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David Blair



Mark Shields



David Cameron



Danny Ellis



Charles Overland

HONOURS FOR THE PROVINCE

The Province will have a new Deputy Grand Superintendent in the Royal Arch later this year, as well as new Provincial Grand Treasurer and Charity Steward in the Craft. In addition, there are first appointments and promotions in Grand Lodge and Supreme Grand Chapter.

VWBro. Pat Kilby is reappointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master while his new opposite number in the Royal Arch as Deputy Grand Superintendent will be EComp. David Blair, who has been reappointed to Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in Supreme Grand Chapter.

Our new Provincial Grand Treasurer is WBro. Mark Shields, of St Ovin Lodge, No. 7774, while WBro. David Cameron, of Nourse Lodge No. 8590, takes over as Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

Reappointed as Provincial Senior Grand Warden and Provincial Junior Grand Warden are WBro. Roger Billings, of Etheldreda Lodge No. 2107 and WBro. David Fountain, of Caldwell Lodge No. 3201.

In the Royal Arch, EComp. David Sowman, of St. Andrew Chapter No. 4087, and EComp. Paul Gillingwater, of Caldwell Chapter No. 2727, are reappointed to 2nd and 3rd Provincial Grand Principals respectively.

There is a first appointment to Craft Grand Rank for WBro. Danny Ellis, of St Andrew Lodge No. 4087, who will become a Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. Promoted is WBro. Jonathan Lambert, our Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, who becomes active Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

RWBro. Jonathan Spence, of Alma Mater Lodge No. 1492, is re-appointed as Deputy Grand Master, and VWBro. David Staples, of Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704, is re-appointed as Grand Secretary. WBro. Peter Brindle, of Kynaston Lodge No. 5810, is reappointed as Deputy Grand Sword Bearer.

In Supreme Grand Chapter, EComp. Charles Overland, of Etheldreda Chapter No. 809, receives a first appointment as Past Grand Standard Bearer.

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A message from the Provincial Grand Master

We are now approaching the end of our third lockdown and, I think we can now look forward to the rest of 2021 with increasing optimism. I hope to be able to write in early April with our latest recommendations for meetings based on Government and UGLE guidance. We may see smaller numbers allowed at the outset increasing as the months go by. However, no-one should feel pressured into attending if they are uncomfortable about meeting others.



One of the successes which has delighted me the most in recent times has been your adaptability and the novel and ingenious ways you have devised for keeping in contact with each other. Zoom meetings have proved an extremely useful tool and the Light Blues Club have had an exciting and innovative programme of events welcoming a special guest at each meeting. Well done to them and to everyone involved in arranging lodge or chapter Zoom meetings.

Congratulations to WBro. Danny Ellis and EComp. Charles Overland on their thoroughly deserved first appointments to Grand Rank in the Craft and Royal Arch, respectively, as well as WBro. Jonathan Lambert's appointment as an Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies plus two reappointments with WBro. Peter Brindle as Deputy Grand Sword Bearer and, in the Royal Arch, EComp. David Blair as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies..

We recently announced the Provincial appointments and promotions. Many of the active appointments are the same as in 2020 to give the recipients a chance to enjoy the ranks and serve the Province. There are, however, some changes with EComp. David Blair becoming Deputy Grand Superintendent in September 2021, WBro. Mark Shields replacing him as Provincial Treasurer and WBro. David Cameron being promoted to Provincial Charity Steward in the Craft. WBro Paul Gillingwater will continue as Festival 2023 Chairman.

We also have two new collared offices with WBro. Ian Hardman as Provincial Membership Officer and WBro. Mike Hinton as Provincial Communications Officer. It is good that UGLE has agreed to these new ranks, which also affords the Province the opportunity to recognise two brethren who were carrying out these duties so well over the last year or so. I should also like to thank those standing down; there will be plenty to say about their magnificent service in the coming months.

Whilst we may be over the worst as far as Covid is concerned, I am sure normality will not return as quickly as we would like. To give ourselves the best possible chance of holding full Provincial meetings this year, we have cancelled the meetings on 2nd July and re-arranged Provincial Grand Chapter for Thursday 23rd September and Provincial Grand Lodge for 21st October both at Wisbech St Mary. I am looking forward to both meetings and investing the new Provincial officers whilst also recognising those who were appointed or promoted this year and also in 2020.

I hope we can start to anticipate actual meetings soon, including some emergency meetings over the summer months to catch up on ceremonies and candidates.

Once the future is a little more assured, we shall relaunch Festival 2023 as we look to move closer to our target of £900,000. We have raised over £550,000 and have collected and committed funds of nearly £700,000. We have some way to go to our target, but I know we shall continue to enjoy the challenge and have fun as we embark on the final assault.

I must also congratulate you all on the magnificent response to the Digital Drive initiative to support young people. The results have been beyond my wildest dreams and shows what we can achieve when we work together; over 120 Raspberry Pis and 40 laptops provided to date which is fantastic, thank you so much. It reinforces the sterling achievements of Cambridgeshire freemasons in our local communities during the pandemic. There are more details on page 12.

Membership both in terms of recruitment and retention will be the other key focus as we return. I know our Provincial Membership team is looking forward to engaging with you as we roll out the UGLE pathway initiatives whilst the other UGLE IT initiative, Hermes, will also be introduced this year. You can read more about Hermes on page 13.

The prospect of three new lodges being consecrated in the next year or so is hugely exciting. I can also confirm the postponed Festival of Carols will now be held on 9th December 2022.

Brethren and Companions, we face huge challenges as we resume. We must be patient and considered in what we try to do but I know that collectively the Province will again demonstrate its quality, depth and resilience.

