



The Cambridgeshire Mason

Provincial visit to Grand Lodge



Over 100 members attended the meeting of Grand Lodge on Wednesday 13th March to support our Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent, who announced appointments and promotions in Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge, Supreme Grand Chapter and Provincial Grand Chapter during his address after lunch. Key appointments can be found on page two and a full list has been circulated to all Lodge Secretaries and Chapter Scribes.

The Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent complimented the members of Cambridgeshire Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards for their hard work in organising a delicious lunch in the Crown Suite of the Grand Connaught Rooms.

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Appointments and Promotions

On Wednesday 24th April 2024, at the Annual Investiture of the United Grand Lodge of England, the following Brethren are to be honoured: Mark Shields (St. Ovin Lodge) – First appointment to Assistant Grand Pursuivant and David Parker (Kynaston Lodge) - First appointment to Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer. David Hammond (Isaac Newton University Lodge) – will be promoted to Assistant Grand Registrar; David Blair (Alma Mater Lodge) to Past Junior Grand Deacon; Paul Gillingwater (St. Audrey Lodge) to Past Junior Grand Deacon; Daniel Heath (Granta Lodge) to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. Jonathan Spence (Alma Mater Lodge) – will be re-appointed as Pro Grand Master

On Thursday 25th April 2024, at the Annual Investiture of Supreme Grand Chapter, the following Companions are to be honoured: Mark Shields (St. Ovin Lodge) – First appointment to Past Grand Sword Bearer; Tim McCormick (Probity Chapter) to First appointment to Past Grand Sword Bearer and Mark Upex (Kynaston Chapter) to Past Grand Standard Bearer.



At the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge on 19th June 2024, it is the intention of our Provincial Grand Master to invest David Blair (Alma Mater Lodge) as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Jonathan Lambert (Etheldreda Lodge) as Assistant Provincial Grand Master. They will be supported by (among others) Ted Watts (St. Audrey Lodge) as Provincial Senior Grand Warden, Tim Smith (St. Andrew Lodge) as Provincial Junior Grand Warden and Jon Cooper (Descensus Aquarum Lodge) as Provincial Grand Sword Bearer.



At the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter, also on 19th June 2024, it is the intention of our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent to invest Nicholas Leigh-Smith (Euclid Chapter) as Third Provincial Grand Principal, David Kirkham (Fidelity Chapter) as Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah and Richard Philips as Provincial Grand Sword Bearer.

Our Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent says



Brethren and Companions, welcome to the latest edition of The Cambridgeshire Mason, which includes some exciting news on appointments and promotions at Grand Rank and Provincial Grand Rank levels. My congratulations to them and I look forward to the respective investitures in April and on 19th June, at West Road, for our Provincial meetings.

We shared a delightful day at Quarterly Communications on 13th March and I was thrilled with the huge attendance, over 100, at the Cambridgeshire lunch which followed.

I make no apology for reinforcing yet again the importance of The Pro Grand Master's strategy for the Craft and Royal Arch which is so crucial for the future. "One Organisation, One Journey" sums it up so well, as does the suggested new first toast which I encourage all Lodges and Chapters to adopt.

The Three Strategic Pillars of Membership, Coherent Organisation and Community engagement make an inspiring toolkit by which to run our Province, lodges and chapters. We have seen two consecutive years of membership growth and 2024 has started exceptionally well. Keep it up! Maintaining a minimum of 2% improvement per annum is essential to meet the strategy. What has also been pleasing is to see the turnaround, in the last year to 15 months, of the few lodges and chapters who had been experiencing comparative difficulties. If we keep this progress going, we shall certainly justify the confidence shown by the new Assistant Provincial Grand Master appointment afforded to us by the Pro Grand Master. I think, coupled with the recent changes in Provincial Executive appointments, and those in June, we have a Province well set up to drive and support the lodges and chapters in attaining further growth.

On the community engagement front, I would encourage each lodge, chapter and masonic centre to concentrate on what they can do in their local communities. The Christmas initiatives on Foodbanks and the homeless were so successful and much needed. I challenge you to consider what can be done in the summer months for the poor, less fortunate or less able members of our local communities. There is no major Province appeal at present, so you have free rein. Please seize the moment!

