

Spring 2026



EAST KENT
FREEMASONS

**THE DIGITAL MAGAZINE FOR THE
MASONIC PROVINCE OF EAST KENT**

Freemason Faces Arctic Fury

The Masonic Order of Athelstan

Around the Province

The Provincial Lite

ISSUE 16

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George Chandler and his fellow fundraisers, who conquered a gruelling 100km trek across the Sahara Desert

Front Cover: Rob Wilkinson taking on the 500km Arctic Ultra Marathon (See article on page 24)

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

After the relentless rain and grey skies of winter, it is a pleasure to welcome you to the Spring Edition of the Provincial Lite, your online window into the vibrant life and successes of East Kent Freemasons.

This edition is brimming with inspiring stories that showcase the unwavering commitment of our Lodges, Chapters, and the remarkable individuals who make an indelible difference to those in need across our communities. Our support for deserving charities is a testament to our shared values and collective spirit, enabling them to continue their life-changing work for another year.



Amongst the highlights, we share the remarkable adventure of George Chandler and his fellow fundraisers, who conquered a gruelling 100km trek across the Sahara Desert. George alone raised a fantastic £4,000 for the charity, 'Odyssey' trekking in the desert heat. In stark contrast, read about Rob Wilkinson's 500km Arctic Ultra for Charity. A feat of endurance that is carried out entirely unsupported and must be completed in 10 days.

We shine a light on the Province's very own "rock and rollers", The Cymbolick Penalties. This talented group of Freemasons once again channelled their passion for music into producing and selling a CD, generating a phenomenal £18,200 for the 2025 Festival. Proof that creativity and charity go hand in hand.

It is also a privilege to honour Frank Holding, who was recently presented with his Certificate by the Provincial Grand Master, in recognition of his extraordinary 70 years of service to Freemasonry. Frank's steadfast dedication is an inspiration and reminder of the lasting impact one person can have through commitment and care.

Throughout this magazine, you'll discover a wealth of engaging articles to enjoy, each reflecting the pride and sense of purpose that unite us all. Provincial Lite stands as a celebration of our values, our achievements, and the enthusiasm we find in working together for the greater good. So, here's to a brighter season ahead, filled with community, compassion, and shared endeavour.

EDITOR

Derek Lindars

Upcoming Events

Full details and to book all events visit the Provincial Website
www.eastkentfreemasons.org/events/

2nd May **PSA Testing 2026**
0900 to 1600 at Sittingbourne Masonic Centre, Albany Road ME10 1EB

20th June **Charity Stewards Ball**
1730 to 2345 Ashford International Hotel, Simone Weil Ave, Ashford TN24 8UX

25th July **Duncan Rouse Bat & Trap Trophy**
0900 to 1600 Farriers Arms, Mersham , Ashford TN25 6NU

26th July **Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral**
9 Westbrook Avenue, Margate, CT9 5HB, Union Lodge

25th September **East Kent Golf: Captain's Day**
Sheerness Golf Club, Power Station Road, Sheerness ME12 3AD

23rd October **East Kent Golf: Dark Blue -v- Light Blues**
Playing for the David Graeme Cup Etchingill Golf Club CT18 8FA

24th October **Trafalgar Night Dinner**
A nautically themed evening marking the victory at the Battle of Trafalgar

7th November **Provisional Grand Master's Awards**
0930 to 1200 Darwin Conference Suite, University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NY



EAST KENT
FREEMASONS

Provincial Royal Arch and Craft Annual Festivals

17th April 2026
Detling

Article and photos: John Ray & Mark Howells

Friday 17th April 2026. Weather: sunny intervals, moderate breeze. Ideal conditions for East Kent Province's Annual Craft Festival, which this year was again held in the Clive Emson Conference Centre at the Kent Showground near Maidstone. And your "Provincial Observer" was there.

According to the Summons from Provincial Grand Secretary Colin Tunbridge, the Lodge would be opened at 1100 hrs. But we had to be there a good bit earlier. Indeed, most of us had to be in our seats by 1030, or Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Graham Cuthbert would be very cross. We duly signed in, picked up our glossy Festival Programmes, beautifully compiled. I think the Editor deserves credit and should be named somewhere.

Outside the main hall, ex-PGDC Andy Stevens was forming the Grand Officers, resplendent in their gold braid, into two columns. Flashlights popped as they marched in at 1042 and took their seats adjacent to the main stage. Close behind them came the Distinguished Visitors, whom Graham Cuthbert gestured discreetly to their places.

Next came the top brass from East Kent: Past Provincial Grand Masters, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Masters and Past Assistant Provincial Grand Masters – some very well-known and distinguished doyens of the Craft – and finally, to warm applause, our Provincial Grand Master Neil Hamilton Johnstone, his Deputy Phil South, Assistant Provincial Grand Masters Duncan Rouse, Trevor Carter, Peter Rhodes, Graham Chisnell and Wayne Smith and members of the Provincial Executive.



At 1100, the Provincial Choir sang an Anthem, with piano accompaniment. Aren't they always a joy to listen to?

Time to get the meeting under way. The PGM opened the Lodge, and we saluted him accordingly. Neil began by informing us that we had lost to the Grand Lodge Above some seventy-one Freemasons, including forty-eight Provincial Grand Officers and four Grand Officers. On a much happier note, he was pleased to welcome our Distinguished Visitors from other Provinces.

The Minutes of the 2025 meeting were approved. Former APGMs Andrew Notley and Mark Costelloe proposed and seconded that the Provincial Grand Secretary's Report be accepted – which of course it was.

Provincial Craft and Royal Arch Annual Festivals

Peter Rhodes and Colin Barden were elected as Trustees to the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

The audited Accounts were received, and John Fox was again elected as Provincial Grand Treasurer, and the Auditors, Messrs McCabe, Ford and Williams were reappointed.

With that, we had whistled through the first nine items on the Agenda. Item 10 was to appoint and invest the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge for the ensuing year. It was good to see Phil South reappointed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Duncan Rouse retired as Assistant Provincial Grand Master, the PGM thanking him for all the hard work he had done for the Province during his term of office. The other three APGMs would remain in post. Who would be replacing Duncan? None other than our Provincial Grand Almoner Nigel Fitz.

Now, the appointment of a new APGM is not something that can be done casually. It is a very important job and requires due ceremony. Four Past Masters of the Bredensstone Lodge No.8093, Nigel's own Lodge, plus APGMs Trevor Carter and Peter Rhodes formed a Procession to escort Nigel into the Lodge. Provincial Grand Secretary Colin Tunbridge then read out the PGM's Patent (or Scroll) appointing him as an APGM. Neil added that Nigel's considerable experience would make him particularly well suited to the role.

And then, for many of us, it was time for the Main Event: the Carousel. This is the part of the meeting at which the PGM's promotions and appointments to Provincial Grand Rank are announced. It works like this: each person to receive promotion or appointment is allocated a personally reserved seat in the Lodge.

The seats are allocated in such a way that each person can be escorted to the PGM in the correct sequence to meet him and then return to their seat.

Who escorts them to the PGM and back to their seats? The Provincial Grand Stewards. It all looks very slick and professional. It's a pity, really, that we can't film it: but cameras are not to be used in an open Lodge.



Item 11 on the Summons was "To present Meritorious Awards to Distinguished Brethren". This is where the PGM shows his appreciation of certain Brethren who have provided exceptional service to the Province. Usually the PGM will select two or three individuals in two or three different aspects of Freemasonry, but this year he gave a Team Award to three Curators of the Masonic Library and Museum, Terry Perkins, Ron Carter and Mike Farrell. As well as looking after the place on a day-to-day basis, they had worked very hard to salvage items and rebuild the collection after a disastrous water leakage during the COVID shutdown.

At 1258 it was time for the PGM to address us all. He congratulated all those who had received Provincial promotions or appointments. He told us that our new APGM Nigel Fitz would be working closely with Roy Brooks, Nigel's successor as Provincial Grand Almoner, and wished them both well in their endeavours. 2025 had certainly been a spectacular year, and he found it "so gratifying" to see the Province not only hit but exceed its target in the 2025 Festival [applause]. The Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity (CEKFC) had performed splendidly in the CEKFC Awards Ceremony in November. We all "owed a debt of gratitude to the Trustees", and he was very pleased with the new and improved match-funding arrangements now in place.

Provincial Craft and Royal Arch Annual Festivals



The United Grand Lodge of England had set us all a challenge to raise £100 million towards the cost of supporting Masonic buildings and other initiatives throughout UGLE. The concept of “Building Together” had become accepted practice, and was showing itself in Community Engagement, especially with the Armed Forces. He also praised the “expertise, determination and commitment” of the Provincial Executive. The Province was in good hands.

And now it was time for a special, personal announcement. He said he would be retiring from being our PGM later in the year. “I’m quite confident that the decision and timing are right”, he said. The Province was in a strong condition for him to hand over to his successor. He was extremely proud of what we had achieved together. It had been a great honour and a privilege to be our PGM. “My final message to you is, as always: enjoy your Freemasonry”. [Standing ovation]

At 1311 it was time to Collect Alms – accompanied by a Masonic song from the Choir.

Was there Any Other Business? No. There were some Apologies, of course. And then it was time to close the Lodge. After the PGM and the top brass had paraded out, we followed suit.

There was the usual rush – sorry – brisk saunter – to the bar, and then those of us who were dining made our way into the Conference Centre’s main Dining Hall and settled down for lunch: Chicken Liver Parfait; Belly of Pork with Crackling Shard, Creamed Cabbage and Bacon; and Glazed Lemon Tart (or vegetarian/vegan alternatives) and red or white wine. I noticed that not all the wine was being quaffed. Maybe we were conscientious drivers, or maybe we didn’t want to risk nodding off in the following Chapter meeting – or maybe both!

After the Loyal Toast and other formal Toasts, the PGM addressed us all briefly. He praised his Deputy, Phil South, for his warmth, humility and general caring approach, and offered sincere thanks for his commitment over the years. As for himself, Neil repeated that now was exactly the right time to pass the baton on. He praised the Royal Arch for its support. Talking of which, the Companions would be waiting for him in the Main Hall. With that, we all rose and applauded as he and the top brass retired.

It had been a splendid meeting, I thought. Pomp and Circumstance, of course, but leavened with a good dose of warmth and humour. “How are you?” I asked my table colleague, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Graham Cuthbert. “Knackered – but pleased” came the reply. We in East Kent never take ourselves too seriously. That’s what I like about it.



Provincial Royal Arch and Craft Annual Festivals

17th April 2026
Detling

Article and photos: Derek Lindars & Mark Howells

Approximately 300 Companions gathered for the Provincial Grand Chapter of East Kent for a day of tradition and celebration. After sharing a convivial lunch, those gathered eagerly awaited the arrival of distinguished Companions, honoured guests, and the Officers of the Province. The arrival of the Most Excellent Provincial Grand Superintendent, Neil Hamilton Johnstone, was met with uplifting music and a wave of enthusiastic applause, setting a tone of warmth and unity for the afternoon ahead.

At 16:00, the Provincial Grand Chapter was opened in solemn and ancient form by the Most Excellent Provincial Grand Superintendent, ably supported by the Second Provincial Grand Principal, Excellent Companion Joseph White, and the Third Provincial Grand Principal, Excellent Companion Graham Wyles. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Paul Pavitt, called the assembly to salute the Most Excellent Provincial Grand Superintendent, reinforcing the respect and regard in which he is held.

The mood turned reflective as the Most Excellent Provincial Grand Superintendent announced the sad passing of 21 Companions over the past year. In a moving tribute, all present stood in silent respect, while Excellent Companion Graham Wyles offered a prayer honouring the memory and merit of those departed.

In an atmosphere brimming with fraternal fellowship, the Most Excellent Provincial Grand Superintendent extended a warm and sincere welcome to all, especially the many distinguished guests and visitors whose presence enriched the occasion.

With the administrative formalities of the afternoon completed, the convocation moved on to the appointment and investiture of Companions.



Highlights included the installation of Excellent Companion Graham Wyles as Second Provincial Grand Principal and Excellent Companion Eddie Halpin as Third Provincial Grand Principal. These were moments marked by pride and celebration.

A notable juncture of the day was the retirement announcement of Excellent Companion John Baker as Deputy Provincial Grand Superintendent. The Most Excellent Provincial Grand Superintendent spoke with effusively with heartfelt appreciation of John's exemplary service before appointing Excellent Companion Joseph White as his successor, a transition received with warm applause.

Provincial Royal Arch and Craft Annual Festivals

The spirit of recognition continued as the Most Excellent Provincial Grand Superintendent had the privilege to honour 91-year-old Excellent Companion Allan Shepherd with a personal award for outstanding and meritorious service, which acknowledged his lifelong dedication to both the community and Masonry. After which, each Companion selected to receive an award was appointed with warm congratulations, reinforcing the strong bonds within the Province.

The Most Excellent Provincial Grand Superintendent then delivered an address that resonated deeply with all present. In a moment of reflection and anticipation, he announced his intention to retire from his esteemed office, assuring all that thoughtful succession planning would ensure a seamless transition.

Following the collection of Alms, the Provincial Scribe Ezra shared apologies from absent Companions. With all business concluded, the Provincial Grand Chapter was closed in due form. The gathering united in a spirited rendition of the National Anthem, and, as the Officers, guests, and visitors processed out, the stirring hymn "Jerusalem" echoed through the hall, bringing this uplifting and memorable occasion to a fitting close.



Provincial Craft and Royal Arch Annual Festivals



Provincial Craft and Royal Arch Annual Festivals



Worshipful Brother Duncan Rouse

Our Assistant Provincial Grand Master's Final Chain Meeting

Article and photos: Paul Goodwin and Nick Price



(Rear centre) Worshipful Brother Duncan Rouse and the Worshipful Master Grahame Grant with Lodge member and visitors

At Crane Lodge No. 2660 in Cranbrook, on 13th April 2026, the Brethren gathered for an event of deep significance: Worshipful Brother Duncan Rouse's final Chain Visit before his retirement as Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

Candid photos captured the fraternity and respect as the Lodge filled with esteemed guests. Among them were the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, four Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, four past Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, and fourteen active Provincial Officers, each lending their presence to mark the occasion with respect and warmth.



Worshipful Brother Duncan Rouse

The ceremony commenced with a sense of anticipation, as Worshipful Brother Duncan Rouse graciously accepted the chair from the Master, Worshipful Brother Grahame Grant. Duncan's composed and dignified presence echoed his years of dedicated service, and as he oversaw the passing ceremony for Brother Evan Stokes, the Brethren watched on with genuine admiration.

His measured delivery and clear directions displayed a poise that truly reflected the honour of his office. Each aspect of the ritual unfolded seamlessly, every gesture and word paying tribute to the Lodge's rich traditions and the candidate's meaningful journey.



Worshipful Brothers Graham Cuthbert and John Burgess

Worshipful Brother Duncan Rouse cont...

The evening's dignity was further enhanced when Worshipful Brother Ian Burrows presented the Working Tools, while Worshipful Brother Geoff Hawkes delivered an insightful explanation of the 2nd Degree Tracing Board. Throughout the proceedings, warm smiles were exchanged, and photographs captured the spirit of fraternity and celebration, ensuring the memories of this uplifting occasion would be cherished for years to come. The presence of so many distinguished officers underscored the importance of the evening, with each one quietly acknowledging Duncan's legacy and commitment to the Craft.

As the meeting drew to a close, the Brethren departed the Lodge room with a sense of accomplishment and withdrew to the George Hotel in Cranbrook, where laughter and conversation flowed around the dinner table. Duncan, surrounded by friends old and new, received warm congratulations and thanks for his years of service. The evening concluded not with ceremony, but with fellowship, marking his final Chain Visit as a memorable and fitting farewell.



Worshipful Brothers David Graeme, Wayne Smith and Jason Wright



Worshipful Brothers Graham Chisnell and Jim Close



Worshipful Brothers Mark Bassent, Steve Salisbury, Roger Waltham and Andy Stevens

Worshipful Brother Nigel Fitz

Newly Appointed Assistant Provincial Grand Master

My Masonic career started at the Bredenstone Lodge in St Margarets-at-Cliffe near Dover and was mainly involved in the administration of the Lodge as Secretary which I thoroughly enjoyed. I was born and educated locally although my father's service in the Royal Navy required our family to spend periods in Malta and Scotland.

Initially I pursued a career in teaching but soon realised it was not for me. Following several positions in statistics I moved into the National Health Service to design and develop staff bonus schemes in Surrey, meeting my wife Maria on one of the projects. In 1981 I joined a reinsurance company as a Business Analyst subsequently moving into IT and Project Management until retiring in 2011.

I have a daughter and grandson residing in Surrey and frequent travel along the M20/25 is often required for family commitments including caring for my grandson and their young dog. I enjoy most live sports especially cricket and when time allows can often be found strolling around the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury during the summer. Maria comes from Tenerife where we regularly visit meeting up with family and to enjoy the climate.

For the past five years, I have had the privilege of serving as Provincial Grand Almoner a period marked by great support from Lodge and Chapter Almoners and pride in contributing to their community. I extend special gratitude to my dedicated team of Visiting Volunteers, their close collaboration with the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) has brought valuable expertise and advice supporting many individuals and families across the Province.

I am honoured to be appointed Assistant Provincial Grand Master and look forward to advancing the Province's strategic priorities. I will assume responsibility for the Learning and Development, Welfare and Retention portfolios from Duncan Rouse whose guidance has been invaluable and wish him well in spending more time on his gardening activities and playing more games of Bridge.



Nigel Fitz

Significant organisational changes are underway particularly regarding the UGLE Third Pillar Review which emphasises greater engagement with local communities. This initiative will influence the MCF's strategy affecting grant allocation and the scope of services they provide. Our Province will gain greater autonomy in supporting community-driven initiatives and I am confident this transition will be capably overseen by our incoming Provincial Almoner Roy Brooks.

Within my team Howard Griffin, who always lights up any meeting leads the Learning and Development group with energy and commitment recently recruiting new members and organising programmes such as the Preparing for the Masters Chair sessions and additional presentations for prospective Secretaries, Treasurers, and other Lodge Officers.

The Retention Team and the Lodge Guidance and Support Team, led by Charles Pottle and David Mantle respectively, have played a critical role in minimising resignations and facilitating member reassignment where appropriate.

Worshipful Brother Nigel Fitz cont...

Since January 2023 the Retention Team have engaged with 609 members, successfully retaining 120 within the Province, an excellent achievement. The team also provide support to those moving to other Provinces to continue their masonic career. The recently created Guidance and Support Team has introduced practical resources to help rejuvenate Lodges working closely with the Provincial Building Together Membership Group to provide guidance on Lodge sustainability.

In addition to these responsibilities I look forward to visiting Lodges throughout the Province encouraging active participation and raising awareness of our collective achievements and future opportunities.

Our Membership Challenge is our most pressing challenge and deserves prominent attention and should be in the forefront of our minds. In recent years the membership trend has been going in the wrong direction and we all see many Lodges surviving on low numbers. I have been a Visiting Officer where this is the case but have seen the spirit and determination to overcome adversity with a move to new location they now have some further enthusiasm to reach out and have been able to grow their membership and share with others their excellent ritual and the camaraderie we see at most Festive Boards. It is this positive response I would like to see elsewhere and why it is so essential for us all to implement the Building Together approach. This team is now in place and are putting together their plans to help both Lodges and Chapters which I am sure you will all support.

It's never too late!

Can you be too old to aspire to the Master's Chair, or to join the Royal Arch for that matter? Try asking John Lean. His only one regret as a Freemason? That he joined so late in life.

John was initiated into Freemasonry at Allington Lodge No.7086 while already well into his eighties. He quickly became an active and valued member of the Lodge and an accomplished ritualist; and was installed as Master in October 2023 at the ripe old age of 89.

And on 3rd March this year, with our Visiting Officer Roy Brooks in attendance, John was Exalted into Monckton Chapter No.9236 as a sprightly 91-year-old.

As we relaxed at the Festive Board after the Ceremony, we all wondered whether Companion John was the oldest Freemason ever to have been Exalted in our Province - or even the oldest to have been Exalted anywhere!



Companion John Lean

Who is the oldest Initiate or Exalte in your Unit?
If you have a story please contact
editor@ekprovince.co.uk

The Mentors' Breakfast

Building Together and Fostering Engagement

Article: Derek Lindars



Paul O'Neil opening the morning's meeting

The crisp morning of 21st February saw the Tovil Masonic Centre welcome 58 attendees who gathered for the much-awaited Mentors' Breakfast. With the aroma of fresh coffee and bacon rolls filling the air, guests settled in, greeting old friends and forging new connections. This is a cornerstone in the Building Together strategy, designed to strengthen recruitment, retention and personal development, and ensure the Masonic community continues to flourish.

By 9.00am, the hall was filled with lively conversation when Provincial Grand Mentor, Paul O'Neil, opened the morning by setting a tone of positivity and engagement. He spoke passionately about the importance of involvement, emphasising how genuine engagement will be the bedrock of success.

