



SURREY FREEMASON

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR THE CRAFT AND ROYAL ARCH PROVINCE OF SURREY WITH NEWS ON THE MARK DEGREE



Meet the New ProvGM/GSupt See page 16

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The next edition of this magazine will appear in Autumn 2024.
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14 September 2024

Brethren and Companions, may I wish you all a very warm welcome to this edition of the magazine and my first edition as your new Provincial Grand Master.

Since February, as you can imagine, it has been a rollercoaster ride as I begin my duties in this new role.

My first Official Visit was to my Mother Lodge (Burstow). It was a fantastic experience to be attending my own Lodge as Provincial Grand Master!

Another one of my first Official Visits was to Royal Borough of Kingston Lodge No. 4614. Not only did Royal Borough of Kingston Lodge celebrate its 100th anniversary on Monday 8th



The ProvGM at Burstow Lodge with his son, Morgan (right), and Father-in-Law, David (left)

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A welcome message from Nick Burger

Provincial Grand Master /
Most Excellent Grand
Superintendent

"...I wish you all a very warm welcome..."



April, but also Initiated its 200th Candidate. The Lodge was originally consecrated on Monday 7th April 1924, and at the time of the Consecration, the R.W. Bro HRH The Prince of Wales, distinguished the Province of Surrey as the Provincial Grand Master, so it was an honour to be the representative of Surrey at its 100th celebration.

On the 26th June this year, we have our annual Provincial Grand Meeting where I am looking forward to carrying out my first set of appointments and promotions within the Province. I hope to see as many of you as possible in the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall, and I also hope you can join us at the festive board afterwards.

I look forward to seeing you all around the Province as I engage more with my new role.

Nick J Burger

EDITORIAL

As ever, we have been swamped with submissions for this edition of the magazine and have had to make some difficult choices about which articles to include. I hope you find our choices diverse and informative.

I think it goes without saying, that as we now have a new Provincial Grand Master (Nick Burger), it was right and proper to include a feature on him. Colin Pizey was able to conduct an informal interview, over a cup of coffee and slice of cake, in order to help introduce our new head of Surrey Freemasonry to you all. I think you'll find this an interesting read as Nick has some great stories and views which he shares. The interview can be found in the centre pages.

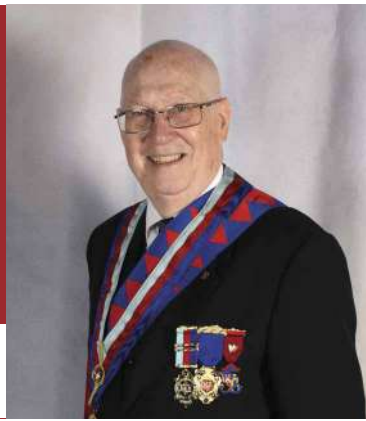
There has also been some fantastic work done by our members around the Province, and the stories shared in this edition of the magazine serve only to highlight a few aspects of what Surrey Freemasons are doing in the community.

Read on, learn more and continue to enjoy your Freemasonry.

Dom Palmer

News of the Royal Arch by Kevin Todd MBE Deputy Grand Superintendent

"...we have entered into a new milestone in the history of the Province..."



Companions, we have entered into a new milestone in the history of the Province for we now have a new Most Excellent Grand Superintendent - E Comp Nicholas John Burger - and I trust that you will all welcome and support him in his tenure. His Investiture as both Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent on Monday 5th of February at Freemasons' Hall in London was a truly memorable occasion – and I feel sure that many of you were there to witness the two separate ceremonies and support him.

The meeting was, however, tinged with sadness in that we were without E. Comp Stephen (Steve) Wigmore - the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal - who had suddenly and unexpectedly died on Wednesday 17th of January. Because the position of 3rd Provincial Grand Principal cannot remain vacant, a replacement had to be found in time for the Investiture meeting. Fortunately for the Province, E. Comp Richard Wileman, Past 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, agreed to undertake this role despite being extremely busy in other Orders. He will remain in this position until the Annual Meeting in June when a new 3rd Provincial Grand Principal is to be Invested.

As you have seen for some time now there is a new mantra coming down from the Rulers, that of "One Journey, One Organisation", confirming that belonging to the Royal Arch is seen as the next natural step in Freemasonry. There is also a small booklet entitled, "The Royal Arch, Discover More, Continue the Journey", which is available to be given to new Master Masons - but is also accessible to all at: <https://members.surreyfreemasons.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/discover-more-booklet.pdf>

As I stated in my previous report, there is to be an official launch in the Province of "Archway" within the next few months. This is a tool kit of information and suggestions for encouraging membership of the Royal Arch and has been produced from Supreme Grand Chapter. Please take time to view this at <https://b.ugle.org.uk/membership/archway>

It has also been decided that the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master will personally appoint the Royal Arch Representatives in all of our Craft Lodges. After these appointments have been confirmed there will be seminars organised to inform those who have been appointed as to their

expected roles - so that we can fully utilise Archway to our benefit.

As I continue to visit Chapters throughout the Province, I am continually heartened by the enthusiasm I encounter from many Companions. It is also very encouraging to hear about, as well as witness, Exaltations being carried out in various Chapters.

Companions, once we have embraced these new initiatives it is truly hoped that they have the intended effect of increasing our membership - thereby ensuring that we can look forward to enjoying this wonderful Order for very many years to come.



E. Comp Steve Wigmore (right) enjoying his Freemasonry



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Stephen Wigmore

Steve (as he liked to be called) was born in the East End of London on the 6th of October 1954 in Edgware Hospital in Leytonstone. Born to Phyllis May and Colin Murray Wigmore, he had a younger brother, Michael, who now lives in South Africa.

He attended Skinners School in Tunbridge Wells which is attached to the distinguished London Livery Company of the same name, who, in the Middle Ages, regulated London's fur trade.

Leaving school he joined the Royal Navy and attended the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth to undergo Officer training, and he qualified to become a member of the Royal Institute of Navigation.

After leaving the Royal Navy he took up a civilian career in export sales and marketing in the Marine and Defence Industry for over 20 years enabling him to visit America, Africa, Asia and the United Arab Emirates as part of his job.



After two years as an independent consultant he decided that he need a complete career change and so he set himself up as a painter and decorator and a general handyman – a profession which he really enjoyed for the next fifteen years.

He married Paula in 1992 at Sutton Registry Office with their daughter Alison arriving on the 9th of January 2000 - and Steve became a loving and caring father.

In 2018 Alison bought Steve a crazy boxer dog called Lulu - who became his new best friend - and which he absolutely adored.

He enjoyed gardening, DIY and all forms of music and he also truly loved motor sports and team sports - especially rugby and cricket. He was quite knowledgeable about 20th Century Naval History and kept up to date with current affairs.

However, his greatest passion was that as a Freemason. He



was initiated into Cheam Village Lodge No 6394 on 14th December 1983 achieving the rank of PPGReg in 2019. He was Exalted into Cheyham Chapter No 5401 on the 8th of September 1988 and received the Grand Rank of PAGDC in 2010 and promoted to PGStB in 2017. Appointed as an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals in 2016 he was then appointed to 3rd Provincial Grand Principal in 2019. On his death he was still a subscribing member of 5 Craft Lodges and 3 Royal Arch Chapters as well as being an honorary member of 6 other Chapters. He was also in the Mark, RAM and RASM Degrees. He joined the Mark in 1993 in Lingfield and was Worshipful Master in 2003. He was Elevated in Lingfield RAM in 1995. He Founded Ditton Mark in 2005 and was their Treasurer up until his death. Promoted in Mark Provincial Grand Lodge to Past Provincial Grand Junior Overseer and Appointed to RAM Provincial Grand Rank in 2015. Steve Joined Royal and Select Masters in 2016 in Pride of Surrey Council and was in the chair in 2022.

Considered by some to be somewhat stubborn and outspoken he always had everyone's best interest at heart and would always help where it was required.

He and Paula separated in 2011 and Alison continued living with her Dad and they had a special and close bond.

Steve underwent open heart surgery in March of last year, but his death on Wednesday 17th of January was an unexpected shock.

His funeral took place on Wednesday 28th of April at North East Surrey Crematorium, Morden and, understandably, the Crematorium was packed out by many Freemasons who attended in order to pay homage to a truly sincere man who was the epitome of a Freemason as he "lived respected and died regretted". He will be sorely missed.





Charity Stewards help launch new Air Ambulance Charity Kent, Surrey, Sussex Appeal

WB Steve Norris and E Comp Simon Crust, Provincial Charity Stewards, met with representatives of the Kent, Surrey, and Sussex Air Ambulance executives, along with a number of other organisations, in a special invite from the charity to discuss an exciting proposal in mid-March.

The charity has been presented with a once in a lifetime special opportunity to purchase the helicopter it uses for its lifesaving missions throughout the counties. There was a short presentation by Chief Executive David Welch, who spoke about the charity, and what its aims are with this new venture. A member of the medical team then took to the podium extolling the virtues of speed and how the helicopters contribute to their service, before handing over to the wife of a former patient, and two other former patients who took the stage to talk about the difference KSS made to them and their family with their life saving intervention in what were very emotional stories; and finally a presentation on how good the helicopters actually are, and how the new future proofing techniques being developed allow the service to operate in any weathers using GPS navigation and autopilot.

