



# The Cambridgeshire Mason

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## Appointments and promotions - Grand Rank

During a successful Provincial visit to the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge on 9<sup>th</sup> March, the 84 Brethren present from Cambridgeshire heard the Pro Grand Master, MWBro. Peter Geoffrey Lowndes announced his retirement and that his successor from September 2022 would be RWBro. Jonathan Spence, currently Deputy Grand Master and a member of Alma Mater Lodge No. 1492 in Cambridge.

At the Provincial dinner following the meeting, the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. William Dastur announced further appointments and promotions in Grand Rank and Provincial Grand Rank.

There is a first appointment to Grand Rank for WBro. John Jones, of Nourse Lodge No. 8590, our Provincial Grand Registrar, who will be appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. RWBro. Simon Duckworth, of Isaac Newton Lodge No. 859, is to be appointed as active Junior Grand Warden, and VWBro. David Staples, of Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704, is re-appointed as Grand Secretary.

In the Royal Arch, there is a first appointment to Grand Rank for EComp. David Coupland, of Etheldreda Chapter No. 809, who becomes a Past Grand Standard Bearer.

EComp. David Blair, our Deputy Grand Superintendent, is promoted to Past Grand Sword Bearer, and EComp. Edmund Brookes, the Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, is promoted to Past Assistant Grand Sojourner.

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# Provincial appointments and promotions

Re-appointed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master is VWBro. Pat Kilby PGSwdB, while WBro. Justin Curtis, of Gild of St Mary Lodge No. 7288, and WBro. Michael Humphrey, of Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125, will be Provincial Senior Grand Warden and Provincial Junior Grand Warden respectively. The Provincial Grand Sword Bearer will be WBro. Terry Read, of Descensus Aquarium Lodge No. 8655.



WBro. Ed Williams, who is CEO of the Cambridgeshire Light Blues Club and a member of the Lodge of Three Grand Principals No. 441, will become Provincial Grand Membership Officer, WBro. David Fountain ProvJGW will be Provincial Grand Mentor, while WBro. Peter Crussell, of St Audrey Lodge No. 2727, will be appointed as Provincial Grand Orator.



In the Royal Arch, EComp. Michael Hinton, of the Chapter of Pythagoras No. 88, who leads the Province's communications team, is promoted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Provincial Grand Principal. EComp. Jon West, of Fidelity Chapter No. 441, is swapping his role as Provincial Grand Mentor in the Craft to Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra on the forthcoming retirement of EComp. Edmund Brookes



Taking on the role of Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies will be EComp. Mark Upex, of Kynaston Chapter No. 5810, whose role as Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies goes to EComp. Paul Baldwin, of St Andrew Chapter No. 4087.



The full lists of Craft and Royal Arch appointments and promotions have been circulated to Brethren via Lodge Secretaries and Chapter Scribes E.

*Cliff Brown*





# Our Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent says...

It is with huge pleasure that I welcome you to the latest edition of The Cambridgeshire Mason. As always, it is filled with photographs, stories and articles reprising what has been happening in the Province in the last few months as well as previewing forthcoming events. It amply illustrates what a busy, successful and happy Province we are and how well we are recovering from the ravages of Covid.



The inaugural Cambridgeshire Community Day at Newmarket July Racecourse, celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> June and we have agreed as a Province to support this. We are currently planning how we will represent Freemasonry in Cambridgeshire and I hope that the Lady Freemasons will also be there. It is the day after our Provincial Meetings so please put these dates in your diary.

We appear to be over the worst with the Omicron variant still being a nuisance but nowhere near as harmful as previous strains. I know some brethren and companions are reluctant to return to our meetings. However, I have been astounded at the spirit, enthusiasm, laughter and general buzz at recent meetings and festive boards.

Brethren and Companions, freemasonry is thriving again in Cambridgeshire, so please consider returning to your lodges and chapters and share in this welcome renaissance - you will not be disappointed. May I also implore each of you to engage with that brother or companion who doesn't appear to come anymore and see if you can entice or encourage him back to your next meeting.

The Light Blues buddy initiative, which is encouraging recently initiated and passed brethren to visit, is working well and I encourage you to make these visitors especially welcome when they visit your lodges.

The Membership Pathway programme, so ably led by Pat Kilby and Ian Hardman, is having an enormous impact. Our numbers in the first two months of 2022 are up impressively and I was delighted to be able to consecrate Fundamental Lodge on 3<sup>rd</sup> March bringing another lodge and more members to the Province. With United Services Lodge consecration scheduled for next month, we are definitely on the front foot.

If you have not been to a consecration, do consider joining us on 14<sup>th</sup> April, at Wisbech St Mary. It is an incredibly special event and one that does not happen that often. Having said which, the Hutchinson Masters Lodge is looking at a consecration ceremony in late 2022 or early 2023 and this will be our 33<sup>rd</sup> lodge. Exciting times brethren, especially with some delayed Centenary celebrations and banner dedication meetings also imminent in 2022.

Indeed, we are returning to West Road Concert Hall and Queens' College for our annual meetings on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 and I hope to see many of you there as we celebrate this year's Provincial appointments and promotions.

One other date for your diaries is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022 when, after a four year gap, the Festival of Carols will be held at Ely Cathedral with John Rutter the celebrated composer and conductor as principal guest.

The new Provincial Wardens and Third Grand Principal as well as some other key changes, including a new Provincial Scribe Ezra, are on the front page of this edition and my congratulations go out to them as well as John Jones, David Coupland, Edmund Brookes and David Blair on their Grand Rank appointments/promotions.

Funds received or committed for the Festival has just gone over £800,000, so our eventual target of £900,000 to support Masonic Charitable Foundation is in sight. The continued generosity, enthusiasm and commitment from Cambridge freemasons is unparalleled and demonstrates that even with a lost 18 months of fundraising due to Covid, Cambridgeshire brethren always rise to the challenge of supporting charitable causes.

Brethren and Companions, freemasonry is emerging from a difficult two years but I believe in Cambridgeshire we remain strong with a bright and exciting future as the Province continues to demonstrate its resilience, quality and depth. Let us enjoy this renaissance, enjoy our freemasonry but above all continue to have fun!

I commend this latest edition of edition of The Cambridgeshire Mason to you.

*Bin*

## Festival 2023 update

The Provincial Festival 2023 is only a few pounds short of reached £800,000 donated or promised and therefore well on our way to our target of £900,000. Despite the low attendances at meetings due to Covid-19, January and February have been amazing months with extremely generous Lodge and Chapter donations as well as many new RPPs, raffles, alms collections as well as Fun-D-Raising events.

