



The Cambridgeshire Mason

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Province signs up to Armed Forces Covenant

Cambridgeshire Freemasons have signed the Armed Forces Covenant, a partnership aiming to support members of the military community and ensure they have the same access to government as well as commercial services and products as any other citizen.

The signing ceremony took place on 23rd November at Newmarket Masonic Hall at a meeting of United Services Lodge No. 10010. Membership of the United Services Lodge, which meets in Newmarket, is open to those who have served the Sovereign, full or part-time, in the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force and Reserve Forces, Police, Fire, Ambulance and Prison Services, and adults of the Cadet Forces.



Brigadier Tim Seal, who signed the Covenant on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, said: "I am hugely grateful to you for the commitment you have made to our armed forces, through the signing of this covenant. As a United Services Lodge, I am sure that you have a deeper level of understanding for what this means to our service personnel, knowing that they have the support of the communities from whom they are drawn. Thank you again for the work you have done so far and for the pledge you have made to do so into the future."

Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Bill Dastur, said: "It is my great pleasure to sign the Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of all Cambridgeshire Freemasons. This document represents part of the UGLE's ongoing commitment to support active and retired military personnel. We are proud of our long-standing relationship with the Armed Forces and we will continue to promote their welfare, support, and respect amongst all our members."

With so many of its Provinces signing the Armed Forces Covenant, members of the United Grand Lodge of England will be able to demonstrate their support to members of the Armed Forces in a number of areas, including education, family wellbeing, getting a home, starting a new career, access to healthcare, financial assistance and discounted services.

Michael Hinton

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Our Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent says...

We are approaching the season of good cheer and I am feeling a new sense of optimism in the Province as well as in the Craft generally.

Our Pro Grand Master was formally installed in the Craft in September and we are eagerly awaiting the launch of his new strategy through to 2029 at Quarterly Communication on 14th December. It is an exciting time and one where we can look forward to the future positively. Without spilling the beans, I am sure Membership will be at the heart of what is announced.

The Membership Pathway team in Cambridgeshire, led by VWBro. Pat Kilby and WBro. Ed Williams, are masterminding our Membership Challenge at Province and Lodge level, so that we maximise the opportunities provided from the new strategy, the recent digital marketing campaign, other enquiries and lodges' own initiatives whilst also providing support as required.

Ensuring that we encourage those members who are reluctant to return, post-Covid, is equally important and what better Christmas present could you give any brother than inviting him to join you at your next meeting?



Our Eighth Festival of Carols was held on 9th December 2022 at Ely Cathedral and had been sold out for over two months. Supporting the Cathedral and Maggies with the renowned conductor and composer, John Rutter, it was a night we will never forget, whilst raising some £25,000 for the two charities and showing our commitment to the local community.

I am also proud that we have been able, through matched funding initiatives, to provide just under £16,000, delivered at lodge level, to seven food banks across the Province, for Christmas meals and other support to the underprivileged and homeless this coming Christmas.

The 2023 Festival in support of your charity, the MCF, is now in its final year and we have raised over £800,000 and are well on our way to the target of £900,000. One last push and we shall prove, yet again, that Cambridgeshire punches above its weight! The Festival Banquet is now confirmed for Thursday 21st September at Queens' College.

We have had two special meetings in November with the belated celebration of Gray Lodge's Centenary and this was followed by the first initiation at United Services Lodge where the Province made its commitment to, and signed, the Armed Services Covenant. Both were well attended and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and I experienced two thoroughly enjoyable evenings.

I hope you will enjoy the latest edition of The Cambridgeshire Mason with its many stories and pictures from the last three months.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the New Year. This is a great Province and I get immense enjoyment from leading it but more especially from engaging with all of you.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas with your families and a prosperous New Year, regardless of the current economic climate.

Bin David 2.

Dedicated Don gets lifetime achievement award

A March freemason's extraordinary dedication over decades in helping as a volunteer in the community has been recognised with a Lifetime Achievement Award at this year's 'Pride in Fenland' event.

The efforts of 92-year-old Brother Don Bradshaw, a retired farmer who is a member of Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704, were described as making a difference to many people and included being a mainstay of Fenland District Council's Golden Age Fairs. Receiving the award, Don said: "I truly cannot believe this, it feels like a dream."

It was the first time in its 15-year history that the 'Pride in Fenland' judges had decided to instigate a Lifetime Achievement Award. Don, who was initiated into Stone Cross Lodge in 1982 and is now an honorary member, was runner-up in this new award. The 'Pride in Fenland' event recognises the extraordinary things that ordinary people do for others and their communities. Organised by Fenland District Council and the Fenland Citizen newspaper, the annual event attracted 83 nominees for the various award categories.

