



password

Winter 2008/09

The 2013 RMBI Festival

As chairman of the 2013 Festival on behalf of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, I must report how delighted I am with the progress achieved to date. We have experienced some remarkable events that have not only raised funds for the appeal, but, perhaps more importantly, have provided great enjoyment to those that gave support.

The Brass Band Concert held in Peterborough Cathedral on 12th April was truly remarkable. A full house thoroughly enjoyed music of the highest standard performed by some sixty of the best brass musicians in the country. They were superbly supported by the soloist, Caroline Trutz and the Cathedral Organ Scholar, Benjamin Horden. I believe that everyone who attended considered it to be one of the best events that we have ever produced. Our sincere thanks go to W Bros David Read and Bill Wright for the organization. It almost seems incidental that we also raised more than £7,500.

A Variety Show at St George's Avenue was well supported and we witnessed much talent from around the Province. Our thanks go to all those who took part and particularly to W Bro Tony Potter for his efforts in organising such an event. There was a surplus on the evening of more than £2,500.

Various other fund raising items have progressed well, including Merchandising, the Grand Prize Draw and the Provincial Diaries.

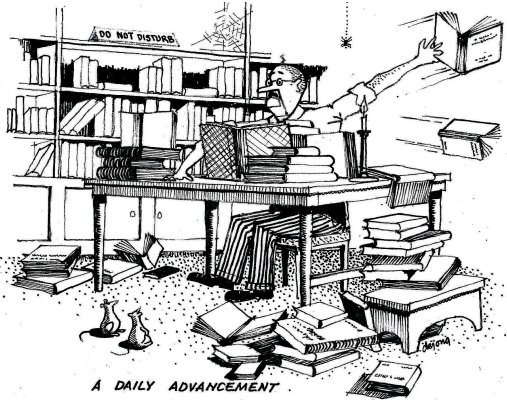


There will be another Easter Walk, this time moving through the Province from West to East along the Nene Valley Way. Our walk from Stamford to Brackley at Easter 2007 proved to be very enjoyable for those who took part. I am therefore hoping that many will again make the effort and will be joined by others who missed out last time. The format will be the same in that it will last for four days at an average of 18 miles each day. There will be three sections each day of between three and seven miles each, so I hope that people will feel able to tackle at least one section. W Bro Trevor Boswell and I have already walked the whole length and we can report that there are some really interesting sights and much very pleasant walking. I am hopeful that around 200 Brethren and friends will take some part and I also hope that each participant will be able to raise sponsorship of at least £100.

My 2013 Committee meets regularly and are constantly generating ideas. The policy is that we do not simply ask brethren to give

TOWARDS... "A DAILY ADVANCEMENT IN MASONIC KNOWLEDGE"

The frosts and sub-zero temperatures of January seem a far cry from the mellow days of September as we reach the halfway stage in a typically busy and happy Masonic season. We can however look forward to the challenges ahead as well as the delights of spring time and early summer. A very happy and healthy New Year to you and your family from Joy and myself and our hope that you have enjoyed a relaxing and peaceful Christmas. Christmas certainly began in fine style with another splendid Carol Service in the magnificent surroundings of Peterborough Cathedral. As always we were warmly welcomed by the Dean, the Very Revd. Charles Taylor and a memorable service, indeed a Christmas concert, was enjoyed by some eleven hundred Brethren, families and friends together with a host of distinguished guests from throughout the Province. Our thanks to APGM, W Bro Vivian Thomas and Asst. Secretary, W Bro Trevor Boswell for a simply perfect organisation of every aspect of the occasion.



New Year is a time for reflecting not only on the year passed but of hopes and aspirations for the future. We are all very familiar with the exhortation towards the close of that memorable address to newly initiated brethren that we should endeavour:-

“...to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge”.

an exhortation not only to develop a deeper understanding of our wonderful Masonic Order but quite simply to enhance our enjoyment of the Craft – its history, its traditions, and its teachings. We all derive a tremendous satisfaction and enjoyment in working the ritual of our Degree Ceremonies and I'm quite certain we each derive a little more understanding of their teachings on each occasion. In turn this is a challenge to us all to explore that understanding a little further to derive yet more enjoyment and fulfilment from our Masonry. So how can we take these further steps, indeed to make that “daily advancement in Masonic knowledge”? In last January's edition of Password, I reflected on the work in progress of our Education and Training team, led at that time by V W Bro Derek Young and W Bro Reg Hirst. Since then a great deal of time and effort has been devoted to re-structuring our programme which became a living reality in the early autumn of 2008. In short our programme is now structured round the work of several small cross-Province teams whose Chairmen then meet under the guidance of APGM Vivian Thomas as a Steering Group for the overall Education and Training programme.

Teams and Chairmen are:-

- Libraries and Museums (W Bros Jim Boughton and Alan Harden) aiming to catalogue our extensive facilities and historical treasures at Northampton and Peterborough for easy access and availability.
- Demonstrations (W Bro Trevor Sherman) aiming to build a portfolio of available and newly scripted demonstrations of Masonic ceremonies of historical and current importance.

“A DAILY ADVANCEMENT”(Contd)

- Orations (VW Bro Derek Young) providing access to recently published UGLE Orations and those written by members of the Provincial team giving further insight into our ceremonies and history.
- Lodges of Instruction (W Bro John Benson) aiming to collate Provincial activities in this important area and to develop suitable templates of “best practice” in this key area of our work.
- Mentoring (W Bro Reg Hirst) aiming to train Lodge Mentors and Mentor Co-ordinators and to identify/publish relevant and up to date Mentoring literature and booklets.
- Officer Training (W Bro Reg Hirst) providing expert training/teach-ins for all progressive and long term Officer Appointments within a Lodge.
- IT Data Base (W Bro Alam Kersley) providing a comprehensive on-line facility for available talks, presentations, lectures etc including a focal point for interactive discussion on these topics.
- IT Web Site (W Bro Gerry Crawford) updates and expands our new and very comprehensive Provincial Web Site which is greatly admired both within and outside this Province.