The support has been very widespread and it would be unfair to pick out any one Lodge/Chapter or person. Hopefully, you will have seen the many pictures of cheque presentations to the Provincial Grand Master or Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the past eight weeks.

This has been a much-needed boost to Festival 2023, which has reduced our monthly target of new donations to around £5,500 per month. Most Lodges and Chapters are dedicating their Alms collections and many raffles to our Festival.

Brethren, we cannot take our foot off the accelerator, please continue to support our Festival 2023, supporting the very important work of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. I hope you all saw the wonderful and quick action of the MCF with a donation of £50,000 to the Red Cross, whose teams in Poland, Moldova, Slovakia and Romania are providing urgent support to Ukrainian refugees.

There are a whole host of planned activities around the Province to support the Festival, including a family fun day in Littleport on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July, a family garden party in Cambridge (with a large train set) Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August; a 'Carry on Screaming' night in Littleport Village Hall on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, plus many more to be announced.



If you would like your event listed on the Events page of the Provincial website, please send the details to the CMBA secretary, WBro. Peter Crussell.

*David Cameron*

## Changes for Provincial Museum

The Province of Cambridge Masonic Museum has been undergoing changes over the past 12 months. It has moved from what used to be the Grand Officers' room to the second lodge room. There it has been sensitively installed so as not to stop the room being used as a working lodge room, the idea being to make it more accessible to the members of the Province and the public.

The Library and Museum Committee is currently working, under the direction of Chairman WBro. Brian Elliott, to enhance the lighting for the displays without detriment to the atmosphere of the room as a working lodge. Over the next six months the committee will be ensuring all the displays are complete and that it is an interesting and instructive place to visit for all visitors.

There will be extensive changes happening over the next six months, so if you are in the Cambridge Masonic Hall, wander up and have a look.

*Justin Curtis*





# Discover more about the Royal Arch

The Royal Arch is not a "side degree". The 18<sup>th</sup> century Masonic scholar Laurence Dermott described it as "the root, heart and marrow of Freemasonry" as well as "the capstone of the whole Masonic system".

For historic reasons the degree is worked separately in Chapters rather than in Lodges but the Book of Constitutions is clear that "Pure Ancient Freemasonry consists of Three Degrees and no more, viz those of The Entered Apprentice, The Fellow Craft and the Master Mason including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch". The Craft and Royal Arch are inextricably linked with a shared administration and many senior offices in both being held by the same individuals.

Most importantly membership of the Royal Arch completes an individual's journey in "Pure Ancient Freemasonry". The teachings of the Craft are predominantly concerned with our relationship with our fellow man; those in the Royal Arch concentrate on our relationship with our God together with deeper insights into self-knowledge. In this way our whole system is brought into balance and perspective.

With that in mind the Chapter team has commissioned a number of banners for display throughout the Province. The first was on display at the recent meeting of Cambridgeshire Meridian Chapter No. 8374 in Newmarket and others will be appearing in all our halls over the next few weeks. Their purpose is threefold (three being very much the number at the heart of the Royal Arch)

1. To remind Master Masons that their journey is incomplete and that the loss which they experienced during their raising is capable of being restored
2. To inform all Masons, whether members of Chapter or not, where they can find more information about the Royal Arch
3. To spread the word about how much fun the Chapter ceremony involves - where else are you promised "distant travel, underground adventure and hidden dangers".

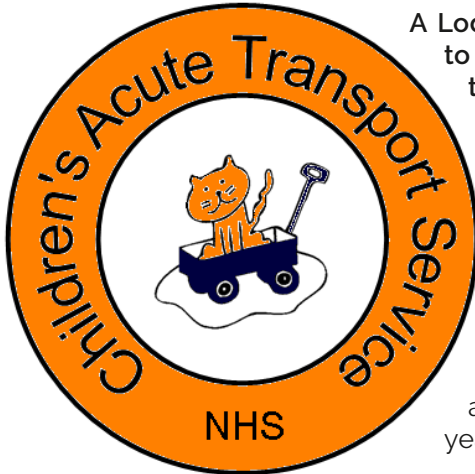
For more information contact your lodge Chapter Representative or look on our website at:  
[www.cambridgeshirefreemasons.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeshirefreemasons.org.uk)

*David Blair*





## Supporting the work of CATS



A Lodge Almoner in Fenland has been able to say a small thank you to staff based at the world-famous Great Ormond Street Hospital thanks to a Festive Board raffle.

WBro. Paul Dunham, of Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704, has many reasons to thank the team at the hospital for its ongoing help to his baby son Elijah, who has spent many months receiving treatment. The £300 raised at a recent Lodge meeting was donated the Children's Acute Transport Service (CATS), based at the hospital.

The Children's Acute Transport Service is the largest, dedicated children's intensive care transport team in the UK. Its staff stabilises and safely transfers more than 1,100 sick babies and children each year to intensive care units in London and the South East.

*Cliff Brown*

## Fundamental Lodge up and running

It was five years in the making, but finally, after delays caused by Covid, the Province's newest lodge, Fundamental No. 10002, was consecrated on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Wisbech St. Mary Community Centre.

The day started at 10am with a mix of anticipation, expectation, trepidation and a pinch of panic. The Founders had worked hard and, for most, it was the first opportunity to meet the Provincial Officers including the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. William Dastur. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro. Jonathan Lambert, rehearsed the Founders in the intricacies of a Consecration, ready for the 2pm start of the ceremony.

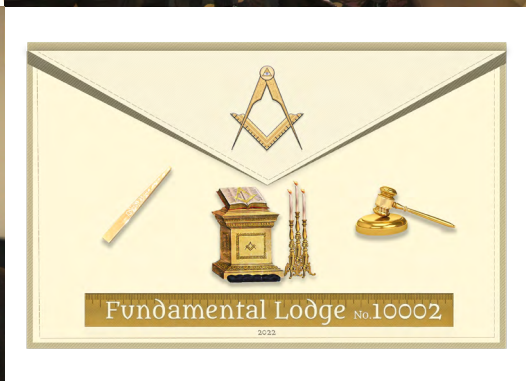
The Consecration, led by the ProvGM, was superb and the Consecrating team was magnificent. The Installing Master, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. Pat Kilby installed WBro. Ash Biswas into the chair of King Solomon in a ceremony that took nearly three hours but seemed to pass quickly. The Festive Board was attended by more than 115 Brethren.