We should be a supportive organisation, so I exhort senior brethren to welcome and encourage newer members or those climbing the ladder. Positive help rather than negative criticism should be the order of the day, (or evening) - something I endeavour to do whenever I visit. The Light Blues buddy initiative is working so well, and the embryo Clarets is also progressing well. I encourage you to make the visiting initiates, fellowcrafts or new exaltees etc. especially welcome when they attend your lodges and chapters. Please give them a front row seat where they can see what is going on!

We are still missing brethren and companions who used to come but haven't since 2019. It is vital that we continue to engage with them and try to encourage their return. We can all help by phoning or emailing them, offering lifts, booking them in and ensuring they enjoy their first meetings back.

Brethren, continue to help us grow this magnificent institution and enjoy your freemasonry! This latest edition reprises many important stories and items across the Province in recent months as well as previewing forthcoming events. It amply illustrates what a busy, successful and happy Province we are.

Bill Dastur

Roast Beef marks Raising at Fenland Farmers' Lodge



Over fifty Brethren enjoyed an excellent ceremony of Raising by Worshipful Brother Fountain as Master at March Masonic Centre, assisted by other experienced Brethren within the Lodge. Roast beef was carved by the Stewards in true Fenland Farmers Lodge tradition, a memorable evening especially for Bro. Legge, now a Master Mason.



Cambridgeshire Light Blues Lecture



Welcome to Bro. Hendy, who joined the Cambridgeshire Light Blues at his Initiation into Stone Cross Lodge in February. Bro. Harris gave an excellent introductory talk about Cambridgeshire Light Blues to Bro. Hendy.

The Worshipful Master – WBro. Elkin - and his officers from Stone Cross Lodge 6704 conducted a brilliant ceremony which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who watched it.

Cambridgeshire Craft Masons honoured by the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite

On Tuesday 13th February four well known Cambridgeshire Craft Masons were preferred in the Ancient and Accepted Rite. Those receiving the 31° were Ill.Bro's David Broker of Wysbech Trinity Chapter No. 822, Jim Haggarty of Three Virtues Chapter No. 972 (both of the District of Cambridge and Isle of Ely) and Bill Dastur of Simon of Sudbury Chapter No. 247 in the District of Suffolk, but also a member of Cambridge & Isle of Ely District and currently Sovereign of the Cambridge and Isle of Ely Chapter No.1157. Also receiving his 30° on the same day was Ill.Bro. David Cameron of Cantabrigia Chapter No.112. These promotions are well deserved for the hard work each of the brethren has put into their chapters, including supporting the newer members. Unfortunately, Ill.Bro. David Cameron was not present when the photograph was taken.



After a very social luncheon at a nearby tavern, organised by the District Recorder, Ill.Bro. Brian Elliott 30°, the candidates and their supporters assembled at the Grand East at Duke St to enjoy the 31° ceremony, followed by the 30° ceremony. Both ceremonies were conducted to the highest standard by members of the Supreme Council, and which I hope will leave a memorable impression on the minds of the recipients, it certainly will in my mind.

There followed a highly convivial supper held at the nearby Mark Masons Hall where the newly preferred brethren were feted by their peers. Overall a hugely warming and satisfying day and one that I hope the recipients will remember for a very long time.

The London experience will be repeated in March when Ill.Bro. Paul Gillingwater will receive the 32°, a thoroughly deserved promotion for all the effort and energy he puts into both the Ely and Newmarket chapters. Joining him that day to receive his 32^o will be another well known Cambridgeshire mason, Ill.Bro. David Blair, receiving his appointment via his London Chapter I look forward to supporting both those brethren on the day.

***V.Ill.Bro. Justin Curtis 33°
Inspector General - District of Cambridge and Isle of Ely***

Wisbech Bruvvers Breakfast Club microwave donation

The Wisbech lodges Bruvvers Breakfast Club (BBC) presented a new microwave oven to the Staff at the Alan Hudson Centre, as theirs was on its last legs. Pictured receiving the Microwave is Alison Strickle. The next meeting of the BBC is on Saturday 2nd March 2024 at Sweet & Savoury, Emneth at 9am. Join together with other members from both Wisbech lodges to talk about everything and anything. A good chance to get to know others from both Lodges.



Ely Lodge presentation to Deputy Provincial Grand Master

At their February meeting, Descensus Aquarum lodge held a Past Masters evening for the ceremony of Raising Bro. Gkotsis. VWBro. Pat Kilby was present as a guest for his last visit as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the lodge took the opportunity to present him with a personal gift.