Following Paul's inspiring introduction, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Graham Chisnel, painted a vivid picture of Freemasonry in East Kent, highlighting both its vibrancy and the ongoing challenge of engaging every member. He outlined the critical objectives of:

- Supporting new joiners and Initiates to participate and develop a deeper understanding.
- Offering continued guidance and enjoyment to foster satisfaction.
- Re-engaging inactive members by recognising their needs and tracking attendance.

Graham reminded everyone that mentoring is not a solo task. On the contrary, it is a collective effort also involving Membership Officers and Almoners, to ensure every member feels valued and supported.

The morning continued with Simon Petts from Ashford Lodge 8945. Simon is a member of the Provincial Mentoring Team and he eagerly promotes the important aspect of visiting. Simon shared innovative ways his Lodge encourages visiting, such as subsidising with a £10 credit those who accompany the Worshipful Master to a Lodge. A simple gesture that goes a long way in promoting fellowship. Simon also championed the Armed Forces Covenant, urging Lodges to ensure that servicemen and veterans are never inadvertently disadvantaged.

Tim Davies brought a practical perspective, speaking on stewardship and succession planning. He stressed the importance of mapping out each member's journey, allowing for personal growth and engagement, and reminded all present to be mindful of neurodivergence, advocating for supportive approaches to ritual learning. His thoughtful suggestions underscored the inclusive spirit of Freemasonry.



Simon Petts

The Mentors' Breakfast cont...

Injecting a dose of humour, Rocky Ramharak proudly declared himself the "Minister for Fun". His message was simple yet powerful: making Lodge meetings enjoyable will attract the right people and keeps members invested. He also highlighted the value of the UGLE webinars, which offer digital advancement opportunities that can be accessed anytime, reinforcing the blend of tradition and modernity.

Leading on from Rocky, Russ Spendley spoke about guided and personal learning through YP2 and Solomon. He also promoted member visits to the Masonic Museum as a source of inspiration. Peter Bearman then followed, urging Royal Arch Chapters to adopt similar mentoring strategies, aiming for continuity and growth across all units.

Paul Goodwin, representing the Communications Team, outlined the support and tools available to Lodges and Chapters. From website creation to social media engagement, and tips for taking photos and writing articles, Paul reassured attendees that they can be given the support needed to raise their profile and share their achievements.

Paul O'Neil then highlighted the importance of learning before proudly presenting Solomon pins to James Kitney, Andy Macrow and Neil Goldsack, who had completed the digital learning Diploma, after which the meeting concluded with a warm summation by Graham Chisnel. As the formalities drew to a close, attendees enjoyed coffee and tea while exchanging stories and discussing best practices before heading off to enjoy the weekend with their families.

The Mentors' Breakfast proved to be more than just a meeting. It was an opportunity to celebrate innovation and forward-thinking. Through lively discussion, practical solutions, and a spirit of engagement, the East Kent Freemasons continue to build together, ensuring their community remains welcoming, resilient, and full of promise for generations to come.



Rocky Ramharak



Tim Davies



Paul Goodwin

The Almoners' Breakfast

A Morning of Friendship and Inspiration

Article and photos: Paul Goodwin



Provincial Grand Master, Neil Hamilton Johnstone, giving the opening address

On a bright Saturday morning, around 75 brethren gathered at the Maidstone Masonic Centre for the annual Almoners' Breakfast Meeting. Over coffee and a bacon roll, the scene was set for a gathering brimming with warmth, friendship, and purpose. As everyone took their seats and the business of the meeting began in earnest, Worshipful Brother Nigel Fitz, Provincial Grand Almoner, opened proceedings with a warm welcome. Nigel then introduced the Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Neil Hamilton Johnstone, whose presence added further prestige to the event.

The morning featured presentations from Group Almoner Coordinators, all of whom had undergone specialised training with the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF). Brother Tony Finch gave a spirited explanation of the Armed Forces Covenant, emphasising its practical impact on lives rather than being a mere formality. Worshipful Brother Eddie Halpin shared the touching story of Daisy, a young girl supported by both MCF and Demelza Hospice. Eddie's words were accompanied by a moving video that tugged at the heartstrings of all present reminding us all why we carry out the vital work we do.

Guest speaker Jo Down, a Cancer Care Navigator, brought further inspiration with her work supporting local cancer patients. In a delightful gesture, Eddie presented Jo with a giant TLC teddy, suggesting it might be used to raise funds or simply bring a smile to someone in need. Before wrapping up, Worshipful Brother Graham Chisnell, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, gave an update on membership and the 'Building Together' principles, highlighting the vital role Almoners play in fostering unity and support.

In closing this important meeting, Nigel Fitz thanked everyone for attending. All agreed there was a renewed enthusiasm and a shared sense of purpose, reminding all present that together, they make a real difference to those in our communities who need our support.



Cancer Care Navigator, Jo Down, being presented with a TLC teddy bear by Eddie Halpin,



Almoners enjoying the informative meeting

Community Engagement Manager Kent Museum of Freemasonry



Anita Sala

The role of Community Engagement Manager recently became vacant at the Museum & Library. Following an external recruitment process, we are delighted to share that the position has now been filled by a highly qualified candidate from the public, Anita Sala. We warmly welcome Anita to the team and would like to introduce her to the Provinces. This role is a vital one for any modern museum: community engagement is the bridge between collections and the people they exist to serve. It ensures that our spaces remain open, relevant, and responsive — not simply guardians of heritage, but active participants in the life of the community. Through thoughtful engagement, museums become places where stories are shared, voices are heard, and visitors feel a genuine sense of belonging.

Anita brings both expertise and enthusiasm to this work, and we look forward to the fresh ideas, partnerships, and possibilities she will help us cultivate. Her arrival marks an exciting new chapter in strengthening our connection with the communities around us. Anita recently gained a Master's degree in Museum Management Studies from Bath Spa University. She has worked across several museums in England, building experience in community-focused projects with a keen eye on organisational growth and sustainable development.

With a passion for innovative, people-centred engagement, Anita is committed to reflecting good practice from across the sector while helping museums feel welcoming, relevant, and deeply connected to the communities they serve. She believes that community engagement is not an optional extra but the very engine of a thriving museum: it strengthens belonging, invites new voices into the story, and ensures that heritage remains a living, shared resource rather than a static collection on a shelf. When museums listen to and collaborate with their communities, they become places of dialogue, wellbeing, creativity, and civic pride — spaces where people see themselves reflected and feel empowered to shape the future.

Anita is excited to get started, collaborate with the team, and explore what can be built together when a museum and its community grow side by side.

Kent Masonic Library and Museum Trust Awarded Full Accreditation by Arts Council England

Article: Richard Wingett



The Kent Masonic Museum and Library Trust is delighted to announce that it has been awarded full accreditation by Arts Council England (ACE), reaffirming its status as a nationally recognised museum of excellence and public value. This prestigious reaccreditation reflects not only the Trust's enduring commitment to heritage stewardship, but also its dynamic evolution in response to ACE's newly updated standards. In 2025, ACE introduced more rigorous criteria that place greater emphasis on community engagement, diversity, and accessibility—areas that have become central to the museum's mission since reopening after the COVID-19 pandemic.

In meeting these enhanced requirements, the Trust undertook a comprehensive transformation of its internal processes. New policies and procedures were developed to ensure that inclusivity and public participation are embedded across all aspects of museum practice—from interpretation and programming to governance and outreach. These efforts have not only broadened the museum's reach but have deepened its relevance to the communities it serves.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Richard Wingett, expressed his pride in the team's achievement: "To be awarded full accreditation under these new standards is a tremendous honour. It speaks volumes about the dedication, professionalism, and creativity of our trustee's and volunteers. They have embraced change with grace and rigour, and I am deeply proud of the inclusive, forward-thinking institution we have become."

Thanks to these developments, the reaccreditation application was notably robust. The museum was able to present clear, compelling evidence of its progress, making the process not only straightforward but affirming. The Trust's renewed accreditation ensures continued recognition, support, and public confidence in its work as a custodian of Masonic heritage and a vibrant contributor to Kent's cultural landscape.

The Board extends its heartfelt thanks to the entire team—volunteers, and supporters—whose collective efforts have made this achievement possible. Their work ensures that the museum remains not only a repository of history, but a living, inclusive space for learning, reflection, and community connection.

Addressing Loneliness Among Older People

The Impact of the Masonic Charitable Foundation and Age UK

Article: John Baker



John Baker

Latest figures indicate that approximately 1.2 million older people in the UK are affected by loneliness. This concerning statistic highlights the widespread nature of social isolation among the ageing population, as reported by Age UK.

The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) has played a pivotal role in supporting more than 10,000 older individuals experiencing loneliness across the country through a partnership valued at £1 million with Age UK. This collaborative effort has led to significant improvements, with over half (56 per cent) of those who initially reported frequent feelings of loneliness now experiencing reduced levels of isolation.

Bereavement, particularly the loss of a spouse, can have a profound effect on mental health. Widows and widowers are often found to experience higher rates of depression and symptoms associated with post-traumatic stress disorder. The link between living alone, increased isolation, and the tendency to withdraw socially further exacerbates feelings of loneliness among this group.

The MCF's support has made a tangible difference for individuals like Bill, an 88-year-old Freemason who struggled with loneliness following the death of his wife, Nancy. Bill shared his appreciation for the Foundation, stating, "I've never experienced anything like the help and the wonderful feeling I've had dealing with the Foundation. I can't say thank you enough." His story exemplifies the positive impact that compassionate support can have on the lives of those facing loneliness and bereavement.

Celebrating Exceptional Service

John Kennet Baker's Remarkable Legacy

At this year's East Kent Provincial Annual Festival, a chapter closed on an extraordinary journey as John Kennet Baker bid farewell to his esteemed role as Deputy Grand Superintendent of the Province of East Kent. The Convocation was filled with admiration as the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Neil Hamilton Johnstone, spoke with warmth and gratitude for John's outstanding dedication. East Kent's Masonic Province not only owes John a debt of gratitude for his exceptional leadership and vision, but also celebrates the immense impact he has made across many spheres of life.

Born in the picturesque village of Ruckinge near Romney Marsh in 1947, John's early years laid the foundation for a lifetime of service and achievement. After attending Maidstone Technical School, he pursued engineering at CAV Ltd in Rochester, where he quickly distinguished himself as a technician. His career flourished as he took on roles in training and human resources, culminating in his appointment as Training Manager in 1986. In 1993, John embarked on a new chapter, leading KITA Ltd, an HR and Training Consultancy, and later founded Stacks Consulting Ltd in 2000. These ventures saw John working with a diverse range of organisations, helping leaders and teams reach their full potential.

John's commitment extended far beyond the workplace. He has served as President of St John Ambulance Sittingbourne and Milton, Chairman of Swale Council for Voluntary Service, Governor of Robert Napier School, and twice as President of the Rotary Club of Sittingbourne and Milton. These roles demonstrate a profound dedication to uplifting the lives of others, something that remains a hallmark of his character. At the heart of his life is his devoted family: John is married to Maureen, and together they share the joy of four children and five grandchildren. He continues to find pleasure in gardening, collecting toys, and enjoying a round of golf whenever possible.

John's Masonic journey has been nothing short of inspiring. Initiated into Per Mare Per Terram Lodge No 3609 in 1987. He rose to become Worshipful Master in 1996, and his commitment saw him join several other lodges including Mid Kent Masters Lodge, East Kent Scriveners, and Pentalpha Lodge of East Kent.



His progression within the Royal Arch (RA) has been equally distinguished, serving as MEZ after being Exalted in 1989, and participating actively in the East Kent Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter and First Principals Chapter.

John's influence reached into the Mark Master Masons (MMM), where he served as Worshipful Master and is currently Chaplain. He is a founder member of the Millennium Lodge of MMM and holds membership in the Kent Installed Mark Masters Lodge. His contributions within the Royal Ark Mariners, further highlight his unwavering commitment.

Beyond these honours, John's involvement in side degrees and as Schools Liaison Officer for the Masonic Fishing Charity reflects his drive to nurture future generations. He championed the Royal Arch, forging strong links with the Craft and creating a dynamic management team. His visionary leadership helped East Kent consistently surpass its RA Membership Challenge, leaving a legacy of growth and unity.

As we celebrate John Kennet Baker's retirement from his distinguished Masonic office, we recognise a life devoted to service, fraternity, and creating opportunities for others to thrive. His story inspires us all to make a difference and to cherish every moment spent in support of those around us. East Kent and all who know John are truly richer for his unwavering example.

Freemason Faces Arctic Fury

Rob Wilkinson's 500km Lapland Ultra for Charity



The ultimate challenge of 500km across the Lapland Arctic Wilderness

In March, Rob Wilkinson of Porta Sapientiae Lodge No. 9429 embarked on a journey that pushed every limit — mental, physical and emotional — when he took on the Lapland Arctic Ultra, renowned globally as one of the most unforgiving endurance races on Earth. More than just a test of human capacity, Rob's mission is to shine a light on local charities and bring the core values of Freemasonry to life, one icy step at a time.

On 1st March, with temperatures plunging as low as -40°C and the vast, alien beauty of the Arctic stretching endlessly ahead, Rob set off on a 500km self-supported odyssey. Armed with little more than meticulous preparation, a sturdy sled laden with essential equipment, and an indomitable spirit, he had just 10 days to traverse endless snowfields and windswept tundra. There was no support crew, no easy escape. Each competitor had to pull everything they needed to survive, relying solely on themselves, their skill, and their resilience.

Unlike many ultra-endurance events, the Lapland Arctic Ultra is not for the faint-hearted. Competitors don't just battle sheer distance, but also the psychological toll of utter isolation. With no outside assistance permitted and a GPS tracker only for organisers to locate him in dire circumstances — not as a panic button — the risks are very real. "In the Arctic, small mistakes can become serious very quickly," says Rob. "You rely entirely on preparation, judgement, and resilience. Those are qualities I value deeply and ones that Freemasonry reinforces."

Rob's motivation runs deeper than personal achievement. Every gruelling mile was in aid of two causes that are particularly close to his heart: Kent Search and Rescue, and Foreland Fields Special Needs School, where Rob serves as a Governor. "Freemasonry encourages its members to look beyond themselves and do something meaningful for others," he shares. "For me, this challenge was about putting those values into action. It's tough, it's uncomfortable, and it carried risk. But, it's being done for causes that genuinely matter to the community."

As a proud Freemason, Rob saw this formidable quest as a living testament to the pillars of service, resilience, commitment, integrity, and community that lie at the very heart of Freemasonry. He hopes his efforts will inspire others to support these charities, shining a spotlight on their vital work and the difference that collective goodwill can make.



Rob Wilkinson

Freemason Faces Arctic Fury cont...

No stranger to pushing his boundaries, Rob has previously tackled a range of demanding endurance events in the name of charity. However, he freely acknowledges that the Lapland Arctic Ultra was his most daunting challenge yet, with the dangers of profound cold and the ever-present threat of frostbite. Yet, Rob remained focused on the greater purpose behind the suffering. "It was not just about succeeding," he insists, "it was about demonstrating what can be achieved for a good cause."

Rob's professional life as a ship's Captain, coupled with the discipline required to maintain his licence while running his own business, has provided him with the skillset needed for such an expedition. Those traits served him well as he faced the Arctic's frozen wilderness.



Rob Training for his Ultra by pulling a tyre along the beach

Throughout his journey, Rob posted updates via his social media channels, inviting supporters to follow each arduous step, from the frozen start line to a triumphant finish. In testing the very limits of endurance in one of the world's most hostile environments, Rob Wilkinson stands as a beacon of community spirit and Masonic values, proving that even in the harshest conditions, the warmth of charity and resilience will endure.

Post Ultra update

Embarking on an arduous race equivalent to ten consecutive ultra marathons, I began at a brisk pace, only to soon realise that my footwear selection was ill-suited for the challenge. This mistake left my feet in poor condition by the end of the first day, prompting a crucial shift in strategy. I decided to slow down, prioritising completion over competition, and devoted significant attention to foot care, pausing every few hours to change socks and re-dress my feet regardless of progress.

Maintaining an average of over 50km daily was an imperative, as falling behind meant extra distance the following day. Sleep was scarce: two to three hours each night became the norm, and twice I forwent rest entirely, choosing to press on through the night. The exhaustion induced mild hallucinations, adding a surreal edge to the solitude of the Arctic wilderness. Out of 30 starters, only 16 finished, many of whom were elite athletes. The event tested mental fortitude as much as physical ability.

The true challenges were in the unseen moments, such as leaving a sleeping bag in -35°C after minimal rest, tending to battered feet when every instinct said to keep walking, and continuing onward despite poor visibility and long stretches without human contact.



The Northern Lights as night falls

Sleeping arrangements presented their own difficulties; to prevent moisture from my breath freezing inside my tent, I slept with the door fully open, my head by the entrance. While this meant waking up with ice inside the tent, it kept my sleep system dry and proved a reasonable compromise against the harsh elements. The experience was a profound test of resilience and adaptability in extreme conditions.

The Provincial Grand Communications Officer, as was!

Paul Gear ProvJGW as is!



A Light-hearted Look Back at my 12 Years in East Kent Comms

Looking back over 12 years is a bit like trying to remember where you left your glasses... only to realise they've been on your head the whole time. A lot has happened, but here goes.

Becoming the first Provincial Grand Communications Officer for East Kent has been both a privilege and a pleasure. Along the way, I've met, spoken to, emailed, Zoomed, WhatsApped, nudged, chased, and occasionally herded some of the most brilliant Freemasons you could ever hope to work with and meet.

So, where did it all begin?

Picture it: I'd just taken the Master's Chair in Lord Warden Lodge. I was at the festive board, chatting to the rep — no idea who he was, but he clearly had magical powers because one casual comment changed everything. I mentioned I was helping the Royal British Legion with their website, and next thing I know, ping — an email from Andy Notley asking if I fancied helping out on the comms team. Back then, the team was small enough to fit in a lift: Andy, Warren Muckell, Paul Rickets, and me. Our world revolved around the Provincial website and the magazine. Meetings were held in the Provincial Secretary's office at VWBro Phil South's workplace, where we'd pour over hit rates and news stories like they were state secrets. Compared to what came later, it was practically a holiday.

The Team Evolves (and so did the workload)

As Freemasonry never stands still, Andy eventually hung up his mouse and keyboard, and I was asked to take over as Website Manager. Naturally, I said yes — because who doesn't want to spend their evenings wrestling with menus, plugins, and the occasional rogue hyperlink?

The team grew. Phil Heath joined. Richard Carney took the lead. We even made it onto Meridian Television with the Women Freemasons — our five minutes of fame, and not a hair out of place. Then came Roger Waltham, who later introduced us to our new APGM, Richard Wingett. Suddenly, we had Matt Jury, John Ray, and Peter Floyd on board too. The comms team was starting to look like a small production company.

The Busy Years (also known as: all of them)

This was when things really took off. Social media arrived. I took over the bulk email system. Monthly newsletters became a thing — and yes, you do love them, even if you pretend you don't.

Then Covid hit, and we all became Zoom experts overnight. The website changed shape more times than Doctor Who. Just Ask One launched. The 2025 Festival website launched. Being Website Manager was starting to feel like a full-time job... because it basically was.

After five years under Richard Wingett, it was time for a new APGM — Trevor Carter. But before Richard left, he had one final surprise: an invitation from the Provincial Grand Master for me to become the first Provincial Grand Communications Officer for East Kent. I was stunned. Honoured. And, possibly speechless for a full 30 seconds.

Four Years as ProcGCO — What Actually Happened?

Well... quite a lot!

The role was huge, the website was growing faster than a teenager, and social media was becoming a beast of its own. One thing was clear: I couldn't continue to do it alone. So, the Provincial Lite Magazine was born — a bigger, brighter online publication giving more lodges the chance to show off their fantastic work. No published twice a year. Spring and Summer.

The Second Rising became a regular monthly newsletter with open rates that most big companies would sacrifice a marketing department for. The website was completely redesigned, merging in the Just 'Ask One' site and shifting focus toward recruitment. It's still evolving — because in the tech world, nothing is ever truly finished.

We gained reporters, photographers, and a brilliant editor (my old shipmate, Derek Lindars) for the ever-popular Provincial Magazine. New members joined, others moved on. Red Paul (Goodwin) came in to help me and was promptly stolen by the Royal Arch — and what a superb job he's doing. I'm delighted he's now the Joint Provincial Communications Officer for both Craft and Royal Arch.

And then there's Sam Watson — my deputy, my right-hand man, a whirlwind of ideas, and the mastermind behind the first-ever Provincial App. A big character with an even bigger heart.

Sorry I cannot mention everyone, I'd need another 2,000 words to thank everyone properly, but the word count is already giving me dirty looks.