Now the Lodge looks to the future with excitement, hopefulness, anticipation, expectation and trepidation. However, the Founders have a belief that the concept of Fundamental being a family-orientated Lodge is within their grasp.

*Jon Cole*









## Gild Past Master celebrates 50 years in Craft

On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 WBro. Jeremy Miller was due to have his 50 years in Freemasonry Certificate presented at the regular meeting of Gild of St Mary Lodge No. 7288. Unfortunately, recovering well from his traumatic illness and with the risk of Covid still in our midst, he wasn't able to attend Lodge.

To keep Jeremy safe, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Pat Kilby PGSwdB (a Past Master of Gild of St Mary) accompanied by Marion Kilby visited Jeremy and Angie Miller on 21<sup>st</sup> February to present the certificate.



WBro. Jeremy Lionel George Miller has had a long and illustrious career in Freemasonry, being initiated into the Gild of St Mary on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1972 and Master on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1978. Jeremy was also a member of Cambridgeshire Installed Masters Lodge No. 7429 and became Master in 2006. He joined Virtute Et Fide Lodge No. 7959 and is an honorary member of Porta No. 9511 and Cambridgeshire Meridian No. 9687.

It didn't stop there as Jeremy was exalted into Pythagoras Chapter No. 88 on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 1978 and became MEZ in 1990. He also is a member of Cambridgeshire First Principals' Chapter No. 7429 and Cantabrigia Rose Croix No. 112.

In Province he was quickly moved through the ranks to ProvGDC, following which he was appointed to Grand Lodge as a PAGDC and then to PJGD. Jeremy was also appointed the Gild Lodge representative for the Masonic Hall in 1979, later becoming a director and one of the City Joint Venture Trustees of the Masonic Hall at Bateman Street, and he is still heavily involved with the Committee of Management.

While Jeremy's professional expertise was invaluable to the management of the hall, the work on the social side started by Mrs Angie Miller with curry nights and sausage and mash events proved to be equally successful which prompted the reformation of the Cambridge Masonic Club.

Jeremy's good friend WBro. John Brady said: "I first met Jeremy 55 years ago when I returned to Cambridge after training as a surveyor. I often dealt with Jeremy at Januarys when surveying houses he was selling. We often met on the rugby field, needle matches between the Old Cantabrigians and the Old Perseans often refereed by the sadly recently belated WBro. Doug Forsdyke and WBro. Tom Whitford. Jeremy was a fearless tackler and once prevented me from scoring a certain try."

It was a real delight for VWBro. Kilby to present Jeremy with his certificate because Jeremy had been his mentor for many years and officiated at Marion's Ladies Festival as Master of Ceremonies, resplendent in a sparkling blue bowler hat.

Jeremy has had an amazing masonic career and has always maintained his interest in all that is happening in his Lodges as well as the province. His Lodge members are looking forward to the day when he is again able to be with them.

*Pat Kilby*

## Support for CamSight from Three Grand Principals

A charity helping people living with low vision and blindness has received a £500 donation from The Lodge of Three Grand Principles No. 441 supported by the City and University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust.

CamSight is a Cambridgeshire charity that supports local people of all ages living with low vision and blindness to live the lives they choose. It works to enhance independence, improve well-being and inclusion. The donation was presented by the Lodge's Charity Steward, WBro. Bob Hammett to Nick Burr, of CamSight.

*Bob Hammett*





## Three acts of generosity from 'Scrooge'

Three charities each received £800 from the proceeds of this year's Provincial pantomime, 'Scrooge', which took place at Newmarket Masonic Hall.

The panto was in aid of the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity (in memory of WBro. Richard Dean), Newmarket Masonic Hall (in memory of WBro. Peter Brown) and the 2023 Festival. Richard and Peter were stalwarts of the panto team and this year's performances were a fitting tribute to their memory.

WBro. Peter Crussell, who wrote and appeared in this year's production, made the presentation to the ARHC, which was particularly poignant as his mother Eileen passed away in the Hospice at Shelford Bottom in February after being diagnosed with cancer. The donation will help the ARHC care for patients at the hospice, the Alan Hudson Day Care Centre in Wisbech and via the 'Hospice at Home' scheme.



The other cheques for £800 were presented in February at the Etheldreda Lodge No. 2107 Installation meeting.

*Justin Curtis*



The pantomime took place in January, with director WBro. Mark Long having to pull out with Covid only two days before the first of the three performances. Musical director WBro. David Adams stepped in seamlessly to fill the role of Dame Edna. All three performances were well received with one audience member at each show, including the Provincial Grand Master joining in as Mrs Cratchitt!





# The Long and Winding Road

## How the journey to the Chair of King Solomon can be a triumph over circumstances

On a walk in 1968, at the age of eight, Graham Clapperton saw a pub with the name 'The Freemasons Arms'. The youngster asked what a Freemason was, prompting his father to reply 'A strange lot son, they have strange secrets'. Nothing could pique someone's interest more. It was the start of a journey into Masonry beginning with his Initiation in 1986, before becoming a Masonic nomad and finally fulfilling his ambition to become Master exactly 35 years later and now about to assume the chair in one of England's oldest lodges.

Winding back the clock to when he became an apprentice engineer, completing two HNDs in Mechanical and Production Engineering, Graham planned a career in the design office of an engineering company. Having moved from the Fens to Bristol, his career direction changed in 1982 due to the Falklands War. Documented management systems and compliance were required for design and manufacture of specialist equipment for the Ministry of Defence. Having implemented the systems, he returned to the Fens in 1983 to join Stainless Metalcraft Plc in Chatteris as assistant quality manager.

Involved in creating management control systems for the design and manufacture of pressure vessels and equipment for the medical, pharmaceutical and nuclear power sectors, Graham discovered that his line manager and good friend Ron Middlemass was a Freemason. Brother Ron was a member of Gray Lodge No. 4334 in Chatteris. "He was an engineer, a Freemason, and a gentleman," said Graham. "Sadly, he was also terminally ill – and it was for this reason that I had been offered the job as his assistant."

Graham's application to join Gray Lodge started in late 1983, when, knowing very few members of the Lodge, he and his wife Nicola were encouraged to attend as many social events as possible in order to meet the Brethren and their wives.

"In 1985 I attended a couple of interviews. My wife was also interviewed (as happened in those days) to see how she felt about me joining Freemasonry in general and Gray Lodge in particular. One very important question related to her culinary skills and, in particular, her ability to fry sausages for the sausage supper," he said.

