



Password

Winter 2012/13

Two New Lodges for Province

The vibrancy of the Province has again been demonstrated by the consecration of the its 92nd Lodge - Terpsichore Lodge No 9874. The ceremony was held on the morning of Saturday 17 November 2012 in Stamford Town Hall. In recognition of the contribution Freemasons have made to the town of Stamford, [the Town Council](#) allowed the use of the Town Hall free of charge. Attended by over 130 Freemasons, the consecration was conducted in excellent style by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Max Bayes, and his Provincial team.



Masons gather at Stamford Town Hall

During the ceremony the Provincial Grand Master awarded the first Master of the Lodge, W Bro Guy Manners, his Certificate of Merit for his services to Freemasonry.

The day was concluded with a Festive Board held in both rooms of Stamford Masonic Centre. This Lodge plans to meet at Stamford Masonic Centre on the fourth Tuesday of September, November, January and March, meeting in the mornings followed by lunch and all visitors will be most welcome.



Lodge Founders with the Provincial Grand Master and his Consecration Team

On Saturday, 11 May 2013, the Province's 93rd Lodge, Silverstone Lodge No 9877, will be consecrated at the new Provincial centre and home for Northampton Freemasonry in Sheaf Close. This will be an opportunity to share in both the creation of the new Lodge and to visit our new building.

Message from the Provincial Grand Master

As we move into 2013 it is an appropriate time to look back over the past year and then to look ahead. 2012 was a momentous year in the history of our Province and 2013 could prove even more so. Let us relish being involved at such exciting times.

In September we were privileged to be involved in the rededication of the reconstructed Masonic Centre at Towcester. It was a very special day with 87 brethren present. This was the culmination of many years of dedicated work from a group of tireless Towcester Masons and they should be very satisfied with what has been achieved. Freemasonry in Towcester should now have no building worries for many many years.

In November we consecrated a new lodge to operate in Stamford. The founders, understandably, wished the event to take place in Stamford, but the Masonic Centre was simply not large enough. The organisers negotiated with the Town Council and we were able to use the Town Hall, free of charge. We were made most welcome by the staff and the accommodation was just ideal. Following the ceremony we transferred to the Masonic Centre where 130 brethren enjoyed a multi-course banquet. One of the essentials in considering the formation of a lodge is the likelihood of candidates. I was delighted to learn that ten days after the consecration, the Lodge held its first regular meeting and carried out an Initiation Ceremony. I am sure that we all wish Terpsichore Lodge all future success. It is a daylight lodge with an association with ballroom dancing so do check the meeting dates and make a visit.



Provincial Grand Master,
RW Bro W Max Bayes

After much heartache and certainly much hard work by a dedicated group of people, we completed the sale of St George's Hall in July and then immediately completed the purchase of Sheaf Close. The purchasers of St George's have very kindly allowed us to retain the use of the Provincial offices and certain storage areas for our equipment. We understand that they will commence work on the building very shortly, but we should be able to retain the storage area until we can begin the move to Sheaf Close.

Following the completion of the purchase of Sheaf Close, there was a frustrating period whilst

nothing seemed to be happening whilst many legal technicalities were dealt with. These were eventually all resolved and the builders moved onto the site in early December to begin the refurbishment. It is now very much a building site and therefore not easily accessible, but arrangements are being made with the builders to allow a limited number to visit and to view the progress being made. I am assured that the handover will be no later than 30 April 2013.

This date is very important as I want to hold Provincial Grand Lodge in the new premises on 16 May 2013. This will mark the end of our 2013 Festival for the RMBI and there will be representation from both the RMBI and the high rulers of the Craft. Let us show them all what Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire can achieve. It would be very ambitious to make a massive event with perhaps 350 present as our first venture in the new premises, so there will be a most important event that will take place there on the previous Saturday, 11 May. This will be the consecration of yet another lodge, to be called The Silverstone Lodge. This lodge will meet in the village of Silverstone and will have a strong connection with motor racing. There will be an attendance of around 150 for this consecration which, I am sure, will prove a most satisfactory occasion.

