



THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE MASON

Brethren and Companions,

As I write to you for the first time as your Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, I do so with a profound sense of honour and humility. I am deeply conscious of the trust that has been placed in me and of the distinguished footsteps in which I follow.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to R.W. Bro. Bill Dastur for his exceptional leadership and dedication, and to those Brethren and Companions who have worked so hard during his tenure. Under his stewardship, the Province has grown into a position of real strength and is rightly recognised as one of the leading Provinces in the country, particularly in the areas of membership growth and engagement across both our Lodges and Chapters. I am immensely grateful for the firm foundations he has laid and the guidance he has provided during many years of dedicated service to the Province.



One Journey
One Organisation



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Our future is to build upon this success: to continue growing, to attract new members, and to ensure that Freemasonry within our Province remains vibrant, relevant, and welcoming. I am keen to harness the wealth of skills, experience, and enthusiasm that exists throughout our Lodges and Chapters, and I encourage all Brethren and Companions to take an active role in supporting membership growth, mentoring, and helping us all to enjoy a fulfilling Masonic journey.

I am fortunate to be supported in delivering this vision by my Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Jonathan Lambert, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Ed Williams, E. Comp. Jon West, Second Provincial Grand Principal, E. Comp. Nick Leigh-Smith, Third Provincial Grand Principal, E. Comp. Mike Hinton, Deputy Grand Superintendent, and a truly dedicated team of committed Brethren and Companions who work tirelessly on behalf of the Province.



I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to all those who attended the recent Investiture Meeting at West Road. Your presence and support contributed greatly to the dignity and success of the occasion. I am equally grateful to our officers and Provincial teams, whose dedication and commitment ensure that our Lodges and Chapters operate smoothly and effectively.

This year, we have made significant progress in our engagement with communities, and I am delighted by the positive impact this is already having. Our Masonic Centres have recently hosted CHAPS prostate testing and health checks, meetings for Guide Dogs for the Blind, and a Christmas meeting and party for the Child Brain Injury Trust. These initiatives clearly demonstrate how Freemasonry can place itself at the heart of our communities, visible, relevant, and making a genuine difference, showing who we are and what we stand for.

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As our membership continues to grow, I would encourage Lodges and Chapters to consider practical and flexible ways of accommodating that growth. This may include the use of multiple-candidate ceremonies or, where appropriate, the introduction of additional meetings. Above all, our Lodges and Chapters must be happy places where Freemasonry can be enjoyed. While many newer members have made their first contact through the internet or social media, each of us can play a part by openly and positively engaging with others and sharing the enjoyment and fulfilment that Freemasonry brings.

Brethren and Companions, we share one harmonised Masonic journey, four ceremonies, three in a Lodge and one in a Chapter, forming a coherent and complete path in Pure Ancient Freemasonry. Wherever you are on that journey, I encourage you to embrace the opportunities for learning, fellowship, and service that our Lodges and Chapters provide.

I am deeply honoured to serve you as Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent and very much look forward to visiting your Lodges and Chapters in the months ahead, enjoying your fellowship, and supporting the continued growth and vibrancy of our Province.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas, and a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year.

A handwritten signature of "Mark Shields" in black ink.

**R.W.Bro. / E.Comp. Mark Shields
Provincial Grand Master
Most Excellent Grand Superintendent**



Young Mums in Cambridge to receive vital support thanks to Freemasons' Grant.

Around 50 young teenaged mums aged 14–20 in Cambridge and surrounding areas, many facing isolation, poverty, and poor mental health, will receive essential personalised support thanks to a grant from Cambridgeshire Freemasons to the Young Parents Programme (YPP) from the Romsey Mill charity.

The £58,000 grant will empower these young mums to build confidence, strengthen bonds with their children, and create stable futures. YPP is one aspect of the work of Romsey Mill, a Cambridge-based charity creating opportunities with young people, families and local communities.

The funding will support tailored one-to-one engagement, a cornerstone of YPP, providing practical help with parenting, mental health, housing, benefits, and re-engagement with education or employment. Young mums, often referred to the programme by midwives, social workers, or schools, frequently report feeling judged or excluded. The YPP offers a safe, non-judgmental space, with 92 per cent of participants recently reporting improved mental health and reduced isolation, and 70 per cent progressing into education, training, or work.