Cliff Brown

Picture courtesy of the Fenland Citizen



Celebration for Wisbech Mason

A Wisbech Mason is celebrating 50 years since being initiated in the town's Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125.

WBro. Ron Goodwin was initiated in November 1972 and still remembers the occasion vividly. He keeps a copy of his ritual book close to hand and recites either the charge, traditional history, or tracing board most days because he feels this keeps his memory in good condition.

Ron was presented with his certificate by the Worshipful Master, WBro. Richard Smith, and Almoner, WBro. Steve Napier, when they visited his home in Wisbech recently.

At the ages of 96 and 92 respectively, both Ron and his wife Margaret are in very good health and keep active.

Steve Napier



Meridian help out Wisbech in Bloom

Flower beds in Wisbech will be enhanced thanks to a donation from Fenland Meridian Lodge No. 9858.

The Lodge gave £300, including matched funding from the City and University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust, to Wisbech in Bloom. On behalf of the Lodge, WBro. Steve Napier presented the cheque to Brian Massingham and Penny Stocks, chairman and secretary of Wisbech in Bloom. The money will be used to enhance the flower beds on each side of the town's Freedom Bridge.

Brian Sutton



Foodbanks receive an early Christmas present

Christmas came early for several food banks across the county when they received generous donations from Cambridgeshire Freemasons, who have donated £16,000 to those in need over the Festive Season.

Foodbanks across England and Wales are predicting a high demand for their services this Christmas, following supply chain problems and rising fuel bills.

Masonic Lodges in March, Ely, Cambridge, Wisbech and Newmarket have contributed with fund matching and additional support from the Province of Cambridgeshire Charity for Care and Relief and the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Food hubs, foodbanks and community lunch schemes who have benefitted from the donation this year include: The Rosmini Centre (Wisbech), Ely Foodbank, March Community Fridge, Ely Community Lunches, St Andrew's Church Food Hub (Cherry Hinton) and Newmarket Open Door Food Hub.

The Rosmini Centre provides support to local families and individuals in Wisbech and the surrounding area. The type of support provided is tailored to individual needs, so could be in the form of information, advice and guidance, food parcels, daily lunches, support groups, skills development and employment support, clothing, food vouchers, pre-loaded SIM cards and much more.

Rosmini Centre, Community Centre Manager Anita Grodkiewicz said: "I would like to say a very big thank you for the grants we have received which we will use towards the collection and delivery of food to re-distribute to anyone who finds themselves in need or in crisis. The grant has been especially helpful at this time due to the high numbers of people who find themselves in need of support and who are currently accessing our services".

Michael Hinton



Ely Carol Service brings Joy to the World

During the highly successful Festival of Carols at Ely Cathedral, Provincial Grand Master RWBro. Bill Dastur, thanked the Cathedral Dean, The Very Reverend Mark Bonney, and Chapter for their immense support and said: "The Cathedral and Maggie's are our two charitable beneficiaries this year. We are hugely grateful to our sponsors, Rathbones, The One Group, Carter Jonas, G's and Staploe Solicitors whose support was so important in ensuring the success of the evening."

A team from the Cambridgeshire Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards were on hand to assist throughout the event. Worshipful Master WBro. Kim Sheldrick, said: "A huge thank you and congratulations to the team which all helped on Friday night. Well done to WBro. Tim and Sue Shorey for the splendid selection and presentation of the canapes."

Readings were delivered by Jeremy Sallis from BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, Deputy Lord Lieutenants Neil McKittrick and Richard Pemberton, John Attwater, Principal of King's Ely, and EComp. David Blair, Deputy Grand Superintendent.

Lisa Punt, Centre Head at Maggie's Cambridge, said: "I am delighted that we have the support of you all here at Ely Cathedral. I know the effort that is put into organising events like this and I am so pleased that we can be part of this special event at this spectacular venue."

"Thank you to the Freemasons, the Cathedral and our staff and volunteers who are here this evening, for helping Maggie's to be there for people when they need it most."

Kim Sheldrick



Lodges support the TLC scheme

Lodges within the Province have taken up the challenge to raised much-needed funds for the Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) scheme.

The project started in 2001 in the Province of Essex and was taken up the following year by Cambridgeshire under the guidance of WBro. Jim Whitehead who recently handed over the reins to WBro. Tony Barrios. The scheme, which provides teddy bears to children in hospital, is entirely self-funding, so Tony asked all Lodges to support this worthy cause by holding a fundraising event, such as a raffle, auction or social function.

Bro. Keith Martin from Euston Lodge No.2283 (Northants & Hunts) won a bear in the raffle at Kynaston Lodge No. 5810 which raised £303.