RW Bro W Max Bayes
Provincial Grand Master

Provincial Grand Master's Diary

No	Lodge	Meeting Type	Date
9344	Heritage	Regular Meeting	18/01/2013
4990	Grey Friars	Installation Meeting	28/01/2013
8330	Samuel Pepys	Installation Meeting	28/02/2013
9547	Pro Musica	Regular Meeting	01/03/2013
7006	Vale of Nene	Installation Meeting	13/03/2013
9491	Rockingham Forest	Installation Meeting	14/03/2013
9580	Town & Country	Installation Meeting	17/04/2013
8576	Spelhoe	Installation Meeting	25/04/2013

New Northampton Masonic Centre Begins to Take Shape

Plans are well advanced for refurbishment at the site which is to be the new home for Freemasonry in Sheaf Close, Northampton. The plans have already been published and are shown (in part) below. The plans in more detail are featured on [the Provincial website](#).



Front elevation of new Northampton Masonic Centre

The main contractor is now on site and site clearance is progressing apace. Photographs of the work in progress are shown on the opposite page.



Main entrance with Provincial Office on left and dining rooms on right



Offices to left of main entrance



Dining rooms in foreground and social area in background



Foundation for kitchen

Heads of Orders Unite



(l to r) Very Em Kt George Bonham, Em Kt Wayne Williams, Comp Brian Ennever & Right Em Kt Dr Viv Thomas

A unique event took place at The Holy Cross Preceptory of Knights Templar in Daventry on Thursday 1 November. It involved the Heads of three Orders in our Province, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent of the Holy Royal Arch, E Comp Wayne Williams; the Provincial Grand Master of Mark Masons, RW Bro George Bonham; and Right Em Kt Dr Viv Thomas, the Provincial Prior of Knights Templar and Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Craft.

They came together to Install Comp Brian Ennever (Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Degree) into Knights Templar Masonry.

The Eminent Preceptor in the chair of The Holy Cross Preceptory was Eminent Knight Wayne Williams. The Preceptory was honoured by the visit of Right Em Kt Dr Viv Thomas, the Provincial Prior and Very Em Kt George Bonham, Brian's PGM in the Mark Degree, who was called on to "dub" the new Knight.

Can You Crack the Code **MMJWU FJNFX IYVPU HY?**

If you were in the party of over 90 that visited [Bletchley Park](#) on 15 September; perhaps you can. Brethren and their wives who took advantage of the conducted tour of the historic site of secret British code breaking activities during World War II and birthplace of the modern computer. They were shown the wonders of the [Enigma machine](#) which was responsible for sending messages in code by the German High Command during the War, with the machines that cracked the code.

Over 20,000 people, all sworn to secrecy, worked at the complex. It was amazing that the enemy never suspected that we had broken their code!

There were over 150 million, million, million variations of the code some which were seen by the Provincial party that enjoyed a truly wonderful and highly recommended visit. A photograph of the party outside the main Bletchley Park building appears on the opposite page.

The answer to our quiz is that *Northants and Hunts* would transmit in code via an Enigma machine as **MMJWU FJNFX IYVPU HY**.

Members
of the
Province
with their
wives
outside the
historic
Bletchley
Park
main
building



Jubilee Certificate Congratulations

We offer hearty congratulations to W Bro Keith Clayton of Kingsley Lodge No 2431 who has received a Certificate marking his 60 years in Freemasonry.

Keith was initiated into Caxton Lodge No 5093 in November 1952 and progressed to become Master in 1965. In 1991 he joined Kingsley Lodge No 2431, becoming Master in 2001 and in 2010 he became a joining member of Salcey Forest Lodge. In 1969 he became a member of Kingsley Chapter and was Scribe E for 9 years, eventually becoming MEZ in 1990.



RW Bro Max Bayes & W Bro Keith Clayton

At the Kingsley Lodge meeting on Friday 26 October 2012 the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Max Bayes, presented him with the Certificate. After the ceremony, at the Festive Board, the members of Kingsley Lodge presented Keith with a celebratory cake and bottle of his favourite single malt whisky.

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

- W Bro Derek Charles George Butler St Ivo Lodge No 2684
- W Bro Philip Major Collins Three Counties Lodge No 9278
- W Bro Edwin William Lloyd Coritani Lodge No 8079

Wentworth £11,700 for Great Ormond Street Hospital



Jack (son of WBro Rob Mallet) with the cheque

Members of Wentworth Lodge No 737 have over the course of 2012 been raising funds on behalf of the [Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity](#), amongst other worthy causes.

At the completion of the various fundraising activities, including the Cross Province Canoe Challenge and the traditional August Bank Holiday events, the Lodge were delighted that the Provincial Grand Charity decided to augment the total raised by £1,098.