The grant from Cambridgeshire Freemasons comes through the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which is funded by Freemasons, their families and friends, from across England and Wales.



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During their visit to Romsey Mill, W.Bro. Mark Shields ProvGM (designate), and W.Bro. Tony Barrios were shown around the facilities.

A food preparation class led by Heather Duke was underway, and W.Bro. Mark Shields, ProvGM (designate) joined in, peeling some vegetables and chatting with the young mums taking part. Heather Duke, Young Parents Team Coordinator at Romsey Mill, said: *"We're very grateful to Cambridgeshire Freemasons for this generous grant. It will help transform lives as Romsey Mill equips young mums with the tools to thrive as parents and individuals, breaking cycles of disadvantage. This grant is vital for sustaining the long-term, relational work we do with young mums. Building trusted relationships over time helps them feel valued and supported, creating lasting change for them and their children."*

W.Bro. Mark Shields, ProvGM (designate) said: *"I'm very pleased we've been able to help Romsey Mill with their hugely important project helping young mothers from Cambridge. Whether it's dealing with mental health issues or providing assistance with getting back into education or employment, it will reduce the isolation that so many young mothers feel and make a real contribution to giving them a brighter future."*

Provincial Wardens' Circuit Swindle Boosts Maggie's Appeal by £550



In the Masonic Province of Cambridgeshire, one of our long-standing traditions is "the circuit." During each Lodge Installation ceremony, the current Masters of other Lodges are invited as guests, along with the active Provincial Wardens, W.Bro. David Kirkham, ProvSGW, and W.Bro. Peter Crussell, ProvJGW.

At the festive board, the evening always concludes with the Tyler's Toast, but of course, the exact time is anyone's guess. This is where our Provincial Wardens step in with the ever-popular "swindle," inviting diners to predict the timing of the toast for just £1 (or occasionally a little more, depending on their persuasive skills!).

As always, every penny collected is donated to a worthy cause. With the Maggie's charity appeal drawing to a close, the Wardens have generously directed this year's proceeds to the ProvGM, R.W.Bro. William Charles Mason Dastur, in support of the Maggie's fund.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and good humoured support of brethren across the Province, a wonderful total of £550 has been raised.

Caldwell Lodge Visit to Corfu – Strengthening International Bonds



Thanks to the initiative of W.Bro. Denis Skouras, a member of both Caldwell and Phoenix Lodges, a memorable trip was arranged for members of Caldwell Lodge and their wives to Corfu in September 2025. The group stayed at the Hotel Valmar, with travel and accommodation coordinated by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. John Roberts.

On the Saturday, the party attended a meeting of Phoenix Lodge held at the Mons Repos Hotel. During the meeting, gifts were exchanged, and W.Bro. Roberts presented three beautifully hand-crafted gavels in a presentation case, expertly made by Bro. David Burdett. W.Bro. John Best, Charity Steward, spoke about the “Teddy Bears in Hospitals” initiative, while Lodge Secretary W.Bro. Les Mills delivered an insightful talk on the history of Caldwell Lodge, which was consecrated in 1907.

Although part of the meeting was translated, the majority was conducted in Greek, adding a rich cultural dimension to the occasion.

Following the meeting, a Festive Board was held in the hotel grounds, attended by 60 Freemasons along with their wives and partners. Entertainment was provided, and many guests joined in singing along to familiar tunes, creating a warm and inclusive atmosphere.

On Monday, the group enjoyed a scenic cruise to the Paxos and Antipaxos Blue Caves, generously hosted by Phoenix Lodge members Kostas and Alexandros Giourgas. The trip was blessed with sunshine and friendship, and served as a celebration of the friendship between Greece’s oldest Lodge and Caldwell Lodge in Cambridgeshire.

The Clarets of Cambridgeshire Present a Demonstration of the Savage Ritual

On Friday, 26th September 2025, the Cambridgeshire First Principals' Chapter No. 7429 hosted a remarkable and memorable convocation. On this occasion, the Clarets of Cambridgeshire presented a demonstration of the Savage ritual, an event that drew great interest from Companions across the Province and beyond.

The candidate for this exaltation was none other than the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in and over Cambridgeshire, E.Comp. William Charles Mason Dastur, who thereby completed a unique Masonic journey by serving as candidate for all four of the Craft and Royal Arch degrees (Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, Master Mason, and Exaltation) in his capacity as both Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Grand Superintendent. This rare occurrence marked a significant milestone, both personally for E. Comp. Dastur and for the Province of Cambridgeshire.

The convocation was attended by more than 75 Companions, including E. Comp. Mark Shields, Deputy Grand Superintendent, together with a distinguished delegation of visitors from outside the Province. Their presence lent further dignity to what was already a very special evening.

The demonstration itself was expertly choreographed and conducted under the direction of E. Comp. Mark Upex, PGStdB, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.



The ceremony, lasting approximately 45 minutes, was universally praised for its clarity, precision, and attention to detail. Although presented in a shortened form, the ritual was nevertheless faithful to the essential principles and conveyed the full depth of meaning that an exaltation should embody.

Many Companions remarked on how informative the demonstration was, offering valuable insights into the ritual while maintaining the solemnity and significance of the exaltation. It provided an excellent example of how a carefully planned and executed demonstration can both instruct and inspire, deepening the understanding of those present.

At the conclusion of the convocation, E. Comp. Dastur expressed his sincere thanks to the Clarets for their dedication and excellence in presentation. He noted that the evening had been both enjoyable and enriching, setting a high standard for similar demonstrations in the future.

The event closed in true Masonic fashion, with Companions gathering around the festive board to share in a convivial banquet. The warmth of fellowship and lively conversation ensured that the evening ended on as high a note as it had begun, leaving all present with fond memories of a truly distinguished occasion.

March Parkinson's - UK

W.Bro. Andy Sullivan Secretary, W.Bro. Mark Melvin Charity Steward and Bro. David Pritchard from Stonecross Cross Lodge 6704 attended the local meeting of March Parkinson's UK.

Mark presented their Chair, Wendy Summerlin, with a cheque for £155 raised at our last meeting from the raffle.

W.Bro. Andy Sullivan said: *"Both David and I had relatives, brother and father respectively, that had Parkinson's so when W.Bro. John Beeken Lodge DC, put forward the idea we were only too pleased to support it".*



Wendy stated she was very thankful for the donation and would use it towards the cost of a day trip.

St Andrew Lodge No. 4087 Installation - From Turkey with Love

On Tuesday 14th October, St. Andrew Lodge No. 4087 held a successful Installation meeting under the watchful gaze of the DepProvGM, David Blair, and the ProvGDC, David Parker.

The evening was made extra special as the part of the Workings were beautifully conducted by the proposer and seconder of our newly installed Master, W.Bro. Paul Gale, who returned from Turkey especially for the occasion.

At the Festive Board, the Lodge was delighted to announce a donation of £550 to Maggie's Appeal, supporting such a worthy cause.



East Anglian Division – Red Cross of Constantine

The East Anglian Divisional Meeting of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and St John the Evangelist recently took place, marking an important occasion for the Division.

During the meeting, the new Deputy Intendant General, Illustrious Knight Anthony (Tony) Mason, was installed by the Intendant General, Right Illustrious Knight Dr John Elmore KCC.

The event was attended by Intendant Generals from across the country who came to witness the installation. It proved to be a most successful and enjoyable meeting, followed by a convivial meal attended by more than 80 Knights of various ranks from several UK Divisions.



Sausage Supper Supports Maggie's

The Newmarket Masonic Club has once again demonstrated its generous spirit by contributing an impressive £1,400 to the Maggie's appeal.

The funds were raised during the Club's ever-popular Sausage Supper, a well-supported, annual, event.

The donation was formally presented to the ProvGM, R.W.Bro. William Charles Mason, Dastur, by W.Bros. Cameron McKechnie and Theo Runham.

Organised by Cameron and Theo and held at the Newmarket Masonic Hall, the event adds yet another significant boost to the Province's ongoing efforts in support of Maggie's.



Caldwell Lodge Trafalgar Day White Table Meeting

In October, Caldwell Lodge celebrated its annual Trafalgar Day White Table meeting at March Masonic Hall.

Following a brief Lodge meeting, members joined their wives, partners, and non-Masonic guests in the bar for a traditional tot of rum. Bro. Richie Lawrence gave an engaging explanation of the naval custom of “Splicing the Mainbrace” and kindly provided bottles of British Navy Pusser’s Rum for the occasion.



Guests then enjoyed a superb three-course dinner, attended by around 70 brethren and guests. The Lodge was honoured by the presence of 99-year-old Colin Turner, a former Torpedo Man on HMS Belfast and father-in-law of the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. John Roberts.

After the toasts, W.Bro. Steve Teverson delivered a fascinating and entertaining after-dinner address on “Lord Nelson’s Family Life and the Battle of Trafalgar”, which was very well received by all present.

The evening’s raffle raised an impressive £415, which was donated to the March Veterans Hub, whose representatives were warmly welcomed on the night.

Arthur Rank Hospice receive a £1000 donation

Thanks to the generosity of a kind benefactor, W.Bro. Barrios from Scientific Lodge No. 88 was delighted to present a cheque to Emily, the Fundraising Administrator at the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity.

The final total of £1,000 was reached through match funding provided by the Bethel Scheme, run by the Cambridge University and City Masonic Trust.



The Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No 6125 Installation at New Premises

Wednesday 1st October 2025 saw the Installation of Bro. David Pritchard into the Chair of King Solomon. Made all the more special by the attendance of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW. Bro. David Blair.

The meeting was honoured by the attendance of Grand Officers, Provincial Grand Officers and a number of Masters in the Chairs of their own Lodges. With over 86 Brethren in total it made the Festive Board a very special Occasion.

This was the first meeting to be held in the new Wisbech Masonic Centre, which was once a Crown and Magistrates Court building which has been lovingly converted into the new Masonic Centre.



A lot of hard work by a number of members from Lodge 809 and Lodge 6125 made a new purpose built centre where meetings and dining can be held in the same building.

The Temple was the old Crown Court and it was mentioned that the acoustics were first class.

The Meeting was able to welcome guests into the bar area where they could chill and have a drink to catch up with friends before the ceremony.

The ceremony itself was excellent and the outgoing WM W.Bro. Shaun Button gave a seamless performance in installing the now W.Bro. David Pritchard. The ceremony also honoured W.Bro. Henry Philpot LGR for his 50 years in Freemasonry with a very special presentation from VW. Bro. David Blair.

There was also a presentation of £250.00 from Marie Humphrey the wife of W.Bro. Michael Humphrey who raised £500.00 to be split with the Maggies Appeal and Addenbrookes Hospital.

All in all an excellent evening promoting Freemasonry in general and Charitable giving in particular.

A Double Celebration: 50 Years of Freemasonry and £30K for Charity

Descensus Aquarium Lodge No. 8655 in Ely marked its 50th anniversary this September with a remarkable blend of celebration and charitable achievement. In a fitting tribute to its legacy, the Lodge proudly helped complete a £30,000 fundraising target for Branching Out, a local charity also celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

The journey began in January, when all four Ely Lodges joined forces with support from the Provincial Charity for Care and Relief and the Masonic Charitable Foundation. On 30th January, a team of Ely Freemasons presented a donation of £4,377.20 to Branching Out in Littleport, launching the charity's "£30K for 30 Years" campaign.

During the visit, Freemasons toured the facilities and met service users, adults with learning disabilities who benefit from Branching Out's enriching work experiences and social activities. The warm welcome and vibrant atmosphere underscored the charity's vital role in the community.



The Lodge's Ladies Festival, held on Saturday 20th September at The Maltings (the very venue where the Lodge was consecrated in 1975), was a highlight of the celebrations. Organised by W.Bro. John Sinclair and his wife Kay, the event raised over £2,300 for Branching Out. Worshipful Master W.Bro. Peter Matthews and his Lady Lis described the evening as unforgettable, with two representatives from the charity joining in the festivities.

On 24th September, the Lodge's official birthday, a special meeting was held to reflect on its history. Masters from Nourse Lodge, St Audrey Lodge (the Mother Lodge), and Walpole Lodge (the Founding Master's Mother Lodge) participated in the commemorative ceremony. W.Bro. Peter Crussell, Provincial Junior Grand Warden, delivered an insightful presentation on Masonic aprons, followed by a Festive Board and raffle.

Combined with the Ladies Festival proceeds, the total raised reached £2,664.32, pushing Branching Out past its £30,000 goal.

To conclude this inspiring journey, W.Bro. John and Kay Sinclair, along with W.Bro. Peter and Lis Matthews, visited Branching Out on 3rd October to present the funds and reconnect with the service users.



Cambridgeshire Freemasons Joined the National Service of Remembrance to Honour the Armed Forces

The United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), which oversees Freemasonry in England and Wales, had signed the Armed Forces Covenant in October 2021, a pledge to support those who served, or had served, in the Armed Forces, and their families.

Since then, UGLE's commitment had been recognised with the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Gold Award, the highest honour given to organisations that went above and beyond to support the Armed Forces community.

To mark this commitment, Freemasons from across the country gathered at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on Saturday 1 November for a National Service of Remembrance at The Masonic Memorial Garden.



In the lead-up to the service, members of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association (WSMBA) travelled across the UK, collecting wreaths from every Masonic Province. These wreaths were brought together and laid at the Arboretum by senior Masonic representatives in a moving act of remembrance.

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Cambridgeshire Freemasons took part, represented by the AProvGM, W.Bro. Jonathan Lambert, a wreath bearer, and W.Bro. Clapperton a standard bearer, all of whom joined the official procession. The AProvGM W.Bro. Jonathan Lambert stated: "*Cambridgeshire Freemasons were immensely proud to stand alongside the Armed Forces community at this national act of remembrance. This occasion allowed us to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country, and to reaffirm our ongoing commitment to supporting veterans, serving personnel, and their families.*"

For Cambridgeshire, the journey began on 23rd September 2025, when the Cambridgeshire Province Wreath was ceremonially collected from the AssProvGM, W.Bro. Jonathan Lambert and the memorial contingent beside the City of Ely War Memorial by the WSMBA. The wreath remained in their safekeeping for transportation to the National Arboretum where, on Saturday 1 November 2025 , it was reunited with the memorial contingent in preparation for the ceremony.

A moving service followed with hymns, poems and blessings, all of which were enhanced by music from the Gresley Colliery Brass Band. The procession of over 90 officials and dignitaries, including one of the Assistant Grand Masters of UGLE, the National Chair of the Royal British Legion, W.Bro. Warrant Officer Johnson Beharry VC COG PPGStwd, and the Province of Cambridgeshire contingent, moved solemnly to the Masonic Memorial Garden for the wreath-laying and final prayers.



A hot fork buffet followed, along with the unique opportunity to meet and forge new friendships with like-minded people from across the UK.

This event provided a unique foundation for Freemasons to publicly honour the bravery and sacrifices of the Armed Forces and to show continued support for those who had served.

Cambridge & Isle of Ely District hosts Annual Service of Thanksgiving

The Cambridge & Isle of Ely District Rose Croix has been in its present form since 1998 now under the leadership of its 3rd Inspector General, V.º.III.º.Bro. Justin Curtis 33º. However, Ancient & Accepted Rite masonry existed in the area long before that when from 1874 Eastern Central District was formed by Supreme Council. East Anglia District succeeded it in 1926. With the growth in the Order flourishing, 1976 saw East Anglia further sub divided with the formation of the District of Norfolk & Isle of Ely and the District of Suffolk and Cambridge. However, the 1998 re-structuring brings us up to date by the formation of the District of Norfolk, the District of Suffolk and the District of Cambridge & Isle of Ely.

Because of those valuable historic ties, the 'family' of Rose Croix masonry in East Anglia is a very close one. Since 1998 each district has hosted in turn an Annual Service of Thanksgiving. This year it was the turn of Cambridge & Isle of Ely and on Sunday 5th October held an Evensong at St. Peter's Church in March. A total of just under 60 attended from all three Districts ending with afternoon tea held at the nearby March Masonic Hall.

The Service was conducted by Rev'd Andrew Smith, Team Rector and Rural Dean of March and very ably assisted by Rev'd Father Ex&P Bro. David Goode 18º, a member at The Octagon in Ely Chapter No.1076. The 60 strong congregation enjoyed an uplifting service. At the conclusion a collection was taken raising a total of £280 shared equally between St. Peter's Church and the District. The District donation of £140 has been delivered to the current Craft Provincial appeal for the Maggie's Cancer Charity.

For 2026, the Service of Thanksgiving will be hosted by the Suffolk District and will, as usual, be open to all masons whether of the Order or not. Watch out for further details and a date in due course.



Rev'd Father, Ex&P.Bro David Goode
and Rev'd Andrew Smith

Honouring the Past, Embracing the Future in Cambridgeshire

The Companions of Cambridgeshire were proud to be at Great Queen Street to support our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E.Comp. William Charles Mason Dastur, on his final visit in his present capacity as Most Excellent Grand Superintendent to the Quarterly Convocation.



E.Comp. Dastur has been a truly inspiring leader of Royal Arch Masonry in Cambridgeshire, and we thank him sincerely for his dedicated service, wise guidance, and friendship over the years.

We now look forward with great anticipation to the Installation of E.Comp. Mark Shields, PGSwD, as Grand Superintendent in and over Cambridgeshire on 17th December 2025 at West Road Concert Hall in Cambridge.

All present wished our Grand Superintendent a happy, healthy, and peaceful future, and offered sincere congratulations to E.Comp. Shields on his appointment. The Province is excited for the continued growth and flourishing of the Royal Arch under his leadership of Provincial Grand Chapter.

V.º.III.º Bro. Deryck Gent, 33º, Past Inspector General, C&IoE District celebrates 50 years of service to the Ancient & Accepted Rite.

V.º.III.º Bro. Justin Curtis 33º Inspector General accompanied by III.º Bro. Brian Elliott 31º, District Recorder, recently had the pleasure of visiting V.º.III.º Bro. Deryck Gent 33º Past Inspector General at his home to present the Supreme Council 33º certificate for over 50 years of service to the Order.

Bro. Deryck was Perfected into Hereward Chapter No.660 in September 1974 becoming Most Wise Sovereign in 1988. Receiving his 30º in 1990 and 31º in 1995 he became the first IG for the District of Cambridge & Isle of Ely in 1998, which post he held until retiring in 2008. 1998 was a momentous year for Bro. Deryck in successfully steering the newly formed District following the separation from Suffolk and Norfolk Districts. During his term as IG, he also oversaw the formation of Iceni Chapter No.1126 in 2000 and Cambridge & Isle of Ely Chapter No.1157 in 2003 both as a Founder member. He is also a Founder member of Octagon in Ely Chapter No.1076 in 199.



V.º.III.º Bro. Deryck Gent 33º receives the Supreme Council 33º Certificate of 50 years dedicated service to the Ancient & Accepted Rite from V.º.III.º Bro Justin Curtis 33º Inspector General.

His entry into Freemasonry was via Granta Lodge No.6179 when he was Initiated in May 1968.

Away from Freemasonry, Bro. Deryck spent his working life in Education, firstly as geography teacher and Head of PE at Linton School and latterly as Senior Area Community Education Adviser and then County Schools General Inspector before retiring in 1991. Very much a family man, Bro. Deryck has been loving husband to Dorothy for 67 years with two sons and a daughter completing the family.

His love of sport also saw a successful career as a football referee and cricketer playing for Over Club into his late 50's. Being in Bro. Deryck's company during his active masonic service always was and still remains a delight. Bro. Deryck, the District and Cambridgeshire freemasonry, as a whole, congratulates you most heartily for your award.

An afternoon tea for all ages at St. Andrew Lodge No.4087

St. Andrew Lodge No. 4087 in Whittlesey welcomed more than 50 guests, ranging in age from just 11 months to over 90 years for a lively afternoon tea that combined friendship with fundraising.

The event was organised in partnership with Helping Whittlesey, a local charity dedicated to rescuing surplus food from landfill and redistributing it to the community for a small donation.

The initiative was spearheaded by W.Bro. Tim Smith PProvJGW and his partner Jane, who worked closely with Helping Whittlesey, alongside Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Paul Gale, and his partner Rebecca, to bring the idea to life.

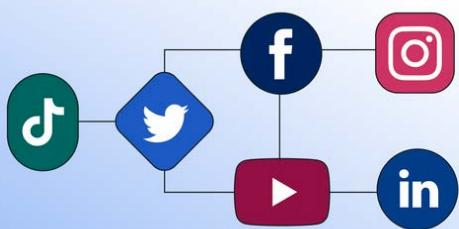


Guests enjoyed refreshments and companionship while supporting a worthy cause. In total, £660 was raised, with an application submitted to the Cambridge and City University Trust for match funding of an additional £300. The funds will be shared between Helping Whittlesey and other charitable causes supported by St. Andrew Lodge.