Bill Dastur

Volunteers support vaccination drive

With the United Grand Lodge of England encouraging its 200,000 members to roll up their sleeves and volunteer to help vaccinate the population, Cambridgeshire brethren are playing their part.



WBro. David Robertson, of Gild of St Mary Lodge No. 7288 in Cambridge, is volunteering at the large scale hub at the city's Grafton Centre. Speaking about his first shift, he said:

"It was the busiest day since opening the previous Thursday and we completed an amazing 350-plus vaccinations in the first session. Although very exhausting, it was absolutely brilliant to be involved and helping so many people at once to get protected. My role was to direct and control the public after they had been assessed for having the vaccination by a trained medical professional. This took about 10-15 minutes. Every chair and even the notices put on them then had to be fully sanitised after each use."

The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro. Jonathan Lambert, of Etheldreda Lodge No. 2107 in Newmarket, has been volunteering as a steward at the Lavenham vaccine centre in Suffolk. He said:

"Lavenham is primarily a drive-in centre so people arriving for their vaccines are registered in their cars and wait there until they are called in. This is managed by the stewards and so far the centre has been vaccinating 450-500 people per day. The overwhelmingly gratitude of the people receiving their vaccines has been the greatest reward for volunteering. To be part of that process has been fantastic and very worthwhile."



Bro. Steve Morgan, of Gild of St Mary Lodge No. 7288 in Cambridge, is volunteering at Cley Farm vaccine centre in Trumpington. He said "I have fulfilled the position of car park marshal. Standing in the cold for hours on end waving your arms about is not the most glamorous of jobs, but knowing that I am helping, albeit in a small way, to support the NHS beat this virus is fulfilling and it is better than doing nothing."

Bro. Lee Mitchell, of Caldwell Lodge No. 3201 in March, is helping out at the vaccination centre in Huntingdon. "I feel so privileged to work alongside other volunteers and health care professionals to deliver the vaccine."



WBro. Tim Cox, of Fenland Farmers Lodge No. 9933 in Whittlesey, is volunteering at the Springfields centre, in Spalding, Lincolnshire. He said:

"I'm very pleased to have had the opportunity to support the delivery of Covid vaccinations at Springfields centre. We have a great band of helpers and it is a joy to see the happy faces of those arriving to get their vaccinations, particularly the ones who have not been out of their homes since March 2020. It is heartening to see the daily vaccination totals rising steadily and before long we will be welcoming back those who are due their second jab. It really does feel like light at the end of a very long tunnel."

To help the NHS volunteers should sign up at:

<https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk>

Jonathan Cooper

£700,000 and a happy place!

More than £700,000 has been accumulated as 15th March signals the third anniversary of the launch of our Festival 2023. As the Province moves into the fourth year of the five-year festival, the actual and committed funds are a large slice of the £900,000 target set by our Provincial Grand Master back in 2018.

For those who wish to remind themselves of the launch event or view for the first time, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJlkq1VGWxY&t=2s>.

Can we consider ourselves to be in a happy place? Definitely, says Provincial Grand Charity Steward and Festival 2023 chairman, WBro. Paul Gillingwater PAGDC.

"It's through your combined generosity and application towards the Festival 2023 Appeal these past three years, that has greatly contributed to putting the Province in this very happy place," he said.

Hurdles imposed upon us during the past 12 months may have taken its toll on our planned fundraising efforts, yet, despite even this pandemic, members, Lodges and Chapters have not only been innovative with their support but also have responded to the new technology of electronic payments.



Using our Festival 2023 Digital Donations 'QR' code and its corresponding web link <https://gtap.uk/fest2023> has produced a most important and welcomed boost to our collections for the year of 2020.

"I am encouraged and pleased to see a trend by members taking up a new regular payment promise (RPP). With brethren committing affordable monthly or quarterly amounts, enabling them to contribute those missed donations they would have made during Lodge or Chapter meetings through alms collections, raffles or even across the bar," said Paul.

As we step off into the fourth year of Festival fundraising, let us all look to making it a year to remember in March 2022.

Paul Gillingwater

Top cricketer 'visits' Alma Mater meeting

A video Q&A session with top cricketer Sir Alastair Cook was the highlight of the Alma Mater Lodge No. 1492 virtual meeting on 27th February.

The session given by former England captain Sir Alastair was in connection with his autobiography, written in conjunction with Michael Calvin. Sir Alastair is the English batsman who has scored the most runs for his country in test matches, namely 12,472 at an average of 45.35, with 33 centuries.



Alastair answered a wide range of questions from members - here are some of his responses:

- What are your views on the psychology of dealing with stress? Mental toughness is essential in opening batsmen.
- Favourite cricketing venue? Lord's.
- Greatest personal achievement? Away victory in India in 2012/13 after 27 years (won 2-1) and away victory in Australia in 2010/11 after 23 years (won 3-1).
- Can current test team achieve number 1 status? Yes within two years.
- Advice to an England captain? Be yourself, trust yourself and listen to other people.
- How much longer will you play? Not known, but will play for Essex for at least one more year.
- Favourite batting partner? Graham Gooch.
- How do you switch off - Working on the family farm.
- What advice would you give to a young cricketer? You have to enjoy what you are doing. There will more times you fail than succeed.

At the conclusion of the video the Worshipful Master (pictured left, holding a copy of Alastair's biography) joined the meeting and thanked everyone for their contribution to a successful evening.

Peter Sutton

Recognition for Newmarket club stalwart

The recent death of WBro. Peter Brown occurred shortly after he stood down after serving 21 years as chairman of Newmarket Masonic Club. Peter's dedication and unstinting service was marked in October last year when he was awarded the Provincial Grand Master's Certificate of Service to Masonry.