Thirkill Lodge No. 7333 raised £200 at a recent meeting, when the winner of the bear was WBro. Andy Sullivan, of Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704, who will raffle the bear at a future meeting.

A festive board raffle and lucky number auction to win a bear at Stone Cross Lodge raised £385 for the scheme. Winner of a large bear in the auction was WBro. Brian Kett, of Lodge of United Good Fellowship No.809, based at Wisbech.

At Caldwell Lodge No. 3201, £572 was raised for TLC, while at Fenland Farmers Lodge No. 9933, a £200 donation was made to the scheme, where a bear had been donated to the raffle in aid of the Master's List. The bear was won by WBro. Keith Worby.

Cliff Brown



How the MCF supports projects in the Province

The Masonic Charitable Foundation supported 16 charities and 25 freemasons or their families in Cambridgeshire with grants totalling nearly £200,000 between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022.

Grants to 16 Charities	£125,062
Grants to 25 Freemasons/families	£ 73,520
Total	£198,582

The MCF Festival System runs on an 11-year cycle, so by considering these grants over 11 years (11 x £198 K = £2.2 Million), that equates to 2.4 times more than our Festival target. Admittedly, we are fortunate Cambridgeshire to receive a higher-than-average number of grants for medical research.

Our Cambridgeshire Festival 2023 total at the end of October 2022 was a very respectable £806,743.29. However, we must keep up our FUNd-Raising to achieve our £900,000 target to support the excellent work of our Charity, the MCF.



The grants made from the Masonic Charitable Foundation last year for all of England and Wales is a very impressive and amazing £19.6 million:

798 grants to Charities	£ 5,866,981
2485 grants for Daily Living costs	£ 7,607,612
1580 grants Healthcare/well being	£ 4,255,238
837 grants for Education young people	£ 1,695,800
Disaster Aid	£ 234,000
Total	£19,659,631

These donations are mainly funded by the Festival System.

David Cameron

Nourse Lodge Christmas Meeting – Butchers & Gold

Three Master Butchers and nine Entered Apprentices were in attendance at the December meeting of Nourse Lodge No. 8590, when WBro. Ben Sandle Brownlie, initiated Mr Michael Malloy, a Master Butcher.

The Charge to the Initiate was presented by WBro. Mike Fuller, a Master Butcher of Watton Lodge No. 7107 (Norfolk) and the Entered Apprentice Song was ably performed by another Master Butcher, WBro. Jon West, of Lodge of Three Grand Principles No. 441.

The Worshipful Master also presented a cheque for £2,500 towards Festival 2023 to the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Bill Dastur. The ProvGM thanked the brethren and presented a Gold Honorific award to the the Worshipful Master.

Over £800 was raised for Festival 2023 from a raffle and a 'Heads & Tails' for a sumptuous hamper, donated by WBro. Bob Sculthorpe.

David Cameron



Scientific Lodge celebrates a White (Table) Christmas

The dining room at Bateman Street was packed when Scientific Lodge held its December meeting as a White Table. The brethren were joined by wives, partners, family and friends, lodge widows, lady masons and prospective members.

The lodge has been holding White Table meetings since 2003 as a way to include non-masons in the life of the lodge and as an opportunity to get to know prospective members. It was moved to the December meeting in 2021 so guests could enjoy the long-standing tradition of singing carols, accompanied by a local brass band.

For over 30 years the Salvation Army Band played for the lodge's December meeting, under the musical direction of Bro. Percy Reed. Recently, Cottenham Brass have played, with Director of Ceremonies WBro. Mark Long stepping up to lead the singing.

Lodge Secretary WBro. Tony Barrios, said: "It's a lovely way to end another great year for the lodge. To have over 70 people dining is wonderful, and we're always pleased to welcome our lodge widows."

"We're also delighted that Cottenham Brass have come back for a second year with even more band members playing. All our members enjoy being able to share their lodge with their family and friends, especially at Christmas".

The raffle raised £425 for Three Pillars Feeding the Homeless, a charity based in the neighbouring province of Northants & Hunts, whose vans provide food and comfort to the homeless in several local cities including Cambridge.

Michael Hinton



Blooming marvellous donation

Matched funding from the City and University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust helped two lodges donate £1,000 to a community group in a Fenland town.

Caldwell Lodge No. 3201 and Fenland Meridian No. 9858 joined forces to donate the sum to March in Bloom, the town's street pride group which provides floral decorations throughout the town.

The cheque was presented to Frances Murray by WBro. Brian Sutton, Charity Steward of both Lodges representing Fenland Meridian, and WBro. Dave Pullen, Treasurer of Caldwell Lodge.

