



password

Winter 2014/15

Province Mourns Passing of PPGM Bro Richard Sandbach

The word legend is often misused. However, the term can quite properly be associated with RW Bro Richard Stainton Edward Sandbach MA LLM PPGM OSM who died on 10 January 2015 in his 100th year. He was a legend not only in this Province but in Freemasonry generally.



RW Bro Richard Sandbach PPGM

Born on 13 June 1915, he was only two years old when his father died in the First World War leaving his mother to bring him up. In his youth, before the Second World War, he was a keen member of the scouting movement and the friendships and camaraderie he enjoyed encouraged him at a later time to join an organisation with similar principles - Freemasonry.

He gained a law degree at Cambridge University and during the Second World War enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment, from where he was commissioned into the Cheshire Regiment. He served with the Canadian Army before volunteering for the Airborne Forces, acting as General Staff Officer 2nd Grade (GSO2).

After the War, in 1949, whilst practising law in London he was initiated into Clerestory Lodge No 6551, a London Lodge. Eventually, his work took him to Peterborough where, in 1951, he joined Fitzwilliam Lodge No 2533. Thus began an association with this Province that was to last 63 years.

For 35 years from 1979 he was a member of The Lodge of Antiquity No 2 which he also served as Worshipful Master. This is one of only three surviving Lodges within the English constitution, known as “time immemorial lodges,” which operate without a warrant.

He was an exceptionally good ritualist with an excellent delivery, perhaps aided by his legal training.

A prolific author he wrote the famous series of Peterborough Booklets that are universally given to Masons after their initiation, passing and raising. He has written many excellent papers on Masonic topics and had books published. These include

- “Priest and Freemason : the Life of George Oliver” (1988) - about Dr Oliver
- “Understanding the Royal Arch” (1992)
- “Square Pomes” (1998) - a delightfully humorous booklet of verse and limerick
- “Talks for Lodge & Chapter” (2007).

From November 1992 for two years he was Worshipful Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076 (the Premier Lodge of Masonic Research). The Richard Sandbach Lodge of Research No 9600 is named in his honour and with the introduction of the Annual Richard Sandbach Lecture in 2008 it was RW Bro Richard who presented the inaugural and quite moving Lecture entitled “Scout to Freemason 1939 to 1946.” He was also part of the team that rewrote the Holy Royal Arch Ritual in 2004.

In a most illustrious Masonic career he was

- Assistant Provincial Grand Master from 1974 to 1978
- Deputy Provincial Grand Master from 1978 to 1984
- Provincial Grand Master from 1984 to 1990

During his period as Provincial Grand Master he was driven by the ethos evoked by our three great principles, brotherly love, relief and truth; urging all members to enjoy their Freemasonry and the fellowship it brings. His many achievements in the Province included

- introducing the concept of Groups into the Province, each Group having a Grand Officer as his personal representative in that area
- introducing into the Province the Provincial Grand Master’s Certificate of Merit

for meritorious service

- formulating the concept of the Three Counties Lodge of which he was a founder and was consecrated in 1988 with RW Bro Richard as its first Worshipful Master
- consecrating seven new Lodges in the Province
- being an Honorary member of no less than 23 Lodges and three Chapters in this Province

In 2006 he was awarded the Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry (OSM), a most prestigious honour granted to no more than ten Brethren worldwide at any one time.

Exalted into St Peters Chapter in 1952, he was the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in this Province from 1978 to 1990. As such, he was the last PGM in the Province to have the dual role of PGM and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent.

His Masonic order memberships included

- Mark - advanced into Fitzwilliam Mark Lodge in 1955, he achieved Grand Rank in 1975 and became a RW Bro on his appointment as the Grand Senior Warden in 1985
- Royal Ark Mariner - elevated into Powys RAM Lodge in 1956 and was honoured in 1976 with appointment to the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council (Honoris Causis)
- Ancient and Accepted Rite - joined Supreme Council in 1989 and rose to head the Order as Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander from 2002 to 2004
- a member of and achieved high office in numerous other orders

He completed 60 years membership in the Craft and Holy Royal Arch. On 24 March this year he would have also done so in the Mark Degree.



As MP Sovereign Grand Commander

Although an inherently shy man, he had a warm, extremely helpful disposition. An erudite, deep thinker, he dispensed valuable and sage advice on Masonic and other matters to those wise enough to seek it. He was ably supported by his faithful wife, Wendy who, when he became APGM, became his PrGChaufeuse taking him hither and thither, always finding something with which to occupy herself whilst he was engaged in Masonic business.

He was a very active member of his local community at one time being Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance.

Devoted to his Freemasonry, in a most distinguished Masonic career he made an immense contribution and will be sorely missed.

Message from the Provincial Grand Master

Brethren

It is with much sadness that I mention the passing of RtW Bro Richard Sandbach. Having lived to reach the amazing age of 99 and as it is now almost 25 years since he was our Provincial Grand Master, it is quite probable that many of our members, certainly the younger ones, will not have known him. He can only be described as a great Mason and was an inspiration to many of us. Despite his stature in Masonry Richard was a quiet and private man but those of us privileged to know him well will always be proud that we did.