The pair then had the chance to see the helicopters up close and personal, the equipment they carry, and how they make such a difference to the charity, with members of the KSS team, including pilots, all of whom said how integral the helicopters are, and especially the model they fly. While there, an emergency call came in and everyone was privileged to see the helicopter leave for a mission.

The Charity was the recipient of 6 new inflight helmets from Surrey Masons, as it was one of the Most Excellent Grand

Superintendent's Chosen Charities for 2021. The helmets are still in use and remain the go to kit for the ambulance crew.

It was decided that the opportunity to buy the helicopter for the charity was too good an opportunity to miss. Whilst the charity needs one million pounds to secure it, Surrey Freemasons have helped with a donation of £2000, which was gratefully received and was put to immediate use. As a token of thanks 'Surrey Freemasons' will be listed by name on the helicopter itself.

Simon Crust & Steve Norris



Official Visitor – Friend, foe, or fan?

Before I answer the question posed, I wanted to find a definition of an Official Visitor, I found the following:

‘The role of an Official Visitor (OV) in Freemasonry is to facilitate effective two-way communication between the members of a Lodge and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey. The key functions of an OV include promoting Provincial policies and events, supporting the health of the Lodge, guiding the Lodge in recruitment retention, and retrieval. OVs are expected to act as communicators, friends, mentors, and to provide that tangible link between the Provincial Executive and the Lodge’. (surreyfreemason.org.uk)

What does this mean? I am going to try and explain. At the Annual Provincial Meeting held in Great Queen Street in June, I was one of a handful of Brethren to be appointed as a new Official Visitor. This was a role that I was excited to take up and fulfil to the best of my abilities.

However, like many when I have been in Lodge meetings, I have seen this ‘mysterious’ individual attend meetings, get saluted, sit right beside the Worshipful Master, and then speak at the Festive Board. When I was going through my three degrees, I did wonder who they were, and I think many probably still do!

One thing I wanted to confirm was whether I was an ‘Official Visitor’ or a ‘Visiting Officer?’ I have seen both terms used and wanted to clarify the confusion. Many see the two terms as interchangeable but in Surrey, we use the title of Official Visitor.

Now that I have the name and title confirmed, I wanted to see what the role entailed. I attended training and briefing sessions with my fellow OVs. Many had been OVs for several years so I had a font of knowledge to tap into. The training and the role showed what an important role an OV has to the lodges that they are allocated, the brethren of those lodges and to the Province.

Each OV is allocated two or three Lodges, I have been allocated two great Lodges, Elmbridge Lodge No. 5838, and Noel Surrey Motorcycle Lodge No. 2444.

One of the roles of an OV is to be the representative of the Provincial Grand Master (ProvGM). This is a very key role, but it can also suggest a more of a keeping ‘an eye out’ or ‘spy’ role. I quickly found out this is not the case. Yes, OVs are representative of the ProvGM but this is a positive role to create a two-way relationship between the Province and Lodge and for sharing of information and news. Until cloning is perfected, our ProvGM cannot attend multiple meetings or be at different parts of Surrey



therefore an OV can be that ‘representative’. One of the other hats that I wear is that I am part of the Surrey Provincial Comms Team where our role is to disseminate provincial news, updates, information on events, what is happening in Surrey to name a few via Surrey Risings, social media, or magazine. An OV is another communication channel between Province and Lodges.

In my short time as an OV, the only ‘keeping an eye’ element of our role is to see how the Lodge is in terms number, what is the health of the Lodge and how can we help if numbers are declining (and share with others when numbers are increasing), spot talent within the Lodge – who are the future stars, who could be a Provincial Officer, who is doing the work in Lodges and how can they be recognised. I see this as a positive aspect of the role. It is about being a sounding board, helping when help is needed or requested, support the Lodge by helping it grow and making the brethren feel part of the Province by sharing of information. To put in another way, be a friend of the Lodge.

The final part of the question is being a ‘fan’. I can assure you that this is true. Since my appointment, I tell everyone which Lodges I have been allocated and I probably speak as much about Elmbridge and Noel Surrey Motorcycle Lodge as I do my mother lodge of Royal Borough of Kingston No.4614. I am looking out for summons, any information on events, what is happening in the lodges, and I have the dates of their meetings in my dairy.

When I had my first ‘unofficial visit’ to Noel Surrey Motorcycle Lodge (I wanted to get to know brethren and they to know who I was before I did my official visit), the welcome I had from the brethren and Lodge could not have been better or more friendly. It put me at ease and made me realise that I wanted to form a long-term relationship and friendship with my Lodges and help as much as I can.

I have a lot more to learn but with the support of my fellow OVs and my Lodges who I am their OV, I look forward to a lot of fun times ahead.

In summary OV’s are not foes, they are friends and fans!

Mocky Khan
Official Visitor, Friend and Fan





The Royal Arch in 1750

In January this year, the Surrey Provincial Grand Stewards' Chapter (No. 8297) held its 99th Regular Convocation, at Glenmore House in Surbiton, where they hosted a demonstration of Arch Lodge ritual as it would have been performed in 1750.

This was written by Michael Karn and performed by the Middlesex Provincial Stewards' Chapter Demonstration Team.

The subject was previously researched, and the first printed version of the Royal Arch ritual found, whilst further research then indicated how the ritual would have been presented in 1750, when it was still part of the Craft and a 'Fourth Degree'.

Mike brought these research threads together and added a touch of writer's licence, thus creating a script for the

demonstration, with the intention of it being relatively authentic, but also entertaining and enjoyable for both the audience and the players.

Because, in those days, many meetings were held in taverns, in the name of authenticity, much ale and drinking were also included...

Costumes were obtained and the show hit the road, where they ultimately found their way to the Surrey Provincial Grand Stewards' Chapter.

It was a fun and informative meeting, with the joviality continuing long afterwards at the festive board.

Photos and report: Colin Pizey



Demonstration team take the chairs



The festive board - still in costume!



Report from the Provincial Grand Charity Stewards for Craft and Royal Arch



Surrey Freemasons Reach Charity Target in Record Time

During the combined Annual Convocation and Annual Meeting in June 2023, the Provincial Grand Master / Most

Excellent Grand Superintendent Ian Chandler announced that his chosen charities for the year were to be Crimestoppers, The Mary Frances' Trust and The Orpheus Centre, with each having their own specific projects that needed assistance from Surrey Masons. It was an ambitious total of £20000 for all three appeals, but as the announcement was also made that the ProvGM would be stepping down that year, it seems that our fraternity took it to heart and wanted to see him off in good stead.



Unlike previous years, when the Chosen Charities were led somewhat exclusively by The Holy Royal Arch, this year to match with the closer collaboration with the Craft, the appeals were launched to both Chapters and Lodges to contribute to, under the banner of the Surrey Freemasons, which is after all who we all are.

This new approach was met with great relish by our members, and the donations started to come in almost immediately, indeed the Crimestoppers appeal was the benefit of a donation even before the official launch date!

Crimestoppers. Speak up. Stay safe.

And it is with great thanks that we can announce that all the appeals have met their respective targets, and did so in record time, which delighted not only the outgoing Provincial Grand Master, but also the Charity Service team, who were bowled over by the generosity shown by the Brethren and Companions.

Of this result Ian Chandler said, "What an achievement! It is so gratifying that everyone has supported my final set of charities. May I also express my profound thanks to all those Chapters, Lodges and individual members for the support with all my Chosen Charities over the years. Together we have really made a difference to our community".



There have been a large number of charity visits already this year, not only to those charities that have been supported throughout the year, but to others that we have supported in the past. These visits allow a two-way conversation on how we as an organisation may best support our community through the charitable work. There are often 'hidden costs' involved with the charities that we can help with as our membership is so wide and varied. It was through one such visit to I Choose Freedom that a call for a decorating team went out to help with a revamp needed in one of their refuges, which was answered and completed in very good time.

The Theatre Club has chosen Tina the Musical this year, and it represents phenomenal value compared to face value ticket pricing, all the while allowing for charitable donations to take place. Places are limited, so please get in quick if you wish to join in.



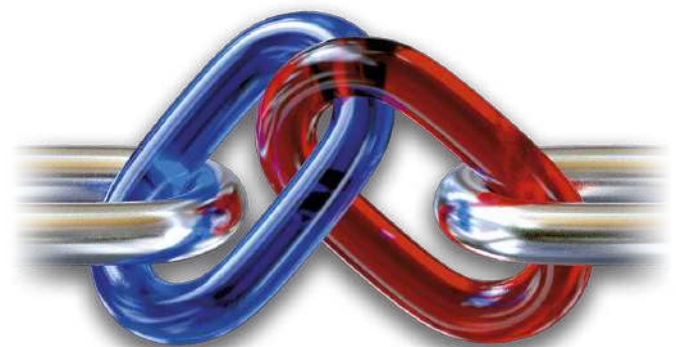
Both new and second-hand regalia is available through the Charity Service Team, with all funds going straight back in the pot for donations to worthy causes. This includes a new car sticker that has a QR code promoting Surrey Masonry and it is hoped that it will bring in new members as well as help out our Province.