The donation will help March in Bloom undertake a full programme of planting during 2023.

Brian Sutton



Upholding true Masonic values

Brother John Henry Williamson, of Kynaston Lodge No. 5810, reveals how he is upholding the virtues of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Becoming a Mason for many is about spending time with likeminded people, believing in Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. I have always looked at how I can bring to life these cornerstones of Freemasonry into something more, which will do some good to others. During 2021 I was introduced to a Cambridge homeless charity, which is supported by the Three Pillars (Feeding the Homeless Trust) set up in the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. Although my part in helping the Cambridge homeless is small it can make a difference. On Wednesdays I arrive at the side of the Guildhall, Cambridge, and help distribute hot food to those who come along. The charity also gives essential items, such as underwear, wipes, clothing and sleeping bags.

During the last visit to support the charity, I walked around the city centre talking to those on the street, telling them that the food truck was waiting for them. Back at the Guildhall, I chatted to the people, offered a calm hand on the shoulder, a fist bump and listened to their troubles. This simple act may well be the only human contact they have in any day.

The charity relies on donations, which are used to help the homeless across Cambridgeshire, who find themselves wandering or in a position where being homeless is their only option.

This is where I can relieve some of that suffering, give some love and truth. Upholding the solemn promise of a Mason, one small gesture of being a man of honour in a way that benefits others and why I became a Mason.



If this sounds like it's the reason you became a Mason and you would like to contribute this Christmas, the Cambridgeshire Light Blues will be raising funds to help this small charity provide for the homeless. Look out for details."

John Henry Williamson

The charity's vans were recently vandalised and stripped of parts by thieves. If you would like to contribute to replacements please make a donation via <https://gofund.me/66c75cdf>



The Cambridgeshire Provincial Panto Team

Be our Guest for
a Christmas panto supporting local
charity fundraising

Beauty AND THE Beast

By Peter Crussell

Friday 27th January - 7.30pm
Saturday 28th January - 3.00pm & 7.30pm

At Newmarket Masonic Hall
115 High St, Newmarket CB8 9AE

Tickets:

Adults & Teens - £10

Children under 14 - Free

Box Office:

panto@pglcambs.org.uk

Beneficiary

Province of Cambridge 2023 Festival

Order of the Secret Monitor...

Have you ever wondered why some Freemasons wear a bow and arrow lapel pin? Dan Heath provides the answer to this and more with his spotlight on The Order of the Secret Monitor.

In 1 Samuel 18 we read 'And it came to pass, when he (David) had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul'.

It is in this short piece of biblical verse, cementing the friendship between David (father of Solomon) and Jonathan (son of Saul), that we find the essence of the ritual and teachings of The Order of the Secret Monitor, or Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, in the British Isles and its Districts and Conclaves overseas.

The very earliest workings of an Order based on the story of David and Jonathan appear to stem from the practices of Dutch Protestants in the Netherlands during the late 16th century and several Orders, Brotherhoods and Societies based on the same story began to appear over the next 200 years.

It was Dr Issachar Zacharie who brought the foundations of the modern Order to England from America. Born in Chatham, Kent, to Jewish parents who had converted to Christianity and emigrated to America, Zacharie was a former Chiropodist-General to the United States Army who had served in the American Civil War.

On 5th May 1887, Zacharie invited 14 brethren to attend a meeting at his house at 80 Brook Street, London, where they formed the Alfred Meadows Conclave. The first Grand Council was constituted on 17th June that same year and the first meeting of Grand Council was held a few weeks later, on 2nd July, where Zacharie was installed and proclaimed Grand Supreme Ruler, a position he would hold until 1894.

The Order had a slightly turbulent time towards the end of the century as perceived disagreements between it and other masonic orders caused a ruling to be made that it should be incorporated into the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees, though retaining an independent Grand Council within the A.M.D. This situation lasted until 1931 when the Grand Council of the Order of the Secret Monitor was granted independence as the sole and supreme authority over the Degree of Secret Monitor in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Dominions, Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown. Although its title had changed, this is very much the same body which governs the Order today.

Now covering the British Isles and its Districts and Conclaves Overseas, it is worth noting that it is the only Order administered from Mark Masons' Hall which has provinces in Scotland working under its Constitution.

The overriding premise of the Order is that of friendship and care – Brotherly Love in its truest form – as evinced in the story of David and Jonathan. This message is amplified during a Brother's Induction into the Order, when he is obligated to keep watch for and warn any Brother about to perform an act which may be detrimental to himself or another and, if so warned by a Brother, to take heed; and to offer sympathy, warning, caution or aid to a Brother in need. This engaging friendliness is further highlighted in the Order's name for the Supreme Being – The Almighty Friend of all friends.