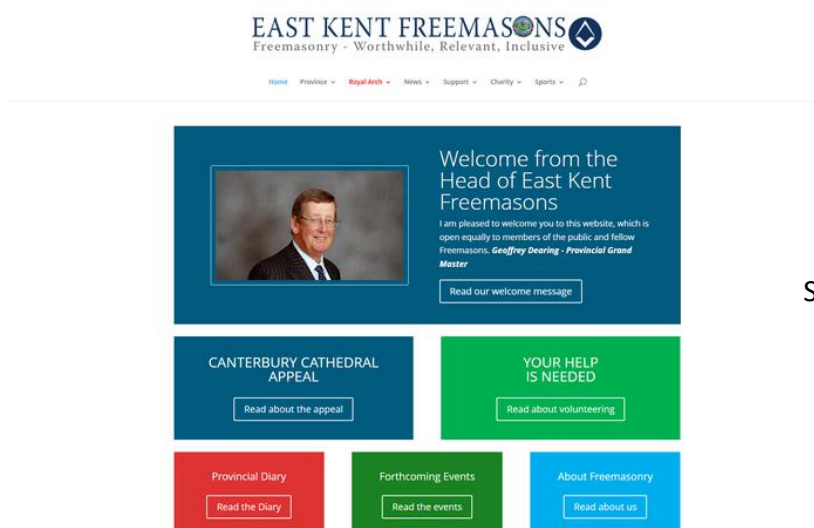
Before I Go...

A huge thank you to the whole team, past and present, with special thanks to, Matt Jury, Phil Heath, John Ray, Andy Notley, Richard Wingett, Trevor Carter, and of course the Provincial Grand Master for trusting me with this incredible opportunity. There is one person who has encouraged me, been my biggest critic, my rock and long suffering wife, Heather. I truly could not have done this without you...

It's been a journey — busy, brilliant, occasionally chaotic, but always rewarding. And I wouldn't change a thing.

"Communication is the beating heart of Freemasonry, and the comms team? Well, we're the ones trying to keep the heart rate steady."

Don't forget, checking on all the latest news, events, sports and much more, on www.eastkentfreemasons.org



Some of you may remember the old website, certainly takes me back.

East Kent Light Blues Brothers visit Freemasons Hall

Article and Photos:
Graham Chisnell



On Saturday, 10th January, the East Kent Light Blues Brothers visited Freemasons Hall for a significant gathering. This event was specially organised by the newly formed UGLE Light Blues and Royals Action Group, bringing together Light Blues Brothers from across England and Wales.

The brethren assembled in Temple 10, known as the Egyptian Temple, where they were warmly hosted by the Duke of Cornwall Lodge No 1839. Andrew Waddington, the Provincial Grand Master of West Kent, extended a gracious welcome to all present.

Following the welcome, Graham Chisnell, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master of East Kent and Deputy Chair of the UGLE Light Blues and Royals Action Group, delivered an engaging talk on learning and delivering ritual. The presentation was enthusiastically received by the brethren, highlighting its importance and impact.

Rich, a Freemason from South Wales, shared his appreciation for the event, stating, "It was flipping brilliant! I'm neurodivergent (referred and waiting for formal diagnosis) and it's the first time I've ever heard the topic mentioned in Lodge. Loved it!" His feedback underscored the inclusive and supportive atmosphere fostered during the gathering.

Looking ahead, Graham Chisnell plans to organise further events throughout the year. These initiatives aim to bring together brethren from Light Blues clubs and committees to share good practice. Additionally, a group of brethren will be escorted to the Light Blues Quarterly Communications event scheduled for May 2026, further strengthening connections and collaborative learning within the fraternity. Find out more about the East Kent Light Blues Brothers <https://eklbb.org.uk/>.

COMPANION ORDERS

WHAT ARE THEY?

Alongside the Craft and Royal Arch are many other Masonic Orders and here Tony Lewis introduces one of them - the Masonic Order of Athelstan.

The Masonic Order of Athelstan

The Masonic Order of Athelstan formed in 2005, growing out of research into the origins of Masonry, focusing specifically on the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles. The ritual was written and based on the research of many historic documents, including old Craft and other Masonic ritual. Eventually a draft of the ritual was produced based upon the life and symbolism of King Athelstan, the grandson of King Alfred, and the first King of England to be referred to as “King of All the English”.



So what is the Order of Athelstan?

The Order has become many different things to many different people. For many it is historic and educational, for others it is rich in symbolism and a vehicle to keep a great deal of old ritual alive, for others it is where good friends meet to share knowledge, thinking, friendship and good company.

The Masonic Order of Athelstan cont...

On the practical side it is aimed at accommodating people's modern lifestyles with low costs. Normally three meetings a year are encouraged, two working and a third the Installation. At this meeting the ceremonial is about 40 minutes in total and allows for a short talk or lecture.

The Order is Masonic, and candidates must be subscribing Craft Freemasons and subscribing Companions of a Royal Arch Chapter, both in full amity with the United Grand Lodge of England. If a potential candidate holds these qualifications, they can be invited to our Festive Board and will be warmly welcomed by all. The intention is to enable brethren to attend the dinner, after the meeting, as a way of introducing them to the Order without commitment.

Like other Masonic Orders, the ceremonial uses legend and allegory to tell a story and portray good ethical conduct and behaviour. We take York Assembly of 926 as our framework, bringing to life that legendary ancient assembly, the candidate representing a Master Mason being called to York to receive the Ancient Charges from the King.

The Order is based upon historic records of the life of King Athelstan who was the son of Edgar the Elder and a grandson of Alfred the Great. He became King of the Anglo-Saxons in 924 AD and King of all the English in 927 AD. Although a warrior King, leading his troops in battle, he united his kingdom by standardising coinage and enacting laws, as well as supporting religious institutions. He died in 939 AD.

The Order keeps all fees, subscriptions and costs as low as possible. There is no charitable fund raising or office of Charity Steward; we take the view that such endeavours should be channelled through your Craft Lodge.

There is a small Joining Fee. In addition, an annual subscription is payable, comparable to other Companion Masonic Orders, which includes Grand Court and Provincial Grand Court fees. In addition, members will be required to purchase their own regalia at a cost comparable to the Craft. Dining fees vary with each venue.

Worldwide, there are more than 150 Courts. In England and Wales there are 100 Courts in 11 Provinces. Courts have also been consecrated in Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Greece, India, Spain, South East Asia, France and the United States of America. In Kent, courts meet in Bromley, Canterbury, Dover, Gillingham, Paddock Wood, Whitstable and Wilmington. The executive includes:

- RW Bro Alan Cook (Provincial Grand Master)
- VW Bro Andy Mahoney (Deputy Provincial Grand Master)
- W Bro Jason Cameron-Potter (Provincial Grand Secretary)
- W Bro Karl Bowman (Provincial Grand Registrar)

The Ancient Masonic Order of Alfred the Great is a Sovereign Order which recognises meritorious service by Past Masters of the Order of Athelstan.

The ritual of the Order commemorates the role of Alfred the Great in paving the way for the succession of Athelstan. Members hold one of three progressive grades: Knight (KAG), Knight Commander (KCAG) or Knight Grand Cross (GCAG).

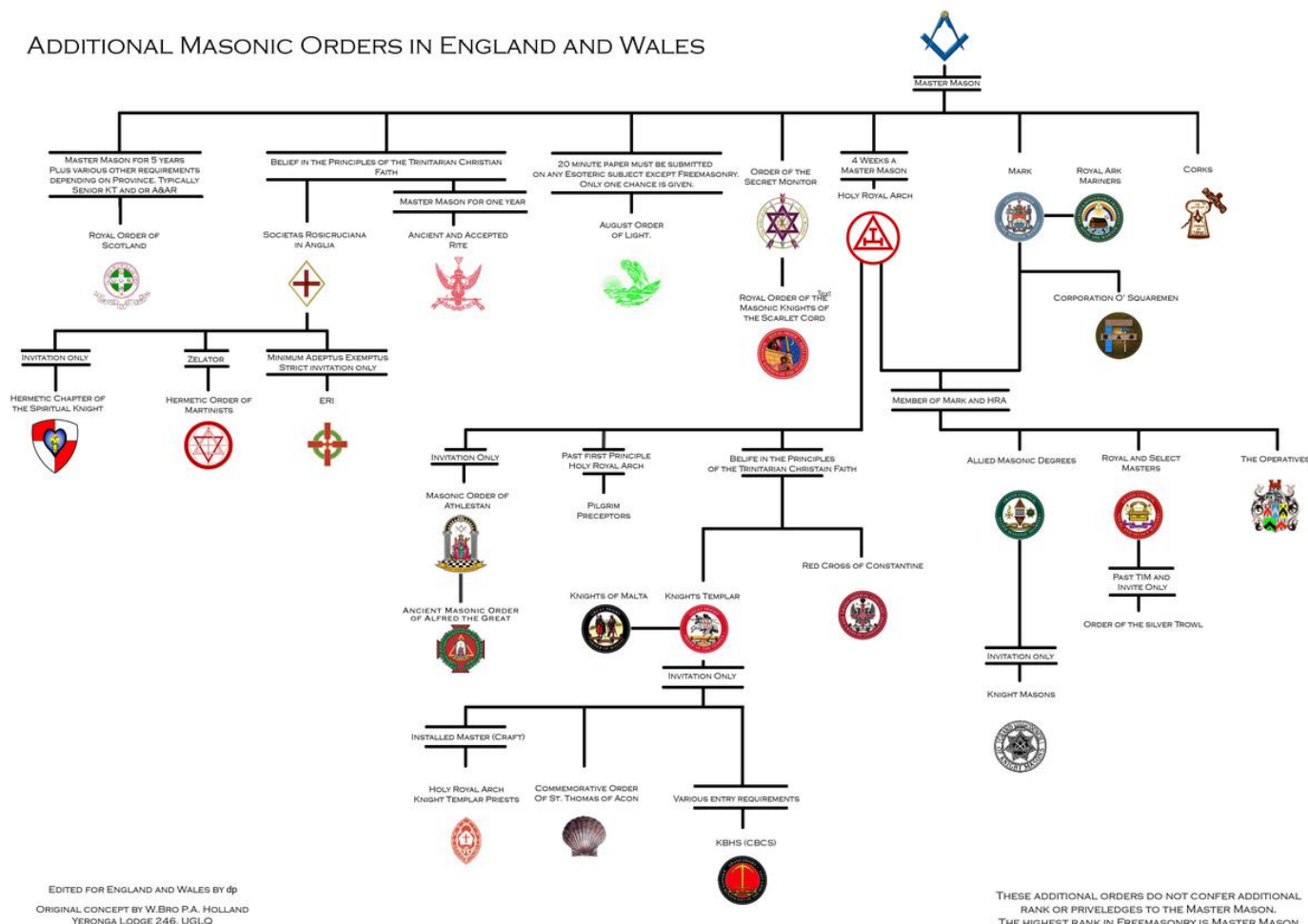
To find out more, visit moa-kent.org.uk



*Most Worshipful Grand Master
Charles J. Aspinell, GCAG*

Exploring the Broader Landscape of Freemasonry Beyond Craft Lodges

ADDITIONAL MASONIC ORDERS IN ENGLAND AND WALES



Freemasonry in England and Wales is renowned for its rich traditions, with the Craft Lodges serving as the bedrock of the fraternity. While these lodges form the essential foundation, the masonic landscape reaches well beyond the basic degrees. It encompasses a variety of additional orders, each offering members opportunities for further exploration and service. These orders are typically available to Master Masons and present a wealth of ritual, symbolism, and fellowship, broadening the scope of the masonic experience.

Among the most distinguished of these orders is the Holy Royal Arch, often regarded as the completion of the Craft degrees. This order delves further into themes of morality and spiritual development, encouraging members to reflect on their ethical responsibilities. Another notable order is that of the Mark Master Masons, which emphasises the value of honest labour and the importance of integrity in masonic life. The Knights Templar stands out for its chivalric rituals and Christian symbolism, offering a unique spiritual dimension. Meanwhile, the Ancient and Accepted Rite, also known as Rose Croix, adopts a philosophical approach, inviting members to contemplate universal values and principles.

Each additional order maintains its own distinctive rituals, regalia, and history, thereby contributing to the diverse tapestry of English Freemasonry. Participation in these bodies is entirely voluntary, allowing every individual to shape their masonic journey according to personal interests. Collectively, the additional orders enrich the experience of Freemasons, fostering deeper connections, enhancing knowledge, and cultivating a strong sense of belonging within the broader fraternity.

Frank Holding Celebrating 70 Years in Freemasonry



(L to R) PGM Neil Hamilton Johnstone and Frank Holding

Rochester Castle Lodge and their Worshipful Master, Carl White, witnessed on 4th February a momentous occasion as the Provincial Grand Master, Neil Hamilton Johnstone, presented Worshipful Brother Frank Holding with a certificate commemorating his extraordinary 70 years in Freemasonry. As you would expect, this significant event was marked by a strong turnout, with many members and guests gathering to honour Frank.

Frank's Masonic journey began on 9th December 1955 with his initiation into Lodge De Windemere No. 6282, an event that was truly a family affair. He was proposed by his father, seconded by his brother, initiated by his grandfather, and escorted by his uncle by marriage. Few can boast such a generational introduction to the Freemasonry.

Over seven decades, Frank has been an active member of numerous Craft Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters, with a particular highlight being his appointment as the Primus Master of Rochester Castle Lodge in 1988. Receiving his 70-year certificate at the same Lodge underscored the emotional significance of the occasion. Rochester Castle Lodge was honoured to host such a landmark event and for those present, it was a reminder that Freemasonry is not simply measured in years, but in the lives touched, the traditions upheld and the example set for those who follow.

Frank Holding's life has been firmly anchored in the values of family, community, and service. Born on 18th May 1934 in Rainham, Kent, he grew up in a farming family, working in agriculture until 1985 when he sold the family farm due to his brother's ill health. Frank's career continued with distinction; he managed Mote Cricket Club from 1985 to 1988, revitalising its finances, then went on to manage Maidstone Market until his retirement in 1999, transforming what was a casual boot fair into a thriving Saturday market that endures today.

Frank's personal life has been equally remarkable. He married Hazel in 1956, after a four-year courtship, and together they approach their own 70 year milestone of marriage. Their union, celebrated with style at Rainham Church, has grown to encompass children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. A family legacy reflecting the same loyalty and continuity evident in Frank's Masonic career.

During the celebration, Neil Hamilton Johnstone spoke with emotion about Frank's lifelong dedication, highlighting his unwavering commitment to Masonic principles. Seventy years of continuous membership is not simply a record of longevity, but a testament to a life lived in dedicated service. The atmosphere throughout the meeting was one of warmth, friendship and pride, culminating in a memorable Festive Board filled with laughter, stories, and heartfelt tributes.

Fifty Years of Dedication

Honouring Excellent Companion Gerry Goldsack's Masonic Journey

Article and photo: Graeme Wyles, 2nd Provincial Grand Principal



(L to R) Gerry Goldsack and 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, Graeme Wyles

On Monday, during a Chain Visit to White Ensign Gillingham Chapter, I had the privilege of presenting a 50 Year Certificate to Excellent Companion Gerry Goldsack, marking a remarkable milestone in his Masonic journey.

Exactly fifty years ago to the day, Gerry was exalted into White Ensign Gillingham Chapter, following his initiation into White Ensign Gillingham Lodge four years earlier. This anniversary stands as testament to his unwavering dedication and loyalty to Freemasonry.

Gerry's commitment to the fraternity has been nothing short of extraordinary. He has served as a Grand Officer in both the Craft and Royal Arch, and has fulfilled the offices of Worshipful Master and Most Excellent Zerubbabel (MEZ) in his Mother Lodge and Chapter.

His twelve years in the Provincial Office further demonstrate his willingness to serve and support the Masonic community.

In 2005, Gerry relocated to Cyprus, where he continued his Masonic involvement with enthusiasm and vigour. Almost immediately, he joined a Lodge, Chapter, and Mark Masons Lodge, embracing the unknowns of Masonic life abroad.

Over the next fifteen years, beginning in 2006, Gerry held numerous significant roles, including President of the District Board of General Purposes, District Grand Secretary, Scribe E, Second District Grand Principal, Deputy District Grand Master, and Deputy District Grand Superintendent. He also served as Deputy District Grand Master in the Mark Degree, illustrating his broad influence and tireless dedication.

It was a profound honour to present Gerry with his 50-year Certificate in recognition of his singular commitment to the Royal Arch. The heartfelt tributes from his friends and colleagues speak volumes: Gerry is described as a good and true man, honest, respectful, respected, and diligent. He is, in every sense, a true Mason whose legacy will endure for years to come.

Spotlight on Graham Dear MBE RVM PAGStB PSGD

A Life of Dedication, Courage and Service

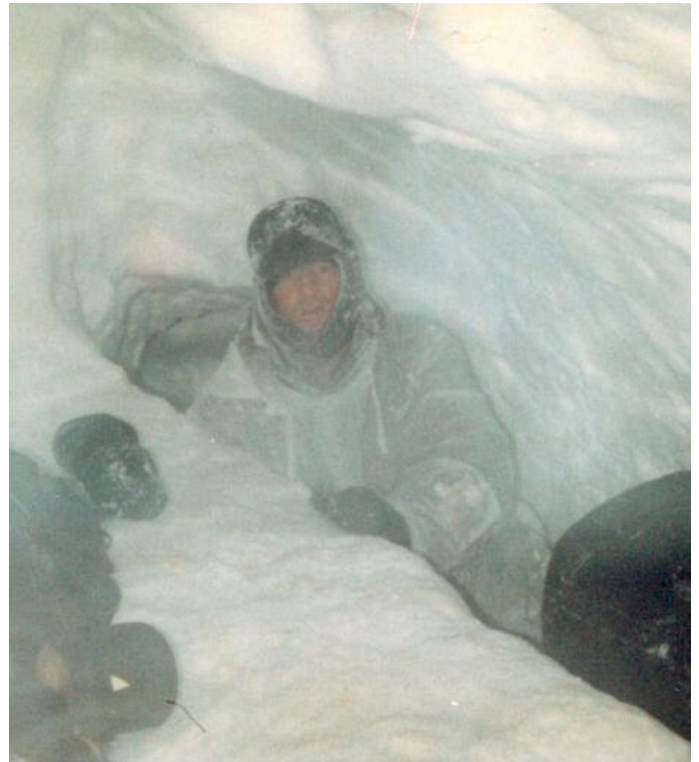
Article: Derek Lindars

Born in Aberdeen and educated at Robert Gordon's College, Graham Dear's path was marked from the outset by determination and a deep sense of duty. At just eighteen, he embarked on his journey with the Royal Marines (RM). He joined at Deal and completed his Commando training in April 1964 at the Infantry Training Centre RM in Devon, now called the Commando Training Centre RM. His first deployment, with 45 Commando RM, saw him thrown into the tumultuous Radfan Confrontation in Aden, operating in the harsh mountains bordering Yemen to carry out counter insurgency, security patrols and helicopter-borne assaults in order to stabilise the region. Graham's willingness to serve in challenging environments, from the heat of Aden to, Northern Island and many icy Arctic winters defending NATO's northern flank in Norway. This speaks to the hallmarks of the Royal Marines: integrity, courage, determination and excellence in adversity.

As well as serving with various Commandos, he also served in the Royal Marines detachment on HMS Eskimo, where he was deployed to the South Atlantic and Antarctic. Graham also served at Royal Marines Poole, a key establishment for Special Boat Service (SBS) activities and Royal Marines amphibious/technical training.



RSM Graham Dear RM



Graham Dear in the Arctic 'bedding down' for another night in a freshly dug snow hole

His dedication led to specialist qualifications, promotions and, ultimately, the prestigious appointment as Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of the Commando Logistic Regiment, and then RSM of 42 Commando RM. His exceptional service was recognised in 1989 when he was awarded the Member of the Order of the British Empire, presented by Her Majesty The Queen. An honour reflecting both his leadership and unwavering dedication.

Retirement from military life did not signal an end to Graham's service. He transitioned seamlessly into the House of Commons, joining the Serjeant at Arms staff as a Doorkeeper. Graham's leadership and organisational abilities soon became evident, and in 2003 he assumed the position of Principal Doorkeeper. In this capacity, he managed a team of thirty-six, overseeing the smooth operation of access and security within the parliamentary estate. Graham's dedication and work ethic continued to shine throughout his parliamentary career, culminating in his retirement from this distinguished role in 2014.

Spotlight on Graham Dear cont...

In 1992, whilst a Doorkeeper, Graham's exemplary record secured him an appointment in the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard, the oldest Royal Bodyguard in existence having been established by Henry VII in 1485. Reserved for distinguished former Sergeant Majors, Graham fulfilled ceremonial duties at State Occasions, eventually retiring as Divisional Sergeant Major in 2015. Recognition of Graham's exemplary service to the Monarch came in the 2025 New Year Honours, when he was awarded the Royal Victorian Medal, a distinction personally presented by King Charles. This honour is a testament to his unwavering commitment and the high regard in which he is held, reflecting the appreciation for his dedication and outstanding contribution.

Service and leadership also defined Graham's involvement in Freemasonry, which began in 1989. He progressed through several Lodges in the Metropolitan District, serving as Worshipful Master on numerous occasions and as Director of Ceremonies. In the Province of East, Graham is Director of Ceremonies of the Globe and Laurel Lodge 4657. Graham's dedication to Freemasonry extends to both London and East Kent Province. In both he has received a host of promotions and honours, including promotion to Grand Rank. It is clear that his commitment to Freemasonry not only enriched his own life, but has inspired those around him.