At the recent annual general meeting of the club held via zoom, the committee of the Masonic Club decided his extraordinary dedication should also be marked. WBro. Roger Billings, Provincial Senior Grand Warden and incoming club chairman, presented Peter with an engraved silver salver.

The committee also chose to mark Peter's commitment by naming the dining room in his honour. Unfortunately due to ill health and the covid lockdown, Peter was unable to visit the club and, as a result, was also presented with a photograph of the new name plaque.

The members of the club and all of the lodges, chapters and other orders that meet at Newmarket owe Peter and his wife Jill a huge debt of gratitude for their dedication and hard work over two decades.

Jonathan Lambert



Good turnout for Light Blues event

More than 70 brethren enjoyed a talk about the 10 orders administered by Mark Masons Hall, hosted on Zoom by the Cambridgeshire Light Blues.

On 23rd February, the Light Blues welcomed WBro. Dan Heath AGStdB, of Granta Lodge No. 6179, who is the Assistant Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.



The talk was an explanation of the 10 Orders administered by Mark Masons Hall, these being Mark Master Mason, Royal Ark Mariner, Knights Templar, Knights of Malta, Red Cross of Constantine, Royal and Select Masters, Allied Masonic Degrees, Order of the Secret Monitor, Scarlet Cord and the Knights Beneficent of the Holy City. Dan then presented his talk in three sections, with a Q&A session following each section.

Brethren joined the zoom meeting from Cambridgeshire, neighbouring Provinces, Scotland, Portugal, South Africa and Swaziland.

The next CLB event is on 31st March when three guest speakers will give talks on 'The Three Degrees', 'Help with what you can say to a non-mason' and 'A quick introduction to Royal Arch Chapter'.

Adrian Peters

Grand Stewards come to Cambridgeshire

The Cambridgeshire Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards is hosting a Zoom gathering on 17th March when two Grand Stewards will talk about the role. Grand Steward is a quirky and historic office which dates right back to the formation of the original Grand Lodge in 1717. It has unique origins, duties and regalia - and even a dedicated Lodge with neither a number nor a warrant.

Starting at 7pm, the online presentation and talk will be delivered by two of this year's Grand Stewards - WBro. Mark Stollery and WBro Jonathan Lambert.

Paul Gillingwater

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89648919955?pwd=NkZ3aU4xZHLUNXdonUVHdjFCSk1Edz09>

Grant provides therapy kits

A local charity using arts-based therapies to support the wellbeing of children has received a £250 grant from the Masonic Charitable Foundation's Covid fund.

Blue Smile uses its therapies to unlock children's potential to learn and be happy. It supports children from aged three to 13 years, all with mental health issues, with arts and play based therapies.

Zoe Bunter, of Blue Smile, said: "We are very grateful for the support of Cambridgeshire Freemasons who have funded six Individual therapy kits for our children's 1:1 therapy, through the Masonic Charitable Foundation. This will ensure that Cambridgeshire children with mental health problems, who have also been affected by the pandemic, lockdown and school closures, can receive the expert support they need.

"To ensure that risk of transmission of coronavirus is minimised, each child that Blue Smile helps now needs their own therapy kit for use in school. These kits, containing art materials and toys, help children express and understand their feelings during their therapy sessions."

Through its partnership with schools, Blue Smile helps about 200 children, aged three to 13, each week with one-to-one therapy, but it didn't need that number of therapy kits, which each cost around £40. The kits contain items such as Play-dough, games, paints and brushes, coloured card, craft items, toy cars and puppets.

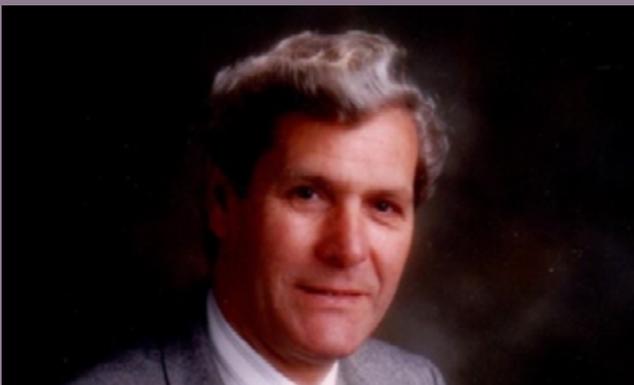
John Sinclair



Wisbech brother's double celebration

A stalwart of Wisbech freemasonry, who celebrated his 90th birthday in February, has achieved the landmark of 65 years in the Craft.

WBro. Bernard Lyons was born on 4th February 1931 in Aldershot and moved to Wisbech in 1933. He attended Wisbech Grammar School and started his career with G.A. Wheeler & Co in 1948 as an articled clerk. After serving as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Army Pay Corps in Edinburgh, he returned to accountancy and in 1970 was a senior partner in Wheeler & Co until his retirement. He enjoyed all sport, particularly boxing with over 100 bouts and only eight defeats. Bernard married Elizabeth in 1953 and they have two children - Ann and Margaret - and six grandchildren.



Bernard's Masonic career began on 5th December 1956 when he was initiated into The Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125. He became its Worshipful Master in 1967 and was appointed a Trustee of the Wisbech Masonic Benevolent Fund, staying for some 37 years during which time he was chairman for 10 years. He became Secretary of the Lodge between from 1971 to 1989 and then Charity Steward until 1995. He has been Mentor of Gild of Holy Trinity for a number of years. He joined Cambridgeshire Installed Masters Lodge No. 7427 in 1968 and served as Worshipful Master in 1989.

Appointed Provincial Grand Standard Bearer in 1974, he was promoted to Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon in 1979, Past Provincial Grand Treasurer in 1982, Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 1985 and Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 2020. He received the Provincial Grand Master's Certificate of Service to Masonry in 2011.