The work of any of these teams can be accessed by individual Brethren or by Lodges. They afford a unique opportunity to explore the rich heritage, culture and traditions of Freemasonry and further our understanding of a very special journey through Pure, Ancient Masonry.

As individuals we can explore, at our leisure, those aspects of the Craft hitherto only partially understood or to uncover yet more understanding of its precepts. Alternatively Lodges, while designing their annual programmes, can find appropriate material whether Orations, Demonstrations, Lectures or Presentations which may be used either to complement Degree Ceremonies for an additional 5-15 minutes or on occasions to replace a Degree Ceremony with a special item of specific interest and relevance to the Lodge.

Whatever route you choose you may be certain it will accomplish a “daily advancement in Masonic knowledge” and very importantly it will do so in a most enjoyable manner to the benefit of the Lodge, its members and most particularly its (Masonically) younger members on which our future depends.

Over the last year I have seen many splendid examples of this strategy in action including the Craft Degree lectures, the Pomfret Lodge Demonstration team, the Provincial Orators own personal Orations of Masonic History and understanding and the fabled lectures of our incomparable E&T officer W Bro Reg Hirst. Add that to easy access to our Libraries and Museums and to our Provincial Data Base and Website and I believe we are uniquely placed to explore new Masonic horizons in a quite captivating and enjoyable manner. Why not make a New Year’s resolution – take up the challenge and have a go!!!!!!

RW Bro W Barrie Hall
Provincial Grand Master

/Cont'd from Page 1 money, but provide events that will bring pleasure and thereby raise funds through people enjoying themselves.

These social events will, I hope, maintain the interest of the membership in the appeal, and will provide additional contributions to the Festival total. However, the hard core of the fund-raising must come from the Lodges through members' Regular Payment Promises and from Lodge fund raising activities. Many Lodges have already reached their given target, but I am sure that they will not stop at that. It is important that some Lodges substantially exceed the target as it is a fact that others will struggle to reach theirs. I am hoping that Charity Stewards of those Lodges that are finding the target difficult will talk to me so that we can provide help and support where possible. My thanks go to all Brethren for the efforts made so far and for the work that I know will continue until the culmination in 2013.

W Bro Max Bayes PSGD
Festival Chairman

2013 RMBI Festival Prize Draw

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The 61st Annual Festival of The Federation of School Lodges

By the kind permission of the Headmaster and Governors of Wellingborough School, The Old Wellingburian Lodge No 5570, on Saturday 6th September, had the privilege of hosting the 61st Annual Festival of the National Federation of School Lodges. We were honoured by the presence of the Mayor of Wellingborough Councillor Mrs E Higgins, The Headmaster, Mr Garry Bowe and RW Bro Barrie Hall, the Provincial Grand Master, together with over 200 distinguished Masons from Old Boys' Lodges from across England and Wales, together with 60 wives and partners, coming from as far afield as Truro, Cardiff and York.

The splendid day commenced with a rousing Service of Thanksgiving in the School Chapel, at which the Headmaster and W Bro Jerry Higgins, the WM, read the lessons, symbolically showing the close association of the Lodge with the School. This was followed in the afternoon with a Lodge meeting in the School Hall. There, in a glittering



ceremony, the new Lodge Banner was dedicated and a Past Masters Board unveiled by The Provincial Grand Master. All this took place in the presence of W Bro Wayne Williams, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, a past Provincial Grand Master of Surrey, The President of the Federation VW Bro Jeffrey Gillyon, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Yorkshire, North and East Ridings, and over 30 Active and Past Grand Officers and some 170 Brethren. W Bro Brian Huckle then gave an interesting and highly entertaining talk about the history of Wellingborough and some reminisces of his time at the School and his early memories of journeys to Lodge in London. The Ladies, in the meantime enjoyed a private tour of Boughton House followed by a cream tea.

The day ended with Dinner in the newly refurbished School Dining Hall where all enjoyed a most splendid meal in very enjoyable company. Thanks are due to members of The School Staff, Wellingborough Masonic Centre, the School CCF and the School Prefects for helping to stage a truly magnificent Masonic occasion. (Despite the appalling weather!!)

W Bro Brian Strudwicke PPrJGD

Don't forget the Easter 2009 RMBI Festival Charity Walk

Over the 2009 Easter weekend - from Good Friday, 10 April to Easter Monday, 13 April W Bro Max Bayes, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, invites local Lodges and Freemasons to join him in a sponsored walk along the Nene Way.

Application forms are available on the website or from the Provincial Office

18th Century Royal Arch Chapter Inauguration Presentation

Two members of the Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire demonstration team, E Companions Bill Purcell and Barry Weigleb, together with Grand Superintendent E Companion Wayne E Williams and Third Provincial Grand Principal E Companion Trevor Cooke, made the trip to Devonshire on 15th January to attend the Vale of Haldon Royal Arch Chapter No 7949 in Dawlish where they witnessed an excellent presentation, bringing to life the complexities of inaugurating a Royal Arch Chapter in Cornwall in the late 18th century.

Just three Companions took part in the presentation, but their portrayal of Comp John Knight of Redruth, Thomas Dunckerely, and his much put-upon servant Bronson (My cane Bronson!!). Their use of original letters, other correspondence, the language of the time, and gentle wit used to great effect made for a superb display and a further daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. We thank our hosts most sincerely for a lovely evening.