The answers proved satisfactory because he was summoned for his Initiation on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1986. Sadly, just one month before that event, his friend, mentor and proposer Brother Ron passed to the Grand Lodge above. Passed in February 1987 and Raised in the November of that same year, Graham's interest in masonry increased the more that he learned. "I found that I could learn ritual and enjoyed, albeit almost frightened to death, delivering ritual in lodge," he said.

In 1990 a problem occurred in the Middle East when Iraq invaded Kuwait. By now Graham was working as an independent consultant. "Various governments decreed that new equipment would be required in Kuwait to replace any that might get damaged in the process of evicting the insurgents," said Graham, who, at the time, was a deacon at Gray Lodge. He was sent to Japan to oversee the design and build of pumping systems.

"From there on I was working further and further away from home. The Wednesday evening meetings at Chatteris were difficult to attend. I was faced with no option but to drop off the ladder and to resign from Gray Lodge. My workload focussed on petro-chemical and nuclear power related projects. This combined with the advent of the birth of my children, curtailed my masonic commitments for a while," said Graham.

Wherever he travelled with work Graham visited lodges, both in the UK and abroad, when possible, and became somewhat of a Masonic nomad for some years – visiting lodges in Cumbria and Lancashire. In 2010 he took a contract with a company in Stockton on Tees, achieving some stability for a couple of years and became a Joining Member of Dundas Lodge No. 7970.

**Graham (centre) with his wardens, Clinton Elkin and Andy Sullivan**





Having no idea how long he would be working in the area, he decided not to take office. Two years later, in 2012, Graham moved to Snowdonia to decommission Trawsfynydd nuclear power station, and joined St Cyngar Lodge No. 5323 in Porthmadog, but was again unable to take office. However, the project allowed him to work four days a week, thus ensuring he could be at home in Emneth, near Wisbech, on Fridays.

"I sought a local lodge and was happy to find Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704, based a nearby March, met on Fridays. In 2013, he joined Stone Cross while retaining his membership of St Cyngar until 2015. Looking at a future that was a little more under my own control, I accepted office as a Steward. My work contract ended in 2015 and I took another with EDF, which involved the auditing and compliance checking on the new Hinckley Point C power station."

Based in London, he worked for EDF until 2019, after which he contracted with Lloyds Register, carrying out audits compliance on power stations and other associated industries. In 2016, several Past Masters of Stone Cross invited him to join them as members of Royal Kent Lodge No. 15 in London, where again he started on the ladder. After his varied Masonic journey, Graham was finally installed into the Chair of King Solomon in Stone Cross Lodge on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021, coincidentally some 35 years to the day from his initiation. Just like buses, when one fails to show for ages, two come along at once, for Graham will be installed as Master in Royal Kent Lodge on 13<sup>th</sup> April (by dispensation).

### Family affair

Masonry has become something of a shared pastime for Graham, his wife Nicola (below) and now his daughter Fiona. In June 2016 Nicola joined Lodge Granta No. 41 of the Order of Women Freemasons, based in Cambridge, and is hoping to be appointed as Junior Deacon this year.



Daughter Fiona (below) completed her PhD in History and Linguistics, with support from the Duke of Devonshire; her research related to the 10<sup>th</sup> Duke, who was Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England from 1947 to 1950 (coincidentally the period when Stone Cross Lodge was consecrated). Fiona's research involved regular communication with UGLE.



In 2017 Fiona was initiated into the Royal Derby Lodge No 356 (OWF) in Ripley, Derbyshire. In the following year, Fiona delivered a lecture, based on the 10<sup>th</sup> Duke and his Masonic interests, to the Fenland Meridian Lodge No. 9858. Interestingly, the Duke's footman was also a Freemason and the Duke maintained a Brotherly relationship with him, addressing his footman in correspondence as 'My dear Brother Esmund'.

### Confidence boost

"Recently identifying that I am Aspergian (I always knew something about me was different), I have found Freemasonry to be a wonderful aid in helping with that syndrome," said Graham, who many will know is a fine ritualist. "I have never been one for entering a bar and tapping a friend on the shoulder with a hearty 'Hail fellow – well met!' You are more likely to observe me hopping from one foot to the other, waiting in uncomfortable silence.

"Learning ritual has given me confidence. I do have nerves, I develop an uncomfortable feeling before delivering a piece of work, and I perspire profusely when on the floor, but I enjoy the process. I try to deliver the ritual to the candidate as a personal discussion. This has helped me both in business (I have lectured on management systems compliance for the MOD and for the nuclear industry) and also in Freemasonry.

"There are many benefits from Freemasonry, but improving my confidence has been the greatest from my Masonic career, the pinnacle of that career being achieved when WBro. Gavin Philpott installed me into the Chair of King Solomon in Stone Cross Lodge."

*Cliff Brown*

## Isaac Newton University Mark Lodge Sesquicentenary

Isaac Newton University Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 112 celebrated its sesquicentenary anniversary on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March. The Assistant Grand Master, RWBro. Stephen Davison, pictured at lunch with the Worshipful Master and the Worshipful Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, was in attendance and presented the Lodge with a sesquicentenary warrant and commemorative jewels.

A new Lodge banner, in the exact style of the original from 1870, was also dedicated in a most memorable manner by a Provincial team led by WBro. Gary Allen, Deputy Provincial Grand Master. In all, over 50 brethren from across the Province and beyond attended the event and enjoyed a special luncheon banquet afterwards.

The Lodge was consecrated on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1870 in Cambridge, at "the Masonic Rooms, 29½ Green Street", subsequently moving to Petty Cury around 1885. During the move the original warrant was lost and a replacement obtained from Mark Grand Lodge - luckily clearly referring to the original.



COVID restrictions prevented the celebration meeting occurring in 2020, although the members did gather virtually to raise a glass at an informal Zoom meeting on the anniversary date. Isaac Newton University Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 112 will celebrate its sesquicentenary in 2024.

*Chris Ansell*

## Kynaston Lodge boosts its Festival support

A further £2,500 has been added to the Festival 2023 by Kynaston Lodge No. 5810 at its regular meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January at Freemasons' Hall, Bateman Street, Cambridge.

The Worshipful Master, WBro. Richard Brindle presented the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Bill Dastur, with a cheque on behalf of the Lodge. Earlier in the evening, WBro. Brindle had received a Silver Award collarette to mark the Lodge's fundraising efforts for the Festival, which is raising funds for the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

The meeting included a Raising ceremony for Bro. Dale Roberts who, but for the first lockdown due to the Covid pandemic, would have received his third degree in March 2020. Despite an absence of nearly two years, the Lodge Officers made sure that Bro. Dale had a ceremony to remember.