The close attention to the care and wellbeing of brethren is taken a step further in the duties of the four Visiting Deacons (similar to those duties attributed to the Almoner ibn a Craft Lodge). These Officers are peculiar to the Order and they are specially charged on their appointment to see that this fundamental object of the Order is carried into practical effect during their term of Office.

To assist them, the membership of the Conclave is divided into four and each quarter ascribed to one of the Visiting Deacons so they can carry out this unique duty. So high is the importance of this aspect of the Order that the faithful discharge of these duties is enshrined in the Constitution and Regulations.

There are three Degree ceremonies with the Order: that of Induction, based upon the story of David and Jonathan which is related through the ritual of the Degree; the ceremony of Admission or Princes Degree, which continues the biblical story from the book of Samuel; and finally, the ceremony of Installation which is unique in mainstream English Freemasonry as it is also the third Degree of the Order. During the Ceremony, the newly installed Supreme Ruler of the Conclave (equivalent to a Worshipful Master of a Craft Lodge) is further 'commissioned' as a Supreme Ruler within the Order by a Grand Officer, giving him the authority to preside in any Conclave, not just his own.

...the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan

A Conclave meeting is easily distinguished by the layout of the furniture, centred around a floorcloth bearing the seal of Solomon or shield of David, upon which is set a stone easel. Collectively, this depicts the Holy Ground for the purpose of the ceremonies.

The regalia is quite simple, reflecting the pleasantly humble nature of the Order. A Brother of the first degree wears a breast jewel appended to a ribbon of three equal stripes, violet, Indian yellow and violet, which is usually loaned until he becomes a Prince of the Order, when the jewel is exchanged for one of the same design but the colours of the ribbon are inverted. Officers wear sashes during the ceremony, the colours of which vary depending on which degree is being worked. Provincial and Grand Officers wear a sash (of empire blue or medicrimson respectively) and collarette.

So what about the bow and arrow lapel pin? This story is central to the ritual of the first degree and can be found in the book of Samuel, but the best way to find out more would be to join the Order and share in a very special friendship which is its most enduring characteristic.

Who is in charge?

The Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler, Andrew Christopher Sweeney. He is assisted by the Right Worthy Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler, James Robert Hodge; and the Right Worthy Assistant Grand Supreme Ruler, Gaspar Llewellyn Gill.

Who can join?

The Order is open to Master Masons.

How big is the Order?

Currently there are more than 350 Conclaves in the Order across 33 Provinces in the British Isles, five Districts and including 28 Unattached Conclaves. They stretch from New Zealand, the Philippines, Hong Kong and Singapore, through India and South Africa, into the Mediterranean, Western Europe and Scandinavia and then across to the Caribbean Islands. There are also several Sovereign Grand Conclaves in other parts of the world.

Eight Conclaves form the Province of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Hertfordshire. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler is Right Worthy Brother Howard S Markham.

Alma Mater Conclave No. 74 meets on the third Saturday of January and April, and the second Saturday of October (Installation). For details, see page 217 of the Cambridgeshire Masonic Year Book 2022 or contact the Secretary, John Webster by email: sec74@osmbch.org.uk.

The Cromwell Conclave No. 443 meets at Huntingdon. Details of all eight Conclaves can be found on page 216 of the yearbook.

Further information

'125 Years of the Order of the Secret Monitor' by Brian C Wright BSc, is available from the shop at Mark Masons' Hall or www.markmasonshall.org/orders/secret-monitor.

Dan Heath



Help the TLC scheme

Here's young Winston. The youngster was one when he visited his nanna Joy and grandad Percy. While in the UK, Winston had a small accident and burnt his hand, which entailed a visit to A&E at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge, where I was given this wonderful teddy bear, which helped me through the pain.

My nanna discovered the bears are donated by the Freemasons through the Teddies for Loving Care scheme. My great-grandfather Charles Franks was Master of Caldwell Lodge No. 3201 in 1970. Teddy is now at home with me in Uganda.



The TLC scheme in Cambridgeshire is now run by WBro. Tony Barrios, Secretary of Scientific Lodge No. 88. Teddies, which are available at Addenbrookes paediatric A&E, and Ely, Doddington and Wisbech Health Hubs are purchased via the CMBA from funds raised by Lodges.

Farmers help the Festival

The Festival 2023 has been boosted to the tune of £2,500 by Fenland Farmers' Lodge No. 9933 when a cheque was presented on 11th November at its Installation meeting held in Wisbech. The cheque was handed over by the Worshipful Master, WBro. Michael Humphrey, Provincial Junior Grand Warden, and Treasurer, WBro. Timothy Cox, to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. Pat Kilby.



At the same meeting, a further £500 was presented to VWBro. Kilby. It was raised during a 'Name the Alpaca' competition for an open farm event held by Gorefield Alpacas.



The winning name, 'Charmer', was suggested by Mrs C. Flack and earned her £25. The cheque was presented by WBro. Humphrey and WBro. Richard Smith, WM of Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125.

Andrew Clifton

Knight Masons named

The new Knight Masons Council planned for Cambridge will be called 'Anglia Centenary Council'. For more information, see page 227 of the Cambridgeshire Masonic Year Book 2022.

Edging closer to Festival target

At the end of November, our Festival 2023 figure achieved stands at £829,746.22, an increase of more than £20,000 over the previous month. That leaves just over £70,000 to raise to achieve our target.

A Regular Payment Promise (RPP) is a great way to provide charitable support for Festival 2023! We've made it easy for people to set up an RPP and donate on a regular basis. Once the RPP is set up, you can feel secure that your contributions are enabling us to plan ahead and deliver our grants to charities and individuals in need.

It takes less than three minutes to set up an RPP online. Visit our [Masonic Charitable Foundation Festival Donation web page](#) and follow the steps by selecting which Relief Chest or appeal you'd like to donate to. The process is clear and simple, offering you a number of options to ensure the RPP is affordable and manageable.

You can download a Regular Payment Promise form from our [provincial website](#) or request one via email from cmbsa@pglcambs.org.uk. The form allows you to set the duration, frequency and amount to donate and is easy to complete. Once the form is completed it must be sent in the post to:

Relief Chest Team,
60 Great Queen Street,
London,
WC2B 5AZ.

Peter Crussell



Lodge remembers war casualty with Lodge of Sorrow

The Caldwell Lodge No 3201, based in March, remembered a victim of the First World War with a Lodge of Sorrow at the town's Masonic Hall on 15th November.

Guests from far and wide, including a contingent from the Royal Engineers Lodge, came to see the ceremony, the first to be held by the lodge. Following this, a ceremony of Passing was carried out and afterwards a plaque was unveiled for the fallen soldier, Bro. George William Heath.

The plaque was the idea of WBro. Andy Murfitt, the Worshipful Master. After hearing about the soldier, he was keen to ensure future masons remembered the name of a founder of the lodge who gave his life in the war. Brother Heath, who was a builder living in March, was initiated in the Lodge of United Good Fellowship No. 809 at Wisbech and became one of the founders of Caldwell Lodge, which was consecrated on 31st January 1907.

A married man, Bro. Heath enlisted as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers on 4th December 1914, eventually being posted to the 79th Field Company RE in the 18th Eastern Division. He was posted to France with the Division on 26th July 1915 and wounded on 17th July 1916 during the fighting around Trones Wood and Delville Wood on the Somme.

Sent to hospital in England, he was discharged from the Army as unfit for further service on 1st January 1917, but sadly died of an internal complaint, aged 43, on 27th January.

After the meeting, a raffle at the festive board raised £572 for the Teddies for Loving Care scheme.

Andy Murfitt



Royal & Select Masters...

All brethren will profess that being a Freemason is a wonderful and fulfilling experience, full of interest and instrumental in making one aware of the duties we owe to other members and society in general. As members of a Craft Lodge, everyone should be encouraged to become a Royal Arch Companion.

However, some are content to remain only in the Craft, at the same declaring their love of Freemasonry. It is like saying that you enjoy a game of golf and never going further than a driving range. The Craft is the foundation of the whole Masonic structure, but the story of King Solomon's Temple needs further exploration to be fully understood, and anyone who is interested in the historical side of Freemasonry needs to consider three other important degrees.

Mark Masonry is concerned with the quarries and the Overseers who presided over lodges of Operative Masons who were preparing the stones for the building of the first Temple. The Mark Mason Degree, as a natural continuation of the Fellowcraft, culminates in the symbolic completion of the construction of the Temple with the placing of the all-supporting Keystone in the principal arch.

Following a period of 470 years after its apparent loss, three Sojourners discover the Word. It is returned to us through the ritual of the Holy Royal Arch of Jerusalem. In the Royal Arch Chapter, the lost secrets of a Master Mason are conveyed to the candidate and the building of the second Temple is studied. Memberships of these two degrees, together with the Craft make a Mason eligible for membership of one of the finest and informative degrees in Freemasonry, The Order of Royal and Select Masters, also known as the Cryptic Degrees.



It goes some way to provide the missing link, by explaining the measures taken by the two remaining Grand Masters to preserve the means of pronunciation, but also to safeguard the holy treasures from the catastrophe prophesied to befall the city of Jerusalem. It gives the whole story from about 974BCE up to 534BCE concerning the building of the first Temple, the death of Hiram Abif, the dedication of the Temple, its subsequent destruction, and finally the rebuilding and The Recovery of the Lost Word.