He succeeded RtW Bro Peter Palmer as PGM of this Province in 1984 and was eventually followed by RtW Bro Brian Smith in 1990. Following his tenure as PGM he became Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite and in 2008 was awarded the very rare honour of Order of Service to Masonry by the Most Worshipful Grand Master. Many eloquent words will be written about Richard but I wanted to record my personal sadness at his passing and to make known my thanks for his influence on my Masonic career.



Provincial Grand Master,
RW Bro Max Bayes

On a lighter note I can report that this Province enters into 2015 in very good heart. We have worked very hard in recent years on matters of recruitment, retention and retrieval and we have met with very satisfying success. For the first time in many many years our numbers are increasing.

During the calendar year 2014 our net membership rose by 24. Not a large number but it is significant when we look at losses over the past ten years. I know that many other Provinces are envious of our success. Furthermore, there are many young men who are now enjoying their Freemasonry to the full and it is so gratifying to visit around this Province and to witness these men progressing through offices and assuming Chairs in their respective Lodges. I am more hopeful now for the future of our special organisation than I have ever been. The Grand Superintendent informs me that numbers in the Holy Royal Arch are increasing and he is to be congratulated on the success that he has brought to that Order. In fact all of the Other Orders that practise within this Province are thriving and this leads to more enjoyment for all of us. We do, of course, need to keep up our efforts to maintain this situation.

I have already announced the changes that will take place with the Provincial Executive in

May and the reaction from the Province has been very positive. I have been blessed with a superb team since I became PGM in 2011 but changes do have to take place. I am sure that the new Deputy, Assistant and Secretariat will receive your full support. The appointments and promotions that will be conferred in May have also been announced and I congratulate all Brethren so honoured. The PGL and Three Counties meetings in May are the highlight of my Masonic year and I am sure that we will all enjoy the meetings to the full.

RW Bro Max Bayes
Provincial Grand Master

Province Leads the Way with Increased Membership

As at 1st January 2015, membership of our Province stood at 3,287 and, including multiple memberships, totalled 4,265. The good news is that our membership has grown year on year by almost 1% versus our membership on 1st January 2014 of 3,263. This makes our Province one of the leaders in setting this upward trend in Freemasonry membership.

The number of initiates increased to 130 during 2014. While our gross membership appeared to be similar year on year, it is worth remembering that in the previous two years we had a number of founders of new Lodges. In 2014 we did not have this advantage.



Further good news is that the number of resignations received is substantially down. This must be due in part to our mentoring programme and the attention of Masons to ensure that we look after new and old members alike. Although only marginally, our membership is becoming younger and many of our initiates are joining at an earlier age.

Nationally, over the past decade membership of Masons has shown some decline. There is now evidence that this is slowing and through the good work of all members our Province is leading the way.

Has there ever been a better time to ask that friend or colleague to consider joining?

(Data source - UGLE Adelpi database.)

PGM Leads Provincial Remembrance Day Tributes

This year's Remembrance Sunday, on 9th November, was a particularly poignant and special day as it marked the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. In Northampton the Mayor, Councillor John Caswell, led a procession of councillors and town dignitaries from the Guildhall for the Remembrance Sunday Parade and service at All Saints Church Northampton, followed by a procession to the Town and County War Memorial.



Wreath laid by the Provincial Grand Master



Provincial Grand Master at the Parade

The Last Post signalled the beginning of the two minutes silence. Reveille marked the conclusion. This was followed by the official ceremony of wreath laying when the Provincial Grand Master laid a wreath on behalf of the Province. The event was very well supported by the people of Northamptonshire.

The day was also marked by local Masons in Kettering and Rushden who took part in their respective Remembrance Day Parades and laid wreaths at their War Memorials.



Left. W Bros Simon Chandler-Barrett, Bryan Rowney (a veteran) & Graham Rogers represent local Masons at Kettering Remembrance Parade