*Brian Elliott*





## Helping hand in Chatteris

Members of Gray Lodge No. 4334 in Chatteris, recently raised £250 in donations in lieu of sending Christmas cards to each other. Together with £250 match funding from The City & University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust's Bethel Scheme, this enabled them to donate to two worthy local causes.

Charity Steward WBro. Ken Robson presented a cheque for £250 to Tina and Gloria Prior, chair and fundraiser respectively of Chatteris in Bloom, a group of volunteers which, each year, plants and tends many flower arrangements throughout the Fenland town. Over the years they have won many awards in the Anglia in Bloom regional competition, including Gold.

Another cheque for £250 was presented to Reg Tibbitts, treasurer of the Chatteris Christmas Lights appeal, more volunteers who provide the excellent displays around the town.

*Ken Robson*



## Collars mark important milestone

Covid restrictions curtailed the centenary celebrations at St Andrew Lodge No. 4087 in Whittlesey during 2020, but an important presentation finally took place in November 2021.

A legacy from the late WBro. Frank Freeman was used to purchase a set of new collars, complete with metal name plates, for the Worshipful Master and Wardens to celebrate the Lodge's milestone. Making the presentation was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. Pat Kilby PGSwdB.

The Master's collar has engraved on it the names and year in office of all 100 Past Masters of the Lodge while the Senior and Junior Wardens collars will show the future Masters.

*Richard Phillips*





## Two for the price of one

**A special meeting of Cambridgeshire Meridian Lodge No. 9687 was honoured by the presence of two Provincial Grand Masters.**

Consecrated in 1999, the Lodge, which is mostly made-up of elder Brethren who are retired or those who work evenings or do not work, has only performed a handful of Initiation, Passing and Raising ceremonies, along with its annual Installations. Other meetings are an opportunity for a demonstration or lecture for the Brethren and a guest speaker to give a talk to partners and non-masonic guests who join the Brethren for a White Table luncheon afterwards.

During a Zoom meeting last summer, a Past Master whose Mother Lodge is The Lodge of Good Fellowship No. 276 in Chelmsford, mentioned that they had a backlog of candidates for Passing and Raising. A plan was formulated to hold a Passing ceremony at Meridian's December meeting at Bateman Street, Cambridge. The Provincial Grand Master RWBro. William Dastur, a Past Master of Meridian, was accompanied by his guest, the Provincial Grand Master of Essex, RWBro. Paul Tarrant.

The ceremony was conducted by WBro. John Seekings, assisted by Brethren from both Lodges. Following the Lodge business, the Brethren, partners and non-masonic guests joined together for lunch.

For those who think a daylight Lodge may not be for them, that may be correct, however Cambridgeshire Meridian may be there for a Brother who doesn't want to leave Masonry but finds it difficult to attend his Lodge's regular meetings, or that Brother who would like to enjoy Masonry at a slower pace.

*John Smith*



## Fifty years for Whittlesey stalwart

**A stalwart of St Andrew Lodge No. 4087 in Whittlesey, WBro. Russell Jackson PJGD has celebrated 50 years in the Craft and marks a similar milestone in the Royal Arch next year.**

He was initiated in St Andrew Lodge on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1971, being passed in 1972 and raised in 1973. He was exalted into St Andrew Royal Arch Chapter in 1973. Russell was Worshipful Master of St Andrew Lodge in 1984 and MEZ of St Andrew Chapter in 1987. He is also a member of Cambridgeshire Installed Masters Lodge No. 7429 and Cambridgeshire Installed First Principals Chapter No. 7429, in which he served as MEZ in 2013, and Chapter of Probity No. 7333.

Having held various Provincial ranks, he was awarded Grand Rank in 2004 when he was appointed Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, being promoted to Junior Grand Deacon in 2018. In the Royal Arch, he served as Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra from 2006 to 2012, when he became Deputy Grand Superintendent, a post he held until 2017. He holds the Supreme Grand Chapter rank of Past Grand Sword Bearer.

The certificate to mark his 50 years of service to the Craft was presented at the November meeting of St Andrew Lodge by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. Pat Kilby PGSwdB.

*Richard Phillips*





## KT Grand Master attends Investiture

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the Knights Templar, Paul Raymond Clement travelled all the way from South Wales to Suffolk for the investiture of Eminent Knight Colin Birkbeck as the new Provincial Prior for the Province of East Anglia.

The ceremony attracted 170 knights to Ashlar House at Bury St. Edmunds, where the Grand Master was assisted by many Great Officers, including the Grand Marshall, Timothy Wheeler. After his investiture, the new Provincial Prior invested his Sub-Prior, Eminent Knight John Rowell, from Ely.

As part of his effort to raise funds for the eye hospital in Jerusalem, the retiring Provincial Prior Stewart Middleton donated a figurine of a knight on horseback as a prize, which was won by Hereward the Wake Preceptory No. 439, based at March. Its Registrar Tony Barrasso was called upon to collect the prize from the Grand Master.

*John Rowell*



## Wisbech support for Arthur Rank centre

The Lodge of United Good Fellowship No. 809, based in Wisbech, handed over a cheque for £585 to the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's day treatment centre in the Fenland town.

Worshipful Brothers David Broker, Nigel Williams and David Coupland presented the cheque, which included matched funding from the City & University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust, to Alison Strickle at the ARHC's Alan Hudson day treatment centre at the North Cambs Hospital, Wisbech, on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

*David Coupland*





# The Ancient Mariners

**Dan Heath, Assistant Grand Secretary at Mark Masons' Hall in London, takes a look at the instructive, enigmatic and colourful degree of Royal Ark Mariner**

On 10<sup>th</sup> June 1884, Morton Andrew Edwards signed a receipt for £25, surrendering his authority over the government of the degree of Royal Ark Mariner to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. No one knows whether he thought that this extraordinary event would secure the continuity of the degree

The degree of Royal Ark Mariner is, as its name suggests, based on the story of Noah and the ark. In the canon of degrees conferred in mainstream Freemasonry, it has the earliest chronological foundation for a Freemasonry ceremony. The biblical references are apparent from the outset.