The 500 Club continues to surprise winners with its bi-annual draws of £1000, £500, £250, £100, and £50; if you want a chance to win, please join up – it's just £15 a year with everything going back to charitable causes.

The date has been set for the Gala Dinner, 30 November, at an all-new venue, The Old Thornes in Liphook – this year is expected to be a sellout, even with the larger capacity. Do please get in quick once the tickets are released.

And with the 2030 Festival on the horizon, look out for even more special events to get involved with to help the Province and the charitable aspects of Masonry.

Simon Crust & Steve Norris





Report from the Provincial Grand Almoners for Craft and Royal Arch



NEWS - PSA Blood Testing

This year, once again, Province has launched PSA Blood Testing at centres across the Province of Surrey.

Prostate cancer mainly affects men over 50, and your risk increases as you get older. The most common age for men to be diagnosed is between 70 and 74 years. If you are under 50, your risk is very low, but it is still possible to test positive. One in eight men will suffer with prostate cancer in their lifetime, and in black men this increases to one in four.

We are very keen to encourage our members to participate in this initiative who are aged between 40 and 90, who are not currently being tested by their doctor. The Initiative is also open to non-Masonic friends and family. Testing will run each year so you can check your PSA levels and compare to previous year's results. You will need to be tested first to find your initial level. In 2024 we will be expanding the venues to five Masonic Halls on the following dates:

Croydon	Saturday 8th June	10 - 1.30
Sutton	Saturday 5th October	10 - 1.30

To book an appointment, please scan the QR code or visit the bookings page: <https://pgls.mypsatests.org.uk/>

Password: masons24

The subsidised cost of the test is £10.00 and normally only takes ten to fifteen minutes with the results normally returned the next day.

Testing has been kindly sponsored by the Provincial Petitions Committee and Chessington Lodge No.6076 to reduce the cost to encourage members to sign up.



GETTING HELP

Provincial Petitions Committee (PPC)

The purpose of the PPC is to provide short term urgent financial support to Surrey members, lodge widows and their families at a time of distress. If you need help, please contact your Almoner or Barry Gray for more information.

Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF)

Help is available directly from the MCF.

The MCF contact details are as follows:

Enquiries Line: 0800 035 60 90

Email: help@mcf.org.uk

Website: www.mcf.org.uk



TRAINING – New Almoners' Induction Course

Last year we rolled out our New Almoners' Induction Course which has been very popular. We have published dates for the course up to next summer both online and face to face.

Duration: The course comprises of one session which will last approximately 90 minutes.

Objective: To provide Lodge and Chapter Almoners with the necessary knowledge to achieve a good understanding of the structure of Welfare in Surrey, their role within their Lodge or

Chapter and an introduction to the Masonic Charitable Foundation

The training is primarily designed for newly appointed Almoners and those due to be invested in both the Craft and Royal Arch. The invitation is open to any Almoner or indeed any Brother who has an interest in Welfare and wishes to refresh or update their knowledge. Contact Andy Richards for further information.

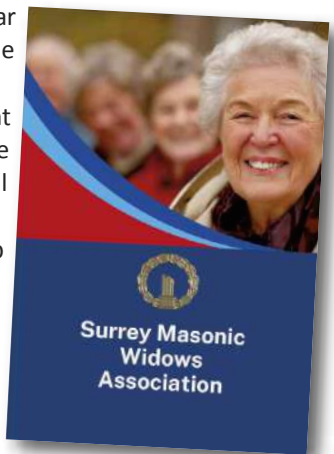
PROVINCIAL WIDOWS' ASSOCIATION

In Surrey we are fortunate to have a Widows' Association with six branches spread across the county. Membership is open to the widow of any Freemason who wishes to join one of the branches. Most branches meet bi-monthly on an informal basis at a Masonic Centre where a guest speaker is invited to attend and is then followed by a meal. Regular outings are also arranged during the year to places of interest.

If your lodge has a widow who might consider joining speak to Tony de Boeck or email SMWA@surreymason.org.uk

We now have new flyers to help promote the Association.

The Sutton Branch are holding an open event for Almoners and Widows to attend the Sutton Masonic Hall on Tuesday 11th June. There will be coffee served from 11am. Then a talk from a speaker about a life in magic followed by a buffet lunch. We will send out further details, but if this sounds interesting, please get in touch.



FRIENDS ASSOCIATIONS

The Friends of James Terry Court

The committee are looking for volunteers to join the committee and give an evening a month and take part in events to raise money for the charity. All that is required is a little time and enthusiasm. If this sounds like something you would enjoy, please contact Wayne Tibbs on 07816060304 or wayneuk44@aol.com The website for the Friends is <https://www.jamesterrycourt.org.uk/>

The Association of Friends of Shannon Court

The committee at Shannon Court also holds various events and all the details can be found on their website which they regularly update. <https://fosc.org.uk/>

WELFARE TEAM CONTACT DETAILS

Please contact your Lodge or Chapter Almoner for any help or support. Below are the contact details of the Provincial Grand Almoners should you need further help or support.

John Mudge (Craft)

ProvGalm@surreymason.org.uk

07774 617943

Des O'Hara(RA)

jd.ohara@btinternet.com

07766 546328



Old Strodians donate to White Lodge

The outstanding contribution of £11,587 was donated by Old Strodian's Lodge to the White Lodge Chertsey, thanks to Bob Griffiths, Marlene Burton and the members of Old Strodians' 7803. It was a wonderful surprise for the White Lodge to receive a huge donation due to the hard work of Bob Griffiths, his friends, family and the members of Old Strodians' 7803 working with Marlene Burton, who has been a fantastic supporter of the White Lodge over the last 2 to 3 years.

The White Lodge provides services that enable those with a range of disabilities, their families and carers to lead fulfilling lives.

Their services and support operate from three buildings; Pathways (Childrens Services and Hydrotherapy), Treetops (Short Breaks Centre) and Rendezvous (Adult Centre and Cafe). There are surrounding grounds for all to enjoy and adequate parking.

Their vision is, "a world which is inclusive to all, regardless of ability."

They currently support over 2,500 individuals across Surrey and beyond, through a diverse range of services for all ages and abilities.

They are based on a wonderful two acre site in Chertsey, in three specialist buildings with great facilities and services for all ages, including: physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, a specialist nursery, hydrotherapy, holiday clubs, personal support in the home, short breaks (respite), fitness and rehabilitation and many activities such as trips out, art, baking, swimming, and much more.

Through individual assessments, the team of highly experienced staff enable those with disabilities to reach their potential through tailored programmes.

It costs over £2.5 million a year and the costs are not fully met by statutory funding, so they rely on voluntary donations to maintain vital services. There are many ways to get involved in helping their work, including volunteering and fundraising or through community groups, schools and local businesses that can partner with them through a range of schemes and opportunities.





The White Lodge services have this year been incredibly busy with an increasing demand for support during a time when statutory funding has been cut and costs have been rising. Therefore, the reliance on charitable support is greater than ever. Fundraising really will make a huge difference to the work they deliver.

Bob Griffiths, Dan Williamson AProvGM and Nick Dyer, Deputy Chairman of Surrey TLC, all members of Old Strodians' 7803, had the huge pleasure of attending the White Lodge to present them with the donation and had a fantastic tour of the facilities and saw the amazing work that is carried out there.

Dan Williamson AProvGM even lent his collar to Joe, a member of the White Lodge community, that has been benefitting from the amazing services they offer for all of his life.

From the white lodge...

"It was lovely to meet you all today and I thought Dan would like the picture of him and Joe! Think that made Joe's day! Please could you kindly pass it on to him."

Thank you so much for the generous donation – this is so very much appreciated and it was good that you could have a tour today so it enabled you to see for yourselves how the generosity of organisations such as the Masons help to make things happen here. We are delighted that you met John Martin, one of our Ambassadors, and I know John would be happy to give a talk should you wish him to do so.

Thank you also for the gift of the Teddy Bears – how lovely that you were able to hand them over to some of the children and you saw how happy they were to receive them."

Nick Dyer





TLC Update



Well just when you think something is on the slow burner it explodes!

The uptake on TLC Patronage has been nothing short of outstanding and a big thank you to all those lodges and chapters that have pledged or already signed up, we now have nearly 100 lodges, Chapters and MMM lodges signed up or pledged till they can vote. Nick, Barry and myself are trying to get round to every unit that signs up which now takes our total up to over 150 lodges and chapters visited in the last two years and it feels like it!!! It is the support and warmth from the Lodges and Chapters we visit that keeps us going.



A big thank you to my 7 guys who deliver the bears 52 weeks of the year. Also, Dean Stewart for all his hard work on the website and Facebook page; and lastly, David Marshall our treasurer.

If your lodge has not signed up and would like to please contact me on number or email below.