Right. Wreath laid at Rushden War Memorial by members of local Lodges

2015/16 Acting Officers

Maxwell William	Bayes	PGM	Lodge of St James	L6838
Trevor Frank	Boswell	DepPGM	Old Northamptonian	L5694
James	Boughton	APGM	Heigham	L8486
David John	Burton	APGM	Petriburg	L8767
Timothy Joseph	Almond	ProvSGW	Towcestrian	L9510
Gerard Thomas	Dempsey	ProvJGW	Toseland	L8837
Raymond	Hemingray	ProvGChap	Fitzwilliam	L2533
David Charles	Watson	ProvGTreas	Lodge of Perseverance	L455
Trevor John	Cooke	ProvGReg	Abington	L8041
Michael Charles	Caseman-Jones	ProvGSec	Waynflete	L4452
Charles Anthony	Bennett	ProvGDC	De la Pre	L1911
Steven Philip	Brown	ProvGSwdB	Sartoris	L9497
Paul	Johnstone	ProvGSuptWks	Burghley	L9364
Robert Ian	Cox	ProvDepGDC	Lactodorum	L8526
Dale Robert	Gilbert	ProvDepGDC	Risdene	L6532
William Bernard	Wright	ProvGAlm	Abington	L8041
Gerald Raymond	Crawford	ProvGChStwd	Grey Friars	L4990
Charles Richard	Brice	ProvGMen	Lactodorum	L8526
William Murray	Caswell	ProvGORat	Lodge of Perseverance	L455
Kevin	Peck	ProvSGD	St Peter's	L442
Duncan Philip	Childs	ProvSGD	Lodge of Perseverance	L455
Michael John	Pawluk	ProvSGD	Willowbrook	L7439
Stephen Frederick	Burton	ProvSGD	Ferraria	L8489
Brian Frederick	James	ProvJGD	England's Centre	L2555
Brian John William	Hornigold	ProvJGD	Pemberton	L3039
David	Smith	ProvJGD	Coritani	L8079
Timothy John	Barrett	ProvJGD	Towcestrian	L9510
William Thomas	Diggins	ProvAGSec	Lodge of St George	L5978
Peter George	Ayton	ProvAGDC	Lodge of Fidelity	L445
Russell Joseph	Dickinson	ProvAGDC	Lactodorum	L8526
Thomas Simon	Webster	ProvAGDC	Petriburg	L8767
Simon Barningham	Harker	ProvAGDC	Sartoris	L9497
Paul Wyndham	Beard	ProvGOrg	Thistle and Rose	L6644
Colin	Reid	ProvGStB	Old Northamptonian	L5694
Marcus Giles Stuart	Dickens	ProvGStB	Whytewell	L8400
Leslie Thomas	Paul	ProvAGStB	Peterborough and C	L2996
Cedric Alan	Fry	ProvGPurs	St Wilfrid	L4453
Michael William	Marshall	ProvGStwd	Fitzwilliam	L2533
Michael Adegboyega	Hamilton	ProvGStwd	Hatton	L3041
Andrew David	Moore	ProvGStwd	Lodge of St George	L5978
Kenneth	Brookes	ProvGStwd	Risdene	L6532
John	Cato	ProvGStwd	Abington	L8041
Robert John	Taylor	ProvGStwd	Samuel Pepys	L8330
Robin David	Porter	ProvGStwd	Whytewell	L8400
Scott John Granville	Frater	ProvGStwd	Lactodorum	L8526
Richard James	Hill	PPGStwd	Danetre	L8594
James Richard	King	PPGStwd	Town and Country	L9580
John Thomas	Wooding	ProvGTyler	Cytringan	L4048

Grand Charity Support for DeafBlind UK

On 14 January 2015 at Rushden Masonic Hall, the national charity Deafblind UK received £25,000 from RW Bro Max Bayes PGM on behalf of The Freemasons' Grand Charity. This was to fund the vital work of their Digital Inclusion Project. This exciting project supports people who have combined sight AND hearing loss, enabling them to access mainstream devices such as tablets, the internet and Braille technology.



RW Bro Max Bayes, Provincial Grand Master presents the £25,000 cheque to Andy Shipp, DeafBlind UK Digital Inclusion volunteer - accompanied by Jeff Skipp, Chief Executive, Monica Evans, Senior Institutional Fundraiser & W Bro Gerry Crawford, Provincial Grand Charity Steward

Deafblind UK's Chief Executive, Jeff Skipp said,

"I would like to extend our sincere thanks to The Freemasons' Grand Charity for this generous support of our Digital Inclusion Project. This funding is supporting us to help deafblind people access the world around them. They are exploring the ways technology can help them and the outcome is making them feel less isolated, more independent and better connected to others. Vital parts of life that many of us take for granted."

Max Bayes, Provincial Grand Master for Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire said,

"I am so pleased that Freemasons have been able to support such an important project. The Digital Inclusion Officer will help a great many Deafblind individuals to connect with others, enabling them to better communicate and be part of the community."

The Government is moving forward with its policy agenda 'digital by default'. This means that in the future people will claim benefits, receive information about public services and access advice through the internet.

With this funding, Deafblind UK is able to support individuals who need access to public services the most, enabling them to enjoy the same ease of access as everyone else.

Devonshire Court Forthcoming Events

Friday 8th May 2015	Murder Mystery Dinner 7pm
Sunday 21 June 2015	Ascot Race Day Lunch 12 Noon
Tuesday 29 September 2015	Friends of Devonshire Court AGM

Win your Lodge membership fees for a year!

This lovely Grolsch bottle is full of mixed coins. Simply guess the value of the coins in the bottle for the chance to win a free Lodge subscription for one year!

£1.00 entry, with payments through your Lodge Charity Steward

Winner gets 1 year free subscription to his Lodge!

