



Password

Winter 2011/12

Northampton Freemasonry on the Move

St George's Hall (formerly Freemason's Hall) the home of Freemasonry in Northampton, since 1971 is to close. Freemasonry in Northampton is thriving but, unfortunately, business at our Northampton Masonic Centre is not. Despite some generous donations from Lodges during the recent years of difficult trading conditions, the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Max Bayes made this announcement at Three Counties Lodge on 31 October 2011.



He said, "The business at St George's Hall is no longer viable or sustainable and it is with regret that we have decided to cease trading on 31st May 2012. We apologise to all those this action affects but it is a result of the overall business climate and the ever increasing costs of maintaining the premises."

This building was constructed in 1970 and officially opened in July 1971. It was built following the compulsory purchase of the former Masonic Hall in Prince's Street in the town centre which was demolished because of the Northampton Town Centre redevelopment at that time.

When St George's Hall is disposed of local Freemasonry will need a new centre. Several potential sites have been identified. Some would entail acquiring land and building new premises. Others would involve converting an existing building to Masonic use.

In conclusion, the PGM said, "There will be some sadness and regret in leaving what has been our home for forty years - the only Masonic home that most Northampton Masons have ever known. I implore you to be excited about the prospects and fully support the venture."

As we go to press nothing has been finalised but a great deal of work has already been carried out and plans are rapidly becoming reality.



Message from the Provincial Grand Master

I write as we enter 2012 with great hope for the future of Freemasonry in general and of this Province in particular. I really believe that the Craft is making great strides in proving that it can be a modern organisation that is ideally suited to the 21st Century man.

In Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire we continue to attract quality members and the majority of these are enjoying what they discover. Our Mentoring Scheme plays a very important role in assisting new members to settle in and to understand some of what is happening and we must continue to work on this aspect. We have recently introduced the new idea of a restricted Facebook website page for our initiates. A new member will now, very soon after his initiation, receive a brief email from me welcoming him to the Craft and to our Province and inviting him to join this website page. The hope is that he will interact with the other new members and thereby they will give each other support and encouragement. I envisage they will develop friendships that will result in visits to each others Lodges and speed up the formation of those friendships that have taken many of us some years to form.

A further idea that I would like Lodges to consider is the matter of Masonic career paths for Past Masters. I feel that when a brother completes his period as Master and then IPM, it is very easy for him to lose some interest if he does not remain involved. If he were to intimate to the Lodge Committee where he feels he could be of service to the Lodge, then it could help an incoming Master with his appointments. It may be the DC route, Almoner, Charity Steward or whatever. I do feel that sometimes a Brother is reticent to ask for a particular role as a more senior Brother is holding the job and he does not want to upset him. I feel it is important that a Lodge knows who may be a potential office holder, even if it takes a year or two to effect the changes.



Provincial Grand Master,
RW Bro W Max Bayes

Whilst considering 2012, what fills my mind perhaps more than anything else at present is, of course, the proposed sale of St Georges Avenue and the purchase of suitable premises elsewhere. I can assure you all that a great deal of work has already been carried out and is continuing. We are very close to completing a sale that will provide sufficient funds to proceed with the purchase plans. I have tried to keep everyone appraised of the situation as it develops and will continue to do so. As soon as there is anything to report it will be made public. The one certain point is that the Masonic Centre at St George's Avenue will cease Masonic activities on 31 May 2012. It is, perhaps, very ambitious to hope that the refurbishment of the new premises will be completed before the new Masonic season begins in September and it is likely Lodges may have to arrange alternative accommodation for two or three meetings. This will not be a problem as contingency plans are already in place to manage this matter.

I appreciate there must be some sadness that we will be leaving somewhere that has been the home of Northampton Masonry and the Provincial Centre for more than 40 years. However, I urge everyone to be excited about what is happening in the knowledge that when the project is complete we will be meeting in surroundings of which we can be proud and practising Masonry that we can well afford.

I wish you all well during the coming year and look forward to your ongoing support.

RW Bro W Max Bayes
Provincial Grand Master

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Craft Members' Hard Graft

Since the last edition of *Password*, Masons across the Province have been hard at work refurbishing their meeting centres. Local Brethren who freely gave of their time and skills have ensured the Masonic Centres at Daventry and Kettering were in an excellent state of repair for the beginning of the 2011/12 Masonic season.

At Daventry

- the dining room, bar and entrance lobbies of Daventry's Masonic Centre have been renovated and decorated
- kitchen area extended to W Bro Bill Mead's design and with W Bro Rick Bott's assistance
- at the other end of the dining room, under W Bro Dick Godwin's guidance and utilising W Bro Ken Bryant's skills, the bar counter, shelving, flooring and glass washing areas renewed
- sinks plumbed in and central heating system modified by Bro Roy Major
- doors, skirtings and architraves fitted by Bro Max Reynolds
- lighting and electrics modified by W Bro Graham Ballinger
- ceilings, walls, doors painted by Bro Bob Lattaway and W Bro Tony Pointing, two Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and many others too numerous to mention
- dining room adorned by a number of distinctive Peter Heard Masonic prints generously donated by W Bro Malcolm Payne

To all those who lent a hand, a *Golden Nail* has been awarded. This distinguishes them as Brethren with whom, the Worshipful Masters of local Lodge are pleased to take wine to mark their contribution.