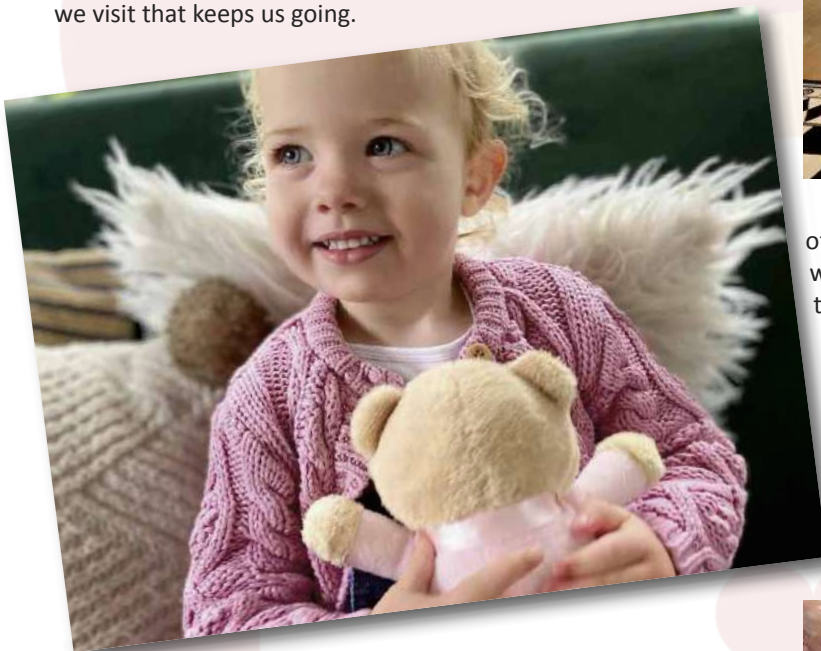
Kind Regards

Steve Butwell

Chairman: Teddies For loving Care Surrey (TLC)

TEL: 07919406668

Email: chairman@tlcappealsurrey.org.uk



We also now have over 800 members signed up to regular giving. One quick thing, some members have seen their TLC direct debit going out to the Grand Charity. This is correct, it is a ring-fenced account for Surrey TLC, so please don't cancel your DD if you see Grand Charity. If unsure contact me.

TLC itself is still going strong with over 14,000 bears being delivered to sick and injured children this year alone. We still get fantastic feedback from the doctors, nurses and parents in the hospitals when we deliver the bears, telling us what a difference it makes by calming the child down, and also by being able to show procedures on the bear first.



W Bro Pierre Caeiro Invested as Grand Inspector in Portugal

On the 18th January 2024, W.Bro Pierre Caeiro was invested as the Grand Inspector overseeing all Lodges and Chapters in Portugal. (Portugal is a Group of Lodges/Chapters under UGLE and is not a District, so does not have a District Grand Master). Now a Very Worshipful Brother, Pierre is a Surrey Mason and a member of Compass Rose Lodge No.9045 and Light from the East Chapter No.4186, both of which meet at Surbiton. He was formerly an APGP in the Royal Arch in Surrey. He is also a member of Lodge of Discoveries and Chapter of Discoveries No.9409 in Portugal.

His investiture took place at a Lodge of Discoveries meeting, where VW.Bro Pierre is the current Master of the Lodge. 56 Brethren attended and were packed into the temple, which was set up in the Tivoli Hotel in the Algarve. Amongst the various dignitaries who attended were the District Grand Master (DGM) of Gibraltar and the Deputy Grand Master of Portugal. (A different constitution to the English constitution). Also in attendance were members of his Surrey Lodge/Chapter who had made the journey to support him on his special day.

Prior to his investiture however, Pierre initiated Mr Ian Jones into the Lodge. No doubt an occasion that he'll never forget! After the normal Lodge business was concluded, the investiture took place.

RW.Bro Derek Tilbury, DGM of Gibraltar, invested Pierre with his chain of office. The District Grand Director of Ceremonies for Gibraltar read the patent and the District Grand Master presented it to VW.Bro Caeiro and congratulated him on his appointment to Grand Inspector of Portugal.



Left to right: W.Bro Ian Turner, W.Bro Paul Caeiro, VW. Bro Pierre Caeiro, W.Bro Trevor Koschalka and W.Bro Derek Wells (All Surrey Masons).



Left to right: RW Bro Paulo Fonseca Rola, the Deputy Grand Master of Portugal, VW Bro Pierre Caeiro, the Grand Inspector of Portugal and RW Bro Derek Tilbury, the District Grand Master of Gibraltar.

There followed an excellent and lively festive board in the hotel where further congratulations were poured upon the Grand Inspector.

Pierre said, "A fantastic day for me personally, with masons from various constitutions including one from Austria, highlighting the universality of our brotherhood. We Grand Inspectors are a rare breed as only 4 of us are active within UGLE so it was a great honour for me to be promoted to this office. I look forward to greeting any brethren from Surrey who take the time to visit us in the Algarve."

Article: Ian Turner

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A Chat Over Coffee with Nick Burger

the new Head of Surrey Freemasonry
in an interview with Colin Pizey

I had the opportunity recently, to chat over coffee with R.W.Bro Nick Burger, Surrey's newly Installed Provincial Grand Master (Craft Freemasonry) and M.E. Grand Superintendent (Royal Arch) on 5th February this year.

This was very much a 'get-to-know-you' session, where I had the rare privilege, on behalf of all our Members, to ask him any questions I wanted for this magazine. His only condition for agreeing to this, was that we also had cakes with our coffee. With a wry smile he also pointed out that he is also a keen photographer, but that he hates having his own photo taken. With my camera firmly in-hand, I wryly smiled back...

What now follows are some of those questions, together with Nick's thoughtful responses:

C.P. "Nick, you have clearly enjoyed an interesting and rewarding Masonic journey, however there are many Members within the Province of Surrey who have not met you."

N.B. "Colin, that is true... Some will know me from when I was an O.V. (Official Visitor) and a Group Coordinator, but many who haven't met me for three or four years won't, because you are expected to retire from Provincial duties when you accept DepGDC. It's one of the first things you are told."

C.P. "How were you first attracted into Freemasonry?"

N.B. "We had neighbours who owned the farm next door

(Bob & Wendy Jones). We became close friends with them, and we stabled our horses in their stables.

However, Every Friday night Bob used to disappear to what he called 'LOI' (i.e. Lodge of Instruction). When I asked him what LOI was, he told me he was a Freemason. My eyes literally lit up and I remember saying "Oh wow, tell me more". I was intrigued and he was very open about it all. He then offered to introduce me to his lodge members. Once I had met them all I was well and truly hooked, I loved everything about it and was Initiated a year later.

I joined Bob and the members every Friday thereafter at LOI's. It was always the start of my weekend, and the camaraderie was wonderful.

Tim Rainscroft was one of my Mentors and he is still mentoring the younger brethren today.

He supported me when learning the ceremonies and ritual and encouraged me to perform different parts. It didn't matter how long it took to learn, but once delivered I felt this overwhelming sense of pride, which I shared with the Lodge Members. I felt a real sense of belonging and I really wish I could bottle those emotions.

Freemasonry of course runs full cycle. Eventually we all become the Mentors and help other newer members when they join, so they experience those same journeys, plus the same emotions, and that sense of belonging.

C.P. "So, what about your private life? I know that you are also a keen photographer, but what other hobbies and interests do you have outside of Freemasonry?"

N.B. "My hobbies have become less and less over the years, probably because of my growing commitment/involvement in Freemasonry.

I used to fly a lot, though not anymore. I used to go flyfishing a lot... I still do a bit of fly fishing now and again, but not as much. We have always had horses and I used to enjoy riding, but after many years we only have one horse left now and so I no longer ride.

Nowadays, I do a little bit of mountain biking when I get the time (and the weather's good). I have become a bit of fair-weather cyclist and no longer enjoy cycling in the mud and having to wash the bike down each time! I do still love cycling through the countryside where we live though.

One of my other great enjoyments in life, is belonging to a City livery company. I am currently the Warden of the Worshipful Company of Cutlers, and as a court member I am automatically co-opted onto several of the company's committees, including the charity committee, the investment strategy committee, and the wine committee (which is bizarre for a man who doesn't drink!) and a few others.

I love the livery company and the livery movement with its great connections to the history of London. The Cutlers company is now 608 years old. We received our royal charter from Henry V in 1416, and I will be the 609th Master next year, which I'm very much looking forward to.

Our livery hall is in Warwick Lane by St. Paul's Cathedral. The main banqueting hall has a stunning example of a Victorian hammer beam roof, and we have many artifacts dating back to our early years, including some stained-glass windows depicting early Masters dating back to the 1600's.

C.P. "So will you have a stained-glass window made for you once you become a Master?"

N.B. "Unfortunately not.

Someone recently asked me: 'What is a livery company?'. They were like a governing body for early trades, back in the days. The Monarch would grant charters to trades such as the butchers, the bakers, or the candlestick makers, or the girdlers, or the cutlers.

The cutlers were responsible for governing the trade/manufacturing of swords, knives and forks and surgical instruments. So, the theory was that we would feed you, wound you and then mend you.

In the hall, we have a wonderful museum of surgical instruments, cutlery and medals dating back thousands of years.

We have some beautiful swords on display that belonged to famous military individuals and monarchs dating back thousands of years.

The oldest sword on display is the Black Prince's sword, so the whole thing is steeped in history."