Closing date is 31-12-14, and the winner will be announced in January on the provincial website (www.northants-huntsmansons.org.uk)

Kindly donated by :- Bryan Birchall Past Provincial Director of Ceremonies.
Mug & tea spoon shown to give indication of scale

Bottle Competition Winner!

Congratulations to Bro Michael Greene on winning the recent Bottle competition. The correct answer was £131.82. He guessed the amount in the bottle was £132 and wins one year's subscription to his Lodge - Petriburg Lodge No 8767.

Even better news for the Provincial Grand Charity is that Bro Michael has donated his winnings to the Charity. Thank you Michael and also a big thank you to all who took part and helped to raise £750 for the Provincial Grand Charity.

W Bro Trevor Boswell to be Deputy Provincial Grand Master

It is announced that W Bro Trevor Boswell, presently Provincial Grand Secretary, is to become Deputy Provincial Grand Master on the retirement of VW Bro Dr Vivian Thomas in May this year.

Born in Northampton in 1949 Trevor spent his childhood in Emberton near Milton Keynes. On leaving school he served an apprenticeship with Aston Martin. At the age of 21 took a new direction - into consumer sales. Having spent 34 years in the industry, he retired as General Sales Manager for a division of Pfizer, an American based multinational.

Initiated into the Old Northamptonian Lodge in 1994 he became Worshipful Master in 2000. He is also a member of the Palmer Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards, Lodge of Installed Masters and Three Counties Lodge, a founder member of Grand Junction Lodge and Salcey Forest Lodge. Becoming Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary in 2005, he served for five years before becoming Provincial Grand Secretary in 2010. He received Grand Rank in 2012 on promotion to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

He was exalted into Kingsley Chapter in 2000, becoming MEZ in 2005. Also a member of the Chapter of Installed First Principals he is currently serving as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Holy Royal Arch in which he received Grand Rank in 2014 on promotion to Past Grand Standard Bearer.



W Bro Trevor F Boswell PAGDC

In other Orders is a member of the Simon de St Liz Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Vikings Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, St Lawrence the Martyr Chapter Rose Croix and Rushden Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine.

He is married to Daphne, who helps in the Provincial Office and has two children. His other interests are walking, rugby and the odd holiday or two.

W Bro David Burton to be Assistant Provincial Grand Master

On the retirement of W Bro Norman Pope in May this year, W Bro David Burton is to become Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

He was born and still lives in Elton near Peterborough where his parents ran a Newsagents and General Store. David was educated at Orton Longueville Grammar School, Peterborough and trained in accountancy with Bulley Davey at both Oundle and Peterborough offices. He was appointed General Manager of Sheltons Department Store in Peterborough in 1974 and is still working with that family's business interests as General Manager of Manor Windows (a double glazing company) and Armor Shutters (manufacturers of automatic roller garage doors and security shutters) based in Stanground, Peterborough.



W Bro David Burton PAGDC

Initiated into Petriburg Lodge in 1984 he became Worshipful Master in 1998. He held acting Provincial Office as a Provincial Grand Steward, Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies (twice) and Provincial Senior Grand Warden. He was promoted to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2012.

A member of the Palmer Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards he is currently Director of Ceremonies.

Exalted into Gildenburg Chapter in 1996, he served as Treasurer for 10 years and is currently Third Principal. Perfected into Dr Crucefix Rose Croix Chapter he held office as Treasurer for a number of years and is currently Recorder. He is also a member of Castle Ashby Rose Croix Chapter.

A keen golfer he is a member of Peterborough Milton Golf Club. For the last 37 years he has been Chairman of the Trustees of Elton Village Hall. He has in the past served for 21 years on Elton Parish Council, over seven years as Chairman and for 10 years as a board member of Axiom Housing Association.

W Bro Mike Caseman-Jones to be Provincial Grand Scretary

On the promotion of W Bro Trevor Boswell in May this year, W Bro Mike Caseman-Jones is to replace him as Provincial Grand Secretary.

Born in 1961 Mike was educated in the North West of England and initially worked in the office equipment industry before joining the Regular Army in 1983.



W Bro Michael Caseman-Jones, TD

He left the Army to join the Police service and after a varied career he retired in 2011.

He was commissioned in the Army Reserve in 1993 and after several promotions was deployed on operational tours of Iraq and Afghanistan. He graduated from the Joint Services Command and Staff College before taking Regimental Command in 2009.

He was initiated in 1989 and first installed into the Worshipful Master's chair in 1991 and in Chapter was first installed as Z in 2004.

As a Past Master of Waynflete Lodge he was appointed Provincial Grand Steward in 2003, Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works in 2007 and Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary in 2013. He is a Past Principal of Waynflete Chapter and as such will receive his first appointment as PPGSoj this year.

He is a Past Master and Past Commander of the Connaught Army and Navy Lodge of Mark Master Masons and Royal Ark Mariners respectively and currently holds the acting rank of ProvAGDC in the Mark Province of London.