APGM, W Bro Wayne Williams ensures it will be all white on the night



Bro Bob Lattaway wonders if the plan was to get a new carpet anyway

Meanwhile at the Kettering Masonic Centre, similar refurbishment has been in progress

- the lower part of the main dining room has been redecorated by W Bros Phil Litchfield, Nigel Langham, Michael Walton (and his son Charlie) and Bros Steve Saunders, Alec Willis, Alec Robertson, Paul Wildman of the Lodge of St Paul No 6516 with W Bro David Houghton of St Crispin Lodge No 5627
- the ladies' toilets redecorated by W Bro David Houghton of St Crispin Lodge
- Rose Croix candles replaced with an electric light bulb system by W Bro David Houghton of St Crispin Lodge
- Main Temple furniture restored by Bro. Tom Reed of St. Crispin Lodge 5627
- Car Park lines repainted by W Bro Harry Twelvtree of (Corby) Lodge of St. Giles No 8736
- ceiling blind in the Main Temple repaired by Bro David Houghton of St Crispin Lodge



APGM, W Bro Norman Pope aims high

All who use or visit these Centres will appreciate this work and owe a debt of gratitude to participating Brethren.

Rushden Masons Help Keep Air Ambulance Flying



Mrs Joyce Steele receiving the £1000 cheque from Lodge Charity Steward, W Bro Tony Norman with Lodge Almoner, W Bro John Walsh, looking on

Members of Risdene Lodge No 6532, based in Rushden, have raised £500 for the [Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance \(WNAA\)](#).

The [Provincial Grand Charity](#) added a further £500.

A cheque presentation took place on 3 October at Rushden Masonic Hall. The Lodge Charity Steward, W Bro Tony Norman presented the £1,000 cheque to Mrs Joyce Steele, area fundraiser for the WNAA.

Motorcycle Lodge at Brackley Festival

On Sunday 21st August 2011, for the second consecutive year, members of Graham Milton Lodge No 9796 rode an eclectic selection of their motorcycles from Sharnbrook to the Brackley Festival of Motorcycling.



Mrs Carole Day, W Bro Keith Day, WM, Barbara Smith
& Sarah Cox with interested visitor

The Lodge also sponsored a stand at the Festival promoting Freemasonry in the Community. This was well received, created much interest and resulted in many new contacts being made.

The Festival, now in its third year, has gone from strength to strength. About 12,000 motorcycles attended in 2011.

On average £6,000 has been raised for charity each year and the 2011 nominated charities this year were [Clic Sargeant Childrens' Cancer Charity](#) and [Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance](#). The Graham Milton Lodge effort raised £210, which was shared equally between both charities.

Many thanks go to spouses and family Carole Day, Barbara Smith and Sarah Cox for their hard work on the tombola lucky-dips and quizzes.

An Alarming Experience

Unusually at the 16 November Installation meeting of Waynflete Lodge No 4452 in Brackley there was heard, "Worshipful Master, there is an alarm."

The Worshipful Master, W Bro Julian De Couter, was installing his successor, W Bro Peter Wood, at the Lodge's meeting place, Brackley Town Hall, when the shrill tone of the fire alarm sounded. Fortunately, the alarm proved to be false, was soon re-set and the Worshipful Master continued the ceremony unabashed.

All present, including the Provincial Grand Master, were unfazed by this experience and enjoyed an excellent ceremony and Festive Board.

Jubilee Certificate Congratulations

We offer hearty congratulations to the following Brethren who have received their Jubilee Certificates after completing 50 years in Freemasonry

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • W Bro William Lester Watters | Lodge of Prudence No 8946 |
| • V W Bro Derek George Young | Euston No 2283 |
| • W Bro Eric Alfred Percy Self | Ailwyn No 3535 |
| • W Bro Fredrick Graham Lovering | Lodge of St. George No 5978 |
| • W Bro John Richard Bell | Socrates No 373 |
| • W Bro Michael Edward Herbert | Old Kimboltonians' Lodge No 7204 |



VW Bro Derek Young



WBro Eric Self & RW Bro Max Bayes



W Bro Wayne Williams & W Bro Graham Lovering

Special congratulations are deserved by W Bro Fredrick Andrew Egan of Sulgrave Lodge No 9462. At 90 yrs old he has received a Certificate marking his 60 years in Freemasonry.

After his family moved to Argentina because of his fathers business, he was Initiated into the Quilmes Lodge No 2459 in Argentina in 1952. Over the years, he formed Masonic connections in the home counties, particularly in Essex and is a member of the Royal Arch, Mark Degree and Royal & Select Masters. Later he moved to the USA where he continues to live in Bethesda, Maryland.

His connection with Sulgrave Lodge came after he met W Bro Michael Richards at a meeting of the Compact Lodge, 4th Manhattan District, New York.

W Bro Egan became a Joining Member of Sulgrave Lodge in 1993 a year after the Lodge was consecrated.

He keeps in regular contact with the Lodge and continues his lively interest in English Freemasonry.