The total raised during the year amounted to an incredible £11,770. On 10 December the cheque was presented to Great Ormond Street Hospital by the current Worshipful Master's son, Jack Mallett.

Jack underwent life changing neurosurgery at Great Ormond Street Hospital at the end of June, to overcome his complex epilepsy. Since his surgery he has amazed everyone with his remarkable progress and he remains seizure free over five months later. This is a dramatic improvement from when he could previously have had up to 20 seizures a day.

The Worshipful Master, WBro Rob Mallett and the other members of the Lodge would like to express their gratitude for all the support they have received from the numerous members within the Province.

Deadline for the Summer 2013 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 2013 at the very latest.

2013 Appointments to Acting Provincial Ranks

Mark Robert Constant	L7204	Old Kimboltonians'	ProvSGW
Alan Peter Kersley	L2996	Peterborough and Counties	ProvJGW
Raymond Hemingray	L2533	Fitzwilliam	ProvGChap
David Charles Watson	L455	Lodge of Perseverance	ProvGTreas
Trevor John Cooke	L8041	Abington	ProvGReg
Trevor Frank Boswell	L5694	Old Northamptonian	ProvGSec
Charles Anthony Bennett	L1911	De la Pre	ProvGDC
Barry Geoffrey Stephenson	L6838	Lodge of St James	ProvGSwdB
John Frederick Statham	L442	St Peter's	ProvGSuptWks
Robert Thomas Smith	L737	Wentworth	ProvDepGDC
Robert Ian Cox	L8526	Lactodorum	ProvDepGDC
William Bernard Wright	L8041	Abington	ProvGAlm
Gerald Raymond Crawford	L4990	Grey Friars	ProvGChStwd
Charles Richard Peter Brice	L8526	Lactodorum	ProvGMen
Michael Anthony Gorrod	L7439	Willowbrook	ProvGORat
Barry Charles Rogers	L455	Lodge of Perseverance	ProvSGD
Simon Clifford Gordon Perry	L2684	St Ivo	ProvSGD
Robin Johnstone	L3964	Dr Oliver	ProvSGD
David John Manning	L6104	Medeshamstede	ProvSGD
Michael Jolly	L373	Socrates	ProvJGD
Kenneth Rogers	L2533	Fitzwilliam	ProvJGD
Dabinder Singh Basra	L5627	St Crispin	ProvJGD
Dominic Gordon Sean Willmott	L9510	Towcestrian	ProvJGD
Michael Charles Alexander Caseman-Jones	L4452	Waynflete	ProvAGSec
Jeffrey James Chambers	L7204	Old Kimboltonians'	ProvAGDC
Stephen Seward	L8489	Ferraria	ProvAGDC
Alexander Henderson	L9155	Corbie	ProvAGDC
Bryan Birchall	L9364	Burghley	ProvAGDC
David John Sutton	L442	St Peter's	ProvGOrg
Trevor Gordon Hood	L6977	Ceres	ProvGStB
Jack Anthony Hirst	L8079	Coritani	ProvGStB
Christopher James Cory	L5195	John Pyel	ProvAGStB
Stephen Nicholas Kingan	L7204	Old Kimboltonians'	ProvGPurs
Peter Jeffery Robinson	L455	Lodge of Perseverance	ProvGStwd
Robert Mallett	L737	Wentworth	ProvGStwd
Clive David Lane	L3964	Dr Oliver	ProvGStwd
Christopher Hugh Winfield	L4048	Cytringan	ProvGStwd
Stephen Wright	L4453	St Wilfrid	ProvGStwd
David Kenneth Houghton	L5627	St Crispin	ProvGStwd
Stephen John Gristwood	L5694	Old Northamptonian	ProvGStwd
Alan James Brooks	L8489	Ferraria	ProvGStwd
Thomas Simon Webster	L8767	Petriburg	PPGStwd
Richard Jonathan Stokes	L9510	Towcestrian	PPGStwd
John Thomas Wooding	L4048	Cytringan	ProvGTyler

Masons Moustachioed for Movember



W Bro Jem Blason

For the month of [Movember](#), more commonly known as November, a number of Northampton Masons including W Bros Steve Storey, Merrick Bowles, and John Fergusson and Bros Roger Blason, Jem Blason and Pat Blason let their top lip hair grow wild with some impressive results .