Principal Doorkeeper of the House of Commons

Graham balanced his professional achievements with a rich personal life. His passion for golf saw him join Walmer & Kingsdown Golf Club, becoming Club Captain, Chairman, Vice President, and ultimately, Club President, a role in which he remains today. Married to Rosemary since 1973, Graham is a devoted father to Claire and Colin, and a proud grandfather to Archie.

Graham Dear's story is one of perseverance, integrity, and distinguished service. His journey serves as a testament to the power of dedication: whether facing adversity in distant lands or fulfilling ceremonial duties at the heart of British tradition, Graham's steadfast commitment has made a lasting impression. His life reminds us that an exemplary reputation lies not just in accolades, but in the daily pursuit of duty, leadership, and service to the community.



HM The Queen's Bodyguard



Graham Dear (centre) on the Catafalque for HM The Queen Mother laying in state at Westminster Hall in 2002

Across the Sea of Dunes

A Trek Through the Heart of the Sahara

Article and Photos: George Chandler



Well I did it. With 23 fellow fundraisers, - one hundred kilometres of trekking through the Sahara Desert in Morocco. Camping in the freezing cold (yes 1 or 2 degrees overnight!) and walking through sand, over rock, dried up river bed plateaux and climbing up to 4,000 metres in the Atlas Mountains. Quite a feat of endurance and definitely a real challenge. Quite a lot of me ached and I was be popping painkillers for several days after.

There were lots of camels (miserable ugly grumpy things that spit at you as soon as they see you), herds of goats, the odd wild dog or two, ants and small tracks that hinted at lizards and snakes. But the fauna that surprised me most was the number of desert mice. Their burrows were everywhere and on stomping through them, my feet would sink into the dirt up to a 30cm deep, which risked spraining or breaking an ankle.

For trampling on their burrows, each night the mice get their revenge by invading our campsite. We tied our boots to the tent roof to stop the mice taking up residence in them, but they stole food and nibbled their way through backpacks and sealed luggage bags, eating our energy bars and then hiding inside sleeping bags only to pop out in the middle of the night much to our surprise.

My fellow trekkers could be heard to scream occasionally through the night, which, fortunately, woke me up and interrupted my terrible snoring. Apparently, I snored louder than any of the camels and could I be heard across the entire campsite.

My endurance and strength training at the gym served me well, but my boots were not the fit I had expected. I obviously had not broken them in as well as I thought I had, and by lunchtime on day one I developed two whopping blisters.

These were joined by other blisters through the week until by the time we were climbing the Atlas Mountain section, every step hurt. After each pause on the trail to allow the slower trekkers to catch up, the pain subsided enough to for me limp forward and complete the task.

Each night, we were presented with a fabulous hot meal provided by our Berber guides. Moroccan desert cuisine, mostly of flatbreads, rice, lentils and chickpeas, with lots of vegetables and all cooked beautifully, but very loose in consistency.

This looseness in consistency would manifest itself the following day and resulted in most of us popping Imodium like Smarties. Desert toilet facilities are basic to say the least (behind a bush or rock) and you hope not to get too much sand in unmentionable places.



Across the Sea of Dunes continued...

The desert itself is magnificent. The landform is varied from sand to rock, to dried lake plateaux, sharp jagged rocks and stones, to smooth rounded pebbles. Dried river beds with cracks so big you can easily lose a leg in one. The skies are empty and vast on a scale that is impossible to comprehend even when you actually go there. The Sun is unrelenting and the shade is sparse and often a long way in the distance. Anything green and lush is poisonous as all the non-toxic vegetation is eaten by the local wildlife.

You can see for miles. The landscape runs away into the distance in every direction and at night when the sun goes down the moon fills the sky and landscape with a ghostly light that is so clear and bright, a head torch is not needed to find your way around. But it is when the moon goes down, just before sunrise, that the most spectacular view of the stars is revealed. It was breath taking to behold and it filled me with a sense of perspective and wonder that is just impossible to put into words. Photos cannot capture the majesty of the galaxy and it is truly humbling in both its awe and simplicity.



Heading into the mountains



Berbers at one with the desert

The Berbers who live in the desert are at one with the landscape, respecting its harshness and coping with all the deprivation as normally as we do within our normal lives in the UK.



The magnificence of the night sky



Setting off in the morning sun



The expanse of the Sahara desert

Across the Sea of Dunes continued...

Having completed our arduous trek through the desert and returning to civilisation is a seven hour 4x4 drive to the nearest town. Here we get an insight into how the rest of Morocco lives.

Morocco is slowly developing into a more modern country, mixing the old and new together in a gradual fusion of chaos with iPhones and small motorbikes ubiquitous, solar panels for electricity and the most basic sanitation pretty much everywhere.

This startlingly different world is only four hours or so away by jet and if you can visit and leave the cities and the Souks behind to see the real Morocco and experience it first-hand then you will understand something of the challenge we faced - and overcame - on our Sahara Desert Trek.

I undertook this trek to raise funds for Odyssey – my beautiful wife Jan's favourite Charity (www.odyssey.org.uk) and I can honestly say this was my biggest challenge yet, not just physically, but emotionally and psychologically. And how I am going to process it all mentally, I am just not sure. For those of you who have so generously donated (my personal total is close to £4,000) I offer my heartfelt thanks.

Epilogue: The return to civilisation

The return journey from the Sahara Desert proved to be just as eventful as the trip into it. A fellow trekker, Neil, required hospital treatment to receive a follow-up rabies vaccination after a close encounter with a local cat, highlighting the unexpected challenges faced during the adventure.

Added to that incident, at the airport when leaving, one of the group, Sam, experienced significant difficulties when her drone was confiscated by the Moroccan armed Border Police. She was led away and subjected to an hour and a half of interrogation regarding her filming activities and questioning about how she had managed to bring a prohibited device into Morocco. The situation escalated, and after a frank exchange of views about the Border Control's initial decision to allow her entry with the drone.

Sam came very close to being incarcerated. Ultimately, she was released after signing a form, written in Arabic with no translation, under duress. Sam annotated on the form that she could not understand what she was required to sign, but having signed she was permitted to catch her flight, albeit with only a few minutes to spare.



(L to R) George Chandler and fellow traveller, Mike



Provincial Officers' Mess 19th March 2026

An observer's report

Article and Photos: John Ray and Paul Goodwin

I don't know how they do it, but nearly every Provincial Officers' Mess Meeting seems to be held in glorious weather. Maybe we should hold them as barbecues outdoors. "More onions on your sausage, Sir?"

The Provincial Officers' Mess is for all Freemasons in East Kent Province who hold the rank of a Provincial Grand Officer. You pay a small annual subscription to belong, and can attend the twice-yearly Mess Meetings, where you pay for lunch and listen to talks on masonic topics of current interest. The Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent is the President. The Provincial Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary are usually elected accordingly. It is all very jolly and very informal.

Bright as a button, I breezed into the Maidstone Masonic Centre at about 1215 on Thursday 19th March. The car park was filling up nicely, and the bar was doing a decent trade. First stop for me was to sign in. On duty were Arthur Pybus, Chris Crabb and Bob Hadlow, under the watchful eye of Organiser-in-Chief Andrew Berry (L-R, pictured).



How many would be attending, I asked Arthur. A hundred and forty-one, plus a few who had forgotten to book and were hoping they could be squeezed in. Andrew told me that some of those attending were not yet Provincial Officers, but the Provincial Grand Master had offered them a Rank, which they had of course accepted, and were to be appointed at the Provincial Grand Festival the following month.

Lunch was to be at 1300, so there was plenty of time to circulate, meet old friends and catch up on the gossip. Reporter's notebook and camera at the ready, I mixed and noted.

Paul O'Neill, Provincial Grand Mentor, told me he was going to make a presentation at lunch and it would be nice if I could film it.

I congratulated Nigel Fitz, Provincial Grand Almoner, on his forthcoming promotion to Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

I also caught up with Roy Brooks (seen here on the left, talking to Dale Abercrombie).



Roy would be taking over from Nigel in April. "I am delighted and truly honoured to have been asked to be the Provincial Grand Almoner," he said to me. "This is a responsibility that I know will bring its challenges, but I'm very much looking forward to the opportunity. I am especially keen to work alongside the Lodge and Chapter Almoners, make new friendships, and play a part in improving the lives of our members and the wider communities we serve."

Being good lads, we all drifted into the Dining Room in good time, and at bang on 1300 hrs, led by Director of Ceremonies Graham Cuthbert, in walked our President, Neil Hamilton Johnstone, accompanied by Deputy President Phil South and the rest of Top Table. Graeme Wyles, Third Provincial Grand Principal, led Grace, and we then sat down to lunch of Vegetable Soup, Roast Lamb (or vegetarian alternative), Profiteroles, Cheese & Biscuits and Coffee.

Provincial Officers' Mess cont...



At 1428 hrs, following Return Grace, our President proposed the Loyal Toasts to the King and to the Grand Master/Grand Superintendent. Just a little business at first: apologies, then submission of the Mess Accounts, which were accepted, *nem con*.

Now it was time for two addresses. We used to regard the Province's Library and Museum, said our President, as "a nice-to-have"; but it was much more than that. It was Freemasonry without barriers. It was held in high regard and was a veritable gateway into Freemasonry for the public. And who better to talk about it than the man in charge, former APGM Richard Wingett? (Picture right).

The Provincial Museum, said Richard, was opened on the 24th June 1933. The Premier Grand Lodge was formed on the 24th June 1717. The Canterbury Masonic Centre was established in the 1880s, also on the 24th June. And the significance of that date? It was the Feast of St John the Baptist, the Patron of Medieval Stonemasons. Did we all know that? Er – yes. (No – actually, I suspect most of us didn't!).

Richard told us that the then PGM of Kent, the Lord Cornwallis, was the driver behind the creation of the Museum. Over the decades it had become a virtual shop window for Freemasonry, revealing its importance in the community and its embracing of all cultures and backgrounds. It was now very much on the English Tourist Trail, with up to 600 people visiting in a single day last year – the day of the Canterbury Medieval Pageant.

Currently it had an Exhibition about the Royal Arch (Chapter). It was not just a museum but a source of History. It was well supported by local businesses and had the prestigious Arts Council England Accreditation. It was also establishing bursaries for various organisations including grants for scout uniforms and to the History Department at the University of Kent.



The Museum and Library had an extensive collection of artefacts and books, some books going back to the fifteenth century - and a gavel that was thousands of years old. A 1744 explanatory book of the Bible contained much that is found in Masonic Ritual today for both Craft and Chapter.

Richard reminded us that the Museum and Library couldn't do what it did without its "fantastic bunch of volunteers" and was always looking for new recruits and financial support. An application form could be found on our tables ...

Thanking Richard for his address, our President affirmed that the Museum and Library were indeed an essential part of our Province, and he encouraged us all to visit and enjoy the experience.

A quick update on our 2025 Festival: to warm applause, he told us that final figures showed that we had collectively raised more than £3.75 million.

Provincial Officers' Mess cont...

On then, at 1453 hrs, to the second address. Up to the microphone strode Peter Rodd (pictures right), a former APGM and Chair of the Trustees of the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity – CEKFC.

Peter reminded us that the CEKFC was OUR Charity. It was now match-funding in record numbers and would continue to do so. In the current year CEKFC would match fund up to £10,000 for each Area in support of a single project undertaken by Lodges and Chapters in that Area.

In addition, it would match-fund at the rate of £250 per year for three years to any Lodge or Chapter supporting a youth group such as Scouting.

Peter also requested Lodges and Chapters to support CEKFC by donating the proceeds of one raffle or collection each year, perhaps the Installation or Christmas meeting, to enable CEKFC to continue its work.

And what better moment for Mo Morris, Charity Steward of Allington Lodge No.7086, to walk up to Peter and present a cheque for £1,000 from the Lodge to the CEKFC? Received with thanks by Peter, to warm applause from all of us.



Peter then presented a four-minute video showcasing the work of the CEKFC and the tributes paid to it by some of its many recipients. He reminded us that the annual CEKFC Presentation Event would be held at the University of Kent on Saturday 7th November. <https://cornwallisekfc.org.uk/>



1504 hrs. Time for a couple more items. The President drew our attention to the Centenary Hall Stone Appeal, announced as recently as the previous week, in which the United Grand Lodge of England wished to raise £100 million over ten years to assist the fraternity in day-to-day operations and in maintaining and restoring buildings of architectural significance. Our Province was now starting to plan accordingly, and he urged us to familiarise ourselves with the announcement.

Finally, as promised, Provincial Grand Mentor (Craft) Paul O'Neill popped up and was delighted to present a Certificate and lapel pin to his oppo in Chapter, Peter Bearman, for completing his Solomon Diploma. Thunderous applause all around.



Provincial Officers' Mess cont...

Nearly time to go. Provincial Junior Grand Warden David Mantle made us laugh as he offered praise and best wishes to our President. Neil thanked us all for attending, reminded us that the next Meeting would be on Thursday 15th October, and wished us a safe journey home. We then rose as he and his top team retired from the dining room.

Now the Maidstone Masonic Centre is a lovely place for a meeting and has a big car park. Unfortunately, our Mess Meetings often end just as the school run is taking place. I find that it's better to hang around for a while until the main rush is over. My "chauffeur" Stuart Skilton and I had been remarking on the professionalism and very high standards of the catering staff at Thyme 2 Dine – so we decided it would be nice to thank them again and see if they would gather for a group pic. And here they are!



*Back row [L-R]: Sharon (Manager), Kate, Becky, Delia, Dara, Heather, Heike, Ria, Julia, Dawn, Cameron.
Front Row [L-R]: Debs, Sue*

£1,250 Donation Presented to Club AUsome

Members of Fraternitas Lodge No. 6046 were delighted to present a cheque for £1,250 to Club AUsome, a Gillingham based charity that provides vital support for children and young people with autism and additional needs. The donation was made possible through the charitable fundraising efforts of the Lodge. £750 was raised directly by members of Fraternitas Lodge, with the total boosted by a £500 contribution from the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity. Club AUsome plays an important role within the Medway community, providing inclusive activity sessions that allow children with additional needs to socialise, build confidence and enjoy a wide range of experiences in a safe and welcoming environment. The charity also offers valuable support networks for parents and families.

Speaking after receiving the donation, Kellie Milano, CEO of Club AUsome, said: "We are incredibly grateful to Fraternitas Lodge and the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity for their generous support. Donations like this allow us to continue providing safe, inclusive activities for children with additional needs and vital support for families in our community." Freemasonry places a strong emphasis on charitable giving and community support. Donations such as this demonstrate the commitment of local Freemasons to supporting organisations that make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Fraternitas Lodge is proud to support local charities and community initiatives, helping ensure that funds raised by its members benefit people and organisations across the Medway area.

by Andrew Price





**Cornwallis East Kent
Freemasons Charity**

2026 Provincial Grand Masters Awards

This is more than an awards ceremony.
It is a celebration of who we are and what we stand for.

Join us for a proud and uplifting Morning as we showcase
the power of East Kent Freemasonry in action.

Free Buffet lunch included

Saturday 7th November 2026



**SCAN
ME!**

Darwin Conference Suite, University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NY



Stepping Forward for the Heart Foundation

The Communications Team Charity Walk

When the winter chill settled over the country in January, Paul Goodwin, Provincial Grand Communications Officer for Royal Arch, sparked an inspiring idea. He rallied the Communications Team to join the British Heart Foundation's "Walk for Hearts" challenge, encouraging each member to stride out for 28, 50, or even 100 miles throughout February, all in the name of heart health.

Alongside Paul Goodwin were a team consisting of Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Trevor Carter, Craft PGCO Paul Gear, Derek Lindars, James Kitney, and Mark Howells. Having committed to this fund raising effort, the team embraced the challenge wholeheartedly. Their mission was simple. To raise vital funds to support cutting-edge cardiovascular research and bringing fresh hope to families nationwide.



*(L to R rear) Mark Howells, Derek Lindars, Paul Gear
(L to R front) James Kitney, Paul Goodwin, Trevor Carter*

Come rain, frost, or gusty winds, each day the walkers laced up their boots, breathed in the brisk winter air, and set out with determination. As February passed, the miles ticked by fuelled by the encouragement and friendship shared amongst the team. Every step was a testament to teamwork and the values of Freemasonry: steadfast support, friendship, and a shared desire to make a positive difference. By 1st March, as the final mile was walked, the team had raised an astonishing £3,440 thanks to their efforts and, most importantly, the remarkable generosity of supporters. Their journey proved that, when people unite for a good cause, even the coldest days become filled with warmth and hope, showing that purpose and charitable generosity can really change lives.

Return of Worshipful Brother J.F. Stokes' Photographs After a Century



Worshipful Brother J.F. Stokes, who served as Worshipful Master of Castle Lodge No. 1436 during 1925-26, and his good Lady have been celebrated in a remarkable way as their presence has returned to their Masonic home home after a century.

Two beautiful photographs, capturing Worshipful Brother J.F. Stokes and his Lady during his tenure as Master of Castle Lodge, were uncovered last December.

The discovery of the two photographs occurred during a loft conversion at Hawkinge. The builder responsible for the work, George Bauer, happened to be a mason belonging to Temple Lodge No. 558. Recognising the significance of the photographs, he immediately understood where they rightly belonged.

Upon finding the photographs, Worshipful Brother George Bauer contacted Mick Lay, Almoner of Castle Lodge. Unfortunately, both frames had suffered extensive woodworm damage and so Mick took on the task of restoring the photographs and reframing them. After completing the restoration, they now reside in the robing room at Gough Road, Sandgate, marking their return after being away for 100 years.

Around the Province

Maidstone: How Freemasons Helped Change Young Lives

Article and Photos: Sam Watson

Across our Province, countless families face the harsh reality of poverty, where daily life means choosing which bills to pay, relying on charity shops for essentials, and leaving holidays as mere dreams. In such homes, young people must navigate not only the typical trials of adolescence, but also the growing recognition of their family's financial hardship. While many teenagers benefit from love, guidance, and encouragement, some are not so fortunate. A lack of support can leave them isolated, confused, and vulnerable, with some drifting towards antisocial behaviour.

Amidst these challenges, hope comes in the form of Switch Youth Services in Maidstone. Switch provides a safe, welcoming space for young people to socialise, learn, and access vital support. The organisation's open-access youth café offers informal education, focusing on developing personal, social, and emotional skills that positively alter young lives. In the previous year alone, Switch supported more than 2,700 young people, including many grappling with issues such as self-harm, exploitation, or involvement in county lines activities. The youth café gives them a sense of belonging, a voice, and above all, hope for a brighter future.

A turning point arrived in July 2025 when Worshipful Brother Steve Gray of Chillington Manor Lodge No. 4649 met Nick Batchelor, Youth Services Manager at Switch. During their conversation, Nick shared his hope of rewarding a group of young people who had made significant progress with a trip to Thorpe Park - something that is out of reach for most. Recognising an opportunity for Freemasonry to make a difference, Steve set out to raise £1,500 to fund the trip for fifteen disadvantaged teenagers. The initiative was about more than just enjoyment; Switch had found that such outings helped strengthen bonds between youth workers and young people, enhancing the effectiveness of ongoing support.

Despite it being the Lodge's closed season, Steve rallied other Lodges meeting at Maidstone Masonic Centre. Within days, seven Lodges pledged a combined £875, with match funding from the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity (CEKFC).



Young people of Switch Youth Services

On 4th October 2025, fifteen young people, accompanied by their support team, set off for an unforgettable day at Thorpe Park, leaving Kent for the first time and creating memories filled with laughter, excitement, and connection. Their joy was evident, and the day marked a significant milestone in their lives.

Steve expressed deep gratitude to all who contributed, noting the lasting difference their generosity made. The initiative was a testament to Freemasonry's values—quiet, compassionate, and effective collaboration for the good of others. Supporting Lodges and Chapters included Belvidere Lodge No. 503, Montreal Chapter No. 2046, Duke of Kent Lodge No. 5818, Bearsted Lodge No. 6069, Garden of England Lodge No. 6583, Maeides Stana No. 7868, Fleur de Lis Lodge No. 8969, and CEKFC.

The impact of Switch's work continues to inspire. News of the project reached Bro Sam Watson, Deputy Provincial Communications Officer for East Kent and Master-Elect of United Industrious Lodge No. 31 in Canterbury. Moved by Switch's mission, Sam named Switch Youth Services as his chosen charity for his year in office, ensuring ongoing support from Freemasons for this vital organisation and the vulnerable young people it serves.

Around the Province

Deal: A Burns Night to Remember

Article and Photos: Derek Lindars

Burns Night, an annual tribute to Scotland's national bard and most famous Freemason, Robert Burns, was transformed into an evening brimming with tradition, humour, and friendship by the Globe and Laurel Lodge. Around sixty guests braved the winter chill, making their way to the inviting Masonic Hall, which radiated anticipation and warmth. And the tables, dressed with tartan with single malt whisky breathing in glasses, indicated that blend of ceremony and mischief that defines a proper Burns celebration.