Ailwyn Lodge Centenary Celebrations

On Saturday 19 November Ailwyn Lodge No 3535 celebrated its Centenary at the Abbey College, Ramsey. One hundred and thirty one Brethren attended including RW Bro Max Bayes Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Viv Thomas, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Norman Pope, Assistant Provincial Grand Master and RW Bro H Brian Smith, Past Provincial Grand Master and Past President of the RMBI, 41 members of Ailwyn Lodge, nine Grand Officers and 16 acting Provincial Officers and 61 additional guests and visitors.



(front row l to r) W Bro Norman Pope, RW Bro Max Bayes, W Bro David Perkins,
W Bro Viv Thomas & RW Bro Brian Smith

The Centenary Warrant was read by W Bro Trevor Boswell, the Provincial Grand Secretary, and then presented by the Provincial Grand Master to W Bro David Perkins, Worshipful Master of the Lodge. This formal presentation was followed by an historical oration by W Bro Ray Hemingray, Provincial Grand Chaplain. The qualifying Brethren of Ailwyn Lodge were granted permission to wear their Centenary Breast Jewel. There was also a presentation of a 50 year certificate to W Bro Eric Self.

The afternoon's events continued with a warm and joyful reception prior followed by a seven course banquet. In addition to the formal toasts of the evening W Bro David Perkins, with the agreement of the Queens Private Secretary, proposed a special toast to Her Majesty The Queen and HRH Prince Philip on the eve of their 64th wedding anniversary. He read out the letter from Buckingham Palace thanking Ailwyn Lodge for their thoughtfulness and in return, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness sent their warm good wishes to all concerned for a most enjoyable occasion.

2012 Appointments to Acting Provincial Ranks

ProvSGW	Jeremy James Hale Higgins	Old Wellingburian	L5570
ProvJGW	George Clayton	Dr Field	L8158
ProvGChap	Raymond Hemingray	Fitzwilliam	L2533
ProvGTreas	David Charles Watson	Lodge of Perseverance	L455
ProvGReg	Trevor John Cooke	Abington	L8041
ProvGSec	Trevor Frank Boswell	Old Northamptonian	L5694
ProvGDC	Charles Anthony Bennett	De la Pre	L1911
ProvGSwdB	Alan Peter Kersley	Peterborough and Counties	L2996
ProvGSuptWks	Luigi Orsi	Lodge of St Paul	L6516
ProvDepGDC	Robert Thomas Smith	Wentworth	L737
ProvDepGDC	Robert Andrew Stokes	Peterborough and Counties	L2996
ProvGAlm	William Bernard Wright	Abington	L8041
ProvGChStwd	Iain Stirrat Lauder	Pemberton	L3039
ProvGMen	Reginald Hirst	Old Northamptonian	L5694
ProvGORat	Michael Anthony Gorrod	Willowbrook	L7439
ProvSGD	Stuart Frank Morgan	Lodge of Merit	L466
ProvSGD	Trevor Anthony Siddall (rule 69a)	De la Pre	L1911
ProvSGD	Paul Anthony Sparks	Dr Field	L8158
ProvSGD	Martin Philip Holiday	Towcestrian	L9510
ProvJGD	Derek Pearson	Euston	L2283
ProvJGD	Robert William Jeffery	Hatton	L3041
ProvJGD	Peter John Chown	Cytringan	L4048
ProvJGD	David James Leveridge	John Pyel	L5195
ProvAGSec	Eric Brian Ellison	Abington	L8041
ProvAGDC	Paul Baldwin	St Peter's	L442
ProvAGDC	Robert Ian Cox	Lactodorum	L8526
ProvAGDC	Neil Allan Sheppard	Cumton	L8869
ProvAGDC	Paul Michael Finnigan	Lodge of Harmony	L9048
ProvGOrg	David John Sutton	St Peter's	L442
ProvGStB	Stuart Andrew Bambrough	Lodge of St George	L5978
ProvGStB	Robert Lawson Walker	Lodge of St Giles	L8736
ProvAGStB	Alan Paul Gray	St Wilfrid	L4453
ProvGPurs	Barrie James Goulding	Kingsley	L2431
ProvGStwd	Kevin Barton	Wentworth	L737
ProvGStwd	Jonathon Richard Hedley Hibbins	Fitzwilliam	L2533
ProvGStwd	Duncan John Simmonds	Old Kimboltonians'	L7204
ProvGStwd	Nicholas John Baxendale	Lactodorum	L8526
ProvGStwd	Stephen Keith Hewitt	Danetre	L8594
ProvGStwd	Wilfred Merrick Bowles	Anglo Scottish	L8844
ProvGStwd	William Brown Glover	Corbie	L9155
ProvGStwd	Trevor Duncan Ray	Towcestrian	L9510
PPGStwd	Steven Thomas Storey	Old Northamptonian	L5694
PPGStwd	Roger David Sismey	Vale of Welland	L8845
ProvGTyler	James William Tarry	Old Northamptonian	L5694

Masonic Booster for Corby Rocket Team



(l to r) W Bro Norman Pope present the cheque to Ward Manager Simon Lee and Nurses Arnie Aguilar and Jean Addison

In a combined effort by the six Corby Craft Lodges and the [Provincial Grand Charity](#) £2,500 has been donated to the Rocket Team at Kettering General Hospital. This will help towards the funding of new equipment for the care and treatment of patients with respiratory diseases.

The Rocket Team specialises in the treatment of respiratory diseases and gives care in the patient's home as well at Kettering General Hospital. This type of care is essential in a community with so many ex-steel workers and associated industries.

The six Lodges each gave £200 and the [Provincial Grand Charity](#) increased this to £2,500. Rocket Team staff gave a heartfelt thanks in appreciation of the Masonic support.

The presentation of the cheque was made on the 9 September 2011 at the Harrowden A Ward. Simon Lee (Ward Manager), Arnie Aguilar (Charge Nurse) and Jean Addison (Ward Nurse) received the cheque on behalf of the Rocket Team. It was presented by WBro Norman Pope, Provincial Assistant Grand Master, WBros Barry Cole, David Jackson and Tom Hemsley and three of the Corby Lodge Worshipful Masters, WBro Bill McGillivray (Lodge of St Giles No 8736), WBro Billy Glover (Corby Lodge No 9155) and WBro Andy R Nairn (Lodge of Unity No 9495).

Harmony Help for Palmer Court

Palmer Court in Wellingborough is a sheltered housing complex set up by the Masonic Housing Association for the accommodation of the elderly, many of whom have Masonic connections. It is being significantly updated which will result in four totally refurbished and very attractive flats for residents.

Members of the Lodge of Harmony No 9048 recently helped in this process when they made a small donation of £200. On 10 January, W Bro Ross Yeo, Lodge Almoner, met W Bro John Rivett and Mrs Jill Lett at the complex. They also met a number of the residents in making the donation.



W Bro Ross Yeo presenting the cheque to Mrs Lett

Provincial Grand Charity Helps Keep Blood Pressure Down



Nurses (l to r) Jacky Taylor, Amanda Stark, Julie Moseley and Miran Zaffignani
Brethren (l to r) W Bros Tom Hemsley, Alan Brooks, Dave Genner and George Peel & (seated) William (Bill) Rutherford

On 11 January Corby Masons presented eight portable digital blood pressure monitors to the Corby District Nurses.

Funded by the **Provincial Grand Charity**, the monitors will enable the nurses to care for their patients more efficiently.

In expressing their appreciation, District Nurse Jacky Taylor said, "These monitors will make our job much easier and will be of great benefit to the patients we visit."

Provincial Cricketers Score Historic Victory

Less than a month after being installed our new PGM, RW Bro Max Bayes oversaw an impressive addition of sporting silverware to the Provincial sporting trophy cabinet.

On Sunday 21 August the Provincial cricket team travelled to Rickmansworth to take on the Metropolitan Grand Lodge for the annual cricket match for the Andrew Henderson Memorial Trophy. Supporters also included the Deputy PGM, both Assistant PGMs, and the Provincial Grand Secretary and their ladies.

Having been asked to bat first the Province ably led by Mike Caseman-Jones amassed 201 off 30 overs. Scoring 40 runs, Jeremy Thomas was man of the match for the second year running. He was well supported by Mark Rawson (36) and Brian Gargett (38). The Metropolitan Grand Lodge team lost early wickets and with all the catches being held they were dismissed for 74. A notable win for the Province by 127 runs.



RW Bro Max Bayes, presents the trophy to winning Captain, W Bro Mike Caseman-Jones

In the four annual matches between these two teams, this is the first time that the Province has triumphed. This, together with the excellent weather and company, made it an excellent day for the Province. It is our turn to host the fixture next year.

Masonic Contribution to Hospice Child's Play Appeal

The [East Anglian Children's Hospice](#) at Milton, near Cambridge, provides much needed help and support to parents, children and their siblings in some of the most tragic circumstances imaginable - help not available through the NHS. The catchment area served so well by this Hospice covers much of the Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire Masonic Province.



Hospice Hydrotherapy Pool



Hospice Care Area



Hospice Play Room



Hospice Sensory Room

On Tuesday 13 December 2011 Brethren from Euston Lodge No 2283 went to the Hospice and presented a cheque for £1,500 and a number of Teddies from the Provincial TLC appeal. The Lodge raised £500 and £1,000 was added by the [Provincial Grand Charity](#). The donation was very much appreciated. The Teddies in particular proving to be an instant hit.

Deadline for the Summer 2012 Edition of *Password*

If you have items suitable for publication in *Password* please make sure they are sent to the Editor (through your Local Information Officer where appropriate) to reach the Editor by 30 June 2012 at the very latest.

Corby Masonic Golf Day 2011

The Annual Corby Masonic Golf Competition was once again held at Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex on 24 September 2011 with all Corby Lodges represented.

The event was in support of the [Lexie Leggy Fund](#) that is trying to raise £40,000 to enable a three years old Corby girl, Lexie Fordyce, who has Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy, to have an operation known as Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR) Surgery.

This will enable her to take her first ever steps. This operation is performed at the St Louis Children's Hospital in Missouri, USA. The generosity of the Corby Masons and their guests raised over £370 towards the fund.