The evening was further enhanced by the presence of E Comp Christopher J Pengelly, ME Grand Superintendent for the Province of Devonshire, accompanied by his full Executive, Officers of Supreme Grand Chapter and many acting Officers of Provincial Grand Chapter, all of whom extended the warmest of welcomes to the visitors from Northern parts.

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Provincial Web Site Update - It's Proving a Real Hit

Do you know the significance of the George and Dragon Lodge No 62 in the history of Freemasonry in the Province? Do you know when Northamptonshire combined with Huntingdonshire to form the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire? Do you know which Lodges are meeting in the Province today and where?

A visit to the Provincial web site will give you all the answer to these and many other questions about Freemasonry in the Province helping you in your quest to make a daily advancement.

Since the relaunch in January 2008 unique visitor numbers steadily grew throughout the year, starting at a rate of just over 700 per month and peaking at over 1,100 in November. After the Home Page, the three most visited pages were those listing details of Lodges in the Province with their meeting dates, Provincial News and the Introduction to the Province. The site has been used as a research tool by non-Masons and has been directly responsible for the recruitment of 32 new members to Lodges in the Province and 15 applications are pending.



The increasing use of the site is at the heart of the greater use of technology in Freemasonry in the Province.

- All but five Secretaries of the 90 Lodges in the Province now use the Internet
- The web-site features a page for their exclusive use from which can be downloaded all the Provincial and Grand Lodge forms, templates and other information needed by Secretaries
- Issues of Password (from 2005 onwards) can be downloaded
- Lodges are increasingly using email to circulate summonses and copies of meeting minutes
- Grand Lodge and the Provincial Office accept the submission of various forms by email
- The Provincial Office and Provincial Executive (through the Provincial Office) now accept Lodge summonses by email
- In November 2008 an online Provincial information, learning and discussion forum at www.dailyadvancement.com was launched
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It is fair to say that the inexorable march of technology may be seen by some as a threat to those with more traditional communication preferences. The continued existence of the paper version of Password is evidence that the printed word on paper survives. and you can be sure that those who prefer to receive Masonic communications in the traditional format will continue to be able to do so. However, if you are not an Internet user yourself you might be able to access information on the Provincial web site through someone you know who is.

Palmer Court, Wellingborough

At the end of October, the residents of Palmer Court were taken on a day's outing to the Old Dairy Farm Centre at Upper Stowe (see picture). They were treated to a lunch, with suitable liquid refreshment, in the restaurant and were then free to look round the various shops and retail outlets.

In January, the New Year was marked with a dinner and entertainment at Wellingborough Masonic Hall. A seasonal meal was provided for those present and followed by music and humour from some local artists. Both of these events were paid for from donations generously given to Palmer Court by a number of Lodges in the Province. The day-to-day running of the scheme is funded by the Masonic Housing Association from the rents paid by the residents, but the donations received are used for entertainment and outings.



We are extremely grateful for these contributions, and they are becoming even more important to us, as with an increasing age group we foresee a need to provide a greater number of events for residents who are no longer able to organise functions for themselves.

John Rivett – Chairman, Local House Committee

Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire Golf Association Founded 1934

This year is the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire Golf Association. As the inaugural meeting was held at Wellingborough Masonic Hall it has been decided to hold this year's Masonic Golf Day at Wellingborough Golf Club. All golfers in the Province are encouraged to come along and support this celebration. The cost of the day will be £53.00 per person which includes 18 holes of golf and a three course evening meal.

The 2009 Masonic Golf Day will be held on 11 September and further details can be obtained by contacting Wayne Stocks on 01733 266507 or at stockswl@aol.com. Lodge Reps whose names have been received and Lodge Secretaries will receive entry forms in the near future.

Summer Knockout

If you are interested in the Summer Knockout, which runs throughout the Summer, please contact Wayne Stocks with you and your partner's names and telephone numbers. Closing date for entries is 31st March 2009.

The Provincial Bowling Association

The Northants & Hunts Provincial Masonic Bowling Association made its first ever Bowls Tour in August 1994 and a great success it proved to be. The touring party of 43 Brethren and ladies, led by President Dennis Rideout, visited the Swindon area from 12th to 15th August, staying at the Blunsdon House Hotel - highly recommended by all in the party. Last year's tour of the Masonic Bowls Association, which was to the Cathedral cities of York and Leicester, took place in July. Despite it being 'high Summer' three days of heavy rain meant that the matches in York had to be played on indoor rinks, but this failed to dampen the spirits of the forty-two members and wives who took part.

On the journey South the weather improved and, as can be seen in the photograph below, the Leicester match at the Goodwood Bowling Club was played in bright sunshine. Honours were even at the end of the tour during which four mixed matches were played; two having been won and two lost.



The photograph shows President Dick Voller with members and wives at the Goodwood Bowling Club, Leicester.



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MASONS NEAR & FAR

Our Man in Kandahar

Password readers circa 2006/2007 will probably recall the series of articles entitled 'Our man in Basra', where I mentioned duties on Operation TELIC 8 in Iraq. One might also recall at some stage me mentioning that this was probably the last operational tour that I would be doing for the foreseeable future, well who was it that said, never say never?

This current tour came by accident rather than design. Whilst attending a military course I was talking to a good friend of mine, Major Robbie Whitfield MBE who was looking for an officer to be the Officer Commanding 908 LSU RLC based at Kandahar as part of Op HERRICK 9. Some three months later Robbie contacted me again and the conversation ran "do you remember when we spoke about an Afghan tour with LSU?" "Oh yes" panic trying to think what I had said and more importantly what I had agreed to, "was it that long ago!!!" Robbie continued, "Good news Mike, after you attend the operational labour support course in June, I have you penned in to take over in early November 08, and how does that sound?" Now obviously this matter hadn't yet been discussed with the domestic chief of staff (Gail), and lots of things were now running through my mind including how to broach the subject of a tour to Afghanistan with Gail, and of course survive this 'contact'!. Hence the reply from me, trying to sound like I run things at home, "Sounds great Robbie can I get back to you on that one, there are some minor things here that I need to sort out" Next with Mike and Gail sitting in hot tub in back garden in Towcester with fizzy Italian wine, the matter is discussed at length, including what about the present job in Northamptonshire Police, proposed tour dates, possible extension, R&R and the possibility of promotion to Lieutenant Colonel on the horizon with an Op tour for my new Regiment in 2010. Subsequently as you will have surmised the whole matter was put to bed and within a short while Robbie had his OC for November 2008.