As a member of the Red Cross of Constantine he is the Divisional Recorder for Thames Division and currently holds active Grand Rank of GStdB(L) in that Order.

He is married to Gail, a retired Police officer and has one daughter.

W Bro William Diggins to be Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary

On the promotion of W Bro Mike Caseman-Jones in May this year, W Bro William Diggins is to become Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary.

He was initiated into the Lodge of St George in 1996, becoming its Worshipful Master in 2005. He is currently serving as Treasurer and is MEZ of Kingsley Chapter and a Past Most Wise Sovereign of Thomas a Becket Rose Croix. While practicing most of his Masonry in this Province he has is also a member of the Lodge of Protection in Metropolitan Grand Lodge where he is also a Past Master.



W Bro William Diggins

Serving on both the Palmer Court Masonic Housing Association and the Provincial Charity Committee, he was rewarded with his first Provincial appointment of Provincial Junior Grand Deacon in 2011. He has been given the responsibility of chairing the Tercentenary Committee in preparation for the 300 year celebration in 2017.

William runs and owns a small group of hairdressing salons and has four sons (two of whom are also Masons) and a stepson.

New Local Communication Officer - W Bro Rob Mallett

The new Local Communication officer for Wellingborough & Rushden is W Bro Rob Mallett of Wentworth Lodge No 737 into which he was initiated in 2002. He was its Worshipful Master in 2011 and 2012 and is now its Secretary. He is also a member of Old Kimboltonians' Lodge, Palmer Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards, St Crispin Chapter and Perseverance Preceptory.

A Director of a large vegetation management company, he is 38 years old and lives in Islip near Thrapston with his wife Helen and three children. He is also a director of the Wellingborough Masonic Hall Company.

He has been involved in various fundraising challenges, including the canoe trips along the River Nene which have been very successful, raising funds for worthy causes such as Great Ormond Street Hospital, Cransley Hospice and Palmer Court.



W Bro Rob Mallett

New Local Communication Officer - W Bro Simon Perry

The new Local Communication Officer for the Huntingdon group of Lodges, W Bro Simon Perry, has owned the public house and bed and breakfast in Hilton near Huntingdon for the last 12 years. Prior to that he owned the local shop and Post office.



W Bro Simon Perry

Initiated into St Ivo Lodge No 2684 by his father, W Bro Brian Perry, in March 1995, Simon became its Worshipful Master in 2007 and is now its Secretary.

Simon has many loves in his life. He is a lifelong Chelsea fan and cricket follower, testing the patience of this partner, Emma, who may have to endure Chelsea during the day and cricket into the early hours. Simon and Emma have a 19 year old son and a 13 year old daughter.

An avid bookworm, he read 27 books during 2014.

Simon is looking forward to actively contributing in his new role as Local Communication Officer for the Huntingdon group of Lodges.

New Member of Provincial Secretariat & Administration

Gail Caseman-Jones joins the Provincial Office team in February 2015 in an administration role formerly undertaken by Daphne Boswell. Gail was born in Olney, Buckinghamshire, grew up in Northampton where she spent most of her formative years, and attended the Northampton School for Girls. She then joined Northamptonshire Police in the mid 1980's where she enjoyed a wide variety of postings. She moved into the training of young officers coming into the service as well as being one of the force's principal diversity advisors. Her skills in this area took her to Pakistan and the Czech Republic where she delivered training to Police officers and government liaison personnel. The latter part of her service saw Gail as part of the Emergency Planning Team before retiring from the Police in January 2015.



Gail Caseman-Jones

Whilst her husband W Bro Mike Caseman-Jones was in military service, Gail provided support for wives and partners of soldiers in his Regiment also serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A member of the Towcester Town Council and an active supporter of the alms houses charities in Towcester, she is looking forward to coming to the Provincial Office where she can use her previous experience and embracing the new challenge that a busy office provides.

Jubilee Certificate Congratulations

A very special event took place at Chicheley Lodge on 3 November 2014. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VV Bro Dr Viv Thomas, presented **W Bro Sid Prowse** with his Jubilee Certificate, offering his personal congratulations to commemorate 60 years in Freemasonry.

Born in Dublin, W Bro Sid was initiated there in 1954 in the Spinks Lodge, before settling in England with his wife & family. He became a Metropolitan Police Officer, serving for 25 years, joining the Handone Mount Lodge 8183 at Harrow in 1977, where he was Worshipful Master in 1991.

He gained Provincial Rank in Middlesex being appointed Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer and became a joining member of Chicheley Lodge 607 in Thrapston in 2005 and is a keen member of the Masonic Bowls Association.



(l to r) W Bro Mick Warren, W Bro Sid Prowse & VV Bro Dr Viv Thomas

For many years, Sid & his wife Maisie regularly visited their cruiser on the River Nene and this love of the County led to them moving to Raunds in 1993.

Congratulations also to **W Bro David Manners** of Beneventa Lodge No 2380 who, in October 2014, received his Jubilee Certificate commemorating 60 years in Freemasonry.