(l to r) James Miles with Bros Matt McKinna, Chris Goode & Ron Goode



(l to r) Bros Dave Genner, Paul McGregor, Jim Allison & Kevin Duffy

The day began with a full English breakfast. The inevitable banter was well under way when Bro Matt McKinna (Lodge of Unity 9495) teed off to start the competition.

From the field of 31, W Bro Ronnie Stone (Ferraria Lodge No 8489) emerged the overall winner with an excellent score of 43 points. Bro Merv Williams (Lodge of Unity No 9495) with 42 points closely followed in second place.

The Past Master's Trophy (the has-beens as they are known) was won by W Bro Harry Twelvtree (Lodge of St Giles No 8736) with 40 points, followed by W Bro George Armour (Corbie Lodge No 9155) with 40 points on count back.

The Guests prizes were won by James Miles with 35 points and Terry Jackson with 30 points, runner up with the famous wooden spoon was Bro George Peel (Master Elect Lodge of Unity 9495).



(l to r) WBro Robert Kerr, Simon Horth, Bro Dave Robertson & Ray McMillan



(l to r) Terry Jackson, WBro Glenn Harman, Bro Aaron Devenney & Jeff Connorsby

The event was once again organised by Bro Andy R Nairn (WM Lodge of Unity No 9495).

He was ably assisted by W Bro Billy Glover (Corbie Lodge No 9195) and Bro Dave Genner (WM Lodge of St Giles No 8736).

All participating Brethren and guests are thanked for their support of the event.

Chapter Jubilee Certificate Congratulations



E Comps Don Marlow & Wayne Williams

On Friday 20 May 2011 St Crispin Chapter No 5627 saw an unusual event - the presentation of a Jubilee Certificate to one of its members. E Comp Don Marlow was presented with a framed certificate to mark his 50 years membership of the Holy Royal Arch - all in St Crispin Chapter. In presenting the certificate, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E Comp Wayne Williams gave a most moving address during which he referred to E Comp Marlow's evacuation from Dunkirk. After only a few days leave he returned to active service when he was mentioned in despatches.

Educated at Kettering Grammar School, he then joined the family business, A Marlow & Sons. Over the years he has given great service to the community including being Chairman of Desborough UDC and Market Harborough Building Society, President of Desborough Royal British Legion and Treasurer of his local Parish Church.

His membership of Masonic Orders includes the Lodge of St Paul No 6561, Mercia and Castle Ashby Chapters Rose Croix (of which he was a founder) and Powys Lodge of Mark Master Masons. He holds Grand Rank in both Royal Ark Mariners and Knights Templar.

Although at the age of 92 years has had to cut down a little, E Comp Don is still active and an avid ballroom dancer. We wish him many more years of of Masonic and community involvement.

Royal Arch Information Evenings

The Executive of the Province's Holy Royal Arch has embarked on a series of Information Evenings for newly raised Master Masons and recently exalted Companions who have been invited to listen to short, separate presentations.

The Master Masons, have been addressed by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E Comp Wayne Williams, the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, E Comp Roger Wood and with excellent support from E Comp Trevor Boswell. The object was to give the Master Masons more information about the Holy Royal Arch in the hope that they may, at some future convenient time, wish to complete their journey through Pure and Ancient Freemasonry. The recently exalted Companions were able to further their understanding of the Order they

had recently joined by taking part in a “How and Why the Royal Arch” dialogue presented by the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Comp David Jackson and the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, E Comp Mike Coleman. The two groups were then brought together and addressed by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in his inimitable style. They were then invited to share in a most enjoyable complimentary buffet.

The first gatherings were held at St George’s Avenue, Northampton in September and at Peterborough in November. Both venues were very well attended. Results thus far have been very good. Euston Chapter has potential exaltations for the next two years and is arranging a double ceremony to accommodate the interest. A Master Mason attending at Peterborough was so impressed that he is to be the exalte at the next Convocation of Ailwyn Chapter. In all 32 Master Masons and 40 Exaltees have so far attended along with many interested Holy Royal Arch Masons.



Cover of Holy Royal Arch leaflet

Feed-back has been excellent with a significant number of Master Masons expressing a firm interest in joining the Holy Royal Arch. These will be followed up by the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal. Such enthusiasm will no doubt inspire similar meetings at other Masonic Centres within the Province. Watch out for a gathering near you.

Hospice Donation from Lactodorum Lodge

Opened in 1982 by Sister Frances and initially run by Nuns, [Helen and Douglas House](#) in Oxford is a very special place. It provides palliative care for children and young people with facilities for parents to stay when life expectancy is short. Northamptonshire is within their catchment area but they never turn anyone away.



(l to r) W Bro Dickinson, Sister Frances, Mrs Diana Dickinson and Mary Boullin

It costs over £4.5 million per year to run the hospice, most of which has to be raised from voluntary contributions.

Whilst in the Chair of Lactodorum Lodge No 8526, WBro Russ Dickinson was instrumental in raising £2,750 to support the Hospice. On Wednesday 14 December 2011 he and his wife

Diana went to the Hospice and presented the cheque to Sister Frances and Mary Boullin, Community Fund Raising Manager for the Hospice. W Bro Dickinson said, “ This was a testament to the generosity and support of the members and visitors of Lactodorum Lodge who kindly gave to this worthwhile cause whilst I was Master. On behalf of Diana and myself we thank you most sincerely.”

Great North Run Success for W Bro Jack Summerfield



W Bro Jack Summerfield

The [Great North Run](#) is the largest half Marathon in the world with 54,000 participants each year. Due to the high number of applicants entrants are selected at random.

W Bro Jack Summerfield of Corbie Lodge 9155 entered the draw this year and, to his surprise, he was successful. He therefore downloaded a BUPA training programme and followed it as best he could. He describes his frame as portly and he had never run further than 400m. Training intensively during the summer, he decided to raise money for Teddies For Loving Care.

He was installed into the Chair of Corbie Lodge ten days before the run which took place on 16 September 2011. For the first time in his 13 years as a Mason, he did not need to loosen his apron after the Summer Break. In fact he lost 3 stones in weight. Originally only hoping to simply finish the race he eventually set a target of three hours. Starting at the very back of the pack and it took him a full 35 minutes to reach the start line! All 13.1 miles were lined with people cheering and bands playing.

He says, "It was like a dream and I managed to complete it in 2hrs 38mins 31 seconds, having overtook more than 23,000 people. I was sore for a week afterwards but the hurt was eased by the fact that I had raised £500 for TLC. Thanks to all brethren, friends and family that sponsored me."

Perseverance Charity Donations

In July 2011, Lodge of Perseverance No 455 members & guests enjoyed a summer BBQ at the Loddington home of the WM, W Bro Peter Robinson. The object was to donate half the funds raised to the [Alzheimer's Society](#) and half to [Children with Cancer UK](#).



(l to r) W Bro Peter Robinson (WM), Katie Carson (Children with Cancer UK) and W Bro David Cross outside Charity's offices in Great Ormond Street, London

Due to the generosity of everyone who attended over £1,000 was raised. The [Provincial Grand Charity](#) generously matched this effort for which the Lodge was most grateful. This enabled the Lodge to present cheques of £1,000 to each of these very worthy causes.



(l to r) Bro John Betts (JW), W Bro Peter Robinson (WM), Naomi Sullivan (Alzheimer's Northamptonshire), W Bro Barry Rogers (Charity Steward)

Photo courtesy of Kettering Evening Telegraph

Letters to the Editor

The views expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or views of the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. For editorial reasons, letters may be edited but, where this is necessary, it will be done in such a way as to preserve the original sense.

In this section we invite, indeed encourage you to send, your views on Masonic matters in the form of Letters to the Editor. Send them in whatever way suits you best - email or old fashioned letter.

Progress or Regression?

Dear Editor

I recently listened to my Minister giving his sermon, in which he mentioned a book written by an American writer, entitled "Who stole my Church?"

He began by saying that, sixty years ago, churchgoers went to Church wearing their Sunday best. The ladies all wore hats. Their children were always well dressed. Inside the Church an organ played the hymn tunes and the congregation sang the words from a hymn book.

What is happening today? It is doubtful if many people have "Sunday best." They are more likely to wear jeans and a t-shirt. Few ladies wear a hat. It is not uncommon for men to wear a baseball cap throughout the service. In some cases the organ has been replaced by a guitar and a screen has replaced the hymn book.

I then began to wonder. If this has happened within the Church, could it, might it, will it happen within Freemasonry? Open neck shirts, jeans, and flat screens for the ritual! Perhaps somebody can reassure me that my concern is misplaced. Or am I just plain old fashioned?

Yours sincerely and fraternally

WBro Mike Gorrod

Another Letter from America

Dear Editor

A few years after I was born my Dad met a stranger. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and invited him to live with our family.

Mum taught me good from evil. Dad taught me to obey. The stranger was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything he told me. He always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first major league ball game. He made me laugh and cry. The stranger never stopped talking but Dad didn't seem to mind.

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions but the stranger never felt obligated to honour them.

Profanity was not allowed in our home, not from us, our friends nor any visitors. Our longtime visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my Dad squirm and my mother blush.

My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol, but the stranger regularly encouraged us to try it. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished.

He talked freely about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive and generally embarrassing. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked and NEVER asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' today, you would still find him over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him and watch him draw his pictures.

His name? We just call him TV.

I remain your sincerely and fraternally

RW Bro Jay L Austin PDDGM

Duo Celebrate 50 Years of Mark Masonry

A 98 years young Mark Mason, W Bro Ernest Hartley PPrGInspWks has achieved 50 years membership of Fitzwilliam Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

In October 2011 the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro George Bonham and RW Bro Roy Bradley PPrGM visited



(l to r) RW Bros Roy Bradley & George Bonham present W Bro Ernest Hartley with his Certificate

Bro Ernest, at his Peterborough home where he lives with his daughter Isobel and presented him with a Certificate to 'mark' his achievement.

Bro Ernest was initiated into the Craft in St Guthlac Lodge in Market Deeping in 1955. He has been married for 74 years. Sadly, his wife, formerly a well-respected Chiropodist, now resides in a nursing home.