The weather here is something which is either one extreme or another, when I arrived it was quite warm and the issues at that stage were the ubiquitous dust and of course the flies, who seem to have no fear and land exactly when and where they want to, despite an active set of fly swatters in the unit lines. As winter starts to bite here, the rain falls quite hard to monsoon

standard, resulting all things that were once dust and sand are now sticky mud, which like the dust gets everywhere so an active 'mop regime' is often the order of the day, not withstanding that we have contract cleaners who come in every morning and do a sterling job.



Even though in this electronic age everyone seems to be contactable, and the welfare package (internet cabins and phones home) is very welcome, traditional mail from home is a massive morale booster, with that small piece of paper being such a personal link between 'here and there'. We have seen Christmas boxes arrive from home where ordinary members of the public have been out shopping and purchased small nick knacks, non-perishable food stuffs, Christmas trees, Santa hats and toiletries which, when packed in a shoe box and addressed to 'A British soldier in Afghanistan' was very welcome indeed and I have to say restored my faith in human nature, as well as ordinary folk at home who genuinely do care about their servicemen and women which is just wonderful. My only concern is that Debbie, who ever she is and who took such time and care in putting my box together, didn't leave any contact details or e-mail address for me to follow up so if she reads this may I take this opportunity to offer a personal thank you to you Debbie, and to the wonderful people at home on behalf of all the servicemen and women on operations in whatever part of the world this past Christmas, who had a small unsolicited part of home delivered to them. May I thank you, because you can be assured that what you were disposed to give was very thankfully received and most faithfully applied.

W Bro Mike Caseman-Jones PPrGSuptWks

Regretfully, for space constraints this had to be an edited version of a much longer submission from 'Our Man in Kandahar.' However, his full presentation is available on the website. **Ed.**

Make Sure You Don't Miss It - The Annual Richard Sandbach Lecture

The Annual Richard Sandbach Lecture, on UGLE's relationships worldwide, will be delivered by RW Bro Alan Englefield, Grand Chancellor, PPrGM of Oxfordshire at the meeting of the Richard Sandbach Lodge No 9600 on Monday 16th March at the Masonic Centre, Ellindon.

For further details and bookings contact W Bro Mark Howell on 01480 831848 or direct to the Provincial Office on 01604 711746 or email pgl@northants-huntsmason.org.uk

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Why not treat yourself to a new pair of gloves



Sizes in Medium & Large

Now available from your local
Festival Merchandise Representative
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Jubilee Certificates - It must be Something in the Air

At the meeting of Peterborough & Counties Lodge 2996 on Tuesday 18th November W Bro Stewart Tribe was presented with a Diamond Jubilee Certificate by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W Bro Dr Viv Thomas. W Bro Tribe was initiated into Gordon Lodge No 99 in Melbourne Australia on the 8th July 1948. In 1951 he moved to Peterborough and applied to become a member of Peterborough & Counties Lodge in that year. However, since his papers did not arrive from Australia until 1961, he spent the next ten years as a permanently invited guest. He subsequently joined, was the Worshipful Master in 1981, and is now an Honorary member of the Lodge.



The following month, on an official visit to Waynflete Lodge No 4452, W Bro Norman Pope, the Provincial Grand Secretary, handed over a 60 year Jubilee Certificate to the Master and Almoner for presentation to Bro Richard Gillman Kielsen (sadly Bro Richard was not well enough to attend; hence no picture). Bro Richard was a wartime Mason having been initiated in uniform as a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF on 17th January 1945. His subsequent duties meant he was not passed and raised until 1951. He is no longer able to attend meetings but was elected an Honorary Member of the Lodge in November 2008 on his 87th birthday.

There must be a hidden ingredient in the air of Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire as, in addition to the two Diamond Jubilee Certificates referred to above, no less than five Golden Jubilee Certificates have been presented since the Summer, these being to W Bro Norman Coe of Hinchingsbrooke, by VW Bro Derek Young, W Bro Brian Cheaney of Old Kimboltonians Lodge by W Bro Michael Herbert, W Bro Roy Bird of Vale of Nene Lodge, by W Bro Wayne Williams, W Bro Don Marlow of the Lodge of St Paul by W Bro John Partridge, and W Bro Norman Rich of Old Kimboltonians Lodge by W Bro Viv Thomas. Congratulations are offered to all the Brethren above with the sincere wish that they may continue to enjoy their Masonry for many years to come.

Provincial Carol Service

This year's Provincial Carol Service was again a sell out occasion. It is estimated that over 1100 attended making it the largest congregation this event has seen. The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Barrie Hall, welcomed many invited guests, which included the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, together with a Member of Parliament and 10 Mayors and Mayoresses from the major towns throughout the Province.

The Cathedral Choir and Congregation sung numerous Carols and the Lessons were read by the Heads of a number of our Masonic Orders. The evening concluded with the traditional refreshments of wine and mince pies generously supplied by the Lodges of Peterborough, Stamford and Ramsey.