Several Brethren have completed 50 years in Freemasonry and we sincerely congratulate them too. They are

- W Bro John Stuart Brooks of Ailwyn Lodge No 3535
- W Bro Robin William Richards of Ailwyn Lodge No 3535
- W Bro Geoffrey Coles of Old Kimboltonians' Lodge No 7204
- W Bro Neville Theodore Kny of St John's Lodge No 3972
- W Bro James McDonald Scott of Lodge of St Paul No 6516
- W Bro William Reginald Arnold of St Crispin Lodge No 5627
- W Bro Ian Trevor Delamore of Socrates Lodge No 373
- W Bro Kenneth Charles Stanley of Beneventa Lodge No 2380
- W Bro Donald Charles Willis of Beneventa Lodge No 2380
- RW Bro Oliver Nicolas Norwood Hart of Lodge of Merit No 466
- W Bro Maurice John Rye of Risdene Lodge No 6532
- W Bro Kenneth John Briers of Scout Lodge No 9814

Donation to Royal British Legion

Many Masons from this Province made the supreme sacrifice in military service during the Great War of 1914-1918 (for fuller details please see the UGLE Masonic Great War Project - Roll of Honour 1914 -1918).

It is therefore fitting that the Provincial Grand Charity has made a donation of £5,500 to the local county branch of the Royal British Legion in Northamptonshire.



(l to r) Bill Rose, Colonel Ian Keers OBE DL, RW Bro Max Bayes & VWBro Dr Viv Thomas

This was presented on 7 January 2015 by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Max Bayes and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Dr Viv Thomas. They made the presentation to representatives of the Royal British Legion, Colonel Ian Keers OBE DL, County President, and Bill Rose, County Chairman.

Joint Fund Raising of £11,782 for Cynthia Spencer



A combination of fund raising efforts has resulted in a cheque for £11,782 being presented to Cynthia Spencer Hospice.

This was made up from £3,239 raised by W Bro John Biles at Piscator Lodge's Ladies' Night and £8,543 raised by W Bro Steve Storey in conjunction with Piscator and Old Northamptonian Lodges and an Abba fund raising night at Sheaf Close.

At last arrival in Paris for W Bro Steve Storey & Stuart Roberts

Over 4 days (and 300+ miles) in July 2014 W Bro Steve also completed a London to Paris sponsored cycle ride.

New Year Honour for W Bro Robert Arthur Denton

W Bro Robert Denton, a long serving member of the Lodge of Perseverance No 455 and a founder member of Trinity Lodge No 9165 has been recognised for his services to the community in Rothwell by the award of the BEM in the recently announced New Year's Honours.



W Bro Robert Denton

He spent 22 years as Bailiff of the Rowell Fair Society after 12 years as Deputy, was a District Councillor for 16 years and a Special Constable between 1960 and 1994. He spent 42 years teaching, including 23 years as headmaster of Walgrave Primary School.

He said *"I'm thrilled to bits to get the honour but you do feel very humbled by it – there are other people in the area who put as much into the community as I do. "But I feel proud to be appreciated. It's a lovely feeling."*

W Bro Robert was the Perseverance Worshipful Master in 1992, Master in Trinity Lodge in 1995 and again in 2009. In 2001 he served as Provincial Senior Grand Warden and has also been honoured in several other degrees.

He has been warmly congratulated from his fellow Brethren in Kettering and throughout the Province.

New Masons' Curry Evening

On Monday 24 November, the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Max Bayes, and the Provincial Senior Grand Warden, W Bro Luigi Orsi, joined some of our Province's newest members from the New Mason Facebook group for a curry at Funky Spice in Wellingborough.

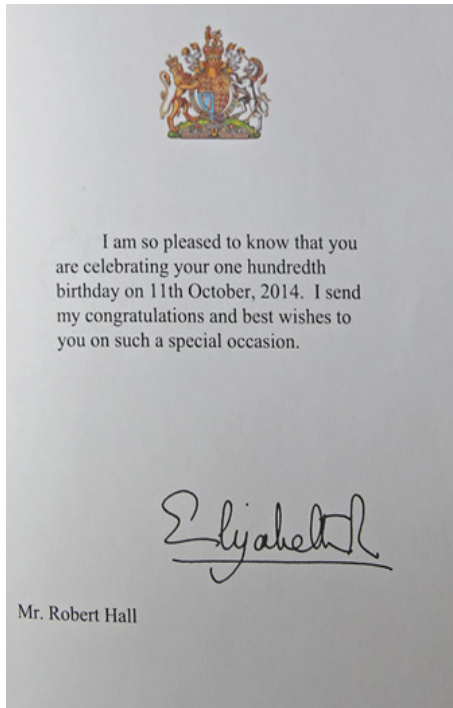


The New Mason group

This was an informal evening without toasts and was all about the opportunity to put faces to names, ask questions and get to know each other. It was a most enjoyable evening and at the end of the night all the talk was around what the next event would be and when it would be held.