The festivities commenced with the stirring sound of bagpipes, played by Kylie West, who made a striking entrance in full Highland regalia. As she piped in the haggis to the rousing tune of "Scotland the Brave", the haggis made its grand entrance, carried high like a prize. In response, the guests rose to their feet with laughter mingled with applause.

The "Address to a Haggis", delivered with theatrical flair by the host, Graham Dear. His broad Scots accent, animated gestures, and rolling "r"s captivated the audience, drawing both cheers and laughter, even from those unfamiliar with the dialect. This moment encapsulated the unique blend of homage and performance that is the spirit of a Burns Night.

Dinner followed, with generous servings of haggis, neaps, and tatties, accompanied by toasts and lively conversation. Of course, speeches are a hallmark of any Burns Night and these were presented with a balance of reverence for Burns' poetry and legacy, with the irreverent humour that defines these gatherings.



John Boyd leading Piper, Kylie West



Graham Dear giving the address to the Haggis

The "Immortal Memory", alongside other Burns poems, offered heartfelt reflections on the poet's enduring influence, underscoring his role as a champion of ordinary people and the human spirit.

The traditional "Toast to the Lassies" was delivered with humour and charm by Derek Lindars, and the sharp, witty reply was given by Chantele Rashbrook. This delighted all, embodying the playful banter and equality that Burns himself celebrated and it brought the house down, reinforcing the evening's atmosphere of friendly teasing and mutual respect.

A communal singalong followed, with Graham West at the piano. Guests, regardless of their musical prowess, joined in with gusto on a selection of cherished Scottish songs. The laughter and music filled the room, weaving together stories, songs, and a sense of togetherness that is the hallmark of Burns Night.

As the evening drew to a close, the singing of "Auld Lang Syne", with hands linked and voices united, transformed the gathering into something unforgettable. More than simply a tribute to Robert Burns, the night became a celebration of friendship, belonging, and the warmth that comes from shared tradition.

Around the Province

Deal: It's Been a Long Time Coming

Worshipful Brother Alan Dixon was initiated into Wellington Lodge No. 784 in 1994 by Ian Birchall and the two Brethren remain firm friends to this day. During that time Alan has served the Lodge in every office, some on more than one occasion, save only the Chair itself. More than thirty years later, Alan was finally installed as Worshipful Master.

The Installation meeting was an excellent occasion, conducted with assurance and good humour. The Installing Master, Brian Wash, and the Director of Ceremonies, David Morris, were clearly enjoying their work, which showed in the smooth and confident delivery of the ceremony. Wellington Lodge is known for being professional without being stiff – efficient, friendly, and always leaving room for a smile. As the Lodge website puts it, *“Our strength lies not in ceremony alone, but in the quiet fellowship of men who care for one another and for the community we serve. We’re proud of our heritage and open to good men of all backgrounds, with an emphasis on Friendship, Charity, and Personal Growth.”*

That spirit was evident not only during the Installation itself but continued into the Festive Board.



Alan Dixon and Brian Wash

The Lodge's three newly initiated Entered Apprentices were very much part of the evening, assisting on the dining floor and behind the bar, while the toasts were delivered in the good-humoured yet dignified manner for which Wellington is well known. As Mike Gee, the Visiting Officer and old friend of the Lodge, remarked to the new Worshipful Master, “It’s been a long time coming, but, Alan, we’re all sure you will have a great year.”



Brethren of the Wellington Lodge

Around the Province

Deal: Saving the Masonic Hall for years to come

Brother Jim McCurry, a proud former Royal Marine and dedicated member of the Globe and Laurel Lodge 4657, is about to embark on a truly exhilarating mission. On 22nd August, Jim will be taking to the skies for a sponsored 12,000 foot tandem parachute jump, all in aid of a cause that is close to all our hearts: the repair and restoration of the historic Deal Masonic Hall.

Deal Masonic Hall is not just a building, it's a cherished landmark, steeped in history and tradition, serving generations of Masons and the wider community. However, this magnificent hall is now in desperate need of attention; an estimated £46,600 is required to restore the exterior and ensure its future for the next hundred years and beyond. This is our opportunity to help safeguard its legacy and by sponsoring Jim's daring leap, you'll be directly contributing to the preservation of this iconic structure.

How You Can Help? Sponsor Jim's daring leap by donating to his Just Giving page.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jim-mccurry?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=CL



Worshipful Brother Laurence Bednall-Wibberley



Worshipful Brother Laurence (Laurie) Bednall-Wibberley, the Secretary of Wellington Lodge No. 784, is undertaking a sponsored walk to support his Lodge's contribution towards essential repairs to the Masonic Hall on Sondes Road in Deal. The Hall, which is home to several Lodges, requires urgent external works to protect the building and ensure it remains safe and fit for purpose for many years to come. The cost of these repairs is being shared collectively.

To assist in meeting Wellington Lodge's share, WBro. Bednall-Wibberley will walk from Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street to the Sondes Road Masonic Hall in Deal — a distance of approximately 90 miles, over a period of around 10 days.

All funds raised will be applied to Wellington Lodge's contribution towards the cost of the works. This initiative reflects a personal commitment to supporting the Lodge and helping to preserve a building that has long served both Freemasons and the wider community. Any support Brethren feel able to offer would be very much appreciated.

The Link to Laurence's GoFundMe page is:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/wellington-lodge-784-building-repairs>

Around the Province

Gillingham: An inspiring mission to raise funds for the MND Association



Worshipful Brother Jeremy Tettmar of Durobrivae Lodge 6956 has a deep commitment to raising funds for the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association, a cause deeply personal to both him and his wife Sharon, whose father passed to the Grand Lodge above from MND in 1986.

Jeremy points out that MND is a devastating, fatal neurological condition affecting over 5,000 adults in the UK at any given time, with no cure currently available. The disease progressively destroys motor neurones, leading to severe muscle weakness, loss of movement, speech, and eventually breathing, while often sparing the senses.

Tragically, a third of people diagnosed die within a year, and more than half within two years, with six new diagnoses and deaths occurring daily.

Jeremy became Master of Durobrivae Lodge No 6956 in 2019 and dedicated his charitable efforts to MNDA, inspired by Sharon's wish. Despite initially planning a single year, the Covid lockdown extended his tenure to three years, during which he launched the MND Masters Whisky Raffle, raising £1,800.



Guests enjoying the White Table event

The cause grew even more poignant when a fellow Lodge member, Worshipful Brother Ron Pritchard, lost his son to MND. Recently, Jeremy's Lodge joined forces with City of Rochester Lodge No 7941, whose Master also started a Whisky Raffle for MNDA. Support from other Lodges, through donations during Masters and Ladies songs, has been gratefully received.

On 3rd December 2025, Jeremy and his Lodge had the honour of presenting a cheque for £5,470 to the Vice President of the Mid Kent Branch of MNDA at a white table event, with pledges for ongoing support. Both Lodges remain committed to raising funds in the hope that, together, they may contribute to finding a cure for this devastating disease.

Around the Province

Maidstone: Charitable Donations from Chillington Manor Lodge

Article and Photo: Allister Thomas

At a recent Festive Board, held in conjunction with the installation meeting for the new Worshipful Master, Allister Thomas, members of Chillington Manor Lodge 4649 organised a raffle to support local charitable causes. The raffle proved to be a great success, raising a total of £215 for donation.

The funds collected were distributed to two organisations, each personally nominated by Allister Thomas:

- **Bear in Mind**: This support group assists individuals and families who have been affected by brain and head injuries, offering vital help and resources during challenging times.
- **The Princess Project**: This charity provides comprehensive support to mothers and families, focusing on physical, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being, with a particular emphasis on helping those who are most vulnerable.

Both 'Bear in Mind' and 'The Princess Project' expressed their pleasant surprise and gratitude upon receiving the donations. These contributions further exemplify East Kent Freemasons' commitment to their Third Pillar of support, demonstrating ongoing dedication to charitable work within the community.



Allister Thomas and members of the Princess Project

Sandgate: Burns Supper at Etchinghill Golf Club

Article and Photos: Ian Cutter

On 17th January 2026, Etchinghill Golf Club played host to another memorable Burns Supper. The event was expertly organised by Worshipful Brother Chic Cameron, with the assistance of Worshipful Brother Pete West and myself. Their efforts ensured the evening ran smoothly and was enjoyed by all who took part in celebrating the life and legacy of Scotland's most renowned Freemason.

The Burns Supper received enthusiastic support from brethren from Castle Lodge, Commemoration Lodge, Prince Edwins Lodge, Temple Lodge, and Temple Chapter. The collaborative spirit among the groups contributed to the vibrant and convivial atmosphere.

The evening was also marked by its charitable efforts, raising £500.00 in support of Pilgrims Hospice, along with an additional £65 for the charity, TLC. A match funding was submitted by the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity, which increased the total donation to Pilgrims Hospice to £1,000.00. These contributions underscore Freemasonry's commitment to supporting worthy causes.



Around the Province

Paddock Wood: White Table in aid of the British Heart Foundation

On Wednesday 11th February 2026 the members of Paddock Wood Lodge 4291 hosted a white Table event at the Centre in aid of the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

This was in memory of a late Brother Vic Cross who sadly died at a young age from Heart disease. February being a very poignant month as it is "Be Kind to your Heart Month". Both the late brother and his partner were strong supporters of the BHF and it was felt that making the donation in February would be a fitting tribute.

Amongst the many invited guests and family was the Fundraising manager for Kent, Mrs Frances Brownhill, who gladly received a donation of £1000 from the Worshipful Master Andy Jepson and Charity Steward Richard Hunt. The in-house caterers excelled themselves with an excellent 3 course meal (Heart Friendly, sort of!!)



Andy Jepson, Richard Hunt and Francis Brownhill

Ashford: Lodge of Loyalty 'A Double Celebration'

On Thursday, 5th February 2026, the Lodge of Loyalty 9494 in Ashford marked a historic occasion with a 'Double Celebration'. The first highlight was the initiation of Brother Luiz David Szilagyi, a Brazilian Freemason who had previously completed his degrees in Brazil, but needed to undergo initiation again under the English Constitution because his former lodge became unrecognised by the Grande Oriente do Brasilia and, consequently, by UGLE. After a thorough investigation by Area 6 Advisor, Worshipful Brother Kevin D. Stones, Luiz signed a declaration severing ties with his previous Lodge, allowing his initiation under the watchful eye of Assistant Provincial Grand Master Trevor Carter. The process reflected the Lodge's commitment to proper procedure and inclusivity.



Initiation of Luiz David Szilagyi

The second cause for celebration was the Lodge's remarkable achievement, despite declining membership, in the 2025 Festival of raising £31,144 (£11,344 over the target) earning the coveted Platinum Award, which was presented by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Trevor Carter. The evening concluded with a joyful festive board, demonstrating the Lodge's camaraderie and determination to achieve great things together, regardless of size.



Presentation of Platinum Award

Around the Province

Margate: Reculvers Chapter Centenary



The Companions of Reculvers Chapter met for their 100th Installation meeting on Thursday 18th December. The meeting room was buzzing with more than 45 companions, including a host of Distinguished Visitors from four Provinces: the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal and Past Deputy Grand Superintendent of Hampshire and Isle of Wight; the 2nd Provincial Grand Principals from both West Kent and Berkshire; and, from East Kent we were honoured with the company of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, his Deputy and the Past Provincial Scribe E/Secretary as well as all five Assistant Provincial Grand Masters from Craft.

The evening was a landmark event, which saw Excellent Comp Ian White (Deputy Grand Superintendent Elect) ascend to the 1st Principals Chair and Excellent Comp Stephen Wyatt as Third Principal, the first Companion to be Installed as a new Principal for a number of years and is the start of a steady progression of companions through the various offices in the Chapter.

Following the installation ceremony, two Companions were Exalted into the Royal Arch in a superb ceremony conducted by the Principals and the Officers of the Chapter.

Following the installation ceremony, two Companions were Exalted into the Royal Arch in a superb ceremony conducted by the Principals and the Officers of the Chapter.

The Festive Board was a grand affair, starting with the tasting of two excellent Whiskeys, a 15 year old Ardent Port Dundas from Scotland and a 14 year old Goldlys from Belgium. Those Companions who could not drink on the evening, were able to take away their Whiskeys home to enjoy. Both surprised us, but it was the Belgian Goldlys that was the outstanding winner and to mark the special occasion, a bottle featured as the 'big' prize in the raffle.

The festive board was lively and well attended, full of Festive spirit (and in some cases the other Spirit as well), a superb menu and excellent wines with the evening rounded off with our toasts and speeches including a very complimentary address by our Visiting Officer.

Reculvers Chapter, as the first and still the only Special Interest Chapter in the Province, is a thriving, exciting and fun Chapter. We enjoy excellent ceremonies, superb and different Whiskeys, a fantastic atmosphere with amazing wines at our Festive Board. If you are considering joining or rejoining the Royal Arch and enjoy a great atmosphere, good company, and something a little different, then Reculvers Chapter could be the Chapter for you.

If you would like further information regarding the Chapter contact E. Comp Stephen Wyatt on reculverschaper4123@gmail.com

Around the Province

Gravesend: Erasmus Wilson Lodge supports the community

At the pre-Christmas meetings of the Erasmus Wilson Lodge 1464, the members decided to go on a bit of a spending spree in support of charity and, with the help of the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity, a total of £2295 has been donated to various charities.

Money was donated to the Gravesend Children's Christmas Party, the Widows Sons, The BBC Children in Need fund, the Royal British Legion and the Junior Team of the local rugby club with the purchase of shirts were for their up and coming European Tour. The smart rugby shirts have the logo of the Erasmus Wilson lodge on one side and the logo of the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity on the back. The Worshipful Master of Erasmus Lodge, Steve Roots, presented the shirts.

The lodge also decided to offer support to the local Ellenor's Hospice, who required new nebulisers to replace their old. With the generous assistance of the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity, a total of 3 nebulizers were purchased and presented to the Hospice. An interesting insight to the work of the Hospice was seen by Steve Roots and the Charity Steward, Des Crocker.



Steve Roots with the Rugby Team



The rear and front of the shirts showing the logos



Steve Root and Des Crocker with staff from Ellenor's Hospice



Presenting the cheque to ADSS

The annual Ladies Night Dinner and Dance proved to be a tremendous success, with a raffle held during the evening raising more than £1,200.

The Steeve Root, together with his wife Debbie, determined that the proceeds should be donated to the local Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services (ADSS).

Thanks to further support from the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity, the total sum donated exceeded £1,700, providing significant assistance to ADSS in their invaluable efforts to support individuals living with dementia.

During the presentation of the donation cheque, the donors were given a tour of the ADSS premises. This provided them with a deeper understanding of the organisation's work and the positive impact their contribution would have on those affected by dementia.

Around the Province

Maidstone: Grandad, Grandson, two Grand Officers and a few surprises

Article and Photos: John Ray and Ian Sanderson

Some 40 Freemasons attended Belvidere Lodge No.503 on the 10th February 2026 and it was a “grand” meeting – in more ways than one!

Assistant Provincial Grand Master Trevor Carter was there, on an Official Visit. If he was expecting a straightforward Initiation Ceremony, the Lodge had a few surprises up its sleeve.

First surprise: new Candidate Adriano Cobo, aged just 23, is the grandson of the Reverend Ron Gamble, a Grand Officer and a member of Belvidere Lodge. Ron had had the delightful job of baptising his grandson when Adriano was a baby and was now going to participate in his being initiated into Freemasonry.

Second surprise: Ron was standing in as Junior Deacon and would therefore play a key role in conducting his grandson around the Lodge during the Ceremony.

Third surprise: accompanying him as Senior Deacon was Lodge stalwart Phil Sayer – also a Grand Officer!



(L-R): Ron Gamble, Trevor Carter and Ron's grandson Adriano Cobo

You always hold your breath when senior Masons take on junior roles. Will they remember the words? Will they remember all the steps and perambulations? No problems at all on the night. Everything went smoothly, under the watchful eye of Acting Director of Ceremonies John Ray – yet another Grand Officer (this is getting silly!) – and Provincial Escorting DC Dale Abercrombie and the APMG's Escorting Team.

Belvidere is fortunate in having several members and many friends in the Widows Sons, a motorcycling charitable group closely associated with Freemasonry in Kent and around the world. Jason Davies-Baker, Lodge Master, is the President of the Widows Sons Hengist Chapter - East Kent. And – to round off a very successful evening – another welcome surprise: new recruit Adriano is joining them!



Belvidere Lodge members and guests with APMG Trevor Carter and his Escorting Team

Around the Province

Sittingbourne: St Michael's Lodge Embraces Teddies for Loving Care

St Michael's Lodge No. 1273 had the pleasure of welcoming the TLC (Teddies for Loving Care) Ambassador at our March meeting, highlighting the heart-warming work of this wonderful charity. If you've ever experienced a hospital visit with a child, you may have encountered the comfort of a teddy bear from TLC—a small gesture that brings immense reassurance to families in difficult moments.

Keen to support their ongoing efforts, our Lodge chose to donate the proceeds from our Monthly Bottle Raffle to TLC, proudly raising £150 to help them continue spreading hope and smiles. Special thanks go to Tim Ivory for joining us, and for bringing Teddy along to share in the joy. Together, we are helping to make hospital experiences a little brighter for children and their families, and we look forward to supporting TLC's important mission again in the future.

To find out more visit their website
<https://teddiesforlovingcare.org.uk/>



Gillingham: A New Mason After Twelve Years

At the Peace & Unity Lodge No. 4101 meeting on 26th March 2026, the Lodge had the great pleasure of Initiating its first new Mason in twelve years!

Present that evening were the Assistant Provincial Grand Master (APGM), Trevor Carter, and Worshipful Brother Jim Cross, five other escorting Provincial Officers, another three Grand Officers, including the VO, and assorted other Brethren numbering forty one in all.

The Brethren of the Lodge were proud and delighted to welcome Brother Paul Hutton into Freemasonry in general and the Peace & Unity Lodge in particular, and we all wish him a long, happy and fruitful career in Freemasonry.

The Ceremony was conducted by W.Bro. Keith Stratford, IPM, who through two tours in the Chair, had, unfortunately, hitherto been unable exercise his talents and perform "for real", and who exemplified the Lodge's history of by heart Ritual delivery with feeling, style and calm composure.



(L to R) APGM Trevor Carter, Brother Paul Hutton, Worshipful Master Keith Appleby and Worshipful Brother Jim Gillett

Held at the Gillingham Masonic Centre Franklin Road, the evening included the presentation, by the APGM, of a 2025 Festival Platinum Certificate, a stupendous achievement by the Lodge, with grateful thanks to Worshipful Brother Jim Gillett, Lodge Charity Steward, and all the Members, Guests and Visitors who have contributed to that triumph.

Around the Province

Birchington: Minnis Bay Lodge's extraordinary charitable donations

Article and Photos: George Chandler

On Saturday 14th March, 31 Brethren gathered at Minnis Bay Lodge no 8496, for an ordinary meeting but with no ceremonial work. Then the afternoon changed into something extraordinary. The Lodge was called off and seven local charity representatives were invited into the Lodge to receive charitable donations.....totalling £37,500!

The Veterans Association, Forelands Fields, RNLI Margate, Parkinsons UK, Age UK, KSS Air Ambulance and Pilgrims Hospice were all greeted warmly and presented with individual cheques. The Lodge was quiet, the brethren humble, and the charities could hardly believe it - that's a lot of money, especially from just one Lodge. And it's not over, either.

Founder, Worshipful Brother Graham Knox (Master in 1978) had passed to higher service leaving a bequest to the Lodge of £250,000 – with one stipulation – it all had to be donated to charity. An amazing legacy and an excellent problem to solve, but how do you do it? The Minnis Bay Brethren formed a committee, drew up a list of 31 charities, divided the money into chunks of £1,500 for dispersal and then each member was given three votes to nominate a charity on the list to receive a share. Their scheme ensures each charity receives a minimum of £1,500, and with more votes, comes more money. As with all the simplest schemes, the outcome denies the hard work involved in working it all out.



The money is one thing (that's the easy part!). The reality for the charities is something else. 3,760 people in Kent are living with Parkinsons. The RNLI are building a completely new lifeboat station in Margate (keeping all crews operational whilst they rebuild). The Pilgrims Hospice needs £18 million per year to run their services. The cheque for £4,500 presented to the KSS Air Ambulance will fund a complete mission (aircraft, fuel, pilot, crew, medics, drugs, etc.). That £4,500 may just have saved someone's life. That's humbling.

Even into his eighties, W.Bro. Graham Knox would make the 40-mile trip from his home in Bredhurst for weekly LOI's, and of course, every meeting. An ex-Navy gunnery officer, wounded in the Korean War, Graham then became a commercial traveller, selling cleaning products to garages. His Navy anecdotes are too fruity for print, so to hear those you'll need to go to Minnis Bay 8496; chat to a very friendly, open and welcoming Lodge of humble masons doing something extraordinary.