Hog Roast helps Hospice



Congratulations to WBro. Ford from The Lodge of United Good Fellowship in Wisbech and his wife Trudy who, under the guidance of Bro. Matthew Green, raised £2,700 for Arthur Rank Hospice Charity at their Hog Roast and Raffle.

St. Andrew Lodge Ladies Night benefits YPCS

Congratulations to WBro. Simon Phillips and his wife Jo who hosted a very successful St. Andrews Lodge Ladies night in Whittlesey recently. Over 130 guests enjoyed an excellent meal before entertainment and dancing to a brilliant 1960's tribute band.

An amazing £2200 raised on the night will go to Simon and Jo's chosen charity The Young People's Counselling Service YPCS. The event attracted many of the growing number of younger members of the Lodge.



March Lodges under Starter's Orders for Race Night

Family and friends of Stone Cross and Caldwell Lodges met this weekend to have a wonderful charity race raising around £1200 for local charities.

Many thanks to all that attended and special thanks to WBros Les Mills (organiser and MC), Graham Clapperton (for preparing the race cards), Clinton Elkin (race steward), Ray Jack (organiser) and Bro Josh Harris for selling races and horses, plus Sam Vaughan for helping in running the bar.



Teddies for Loving Care Warm Hearts at Hospital

Nursing staff were on hand this week at the Paediatric Department of Addenbrookes Hospital to take delivery of another batch of teddy bears supplied by Cambridge Freemasons.

The Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) scheme was introduced in Cambridge 20 years ago and since that time over 34,000 teddies have been donated to hospitals in Cambridge, Ely, Doddington and Wisbech. The scheme is funded by Freemasons from lodges across the whole of Cambridgeshire. There are 47 regional TLC programmes that provide teddies for their local A&E departments. Since its inception in 2001, 3.5 million have been distributed to hospitals throughout England and Wales.

WBro. Tony Barrios, who coordinates the scheme on behalf of Cambridgeshire's Freemasons said, "TLC is a wonderful initiative and one that is greatly appreciated by our participating hospitals and the children who receive the teddies. I am incredibly proud that it is the generosity of our members from that fund this scheme, as they recognise its importance".

On receiving the latest delivery of teddies, Grace, a 3rd year Paediatric Student Nurse said, "We use the teddies to calm children down and reward them for being brave and also as a tool to demonstrate procedures. We are grateful to the Freemasons for providing them to us"



Athelstan Installation



WBro. Razvan Dinita was installed into the Chair of King Athelstan, in the Court of Keith Ansell at Grantebrycge, no 150.

The Grantebrycge Court, which meets in Cambridge three times a year is quite young, but thriving and WBro. Raz is its third Worshipful Master.

If you would like to find out more about the Order of Athelstan please contact WBro. John Jones, secretary@grantebrycge.co.uk and also look at www.athelstan-eastanglia.org.uk

Scientific Lodge – ‘Strictly’ and Serenades!

Scientific Lodge held their Ladies Night at Madingley Hall in February under the leadership of IPM WBro. Roy Moyser and his wife Lynn. 70 guests were treated to a delicious dinner before being entertained by professional dance instructor Lesley, who guided the keen couples in the intricacies of the waltz, the tango and the salsa. Amid cries of ‘seven’ the courageous judges brandished their scoring paddles to the delight of all. Two high points were the traditional delivery of the Song to the Ladies led by WBro. Mark Long, which was followed by a delightful reply in verse by Lynn. Around £1000 will be donated to Blue Smile.



Ritual Changes and a Family Affair at Cantabrigia Chapter

Cantabrigia Royal Arch Chapter had a fairly unusual Exaltation at their last Convocation in February when the Principal Sojourner, Companion Nanyo Nanev, was involved in the ceremony of Exalting his son, also Nanyo Nanev, into Royal Arch Masonry. They and all the companions thoroughly enjoyed the ceremony, in the company of Deputy Grand Superintendent Excellent Companion Mark Shields (pictured below left).

It was the first Exaltation using the Chapters reduced ritual, the aim of which is to reduce the amount of work being done by the Companions and establish a shorter meeting. The Chapter is now starting at 6.30pm to allow those Companions and potential members, who find an earlier start time difficult due to work or other commitments, to attend our convocations. In addition, the Chapter is also considering replacing the conventional Festive Board with a Buffet meal when appropriate.