This band of Moustachioed Masons raised over £500 during the month.



W Bro Steve Storey

However, these Northampton based Masons were not alone as top lip topiary was spotted on Brethren from the North, East, South & West of the Province.

Movember is a worldwide event that in 2011 raised nearly £80m - £22m in the UK. The aim of this event is to raise vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and testicular cancer.

Perhaps 2013 will see a Province-wide Movember in support of this event that raises funds for an issue with the potential to affect every Brother in the Province.



W Bro John Fergusson

Buckby Castle Pig Roast Raises £3,155



(l to r) W Bro John Wilkes, Mrs Tracy Grunwell (WNAA Fundraising Manager) & W Bro Graham Ballinger

The wettest summer in 100 years failed to stop Buckby Castle Lodge's traditional pig roast and BBQ, the Lodge's major fundraising event of his Masonic year.

The WM, W Bro Graham Ballinger hosted the event in August 2012 at Fox Hill Park, a wonderful lakeside setting between Long Buckby and West Haddon. The 130 who attended enjoyed great hospitality and excellent food and helped raise £3,155 in aid of the [Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance](#)

[\(WNAA\)](#) and Masonic Charities. A cheque for £1,577.50 was later presented to Mrs Tracy Grunwell, WNAA Fundraising Manager by W Bros John Wilkes and Graham Ballinger.

Provincial Cricket Team Retain Henderson Cup



On a gloriously sunny August afternoon the Province welcomed the Metropolitan Grand Lodge to Horton House Cricket Club for this annual match. The visitors were keen to win back the Henderson Cup having surrendered it for the first time in the 2011 fixture.

W Bro Mike Caseman-Jones, last year's victorious captain, was now team manager. Jeremy Thomas, team Captain, won the toss and elected to bat. Just prior to

of our players, youngster James Dean, to

A member of the opposing team admires Henderson Cup the start the Province lent the son of one the visitors. This proved to be costly as the young man held two catches to send Province batsmen back to the pavilion.

The Province amassed a total of 197 off their 30 overs - with contributions of over 30 runs from Colin Sibley, Paul Ruff and Steve Jarvis. Good hearted father and son discussion carried on after the game with James Dean failing to get the wicket he really wanted - that of his father Martin Dean. Our Captain, Jeremy Thomas, felt he was harshly given out LBW by his father.

The good performance of the Province continued when they went out to field. With excellent bowling from all the bowlers the visitors lost early wickets and struggled to keep up with the run rate. They eventually fell short on 96 all out with James Dean being out on the last ball of the match. He was second highest score for the opposition with 13.



The victorious Provincial team

The Province won by 101 runs and James Dean was 'Man of the Match.' The winning Captain was presented with the Henderson Cup by the PGM, RW Bro Max Bayes.

In 2013 the Province travels to the Rickmansworth home of the Masonic School for Girls to hopefully cement a hat-trick of victories and keep their hands on the trophy.

Masonic Charity Continues Unabated

In 2012, despite the hard times we are now experiencing, Lodges in the Province have continued to raise money for good causes and these efforts have been very well assisted by the Provincial Grand Charity.



(l to r) W Bro John Whittingham, W Bro Dick Bedells, Debbie Grant and W Bro Frank Brierley

The Brethren of **Pemberton Lodge No 3039** in Rushden voted to donate £500 to the [Cransley Hospice in Kettering](#). The Provincial Charity matched this.

Subsequently, on 22 November 2012, a cheque for £1,000 was presented by Pemberton's Worshipful Master, W Bro John Whittingham, to Debbie Grant of the Cransley Hospice Trust at the Hospice's Coffee Shop.

The **Masters of Corby Lodges** organised a 60s Dance Night last June in aid of the [Integrated Cancer Therapies](#), a local Corby Charity.

£3,400 was raised and the Provincial Grand Charity donated £2,100. Barclaycard also donated £750. This amounted to a total donation of £6,250 and the cheque for the Masonic part of the contribution was presented to the charity on the 4 September at Corby Masonic Complex.



(l to r - back) W Bros Neil Tarbotton, Jack Summerfield, Al Brooks, David Jackson

(l to r - front) W Bros Dave Genner, Barry Cole, Claudine Combrie (of ICT) & W Bro John Westwood



(l to r) Yvonne Kidd (Marie Curie), Mrs Donna Gristwood & W Bro Stephen Gristwood

At his 2012 Ladies Festival the Worshipful Master of **Old Northamptonians Lodge No 5694**, W Bro Stephen Gristwood, was instrumental in raising £1,500 for [Marie Curie Cancer](#). The Provincial Grand Charity added a further £1,000.

WBro Stephen and Mrs Gristwood presented the cheque to Yvonne Kidd at the offices of Marie Curie, Mobbs Miller House in Northampton.

Thousands of pounds continue to be raised in the memory of a little girl whose story touched the hearts of many people. Five years old Niamh Curry, from Wellingborough, has now sadly lost her battle with the rare cancer, neuroblastoma.

Her parents, Chris and Sam Curry, launched the [Niamh's Next Step Campaign](#) in January 2012 to try to raise £450,000 to take Niamh for specialist treatment in America. They have vowed

to continue the appeal in order to fight the disease in Niamh's memory.

More than £190,000 has now been raised. The fund was recently boosted by a £10,000 donation from **Wellingborough Masons**, Wellingborough Bowling Club and the Wellingborough-based music group Bonkers Band.



(l to r) Andy Thomson, Chris Cory, Chris Curry, receiving the cheque from RW Bro Max Bayes, PGM, David Leveridge (Wellingborough Bowling Club) & Jonathan George (Bonkers Band)
(image by courtesy of the Northamptonshire Telegraph)

Contributions were made towards the total by Wellingborough Lodges with a further £2,500 donated by the Provincial Grand Charity.

During his year as Worshipful Master of **Rockingham Forest Lodge No 9491**, W Bro Terry Woodward, well supported by the Brethren and his lady, Carol, organised a number of events including a Beetle Drive, an Inter-Lodge Quiz & a Carols & Wine Evening.



These raised much needed funds for his chosen charity, [Parkinson's UK](#).

(l to r) W Bro Owen Davison (Charity Steward), W Bro Gary Neil (Almoner), Patricia Lee from Parkinson's UK Kettering Branch, W Bro Terry Woodward (IPM) and W Bro Pat Montgomery (Treasurer)

The money raised was augmented by the Provincial Grand Charity making a total of £5,000.

W Bro Terry was diagnosed with early onset Parkinson's Disease three years ago.



W Bro Saeed Akther (left) presents the cheque

In December the Worshipful Master of **Samuel Pepys Lodge No 8330**, W Bro Saeed Akther, presented a £1,000 cheque to the [Acorn Cancer Group](#) at their meeting place in Huntingdon.

Members of the Lodge had raised £500 and this was augmented by £500 from the Provincial Grand Charity.

An Irthlingborough based charity, [Headway East Northants](#), received a donation totalling £600 from local Masons in December 2012.

A Trustee of Headway, W Bro John Hodgkinson of **Grey Friars Lodge No 4990**, presented the cheques for £500 (made up of £250 raised within the Lodge and £250 from the Provincial Grand Charity) and a cheque for £100 from the Thomas à Beckett Rose Croix Chapter No 155.



W Bro John Hodgkinson (right) presents the cheque



(l to r) Kim Wood & Clare Arthur of the Northampton Group & W Bro Sid Bower

During his year as Worshipful Master, W Bro Sid Bower and members of **Sothius Lodge No 8774** raised £1,500 for the [British Tinitus Association](#). The Provincial Grand Charity contributed £500.

On 10 December 2012 W Bro Bower and Bro Joe Batten visited the Northampton offices of the charity. They were treated to a talk and demonstration on tai chi. Although they found it very interesting they declined to take an active part in the group session.

They presented the £2,000 cheque to Clare Arthur the Charity's Northampton Group Co-ordinator and Kim Wood an assistant at the Northampton office.

Anglo-American Fellowship at Sulgrave

Sulgrave Lodge was both delighted and relieved to welcome to the Province seven of our American Brethren from [Britannia Lodge No 1166 of New York](#) on Thursday 1 November.

Their reasonably prompt arrival was even more remarkable after the chaos and havoc of Hurricane Sandy which had affected them all days prior to departure. Some speedy flight re-arrangements had seen them arrive in Northampton at various times during the day although three others were unable to leave New York and New Jersey due to severe local damage to property and communications but thankfully not to person.