Next year's Carol Service will again be held in Peterborough Cathedral on Sunday 13 December 2009.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity

Over the last year we have heard of many contributions to excellent non-Masonic and very worthwhile causes. Most recently we have been made aware of a gift of £15,000 to assist the terrible situation that exists for the children in the Belgian Congo. It would be reasonable to assume that for the most part, we, in our relative comfort, would have no idea of the incredibly harsh circumstances that these poor children are faced with on a daily basis, simply to remain alive. It is necessary, therefore, for us to continue to help in such humanitarian crises.

However, there is another area to consider, one that is becoming increasingly closer to home. In November, the Masonic Relief Grant Committee reviewed 250 cases for Masonic Relief, distributing over £300,000 to needy Masons and their dependents. December was not that far behind. What these quite stark figures illustrate is that our help to our own Brethren is increasing.

The average grant has gone up to over £2,000 and our budget for 2009 will need to be in the region of £4 million pounds... Those of you who read the Annual Accounts of all the Charities will realise that there is not an infinite availability of money to give to very deserving needs. There is approaching a time when we may well have no alternative to reducing some of our non-Masonic giving, in order to meet the requirements of those Brethren less fortunate than ourselves.

We are becoming increasingly aware of rising numbers of Brethren being made redundant, with the attendant financial pressures that accompany such redundancies. Some Brethren may reach the position of no longer being able to afford to attend their Lodges, or, to be able to pay their dues. Perhaps, wishing to keep their circumstances private, they may not feel able to tell anyone of their predicament and their membership could be in jeopardy. I would urge all Lodge Almoners, and indeed all Members, to look out for their friends and those who are not attending Lodges and who perhaps may be struggling. We cannot intrude on what are, after all, very private matters, but we can make it known that help can be provided.

It is wonderful that I am able to tell Brethren that we are helping a larger range of Masons and their dependents, which, after all, is what the original charitable aims set out to do. Over the years, national and international organisations have felt able to call on us for what has been a considerable amount of support. With a recognised reduction in the overall number of active Freemasons, who themselves may well be facing difficult times ahead; I am not being alarmist when I suggest that the maxim of "Charity begins at home" may need to be applied.

W Bro Dr Viv Thomas PSGD AsstPGM

Sue Ryder Care Home Peterborough

On the morning of the 4th of December W Bro Norman Manser, Senior Group Officer for the Peterborough Group of Lodges, presented a cheque for £3405 on behalf of the UGLE to Helena Waters and Mark Harrison, staff members at the Sue Ryder Care Home. This sum is part of £600,000 donated by The Grand Charity this month.



The Masonic & Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre & of St John the Evangelist

The Masonic Order with this rather lengthy title is more usually referred to as The Red Cross of Constantine. I have been a member since 1987 and was very privileged to become the Intendant-General of the East Midlands Division in June 2008. My predecessor was Michael Roalfe who is rather better known as the Provincial Grand Master for Leicestershire and Rutland.



The Order first appeared in the United Kingdom in about 1780 but did not really become active until 1865 when a Grand Imperial Conclave was assembled in London. The East Midlands Division consists of seven Conclaves meeting in Leicester, Loughborough, Northampton, Lutterworth, Dunstable, Rushden and

Peterborough. The oldest is the one that meets in Leicester, known as Byzantine Conclave which was consecrated in 1871. The newest Conclave is Crux Rubra which meets in Peterborough and was consecrated in 2005. In the whole Division there are around 220 members and I am delighted to say that there is some rapid growth occurring in recent months.

The basic ceremony of the Order deals with the legend of the conversion to the Christian faith of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great. There are what are known as Appendant Orders which deal with the ceremonies of the Holy Sepulchre and of St John the Evangelist. Only the first ceremony is practised in the individual Conclaves, the Appendant Orders being conferred at an annual meeting that embraces the whole division.

In order to be considered for membership a Mason must also be a member of the Holy Royal Arch. There are no further qualification requirements. Conclaves usually meet just three times a year with rehearsals normally held just before the actual meeting. It is not a long ceremony.

I clearly enjoy the Order having been a member for almost 22 years. I recommend it to any Mason, young or old, who wishes to explore an interesting story with the opportunity to meet like-minded Masons from both our Craft Province and those of Bedfordshire and Leicestershire and Rutland.

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R III Kt Max Bayes PGStdB (C)

Royal Order of Scotland

On the 3rd September last, at their 51st Regular meeting at Kettering, Bro John Morris was invested as Deputy Provincial Grand Master of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire of the Royal Order of Scotland by Bro Gordon Gentry, RW Provincial Grand Master. This Provincial Grand Lodge was consecrated on 20th November 1992 and Bro John was the Founding Provincial Grand Deputy Marischal (DC in the Craft) and, having subsequently served in a number of Offices, was appointed as Worthy Substitute Provincial Grand Master in the year 2000.



As an interesting comparison it is noted that Bro The Rt Hon The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine KT, CD, JP, MA, LLD, RW Deputy Grand Master and Governor had it seems decreed that the prefixes (e.g. Right Worshipful, and Worthy) in use in Provincial Grand Lodges within The Royal Order of Scotland shall describe the office and not the Brother in that Office. Thus, Bro Gordon Gentry, RW Provincial Grand Master is the correct style and title rather than RW Bro Gordon Gentry, Provincial Grand Master as one might expect (That is to make the distinction that all are indeed 'Brothers')

Northampton Lady Associate Masons Memorial Clock

Readers will recall the moving testimonial that was paid to the late Joan Winn when her death was reported in last Winter's Password and the Northampton LAMs obviously felt a more lasting memorial was needed to honour her memory. Accordingly, during last year's Summer, break, the Northampton Lady Associate Masons paid tribute to their former President by the unveiling of a clock in the foyer of the St George's Masonic Hall. The subscription reads "Presented by the Lady Associate Members in memory of Joan Winn, President 1993 – 2006".