He went through the chair of Fitzwilliam Mark Lodge in 1968 and achieved the rank of Past Provincial Grand Inspector of Works in our Mark Province. He was able to attend Lodge occasionally until the age of 95 thanks to the good offices of W Bro John Whiting who would transport him. He had been Lodge Organist for many years and he was also Organist at St Guthlac's Parish Church in Market Deeping. As a fitting thank you for all that Bro Ernest had done the Lodge gave him Honorary Membership in 2008.

Another stalwart of the Mark Degree WBro Stanley Simms PGJD (and RAMGR in the Royal Ark Mariner degree) achieved 50 years membership of Socrates Lodge of MMM back in 2009 and also 50 years membership of Socrates RAM Lodge on the 14th March 2011.

RW Bro George Bonham PGM and VW Bro Richard Turpin PGJO PDPPrGM visited him in a local respite care home on Monday 10 October 2011 and presented him with both Certificates.

Bro Stan was Worshipful Master of the Mark Lodge in 1968 and Worshipful Commander of the Royal Ark Mariner Lode in 1967 and again 35 years later in 2002 – he has also had Honorary Membership of both Lodges conferred on him.

Masonic Contribution for Sensory Garden

Hampton House Care Home in Northampton provides homes and support for 21 residents with either cerebral palsy or learning difficulties. The Home plans to construct a sensory garden within its grounds for the benefits of residents.

W Bro Steven Brown of Kingsley Lodge No 2431 has been co-ordinating the raising of funds through members of the Lodge to assist with this project. Their efforts have been augmented by the [Provincial Grand Charity](#).

On 8 September 2011, he and W Bro Barrie Goulding presented a cheque for the proceeds of £1,250 to Helen Higgins the Team Coordinator at Hampton House.



W Bros Stephen Brown (back left) and Barrie Goulding, present the cheque to Helen Higgins, Hampton House, the Team Coordinator,

Corby Mason Does It the West Highland Way



(l to r) Nick Brown, Andrew Glover & William Glover take a well earned rest

two 400ft climbs almost straight up - Conic hill on the first day and on the last day climbing out of Kinlochleven. On reflection both of these were harder than the famed Devil's Staircase."

In 2010 WBro Glover completed a walk raising £200 for [Help for Heroes](#).

W Bro William Glover with his son Andrew and work colleague Nick Brown raised £625 for [Teddies For Loving Care](#) when they walked from Milnegavie to Fort William - part of the [West Highland Way](#). They started the walk on the 29 September and finished the 3 October.

Unfortunately Nick Brown suffered an injury on the first day of the walk and was forced to pull out on the third day.

W Bro Glover said, "Of the three walks I have done it was by far the hardest, with

Provincial Officers Mark Six Vintage Years

Although now out of office, the Past Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Barrie Hall is still kept busy. A recent duty was an official visit to his own Lodge, Risdene Lodge No 6532 at Rushden, for its Installation ceremony on 19 October. He was rather surprised to meet a large delegation of Acting Provincial Officers.



RW Bro Barrie Hall receives his gift from W Bro John Hitchin

All seemed normal - until he was due to speak at the Festive Board. W Bro John Hitchin ProvSGW then took the floor and made a presentation on behalf of the Provincial officers who “had been appointed by him, only to be abandoned almost immediately!” The gift was six bottles of fine vintage wine, one dating from each of the six years that RW Bro Barrie had been in office as Provincial Grand Master.

RW Bro Barrie Hall commented, “A splendid Installation was followed by a very surprising Festive Board. The wonderful wines and glasses are simply breathtaking and so very much appreciated.”

During the earlier ceremony, W Bro Eric Place PPJGW (Durham) was installed as WM. He was formerly the official representative of the United Grand Lodge of England for the Grand Lodge of Greece. In retirement he settled in Rushden and has become WM at short notice due to the illness of the Master Elect, Bro Frank Wittish. The new WM said he hoped Bro Frank would soon be fit enough to resume his Masonic progress.

Provincial Grand Master's Diary

No	Lodge	Meeting Type	Date
3972	St John's	Regular Meeting	16/01/2012
6532	Risdene	Regular Meeting	18/01/2012
6104	Medeshamstede	Regular Meeting	25/01/2012
445	Fidelity	Regular Meeting	01/02/2012
9516	Chetene Regular	Meeting	04/02/2012
2380	Beneventa	Installation Meeting	08/02/2012
6644	Thistle and Rose	Regular Meeting	22/02/2012
1911	De la Pre	Regular Meeting	08/03/2012
2431	Kingsley Regular	Meeting	30/03/2012
8594	Danetre Regular	Meeting	02/04/2012
442	St Peters	Regular Meeting	12/04/2012
373	Socrates Regular	Meeting	17/04/2012
9282	Hinchinbrook	Installation Meeting	20/04/2012
5570	Old Wellingburian	Regular Meeting	04/05/2012

Deaths of Senior Provincial Brethren

September saw the sad deaths of two much loved and respected members of the Province.

Former Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Norman Coulson PSGD was 83 years old when he died peacefully on Saturday, 17 September 2011.

He will be best remembered for his five years as Provincial Grand Secretary followed by three years as APGM. He was initiated into Kingsley Lodge No 2431 on 30 December 1976.

In 2005, became a founding member and first Worshipful Master of Graham Milton Lodge No 9796.