(centre l to r) RW Bro Max Bayes, PGM, VW Bro Wayne Williams,
WM & Bro Martin Sirot-Smith with their American guests

[Sulgrave Manor in the South West of Northamptonshire](#) is under the joint sovereignty of both the UK and the United States and on the Friday morning, their guests were entertained to a conducted tour led by their member, Bro Martin Sirot-Smith, the former Director and Curator of the Manor.

In the evening, their American brethren were the guests of Sulgrave Lodge and, with ladies present, Bro Martin Sirot-Smith regaled in his “Washington” medieval attire of the 16th Century, entertained us once more with his renowned presentation of the Washington connection here in the UK.

Kettering Mason's Troodos Mountains Biking for Charity



Bro Jason Harris & his son Jake

In October 2012 Bro Jason Harris of the Lodge of St Paul No 6516 & his son Jake took part in the BICA 2012 Charity 600 kilometre cycle ride over 5 days in Cyprus. This was for the [Get A Head Charitable Trust](#) which is aiming to raise £100,000 towards the [Queen Elizabeth Hospital Cancer Cyberknife Appeal](#).

Sometimes cycling for 10 hours a day in temperatures peaking at 34 degrees, they found the long mountain climbs over the [Troodos Mountains](#) were particularly arduous. However, the excellent team spirit of the 21 riders kept everyone going and they raised £70,000 towards the appeal. Bro Jason said,

“We were very happy to complete such a challenge, with the support from the members of the Lodge of St Paul keeping us going - I am particularly grateful for their sponsorship & contributions from raffles, which helped us to reach such an impressive sum.”

Walkers March On

W Bro Lloyd Walker was initiated into Toseland Lodge No 8837 in 1981. He is now its sixth longest serving member and in October this year was installed as its Worshipful Master. He was born and went to school in Nagpur, India which was then still under British rule. After leaving school he had a varied career as a merchant navy engineer, a draughtsman and a seller of paper products.

Having reached Senior Warden in Toseland Lodge, he was unable to continue due to his wife's ill health and continued to care for her until she passed away. He was, however, able to encourage his sons Bruce and Andy in their Masonic careers. Bruce is now a Grand Steward and Andy is moving towards the Chair in Euston Lodge No 2283. Whilst unable to regularly attend Lodge, W Bro Lloyd maintained his keen interest in the Craft and gave the Charge after Initiation when his son Andrew was initiated into Euston Lodge. W Bro Bruce Walker is now in the Chair of Shakespear Lodge No 99 (a [Red Apron Lodge](#)) for the second time.



(l to r) Bro Andy Walker, W Bro Lloyd Walker
& W Bro Bruce Walker

Towcester Masonic Centre Rededicated

In an inspirational ceremony the newly extended Towcester Masonic Centre at 3 Northampton Road, Towcester, has been rededicated.

On Thursday 20 September 2012, this emergency meeting of Towcester's oldest Lodge, the Lodge of Fidelity No 445 was opened by its Worshipful Master, W Bro Martin Holiday.

He offered the gavel to the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Max Bayes, who, with his Provincial team, undertook the main business of the evening with aplomb.



Provincial team (l to r) W Bros George Clayton ProvJGW, Stephen Eales & Gerry Higgins ProvSGW, VV Bro Wayne Williams PAPGM, W Bro Jim Boughton APM, RW Bro Max Bayes PGM, W Bro Martin Holiday Fidelity WM, VV Bro Viv Thomas DPGM, W Bros Trevor Boswell ProvGSec, Charles Bennett ProvGDC, Luigi Orsi ProvGSuptWks & Bob Cox ProvAGDC

A capacity attendance of 92 from across the Province were treated to a potted history of Freemasonry in Towcester given by the Chairman of the Towcester Masonic Hall Property Company, W Bro Richard Brice.

The Provincial team, led by the PGM, then carried out the rededication in a most sincere and moving exposition of ritual. During the ceremony the PGM unveiled a plaque commemorating the event. The plaque will be on display in the entrance to the building.

The following banquet was equally well enjoyed by all.

Message from the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent



The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent,
E Comp Wayne Williams, at Franklins Gardens

So, this is it – 2013 drifted in quite unobtrusively and the World didn't actually end on 21 December as predicted by the Mayan. Thus reassured, we can look forward to another exciting and challenging year ahead, certainly for the Royal Arch.