C.P. "I believe you once had an interesting experience whilst flying over the Med."

N.B. "I did... I started flying at 15 with a dear friend of mine, Dennis Hartas. He was the world air racing champion, and he first took me up in what's called a Jodel Mousquetaire, and from that second, I got the bug. He then took me up in a Tiger Moth when I learned basic aerobatics. I eventually got my private pilot's license when I was about 30.

But some 25 years ago, two friends and I decided to fly down to Cape Town from Redhill in Surrey, in a single engine

"...you get out of Freemasonry what you put in... and it's so true"

Cessna, just because we had tickets to a cricket test match in Capetown.

Well, it seemed like a good idea at the time! However, flying a single engine aircraft down to Capetown takes a long time, mainly because they don't fly that fast, and due to range and altitude restrictions. So, to aid our range, we kitted out the aircraft with a ferry tank (by removing the rear seats and fitting a bespoke built tank).

This probably gave us a maximum range of about 13 to 14-hours flying. It took a few weeks to get down there, but on the return

journey, two of us were flying from Brindisi in Italy to Corsica, when we experienced an engine failure. We went through the standard processes to try and re-start the engine...but when that didn't work, I gave a mayday call and soon after we ditched into the Mediterranean Sea, some 21 miles of the coast of Rome; but hitting a 30 foot swell at around 80 knots. This was like hitting a concrete brick wall and the aircraft just stopped dead!

Somehow, we both managed to survive, helped I expect by unintentionally inverting the aircraft on impact, which snapped off the engine and the port wing, this may have cushioned the blow.

We eventually escaped the aircraft and luckily the life raft inflated ok...

However, it was January, and the Med was extremally cold. I started lading out the blood-stained water to maintain our body temperatures, while Guy worked out how to use the emergency flair. About an hour later we were rescued by helicopter and taken to Rome International Hospital.

Looking back there seemed many amusing moments, though clearly at the time, we were grateful to be alive.

By the time we discharged ourselves from hospital the following day, we were all over the press, and on TV, it was totally bonkers to be honest.

Some Quick-Fire Questions & Answers

Favourite food? "Italian"

Favourite music? "I have very eclectic taste, so difficult... let's say Classical and Pop"

Favourite film? "So many, though 'A Man for All Seasons' comes to mind"

Favourite sport? "Rugby"

Favourite team? "Harlequins"

Favourite piece of ritual? "The Charge to the Initiate"

Pet hate? "Unkindness"

Guilty pleasure? "Chocolate"

The funny thing was when we got back to the UK, my father-in-law phoned me and said turn on channel 4, there's a documentary on about the greatly increased number of Great White Sharks roaming off the coast of Rome.

Three months later, we got a letter from the life raft company saying that we had purchased life raft serial number HBUK2244, which they believed to be part of a faulty batch, and asking us to return it for a free replacement... Then, 10 months later, the Marine Police in Rome wrote to inform us that a deep sea fisherman had caught our aircraft, and asking if we would collect it from the shore!

What probably sticks in my memory more though, was when the port police, together with the Ambassador to UK, came to interview us in hospital after the crash.

He told us we were both lucky to be alive, I tried to make light of the incident and told him we were looking forward to seeing Corsica... He looked at me as though I was stupid and explained:

"If you crash a fixed undercarriage single engine aircraft into the Mediterranean, there's a 48% chance that one of you dies on impact, there's a 25% chance of the other pilot dying trying to save his co-pilot, a 34% chance your life raft is damaged on impact and you die of hypothermia, a 26% chance your co-ordinates are not recorded and you still die of hypothermia..."

... as he continued to explain why we shouldn't be alive."

CP. "There are pivotal moments in life for everybody. And I think that must have been a massive one for you."

N.B. "There are, and I think looking back it was one of those moments... although my friends are likely now fed up with hearing this story."



C.P. "Of course, if you hadn't survived, you wouldn't be here now. You wouldn't be Surrey's new Provincial Grand Master, nor have your wonderful family and grandchildren. I believe you have two daughters, plus a son who you Initiated in Freemasonry? I'm sure they all make you very proud, though how did it feel to Initiate your son Morgan?"

N.B. "Yes, I love my children and my grandchildren, they all make me very proud.

Initiating my son Morgan was, in Masonic terms, one of my proudest day's. Our Past Provincial Grand Master Ian (Chandler) kindly decided to make an Official Visit for the occasion.

I find the ritual a little harder to learn these days, so I was glad I had learned the Ceremony some 20 years ago, as I really wanted to present it as a story that Morgan could understand. After the ceremony, Morgan gave me a hug and a kiss, and I then presented him to the (then) ProvGM.

Ian then welcomed him and said some very thoughtful words, he referred to the ceremony as being delivered with much love... His kind words meant a lot to me."

C.P. "Thinking back over the past years, who's the Surrey Freemason who has inspired you the most and why?"

N.B. "There are lots of Masons that I've met over the years who have mentored and inspired me.

If I was to select one, I would say Colin Dunn. Colin was an Assistant Provincial Grandmaster. When I and a few members of Burstow Lodge decided to charter a ship for a mini cruise, for the 2008 Festival, I was introduced to Colin who had organised similar charity events.

We spoke almost every day for the next year while planning the cruise and afterwards our friendship grew stronger, we served together on numerous Surrey committees, both of us joining the Provincial Heritage and Membership Committees.

As a past member of the Executive, he continued to be a very active member in the Province and he thoroughly enjoyed his Freemasonry.

He was a perfect gentleman and would always open the car door for his wife; a very strong man, and a successful businessman, he was a good and kind man, a great friend, a mentor, and my moral compass."

C.P. "As indeed he inspired and helped you, what advice would you in turn give to anyone new to Freemasonry, who is perhaps struggling to find their feet?"

N.B. "Firstly, I would tell them to join the 1837 club, it's a 'light blues' club for new Surrey Freemasons to share wonderful experiences together, to gain knowledge and meet new friends.

As a newer Freemason, you are automatically entitled to become a member and it doesn't matter what age you are, whether you're 21 or 71. They have a massive range of events that appeal to all members...so, get involved with the 1837 club.

Secondly, try to visit as many lodges as you can, you will learn more quickly about the ritual and our organisation...as well as make lots of friends.

Help your lodge in charitable events and fundraising or form a social committee for your lodge, organise a few events for your members, their families, and your friends.

Lastly, try to learn some ritual. If you find this hard, ask the members for help as they will always encourage you. Many new masons have thought they couldn't learn ritual and are scared to try, but if you can start with small sections, like the 'Working Tools' or perhaps try to split the 'Charge to the Initiate' between a few of you...you will find that when you do deliver the ritual in your Lodges ceremonies, you will feel a great sense pride...as will the members of your lodge.

There's a saying that you get out of Freemasonry what you put in... and it's so true."



C.P. "That's great advice. However, what additional advice would you give to our longer standing members who, perhaps, are concerned about change?"

N.B. "Change is inevitable and the world in which we live is changing. Family life has changed over the last 50 years, couples typically now both work, and it has become the norm to work longer hours these days...so family time is more precious.

Therefore, if people are also going to enjoy time in their Lodge, or Chapter, they must perceive it as good value for their time and money, they must enjoy it and get that sense of belonging and comradery.

I truly understand change can sometimes be difficult for our longer-term or elder members, who have enjoyed their Freemasonry, and don't want to see it change.

This is natural, but I would ask of those Members to reach out and engage with our newer members. Try and help them, and mentor them as you were once mentored.

Try to make their masonic experience as enjoyable as you can, and help them to develop that sense of belonging.

Our MW Pro Grand Master, Jonathan Spence, has a defined strategy and vision for the future of Freemasonry, and this will ripple down from Grand Lodge to Provinces and then to Lodges.

The challenge of change is therefore inevitable, and our newer or younger Members are Freemasonry's future, so we must therefore all face those challenges together."

C.P. "So what are your key visions for the future?"

N.B. "I think my vision for Surrey is still evolving, though it will of course be in line with that of our Pro Grand Master and Grand Lodge.

It will embrace the development of a strong and growing membership with increased retention, by creating as much enjoyment as we can for our members.

Of course, each Lodge is different and will have its own vision for its own future, but our role is to help them where we can.

The Craft and Royal Arch are coming together more and more, and rightly so.

I joined the Royal Arch after I'd been through the Chair in my mother Craft Lodge.

The members of my Chapter have looked after me over the years and always been there to encourage me if ever I struggled. Growth and retention of our Lodges and Chapters is therefore crucial.

I would also encourage the members of our Lodges and Chapters to look at ways in which we can engage within our local communities.

There's a large and active team in Surrey, who take a hands-on approach to our local charities, by not just sending them a cheque, but by visiting their charity to learn more about them and, as importantly, them about us.

C.P. "Lastly, if you could give just one key item of advice to all our Members, what would that be?"

N.B. "My father, who was a wonderful man once said to me: "I'll give you some fatherly advice my son... In life, it's very easy to look at character flaws, in your partner, or your siblings, or your friends.

And if you do, you'll find them.

But if you look at what you like in them, what you love in them, you'll find happiness."

So, I think if we are kind to each other, considerate and thoughtful to all our members, we will thrive and grow our membership.

