## **Cambridgeshire Freemason**

The Second Rising



### An impressive level of support

Work being carried out in the Province during the Covid-19 pandemic has been described as impressive and a basis for planning future support.

The list of efforts being made by Lodges in Cambridgeshire was drawn up from a survey organised by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro. Pat Kilby.

The purpose of the survey was to ascertain the level of activity across the Province during the Covid-19 lockdown. It took place over seven days in June, using the SurveyMonkey platform to seek replies from Worshipful Masters, Secretaries, Almoners, Charity Stewards, Mentors and Membership Officers.

There were seven core questions and up to three additional role-specific questions. The specific questions to target groups are being reviewed.

As a result, the Province will take on board the desire to support care in the community and care homes and will support Lodges with help and advice to do this.

Describing the list of activities as "most impressive", VWBro. Kilby said: "It is a useful list to reflect on and perhaps develop from as we move on through these uncertain times. I would suggest it is a useful information source as you plan your future support.

"I urge you to continue to find the right initiatives locally while keeping up with the changing landscape and never to forget to support the Brethren and families in your Lodge."

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## Guidance to be given on ritual

With many brethren wondering how our ritual can be carried out with social distancing measures in place, UGLE has set up small working parties to look at providing guidance for temporary alterations to Craft and Royal Arch rituals.



With the resumption of our meetings permitted from 17th July, although few of our Lodges and Chapters meet during the summer, the new guidance on ritual was issued by UGLE on 6th July. These temporary adjustments have now been circulated to lodges from the Provincial office.

### Joining the club

Cambridgeshire Light Blues Club members are now part the nationwide Young Masons Virtual Inter-Club Socials, which provide regular Zoom-based get-togethers with top speakers. Look out for notifications of the latest events.





## The Provincial Membership Officer's role

The Membership Pathway consists of six steps and in Cambridgeshire is led by VWBro. Pat Kilby. The key roles are the Secretariat, Membership, Mentoring and the Almoner.

WBro. Ian Hardman, Provincial Membership Officer (PMO) explains his role as part of our Members Pathway Team.

I took office in 2019 and was pleased to have the opportunity to do so as membership (both new and retention) has always been a subject close to my heart.

The first part of the role, which aligns with the Membership Pathway step 1 is about strategy and planning. Just as Lodges need to plan for recruitment, retention, progression, and succession, so the Province must plan, act, evaluate results and improve.

Part of my job is also supporting the Lodge Membership Officers (LMO) in their role. The bulk of this reflects Pathway Steps 2 through 6, which are concerned with how to identify and approach potential members, respond to membership enquiries and help potential members to align with suitable lodges.

To attract new members, I work closely with the Provincial Communications Team to project Cambridgeshire Freemasonry and our message to where target members will see it. Using the extensive market research undertaken by UGLE gives us a clear view on how our target membership currently perceives us and the most effective language to use to attract them.

You will probably have seen the changes in the way the UGLE website is structured and how communication has changed, this reflects the lessons learned from the market research.

Cambridgeshire's communications team is in the process of developing both a web and social media presence for our Province. This digital presence is vital for our future and we expect potential members to find us through this in the future. There is, however, no substitute for the recruitment of new members by existing members and it is here that we all need to invest the greatest effort. The Pathway document (available at <u>https://b.ugle.</u> <u>org.uk/membership</u>) offers practical advice on direct recruitment by Lodges. We also develop our own material.

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## An impressive level of support (continued)

The following are taking place:

- Keeping in touch with candidates not yet initiated.
- Keeping in touch with members, especially those who have not attended meetings for some time.
- Supporting centre caterers to provide hot food to the neediest lodge members.
- Supporting the local community with collection of shopping, prescriptions, and other items.
- Supporting local foodbanks.
- Running virtual raffles for the Covid 19 appeal.
- Supporting Norfolk Blood Bikes and West Norfolk Hospital.
- Supporting local care workers with provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Supporting the supply of materials for production of scrubs in local hospitals.
- Supplying PPE to Cornwallis Court.
- Supporting hospitals with charity donations.
- Volunteering as NHS responders.
- Sponsored events for charity.
- Managing a Covid-19 operation.
- Lodge newsletter.
- Zoom meetings for officers.
- Holding a lodge quiz.
- Lodge and individual donations to Covid-19 appeal.
- Daily blog by Secretary with a weekly newsletter.

The DepProvGM added: "May I first thank all those who received a request to complete the survey and very kindly supported the Province with not only completing the survey, but within the time scale. An 80% return was very much appreciated and has proved very worthwhile. Our Province is a team and we now know how everybody feels and understand what our members want and are doing," he said.







## The Provincial Membership Officer's role (continued)

For instance, the briefing note for newer members on what we can say to prospective members is extremely popular. If you have not seen it ask your LMO (or me) for a copy.

More direct action to help recruitment includes the deployment of our publicity unit and Masonic centre open days, but unfortunately, we had to cancel them due to Covid-19 but look forward to resuming these in the future.

In conjunction with my colleagues in the Pathway Team, we are planning several video conferences looking at the Pathway in chronological sequence. Following some great sessions previously held on Step 6, we will now work through the rest of the steps bringing the whole into perspective. These sessions are primarily for LM's & Mentors but every member with an interest in our future is welcome to participate.

If you have a question, I will do my best to answer it. Great ideas are welcome too. Recruitment is our future so do not hold back because your idea may be the one that makes the difference.

Contact me at membership@pglcambs.org.uk

### Did you know?

The local Saint Etheldreda (Æthelthryth), also known as Saint Audrey, was Abbess of Ely, and died on 23rd June 679. Her name continues in St Audrey Lodge No. 2727 at Ely.

Bro. David Goode tells us that in this



picture she wears a necklace, which is an integral part of her legend. Etheldreda thought of herself as having been vain in her youth, given to wearing jewellery, especially necklaces. In later life, she died of a tumour of the neck, which she regarded as punishment for having worn those necklaces in her youth.

Long after her death, an annual fair grew up in Ely, but, by then, the population had forgotten how to pronounce Anglo-Saxon names and she became known as Saint Audrey. In the medieval period the fair was known for its very poor-quality goods, particularly cheap jewellery. The goods it sold became known as 'St Audrey goods', which was then contracted to 'tawdry goods'.

Etheldreda was buried in near the abbey, but in 695 her sister Seaxburh relocated her remains to the old site of the abbey.

When the original grave was opened sixteen years after her death, Etheldreda's body was found to be wholly uncorrupted. It is said she had regenerated in the tomb.

## CMBA's historic event

History was made on the 8th July when the first virtual Annual General Meeting of the Province of Cambridgeshire Masonic Benevolent Association (CMBA) was held in its 138-year history.

Organisers were delighted that 38 Cambridgeshire Brethren attended the meeting and are thankful for their support. CMBA chairman WBro. Paul Gillingwater, PAGDC, ProvGChStwd, was re-appointed by the ProvGM, RWBro. W.C.M. Dastur and the other CMBA officers were unanimously re-elected.

After the meeting was formally closed, the ProvGM opened a general Q&A session.

#### **Secretaries meet**

Lodge secretaries from the Province held an online meeting on 23rd June to keep updated with Masonic developments during the Covid-19 shutdown.

Main topic of conversation was the new Hermes record-keeping system being introduced by Grand Lodge, which could be implemented next year. Data will be added from the candidate stage rather than from initiation. Cambsec will continue even when Hermes is running because it provides other functions important to Province and Lodges but not UGLE.

### Support for the Acorn project

The Order of the Red Cross of Constantine's Division of East Anglia has secured a £2,000 grant from the the



Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund, which will be donated to Cambridge Acorn Project Trust to support its Moon Project.

The Project was established to support young people and families facing mental health challenges. Its aim is to develop an effective rapid response model to address the challenge of unequal outcomes for children and young people due to trauma and disadvantage. The initial





phase of the project will address the needs derived from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Cambridgeshire Craft Province and the University Council of Royal and Select Masters have also recently been able to support this Charity.

### **Staying in touch**

A recent Zoom video get-together for members of March's Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704 included members living in New Zealand and Germany.

Joining the 7pm meeting were Bro. James Palmer-Dale, who was in New Zealand where it was 6.30am, and WBro. Andrew 'Taff' Pugh, who recently moved to Germany.



### Ely Lodge helps local community

Brethren of Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655 at Ely held their June raffle and raised £250 for Soham Community Association, which the City and University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust match funded through its Bethel Scheme.

The Soham Community Association supports the elderly and vulnerable who are at home, by organising coffee mornings, lunches, a regular newsletter, and other means of keeping people connected.

By holding inter-generational activities, the Association has forged links between school children and the elderly in Soham's care homes. The children wrote about themselves and how they feel about lockdown and asked the elderly some questions including their memories of VE Day and what they remember about their school days. At the end of lockdown, the Association is planning to organise a get-together event for all those involved.

The Lodge received a thank you message from Association members Jenny Fletcher, Bren Francis, Emma Hale and Wendy Lansdown.

### What is in a name?

Bro. Peter Matthews is working hard to collect material to compile a history of Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655 in plenty of time for its 50th anniversary in 2025.

In recognition of the origins of the Lodge being based on water, Peter has explained how waterfalls have significance in Freemasonry. Descensus Aquarum Lodge was founded in 1975 by Masons with connections to water. Its name in Latin means 'Descent to the Water'. It is why there is a waterfall incorporated in the Lodge's banner.



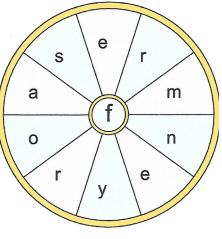
Lodge members have started an album of photographs of waterfalls visited by its members and it hopes that it can reach 50 by 2025. The latest picture shows the Wufengchi waterfalls in North Eastern Taiwan, visited by Bro. Leigh Shaw in 2018.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will contribute, although restrictions on foreign travel in the foreseeable future will mean that many will be of waterfalls in the UK.

# Can you solve the Wordwheel?

The goal of a word wheel puzzle is to create as many words possible with the letters in the word wheel. You can only use each letter once and every word must have the letter in the center of the wheel.

Can you find the 11 letter word?



The 11 letter word is.....

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### Kynaston's Cryptic Conundrum



'The Second Rising' is produced by WBro. Cliff Brown and WBro. Mike Richardson. Please email your stories and pictures for the next edition to editorcambsmason@yahoo.co.uk