Gild of St. Mary support Cancer Research UK

So nice to see this letter of thanks received from Cancer Research UK by the Gild of St Mary Lodge following their recent donation of £1000 made in memory of Graham Murray.



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

Cambridge
Centre



Dear Brethren of the Gild of St Mary Lodge 7288,

We are writing to personally thank you for your kind donation to the Pancreatic Cancer Programme at Cancer Research UK Cambridge Centre in memory of Worshipful Brother Graham Murray.

Our work at the Centre includes scientific research, clinical trials and public and patient outreach, aimed at better understanding of the disease and providing cutting-edge treatments to patients. Your support in our work is much appreciated.

You could find out more about our research on our website
<http://www.cambridge-pcc.org/research.html>.

Old Leysian Lodge Installation – a multi-Province event!

The Installation meeting of Old Leysian Lodge saw Norfolk APGM WBro. Luke Loades install Chairman of the Suffolk Light Blues Bro. Neil Tweed. With such high-standing brethren involved it is little wonder that the incoming and outgoing Masters were supported by a magnificent attendance from both Norfolk and Suffolk. The working tools were expertly delivered by new Joining Members and the Addresses delivered by Grand Officers in an exemplary manner. A little flavour of our neighbouring provinces was evident at the Festive Board, with the occasional sung response to toasts as well as a stirring rendition of 'Viva la Compagnie' as part of the reply to the toast to the Visitors.



The Wardens On Tour

David and Bob, our intrepid Provincial Wardens, are cycling from Cambridge to Wisbech on 25th/26th May. They will visit every Masonic Centre in Cambridgeshire to raise funds for 'Teddies for Loving Care'



Please contact David or Bob if you would like join them on all or part of their journey. You can sponsor using the QR code and link below.



David Broker

provsgw@pglcambs.org.uk

07753128908



Bob Hammett

provjgw@pglcams.org.uk

07850363246



<https://donate.givetap.co.uk/f/masonic-charitable-foundation/cmbs-pgl-continuous-giving-scheme>



Wisbech Masonic Charity Golf Day



Supporting
The Alan Hudson Centre

Contact:

Matt Green 07584903308
Andy McDonald 07703000960

£50 per person
Teams of 4

Friday 24th May
Tydd St Giles GC
Bacon Baps & Coffee on Arrival
Registration 12:00 Shotgun Start 13:00
BBQ & Presentation
NP on all Par 3's
WBro Ray Page B9 Trophy
Half Way House Refreshments
Secret Hole
Stableford Comp Best 2 Score

DESCENSUS AQUARUM

RACE NIGHT

18th May 2024

In support of



WM Freddie Lawes and his lady Maurita cordially invite you, your family and friends to a fun-filled evening of racing in support of such a worthy cause.

Doors at 7PM and first race at 8PM, smart casual dress.

£20 per person, children under 12 £15.

Tickets include a choice of scampi, chicken or sausage and chips with a knickerbocker glory dessert!

Book online at <https://www.elymasonichall.com/8655-race-night> or contact Jamie Hills at jamiehills@sky.com or 07812 147038

Deputy Grand Superintendent celebrates first six months



This article is abridged from the address delivered at Cambridgeshire Installed First Principals Chapter

As the title suggests it has been six months since it was announced I was to be appointed as Deputy Grand Superintendent, and I can categorically state I have no idea where the time has gone. For me it has been a huge learning curve. Many brethren and companions believe Freemasonry is like a super-tanker taking time to change course but that is not the case in this Province, where I'm finding that things can move at the speed of a powerboat! As an example, I was offered the position of Deputy Grand Superintendent on the Monday, and the announcement was made on the Wednesday. The words "feet", "touching" and "ground" spring to mind! Suffice it to say I was still coming to terms with my appointment when the congratulatory emails arrived. It was very touching and very very unexpected.

I would like to add that without the support of all the Provincial Team I would not have come up to speed as quickly as I think I have. It is a wonderful feeling to know that at any time I can ask anything, and someone will have the answer. It is truly a team effort.

My first personal highlight is that I am honoured to be the first Deputy Grand Superintendent of Cambridgeshire to wear a Deputy Grand Superintendent's apron badge. And it must be rare Companions, as E. Comp, Brian Elliott had never seen one! I would like to thank E. Comp Jon West for his work on securing this roundel, which I know was not an easy task.