Anna, representing Helping Whittlesey and the Whittlesey Pantry, gave an engaging presentation about the charity's mission and impact. Her talk highlighted the importance of reducing food waste while supporting families across the area.

Creative Volunteers Wanted

I'm looking to strengthen our communications expertise and would love to hear from anyone with skills in short video production, social media content creation, or advertising design.



If you enjoy creating engaging posts, have experience with digital storytelling, or simply want to lend your creativity to support I'd be delighted to hear from you.

Please get in touch with the W.Bro. Tony Barrios ProvGCO communications@pglcamb.org.uk to share your interest. Your talents could make a real difference in helping us reach more people and spread the word about our work.

CUFS Opens Doors and Sparks Curiosity Among Students Through Events

Growing numbers of Cambridge students are exploring Freemasonry's traditions and values, as the Cambridge University Freemasonry Society (CUFS) makes a strong start to the academic year with a series of successful events and initiatives designed to introduce students to the Craft and strengthen ties with the wider fraternity.

At the Cambridge Freshers' Fair, CUFS attracted considerable interest, with more than 70 students — both men and women — signing up to learn more about the Craft. Reflecting on the response, WBro Simon Cooper, CUFS Vice President, remarked: *"It was fantastic to engage with so many students, get Freemasonry's message out there, dispel a few myths, and see real genuine interest from male and female students."*



During November, the society organised a visit to London where students joined INUL members for a tour of the Museum of Freemasonry and the Grand Temple at Great Queen Street. Reflecting on the visit, WBro Jacob Baldwin, CUFS Secretary and INUL Worshipful Master, remarked: *"Seeing the Grand Temple in person is always inspiring, and it gave our students a real sense of the history and values that underpin Freemasonry."* The tour engaged members and students alike, sparking greater interest in the fraternity and its traditions.

As a result of these initiatives, several CUFS members are due to join INUL at its December meeting, demonstrating the tangible success of the outreach efforts and the growing interest in Freemasonry among Cambridge students.

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Following the fair, CUFS hosted an open house at the Cambridge Masonic Hall. Students were welcomed into the building and had the chance to meet and socialise informally with members of both the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) and the Order of Women Freemasons (OWF). This gave students the opportunity to engage, ask questions, and gain first-hand insight into the fraternity in a relaxed setting, whilst allowing members of both Grand Lodges to do likewise, something supported by UGLE with the formation of the Council of Freemasonry initiative.



Looking ahead, CUFS has planned a series of socials, a guest night, and speaker events. The speaker programme will feature representatives from UGLE and OWF, who will discuss the history of women's Freemasonry and the positive role of Freemasonry in personal development. These events will provide further opportunities for students to connect with existing members and explore the fraternity in an open and welcoming environment.



Importantly, the OWF has recently announced plans to consecrate a second women's lodge in Cambridge in the new year, creating new pathways into Freemasonry for women at the University. CUFS members have been actively supporting this initiative, reflecting the society's commitment to inclusivity and ensuring that Freemasonry is accessible to all who wish to explore it. Bro. Karen Ottewell, CUFS Senior Treasurer, remarked: *"The establishment of a women's university lodge here in Cambridge is a vital step in making Freemasonry truly inclusive for our students. It ensures that everyone, regardless of gender, has the opportunity to engage with the fraternity and benefit from its values."*

Through these efforts, the Cambridge University Freemasonry Society continues to play a vital role in demystifying Freemasonry, fostering curiosity, and strengthening the bonds between students and the wider Masonic community.

Christmas Lunch Brings Festive Cheer to Widows Friendship Club

The Province of Cambridgeshire Masonic Widows Friendship Club enjoyed a delightful Christmas Lunch at Bateman Street, marking a warm and festive occasion for all in attendance.

The event was made particularly special by the inaugural visit of W.Bro. Mark Shields, PGM Designate, who addressed members and guests, expressing his appreciation to the Committee for their continued dedication and support.

Guests were welcomed with seasonal mulled wine before being entertained by W.Bro. Perry Dennis, setting a cheerful tone ahead of a traditional Christmas lunch.



