



# Password

Winter 2006/7

## THE PROVINCIAL CAROL SERVICE 2006

This year's Provincial Christmas Carol Service was once again held in the magnificent setting of Peterborough Cathedral. The Service was led by the acting Dean, Canon Bruce Ruddock, and complemented by the Cathedral Girls Choir, with Lessons read by many of the local heads of Masonic Orders.

Over 1300 Masons, their families and friends attended with a number of invited guests, including Lord Brassey, the Vice Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire, and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire, Mr Richard Barnwell, together with twelve Mayors and Mayoress's from towns, throughout the Province where we have Masonic Halls.

Seen below is the Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Barrie Hall, and his wife Joy entertaining the Deputy Lord Lieutenants, Reverend Cannon Ruddock and our very own Past Provincial Grand Master, Richard Sandbach.



For those who remained behind, very welcome refreshments of wine and mince pies were provided by Lodge members and their families which gave an opportunity for friends old and new from right across the Province to renew their acquaintances.



Before the Service began a number of members of the Provincial Bellringers, (pictured left) led by W Bro George Bonham, with others from Clavis Lodge rang the Cathedral bells for an hour.

# PROVINCIAL NEWS

## **“It’s been a Busy Year. An Exciting Year and a Very Important Year!”**

The mellow days of September seem little time ago but here we are in January already in the middle of a very busy Masonic year. A very happy New Year to you and your families from Joy and myself and our hope that you have enjoyed a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Since our last issue of Password the Province has made real progress in several important areas. Mentoring programmes are now well underway in the great majority of Lodges and I know are much appreciated and enjoyed by Mentors and younger Brethren alike. Assistant PGM W Bro Wayne Williams has also developed, in collaboration with several Lodges, a detailed format for "White Table" occasions which is already being successfully implemented as a means of promoting the Craft and encouraging potential new members. Likewise some painstaking work by a small Committee led by Deputy PGM, VV Bro Derek Young and our Education Officer W Bro Reg Hirst is leading to detailed bibliographies of Masonic lectures; orations and demonstrations from which Lodges may select appropriate items for inclusion in their regular meetings to enhance, or on occasions to replace, a Degree ceremony.

On the charity front the Provincial Grand Charity, in collaboration with local Lodges, has made several major contributions to local charities. These have included £10k to the Northampton Mencap Association towards their new building project in De La Pre Abbey Park, £20k to purchase a mini-coach for the youngsters of the Marshfields special needs school, Peterborough, and an equally fantastic £32k raised in Northampton to purchase a Portable Vascular Scanner system for a very grateful Northampton General Hospital.

During the remainder of this Masonic year, charity work will continue to be a major feature in the run-up to the launch of our new Festival Appeal in support of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI). This very special Charity provides, primarily through its seventeen superb homes, the highest possible standards of residential and nursing care for over twelve hundred elderly Freemasons and their dependents together with support and assistance to thousands more who are able and happy to continue to live within their local community. Raising substantial funds through our six year 2013 Festival Appeal will make a major contribution to the continuance of this vital work.

A formal launch of the Festival Appeal will be held on March 23rd when we plan to hold a special dinner occasion at Northampton to which Lodge Masters, Charity Stewards and Almoners together with Grand Officers and Acting Provincial Officers will be invited (see Page 8 for an outline of the RMBI from the Provincial Almoner).

The dinner will be addressed by the President of the RMBI, VV Bro John Moore -who succeeded our own R. VV Bro Brian Smith as President - whilst during the evening the overall Festival target will be announced as will those of individual Lodges. Lodge representatives will also receive details of the many other aspects of the Appeal

# PROVINCIAL NEWS (Contd)

campaign including qualifications for Lodges to achieve RMBI Grand Patron status and the availability of a number of sartorially elegant items for sale during the Appeal!! The three-month run-up and immediate aftermath of the Festival Launch will also be a vital part of the Appeal's ultimate success with a number of very enjoyable fund raising events already in advanced planning states. Firstly W Bro Max Bayes' "Project Egg" when he will aim, over the Easter Weekend, to walk the length and breadth of the Province from Stamford to Brackley - a full eighty miles through glorious countryside at twenty miles a day. Please do make sure your Lodge plans to sponsor W Bro Max and that as many brethren as possible (and their ladies too if possible) secure personal sponsorship to walk all or part of the route with Max. Joy and I are certainly going to have a go at "several miles" where several is my limit but certainly not Joys!! The walk will make for a very different Easter holiday - and hopefully not too many blisters. With all sponsorship monies being allocated against individual Lodge targets we hope to raise at least £50k - a wonderful start to our Appeal.

Earlier in the year, on January 27th, we can look forward to our now traditional New Year concert by the Johnny Harris Swing Band, with all the profits from the evening going to the Festival Appeal. This year the concert will be held in the superb Willow Arts Centre in Corby and I look forward to a "full house" and a most enjoyable evening. Then, on an early summer's evening on May 3rd, we shall have the pleasure of a visit to Huntingdon Races where once again each of the evening's six races has generously been sponsored by one of our Lodges. You may be sure we shall have a splendid evening in a fine setting and with part of your entry ticket cost going to the Festival Appeal I do hope you will come along in vast numbers. You never know you may get lucky and back a winner or two!! But most important of all, even before the formal Festival launch, do please give your Lodge Charity Steward your 100% support. Festivals are tremendous opportunities for us all to put our Masonic principals to the test. If every member agrees to a modest but regular contribution to the Lodge Relief Chest over the six year period, we shall very soon achieve, and indeed exceed, our targets and leave that much more time for even more enjoyable fund raising activities - BBQ's, Garden Parties, Concerts, Fetes, and many more.