Around the Province

Maidstone: An Operative Mason and a Morse of Lewises

Article and Photos: Lloyd Chitty & Stuart Skilton

On Friday 13th March the Duke of Kent Lodge No 5818 had a very memorable meeting. At first glance it was a routine well executed passing to the Degree of a Fellow Craft for Brother Francis Sullivan with exceptional spirit and character.

The ceremony showcased superb floor work from all Brethren involved, reflecting the dedication and skill that make our Lodge truly special. I think it is fair to say that everyone was on their 'A' game especially knowing that Brother Francis is actually a practising mason!

He is a stone mason by trade and was recently recruited into the Lodge following a chance meeting between Francis and our Worshipful Master Alan Chitty whilst at Nettlestead Church cemetery as he tended to a head stone. Francis also lives in Stone near Dartford! (At this point you may be thinking this is pure fantasy, but it is all true!)

Another notable feature of the night was the celebration of family and tradition. The Lodge now proudly has four Father & Son pairs (Lewises) as pictured.

Even more special, on this evening there was a total of seven Father & Son pairs in attendance, including:

- Les Tasker and Seymour Tasker, both of Robinson Lodge No 2046.
- Mark Bailey and John Bailey, both of New Silver Jubilee Lodge No 8823 in Essex.
- Mark Best and his father David Best (Bishopway Lodge No 6061). Our own recent joining member.

I'm not sure what the collective phrase for Lewises is but I wondered if it may well be referred to as a 'Morse'! – I'm sure John Thaw would be turning in his grave!

This gathering was a wonderful reminder of the bonds of family, fellowship, and shared purpose that strengthen our Lodge. It was a night to celebrate achievement, tradition, and the joy of Masonic companionship".



Brother Francis pictured in centre with the Master Alan Chitty on the left and Worshipful Brother Mark Bailey



*Four father and son pairs of Duke of Kent Lodge
Graham Moore & Jim Moore
Steve Downing & Ben Downing
Alan Allchone & Lee Allchone
Alan Chitty & Lloyd Chitty*

Following the formal proceedings, the Festive Board was a highlight in its own right. Members enjoyed fine food and wine, raising both serious toasts and bursts of laughter, creating an atmosphere of warmth and camaraderie that made the evening truly memorable.

Around the Province

Group 6: Generosity helps transform Rubie's life

Kim and Simon Tucker heard the devastating news last year that Rubie, their daughter, had collapsed in a park in Ashford and suffered a life changing cardiac arrest, just four days after her 16th birthday. A friend who was with her, saved her life by performing CPR on her. The emergency services were called, arrived and took her to a hospital in London, where she remained for sometime before being transferred to The Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Unfortunately, owing to Rubie stopping breathing, her brain was starved of oxygen for about 30 minutes, resulting in her suffering severe brain injuries and is now unable to walk, talk, sit up, eat or drink independently. Due to Rubie's disabilities, an extension, containing a wet room and specialist equipment, such as hoists, was deemed necessary by the Hospital Occupational Therapists.



Rubie before her medical emergency

Having heard of the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons Charity (CEKFC), mum, Kim, made an application, resulting in a co-ordinated match funding effort being made by the Group 6 Charity Stewards Co-ordinator, Worshipful Brother Bob Hadlow, on behalf of the Charity Stewards of Stour, South Kent, St George Bahrain, Ashford, Essetesforde, East Kent Combined Services and Loyalty Lodges and St George Bahrain Chapter. This culminated in the match funding being agreed by the CEKFC and Cheque for £3,500 being supplied by them.

On Sunday 13th July 2025 W.Bro Bob Hadlow the Group 6 Charity Stewards Co-ordinator, attended the home address and presented the cheque to Rubie's parents, Kim and Simon.



Bob Hadlow presenting the cheque to mum, Kim Tucker

The construction of the extension was well under way with the external walls and roof being up and the internal walls being built. Kim and Simon were very moved when receiving the cheque and stated that it will make a huge difference, as it will enable them to be able to purchase a Specialist Stretcher Bed for use in the wet room, whereby Rubie can be washed and changed a lot easier.

Rubie's journey has been incredibly challenging, but as the family look towards the future, Kim, Simon, and Rubie continue to inspire with their courage, reminding us to treasure every moment and help one another whenever we can.



Rubie's wet room under construction

Around the Province

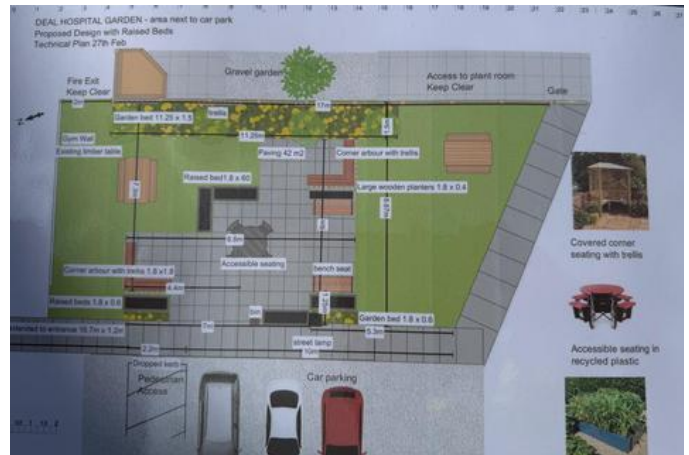
Group 7:

Under the leadership of Worshipful Brother Gerry Stupples, the Group 7 committee are collaborating with the League of Friends of the Victoria Hospital, Deal, with a new initiative aimed at enhancing the hospital environment. With funds being donated by the Lodges of Group 7 (Deal, Dover and St Margaret's), their collective efforts are focused on transforming an existing grassed area into a tranquil landscaped garden.

the work started in the depths of winter with an exciting and thoughtfully designed plan for the project. This plan clearly outlines the primary objective: to create a peaceful and attractive garden space that will benefit both staff and visitors of the hospital. The proposed planting scheme features seasonal and sensory elements, ensuring that the garden remains engaging and visually appealing throughout the year.



Group 7 committee with League of Friends



Plans for the garden

February marked the exciting beginning as work commenced in earnest. With a landscape gardener joining the journey and the first spade breaking ground. The Brethren, ever dedicated, regularly lent their support to the League of Friends, rolling up their sleeves and personally contributing to the transformation. Instead of purchasing ready-made seats, Worshipful Brother Jeff Knight generously offered his skills, crafting two stunning benches from scratch: inviting places for all to rest and soak in the beauty of the garden. The team further revitalised three picnic tables, carefully sanding and sealing them to ensure their charm endures for years to come. This project stands as a wonderful testament to the synergy achieved when people unite for a common good. Thoughtfully designed to offer year-round interest, the garden will be filled with plants chosen to invigorate the senses and create a soothing, welcoming atmosphere for every visitor.



Seating designed and built by Worshipful Brother Jeff Knight



Worshipful Brothers Gerry Stupples and Ivor Winham sanding the picnic tables

Around the Province

Group 8: Masons generosity brings joy to “21 Together”

Article and Photos: George Chandler and Matt Steel

A posse of Masons from Group 8 visited the charity 21 Together in Thanet on Sunday 8th February 2026 to present a cheque for £10,550. It was a remarkable occasion. The amount itself is significant, but it was the atmosphere that left the greatest impression. There were smiles, laughter and, yes, more than a few tears. Meeting the children and families supported by 21 Together is a powerful and moving experience, one that leaves a lasting impression on even the most steadfast of visitors.

Three-year-old Oscar, who has Mosaic Down's syndrome, is a perfect example. Full of personality and charm, he connects instantly with everyone he meets; his warmth and determination are impossible to ignore.

21 Together is a Kent-wide charity providing vital support to children and young people with Down's syndrome and their families. Their centre, based inside WonderWorks at Hornby Hobbies, offers a welcoming and vibrant space for activities, therapies and community connection. On the day of our visit, surrounded by model railways that delight so many visitors, Noah had other priorities. He was happily immersed in colouring, cake and the business of being a young boy at play.

Trustee Melissa, Noah's mum, spoke thoughtfully about Down's syndrome, explaining the differences between Trisomy 21 and Mosaic Down's syndrome, and how each child's experience is unique. What shines through is not limitation, but individuality and the importance of understanding, inclusion and the right support at the right time.



Cheque presentation to “21 Together”

Fergus's mum, Sinead, who is a Trustee and Patron, brings extraordinary energy to the charity. She speaks movingly of the joy, perspective and strength her son has brought to her life. When she says she wouldn't wish a child with Down's syndrome on her worst enemy, but would on her best friend, you listen. She says this not out of malice; her words are heartfelt and deeply personal, reflecting both the challenges families can face and the profound pride they feel. She has tears in her eyes as she talks to me, and it is impossible not to be moved by her sincerity.

Oscar's mum, Jazmin, shared her own journey of securing a diagnosis for Mosaic Down's syndrome, which can present differently and be harder to identify. With tears in her eyes too, she spoke of the daily demands of parenting, but also of the specialist therapies, guidance and emotional support 21 Together provides — support that makes a tangible difference to families like hers.

There is so much more to discover about this remarkable charity. A visit to <https://21together.org.uk> offers a glimpse into the lives being enriched and the futures being shaped. The next time you see an event or fete organised by the Lodges in Group 8, remember Oscar, Noah and Fergus. Your support helps create opportunities, build confidence and strengthen families across our county. And yes, there were a few moist eyes among us visitors too. A proud day all round. A good job, guys.



WonderWorks at Hornby Hobbies

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The Resilience and Renewal of Shane Cooley

From Soldier to Survivor: Facing the Unthinkable

Article and Photos: Shane Cooley and Derek Lindars

In life, there are moments that irrevocably split time in two: the events before and those that follow. For Shane Cooley, this division arrived on 5th September 2005 in the form of a devastating motorcycle accident on the streets of Sydney. But what might seem to many as a tragic endpoint instead marks the beginning of an inspiring story of perseverance and hope that transformed tragedy into triumph.

Shane's early years were marked by service, discipline and adventure. Born in 1974, he pursued a career in the Army Air Corps, later joining the Royal Corps of Signals. His exemplary service record included three deployments with the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia: a testament to his commitment and courage. After leaving the armed forces in 2002, he charted a new course as an engineer and, in 2004, he moved to Sydney, Australia. Life seemed promising and full of possibility.

All that changed in an instant when, on his motorbike journey home, a car pulled out in front of him. The resulting collision left Shane with catastrophic injuries: a broken neck, punctured lung, sixteen brain injuries, and severe facial trauma.

He slipped into a coma for three months, his life hanging in the balance. When he finally awoke, basic tasks: walking, talking, eating, were no longer automatic. He had to relearn them all. Memory loss further compounded his challenges, leaving him a stranger to his own identity and history.

Rehabilitation at Royal Northshore Hospital was gruelling. Shane often felt lost and confused, following therapists' instructions without understanding their purpose. He likened his state to being a newborn with the mind of a man in his thirties, but with memories tantalisingly out of reach. His first attempts at independence, moving in a wheelchair, trying to walk, brought frustration but also ignited his determination to improve. After months of intense therapy, in March 2006 Shane was deemed fit to return home to England. The homecoming was surreal. Familiar faces appeared, yet their significance eluded him.



Shane Cooley on deployment

The accident had interrupted the blood supply to his brain, causing stroke-like effects: right-sided weakness, impaired memory, and a distorted sense of taste and smell. However, his visual memory remained intact, albeit stripped of the narrative that once made it meaningful.

Back in England, Shane found support through 'Psicon' in Canterbury, where a dedicated team of neuropsychologists, therapists, and trainers guided his recovery. He gradually relearned to walk and talk, reconnecting with daily life and rediscovering independence.

As his rehabilitation improved, Shane set himself a physical goal: training for the Bath Half Marathon. This seemed insurmountable at first, but with encouragement from Matt Lyons, his fitness trainer and a qualified Mountain Leader, Shane persevered. He said that crossing the finish line in March 2008 became a powerful symbol of reclaimed autonomy and hope.

Matt's influence reignited Shane's passion for the outdoors, leading to the successful completion of his Mountain Leader assessment in October 2015. This qualification enabled him to 'give back' as a Duke of Edinburgh Award Assessor, supporting young people across the UK. Through these roles, Shane rediscovered a sense of usefulness and accomplishment, proving to himself and others that recovery was not just possible, but transformative.

Resilience and Renewal of Shane Cooley cont...

The aftermath of the accident brought its own emotional challenges when the driver responsible was found not guilty of dangerous driving, an outcome which deeply troubled Shane's family. His father, searching for answers, attributed the verdict to the influence of Freemasonry. A suspicion born of misunderstanding. Shane decided to investigate and understand for himself, eventually finding an unexpected source of community and healing.

Shane married Pippa in 2013. Pippa travelled to London by train with her friend and that friend was a Freemason, Worshipful Brother Tom Gregory. Encouraged by his wife, Shane met with Tom and found his openness challenged the myths and preconceptions he'd inherited.

Following an interview, Shane was Initiated and received a warm welcome to the Romney Marsh Lodge 4743, where Shane discovered that charity, integrity and lawful conduct are at the heart of Freemasonry. The friendship and understanding, and the ethos and values of Freemasonry dispelled old misconceptions, replacing them with a sense of pride and belonging.

But in Freemasonry, Shane encountered a new hurdle: the memorisation of ritual. A daunting prospect given his memory difficulties. Shane was adamant he would meet this challenge and not read from the book and, supported by his neuropsychologist and buoyed by the encouragement of Lodge brothers, he steadily progressed through the Offices, culminating in his Installation as Worshipful Master in October 2024. With the help of hypnosis and unwavering support, Shane stood before his Lodge with confidence and pride. A moment he regards as a key milestone in his journey.

Reflecting on his father's unfounded suspicions, Shane expresses understanding for those who reach for someone or something to blame in the aftermath of misfortune.

His own journey through Freemasonry has revealed a fellowship built on integrity, morality, friendship, and charitable giving. This has not only aided his memory recovery but has granted him the opportunity to serve both Freemasonry, his Lodge and the wider community.



The aftermath of Shane's accident

Shane Cooley's story stands as a testament to human resilience. From the depths of trauma and confusion, he has rebuilt a life of meaning, service, and connection. Where tragedy threatened to define him, Shane chose to define himself by embracing new challenges, overcoming obstacles, and finding hope in unexpected places.

His journey reminds us that, no matter our setbacks, determination and support can guide us towards a brighter, more purposeful future. Today, Worshipful Brother Shane is living his 'second life' and in doing so, inspires those around him. He is the living proof that even amidst the greatest adversity, life can begin again.



Worshipful Brother Shane Cooley

The Armed Forces Covenant

Strengthening Community Ties: Ashford Cadets Visit Invicta Lodge

Article and Photos: Paul Goodwin

On 10 April, ten cadets from the Ashford Tobruk Cadet Detachment visited the Ashford Masonic Centre as guests of Invicta Lodge of Ashford, marking an important step in strengthening ties between local Freemasons and the Army Cadet Force (ACF). The visit formed part of ongoing support under the Armed Forces Covenant, which aims to foster connections and provide assistance to military-related organisations and youth groups.

The event offered mutual learning opportunities: lodge members gained insight into the structure and activities of the ACF, while cadets were introduced to the traditions and practices of Freemasonry. After the Lodge's regular meeting, the Master, Worshipful Brother Roger Bryan, welcomed the cadets, their instructors, and parents into the lodge room. He explained the significance of the lodge's layout, the roles of its principal officers, and the symbolism of Masonic attire, drawing comparisons with the cadets' uniforms.

The focus then shifted to the cadets. Lance Corporal Abbie McDermott delivered a confident and engaging presentation outlining cadet life. She described the structure of the detachment, the ranking system, and the wide range of skills cadets develop, including shooting, fieldcraft, first aid, drill, navigation, skill at arms, and physical training. Her presentation highlighted both the discipline and variety offered by the ACF, as well as the challenges involved.

The ACF was portrayed as providing unique opportunities not commonly available to young people. Cadets attend weekend and summer camps, often at Army bases, where they meet peers from across the country. These experiences were described as both rewarding and memorable. In addition, cadets can work towards recognised qualifications such as BTECs in leadership and first aid, and participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

A key theme of the visit was the shared values between Freemasonry and the ACF. When Abbie McDermott outlined the ACF's core values—courage, discipline, respect, integrity, loyalty, and selfless commitment—these resonated strongly with the lodge members.



The APGM Wayne Smith, Roger Bryan, and members of the Lodge with members of the Army Cadet Force,

On a personal level, she spoke about how her involvement in the ACF had boosted her confidence, provided new opportunities, and contributed to her development, including her role as Mayor's Cadet and participation in Remembrance Day services.

Each cadet then briefly shared what the ACF meant to them, frequently emphasising increased confidence, enjoyment, and personal growth. Several described the experience as life-changing.

Following the presentations, cadets and lodge members socialised, exchanging experiences and building connections. Assistant Provincial Grand Master (APGM) Wayne Smith highlighted ways Freemasons could support cadet initiatives, including funding, facilities, and volunteer involvement. The event concluded with photographs, an informal meal, and a raffle that raised £230 for the cadet unit, underscoring the lodge's commitment to supporting local youth.

There are over 1000 cadets in East Kent and 16 Lodges in East Kent are engaged with this process. If anyone is interested in finding out more they can contact the East Kent Freemasons via the website <https://eastkentfreemasons.org/contact-us/>

The Question Is?

Does the “G” refer to “Great” or “Grand” at the top of the Supreme Grand Chapter Certificate

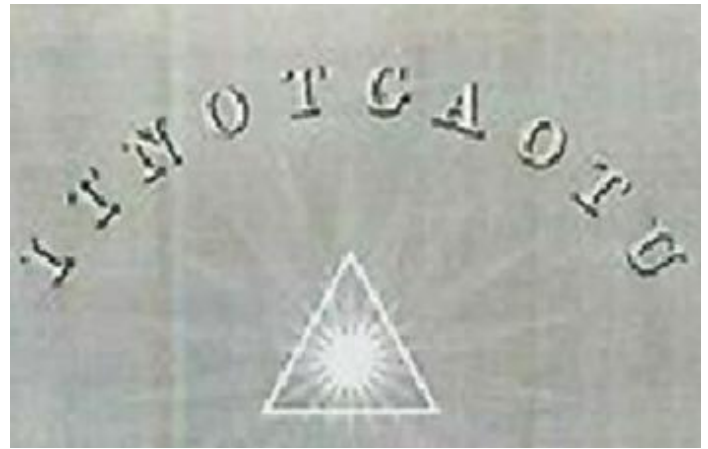
*By Excellent Companion Dennis Fordham,
Assistant to the Principals*

Masonic traditions often involve a degree of unquestioning acceptance, where information is passed down without scrutiny. In the context of the letter "G" found on certificates, there has been a shift in interpretation from "GREAT" to "GRAND". This change prompts reflection on its origins and significance. The question arises as to why "GRAND" has become the accepted term, superseding "GREAT", which some still use out of habit or tradition. It is suggested that this distinction may trace back to the early days of masonry, particularly when the Royal Arch ceremony was performed as part of craft masonry within craft lodges.

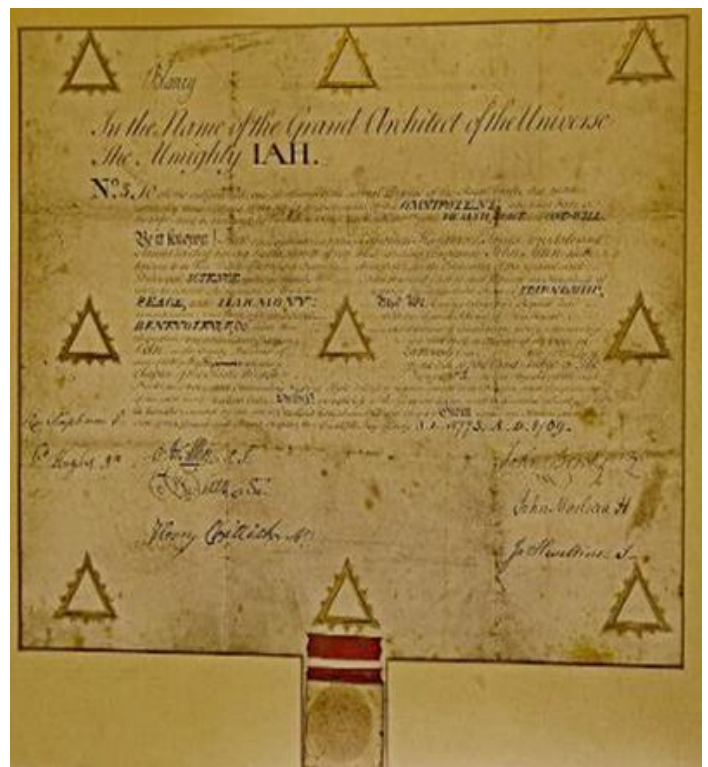
Delving into the history of the Royal Arch, a pivotal moment occurred in 1766. The "Moderns", a prominent group within freemasonry, established the first Grand Chapter under the leadership of Lord Blaney. This Grand Chapter was styled as "The Grand and Royal Chapter" or "The Excellent Grand and Royal Chapter", indicating a deliberate emphasis on grandeur and distinction.