The current President, Joy Roblin, made a gracious speech about Joan to the assembled members who had been joined by Mr and Mrs John Winn (Joan's Son and Daughter-in-Law) and Tony Stevens, the Chairman of the Masonic Hall Planning Committee.

Pictured left, starting from the left, are Margaret Williams, the LAMS Chairman, Janet Winn, John Winn, Tony Stevens and Joy Roblin.

Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Support

Local Freemasons have donated £1100 to The Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) Association based at Towcester. This Charity organisation was formed to assist people with the dreadful brain disease known as PSP which robs people of their ability to walk, talk, eat, drink and see. Sufferers of the disease become trapped in their own bodies unable to communicate, whilst remaining mentally alert.

In order to provide a much needed and ongoing patient care and welfare service the PSP Association relies on financial donations. Having been made aware of the Charity's needs, the Freemasons of Towcester presented the Charity with a cheque (Lodge of Fidelity £250 and The Towcestrian Lodge £850) to assist them in funding the dedicated nursing support they provide to thousands of sufferers.



The photograph above shows, from left to right, Jane Hardy, the Chief Executive of The PSP Association, W Bro Dominic Willmott, Worshipful Master of The Towcestrian Lodge, W Bro Bill O'Rourke, Worshipful Master of The Lodge of Fidelity, Bro Cliff Davies, Secretary, The Lodge of Fidelity and Bro Tim Barrett, Junior Warden of The Towcestrian Lodge.

The Croughton Square & Compass

Club Members of The Croughton Square & Compass Club presented a cheque for £400 to the Headteacher, Staff and pupils of Stoke Bruerne C of E Primary School towards the funding of a new library.



The Croughton Square & Compass Club is a Masonic Dining Club and meets every month at The Boat Inn, Stoke Bruerne. It now has a membership of 50 Master Masons representing 25 Lodges in this and other Provinces. In recent years the Club has distributed in the region of £2000 per year to Masonic and other good causes.

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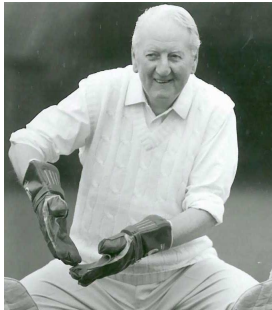


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OBITUARIES

W Bro Reg Harris PPrSGW (C of M)



W Bro Reg was born on 30th September 1911 and passed to The Grand Lodge Above on 17th December 2009 at the age of 98 years.

A full and varied life included time in the police force, as a surveyor and an estate manager. He was a Councillor for 17 years and Mayor of Northampton in 1983 at the tender age of 71 years. A family man with a son, daughter, 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, W Bro Reg was a keen sportsman. Cricket was his first love and wicket keeping was his passion. He played for many clubs and Graham Gooch declared on Anglia Television in 2002 that Wisden would be recording Reg as the oldest playing wicket keeper in the world! In his latter years he played indoor and outdoor bowls and captained his club.

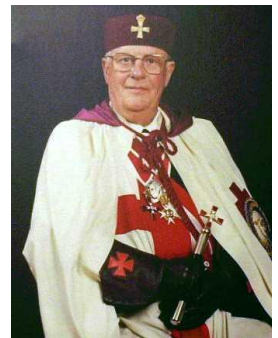
W Bro Reg Harris was initiated into Kingsley Lodge No 2431 on 26th March 1954 and served as WM in 1969 and 2000 (he was 90 when installed for the second time). A Founder of Abington Lodge No 8041 and Hamtune Lodge No 9601, he served both Lodges as WM. He was honoured with the Provincial Grand Masters Certificate of Merit in 1995. Exalted into Kingsley Chapter in 1957 he joined Abington Chapter in 1975 and served both Chapters as First Principal. Perfected into St Lawrence the Martyr Chapter Rose Croix in 2000, he was due to become MWS in May 2009.

A remarkable man and Freemason, W Bro Reg Harris lived very much respected and died very much regretted by all who knew him.

W Bro Patrick Evan Marlow PAGDC

W Bro Pat Marlow joined Freemasonry into St Crispin Lodge in 1951, some 58 years ago, and had been looking forward to achieving his Diamond Masonic Jubilee in just two years time. Sadly, whilst attending a meeting of St Crispin Royal Arch Chapter on January 22nd, he collapsed in the Lodge room at Kettering. His passing represents a great loss to Masonry in general and to this Province and Kettering Masonry in particular. Pat was a member of 4 Craft Lodges, St Crispin Royal Arch Chapter, the Mark Degree, 4 Knights Templar Preceptories, and he had only recently joined the Order of The Knights Beneficent of the Holy City.

It is difficult to pay adequate tribute to the contribution he made to Freemasonry, but for Bro Pat the highlight of his Masonic experience was the 10 years he occupied the Office of Provincial Prior in the Order of the Knights Templar and he was very proud to have his services to this recognised by his appointment as KCT in 2000.



Pat also played a significant role in the recent restructuring of the Management and Administration of the Masonic complex at Kettering and was Chairman of the Board of Directors. He served as D.C. of St Crispin Lodge from 1978-85 and contributed much to Masonry over many years. As we remember Pat at this time we commend to your thoughts his ever supportive wife Brenda at this sad period in her life.

Provincial Grand Master's Diary to June 2009

Date	Lodge Number	Lodge Name
Monday 9th February	8837	Toseland Lodge
Tuesday 24th February	8932	Buckby Castle Lodge
Monday 2nd March	9497	Sartoris Lodge
Monday 9th March	607	Chicheley Lodge
Wednesday 11th March	Grand Lodge Quarterly Communications	
Saturday 14th March	Provincial Grand Charity AGM, N'pton	
Tuesday 31st March	9829	Wilavestone Lodge
Thursday 9th April	442	St Peters Lodge
Wednesday 15th April	8869	Cumton Lodge
Thursday 23rd April	8576	Spelhoe Lodge
Friday 24th April	9542	Meridian Lodge
Wednesday 29th April	Grand Lodge Investiture, London	
Thursday 21st May	Provincial Grand Lodge, Northampton	
Wednesday 3rd June	3422	Installed Masters Lodge
Wednesday 11th June	Grand Lodge Quarterly Communications	

Communication

The website will continue to be an ever more important means of communication between the Province and the membership and will require your constant input and feedback to make it work but, as indicated on Page 7, the Province is committed to ensure that communication will be maintained with everyone with or without access to a computer. **Editor**

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Towcester Church of England School

Towcester Church of England School, which opened in September, replaced two schools, St Lawrences C of E Junior School and the Towcester Infant School. All three Craft Lodges in Towcester (Fidelity No 445, Lactodorum No 8526, and The Towcestrian No 9510) have donated money to pay for a prospectus for the new school. Any money left over will help be used for other items required by the new school.

Bro Tim Barrett (on the left) and Bro Oliver Lowe presented cheques to Mrs Marian O'Grady, the Principle of the new school, and Mrs Tracey Johnson, Chairman of the Friends of St Lawrences School.



A New Bed for Abbey

Abbey Jeffs, a severely disabled Huntingdon Teenager, is one of the children set to benefit from an adapted bed bought for a children's respite centre by Freemasons of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. The specialist bed, costing more than £3,000, has been donated to the children's respite unit at the Laurels in Hall Close, Huntingdon. Abbey, 15, suffers from a series of complex special needs, which means she is dependent on others. She has to be fed through a tube and cannot walk or talk requiring overnight stays at the Laurels a couple of times a week.

Over time she had outgrown her bed and used to injure herself catching her hands in the bedrails. The new hi-tech bed will allow Abbey, and other children like her, to have a more comfortable night's sleep when staying at the Laurels. It gives youngsters the room to stretch, rollover and manoeuvre safely. Abbey's mother, Shirley, said: "This bed will make the world of difference to Abbey. In the old bed she didn't have enough room to move around safely but this new bed is wider, longer and safer; it's a fantastic all-singing and all-dancing bed." The specialist bed has a head and foot tilt which means it can be repositioned as required for the child's care. It also has see-through cot sides which make it less claustrophobic for the young patients.



Seen left are W Bro Pat McGuinness and his wife Verena with Tony and Shirley Lenton (either side of Abbey). The manager of the Laurels, Sharon Partridge, said: "We are very grateful to the Masons for this most generous donation. The bed will enable nursing staff to deliver

care in a more comfortable and manageable way for many young patients now and in the future."

Devonshire Court Oadby

On Monday 8th December, The Worshipful Master, W Bro Tony Schiorlin seen at the back of the picture, and several Brethren of The Fitzwilliam Lodge visited Devonshire Court, Oadby on their annual visit to distribute Christmas presents to the residents. There are currently 67 residents in this care home which is run by the RMBI, which as everyone must by now be aware will receive the proceeds from the 2013 festival.



W Bro John Kernick, one of the residents thanked the Brethren of Fitzwilliam Lodge once again for their kindness in providing Christmas presents to all the residents. He also gave an open invitation for all Masons to visit the home and chat with the residents and have a cup of tea with them. Some of the residents do not get many visitors and welcome talking to someone new!

Northampton General Hospital

The ongoing support by Freemasonry for Northampton General Hospital was highlighted recently with a presentation of £4,000 to the Endoscopy Unit to purchase two machines to monitor blood pressure, body temperature, oxygen levels and pulse rate during surgery. Mr David Hunter, the Senior Consultant Surgeon at the hospital emphasised the importance of such equipment and thanked the Brethren of Abington Lodge and Provincial Grand Charity for their generosity on this occasion. Mr Hunter is seen here with two of his nursing staff together with W Bro Norman Pope, Provincial Grand Secretary, W Bro Selwyn Griffith (Abington Lodge), W Bro Richard Bedells (Provincial Grand Treasurer) and W Bro Arthur Piggins (Provincial Grand Charity).



Presentation to Willowbrook Health Centre District Nursing Team

On September 8th 2008, W Bro Alex Henderson, W M of Corbie Lodge No. 9155, presented a cheque for £1821 to the District Nursing Team. The money included a substantial contribution from the Provincial Charity Fund and was used for the purchase of two Gazeley Syringe Drivers; items urgently needed by the team.

The Nursing Team Leader, Maggie Earl, expressed thanks to both the Lodge & Province for their kind gesture and said the objectives were to relieve the suffering of people who are sick, convalescent, disabled or otherwise handicapped. This was achieved by the provision of equipment to enable them to be nursed in their own homes. Well done to all concerned.

Provincial Honours 2009 - 2010

The Provincial Grand Master has been pleased to make the following appointments as Acting Provincial Officers for the period 2009 - 2010:

PrSGW	Francis Edward Margot	St Ivo Lodge No 2684
PrJGW	Andrew Joseph Woodward	Towcestrian Lodge No 9510
PrGReg	Trevor John Cooke	Abington Lodge No 8041
PrGSwdB	George Clayton	Dr Field Lodge No 8158
PrGSuptWks	Roy Gallagher	Hatton Lodge No 3041
PrDGDC	Robert Andrew Stokes	Peterborough & Counties Lodge No 2996
PrSGD	Alan Frank Nicholls	St Peter's Lodge No 442
PrSGD	John Richard Scholes	The Lodge of Merit No 466
PrSGD	Philip Litchfield	Lodge of St Paul No 6516
PrSGD	Kenneth Smith	Towcestrian Lodge No 9510
PrJGD	Rodney David Phillips	Ailwyn Lodge No 3535
PrJGD	John Edwin Walsh	Risdene Lodge No 6532
PrJGD	Michael Robin Bell	Sothius Lodge No 8774
PrJGD	Ian David Lindsay Thomson	Hinchingbrooke Lodge No 9282
PrAGDC	Liam Leo McShane	Pomfret Lodge No 360
PrAGDC	John Albert Payne	Lodge of Perseverance No 455
PrAGDC	Russell Laxton	Fitzwilliam Lodge No 2533
PrAGDC	David John Goswell	Hatton Lodge No 3041
PrGOrg	William Bernard Wright	Abington Lodge No 8041
PrGStdB	William George Martin Hensley	Sothius Lodge No 8774
PrGStdB	Leslie Gary Neill	Rockingham Forest Lodge No 9491
PrAsstGStdB	Colin David Pitts	Cumton Lodge No 8869
PrGPurs	John William Oldfield Payne	Lodge of St George No 5978
PrGStwd	Michael Leslie Smith	St Peter's Lodge No 442
PrGStwd	Geoffrey Philip William Willis	Eleanor Cross Lodge No 1764
PrGStwd	Anthony Potter	Kingsley Lodge No 2431
PrGStwd	Alisdair Donald MacDonald	Vale of Nene Lodge No 7006
PrGStwd	Jeffrey James Chambers	Old Kimboltonians' Lodge No 7204
PrGStwd	Robert Eric Watts	Willowbrook Lodge No 7439
PrGStwd	Stephen Peter Barley	Whytewell Lodge No 8400
PrGStwd	John Simmons	The Scout Lodge No 9814

In addition the PGM has also been pleased to reappoint the following Officers:

W Bros F E Pickard as PrGChap, R N Bedells as PrGTreas, N E Pope as PrGSec, N O Young as PrGDC, C A Bennett as PrDGDC, J E Partridge as PrGAlm, I S Lauder as PrGChStwd, D G Young as PrGORator, T F Boswell as PrAsstGSec and J W Tarry as PrGTyler. The investiture of the above will take place at the Annual Provincial Grand Lodge meeting at Freemasons' Hall St Georges Avenue Northampton on Thursday 21st May to which it is hoped as many Masters of Lodges and Wardens will attend in support.

Freemasons' Gift to Children's Ward

W Bro Eric Wilkins, Worshipful Master of Whytevell Lodge No 8400, which meets in Wellingborough, had good reason to want to help Northampton General Hospital's Neonatal Gossett Ward with its care for children. Both of his grandchildren had very premature births, and might not have survived had it not been for the Intensive Care unit there.

With the help of the Lodge, Eric raised £2000 during his first year as its Master, and then applied to the Provincial Grand Charity for a "top up" grant. The Charity added a further £2000, enabling Eric to present Gossett Ward with £4000 to provide extra equipment. The money will be used to buy a Cerebral Function Analysing Monitor, which looks at brain activity, and a nitrous oxide ventilator.



Di Rogers, Advanced Neonatal Nursing Practitioner, seen here receiving the cheques from Alicia Knight on behalf of the ward, expressed her gratitude. She said that many of the children coming to the ward are very seriously ill, and that the monitor and ventilator will make a big difference to the care she and her team provide.

The picture left to right shows Ben Knight, Senior Staff Nurse Katy Bates, Grandpa Eric (wearing his Master's collar), Alicia and Di Rogers.

Not Even The Provincial Grand Master Can Go Unobserved



As RW Bro Barrie Hall, the Provincial Grand Master, checks the Masonic merchandise on sale for the support of the 2013 Festival his activities are being scrutinized from above.



Under the 'all-seeing eye' (or eyes in this case) of W Bro Max Bayes, the Festival Chairman, and his Asst PGM colleagues,

the PGM is seen confirming that the goods on offer are of real value for money and are something that everyone should aspire to own. In addition to Regular Payment Promises, purchase of these items is a good way to support the Festival so check with your Centre 2013 Memorabilia Representatives, whose details can be found on the Provincial Website.



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Gerry Crawford	Tel: (01604) 831672	Northampton Lodges 1764, 1911, 3972, 4990, 6977, 8844, 9048 & 9740
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Norman Pope	Tel: (01604) 711746	Provincial Secretary

Keep your Information Officer advised of any interesting Lodge activities because it is only by doing so that he can know what is going on in your area and thereby get something published in 'your' Provincial Magazine - Password.

500,000 Happy Faces!

Just over 7 years ago, Essex Masons launched the Teddies for Loving Care "TLC" scheme in A&E throughout the County. The idea soon caught on and was so successful that it has now spread up and down the Country and overseas. Over 37 counties in the UK now operate the scheme and abroad it operates in Gibraltar, Cyprus and even the USA! Produce a TLC Teddy for a child in A & E to look at, cuddle, or whatever is appropriate, and the whole situation calms down, and often turns to smiles; especially when they are told they can keep the Teddy! In our own Province, in addition to providing Teddies to the five A & E units we have, as reported in the last edition of Password, extended the scheme to the Fire and Rescue Service, walk-in centres and paramedic ambulances.



By giving away some 500,000 Teddies, the TLC scheme last year celebrated the milestone of helping ½ million severely distressed Children since it was launched. That's more than 5 times the number of seats in the Beijing Olympic Stadium! What a magnificent achievement, all run by and almost entirely funded by Freemasons.

Help Needed!

To ensure the continued success of Password we need material that is likely to be of interest to Masons and their families Province wide. Please don't just leave it to someone else. If you have an article, a report of an activity or a letter to share please contact me or one of the Information Officers above - Remember it's your magazine. **Ed**