W Bro Albert Shepherd, at 86 years old, passed to the Grand Lodge above on Monday 19 September. He was an Honorary Member of the Lodge of Perseverance No 455 and a member of Trinity Lodge No 9165, Rockingham Forest Lodge No 9491 and Three Counties Lodge No 9278.

He had a distinguished war record, as a Rear Gunner on Lancaster Bombers, in the Second World War.



The late W Bro Norman Coulson entering Provincial Grand Lodge



W Bro Albert Shepherd and print presented to him in March 2006 by the Lodge of Perseverance No 455 in Kettering

During 1944 and 1945 he flew a total of 38 missions over enemy territory.

This was a truly remarkable feat given that the Rear Gunners precarious position, perched at the back of the aeroplane, meant they generally had a very short life expectancy during active service.

Both Brethren are much lamented and will be sadly missed.

Masonry In the Province During the Napoleonic Wars

During the [Napoleonic Wars](#) (1793 to 1814) there were up to 122,000 enemy soldiers and sailors held in captivity in Prisoner of War camps around the UK. Most of them were held in rotten hulks on rivers as well as in city gaols.

Parole was granted to prisoners who signed a document promising to observe certain rules and regulations. The paroled officers were allowed to live in nearby towns and villages. There were between 200 and 300 such officers in each town.



The memorial to the 1,770 prisoners who died at Norman Cross beside the A15 road

It is reported that during that period 462 officers broke their Parole and escaped. Abroad, not one British Freemason broke the conditions of his parole. How many British non-Masons escaped is uncertain.

It is also reported that French authorities did not contribute to the upkeep of their prisoners. British authorities, on the other hand, gave each prisoner half a guinea a week for sustenance. Those on parole were also allowed to find employment to boost their income.

French prisoners were held in Northampton. 6,000 were imprisoned at the [Norman Cross Barracks](#) near Peterborough. Several thousand were held at Weedon Barracks in Northamptonshire.

Many Masonic Lodges were formed by these prisoners. One such Lodge named "[La Bonne Union](#)" was in Northampton. The existence of this Lodge is known because its Master in 1810 was an honorary member of a Lodge in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, called "[Vrais Amis de L'Ordre](#)." His name, as Master, appears on the two certificates of Bro Louis Jean described under the heading of the Lodge. Sadly no records have yet been found in Peterborough but it is known that many other Lodges existed throughout the British Isles.

A memorial to the 1,770 prisoners who died at Norman Cross has been erected beside the road at Norman Cross just outside Peterborough.

Masonic Poetry

Do we have a Masonic poet laureate in our midst? Past Master of the Lodge of Harmony No 9048 and present Worshipful Master of Pomfret Lodge No 360, W Bro David Rhodes, has penned this poem.

To The Builders of a Masonic Lodge

An old man, going a lone highway
Came at the evening, cold and grey
To a chasm vast and deep and wide
The old man crossed in the twilight dim
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.
'Old man', said a fellow pilgrim near,
'You are wasting your strength when building here
Your journey will end with the ending days;
You never again will pass this way.
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide.
Why build you this bridge at eventide?'
The builder lifted his old grey head;
'Good friend, in the path I have come', he said.
There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm, that has been as nought to me.
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim –
Good friend, I have built this bridge for him”

New Secretary for Masonic Caravanning Association

Are you a caravanner? If so you may be interested to know the Provincial Masonic Caravanning Association has a new Secretary. He is W Bro Ray Williams of Euston Lodge No 2283. On taking his new role he said, “Any Brother who has a caravan or motor home would be very welcome if they wished to join our Association and enjoy quiet weekends away from April to October, mainly at Caravan Club and Camping & Caravanning Club sites. For those who are retired these could turn into extended stays.

Weather permitting, we have group BBQs and a general get together in November. The joining fee is £5 and there is no yearly subscriptions until the bank balance reaches a bare minimum. We hold an AGM and Christmas dinner at which we choose the next year's venues so every member and their partners get a chance to vote for their favourite destination.”

For more information or to join please contact W Bro Ray Williams through the [Provincial website](#) or Office.



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Please keep your Local Information 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](#).

UGLE Websites

Many of you may well be aware that the website of the United Grand Lodge of England - <http://www.ugle.org.uk> - is primarily for the enlightenment of the general public.

The UGLE site designed for sharing information with Freemasons is 'Freemasonry Today' - <http://www.freemasonrytoday.com>. This is the magazine of the United Grand Lodge of England that you should all receive quarterly by post. (If you do not receive your copy you go to the [Contact Us page](#) on the website and click on [Notify a Change of Address](#) or contact your Lodge Secretary and confirm your postal address in order that he can ensure you receive it in future.) On the site you will find an [online version of Freemasonry Today](#) plus many items of Masonic news that are not included in the magazine.

We are anxious that appropriately important news of this Province should feature in the magazine or on the site so if you have any Masonic news items you believe worthy of inclusion on this national website, please submit them via the [Contact Us page](#) clicking on the [Submit an article link](#). This has the advantage of getting early consideration by the editorial team who will then contact our [Provincial Information Officer, W Bro Richard Turpin](#), for authorisation to publish. It would be helpful if you send him the item directly, or through your Local Information Officer (details above) at the time of submission so that he knows what to expect.