In the Royal Arch, he was exalted into Etheldreda Chapter No. 809 at Wisbech, served as First Principal in 1983 and Director of Ceremonies from 1993 to 2004. He was appointed to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Treasurer in 1986 and to Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah and Grand Treasurer in April 1987.

Andrew Clifton

Friends need support from Lodges

Covid restrictions have meant many charities have struggled to maintain their income, including the Friends of Cornwallis Court, the RMBI home in Bury St Edmunds, where the monthly coffee mornings have been suspended leading to a shortfall of about £200 a month.

The Friends of Cornwallis Court raise funds and administer help and comfort to the men and women residents at the home. The help ranges from paying for hairdressing to entertainment or supplying volunteer drivers and purchasing equipment such as wheelchairs and beds.

Some volunteers ensure the male residents regularly have masonic-orientated discussions, which, just before lockdown, even included an LOI session at Ashlar House when the response from senior masons was quite emotional.

Like all registered charities, the Friends are struggling to maintain income while continuing to have regular outgoings that are being financed from resources. Many lodges in the provinces of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk send a regular annual subscription. Those Lodges not supplying support are urged to send some small form of help.



There is no minimum or maximum figure, but if every lodge pledged £100 a year it would be well received and faithfully applied. Lodges may wish to try other forms of fundraising too. Individual masons can set up regular small donations.

Roger Florey

For details, contact the membership secretary: WBro. Roger Florey (pictured above):
(T) 01449 676927 (M) 07484 132321 membershipfriendsofcornwallis@gmail.com

Cambridge Aid receives £750 from Care & Relief

A local charity helping people in financial crisis has received £750 grant thanks to the Lodge of Three Grand Principles No. 441, in Cambridge, and the Province of Cambridgeshire Charity for Care & Relief.

A cheque for £750 was presented to Joel Limmer, chair of the charity Cambridge Aid by WBro. David G Cameron (representing Care & Relief) and WBro. Bob Hammett, Charity Steward for Lodge of Three Grand Principles.

Cambridge Aid is an established charity that has helped local people in financial crisis since 1880 by giving short-term financial aid to vulnerable people who have been referred via sponsoring organisations, such as Cambridge Citizens Advice. These grants can go towards food, clothing, tents, sleeping bags, warm clothes, and passport applications and smart clothes for job interviews.

"Christmas is a very difficult time for a lot of people and we're incredibly thankful to Cambridgeshire Masons for pulling together to offer support for people who are really struggling at the moment, especially in light of COVID's impact" said Joel Limmer, chair of Cambridge Aid.

WBro. Bob Hammett, Charity Steward of Lodge of Three Grand Principles, said: "The Lodge of Three Grand Principles is delighted to have organised this donation to local charity Cambridge Aid.

Many people need that extra bit of support during the cold winter months and we are extremely glad to be doing our part.– It's what Freemasonry is all about!"

Some 99.5% of all money donated to Cambridge Aid goes directly to those who need it. Details can be found at www.cambridgeaid.org.

Nick Knights



Community award for Lodge Secretary

A Lodge Secretary from March won the Sports in the Community category of the 13th annual Pride of Fenland 2020 awards, held in January.

WBro. Les Mills, of Caldwell Lodge No. 3201, received his award during a virtual ceremony recognising inspiring volunteers and groups who go the extra mile to support their communities.

The ceremony was due to be held in March 2020 at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre but, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the organisers, Fenland District Council and the Fenland Citizen newspaper, took the ceremony online to ensure the achievements of local people in 2019 and early 2020 were recognised.

The Sport in the Community category, sponsored by Freedom Leisure, was awarded to Les for his outstanding commitment to March Town Cricket Club and his local community over a number of years.

Cricket Club president and former chairman Les is a qualified cricket coach, welfare officer, umpire, Fenland Trophy Cricket League founder and much more. He has ensured that the club is seen as one big family, while also reaching out to members of the local community to offer sporting opportunities.

Cliff Brown



WBro David Leon Bays

Having celebrated 50 years in Freemasonry in April 2020, WBro. David Bays, a stalwart of Freemasonry in the Province of Cambridgeshire and particularly in Wisbech, passed to the Grand Lodge above on 9th January.

Born in 1933 in Wisbech, where he spent his childhood and early teenage life, David had three older siblings - Don, John (who also became a Mason) and Barbara. On leaving school he was called up for National Service, which he spent in Germany. After National Service he worked for the Wisbech printers, Balding and Mansell, before becoming a printing consultant until his retirement.

David and his wife Jan, who were married for 62 years, had two children, Rachel and Adam. For much of their married life, the couple lived at Tydd St Mary, where David was involved in many aspects of village life, particularly the church and village hall. Indeed, David was still cutting the grass in the churchyard until a few months before his death.



His Masonic career began in 1970 when he was initiated into the Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125 at Wisbech. He was installed as Worshipful Master in 1985, eventually being appointed Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden in 2008 and Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden in 2016. He was also a member of Cambridgeshire Installed Master's Lodge No.7421. He was exalted into Etheldreda Royal Arch Chapter No.809 and became its First Principal in 1992 and attained the rank of Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah.

David joined the Gild of Good Fellowship Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 141, becoming its Master in 1995 and attained the rank of Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden, and Wysbech Trinity Chapter Rose Croix No.822 where he was Most Wise Sovereign in 1993 and in 2006 was promoted to the 31st Degree. In 2007 he served as MWS of the Cambs and Isle of Ely Chapter Rose Croix No.1157.

From 2004, he was a member of the Trustees of the Wisbech Masonic Benevolent Fund and its chairman for the past 10 years.

Many will remember his cheeky smile, the wink of encouragement, his adherence to the signs of 6125, an ability to take on any position or recite ritual at short notice, his willingness to help others, along with his compassion, generosity, dedication as Almoner, knowledge, support and encouragement, and, of course, his friendship. His funeral was held in February at King's Lynn.

Andrew Clifton

The role of the Provincial Treasurer, WBro. David Blair

Since being appointed to the office it has become clear to me that the Provincial Treasurer is viewed as a cross between the Sheriff of Nottingham and Scrooge McDuck. After years of entering a room to a range of shouted epithets - some more complimentary than others - I thought the time was right to set the record straight and explain exactly what the job involves.

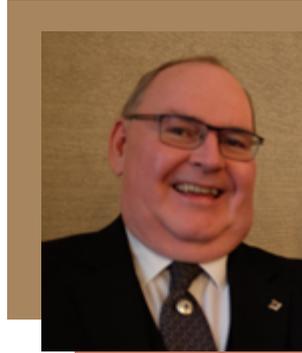
Of course at the heart of the role is managing the Provincial accounts. However, there are two other elements that I consider of particular importance.

The first of these is a plan to ensure that brethren within Cambridgeshire continue to enjoy outstanding value for money from their membership. This involves working with all the Provincial team to control costs while maintaining the quality of our events, publications and other activities. I regularly speak with the treasurers of neighbouring Provinces to compare experiences and to share best practice.

The second element is to safeguard the financial health of the Province so that resources are in place not only to meet our immediate needs but also to fund strategic projects which will support our future development.

As Treasurer, I am an ex-officio trustee of this Provincial Charity for Care and Relief, which supports Masonic and non-Masonic causes throughout Cambridgeshire. As a registered charity this part of the job is technically more complex than the Provincial Grand Lodge accounts and my role includes governance as well as financial management.

A more rewarding aspect is the consideration of grant applications with the other trustees and seeing at first hand the impact that our work as Freemasons has on the community. I also work with the investment team to manage our portfolio to ensure that the charity can continue to do its important work in the long term.



Although less prominent during the current Festival, the Provincial Building Fund is an important initiative that continues to receive regular income. We have a strong framework in place for the effective deployment of funds when circumstances dictate.

The last year has seen a lot of time spent with the executive, the Cambridgeshire Masonic Benevolent Association managers and the communications team to coordinate the various initiatives that the Province has supported in response to the Covid pandemic. My appointment as an ex-officio trustee of CMBA allows me to stay abreast of that charity's work and help ensure that our activities are coordinated for maximum effectiveness.

There are several other elements of my role which extend beyond a purely financial remit. I occasionally have the pleasure of representing the Provincial Grand Master at various events and so have the opportunity to meet individual members throughout the Province. That is truly the most enjoyable aspect of the job and I look forward to the resumption of our meetings as soon as is safe to do so.

In conclusion please be kind to your Provincial Treasurer - it isn't just about counting pennies, it's about working with all the Provincial team to build the foundations for the future so we can all continue to enjoy our Freemasonry for many years to come.

David Blair

What does Freemasonry mean to YOU?

What makes you proud to be a Freemason? What do you enjoy most about lodge meetings? Are you a fan of ritual and tradition, dedicated to helping other people, keen to improve yourself or enjoy the company of other like-minded people?

The Provincial Comms Team is planning a campaign on YouTube, social media and in the local press to demonstrate the diversity of Freemasonry.

If you'd like to take part please send a photograph (preferably not in regalia) and a few words about yourself to comms@pglcambs.org.uk. Let us know your profession, how you were introduced to freemasonry, what keeps you keen to pick up your case and head for a meeting and how being a Freemason has made a difference to you. Many thanks in advance.

Michael Hinton

Feeding the vaccine staff

Health care staff at a vaccination centre received some welcome sustenance thanks to Freemasons in Newmarket.

WBro. Steve Young, Almoner of St Wendred Lodge No. 8374, supplied and delivered Subway platters to the Covid-19 vaccination hub at the Jubilee Centre in Mildenhall. On duty was a team of 12 staff from various local GP surgeries, so the food was extremely well received during what was a very busy shift.



In a message to Steve later that day, the staff said: "Thank you so much to the Freemasons of St Wendred Lodge for supplying a delicious lunch for all the vaccinating team today. It was enjoyed by everyone and they all thought it was a very kind gesture."

John Malone

Images show (top) the vaccination hub at the Jubilee Centre, Mildenhall, and (bottom) Nurse Practitioners Judith Atkinson and Jade Scarff from the Raynard Surgery, Red Lodge, with WBro Steve Young.

Century for chapter stalwart

In January Kynaston Chapter No. 5810 marked the 100th birthday of its senior Past First Principal, EComp. Doug Forsdyke with the presentation of a commemorative glass bowl.

The inscription read: Presented to EComp. Douglas Eric Forsdyke Past 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, founder member and first IPZ of Kynaston Chapter No. 5810, holder of the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent's Certificate of Service to Royal Arch Masonry on the occasion of his 100th birthday, 10th January 2021.

Born in 1921, he became a pupil at the Cambridge and County High School for Boys, where he played cricket and rugby. Afterwards he played for Shelford Rugby Club's First XV and eventually became a referee. During World War Two, he served in the RAF. His working career was in accountancy.

Douglas was initiated into Thirkill Lodge No. 7333 on 22nd April 1968 and became its Master in 1977. He joined Virtute et Fide Lodge No. 7959 in 1972 and was installed as its Master in 1985. In 1978 he became a joining member of the Cambridgeshire Installed Masters Lodge No. 7429 and was not only a founder member of Cambridgeshire Meridian Lodge No. 9687 but was its first Senior Warden, becoming Master in 1999.