St Wendred Lodge Spreads Christmas Cheer with Little Miracles

What a truly fantastic day it was! W.Bro. Tom French, supported by a wonderful number of brethren and their wives, hosted a memorable Christmas party for the children and families from Little Miracles. A cheerful team of Elves were on hand to assist Father Christmas as he handed out gifts, bringing smiles and laughter to all the children.

The event was filled with delicious food, a warm and joyful atmosphere, and plenty of Christmas music to set the festive mood. The children had a wonderful time with face painting and exploring a variety of Christmas arts and crafts tables, offering fun and creativity for all ages. It was a truly heart-warming day that captured the spirit of the season.



To conclude the festivities, W.Bro. Tom French was delighted to present a cheque for £2,100 to Little Miracles, adding even more joy to their Christmas surprise. Known for the day as Head Elf, he was thrilled to offer this support to one of his chosen charities on behalf of St Wendred Lodge, helping to make the season brighter for the children and their families.

A big well done and thank you goes to all the brethren, their families, and everyone who made this day so special!

Caldwell Lodge Members Enjoy a Winning Afternoon at March Town FC

Ten members of Caldwell Lodge enjoyed a memorable afternoon on Saturday 6th December as they sponsored the March Town Football Club match against Northampton Sileby Rangers. Hosted in the club's Tower Hospitality Suite, the group enjoyed excellent views of the action along with a delicious half-time buffet.

They were treated to an exciting performance on the pitch, with March securing a strong 3–1 victory. Following the match, the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. John Roberts, had the honour of presenting the Man of the Match award to Adam Brumby.

It was a wonderful day spent supporting a thriving local sports club—one that now proudly sits at the top of the UCL Premier Division South table.



Cantabrigia Chapter: A New Era for Masonic Motorcycling in Cambridgeshire

Engines are revving in Cambridgeshire with the launch of the Cantabrigia Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association. This new group brings together local Freemasons who share a love of motorcycling and a commitment to charitable work.

The chapter was founded with a clear mission: to unite Master Masons who hold a full motorcycle license, while also welcoming Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, family members, and supporters as associate members. Inclusivity and community spirit are at the heart of the initiative.

Leadership roles have already been established, including President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Charity/Almoner, and Road Captain. These positions ensure smooth operations and keep the focus firmly on charitable endeavours. A dedicated Facebook page has also been launched to keep members connected and up to date.

Membership comes with a commitment to active participation. New members are expected to attend at least three rides and secure a majority vote from existing members, helping to build genuine engagement and camaraderie among riders.



The chapter has submitted a formal letter to the Widows Sons Governing Board, confirming compliance with constitutional requirements and receiving full support from the Province of Cambridgeshire. With 12 potential members, six of whom are already Widows Sons, the group is set for steady growth.

Two inaugural meetings have already taken place, in December, attended by distinguished guests including AProvGM, W.Bro. Jonathan Lambert. His presence highlighted the importance of this new chapter within the wider Masonic community.

Cantabrigia Chapter is more than just a riding group. With charity at its core and the open road ahead, it promises to make a lasting impact in Cambridgeshire and beyond.

Cambridgeshire Freemasons Joined the National Service of Remembrance to Honour the Armed Forces

The March Armed Forces Veterans Hub received a generous £1,000 donation from Caldwell Lodge, demonstrating continued support for the local veteran community.

Representing Caldwell Lodge were WM. W.Bro. John Roberts, ChStwd. W.Bro. John Best, and Bro. David Barkell, who attended the presentation and met with Jeff Walters (RAF, Retired), who runs both the Hub and the Breakfast Club.



Notably, John Roberts is himself a veteran, having served five years with the Household Cavalry (The Blues and Royals) before continuing his public service with a 25-year career in the Prison Service. His longstanding commitment to service highlights the connection between Caldwell Lodge and the veteran community.

The Hub provides vital support, camaraderie, and a welcoming space for veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces. Contributions such as this help ensure the continuation of its valuable work within the community.

'The Cambridgeshire Mason' is produced in March, July, September and December by Editor Andy Clifton, with the assistance of: Tony Barrios, Justin Curtis, Brian Elliott, Richard Brindle and John Jones.



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