C.P. "Nick, that's wonderful advice. Thank you so much for your time and for being so open and honest. I am sure all of our Members will appreciate this and are looking forward to their Freemasonry in Surrey, under your leadership.

Now, please smile for the camera..."

Right Worshipful Brother Nick Burger was Initiated into Burstow Lodge in 1994 and progressed into the Chair in 2002. Since that time, he has also served the Province of Surrey in various roles and committees, which include the Education Presentation Team, the Heritage Committee, the Membership Committee, and the Charity Committee.

In 2006 Nick was invited to join what was known as the Rulers Forum for Group 8, which comprised the four Provinces of East and West Kent, Sussex, and Surrey; the idea of which was to share best practices. From there he was put forward to represent Group 8 at Grand Lodge, for a period of four years. He says he met some wonderful people during that time and, from there, was put forward by the then Pro Grand Master, Lord Northampton, to the Panel for Clemency, where he has since served for 18 years.

Nick Burger has also held Provincial ranks which include: 'Provincial Steward' (which he says he loved), 'Deacon', 'Sword Bearer' and 'Provincial Warden'. He then progressed to the Grand Ranks of 'Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies', Active Supreme Grand Rank in 2018 and then of course, Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies (DepGDC) in 2019 which Nick says: *"...has been the most wonderful joy."*



Castle Lodge's Success Story

Castle Lodge membership was falling and talk of merging with another lodge within Farnham centre had started. In 2015 membership was down to twelve. So how did Castle Lodge grow its membership to over fifty by the end of the 2023/24 Masonic year?

The drive to revive Castle Lodge came from the hard reality that they either changed or disappeared. The Lodge was fortunate to have several things coincide, key joining members who brought new energy, pathway to structure how this was implemented and long-standing members who understood the need for change and backed it. The initial steadying of membership came from joining members who met the call to help save the lodge. By 2017 Castle was no longer in danger and an enthusiastic core of mainly younger than average freemasons with a united view of how to move forward had formed.

Freemasonry exists in a World of changing demands upon young men, family dynamics where childcare roles and prime earner status have become fluid, coupled with a massive expansion in free time choices, meant Castle Lodge found itself in a competitive market. They needed to attract a younger membership, a demographic that was not reflected in much of the existing membership. Squaring that circle was challenging; attracting those initial younger members was key.

Central to achieving this was and is their accepting, light-hearted atmosphere of fun and enjoyment that spills beyond the lodge environment. Outside lodge activities such as curry nights, charity golf and fishing days strengthen bonds among members and give an opportunity for potential members to join in and experience the "Castle" atmosphere. Ladies evening is another opportunity to not only raise charitable funds but allows potential members and their partners to experience an informal evening with an entrée of Masonic activity. The inclusion of partners in social events is strongly encouraged, they have found this creates a family feel to their social events,

fosters friendships between partners and gives them a greater understanding of the lodge dynamic and elevates their support for Freemasonry.

This strategy has resulted in a healthy number of initiates in their twenties and thirties, which in turn has led to a stream of further initiates from their peer groups. Because of this younger age group of working men, many with young families, the lodge tiles at 6 p.m. This means a full working day can be completed and there is no need to eat into holiday allowance or go unpaid to attend meetings.

This increased level of intake inevitably creates challenges of progression. Castle Lodge ensures that members can progress to the status of Master Mason in a timescale that keeps their interest and enthusiasm for the craft. Most ceremonies are double or even triple, with a "Super Saturday" coming up this May where two double raisings will be held in one day with a social event in between ceremonies.

An expansion to their wider lodge activities is planned with the addition of a horse racing day, go kart day and more frequent Curry nights, that often have well over twenty members and potential candidates in attendance. This wider lodge social scene is a successful method of keeping the involvement of members who are waiting for the opportunity to fulfil offices within the lodge. For Castle Lodge this is the bottle neck in progression and so opportunities for involvement in the organisation of the lodge through social activities is a way of giving newer members inclusion in the running of the lodge while they wait for office.

Visiting is central to this ethos of wider involvement;

support of other lodges is encouraged as a key part of being a Castle member and has resulted in very high numbers of their brothers visiting. They have even coined the term "Castle on tour" for this activity. From this, a natural enthusiasm from members to invite brothers of other lodges to share in Castle lodge meetings and their wider social activities has resulted





in growing visitor numbers, to the point where meetings have seen the maximum dining capacity of the centre leaving potential visitors disappointed.

With all this energy and activity around the expansion of the lodge and the creation of a fun and wider basis for membership attraction and retention. The Lodge has realised that this brings a potential danger. As one senior member put it, "we are a masonic lodge, not a social club and Craft Freemasonry has to be central to everything we do." To this end Castle Lodge has opened its committee meetings to all members who wish to attend, Lodge of instruction and rehearsals are open to all, not just to those directly involved. Other members can play the part of candidates or observe a rehearsal suitable to their degree. Once again, the energy and enthusiasm of a vibrant younger

membership has resulted in very well attended LOI's and rehearsals. With a resulting standard of ceremony highly praised by visitors of all rank and has included the delivery of the Charge by two separate apprentice freemasons recently.

So what of the future? In the next three years every Master of Castle Lodge will be below the age of thirty-five with a line of light blue Freemasons moving through the offices. The lodge has a further group of Fellow Craft and Apprentice members following through behind them. With the addition of a further six initiates within the present Masonic year and three more already scheduled for the year after, the future looks extremely bright for Castle Lodge.

Article by John Mitchell

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100 and still going strong

Ember Chapter No 2540 was consecrated on 5th November 1923 and was able to hold its 100th Anniversary Convocation on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at Glenmore House in Surbiton, where 40 Royal Arch Companions met in order to celebrate this event. The Deputy Grand Superintendent E Comp Kevin Todd MBE, PGSwdB attended under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, E Comp Tim Ford PGStB and was accompanied into the Chapter by E Comp Stephen Wigmore PGStB, 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, who was attending in his capacity as an honorary member. Regrettably, this was the last Chapter meeting that E Comp Stephen Wigmore ever attended. The M.E.Z., E Comp Alan Dibble PPGStB, welcomed the Deputy Grand Superintendent and offered the sceptre, which was accepted. The Deputy Grand Superintendent then addressed the Companions about this special celebratory meeting and also mentioned the state of the world in 1923. After taking the Minutes he then handed the sceptre back to the M.E.Z. who continued with the meeting. Due to the unavoidable absence of the Chapters' Haggai, this position was occupied by E Comp Michael Ellis the Official Visitor, at quite short notice, but thereby ensuring a smooth operation of the evening's events. Both the MEZ and J were proclaimed in their respective offices for another year. E Comp Chris Hatton then delivered a précis of the history of the Chapter which revealed some interesting information to all those present, whilst at the same time placing his own personal slant to his talk. The Chapter presented a commemorative booklet to all who attended. After the meeting was over those attending were then enjoyed a very fine Festive Board comprising a special menu for this occasion provided by Glenmore House. It was a very memorable evening.



Ember Chapter

Friday the 15th of March was a special day in the life of Leodride Chapter No 3585. The Chapter meets in The Harrison Room, Barn Hall, Great Bookham. The Chapter was opened by the Principals and the M.E.Z., E Comp Stephen Billingham, PPGReg, welcomed the very many guests assembled. The Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Comp Kevin Todd MBE, PGSwdB, entered accompanied by numerous Active Provincial Officers of the year. He was welcomed by the M.E.Z. and offered the Sceptre. The Deputy Grand Superintendent accepted the Sceptre and took his seat. After acknowledging the Active Provincial Officers he said how immensely pleased he was to be visiting Leodride Chapter for the first time. He then mentioned the state of the world back in 1923 and mentioned various incidents that had occurred in that year. He mentioned that, from the souvenir booklet that was to be given out at the Festive Board, he had

noticed that the Chapter had eighteen Founders who were from a total of fourteen different Chapters – something hard to envisage happening today. He also mentioned that he had never seen so many current and past Provincial officers at a meeting and he found it very heartening for the future of the Province. He took and signed the Minutes and then handed the Sceptre, and chair, back to the M.E.Z. The Chapter very graciously bestowed honorary membership upon several Principal officers in attendance and the Deputy Grand Superintendent thanked the Chapter on behalf of all those so honoured. The Chapter was also presented with Patronage of the TLC. Sixty seven Companions attended an excellent Festive Board, and, after the usual raffle the irrepressible E Comp Steve Butwell managed to auction a TLC Bear, which was won by E Comp David Wilmott who bought it for his young granddaughter. Everyone who attended was presented with an engraved whisky glass as a memento of this great occasion and overall this was considered by many to have been a most impressive and enjoyable evening.