My second highlight was my first procession at Great Queen Street, processing into the Temple as Deputy Grand Superintendent. I'm always overwhelmed by the splendour of the Grand Temple, which you can get carried away with, especially as you're trying to keep in step with the Companion in front of you.

Thirdly, and the most special, has been meeting so many Companions. Within our Province I have been made so very welcome - it really is a delight to meet so many new Companions and share their companionship. Outside of the Province, it truly feels as if I am on the circuit again and we all know how wonderful that is in Cambridgeshire. I am very lucky to sit with my contemporaries from across the country, who are always open to share ideas and advice. It's a wonderful experience and I hope to make as many long-lasting friendships as I did whilst on the Craft and Chapter circuits in Cambridgeshire.

In conclusion, I've had a wonderful six months. I'm enjoying every moment of my role and am truly honoured to have been given this opportunity. We are all on One Journey in One Organisation and it is our duty as Royal Arch Masons to ensure that every Brother completes his journey in Pure and Ancient Freemasonry. It is an honour to serve the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, the Province of Cambridgeshire and, above all, you as Companions of the Royal Arch.

Support the Association of Friends of Cornwallis Court



Cornwallis Court is just one of 17 homes owned and operated by the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI), and is dedicated to providing residential, nursing or dementia care to the elderly. It was recently given the accolade of “outstanding” by the Quality Care Commission, which puts it in the top 2% of all care homes in the country. Formerly the old Bury Hospital, it is a Victorian building now in need of modernising; its situation close to the town centre is an enviable position for easy access to facilities.

Work will now start early in 2024 on a completely new building on the same site, which will result in Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridge provinces having the most up to date Home on the network. With 64 rooms (all en-suite), more individual space, and the latest up to date facilities spread over 4 wings – each with its own Lounge and dining areas. Outside will feature landscaped gardens, and ample easy parking for visitors.

We hope you are inspired by our work at this wonderful home and that you will consider this a worthy cause. You can give your support in three ways:

Membership

Become a supporting lodge or individual member.

Donation/Sponsorship

Lodges and individuals can make a donation or sponsor an Event like a Coffee morning, musical afternoon or garden Party. A table collection at a festive board could pay for an event or for therapy equipment to help with the wellbeing of residents.

Volunteering

Being a volunteer at our events is a great experience. You not only feel good by helping out and from the laughs you have with your fellow volunteers and staff at the home, but to see the joy in the faces of the residents is heart-warming.

Alma Mater - another Family Affair!

Alma Mater had a rather special evening on Saturday 24th February. Bro. Nanyo Nanev (Senior Deacon) had the unique opportunity of guiding his youngest son, Bro Harry Nanev around the lodge on his Initiation. Young Bro Nanev was challenged at the door of the lodge by his brother, Bro. Nanyo Nanev, junior, the Inner Guard.



Historic Day for Hutchinson Masters Lodge No.10027

The 33rd and latest Craft Lodge added into the family of Lodges within Cambridgeshire Province, Hutchinson Masters Lodge No.10027, Consecrated on the 30th March 2023, held its first Installation Meeting under a Dispensation at March Masonic Centre on the 7th March 2024. A total of 57 members and guests assembled to witness the Lodge's Primus Master, V.W.Bro. John Sherriff, PGSwdB, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master successfully install W.Bro. Brian Sutton, PPSGW, CSM as the second Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

The Lodge was honoured by the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Pat Kilby, PGSwdB, being a Founder of the Lodge and founding IPM, along with guest of the Lodge, W.Bro. David Blair, PAGDC, Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

Prior to the Installation ceremony, the WM, V.W.Bro. Sherriff was delighted to welcome 10 Joining Members to the Lodge, adding that he was pleased that this second Installed Masters Lodge within the Province, was proving a popular destination for Installed Masters and supporting the work of its sister Lodge, Cambridge Installed Master's Lodge No.7429. Later in the meeting a further 6 nominations for Joining Members was announced by the Lodge Secretary.

During the Festive Board lunch of roast beef which concluded the morning, the Provincial Grand Master's gifted decanter from the Festival Dinner was suitably supplied with Port by the WM, W.Bro. Brian Sutton, to the enjoyment of all.



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Please send any material to the Provincial Information Officer information@pglcamb.org.uk by the 21st day of the month preceding publication. The Editorial Board has accepted the information published in good faith and cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies.