls for Help

During the recent spell of extreme summer temperatures, the hospice issued an urgent appeal for cooling units after temperatures inside the facility soared to around 35°C. For patients receiving palliative and end-of-life care, These conditions were extremely uncomfortable and created additional challenges for the hospice team, including the need to ensure vital medications were stored and used at the correct temperatures.. Bucks Freemasons provided a donation of £20,000, enabling the hospice to purchase and install eight cooling units., This donation has been made possible directly through funds donated by Buckinghamshire members to the 2032 Festival,





Amersham 100 Club

Amersham Lodge was incredibly proud to support this year's Amersham Silver Sunday, a wonderful occasion celebrating older people and recognising the valuable contribution they make to our local community. Through the generosity of our Amersham Lodge 100 Club members, we were delighted to donate £250 towards this fantastic event. The support didn't stop there, with members also providing new banners decorations to help make the day colourful, welcoming and memorable for everyone who attended. It's another great example of Amersham Lodge and our 100 Club members working together to support local events, bring people together and make a real difference where it matters. A huge well done to everyone involved in making this year's Amersham Silver Sunday such a special occasion

London to Paris RBL bike ride

Worshipful Brother Dougie Lacy of the Royal Thames Combined Services Lodge had the privilege of laying a wreath in Calais on behalf of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Buckinghamshire and its Freemasons.. The moving ceremony took place as part of Worshipful Brother Dougie's participation in the Royal British Legion's London to Paris Cycle Ride. The route takes riders from London to Dover before crossing to Calais and continuing through northern France to Paris. Along the way, participants pass through areas associated with some of the most significant battles of the First World War, including the Somme, where hundreds of thousands of lives were lost in one of the conflict's most devastating campaigns. He was joined at the ceremony by brethren from two other Provinces, and the accompanying photographs capture the dignity and poignancy of the occasion.







Future Events for your Diary

Supporting our Veterans



On Sunday 1st November Bucks freemasons will hold a Veterans breakfast at Slough Masonic Centre. The morning will be to remember the sacrifice of the fallen and to grow and develop the links between the Military and Freemasonry. Details are above, please just come along to support the event and do of course bring any veterans or serving personnel you may think would enjoy a free breakfast and a chance to pause and reflect.

Christmas Spirit





St Mary's Church in St. Mary's Square, Aylesbury will be once again opening its doors on Christmas Day to offer free Christmas lunches from 12 noon until 3pm, for anyone who may be in need, would appreciate some company, or simply doesn't want to spend Christmas Day alone, including Freemasons This heartwarming community event is now in its 20th year and is organised by Paul and Kim Walters, who are incredibly passionate about supporting the local community. Their dedication is truly remarkable; it is not uncommon for them to sell personal possessions to help fund this wonderful event. This year, New Urban Lodge has gone the extra mile, not only providing fresh seasonal produce but also contributing towards the purchase of the turkeys from a local farmer. We are also extremely grateful to the BMCF, which will help make this year's luncheon possible. All guests will be met and warmly welcomed by Bro Vito Iannelli (Buckingham 591) and myself, W. Bro Peter Marks (New Urban 6371). Our aim is simple, to ensure everyone feels welcome, valued and part of the community on Christmas Day.





Christmas Toy Appeal

With the festive season rapidly approaching, New Urban Lodge 6371 has launched its 2026 Christmas Toy Appeal in support of Inspire Bucks, an Aylesbury-based charity helping more than 4,000 vulnerable children in the care system across Buckinghamshire and beyond. Throughout the year, the charity provides Easter eggs, birthday presents and Christmas gifts to children who might otherwise receive nothing at these special times. The aim is simple: to ensure every child has something to look forward to and, most importantly, feels remembered and cared for. Sadly, many children could wake up on Christmas morning with nothing to open. Please help us make a difference by donating:, any kind lodge / personal financial donation, please use the following details:

Account name: New Urban Lodge 6371
Account number: 18010168
Sort code: 30-99-74
Payment reference: Xmas Toys

A Successful Open Day at Prebendal Close

Freemasons, family members and friends came along to discover more about this very special Masonic Housing Association sheltered housing scheme recently. The evening provided an opportunity for our visitors to look around the communal areas, including the large conservatory and beautifully maintained gardens, as well as viewing one of the residents' flats. Guests met a good number of the residents, and had a chat with the Scheme Manager and members of the Welfare Committee discussing the important role it plays in providing independent, supportive living. Of course, no Open Day would be complete without some food! The free BBQ and refreshments provided a great opportunity for everyone to relax, and enjoy the friendly community atmosphere at Prebendal Close.
For many of those attending, it was their first opportunity to see this scheme for themselves and to appreciate just what it has to offer. We hope the evening also helped raise awareness that this wonderful facility is available to Freemasons and their families and connections who may be considering their future living arrangements.
A huge thank you to Beverley, our Scheme Manager, the residents, Welfare Committee members and everyone who helped with the evening, and, of course, to all those who came along and made the open day such a success



The Bucks Womble-thon



Members of Freemasons in the community took part in a 24-hour litter pick around Aylesbury last moth. The womble wagon reached 19 areas in the 24 hours and in addition to helping clean up those areas, funds were raised for the local charity Youth Concern in Aylesbury.



NECC Pints....

the NECC had another successful event, this time at Chilterns Brewery in Little Marlow. The tour was both informative and engaging, really highlighting just how much effort, knowledge and expertise goes into producing each pint we enjoy. It was a chance to meet many new faces and enjoy some great conversations as we were shown around,. The food sampling was thoroughly enjoyable and really showcased the quality of local produce. The brewery itself was a great example of the importance of keeping things local and minimising waste. And the beer wasn't too bad either.







...And Paintballs

The NECC marked their relaunch with 20 members heading to Velocity Paintball in Slough for the first of a new programme of events. The aim is simple: to give newer members more opportunities to meet people, build friendships and enjoy Freemasonry beyond the Lodge room. They were joined by DPGM Neil Robertson and APGM Matt Eaton, while our Provincial Grand Master, Tim Anders, also came along to watch and support the event, sidelined because of a slight injury. The day comprised of three Red v Blue games including., Get to the Castle, Capture the Flag and Control the Post After a fiercely contested afternoon, Blue Team took the bragging rights with a 47–28 victory. Two successful trips to the castle, the flag captured and stronger control of the post helped Blue build a convincing lead. David Clark also picked up the Sharpshooter Award, with special thanks to Neil Robertson for acting as a very effective meat shield. A brilliant afternoon and, exactly what we want the NECC to be about: good fun, new friendships and bringing Masons from across Buckinghamshire together.







Amersham Heritage Day

Amersham Lodge recently took part in the Heritage Day in the town, A brilliant turnout provided, plenty of smiles, and lots of interest in Amersham Lodge! Itself with nearly 20 enquiries about joining or coming along to one of our future social events. By the end of the day the Lodge had:, Given away over 150 balloons!, Had nearly 6 mega tubs of sweets handed out!. And plenty of children enjoyed having a FREE go at the Splat the Rat! A huge thank you to everyone who stopped by, had a chat, joined in the fun, or simply came over to say hello It was great to be part of such a fantastic community day and we're already looking forward to the next one!



Bucks Masonic Golf Society

•The Bucks Masonic Golf Society descended on Aylesbury Vale for the Bucks Open Trophy, and once again the weather was kind and the course was in good condition The Bucks Open turned into a real nail-biter, with Paul Smith of Wendover Lodge eventually taking the trophy from Peter Smith of Observatory Lodge. Both players finished with exactly the same score, so it was down to that most cruel of golfing inventions — the countback. On this occasion, Paul came out on top. Congratulations to Paul on a fine win, while Peter can console himself with the fact that he didn't actually lose — he just ran out of holes! There was also another important piece of business to settle, as this was the final round of the Captain's Cup, which has been contested throughout the season. Going into the final day, at least six players still had a chance of lifting the trophy, so there was everything to play for. In the end, it was Peter Smith who emerged as the winner, with Ian Bonner finishing as a very gallant runner-up. Ian may have missed out on the League Cup, but he certainly wasn't going home empty-handed. He managed to win an extremely sought-after raffle prize and, to add insult to injury — or perhaps to improve his modelling career — he also picked up a very handsome hat!







Bucks Masonic Clay Shoot Hits the Mark







More than 50 shooters, many of them Armed Forces veterans came together for the Bucks Masonic Clay Pigeon Shoot at Common Leys Shooting Ground near Oxford, combining sport, camaraderie and fundraising in support of the military community. The day was organised in support of Bucks Military Masons and Bucks Freemasonry's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant. A major aim of the day was to bring veterans and members together, strengthen connections across the military Masonic community and give newcomers the opportunity to try something completely new. The day demonstrated what the Armed Forces Covenant is about in practice: bringing people together, creating opportunities, supporting veterans and strengthening the relationship between Freemasonry and the Armed Forces community. The event also raised more than £685 for Armed Forces charities, making it a fantastic day of fellowship with a meaningful purpose. A huge thank you to W Bros Phil Goddard and Dave Hollis, and Dougie Leacy as the armed forces rep who did a lot of work behind the scenes. Thanks also to everyone who helped organise the event, and the team at Common Leys Shooting Ground for making the day such a success.





Widows Sons do some Porridge

On Saturday 10th October, the brethren of Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge No. 9926 found themselves behind bars at the rather unusual venue of Shrewsbury Prison –although, thankfully, everyone was released for good behaviour! The occasion was our October meeting, held as part of the Marvels of Masonry celebrations, and it was a particular pleasure to have our very own member, RW Bro Tim Anders, Provincial Grand Master of Buckinghamshire, joining us for the day, along with visitors from other Lodges. The highlight was the initiation of our newest member, Bro Gyurel Chekick, who received a warm welcome into Freemasonry. Not many candidates can say their Masonic journey began behind prison walls, hopefully it hasn't put him off attending future meetings! Another particularly special moment was the unanimous election of W Bro Herbie Waser as an Honorary Member of the Lodge. Herbie is one of our founding members and was the Lodge's original Rider Master, spending many years organising our ride-out meetings and helping establish the unique character and camaraderie that make the Motorcycle Lodge what it is today. There was further cause for celebration when W Bro Kevin Ansell received the Freemasonry in the Community Award from the PGM in recognition of his excellent work with Hallstone Widows Sons chapter and the forthcoming Festival. The Lodge also agreed to donate up to £300 to Inspire Bucks to help disadvantaged children at Christmas, demonstrating that our enthusiasm for motorcycles is matched by our commitment to charity. With plenty of good humour, excellent fellowship and a rather unusual setting, it was another cracking meeting for the Motorcycle Lodge