In 1984 Douglas was appointed Provincial Grand Registrar, being promoted in 1988 to Provincial Senior Grand Warden. In 1997 he received the Provincial Grand Master's Certificate of Service to Masonry.

In the Royal Arch, he was exalted into Chapter of Fidelity No. 441 in 1973 and installed as MEZ in 1983. He was a founder of Kynaston Chapter No. 5810 in 1988 and in March 1990 became its MEZ. In 1993 he was a founder of the Cambridgeshire First Principals Chapter No. 7429 and took the office of MEZ in 2002. He was appointed Third Provincial Grand Principal in 1995.

David Cameron



Province of Cambridgeshire Library and Museum

Consider this question: what is the purpose of a library and museum ?

Here are some possible answers:

- To preserve collections of dust.
- To store things that people have thrown out.
- To have somewhere quiet to sleep.
- To give old people something to do.
- To utilise otherwise empty space.
- To store things that you hadn't realised existed.

And here are some further suggestions:

- To offer free educational resources to everyone.
- To preserve history and the truth.
- To help connect communities.
- To offer creative opportunities for learning, support literacy and education, and help shape the new ideas and perspectives that are central to a creative and innovative society.

You may choose your own answers.

The Library and Museum Committee at Freemasons' Hall, at Cambridge, has been re-energised and, after a fairly long hiatus, has had appointed a new chairman, secretary and new interested members to help bring the library and museum to more members of the Province and to hopefully a wider audience.

WBro. Brian Elliott has been appointed Chairman of the committee and is well known to everyone in the Province, particularly as a former Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. He has a real interest in history and particularly that of the Province and has the energy to push the committee forward.

The new Secretary is WBro. Simon Cooper, of Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859. It will greatly benefit the committee to have an INUL member on the committee because the lodge is, after all, fifty per cent owners of the Cambridge Masonic Hall and the lodge has a long and fascinating history.

The rest of the committee is WBro. Jon West (Treasurer); WBro. Justin Curtis (Curator); Bro. Jen Barback (Lady Freemason, SW in Granta Ladies and a museum specialist); WBro. Paul Ashby (displays specialist); WBro. Kevin Mader (Provincial Grand Secretary and keen historical researcher); WBro. Mike Hinton (publicity/promotions); WBro. Graham Jackson (historical interest and project planning); WBro. Jon Creek (amateur bookbinder and bibliophile); and Bro. Will Wilson (who works for the Fitzwilliam Museum).

The museum has relocated from the Grand Officers' room to the second lodge room which remains a working facility. The purpose of moving the museum was to make it more easily accessible to the brethren which it was felt was not achievable in the Grand Officers' room.

The committee will be changing the displays regularly while ensuring that the displays remain focussed on Cambridgeshire, the members of the Province and the seven Provincial centres.

The committee plans to develop a page to be added to the Provincial website to assist with promotion and will use social media and the Cambridgeshire Freemason publication to assist with promotion. It has also taken charge of the archiving of Masonic records and is in discussions with Cambridge Masonic Hall about allowing lodges to store crucial records at Bateman Street.

The museum will be accessible to all brethren when the Hall is open for Masonic business, and by special appointment, and will also be open to the public by appointment.

Keep your eye on social media to find out what will be on display in the coming period once we are out of the current COVID restrictions.

Justin Curtis



Among the items on display are these miniature jewels made for WBro. R H Adie, WM Alma Mater Lodge No.1492 (1900-1901), MEZ Euclid Chapter No.859 (1901-1902), MEZ Strongman Chapter No.45, London (1902-1903) and Provincial Grand Pursuivant (1900).

Kynaston's Christmas raffle ...with a difference

It's traditional for Kynaston Lodge No. 5810 to hold a raffle at its Christmas meeting, with brethren contributing festive food and drinks for a hamper, all under the direction of its Charity Steward.

In 2020, members were unable to undertake this important fundraising project in the usual way due to Covid-19 restrictions, but some inspired thinking by Charity Steward, WBro. Mark Upex, ably assisted by one of the Lodge's IT elves, Bro. George Kontakos, enabled an on-line raffle to be set up on the Lodge website. The single prize was a donated Fortnum and Mason Festive hamper.

Promoted across the Province, the raffle raised £963 for the Festival. The draw took place during a virtual meeting on 22nd December when Mark's daughter, Catherine, drew the winning ticket.

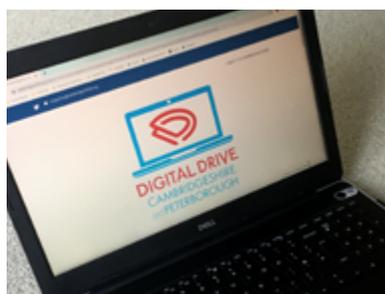


The winner was WBro. Bob Wordsworth, the Lodge Almoner, and, as promised by the organising team, his hamper was safely delivered in time for Bob and his family to enjoy at Christmas.

Brian Elliott

Speedy response to computer campaign

Lodges, Chapters and individual brethren in the Province are supporting a local campaign to provide children with computers to enable them to access lessons and online resources. The original request came from Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. William Dastur on 15th February and, within a month more than 40 laptops and the funds for over 100 Raspberry Pi computers have already been donated.



The ProvGM/GSupt asked brethren to support the Digital Drive Cambridgeshire and Peterborough initiative to help the 8,000 young people who do not have laptops or PCs.

"The situation is unacceptable, and I believe we as Freemasons can make a difference and support these children and young people," he said. The original request was for every Lodge and Chapter to make a single donation of £88 to cover the purchase of a Raspberry Pi 400 with a webcam. RWBro. Dastur also urged brethren to donate old or unused laptops.