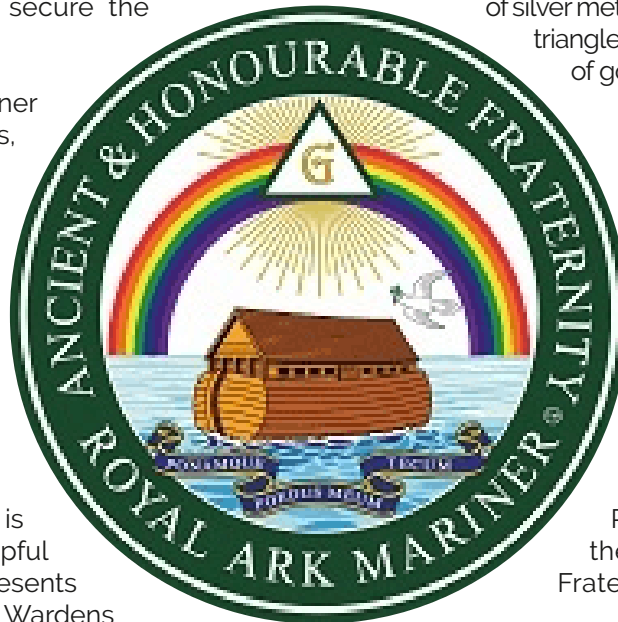
The Worshipful Master is referred to as Worshipful Commander and represents Noah. The Senior and Junior Wardens represent two of Noah's sons: Japheth and Shem, respectively. The other officers mirror those of a Craft lodge, with the exception of the Secretary, who is called Scribe; the Inner Guard, called Guardian; and the Tyler, called Warder.

A Royal Ark Mariners lodge is laid out in a triangular form, with the Commander in the east and both Wardens in the west, much like ancient Craft lodges, and the triangle plays an important part throughout the ceremony. Unusually, the candidate does not take his obligation on the Volume of the Sacred Law as he would in most other degrees of Freemasonry.

The degree includes lessons on wisdom, strength, beauty, watchfulness, discretion, brotherly love, truth and charity. These are highlighted throughout the ceremony as the story of the great flood and Noah's efforts are presented in dramatic allegorical form. The Ceremony of Elevation (the initiation ceremony) is a vibrant and colourful one; the colours of the degree are those of the rainbow and adorn the aprons, collars and jewel ribbons worn by members.

The inner workings of a Worshipful Commander's Installation Ceremony afford an opportunity for all Installed Commanders present to take part, and this ritual is held in great affection by many of those who have experienced it.

Little distinguishes the newest members of the degree from Worshipful Brethren, Provincial Officers and Grand Officers. Their aprons remain much the same; only the rainbow-coloured rosettes change to triangles of silver, then gold. A Past Commander wears a collar jewel of silver metal with an N inside an equilateral triangle, while Grand Officers wear one of gold metal.



The hierarchical structure of the degree is simple, with Mark Provincial/District Grand Masters, their Deputies and their Assistants having the same powers over the Royal Ark Mariner lodges within their jurisdiction as they have over Mark lodges. Provincial Officers hold the rank designated Provincial Grand Rank of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner.

When it is necessary, the ceremonial and administrative officers of the Mark Province will carry out the same functions at a Provincial meeting (Assembly) in the degree of Royal Ark Mariner.

This is replicated in Grand Rank, with the structure being: the Grand Master, Pro Grand Master, Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters (Present and Past), members of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council – the executive body of the degree (G.M.R.A.C.), Provincial/District Grand Masters (Present and Past) and holders of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank (R.A.M.G.R.).





## The Ark and the Mark

**What is the connection between Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Freemasonry, and how did they come to be so inextricably linked? This same question was raised in the long negotiations between Morton Edwards, Royal Ark Mariner members and the Grand Lodge of Mark Masons (as it was then called) in the years leading up to the surrender of control.**

Many theories have been put forward, but no one really knows the answer. It was more than likely part of the effort of the Grand Mark Master Mason, the Rev Canon George Raymond Portal, to unify, under one Grand Lodge, some of the masonic degrees being practised outside of the Craft and Royal Arch.

For the masonic researcher, the degree's history is a wonderful labyrinth with several dead ends and false starts. There is no doubt that its origins are much older than the Victorian revival of interest and probably go back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

One school of thought suggests it may be older than that, being a degree once practised by operative craftsmen, more likely to have been carpenters than masons, hence the great significance of the ark.

There is intrigue, and even a hint of deception, as there appear to have been two separate warrants in existence when the degree was being worked in the mid-1800s, thus bringing into question under what authority exactly Morton Edwards thought he had the right to hand over control of the degree.

Any attempts to unravel the various accounts of the degree's early years brings into play several names familiar to those who dabble in the history of Freemasonry: the ubiquitous Thomas Dunckerley, the aforementioned Morton Edwards and Canon Portal, Frederick Binckes (Mark Grand Secretary and prolific letter writer of the day), George Kenning (the regalia manufacturer), and Robert Wentworth Little (progenitor of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia), to name a few.

## FACTFILE: The Ancient of Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner

**With their own terminology, structures and practices, each masonic Order is different from the next. Here is a breakdown of the origins, requirements and organisation of the Royal Ark Mariners.**

All Royal Ark Mariner lodges are 'moored', or attached, to a Mark lodge and share the same number (and in many cases the same name). To be elevated into the degree of Royal Ark Mariner you must first have been advanced into the Mark degree.

The insignia bears a depiction of the ark, the symbolic haven of rest, from which the Order derives its name. The ark points out the constant support we hope to receive from the Supreme Commander of the Universe in all our difficulties. Beneath the ark is the Latin motto: Ponamque Foedus Meum Tecum, which is derived from Genesis 6:18: "But with Thee will I establish my covenant."

The apron of a Royal Ark Mariner is uncluttered, adorned with the colours of the rainbow. The jewel is a dove bearing an olive branch, suspended beneath a representation of a rainbow, hanging from a rainbow-coloured ribbon.

The text of the receipt signed by Morton Edwards reads, in full: "Received of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons the sum of twenty-five pounds for which I agree to surrender the whole of the documents, Warrants and authorities connected with the so called Grand Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners and I hereby surrender to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons all power or authority in me vested, or supposed to be vested by virtue of my position as Grand Commander of the afford said Grand Lodge of Ark Mariners – or by virtue of said Warrants."

The Royal Ark Mariner tracing board contains extensive symbolism, and the explanation, which is more than 2,500 words, can be split into five parts. The template image of the tracing board has been reproduced so many times that in 2019 the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council decided to commission a new 'master' design. Freemason Paul Swinge painstakingly researched and hand-painted the new image, clearly depicting all the intricate detail which the explanation goes on to highlight. This reworking of the design was unveiled at the December 2019 Annual Assembly.

The most detailed account of the transition of the administration of the degree from Morton Edwards is contained in 'Morton Edwards, Sculptor, and the Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners' by John Mandleberg.