It is the only Order to link the Craft, via the Mark Degree, with the Holy Royal Arch. It is considered to be the summit and perfection of Ancient Masonry and without it the history of the Holy Royal Arch cannot be said to be complete.

The Order consists of Four Degrees.

Select Master:

The most important holy treasure, which plays an intrinsic part within the ceremonies, was the Ark of the Covenant. A copy of this and the other treasures were eventually to be placed into a Secret Vault or Crypt whose existence was known to but a Select few involved in its construction beneath the Holy of Holies.

Royal Master:

Work on the Temple is nearing completion and some of the Overseers are anxious as to when they will receive the Master Word. A certain favourite adventures to enquire of Hiram Abif. The disquisition that ensues is rightly regarded, by those qualified to pass comment, as the most enthralling and spiritually uplifting passage of ritual to be found anywhere in the whole of Freemasonry.

Most Excellent Master:

Our Grand Master has been murdered and decently interred according to ancient usage – but life goes on. The Temple has been completed and the Ark of Covenant installed in the Holy of Holies. King Solomon prepares to consecrate and dedicate the edifice to the Deity in all its glory and beauty. It is an appropriate time to bestow a distinguishing mark of approval for services rendered.

Super Excellent Master:

Time has moved on and the fortunes of the Israelites have taken a downturn. With the vast Babylonish forces of Nebuchadnezzar threatening the city of Jerusalem, the vassal king Zedekiah and his subjects make their respective plans for their inevitable fate.

Royal & Select Masters...continued

The main benefit is found in the explanation of the Masonic story, a must for the true student of masonry. Any mason who is interested in developing his knowledge of the Craft should first consider becoming a Royal Arch Companion, then a Mark Master Mason, and finally, for many of us the ultimate pleasure of a Royal and Select Master.

In Cambridgeshire, University Council meets at Cambridge Masonic Hall on the first Saturday in February (Installation), the Saturday after the fourth Saturday in May and the fourth Saturday in October. Members generally meet for a drink at noon before lunch at around 12.45. The meeting starts at 14.15 and we are invariably finished between 16.00 and 17.00.

When they join, new members are presented with a Council tie, breast jewel and apron, a pin badge for Jewel, set of ritual books and a Grand Council Yearbook. The admission fee is £32 and the annual subscription is £40; all dining for members (including drinks at table) is free at present.

As members progress through the Chair, all Regalia is provided and they are asked to return the regalia for their previous rank for recycling. Anybody interested in taking this further step in Freemasonry or who would like further information, should not hesitate to contact the Council Recorder; Dr. MC Black.

Gray Lodge celebrates its centenary

It may have been a year late, but Gray Lodge No. 4334 celebrated its Centenary in style at its 702nd regular meeting held on 16th November at Chatteris.

More than 60 members and visitors filled the lodge room, where the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Bill Dastur, assisted by the Provincial Senior and Junior Wardens, WBro. Justin Curtis and WBro. Michael Humphrey, conducted the main business of the ceremony.

A splendidly researched history of the lodge, which is named after a former Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. the Rev Canon Joseph Henry Gray, was given by WBro. Harry Rooke. Its consecration took place on 26th November 1921 in Chatteris, with the centenary being celebrated a year late due to organisational issues caused by the Covid pandemic.

After WBro. Andrew Badcock, Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary, had read the Centenary warrant, this, along with the first Centenary jewel, was presented to the Worshipful Master, WBro. Dennis Reed, by the Provincial Grand Master. This was followed by a fine oration by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, WBro. Peter Brindle. Among other Grand Officers supporting the Provincial Grand Master were his Deputy VWBro. Pat Kilby and a former Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. Tim Pearce Higgins.

Following the meeting, the brethren enjoyed a five-course meal, during which WBro. Michael Fox, who replied to the Visitors' Toast, presented to the Worshipful Master a Founder's Jewel he had discovered among the regalia and assorted masonic items of a deceased Brother.

Cliff Brown



Provincial visit to Supreme Grand Chapter

A rearranged date for the Regular Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter reduced the normal number of attendees from Cambridgeshire, but twenty Companions from the Province were present to see the Installation of ME Comp. Jonathan Spence as Pro First Grand Principal.

Members of various Royal Arch Chapters in Cambridgeshire were in attendance at the event in Great Queen Street, London, on 16th November. Supporting the Grand Superintendent, EComp. Bill Dastur, were his Deputy, EComp. David Blair, along with the Second and Third Provincial Grand Principals, EComps. David Sowman and Michael Hinton.