W Bro Bob Hall 100 Not Out

On 11 October 2014 W Bro Bob Hall was joined by Brethren from his Lodge, the Lodge of St Paul No 6516, to celebrate his 100th birthday.



Message of congratulation from
Her Majesty the Queen



(l to r) W
Bros Trevor
March, Michael
Branch,
Bob Hall,
Alex Willis
(Worshipful
Master) &
Trevor Pywell
(Lodge
Almoner)

Kettering Skin Cancer Diagnosis Helped by Masonic Donation

On the 30th October 2014, W Bro Rev John Simmons and W Bro Jim Boughton APGM were delighted to present Dr Olivia Stevenson, Consultant Dermatologist at Kettering



(l to r) Consultant Dermatologist, Dr Olivia Stevenson, Macmillan nurse Fiona Briggs, W Bro Rev John Simmons & W Bro Jim Boughton APGM

General Hospital, with a cheque for £1,460. This will be used to purchase two additional dermatoscope devices – much needed to assist in the diagnosis of skin cancer. The funds were raised by Scout Lodge No 9814 (where John is a Past Master) and generously matched by the Provincial Grand Charity.

The donation has special significance for John after he had been treated by the Unit for skin cancer, diagnosed after his wife, Ann, had noticed that a mole on his chest had changed colour.

He said, “I am enormously grateful to the NHS and KGH for the way in which I have been looked after. I very much hope this contribution will go some way to repay that debt of gratitude.”

Dr Stevenson added, "On behalf of the Department, I would thank John and all of his colleagues in the Freemasons for their tremendous support. Please do urge all of your members to get any suspicious moles or other skin lesions checked out immediately."

The Travel of the Gavel

In February 2011, during his year as Worshipful Master of Fitzwilliam Lodge No 2533, W Bro Jonathon Hibbins laid claim to a Travelling Gavel.

Having originated in St Martin's Lodge in the Massachusetts 21st Masonic District, USA, the Travelling Gavel was then in the possession of Horsa Lodge No 2208 in Bournemouth.

Fitzwilliam Lodge tried several ways of publicising the Gavel in the UK - from as far north as Hexham down to London and across to Boston. Initially, there was little interest from any other Lodge in claiming the Gavel.

Since becoming Provincial Grand Stewards together in 2012, W Bros Jonathon Hibbins and Nick Baxendale of Lactodorum Lodge No 8526 have built up a keen friendship. On one of his visits to Fitzwilliam Lodge W Bro Baxendale learned about the Gavel. The seed was sown. He formed a plan for Lactodorum Lodge members to form a raiding party and claim the gavel.



W Bro Jonathon Hibbins claims the Travelling Gavel from W Bro Jeremy Sanders, WM of Horsa Lodge in Bournemouth in February 2011

Consequently, Lactodorum Lodge members formed a very impressive party, led by their



Members of Fitzwilliam Lodge with the Lactodorum Lodge raiding party

Worshipful Master, and attended Fitzwilliam Lodge's meeting at the Ellindon Masonic Centre, Peterborough, on Thursday 6 November 2014. They claimed and are now in possession of the gavel.

Euston Lodge's Christmas Cracker



Bro Peter Davison
& RW Bro Max Bayes

At Euston Lodge on 17 December 2014 the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Max Bayes, rose to address the Brethren.

He started by reminiscing about his days as a very keen cricketer and how he met a young man who was a demon bowler. It transpired that although both were and still are Freemasons neither was aware of this at the time.

It soon became obvious that the PGM was referring to the young Peter Davison who was acting as organist. The PGM thanked Bro Peter for his long and distinguished contribution to Masonic music after which W Bro Trevor Boswell PGSec read a declaration scroll saying that Bro Peter had been awarded the PGM's Certificate of Merit.

The PGM then announced a further surprise and awarded Bro Davison a field promotion to Past Provincial Grand Registrar – the highest rank that can be awarded to a Brother who has not been installed in the Chair of King Solomon. A surprised and amazed Bro Davison thanked the PGM for the unexpected honour and was escorted back to his seat.

Much to our WM's surprise the PGM did not return to his seat. Instead he started to extol the virtues of another Brother – W Bro Jim Clement - and, to universal acclaim, also awarded him the Certificate of Merit. The expression of surprise on the WM's face had to be seen to be believed. However that was nothing in comparison to his reaction on



(l to r) W Bros George Bonham, John Benson, Trevor Boswell,
Jim Clement, RW Bro Max Bayes PGM, W Bro Derek Young
PDepPrGM, W Bros Francis Margot & John Clarke

being told that he was also being promoted to Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden. Not often moved to tears or lost for words, the WM was on this occasion.

It is a rare honour for one Lodge to be honoured by two of its members being promoted in the field and receiving the PGM's Certificate of Merit. It really made for a very special and memorable meeting and a fitting celebration of the Lodge's 125th Year.