Leodride Chapter

On the 18th of March Godalming Masonic Centre was host to the 100th Celebration meeting of Libera Fidelis Chapter No 2101. The Deputy Grand Superintendent E Comp Kevin Todd MBE, PGSwdB, entered under the direction of E Comp James Hill ProvDepGDC, the escorting Director of Ceremonies, together with seven Active Provincial Officers for the year. The Deputy Grand Superintendent was offered the sceptre by the M.E.Z., E Comp Colin Bryson ProvGReg, which was accepted. The Deputy Grand Superintendent then read a Eulogy for E Comp Stephen Wigmore, PGStB, 3rd Provincial Grand Principal. He then addressed the Companions regarding this special occasion and also mentioned the state of the world back in 1924. He then took the Minutes before handing the sceptre back to the M.E.Z. E Comp Graham Balsdon PPGSoj was then Inducted into the chair of Joshua. The Chapter then conducted a splendid Exaltation ceremony for Bro Theo Bendall-Breen with the Principal Sojourner, and the 1st Assistant Sojourner adding strong emphasis on the ritual in the manner of those seasoned in the art of amateur dramatics – the effect was absolutely brilliant. Companion Theo was presented with a pair of red socks by the Deputy Grand Superintendent. After the meeting was over thirty six Companions attended a fine Festive Board where another pair of red socks were added to the raffle table. Everyone attending thoroughly enjoyed this special evening.



Libera Fidelis Chapter



Horley, a hotbed of Freemasonry

It has now been a year since Haroldslea Lodge 7328 returned to its birthplace in Horley, Surrey (a couple of miles from Gatwick). It was in this very town it was consecrated in 1954. Though our original meeting place still exists it is owned and used by the Girl Guides, though we were fortunate enough to be welcomed into our new home at Horley Constitutional Club.

As a lodge we fortunately had most of the furniture required and, with some donations from members, we also had a few pieces refurbished. Our lodge room is compact, and it is also our dining room, so we have got very slick at setting up and breaking down the lodge, and the staff at the club are then like a well-oiled machine setting up the room for dining.

Mentioning dining, our caterer is a former high end executive chef and looking after us she sees as semi-retirement. Needless to say we dine very well; the Sloe Gin Sundae is heavenly.

So back to the title, on arrival back in Horley we hit the social media and attracted some attention. One of the first to be a regular visitor was the VW DepProvGM Mike Harding, who lived within walking distance, closely followed by W.Bro Mike Robinson AProvGM. Where we sit geographically, we have attracted interest from Sussex and London Masons and a few non Masons who live locally.

Part of our return to Horley is to ensure we become part of the community; several members of the lodge recently joined Mike Robinson in the Horley remembrance parade, and we target our donations to local charities such as the Horley Foodbank, the local Samaritans branch and the local hospice.

Our December meeting was a first for Haroldslea where we held a white table event. At the event were a couple of prospective members, partners, visitors and guest speakers. Following the closure of the lodge all brethren remained in their offices in full regalia when the guests were invited in they were greeted warmly by Paul the WM and a brief overview of Freemasonry, Haroldslea Lodge and the lodge room and regalia, was delivered by Gary the DC.



Lucy Rayner

We were then introduced

to our guest speakers for the evening, Stuart and Jenny Rayner who run the Lucy Rayner Foundation and were the parents of Lucy after whom the foundation is named.

On the 5th of May 2012, Jenny, Stuart and family were tragically faced with the impact of mental illness when their daughter Lucy took her own life at the age of 22.

This life-changing event inspired Jenny and her family to begin campaigning about the mental health challenges faced by many young adults. The family quickly found that the support and help available to recognise and treat young adults with mental health challenges was woefully inadequate and significantly underfunded.

They both spoke passionately about the challenges and the services the foundation offers saying that this year alone (2023) they have had 1000 requests for counselling in Surrey which cost £210 per person. They also support families in Surrey who have lost children and young adults to suicide and offer MH training and run linked support groups such as men only talking groups.

Their passion was palpable and there were several moist eyes in the lodge room. After their talk the WM was pleased to present them both with a cheque for £400 and as their talked touched so many in the meeting the proceeds of the raffle, a further £200 were also donated.

Haroldslea hopes to grow in Horley so if you want to just visit or know more, please contact us on

Facebook: Haroldslea Lodge of Freemasonry

Instagram: @haroldsleafreemason7328

For further details on the Lucy Rayner Foundation please just search the name.

Article by Gary Eiffert



Stuart and Jenny receiving the cheque from W.Bro Paul Seldon.



Charity Service Team visit I Choose Freedom

In February the Charity Service Team, comprising of Steve Norris, Simon Crust, Steve Butwell together with Andy Lynch and Ray Wescott visited I Choose Freedom the domestic abuse refuge. The charity had recently had donations from Trojan Lodge (L7698) and Cradiden Lodge (L6571) and wanted to thank the team and update them on where the funds were being used.

Their East Surrey refuge has been helping families for over forty years, back when the charity was known as The Reigate and Banstead Women's Aid. This was the first visit to the East Surrey site for the team, who had already been to the West Surrey site, which was a recipient of a whole new garden play area for the many children that are looked after, as it was one of the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent's chosen Charities for 2022.

It was during this visit that the team came up with the Changing Rooms initiative and helped the charity transform one of the disused halls into a 'shop' for the residents. Many lodges still contribute items for this 'shop' as, when families arrive, they often have nothing but the clothes on their back. The residents are each given a welcome pack which also contains a specially crafted TLC bear for any children to help them in their temporary home.

Sadly, the need for the charity has not diminished with time and due to the success of their various programmes, and the great skill with which they help their clients, I Choose Freedom has expanded beyond East and West Surrey to areas around central Surrey, with new refuge homes available to clients in desperate need. They have also extended their help to anyone in domestic abuse including men and members of the LBGQTIA+ community.

Whilst the charity gets help from Surrey County Council, with their required needs and expansion they are still seeking help with donations and time, particularly with decorating the

refuge homes which need regular upkeep due to the number of families going through. Indeed, it was during this latest visit that the team discovered and volunteered to help with another transformation at the West Surrey refuge, which requires decoration of the welcome hall and surrounding areas.

They often require assistance with accounting and financial investment; if any member is willing to assist, please contact the Charity Service team.

The charity continues to grow so that it can help more and more families. As they do so, the Charity Service Team pledged to help them whenever possible. The charity is only too happy to come out to Lodges and Chapters and give a talk on the amazing work they do (most recently to South Surrey Masters' Lodge).

Please contact anyone on the Charity Service team for details if you wish a visit.

It may have been a very damp day, but it did not dampen the spirits of everyone that visited.



Simon Crust & Steve Norris



The Charity Service Team



ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF SURREY

(Seated by 12.45pm for a 1pm start)

Followed by

ANNUAL MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

(seated by 3.30pm for a 3.45pm start)

Freemasons Hall
Wednesday 26th June 2024

Dinner in the Connaught Rooms at 6.30pm

MENU

Starter

Smoked salmon with red onion rings, capers and a micro cress salad

Vegetarian Option

Avocado, tomato and mozzarella tricolour salad tossed in balsamic

Main Course

Saltimbocca chicken with hot German-style potato salad; fine bean, black olive and tomato fricassee

Vegetarian Option

Sweet potato, courgette and shiitake, coconut curry

Dessert

Lemon and ginger cheesecake

Inclusive of ½ of a bottle of wine Cost £59



Booking link <https://tinyurl.com/px3vrjna>

Please note the Craft Meeting is open to all Master Masons and above and
Convocation is open to all Companions.



Your start in Freemasonry

This article started out as a set of notes for the newly made EA, trying to bring in an overview of the Craft, rather than an explanation of the Initiation ceremony itself.

It does raise issues of secrecy, bound to upset some, but which in my view do not break any obligation, hence could also be used in discussion with a potential candidate (horror?)

Let us offer a very brief summary of what Freemasonry is about, so you will have some idea of why the members of your Lodge and many others wanted to 'join the Craft' ie, become Freemasons.

In its present form, Freemasonry in the UK can trace its history back at least to 1717, when The Premier Grand Lodge was formed to represent London Masons and whose 300th anniversary was celebrated recently.

In fact, there is much evidence that Masonry and 'Masonic thinking' in some form or other existed as far back as well before the 14th century, with certain influences traceable to the early Greeks and Egyptians, although we do not really know just when they came in or why.

It is thought that originally, working masons (stone masons etc) building castles, abbeys, stately homes and so on, formed groups called 'lodges' possibly in a building called the 'lodge', in which they might have stored tools and met, perhaps for training, rest and 'a cup of tea' etc.

Over the years, the very simple ceremonies (admission ceremony, certain obligations and various prayers), which seem to have formed part of many contemporary trade organisations, were extended and rationalised, as increasingly more non-working masons, invited into lodges during what became known as the 'Age of Enlightenment', expressed interest in what was done and they helped to develop and embellish the 'ritual' (the wording of the ceremonies) so that it became more literate and increasingly more concerned with the meaning behind the words and ceremonial.

Eventually, by about the middle of the 18th century, almost all Masons were what we call 'speculative' ie, not operative or working masons any more – the word 'speculate' implying delving into the meaning and significance of masonry, the basis for much argument!

Today, the ritual covers three 'degrees' roughly representing the gradations in the original mason trade of long ago (Apprentice, Fellow and Master).



The basis of Freemasonry all over the world can be summarised thus:

- A belief in one Supreme Being and a 'volume of your sacred law' (Bible, Koran or whatever) in evidence and in use in all ceremonies

- The practice of:

- Brotherly Love** – looking after the interests of everyone

- Relief** – charity and charitable thoughts, words and deeds

- Truth** – trying to live up to the highest moral and ethical standards.