Digital Drive is working in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, the Cambs Youth Panel, Cambridge Digital Partnership, and Cambridge 2030 to make sure that every child across our county can access their schoolwork at home.

Phil Priestly, of the Cambs Youth Panel, said: "The Digital Drive is an essential part of eliminating the problem of digital inequality that we have in our region. The contribution of Cambridgeshire Freemasons is an incredible support towards what we are doing – both in terms of recycling previously owned equipment and in purchasing brand new computers for children and young people. The COVID-19 pandemic has really highlighted the depth of digital inequality in our region. The good will and the community spirit that has been displayed in this response is remarkable and uplifting for everyone involved."

Donations can be made online at GoFundMe at <http://gf.me/u/zfuj78>

Jon Cooper



A message from our Provincial Grand Almoner



Brethren and Companions, I am taking this opportunity to write to you all to ensure that you are keeping well and safe during these difficult times particularly with us all being in lockdown again.

Not only do we have the current pandemic, which prevents us getting together in Masonic Harmony to contend with, but we also have the cold weather and the dark evenings which can make us feel even more isolated.

While you have Lodge and Chapter Almoners that you can approach for help, perhaps not everyone feels comfortable with this which is understandable. I am always available should you need any assistance or advice with any financial, mental health or physical health issues, and any communication with me is totally confidential.

The Masonic Charitable Foundation is there to support all Freemasons and we have our own Cambridgeshire Charity for Care & Relief. Please do not suffer distress on your own, make use of these charities as help is available. Remember I am only a phone call away!

George Brennan



www.mcf.org.uk Freephone 0800 035 60 90 Enquiries: help@mcf.org.uk

UGLE Project Hermes roll out

Hermes is a new UGLE management application whereby every Lodge and Chapter will be required to update and upload their own data online. This will automatically link into UGLE's central database 'Adelphi'. Ultimately, all current paper forms will be eliminated.

It will represent a huge change to the administration of Lodges and Chapters, but will be a compulsory requirement of UGLE. The launch date is currently planned for later in 2021 and in preparation a Provincial Hermes Strategy Group, in line with UGLE requirements, has been formed and are already meeting.

The Strategy Group consists of DepProvGM VWBro Patrick Kilby, WBro. Kevin Mader, WBro. John Jones, EComp. Edmund Brookes ProvScribeE and WBro. Andrew Badcock.

Secretaries and ScribeE's will be granted access to Hermes via individual passwords to enable them to update their Lodge and Chapter data, and to generate their own reports. Every Lodge and Chapter will have an individual set of credentials.

We are very fortunate that the Province of Cambridgeshire is one of very few Provinces to have its own online system, Cambsec. Therefore, most Secretaries and ScribeE's should be fairly conversant with what will be required.



Although Cambsec has developed into something much more than just an administration tool for Secretaries and ScribeE's, it will certainly make Hermes far easier to understand and will be run in conjunction with Hermes.

From a login screen, Secretaries and ScribeE's will be guided through all the normal administration of their Lodge or Chapter through a series of menu-driven screens; from the introduction of Candidates to applying for Grand Lodge Certificates.

The Province will manage user access to Hermes for all Lodges and Chapters in Cambridgeshire. Full training and support will be provided to all Secretaries and ScribeE's.

Kevin Mader

Ely lodge reclaims important jewel

Occasionally, when comfortably at home something comes along which shatters the prevailing atmosphere of smug contentment. While it might not get oceans of adrenalin pumping, it does generate a deal of excitement.

So it was last August when WBro. Bill Harrison, secretary of St Audrey Lodge No. 2727, received several emails from brethren of other Lodges informing him that the St Audrey Lodge's Consecrating Master's Jewel had appeared in an auction schedule for Lockdale's in Ipswich. The auction was due to be held in September.

Lodge brethren were contacted to inform them of the good news and to entreat them to leave Bill to co-ordinate bids. WBro. Paul Gillingwater, who has bid for Founder's Jewels in the past, and WBro. Nigel Davies, who has an account at Lockdale's, were contacted and agreed to take over the acquisition of this most important artefact. On the day of the auction, Paul was able to secure the jewel for the Lodge for a manageable sum.

In 1898 the brethren of Scientific Lodge No. 88 petitioned for a new lodge at Ely. The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Colonel Robert Townley Caldwell, consecrated the Lodge on 22nd November 1898 in the Old Dispensary in St. Mary's Street, after which WBro. J. M. Harvey was installed as the first Master.



Sadly, the Lodge knows little of the history of the Consecrating Master's jewel between then and now. WBro Davies attempted to contact the vendor through Lockdale's, but, after several weeks awaiting a response, nothing was forthcoming, so the trail has gone cold. That is, however, not the end of the story. The Centenary Year Lodge Rulers, namely the Worshipful Master WBro. Paul Gillingwater, along with Senior Warden WBro. Richard Hough and Junior Warden WBro. Bob Smith, agreed to pay for the Jewel and donate it, and the two Founders Jewels owned by Paul, to the Lodge.

These will be exhibited at Ely Masonic Hall in a display cabinet provided by WBro. Roy Peacock PPJGW, CSM. Subsequently, on checking in the Hall, an additional two Founders jewels were discovered on display, one in the robing room and one in the bar. It seems that now, in addition to the Consecrating Master's Jewel, the Lodge has those of a Steward, the Director of Ceremonies, the Tyler and one that, a great deal of research would suggest, was probably awarded to WBro. J. Read who was to take the position of Immediate Past Master.

Bill Harrison

All change for East Anglia Mark Master Masons

On 1st January the Province of East Anglia Mark Master Masons and Royal Ark Mariners welcomed RWBro. David Boswell as the new Provincial Grand Master.