We can also look back on our Royal Arch successes in 2012. We successfully undertook two Team Visits to Waynflete and Gildenburg Chapters in April and December respectively. The Provincial Team

was again very warmly received and such occasions give us an ideal opportunity to take out some of the pageantry of Provincial Grand Chapter to the host Chapters.

We also hosted a further Information Evening specifically designed for Master Masons and newly Exalted Companions. We were grateful to the hosting Centre at Corby. Such occasions now feature regularly in our annual programme, bringing together small groups of each to exchange ideas and experiences and to learn just a little more about the individual's progress towards the fourth and final stage of Pure Ancient Masonry.

We can also reflect on the success of our Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter held at Franklins Gardens in Northampton in June. The *Home of Northampton Saints* would not have been our preferred choice but the occasion was a great success with a record attendance and greater than ever number of visiting dignitaries. Some have suggested that, for the future, this should be regarded as an annual away fixture but that, of course, is another story.

In 2013, we look forward to our next Team Visit to Stamford and Montagu Chapter in May. Further consideration will be given to Information Evenings later this year and into 2014 but undoubtedly our focus will be on the Bicentenary of the Holy Royal Arch which will culminate in a day of celebrations in London on 16 October. Inextricably linked to such a milestone is the ongoing success of our Appeal in support of the Royal College of Surgeons which will fund a further two medical research fellowships in the name of the Holy Royal Arch. This will provide a permanent memorial of our Bicentenary when the formal celebrations of the day have long since passed into the mists of time.

There has been much speculation about the proposed costings and the limited availability of reservations. Be assured, Companions, discussions still continue at the highest level. That said, anyone who successfully applies for a reservation may find it a rather expensive day if attending the demonstration ceremony in the morning, lunch in the Connaught Rooms, the Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter in the afternoon over which the First Grand Principal, HRH The

Duke of Kent, will preside and who will also grace us with his presence at the celebratory dinner in the evening at the Savoy Hotel.

Indications are that lunch and dinner will be over-subscribed. That suits us fine as in this Province. We have long since decided that we will host our own celebratory dinner in September 2013. I believe those Companions who have contributed so generously to the success of our Royal College of Surgeons Appeal should at least have the opportunity of celebrating *their* Bicentenary success within the Province and at a cost better suited to the pockets of the vast majority. We will therefore take advantage of the First Principals' Chapter meeting on Thursday 5 September, open up the Convocation to all Companions in the Province and have as our principal guests again not only representatives from the College but also the Second Grand Principal – E Comp George Pipon Francis - all of whom will address us.

We cannot confirm the venue but it is likely to be at our new Provincial Headquarters at Sheaf Close. I hope as many Companions as possible will make every effort to attend. It should be quite an occasion.

So here's to 2013. It will undoubtedly prove an exciting time, a challenging time no doubt, but an enjoyable time for us all in the true companionship of the Holy Royal Arch. Enjoy, Companions, and we will catch up again very soon but meanwhile, may TTALGMH continue to *guard and guide* us all.

A very happy but importantly, a very healthy New Year to you all.

E Comp Wayne Williams

Most Excellent Grand Superintendent

79 Miles Walk for Children's Smiles



(l to r) Mrs Nikki Scott, W Bro George McGarry presenting the cheque & Julie Chapman

W Bro George McGarry of Corbie Lodge No 9155 has completed the 79 miles long walk from Fort William to Inverness, known as the [Great Glen Way](#). In doing so he raised funds to help the children's charity, Scotty's Little Soldiers, to bring back smiles to many of the children it supports. The charity helps children whose fathers have lost their lives in military service and provides holiday breaks and other support for the bereaved families.

Donations were gratefully received from Corbie Lodge No 9155 and the Lodge of Unity No 9495 in Corby and Anglo

Scottish Lodge No 8844 in Northampton - all Lodges where W Bro McGarry is a member, as well as his family and friends.

Double Double for Daventry Lodge Brothers



The recent Installation ceremony of Buckby Castle Lodge No 8932 in Daventry was unique.

The incoming Worshipful Master, W Bro Graham Hitchcock (shown in the picture on the left), was installed into the Chair of King Solomon for a second time.

His blood brother, W Bro Robin Hitchcock (on right), has also been Worshipful Master twice in the same Lodge.

This is a unique event in the history of Freemasonry in Daventry.

Is it unique within the Province?

Information Officers' Contact Details

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Trevor Boswell	01604 711746	Provincial Grand Secretary

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](#).