Their authority was formalised through the Charter of Compact, a document that empowered the Grand Chapter to issue Charters and warrants for the creation of independent Chapters. The wording used on these Charters was notably: "In the Name of the Grand Architect of the Universe". This phrase underscored the significance and solemnity of their actions and set a precedent for future Supreme Chapter Charters and correspondence.

An example from 14th July 1769 (see right), the warrant issued to Cana Lodge or the Chapter of the First Miracle in Colne, Lancashire, demonstrates the use of this specific wording at the top of the document. This tradition has persisted and can be found on contemporary Supreme Chapter Charters. The use of "Grand" in this context likely was chosen to convey a sense of grandeur or special status, distinguishing the Grand Chapter from the regular Craft.



The intention may have been to create a clear separation and elevate the status of the Grand Chapter, marking it as unique within masonry. Further evidence of this deliberate differentiation is found in the Moderns Grand Chapter, which produced only one certificate, known as the Trinity Certificate (see over page). The design elements - specifically, the arrangement of letters in the form of an Arch - are still employed on current certificates. These historical choices in terminology and symbolism reflect a desire to emphasise the distinctiveness and prestige of the Grand Chapter.



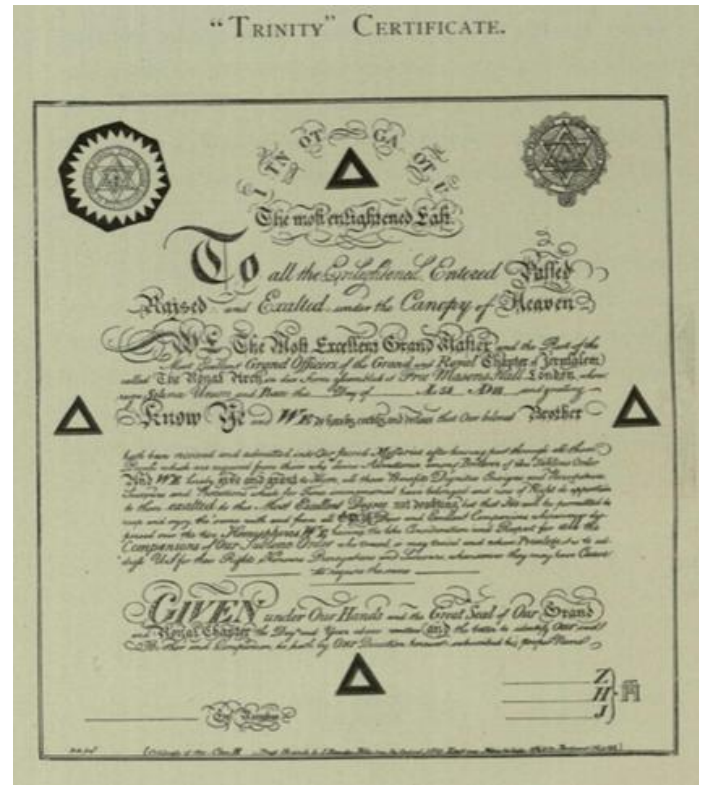
*Cana Lodge or the Chapter of the First Miracle issued on
14th July 1769*

The Question Is? cont...

The two Grand Chapters eventually united in 1817, forming what is now known as the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

Following the union, a Grand Chapter Certificate was issued, later termed the 1st Gloria Certificate (below right), with a second version released in 1843 known as the 2nd Gloria Certificate.

The design of these Trinity certificates appears to be a synthesis of the earlier Trinity and Dermott Certificates (below): the arch with wording at the top derives from the Trinity Certificate, signifying that "G" refers to "Grand", while the main framework comes from Dermott's Certificate.



The Trinity Certificate



1st Gloria Certificate of 1817



Dermott Certificate of 1753

Ultimately, the shift from "GREAT" to "GRAND" appears rooted in historical developments, institutional decisions, and the ongoing evolution of masonic tradition. While interpretations may vary, the prevailing use of "GRAND" serves as a reminder of the organisation's rich heritage and the importance placed on its unique identity within the broader masonic community.

Freemasonry's Embrace of Change and Openness

Article: Paul Gear

There is a certain magic in rediscovering the past. One afternoon, as I delved into my communications history, the Wayback Machine became my time-travelling vessel, whisking me back to old websites and articles that still resonate deeply today. Among them, I stumbled upon a stirring piece by the Right Worshipful the Rev. Canon Richard Tydeman, "That the World May Know", a message that feels as pertinent now as when it first graced the pages of 'The Provincial'.

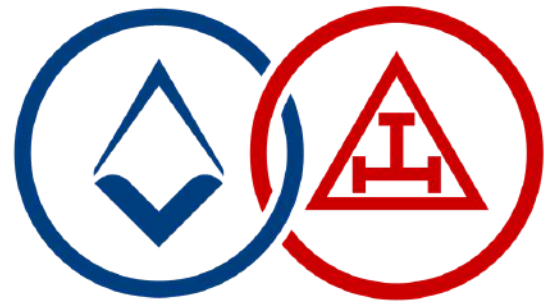
Tydeman's words, as he addressed misconceptions about Freemasonry, sparked an enduring theme: openness. He emphasised that our constitution is so often misunderstood, yet not enough Masons step forward to clarify what we truly stand for. His article was a beacon of enlightenment, revealing the essence of Freemasonry, with its values, promises, and ideal of brotherhood.

Inspired by this call for clarity, genuine change began to unfold. The Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Duke of Kent, championed a future where transparency and approachability would define Freemasonry.

In East Kent, this vision took shape through a vibrant campaign beginning with a landmark Meridian Television programme where Temple doors swung open for the cameras and myths were gently dispelled in front of a curious public. The event was candid, respectful and did nothing but good for our reputation.

The openness theme blossomed into a series of Travelling Provincial Roadshows, designed to showcase Freemasonry in its true light. The main objectives of the Roadshows were:

- To open Freemasonry to public view and show that it is not a "Secret Society"
- To encourage the view that Freemasonry is a force for good
- To encourage public interest in Freemasonry
- To provide a forum where members of the public can talk to Freemasons so that they can find out about Freemasonry, what it means and what it does.



EAST KENT
FREEMASONS

The objectives were clear: to demonstrate that Freemasonry is not a secretive enclave, but instead a welcoming community, a force for good, and a source of local pride. Senior Masons, passionate about sharing their story, stood ready to answer questions, guide tours, and introduce guests to charity work, regalia, and the ceremonial heart of the organisation.

Local newspapers carried news of the events, dignitaries received personal invitations, and the centres themselves transformed into hubs of warmth and dialogue. The Roadshows brought people together, stirring curiosity and fostering understanding. Lodges showcased both their Masonic traditions and the charities they supported, highlighting their meaningful role in the community.

Perhaps most uplifting of all was the Provincial Grand Master's Christmas message, a five-point plan encouraging every member to take an active part in community life, speak openly about Freemasonry, and bring others into its fold. It wasn't just a call to action, it was an invitation to belong, to serve, and to share the light of fellowship with old friends and new faces alike.

Reflecting on this journey, it is clear that the openness theme was not merely a fleeting initiative, but a genuine cultural shift. Today, just as in years past, Building Together supports us to stand resilient and welcoming, ready to embrace change and build bridges with those willing to learn. The story continues, and its spirit remains as uplifting and relevant as ever.

WIDOW'S SONS

An explanation of the new name for the East Kent Chapter

Article and Photos: "Bluebell", President, Widows Sons East Kent

Foreword

The name change has been under consideration for several years, but the right moment, and indeed the right name, had never been agreed upon. When I took over the presidency in June this year, I made it one of my goals to finally move this forward, but only with the full cooperation of our members. This proved challenging at first, as some were firmly against the idea. However, through perseverance and by providing the explanations outlined below, we gradually gained their support.

Several names were proposed, and, after careful discussion, the list was narrowed down to just two: Hengist and Spitfire. These options were then put to a members' vote. The result was close, but Hengist won by a clear margin, and this is the name the Chapter will now proudly adopt.

The relevance and significance of this name are explained in full in the text that follows. Interestingly, West Kent may also find relevance in this choice, should they ever wish to consider a name change of their own.

"Bluebell"

President, Widows Sons East Kent – Hengist Chapter

Why "Hengist"?

The name "Hengist" stands as a tribute to Kent's deep-rooted Anglo-Saxon heritage, with its name drawn from the legendary figure Hengist. As chronicled by historical sources like the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and Bede, Hengist and his brother Horsa arrived in Britain during the 5th century, eventually founding the Kingdom of Kent. This legacy is intrinsically linked to Thanet, anchoring the chapter's identity in local history and tradition. Hengist embodies vision, strength, and the spirit of leadership, qualities central to the founding values of the chapter and the wider brotherhood.

The unity and loyalty displayed by Hengist and Horsa reflect the fraternal bonds within the Widows Sons, especially with their counterparts in West Kent, suggesting that adopting Horsa as a chapter name in West Kent would create a living tribute to legendary brotherhood and symbolic unity.



"Bluebell", President of East Kent Widows Sons

The story of Hengist and Horsa resonates with Masonic ideals, emphasising duality, unity, and the transformative journey from chaos to order. Choosing the Hengist Chapter name is more than a nod to history; it is a conscious decision to embody the spirit of Kent's founding myths, reminding members of the courage and brotherhood that carved new paths through uncertainty. It honours Kent's mythic beginnings and serves as a statement of what the East Kent Widows Sons represent: riding with the past behind and the future ahead.

WIDOWS SONS cont...

The Widows Sons East Kent badge, conceived by a former President, merges Masonic symbolism with a modern, biker aesthetic.

Its central square and compasses echo the Masonic pursuit of truth and brotherhood, while the skull with a finger to the lips signifies mortality, discretion, and the seriousness of obligations. The “East Kent” banner reinforces local identity, and the darker, rebellious style reflects motorcycle culture and fraternal loyalty.

This emblem powerfully expresses the chapter’s values: honour, respect, and discretion, which may well serve as its motto. The East Kent Widows Sons ride together, united by tradition and the enduring spirit of brotherhood.



A Lewis's Bond

Connections between Kent and Dorset Scouting Lodges

Article and Photos: Patrick Regan

I was initiated into Fleur-de-Lis Lodge 8969 in May 2023 as a Lewis, following my father who is a member of Brownsea Island Lodge 9689 in Dorset. Both Lodges are Scouting Lodges and, coincidentally, the Lodge numbers are anagrams of each other – 8969 and 9689 – which has always felt like a special link between us.

My father attended all three of my degrees and had the privilege of presenting the Working Tools at each of them, which made those occasions particularly meaningful for us both.

On 13th February, I made my first visit to another Lodge, travelling to Dorset with Worshipful Brother Roy Brooks to attend the Installation meeting at Brownsea Island Lodge 9689, where Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Mike Parkes, was installed as Worshipful Master. On the evening, I presented the Lodge with an engraved trowel bearing the names and numbers of both Lodges, marking the connection between Fleur-de-Lis 8969 and Brownsea Island 9689, and further strengthening the ties between our two Scouting Lodges and the Provinces of Kent and Dorset.



Patrick Regan with his dad, Stephen Regan



The engraved trowel Patrick presented to Brownsea Island Lodge

The Cymbolick Penalties

East Kent Freemasons raise £18,200 through music for the 2025 Festival

With grateful thanks to all those Brethren and Companions that supported the numerous raffles and auctions for a copy of one of the CDs, the Cymbolick Penalties are pleased to announce that a total of £18,200 had been raised towards the East Kent 2025 Festival.



Jake Jackson (bass guitar & vocals), Graham Mitchell (keyboards), Alan Kilburn (lead guitar & vocals), Roger Waltham (rhythm guitar) and Andy Notley (drums).

The Cymbolick Penalties is a group of musicians, all East Kent Freemasons, who play and record music to raise money for charitable causes. They were first formed in 2010 by one of their members, Worshipful Brother Jake Jackson, who assembled them for a one-time show as the pit band for one of the Provincial Pantomimes. As a result of that experience, and enjoying each other's company so much, they organised themselves into a working band and, over the next fifteen years, raised tens of thousands of pounds for good causes and Masonic charities.

Their first album, 'The Analogue Barn Recordings', was released in 2012 and raised over £2,000 for the 2014 Festival. Their second CD was released in 2024 and, by October 2025, it had raised a massive £18,200 for the 2025 Festival. The cheque was presented to the Provincial Grand Master at the Provincial Officers' Mess on Thursday 16th October 2025.



The band took to the recording studio a few years ago and began to lay down some of the numbers they had performed from their earlier live fund-raising events. Some original and new tracks, composed by members of the band and their associates, were also recorded. Along the way several other musical East Kent Freemasons dropped into the studio to add their instruments or voices to the recordings. On one occasion, the recording equipment was taken to a meeting of the Sir Edward Elgar Lodge, and everyone present joined in to sing a chorus which was included in one of the tracks. In 2023 the band members agreed to produce an album of some of these recordings and give a quantity of the CDs to the Province to help with its fund-raising efforts.

It was around this time that local artist Hazel Christine, wife of the band's lead guitarist Alan Kilburn, created a painting called 'In Search of the Lost Note'. This inspired the band to adopt this title for the album and, with Hazel's permission, the artwork was used to decorate the CD and the enclosed sleeve notes. Hazel also had some bow ties of the artwork produced which the band members will wear with pride. A Performing Rights licence was obtained, the sleeve notes were authored, and a production company was contracted to mass-produce the CDs. All licence and production costs were covered by the band members. The finished CDs were delivered in August 2024 and 400 copies were given to the Province of East Kent. The CDs were distributed by the Provincial Charity Stewards to the Lodges and Chapters throughout the Province. Raffles or auctions were then held in each unit with the proceeds being forwarded to the festival account.

The Cymbolick Penalties cont...

The five core members of the Cymbolick Penalties are: Jake Jackson (bass guitar & vocals), Graham Mitchell (keyboards), Alan Kilburn (lead guitar & vocals), Roger Waltham (rhythm guitar) and Andy Notley (drums). The other East Kent Freemasons that contributed to the recordings were: Steve Povey (guitar and vocals), John Gallagher (cello), Ian White (guitar), Kelvin Pratt (guitar) and vocals from The Provincial Choir of East Kent and Members and Guests of the Sir Edward Elgar Lodge. Some wives, daughters and grandkids of the band also added their voices to one of the tracks.

Special thanks are due to Hazel Christine, for her artwork, Mark Howells, for the band photo and Jake Jackson who spent countless hours in his recording studio mixing and arranging the recordings.

The band has now retired from working engagements, but continues to meet as a social group and in the studio when time permits. They leave a challenge for other East Kent Masonic musicians to carry the torch forward and continue with the fund-raising efforts pioneered by the Cymbolick Penalties.



The East Kent Masonic Golf Association

Calling all Golfers!



East Kent Masonic Golf association is a relaxed group welcoming players with handicaps from Scratch to 36. Like all Masonic sports associations, we welcome all Freemasons and their guests through their love of Golf. It's a relaxed fun environment welcoming all standards of golfer.

Who Can play? – All East Kent Freemasons and their guests and but especially those potential Craft members. We welcome all standards of golfer with prizes on offer for all abilities. All we ask is that you respect the pace of play on the day.

Do I need a handicap? Certainly not! We have players whose handicaps range from 2 to 36. It's all about having fun in a friendly society designed to be relaxed. We'll discuss how often and where you play to guide the handicap allocation. We'll also pair you with people of similar ability to make sure you feel relaxed.

What does it cost to join? There is no joining fee, and the society is not for profit. We negotiate special rates with courses which allows a budget for prizes. There are multiple prizes for longest drive and Nearest the pins.

When and where do you meet? Events are held April to October. We try and play a mixture of courses from higher end to more the shorter or more budget courses. There are a number of lodge and individual prizes including the infamous "Battle of the Aprons" (Light Blue V Dark Blue) competition at the end of the season.

What's the format? All events include a social Stableford. In addition, we may play another province. Each Event starts with a breakfast meeting, 18 holes of golf and often a light lunch with the prizegiving.

How do I book in? Simply use the link on the website or email golf@ekprovince.co.uk We will confirm your booking and ask you to pay online in advance of the event to secure your place.

2026 sees a packed programme with Bro. Paul Ames
(Sir Edward Elgar Lodge) taking the Captaincy.

Golf Fixtures 2026

Friday 10th April 2026

West Kent V East Kent
Cherry Lodge Golf Club (Inc AGM)
Event Details & Booking

Thursday 14th May 2026

Met GL V EKMGA
Warley Park – Brentwood
Event Details & Booking

Friday 29th May 2026

Tenterden Golf Club
Captains Welcome Day
Event Details & Booking

Friday 26th June 2026

Surrey Masonic Sports V EKMGA
Croham Hurst Golf Club
Event Details & Booking

Friday 24th July 2026

Geoffrey Gordon Dearing Bowl
Kings Hill Golf Club
Event Details & Booking

Friday 28th August 2026

William Blay
Faversham Golf Club
Event Details & Booking

Thursday 17th September 2026

Beauchamp Interprovincial Trophy
Surrey Downs Golf Club
Event Details & Booking

Friday 25th September 2026

Sheerness Golf Club
Event Details & Booking

Friday 23rd October 2026

Light Blues V Dark Blues
David Graeme Cup
Etchinghill Golf Club
Event Details & Booking

A Small Act, A Lifesaving Difference

Quiet Kindness Keeps Lifesaving Equipment Ready at Minnis Bay

When the community defibrillator outside Wagtails Café in Minnis Bay required new pads to remain operational, it wasn't a council grant or a corporate sponsor that came to the rescue. Instead, the Minnis Bay Masonic Lodge 8496 quietly provided the necessary funds. No banners, no speeches, just a practical act of generosity that could be the difference between life and death on an ordinary morning.

Café owner Lorrain Powderman summed it up succinctly: "That's great, thank you very much." This simple phrase captures the essence of community spirit. It's not always about grand gestures. Often, it's about neighbours noticing a need and quietly stepping in to fill the gap. Moments like these are what truly build and sustain communities.

Defibrillators are only effective if properly maintained, and their ability to save lives depends on timely help. Minnis Bay Masonic Lodge 8496 recognised the importance of keeping this vital equipment ready for use and took action.

While Wagtails Café offers a warm welcome and a good cup of coffee, the Lodge has helped ensure a safety net is always in place.

In a world where it's easy to dwell on what's wrong, here's a story of what's right: one café, one Lodge, one set of replacement pads, and potentially, one life saved. It's a reminder that quiet acts of kindness can have a profound impact, keeping hearts beating and communities strong.





THE BOARD OF
PROVINCIAL GRAND
STEWARDS INVITE YOU TO

A JAMES BOND THEMED

BALL

20TH JUNE 2026



FEATURING
INTERNATIONAL ARTIST

VANESSA HAYNES

WIN £2000

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VOUCHERS



ASHFORD INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

SIMONE WEILL AVENUE, ASHFORD, KENT, TN24 8UX

£65 PER PERSON

TO BOOK, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT

WWW.EASTKENTFREEMASONS.ORG/EVENTS

Email: bos2025bookings@gmail.com





The Province of East Kent has earned the Armed Forces Covenant Gold Award, the highest honour in the Ministry of Defence Recognition Scheme, for its outstanding support to the armed forces community.

The Province of East Kent assists not only serving personnel, but also veterans, families, and cadets, fostering a camaraderie akin to that within the forces themselves.

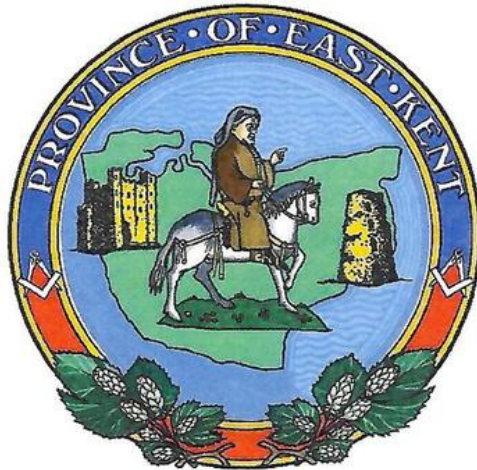
Freemasonry's core values of charity, respect, integrity, and friendship strongly mirror those of the Armed Forces. Many of our members are serving or former personnel, contributing to the province's vibrant and unique community.

The Armed Forces Covenant represents a national pledge to treat those who serve, or have served, cadets and their families with fairness and respect.



<https://eastkentfreemasons.org/armed-forces-covenant/>

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE & CHAPTER OF EAST KENT

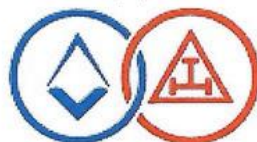


ACTIVE OFFICERS PROMOTIONS FIRST APPOINTMENTS

FRIDAY 17TH APRIL 2026

**THE CLIVE EMSON CONFERENCE CENTRE,
THE KENT SHOWGROUND,
DETLING,
MAIDSTONE,
KENT**

19/12/2022



**EAST KENT
FREEMASONS**



Provincial Honours

*Re-Appointment, **Promotion, ° Rule 69a,

Acting Provincial Grand Ranks 2026

Rank		Name	Chapter	No.
Scribe E	E Comp	Colin Paul Tunbridge*	St Michael's Chapter	1273
Scribe N	E Comp	Brian Charles Planner**	Chapter of Harmony	133
Treasurer	E Comp	John William Alfred Fox*	Gravesham	5337
Registrar	E Comp	Edwin Martin Adkins*	Corinthian Chapter	1208
Director of Ceremonies	E Comp	Paul Victor Pavitt*	United Service	3124
Sword Bearer	E Comp	Roger Charles Buhlman**	Military Jubilee	2195
Deputy Director of Ceremonies	E Comp	Gerry David Stupple*	Corinthian Chapter	1208
Deputy Director of Ceremonies	E Comp	Jeffrey George Tiley*	Alfred Wooton Chapter	127
Almoner	E Comp	Roy Edward Brooks**	Bearsted	6069
Charity Steward	E Comp	Michael Arthur Smith*	Ashford	8945
Membership Officer	E Comp	Robert Peter Broadbridge**	United Service	3124
Communications Officer	E Comp	Paul Eric Goodwin*	Invicta	709
Mentor	E Comp	Peter Bearman*	Beamish	3869
Learning & Development Officer	E Comp	James Robert Kitney**	St Augustine	972
Sojourner	E Comp	Stephen Martin Claringbold	St George's	2099
1 st Assistant Sojourner	E Comp	Paul Routly	Maeides Stana	7868
2 nd Assistant Sojourner	Comp	John Croasdell	Chapter of Sympathy	483
Assistant Scribe E	E Comp	Andrew John Berry*	Bertha	31
Standard Bearer	Comp	Derek Tompsett	Malling Abbey	1063
Standard Bearer	Comp	Kevin Frank Hill	Artifex	4555
Organist	E Comp	Christopher Anthony Humphreys*	Alfred Wooton Chapter	127
Assistant Director of Ceremonies	E Comp	Damien Charles Cahill	St George's	4387
Assistant Director of Ceremonies	E Comp	Mark Paul Lawson	St George Abadan	6058
Steward	E Comp	Neil Telfer Loxley*	Spinnaker	8395
Steward	E Comp	Milan Antonijevic*	Saint Augustine	972
Steward	E Comp	Philip John Broadbridge**	United Service	3124
Steward	E Comp	George Arthur Pybus	Bertha	31



Steward	E Comp	David Richard Grayling	Corinthian	1208
Steward	E Comp	James Richard Wright	Military Jubilee	2195
Steward	E Comp	Steven Guy Karl Spicer	Stanley Wykeham	6599
Janitor	E Comp	Ian Russell King**	Pharos	6967

Promotions 2026

Past Provincial Grand Scribe N			
E Comp	David Tudor Downes-Powell	Thanet	429
E Comp	Derek Reginald Gardner	White Ensign Gillingham	4180
Past Provincial Grand Registrar			
E Comp	Derek John Rogers	Thanet	429
E Comp	Robert Adamson	Granville	1096
Past Provincial Deputy Grand Registrar			
E Comp	James Alan Howard	Invicta	709
Past Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer			
E Comp	Rodney William Dempster	Granville	1096
E Comp	John Bevan	Bradstow	2448
Past Provincial Grand Sojourner			
E Comp	Andrew John Dive	Thanet	429
E Comp	Christopher John Longmire	Graystone	1915
E Comp	Robert Peter Broadbridge	United Service	3124
Past Provincial Assistant Grand Sojourner			
E Comp	Derek Reginald Chapman	White Ensign Gillingham	4180
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer			
E Comp	Warren Cooper	Belvidere	503
Comp	Robert John McLester	Wellington	784
E Comp	David Adrian Shallcross	Maeides Stana	7868

Appointments 2026

Past Provincial Assistant Grand Sojourner			
E Comp	Mark Stephen Kirby	Royal Kent Arch Chapter of Antiquity	20
E Comp	Danny Joseph Phillips	Royal Kent Arch Chapter of Antiquity	20
E Comp	Adrian Friend	Granville	1096
E Comp	Philip Maxwell Fisher	Minnis Bay	8496
E Comp	Howard King	Monckton	9236
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer			
E Comp	Benedict Katumba	Alfred Wootton	127
E Comp	Gary George Albert Sainsbury	Montreal	2046
Comp	Steven Spoor	United Service	3124
Past Provincial Assistant Director of Ceremonies			
E Comp	Thomas Conlin	Gundulph	1050
E Comp	Neil John William Head	Gundulph	1050



PROVINCIAL HONOURS

* Re-Appointment, ** Promotion, ° Rule 69a,

Acting Provincial Grand Ranks 2026

Senior Warden	W Bro	Stuart John Naylor	Watch and Ward	8809
Junior Warden	W Bro	Paul Frederick Gear	Lord Warden	1096
Chaplain	W Bro	Anthony Beal Eldridge**	United Industrious	31
Treasurer	W Bro	John William Alfred Fox*	Macartney	3283
Registrar	W Bro	Edwin Martin Adkins*	Dover Castle Lodge	7202
Secretary	W Bro	Colin Paul Tunbridge*	Saedingburna Lodge	6728
Director of Ceremonies	W Bro	Graham Robert Cuthbert*	Ashford	8945
Sword Bearer	W Bro	Robert John Humphrey**	Chillington Manor	4649
Superintendent of Works	W Bro	Jeremy Parkin Parkin*	Porta Sapientae Lodge	1854
Deputy Secretary		James Beaney**	Rochester	3494
Deputy Director of Ceremonies	W Bro	David Peter Martins*	Corinthian	1208
Deputy Director of Ceremonies	W Bro	James Robert Close*	Royal Navy	429
Almoner	W Bro	Roy Edward Brooks**	Fleur de Lis	8969
Charity Steward	W Bro	Colin Alan Barden*	Per Mare Per Terram	3609
Membership Officer	W Bro	Stephen William Wyatt*	Union	127
Communications Officer	W Bro	Paul Eric Goodwin	Ashford	L8945
Mentor	W Bro	George Paul O'Neill*	Allington	7086
Learning and Development Officer	W Bro	Howard Kevin Griffin*	Saint Augustine	972
Senior Deacon	W Bro	Philip John Broadbridge	Nore Command	9199
Senior Deacon	W Bro	Dennis Martin Harrild	Stanley Wykeham	6599
Senior Deacon	W Bro	Timothy Davies	Trinity	7021
Senior Deacon	W Bro	Steven Dawson	Queenborough	3893
Junior Deacon	W Bro	Wayne Mark Coveney	Hoo St Werburgh	4829
Junior Deacon	W Bro	Christopher John Crabb	Cinque Ports	1206
Junior Deacon	W Bro	Gary Leroy Marsh	Dover Castle	7202
Junior Deacon	W Bro	Dennis Martin Page	Trinity Mariners	8406
Assistant Chaplain	W Bro	Ian Blowers	Macartney	3283
Assistant Registrar	W Bro	Jeffrey Mark Knight*	Globe and Laurel	4657
Assistant Secretary	W Bro	Alfred Kevin Kemp**	Septem	7788
Assistant Director of Ceremonies	W Bro	Geoffrey David Slee	Malling Abbey	1063
Assistant Director of Ceremonies	W Bro	Dean Gary Volante	St Andrew's	3948
Assistant Director of Ceremonies	W Bro	Michael John Lamb	Saedingburna	6728



Assistant Director of Ceremonies	W Bro	Richard Robson	Wakefield of Hythe	6059
Assistant Superintendent of Works	W Bro	James Edward Stewart Reuther*	Ashford	8945
Organist	W Bro	Christopher Anthony Patrick Humphreys*	Union	127
Standard Bearer	W Bro	Kerry Shay Busbridge	Lodge of Sympathy	483
Standard Bearer	W Bro	Christopher Paul David Dickman	Portcullis	8268
Assistant Standard Bearer	W Bro	Trevor Keith Potter	Nore Command	9199
Pursuivant	W Bro	Andrew Martin Wells	Weald of Kent	1854
Steward	W Bro	Andrew John Berry*	United Industrious	31
Steward	W Bro	Nigel Leslie Mann*	Royal Navy	429
Steward	W Bro	Steven James Flower*	Saint Augustine	972
Steward	W Bro	Ian Malcolm Dent*	Honor Oak	1986
Steward	W Bro	David John Tumber*	Shorncliffe	4330
Steward	W Bro	James David Chenery*	Downs	6855
Steward	W Bro	Paul Frederick Akast	Valley of Elam	6649
Steward	W Bro	Wayne Chapman	Lodge of St Mark	6969
Steward	W Bro	David Alexander Clarke	Athelstan	4024
Steward	W Bro	James Robert Kitney	Stella Maris	7279
Steward	W Bro	Ivor Jon Winham	Downs	6855
Steward	W Bro	Craig Michael Stevens	Dickens	8047
Tyler	W Bro	Ian Russell King**	Pharos	6967

PROMOTIONS 2026

Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden			
W Bro	Richard Stewart Hunt	Paddock Wood	4291
W Bro	Ronald Alfred Edward Martin	Sir Joseph Williamson	4605
W Bro	David Thomas Reeves	St Mary's, Gillingham Green	6499
W Bro	Michael George Goodwin	Snar Gate	6770
W Bro	John Beeney	Cobham	7269
W Bro	Philip Courtland Lumley	Renham	8211
W Bro	Kenneth Reginald Dabson	Graveney Court	8637
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden			
W Bro	Roy Alfred Stickles	Adam's	158
W Bro	Paul Beck	Lodge of Sympathy	483
W Bro	Kenneth Charles Flanagan	United Service	3124
W Bro	Edward Anthony Stevenson-Rouse	Old Cranbrookian	6877
W Bro	Colin Bicker	Durobrivae	6956
W Bro	David John Merrick	Gillingham Lodge of Friendship	8453



Assistant Director of Ceremonies	W Bro	Richard Robson	Wakefield of Hythe	6059
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W Bro	Colin Bicker	Durobrivae	6956
W Bro	David John Merrick	Gillingham Lodge of Friendship	8453



W Bro	Terence Victor Mulqueen	Phoenix	9348
Past Provincial Grand Registrar			
W Bro	Anthony David Mills	Saint Augustine	972
W Bro	Alan Eames	Middleton Manor	6337
W Bro	Roger Frank Hamilton	Athelstan	4024
W Bro	Peter Jansen	Athelstan	4024
W Bro	Brian John Oben	Staplehurst	8145
W Bro	Steven Kenneth Weeks	Portcullis	8268
W Bro	Paul David Townsend	Fleur de Lis	8969
W Bro	Stephen Robert Fletcher	Monckton	9236
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer			
W Bro	Ian Frederick Birchall	Wellington	784
W Bro	George Arthur Pybus	Royal Military	1449
W Bro	Frederick Brown	Bradstow	2448
W Bro	Alan James Turner	King's Navy	2901
W Bro	Raymond Yates	St Lawrence	3350
W Bro	Trevor Foster	Athelstan	4024
W Bro	John Croasdell	Chantry	6454
W Bro	James Adrian Fry	Old Cranbrookian	6877
Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works			
W Bro	Derek James Semple	Prince Edwin's	125
W Bro	Eric William Gee	Corinthian	1208
W Bro	Michael Ronald Penn	Lewises'	1209
W Bro	Bernard Adrian Connolly	Brownrigg Lodge of Unity	1424
W Bro	Michael John Lay	Castle	1436
W Bro	Peter Thomas Laker	Royal Military	1449
W Bro	Leslie Edward Tasker	Robinson	2046
W Bro	William George Ware	St Peter's	4193
W Bro	Anthony John Waspe	St Peter's	4193
W Bro	Keith Alan Corder	Agricola	4501
W Bro	William John Hollands	All Saints	5383
W Bro	Robert Gerald Thorne	Middleton Manor	6337
W Bro	Anthony Lay	Swakely	6634
W Bro	Roger Harold Wilkinson	Durobrivae	6956
W Bro	Brian Louis Baker	Stella Maris	7279
W Bro	Keith Michael Dalton	Maeides Stana	7868
W Bro	Patrick Langdown	Dane John	8810
W Bro	Roy Allan White	Rochester Castle	9260
Past Provincial Deputy Grand Registrar			
W Bro	Brian Reay	De Shurland	1089
W Bro	Ian MacKenzie	Cinque Ports	1206
W Bro	David John Norris	Brownrigg Lodge of Unity	1424



W Bro	Ian Stuart Millar	Erasmus Wilson	1464
W Bro	Christopher Ernest Darby	St John's Thanet	2753
W Bro	Clive Anthony Liley	Northfleet	4149
W Bro	Norman Godding	St Peter's	4193
W Bro	Stephen Gary Pennington	Manor of Chatham	4688
W Bro	Mark Smith	South Kent	4303
W Bro	John Hammond	Duke of Kent	5818
W Bro	Alan Norman Newton	Middleton Manor	6337
W Bro	Tony Russell Craig	Isle of Sheppey	6769
W Bro	Robert Hugh Walker	Durobrivae	6956
W Bro	Kenneth Raymond James Mayhew	Durobrivae	6956
W Bro	Antony John Youell	Lodge St George Bahrain	7389
W Bro	Brian Twitch Taylor	Malling Centenary	8068
W Bro	Anthony Vernon Kent	Gore Court	8231
W Bro	John Derek Turner	Trinity Mariners	8406
W Bro	George David Baldwin	Graveney Court	8637
W Bro	Peter Hargreaves	Hundred of Hoo	8986
W Bro	Paul Anthony Moore	Emergency Services	9676
Past Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer			
W Bro	Danny Joseph Phillips	Royal Kent Lodge of Antiquity	20
W Bro	Michael Paul Rutherford	Foreland	3209
W Bro	Mark Andrew Pullen	Rochester	3494
W Bro	Paul Stephen Jeffcoat	Reculvers	4123
W Bro	Gary Brian Adams	Sir Joseph Williamson	4605
W Bro	Jamie Stewart	All Saints	5383
W Bro	James Robert Barnes-Farnham	Lodge de Wydemere	6282
W Bro	Raymond William Le Monde	Middleton Manor	6337
W Bro	Brian Frederick Austin	Swakely	6634
W Bro	James Alan Howard	Lodge of St Mark	6969
W Bro	Gary Lloyd Darke	Maeides Stana	7868
W Bro	Keith Raymond Butcher	Fleur de Lis	8969
W Bro	Roland Alfred Collins	Fleur de Lis	8969
W Bro	Trevor Percy Macey	Chestfield	9058
Past Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works			
W Bro	Keith Arthur Foxwell	Lodge of Freedom	77
W Bro	Simon Rouse	Brownrigg Lodge of Unity	1424
W Bro	Stuart Barry Wilde	Robinson	2046
W Bro	John Edward Mansfield	Queenborough	3893
W Bro	Barry James Turner	Porta Maris	4287
W Bro	Paul Henderson	Chillington Manor	4649
W Bro	Russell Andrew Price	Fraternitas	6046
W Bro	Andrew David Gurr	Garden of England	6583



W Bro	Keith Michael Beavers	Lodge of St Mark	6969
W Bro	Jeffrey Robert Morgan	Trinity	7021
W Bro	Colin North	Septem	7788
W Bro	Robert William Child	Christopher Marlowe	8014
W Bro	Peter Derek Lapage	Christopher Marlowe	8014
W Bro	Martin Fredrick David Selway	Gillingham Lodge of Friendship	8453
W Bro	Steven Michael Roberts	Fiat Lux	8893
W Bro	Peter Brown	Sharpers Hall	9196
W Bro	Simon Mark Johnson	Porta Sapientiae	9429
Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon			
W Bro	Roger Gabriel	United Industrious	31
W Bro	Paul James Bennett	Lodge of Sympathy	483
W Bro	Phillip John Ansell	Cinque Ports	1206
W Bro	Edward Sidney Wright	Corinthian	1208
W Bro	Stuart John Day	Bradstow	2448
W Bro	Graham Robin Doughty	Royal Engineers Chatham	4465
W Bro	John Michael Gallagher	Kingsgate	4882
W Bro	Barry Hopkins	Duke of Kent	5818
W Bro	Paul Frederick McKenzie	Duke of Kent	5818
W Bro	Neil Robert Goldsack	Stella Maris	7279
W Bro	Christopher Edward John Randall	Maeides Stana	7868
W Bro	Peter Lloyd	Graveney Court	8637
W Bro	Julian Paul Campbell	Hundred of Hoo	8986
Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon			
W Bro	Ray George Pople	Kingsgate	4882
W Bro	Craig James John McCann	Portcullis	8268
W Bro	Richard John Anderson	Minnis Bay	8496
Past Provincial Assistant Grand Registrar			
W Bro	Barry David Rogers	Manor of Chatham	4688
W Bro	Barry Edward Wiles	Middleton Manor	6337
W Bro	Simon Andrew Fosse	Emergency Services	9676

FIRST APPOINTMENTS 2026

Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon			
W Bro	Robert Nicholas West	Macartney	3283
W Bro	Colin John Charles Reece	Peace and Unity	4101
W Bro	Christopher Kenneth Bedding	Porta Maris	4287
W Bro	Guy James Penryn Coggles	Paddock Wood	4291
W Bro	Gavin Crickett	Paddock Wood	4291
W Bro	Rodney Carl Britton	Wakefield of Hythe	6059
W Bro	Christopher Child	Middleton Manor	6337



W Bro	Matthew Peter Reeves	St Mary's, Gillingham Green	6499
W Bro	Lee Robert Piller	Watch and Ward	8809
W Bro	Neville Fourie	Nore Command	9199
Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon			
W Bro	John Bernard Snoad	Lodge of Peace and Harmony	199
W Bro	John Saunders	Lord Warden	1096
W Bro	Robin Springett	Chillington Manor	4649
W Bro	Reinhard Martin Stille	Chillington Manor	4649
W Bro	Colin John George Dutton	Chantry	6454
W Bro	Kenneth Charles Turner	Chantry	6454
W Bro	Gary Hill	Old Cranbrookian	6877
W Bro	John Christopher David Hall	Allington	7086
W Bro	Alexander Thomas Coppin	Septem	7788
W Bro	David Arthur Dixon	Bredenstone	8093
W Bro	Geoffrey Patrick Molloy	Fleur de Lis	8969
W Bro	Adrian Geoffrey Smith	Lodge of Rectitude and Harmony	9093
W Bro	Brett Potter	Porta Sapientiae	9429
Past Provincial Assistant Grand Registrar			
W Bro	Ian Alexander Gilmour	United Industrious	31
W Bro	Melvyn Penney	Belvidere	503
W Bro	Robert John Dockwray	Gundulph	1050
W Bro	Liam Sean Lawlor	Malling Abbey	1063
W Bro	Adrian Nicholas Tear	Pentangle	1174
W Bro	Martin Granville Jones	Military Jubilee	2195
W Bro	James Peters Kerr	Kingsgate	4882
W Bro	Jason Leon Liddiard	All Saints	5383
W Bro	Stephen Michael Wallace	Valley of Elham	6649
W Bro	Michael John Szomszor	Isle of Sheppey	6769
W Bro	Patrick John Butler	Durobrivae	6956
W Bro	Douglas William Seal	Fiat Lux	8893
W Bro	Harry Stephen Beaney	Hawkhurst St. Laurence	9690
Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies			
Bro	John Hobbs	Invicta of Ashford	709
W Bro	Malcolm John Gibbons	Wellington	784
W Bro	Ioan Robertto Papara	Saint Augustine	972
W Bro	Alex William Marsh	Royal Military	1449
Bro	John Dennis Cook	St Lawrence	3350
Bro	Adrian Terence Ervine	South Kent	4303
W Bro	Zal Pesi Virjee	Duke of Kent	5818



Bro	Stanley Thomas Larkins	Dover Castle	7202
W Bro	Adrian John Kibble	Christopher Marlowe	8014
Bro	Robert Louis Arthur	Minnis Bay	8496
W Bro	Gary Nigel Hann	Sharpers Hall	9196
Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer			
W Bro	Alistair Ian Herbert	Lodge of Peace and Harmony	199
W Bro	John Joseph Regan	Stour	2305
W Bro	Peter Thomas Duffy	Bradstow	2448
W Bro	Roy William Leaney	Per Mar Per Terram	3609
W Bro	Malcolm Graham	Agricola	4501
W Bro	Roland Andrew Beaumont	Lodge de Wydemere	6282
W Bro	John Watt Taylor	Stella Maris	7279
W Bro	Christopher Maurice Tooth	Septem	7788
W Bro	Trevor Edwin Parker	Portcullis	8268
Past Provincial Assistant Grand Standard Bearer			
Bro	Bryan Alexander	Durobrivae	6956



EAST KENT
FREEMASONS

EVENSONG AT CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Sunday 26th July at 5:30pm

**Bring your friends and family along to Choral
Evensong at the beautiful Canterbury Cathedral**

Book online <https://eastkentfreemasons.org/events/evensong/>



the provincial lite

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