He assumed the reins of the Province from RWBro. Ray Clarke PGJW, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge. Ray, who retired from office on 31st December, had been appointed as DepProvGM in Charge following the retirement of the previous ProvGM, RWBro. Paul Norman in July. RWBro. Boswell had been promoted from his role as AsstProvGM.

The new ProvGM has appointed the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro. Gary Allen DepGDC to be DepProvGM, and the Provincial Secretary, WBro. Richard Styles PGJD, to AsstProvGM. Those promotions created vacancies for the roles of ProvGSec and ProvGDC, to which WBro. Mike Staff PAGDC and WBro. Bernie Docherty PGStB were promoted from ProvDepSec and ProvDepGDC respectively.

RWBro. Boswell may also be known in Cambridgeshire for his former role as Grand Superintendent for the Provincial Grand Chapter of Suffolk.

Justin Curtis

Editor's note:

WBro. Justin Curtis is far too modest to include the fact that he has been appointed as Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary for the Mark Province of East Anglia.



Community Fridge help from Alma Mater

Just before Christmas Alma Mater Lodge No. 1492 in Cambridge gave £1,250 to the Trumpington Community Fridge to help provide essential food to those in need over the festive period.

This grant was funded from Alma Mater Lodge (£250), Cambridgeshire Provincial Charity for Care & Relief (£250), the Masonic Charitable Foundation (£500) and the Covid Appeal Fund (£250).



The Trumpington Community Fridge was set up in 2020 in response to an urgent demand for basic foodstuffs from those seriously affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. It supplies food on a no questions asked basis to those who cannot obtain supplies from anywhere else.

The funds raised will help provide safe living conditions, healthcare, meals, and employment opportunities for the homeless; as well as helping protect them from the winter weather, which kills hundreds of homeless people every year.

Jackie Colvil, co-ordinator of the Trumpington Community Fridge said: "We much appreciate the generosity of Alma Mater Lodge and the Cambridgeshire Freemasons, especially at this time of year when there are very heavy demands on our services."

Edmund Brookes

Gold medal and MBE for Nourse brother

A member of Nourse Lodge No. 8590 in Cambridge has been appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Brother Haydn Jakes, 24, a former Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group apprentice, was nominated for his achievements as an aircraft engineering apprentice and for winning gold in the 'Skills Olympics' in Russia last year.

He was an airframe and propulsion apprentice at Marshall ADG from 2013 to 2017 and last August beat 16 hopefuls from around the world to win a coveted gold medal for Great Britain in the WorldSkills International Competition in the Aircraft Maintenance category.

"I started my apprenticeship at Marshall ADG in 2013 and was entered into the WorldSkills competitions in 2017 which was my last year as an apprentice," said Haydn, who was a joining member of Nourse Lodge in February 2020. Haydn was selected for additional training and competitive selection for a place on TeamUK as the UK representative for the aircraft maintenance skill.

In 2019 he was chosen for TeamUK and won the gold medal in aircraft maintenance at the WorldSkills Kazan International Finals 2019. Haydn won by one per cent, with 78% compared to the Russian and Chinese competitors who secured joint silver at 77%.

"I could not have made this amazing achievement had it not been for the generosity of the Brethren from the Association of Medical, University and Legal Lodges and the University of London Lodge, who awarded me a grant of £1,500

The grant, which came shortly before departing to compete in the International Finals, meant I could dedicate more time to training for the competition which ultimately made the difference," he said.

Cliff Brown



Ely Community Christmas Meal Appeal gets £2,587

Following a successful online quiz, Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655 in Ely presented a cheque for £2,587 to the Ely Community Christmas Meal Appeal. The quiz, which attracted sponsorship from Savills (Cambridge) and prize donations from Iceland (Ely) and Homebase (Newmarket), was supported by the Province of Cambridgeshire Charity for Care & Relief and the Masonic Charitable Foundation.



The Meal Appeal was born out of the Ely Cathedral Christmas Dinner Appeal that has run in previous years and which, because of the pandemic, could not take place in December 2020.

The volunteers got together with those from The Lighthouse Centre to adapt a quite different operation. They used a list of those who normally benefit from the Christmas dinner, often the elderly, vulnerable and lonely, but also struggling families, and made visits to them in the run up to Christmas to keep in touch, lift their spirits and identify any needs or assistance that they might require.

On Christmas Day they delivered a hot cooked meal or microwaveable meal, together with a cracker and table decoration. Where possible, they organised a virtual Christmas in the afternoon, on Zoom, with the Queen's speech, recordings of some carols from the cathedral.

The funds raised will help provide safe living conditions, healthcare, meals, and employment opportunities for the homeless; as well as helping protect them from the winter weather, which kills hundreds of homeless people every year.

It came at a time when Freemasons across the country were volunteering their time at 26 homeless support organisations.



Giles Cornell, Pastor of the Ely Lighthouse Centre and principal organiser of the Ely Community Christmas Meal Appeal said: "The Appeal is blown away by the generosity of the local community in general, and that this donation from Descensus Aquarum and the Cambridgeshire Freemasons will make a big difference, guaranteeing that they can distribute the Christmas meals without any charge.

"Thanks to your kindness we were able to deliver meals to 90 families and individuals, many of whom could not afford a lavish 3 course meal, along with a large hamper of Christmas goodies."

WBro. John Sinclair, Charity Steward of Descensus Aquarum Lodge, added: "We are very pleased that we have been able to give our support to this very worthwhile appeal and help those less fortunate than ourselves particularly at this seasonal time of the year."

John Sinclair

'The Cambridgeshire Mason' is created by Editor WBro. Cliff Brown, with the assistance of: WBro. Brian Elliott, WBro. Michael Hinton, WBro. John Sherriff and WBro. Peter Sutton.

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