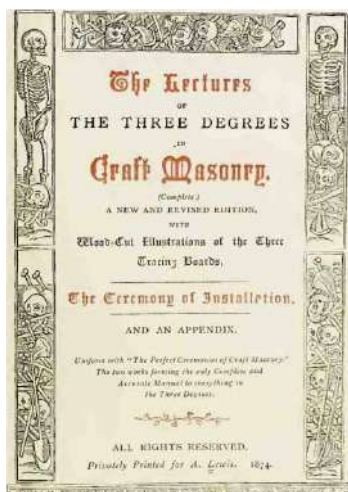
Part of the ceremonies contain references to the original stonemasons, and their 'working tools' are used to bring together ideas about ethics and morals. For example, one indicates morality, one for education and one for justice and uprightness.

Masons get together to carry out the ceremonies which help to remind

them of all the ways they can hopefully, lead a better life, remember their origins in operative stone masonry and have a convivial time at the 'festive board' (the meal and its accompanying 'jollity').



At the same time, they put in much effort to raise funds for charitable purposes. Some of this could be for small local charities, some for more major works, such as hospital equipment, overseas disasters etc, much in the hands of The United Grand Lodge, the governing body of all English and Welsh Masonry. The amounts generated go into the millions of pounds, money being allocated to Masonic and non-Masonic charitable and relief enterprises.



Title Page of Lectures 1874





Much of what is done within the lodge has traditionally been kept private in the sense that it has not been revealed to any outsider. This goes back partly to the very old days of operative masons where secret signs were largely used to show level of competence (if you could steal a sign and password, it might get you work you might otherwise have not been entitled to).

The other reason probably relates to events in the 17th and 18th centuries. After many years of wars and strife, any society meeting in private was considered 'seditious and treasonable', perhaps plotting against the King, the Government, the Church or whatever.

In fact, the Unlawful Societies Act of 1799, specifically banned from existence, any organisation that employed the taking of an oath not to reveal secrets. However, a very senior member of the royal family managed to have this edict slackened off against Freemasons, provided certain strict conditions were met. This condition of privacy has always formed a part of Freemasonry even though it is not a secret society.

The only parts of the ceremony that a Mason promises never to reveal are:

- the obligations (oaths), signs and words relating to each of the three degrees
- references to the traditional but purely symbolic penalties that were supposed formerly, to have been applied to those who broke their oaths.

However, in respect of those holding the more traditional view as to publicising what we do, I will say no more about what actually does go on. All the material used in Masonic ceremonies, for a long time, has been freely available to those who really want to search for it. My attitude is very simple:

We swore to keep a very limited number of promises – everything else is open for discussion if it benefits Masonry and those thinking of coming in, but giving it all away beforehand spoils the ceremonies for new Masons – there is a wonderful sense of mystery and awe about the work when experienced for the first time – a pity to lose it by casual discussion or on-line searches.

Suffice it to say that Masons:

- enjoy their 'work' in the ceremonies and visiting other lodges who may do things differently
- take part in the pleasure and conviviality at the festive board
- take many opportunities to contribute to charity and get involved with fund-raising activities
- use all of these for the chance to reflect on them and draw from them, important conclusions about how to live their life and help others to live theirs.

Article by Martin Gandoff

Old Strodians Lodge 7803

Arms of UGLE and MCF logo from UGLE

Lectures image from Wikipedia.com

VSL image from masonicvibe.com

Top Photo by 青晨 on Unsplash

1
**The Craft and
 the Royal Arch –
 We are one organisation**



2
**Addressing
 the
 Membership
 Challenge**



3
**Willing to
 innovate,
 a 'Yes If'
 attitude**



4
**Masonic rank is not
 a pre-requisite
 for involvement**

5
**Reinforce the sociability
 of Freemasonry and
 become an ambassador
 for the organisation**



Marking Well

The Annual Meeting of Provincial Mark Grand Lodge

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Surrey took place on Saturday 16th March at the Croydon and District Masonic Hall, Croydon.



The meeting was called to order by W.Bro. Les Smith, the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Designate, to receive the Provincial Officers of the year accompanying the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, led by the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer and followed by the Provincial Grand Standard Bearer.

Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John French, who was saluted with seven under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. The business of Provincial Grand Lodge commenced with honouring the names of those Brethren who have passed to the Grand Lodge Above since our last Annual Meeting.



The Provincial Grand Master individually welcomed the many representatives of other Provinces and Masonic Orders.

Worshipful Brothers Nigel Feltham and Garry Lewis were both presented with a cheque for £1,360 from the 2023 Swimathon, for the Sutton Food Bank and Swishes.

The Provincial Grand Master confirmed the re-appointment of W.Bro. William Raymond Barr, as Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province. W.Bros. Tim Ford, and William Agnew Caughie, were re-appointed as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters. A total of 59 appointments and promotions in Provincial Grand Rank were announced: as well as 14 Brethren receiving Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

The Provincial Grand Master addressed Provincial Grand Lodge. The meeting was then called to order and closed in due form. The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, together with members of the Past Executive, Honoured Guests and Provincial Officers then left the Temple in procession.



The Brethren of the Mark Province of Surrey and their guests then retired to the bar.

After refreshments the Brethren of the Province of Surrey and their guests dined together in peace and harmony at the Croydon Masonic Hall.



Featuring News from Mark Masonry

Happy Birthday Eric



Friday the 8th of March was a very special day for Stoneleigh Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 995. Not only was our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John French, and a team of Provincial Officers, visiting their installation meeting, but their senior member, W.Bro. Eric Trodd, was celebrating his 90th Birthday that day.

Not only was it a most enjoyable meeting, after the meal Shelley brought in a birthday cake and we all sang Happy Birthday to Eric.

The Brethren of Stoneleigh Lodge of Mark Master Masons



did a splendid job of ensuring the 8th of March 2024 was a very special day for Eric.

Well done everyone at Sutton Masonic Hall



Our Provincial Grand Master was seen in the Miller Bar at the Sutton Masonic Hall helping Nigel Feltham of Croydon Mark Lodge and Shelley Sykes from the Sutton Masonic Hall get ready to deliver the Easter Eggs kindly donated by Lodges and Brethren.



Nigel says thanks to everyone who has donated to the Easter Egg food bank.

This year they have given away over 1,100 Easter Eggs to: Woman's One Stop Shop, Sutton Young Carers, Home Start Sutton, Home Start Epsom, St Helier Hospital, Epsom Hospital, Sutton Pantry, Woman's Refuge, Leatherhead Community Fridge, Sutton Opportunity Pre-school, and St Christopher's Shooting Stars (*via the Widows Sons*). Freemasonry in action.





dancer, working as a Tiller Girl, one of the world’s longest running dance groups. Pam performed at the London Palladium and in popular venues all over the UK. Pam and fellow Tiller Girl, Jackie B’nay, went on to become a duo act, ‘Ray and B’nay,’ again touring around the UK and entertaining troops across Germany in Berlin, Düsseldorf and Hamburg.

After this, Jackie married and moved to Australia whilst Pam became a make-up artist. She married at the age of 39 and went on to have a daughter. Aside from dance, Pam loved travelling and enjoyed a worldwide adventure, starting in America. “Some people thought it was quite an undertaking to travel around on my own like that – but as long as you’re organised and have somewhere to stay,” says Pam.

Pam still has her great sense of humour and even compares the service at her care home to Buckingham Palace! Reflecting on her life achievements, she encourages younger generations to practice self-care: “Look after yourself, eat sensible and go for walks.”

RMBI Care Co. Home James Terry Court, in South Croydon, is run by RMBI Care Co., part of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. For more information, please visit: <http://www.rmbi.org.uk/>

Article: Maricel Foronda

Former Tiller Girl Shares Life Advice

“Don’t be shy to try new things; follow what you want to do”

Ninety-eight-year-old care home resident, Pamela Griffiths, has shared her life advice to mark International Women’s Day. “Don’t be shy to try new things; follow what you want to do,” says Pamela, who lives at RMBI Care Co. Home James Terry Court, in South Croydon.

Pamela, known as ‘Pam’ to her family and friends, was born in Kew, Richmond, in September 1925. Here she lived with her family until the age of eight when they moved to Ealing, London.

During the Second World War, Pam was a professional



Image 1 and 3: Resident Pamela Griffiths worked as a professional dancer with the Tiller Girls, entertaining troops during WWII.
Image 2: Ninety-eight-year-old care home resident Pamela Griffith at RMBI Care Co. Home James Terry Court, in South Croydon.

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- Full & Undress Package *leather aprons, badges, collars, jewel, soft shoulder carrier+ free cufflinks and gloves only £ 225.00*

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- Companions or Principals Packages *from £ 62.00 for Apron, sash & breast jewel.*
- Provincial Packages *from £ 125.00 for Apron, badge, sash, breast jewel, collarette & jewel*

Mark Provincial

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- Full Dress Package *including leather apron, badge & collar, jewel, breast jewel and soft shoulder carrier- only. £ 168.99*
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- 32nd Degree *Collar, Jewel, Collarette & Jewel only £ 190.90*



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