After the Convocation, the Companions from Cambridgeshire dined at the nearby Trattoria Verdi, again organised by Comp. Richard Kemp, supported on the day by EComp. Kim Sheldrick.

Cliff Brown



University Council receives Platinum honorific

At the Alma Mater Lodge Installation meeting in December, Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Bill Dastur was delighted to receive a cheque for the fabulous donation of £4,250 from University Council No. 26, of the Order of Royal & Select Masters which also meets at Bateman Street, Cambridge

The cheque was presented by Illustrious Companion Brian Thrower, Thrice Illustrious Master of University Council No. 26. Several members of University Council were in attendance including VWBro. Graham Redman, WBro. Paul Owens, WBro. David Adams, WBro. MC Black, WBro. Nigel Williams, WBro. Graham Kolthammer, WBro. David Cameron and WBro. John Jones.

University Council No. 26 had previously generously donated £750 to Festival 2023 and received a Bronze Honorific. This donation of £4,250 brings its total donation to an amazing £5,000 and the Provincial Grand Master was delighted to present WBro. Brian Thrower with a Platinum Honorific (Orders beyond the Craft are treated as Chapters) saying how wonderful it is to see such support for Festival 2023 from other Orders.

David Cameron



Freemasons' donation funds farming fun in Ely

Two Ely lodges have presented £1,348 to Highfield Ely Friends and Parents Association to support their 'Muddy Boots Farm' project. The donation was made by WBro. John Sinclair and WBro. Allan Hunter from Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655 and WBro. John Surbey from Porta Lodge No. 9511 and was received by Head Teacher Adam Daws and parent/committee member Steph Rees along with one of the students who was hard at work collecting eggs.

The Academy provides education for children of all ages with a wide range of learning difficulties and helps them to develop the skills and abilities to take on the challenges this presents. The Highfield Friends and Parents Association provides strong parental input and provides additional support, especially outside the classroom where the challenges are equally important. The farm is located within the school grounds, where a small barn and a pond are currently under construction. These will give students a chance to care for animals and go pond dipping in a safe environment.

Head Teacher, Adam Daws, explained: "Muddy Boots Farm enables our students to interact with animals, including rabbits, guinea pigs, chickens and the two new goats, and changes the dynamics of their interactions with each other. Although the project is still in its early stages, it has started to make a big difference."

The donation included match funding from the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Michael Hinton



St Andrew Lodge family

At St Andrew Lodge No. 4087 in Whittlesey, Worshipful Master Tim Downs initiated his son Logan. In February Tim will be initiating another of his sons with the possibility of his third son in the future!

Logan was presented with a lapel pin from The Cambridgeshire Light Blues Club by lodge rep Paul Gale and a Lewis pin by his father.

David Sowman



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Three Grand Principles

Freemasonry was founded on the Grand Principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth and they remain central to our ideals; all be it phrased in modern language.

Brotherly Love:

Today we might say Friendship. By the exercise of Brotherly Love, we learn to think of all men as being of one family. It does not matter if they are rich or poor, whether high-born or of humble origin, as all are the same when they are born and all are the same when they die.

Each should protect and support each other. Freemasonry acts on this principle and unites men of every country, sect or opinion. Through its teaching it brings people together, who might otherwise have remained at a distance from one another.

Relief:

Today we might say Charity. All men should give Relief to those who are distressed. This especially applies to Freemasons, as we are bound together by an unbreakable chain of genuine affection.

Our aim being to soothe the afflicted, support the unfortunate and comfort the unhappy, sympathise in their misfortunes, be compassionate and restore peace to their troubled minds.

Truth:

Today we might say Integrity. It is the basis and foundation of every Masonic Virtue. Starting at our Initiation, we are taught to be good men and true. We should contemplate on this Grand Theme. We should try to regulate our lives and actions by its infallible demands.



Hypocrisy and deceit should be unknown to us. Sincerity and straightforward dealing should be our distinguishing characteristics. Being true to oneself is clearly one aspect, and in doing so, we will be true to those we encounter.

Peter Crussell

Amazon Smile contributes to Festival 2023

If you or your family are planning any purchases on Amazon please support Festival 2023 when you shop by clicking this link: smile.amazon.co.uk

Amazon will donate with each purchase 0.5% of the net amount at no extra cost to you and nothing extra to fill out! Over the last four years 114 brethren have made purchases via Amazon Smile resulting in total donations to Festival 2023 of a significant £761.78.

David Cameron

Year	Period	Paid to CMBA
2019	1 year	£94.69
2020	1 year	£216.63
2021	1 year	£256.09
2022	9 months	£194.37
Total		£761.78

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