£2,000 Shot in the Arm for Mid Anglia Accident Service

During his year as the Worshipful Master of Ailwyn Lodge No 3535, W Bro David O'Leary decided to donate to the Mid Anglia General Practitioner Accident Service (MAGPAS). This

supports the Ambulance Service by providing the MAGPAS Helimedix Air Ambulance and a MAGPAS specialist medical team for despatch to cases of life-threatening illness or major trauma within the East of England. The charity operates a helicopter and rapid response car, staffed by highly trained Pre-Hospital Doctors and EEAST Paramedics, many of whom volunteer their own time to work with us.



(l to r) Paramedic Andy Smith, W Bro Geoffrey Barnes, Paramedic Simon Sandon, W Bro David O'Leary and Dr Nick Scott, a flying doctor

During the year W Bro David and members of the Lodge raised £1,000.

This was augmented by a donation of £1,000 from the Provincial Grand Charity. In December 2014 the £2,000 cheque was presented to MAGPAS by W Bro Geoffrey Barnes, Lodge Charity Steward and W Bro David O'Leary, by then the Lodge's IPM.

Red Cross Annual Appendant Orders Meeting

The East Midlands Division of the The Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and The Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St John the Evangelist held the annual Appendant Orders meeting on Saturday 17 January 2015. His was under the banner of Byzantine Conclave No 44 and held at London Road, Leicester. The Division was honoured by the presence of the Grand Sovereign M III Kt Graham L Flight GCC, in his role as Most Illustrious Patriarch and Grand Commander.



(l to r) V III Kt Peter Dawson, R III Kt John Manby, M III Kt Graham Flight, GCC & V III Kt Neil Matthews

The Divisional Intendant-General, R III Kt John Manby was well supported by the Divisional Officers and Worthy Knights of the Division. The Appendant Orders were conferred on seven Worthy knights. The meeting was followed by luncheon.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I am writing with regard to the recent debate about the need to increase our membership and I would like to make the following observations, not made in a critical way but as this is a matter of concern to us all. When I asked to join Freemasonry, it was because I had met Freemasons socially and found I enjoyed their company.

At the Gates of Billing we are trying to promote this sharing of our pleasure in Freemasonry by inviting non Masons to our Ladies Festival. We recently celebrated our 25th anniversary as a Lodge with a Sunday lunch and invited non Masons to share this occasion. We have also invited friends to join us in a discussion evening during which we explained our reasons for joining the Craft and a little of the working of the Lodge. As a result of this informal activity, we have several new members and a healthy workload for the coming year.

My concern is that in our eagerness to increase the numbers we are sometimes placing friends or relations in a difficult position insofar as they may have a slight interest but only join rather than give offence. We do not seem to give them time or opportunity to make a firm judgement, everything now seems to be rushed. I hate the phrase "in my day" but it has to be used as a comparison. After I first told my proposer that I would like to join, I waited a year before my interview and another year before my initiation. It then took another two years to complete my 3rd degree. I then served 7 years as a Steward before taking office in the Lodge.

At that time we were doing double degrees and sometimes a 1st and 2nd in the same meeting with two candidates in each just to clear the workload. Therefore, before actually taking office we all had a pretty good idea of the ceremonies. Nowadays, we admit a candidate, push him through the three degrees in a year and, in some cases, without the benefit of attending LOI make him IG because we don't want him to lose interest. Before I was allowed to class myself as Master Elect, I was told to report to our LOI in London and conduct all three ceremonies, all the way through on three consecutive Mondays. I was then informed by the DC that I could then consider myself as Master Elect. Happy days!

I am assisting a Master of another Lodge with the ritual of the 2nd degree and in the course of conversation, he asked, "What are the perfect points of entrance. I have never been told." He also had no idea what a Cowan was or the significance of the number of knocks the Tyler gives when admitting a candidate for Initiation. The problem is that we are so busy getting the words right that we talk at the candidate instead of to him.

Yours fraternally

Terry Noble PPJGW
Mentor Gates of Billing Lodge No 9309

Brothers and Masters Together for Two Consecutive Years

A very special and unusual evening was had at Kingsley Lodge No 2431 on Friday 28 November 2014.



(l to r) Incoming WM, W Bro Robert Beckett with his brother and SV, W Bro David Beckett

The Master Elect, Bro Robert Beckett was installed into the Chair in excellent fashion by W Bro Alan Woolls. The new Master, in turn, installed his brother, David as his Senior Warden.

David had been installed in the Chair of Sulgrave Lodge No 9462 in May 2014. This means both brothers are Masters at the same time.

To add to this unique situation, in May 2015 David will install Robert into the Chair of Sulgrave Lodge. Likewise, Robert will install David into the Chair at Kingsley Lodge in November 2015.

The Beckett brothers will therefore both be Masters over two consecutive years and install each other!

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Please keep your Local Communication Officer advised of any item of interest. It is only by doing so that he can know what is happening in your area or Lodge and have news of it published in this magazine or on the Provincial Website,