## Local structure

Cambridgeshire's Royal Ark Mariner lodges are part of the Mark/RAM Province of East Anglia. Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 112 and York No. 334 meet in Cambridge, Stradbroke No. 603 in March, Gild of Good Fellowship No. 1410 in Wisbech, Admiral Rous No. 1427 in Newmarket and Ship of the Fens No. 1847 in Ely.



## Make it a double at Wisbech

It's full steam ahead for a third double Initiation ceremony on 13<sup>th</sup> April at The Lodge of United Good Fellowship No. 809 at Wisbech.

WBro. David Broker, the Lodge's Director of Ceremonies, had the honour of conducting the season's first double ceremony for his two sons, Wesley and Martin, on 15<sup>th</sup> December. The Lodge, which is certainly embracing the Membership Pathway with eight candidates for initiation during its 2021/22 season, welcomed 78 members and guests to witness the ceremony for the two siblings.

WBro. Broker, PPGReg, accepted the gavel from the Worshipful Master, WBro. Edwin Broad, to carry out the Initiation ceremony and also delivered the Ancient Charge. The new Initiates, pictured above right, were congratulated on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master by WBro. David Fountain, Provincial Junior Grand Warden.

The Lodge chalked up its second double ceremony in two months on 26<sup>th</sup> January with the Initiation of Bro. Andrew Wiles and Bro. Andrew Coventon, pictured right with WBro. Broad. The Festive Board was made extra special by the reintroduction of communal singing of the Initiate's Song.

*Cliff Brown*



## Province helps Robotic Surgery Appeal

A £10,000 grant from the Province of Cambridgeshire Charity for Care & Relief and the Masonic Charitable Foundation is helping Addenbrooke's Hospital in its Robotic Surgery Appeal, enabling their amazing clinicians to provide life-saving and life-changing surgery to 1,500 patients a year.

The robotic system is a form of keyhole surgery involving small incisions where the surgeon controls a computer-enhanced robot, mimicking the surgeon's hands and wrist movements, and allowing absolute precision.

Addenbrooke's currently has one surgical robot, which is dedicated to treatment for kidney, bladder and prostate cancer patients, but the appeal will help fund another to revolutionise patient care across six specialities in the hospital.

The benefits of this innovative surgical robot are that the surgery is quicker, with patients requiring less anaesthetic and recovering more quickly. Thanks to the robot's dexterity and flexibility, wounds are smaller with lower chance of infection or pain.

Consultant Surgeon Mr Heman Joshi presented the cheque to the ACT Charity Team on behalf of Cambridgeshire Freemasons.

Claire Billing, from the Addenbrookes Charitable Trust, said: "Each £1,000 donated will allow one patient to benefit from robotic surgery. I hope you are as happy as we are in the knowledge that your gift will significantly impact the lives of 10 Addenbrooke's patients each year. Thank you once again for changing the future of surgery at Addenbrooke's, for the better, for staff and patients alike."

*Jon Cooper*





## Special birthday for lodge widow

It was congratulations all round for Mrs Mary Widgery, who celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday recently. The special occasion was marked by St. Andrew Lodge No. 4087 when the Worshipful Master, WBro. John Down, and his wife Lorraine visited Mary to present her with a lovely bouquet of flowers.

Mary is the widow of WBro. Les Widgery, who was a respected and generous benefactor to St Andrew Lodge at Whittlesey.



## March Lodges aid local charities

Three lodges based in March have donated £4,500 to local charities thanks to matched funding support from the City & University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust and the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Caldwell Lodge No. 3201 and Fenland Meridian Lodge No. 9858 gave £1,500 to both Eddie's and March Tuesday Club, and a further £1,000 to Young People March, while Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704 donated £500 to 20Twenty Productions.

Formerly part of Cambridgeshire Mencap, Eddie's is an award-winning charity providing community services and support to children, young people and adults with learning disabilities, and their families. Its aim is to help those it supports to gain increased confidence, more effective social inclusion, improved skills and reduce their financial hardship.

The March Tuesday Club, which meets every week at March Cricket Club, welcomes those with learning disabilities and hosts a variety of events.

Young People March, in the town's City Road, offers opportunities and guidance to enhance and structure young people's education, training, employment needs and social lives so that they are better equipped to take an active role in all aspects of their community.

Based at March Town Hall, 20Twenty Productions is a not-for-profit organisation that uses creativity and participation to engage and empower children and young people to build confidence and essential life skills through a range of cultural and artistic experiences. It helps children and young people in Fenland, East Cambs and beyond.

*Brian Sutton*





## In memory of Mike

**Money given in memory of WBro. Mike Spencer by his widow for two Fenland Lodges to donate to charity have been given to two good causes.**

The Lodge of United Good Fellowship No. 809 gave £1,250 to Wisbech Food Bank, while Fenland Farmers' Lodge No. 9933 handed over a matching sum to the local branch of MIND, the mental health charity.

WBro. Spencer, who died in September last year, was a member of both United Good Fellowship and Fenland Farmers.

*David Coupland*



## On the board

An honours board for Fenland Meridian Lodge No. 9858 was installed at the March Masonic Hall in time for its November meeting. At its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, WBro. Paul Ashby, a Past Master of Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704, was installed as the new Worshipful Master.

*Brian Sutton*



## Trio of Lodges help with Christmas donation

**A charity which has saved more than 15,000kg of food surplus going to landfill received a £3,000 Christmas donation from three Lodges in the Fens.**

Caldwell Lodge No. 3201, Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704 and Fenland Meridian Lodge No. 9858 combined to give the sum to the March Community Fridge, which operates under the FACT registered charity. The community fridge, which opened in March 2021, has saved enough food to support nearly 2,500 households.

"It was a great effort from the three Lodges with considerable assistance from the Care and Relief and the MCF, which I thank for their support," said WBro. Brian Sutton, Charity Steward of Caldwell Lodge, who along with WBro. Paul Ashby, Charity Steward of Stone Cross, handed the £3,000 cheque to Nicola Christy, the hub co-ordinator, and other volunteers.

The community fridge receives food surplus from stores such as Greggs, Sainsbury's, Lidl, Farm Foods, Aldi, the local Smith's Bakery, and farmers who donate vegetables. It is keen to offer pantry items, such as tinned products, pasta and rice alongside vegetables to help promote healthy eating. It has also received small grants from supermarkets. With up to 100 people needing its help each time, its stocks need constant replenishing.

Food poverty has negative impacts on the community's health and wellbeing, including a higher risk of dietary-related illnesses and diseases because purchasing healthy and nutritious food is generally more expensive than food high in fat, salt and sugars. The donations from the three Lodges attracted matched funding from the Province of Cambridgeshire Charity for Care and Relief and the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

*Cliff Brown*





## Freemasonry universal at Scientific Lodge

It was a definite case of 'Freemasonry universal' at the most recent meeting of Scientific Lodge No. 88 with visitors from Jamaica, Turkey, Mexico and the Czech Republic as well as from other Cambridgeshire Lodges.

*Michael Hinton*



## Celebration time for University Rose Croix Chapter

Like so many aspects of our lives during the last year, the celebratory Sesquicentennial meeting of the University Rose Croix Chapter No. 30 was somewhat delayed.

Nevertheless, a most successful and enjoyable meeting eventually took place at Bateman Street, Cambridge, on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October when a very good turnout of members and guests was enhanced by no less than five Inspectors General from other Districts together with a special guest of honour, the Most Illustrious Grand Secretary General of the Order, Dr. Giles Chilson.

He was ably supported by his acting Grand DC, Ill Bro Alistair Townsend - no stranger to Bateman Street being a Past Master of Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859 and a former member of this University RC Chapter.

A Ceremony of Perfection (admittance to the Order) of a new Brother proceeded in a most confident, competent and sincere manner with the Accolade, on this occasion, being conferred by the Grand Secretary General, who also addressed the Chapter with a short but informative and humorous talk highlighting references to a 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in general as well as specific to this Chapter - including comments regarding his membership of the Order in "the other place".

A festive board followed the Meeting at which the Grand Secretary General gave an equally humorous response to his Toast.

*David Adams*



*The Most Wise Sovereign Gareth Huxtable (centre) with the Candidate, the Inspector General for Cambs and Isle of Ely, Dr Nigel Williams and other visiting Inspectors General.*



## New Publicity team plan ahead

The Province's new Publicity Unit Team has hit the ground running to plan for appearances at public events this year. Following the recent UGLE national membership drive and continuing work by our Membership Officer, Ian Hardman, the team are working hard to update the unit, identify opportunities across the Province and create a list of volunteers for each event.

The team consists of Jon Cooper, Chris Cridford, David Watson, Andy Murfitt, Ed Williams, William Dunn and Terry Parsons, with advice provided by Ian Hardman and John Surbey. Use of the Unit at venues would benefit from input from local lodges. The Cambridgeshire Light Blues Club has pledged its support. Involvement by lady Masons is also under discussion.



The current list of events includes the Soham Carnival & Heavy Horse Show in May, Ely's Jubil-Eel Day and the Cambridgeshire County Day in Newmarket, both in June as well as the Armed Forces Day in the town of March, the Haddenham Steam Rally & Heavy Horse Show and the Soham Pumpkin Fair in September. Offers of assistance and suggestions for suitable events are very welcome.

*Jon Cooper*

## Running for the Festival

A Cambridge Brother's efforts in the Cambridge Half Marathon raised £1,150 in sponsorship in aid of the Province's Festival 2023.

Bro. Shane Martin, of Kynaston Lodge No. 5810 and Cantabrigia Lodge No. 3532, took part in the event, covering 13.1 miles, wearing a Masonic Charitable Foundation shirt. WBro. Mark Upex was due to accompany Shane but had to pull out due to catching Covid.

*David Cameron*



## MailChimp & Marketing

If you're an expert in MailChimp, design, video, social media or marketing and have time to help the Provincial Membership and Communications Teams, please contact Provincial Communications Officer WBro. Mike Hinton.

We're planning to switch production and distribution of provincial newsletters to MailChimp (or similar) and wish to maximise the impact of paid social media advertising to complement the regular appearances of the Publicity Unit at forthcoming local events.

Please email [comms@pglcambs.org.uk](mailto:comms@pglcambs.org.uk)





## Buddy Scheme up and running

The Cambridgeshire Light Blues Club officially launched its Buddies Programme at Virtute et Fide Lodge No. 7959 and at Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704 on 28<sup>th</sup> January.

Its aim is to provide a support network for all new and young Masons as they join and progress in their Masonic Journeys, by arranging official visits to other Lodges. The launch events saw 10 new and young Masons attend the two Lodge meetings to see Initiation ceremonies. By encouraging the Buddies to make further visits to Lodges, it is hoped long-term friendships can be promoted.

Upon arrival, all the new initiates were greeted by their host and encouraged to introduce themselves. At Virtute et Fide, one of the new Initiates, Bro. Peter Richards, played the organ for the Lodge.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. Pat Kilby visited the meeting of Virtute et Fide at Cambridge, and the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. William Dastur attended Stone Cross Lodge at March.

*Adrian Peters*



*The Provincial Grand Master RWBro. William Dastur and Stone Cross Worshipful Master WBro. Graham Clapperton with Bros. Josh Harris and Karl Matthews.*



*The Deputy Provincial Grand Master VWBro. Patrick Kilby with the Initiate and other Entered Apprentices at the meeting of Virtute et Fide Lodge.*

## Buddies take a trip to Thirkill

Five members of the Cambridgeshire Light Blues Club accompanied eight visitors from its Buddy Scheme to an Initiation ceremony at Thirkill Lodge No. 7333 at Bateman Street, Cambridge. on 21<sup>st</sup> February. The next CLB visits are being planned for the end of April at to Lodge of United Good Fellowship No. 809 and in May at The Lodge of Three Grand Principals No. 441. Any light blue is invited to attend.

*Adrian Peters*





## Festival honorifics

The Worshipful Master of Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655, WBro. Wayne Lawrence, supported by his Junior Warden, Bro. Freddie Lawes, displaying the Festival 2023 Bronze Honorific.



The WM of St Ovin Lodge No. 7774 at Ely, WBro. Mark Shields, ProvGTreas, with the Lodge's Bronze Honorific for Festival 2023 and the new Provincial tie



## Platinum achievement for Three Grand Principles

The Province's second Platinum honorific for donations to the Festival 2023 has been awarded to The Lodge of Three Grand Principles No. 441.

Having raised more than £36,600 so far for the Festival, in February the Lodge was presented with the Platinum award by Festival chairman, WBro. Paul Gillingwater. At the same meeting the Lodge's Worshipful Master, WBro. Colin Bircham handed over a further cheque for £1,000 to the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. William Dastur.

The first lodge to receive the Platinum honorific for Festival 2023 was Alma Mater Lodge No. 1492, which has so far raised more nearly £59,000 for the five-year appeal.

*Bob Hammett*



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