So Brethren, please don't wait for your Charity Steward to approach you but get a Regular Payment Promise form, fill it in and hand it back to your Charity Steward as soon as possible - if not a little earlier!! My thanks to you all in anticipation of a fantastic response to the Festival Appeal. I look forward very much to seeing you during my visits to Lodges in the coming months and at our several Provincial occasions.

Continue to enjoy your masonry in this very happy Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire and remember that so important "Address to the Brethren" which reminds us of our aim:- ".....To please each other and to unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness."

**RW Bro W Barrie Hall Provincial Grand Master**

**Provincial Grand Lodge meets 17th May**

# SMILES AS THE MILES ADD UP

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Max Bayes, has started his training for his Festival walk between Stamford and Brackley. The walk will take place during Easter from Good Friday 6th - Monday 9th April. It is hoped that many Lodges will sponsor him and a number have already pledged their support.

It is also hoped that many will obtain their own sponsorship and join him on the walk. The four days have been split into three sections each day, each section is 5 - 6 miles. The idea is that you can join him for just one of the sections, so be on the walk for a couple of hours and then return home for the Easter break. All walkers must register and forms are available from Lodge Secretaries or the Provincial Office. If you obtain your own sponsorship £50 will bring you a walk polo shirt embroidered "I MAXed out for Masonic Charities" and £100 will earn you a commendation from the Provincial Grand Master.



Route details and Sponsorship forms are also available from Lodge Secretaries or the Provincial Office. More details can be obtained from the walk organiser W Bro Trevor Boswell in the Provincial Office. You can make a difference by joining the walk or sponsoring someone who has; please join in and let's give our Festival a great start. All monies raised will be credited to each Lodge towards their target achievement.

## Widows Generous Gifts to Wentworth Lodge

Wentworth Lodge No 737, meeting at Wellingborough, recently lost two of its stalwart and popular members, W Bro John Allen PPrGTyler and W Bro Bob Sharpe PPrGSuptWks.

Whilst they are of course very sadly missed, their memory will be preserved for years to come following generous gifts to the Lodge by their widows.

At a regular meeting of the Lodge on 11th December, business was kept short, and following the closure Mrs Shirley Allen and Mrs Angela Sharpe were escorted into the temple, when Mrs Allen presented the Lodge with new cuffs for the Master and Wardens, and Mrs Sharpe presented a sword for use by the Tyler. The sword has an interesting and appropriate history, having been made in the same year that the Wellingborough Masonic Centre was opened, and the regiment for which it was made was founded in the same year as Wentworth Lodge (1858).

After the moving dedication the ladies joined the brethren for a very enjoyable Christmas Festive Board.

# MORE PROVINCIAL NEWS

## Wilavestone Lodge

The concept of a Lodge based in Wollaston for brethren who were born, educated, employed or residing in the village was first raised at a social function in Wellingborough in the summer of 2004. Several committed brethren decided to follow this suggestion up and after a number of exploratory meetings, a formal group was established in October 2005 to produce proposals for the formation of such a Lodge. Suitable premises were located in the village and the Anglo Saxon name of the village (Wilavestone) was adopted as a preferred Lodge name. 28 Petitioners were identified and John Pyel Lodge No 5195 agreed to sponsor the new Lodge at their November meeting in 2006. A Petition was submitted to Grand Lodge

in December 2006 and the Grand Master's approval of a Warrant for the Lodge, which is expected anytime, is eagerly awaited by the Petitioners.

Arrangements are now well in hand for the Consecration Ceremony in Northampton on Monday 30th April 2007. The first Worshipful Master is to be W Bro Max Bayes our Assistant Provincial Grand Master. The Lodge will meet at "The Works" (formerly the Working Men's Club) in London Road, Wollaston on the last Tuesday in September, November, January and March. This will be the 6th "Special Interest" Lodge to be consecrated in the Province in the past 5 years and we wish the brethren of the Lodge every success in the future.

## Possibility of a Rotary Lodge ?

Consideration is being given to the formation of Lodges within the Province for Rotarians and Round Tablers. Discussions are at an early stage and continued support for such Lodges in the medium and long term are the main criteria currently under review.

Are you a Rotarian or Round Tabler (past or present) ?

Would you be interested in becoming a Petitioner or Member of such a Lodge ? If you want to find out more then contact the Provincial Secretary in the first instance to register your interest.

## The Lodge of Installed Masters

The Lodge of Installed Masters No. 3422 has been most fortunate to secure W Bro John Hamill, Director of Communications at Grand Lodge, to be the speaker at their meeting on June 6th 2007 at Northampton. RW Bro Barrie Hall, the VM of the Lodge, is anxious that this meeting is well supported and invites all Installed Masters and Master Masons to attend. For further details please contact the Secretary W Bro Simon Mighall on 01480 212251 or email to [s.mighall@ntdworld.com](mailto:s.mighall@ntdworld.com)

## De La Pre Lodge No 1911 - 125 Years Celebration

Some 80 Brethren assembled at Freemasons' Hall, Northampton on Thursday 12th October 2006 to celebrate 125 years of De La Pre Lodge No 1911. A potted history of the Lodge was enjoyed by all in attendance. From its likely conception within the 2nd Battalion of the 58th Foot of Northamptonshire Regiment, fighting at the battle of Laing's Nek in South Africa in 1881 to the final ceremony of W Bro Michael Aldridge as Worshipful Master in 2006, we were treated to a comprehensive and light hearted review of life in De La Pre Lodge. The first Worshipful Master was W Bro Rev'd S J Sanders, headmaster of the Grammar School, whose nickname was "Boanerges" meaning "Loud voiced preacher" or "Son of thunder".

All the arrangements for the Consecration and Banquet were made by W Bro Rev'd S Wathen Wigg whose other claim to fame was founding Northampton Saints Rugby Club. Many notable characters from Northampton have been members of the Lodge over the years. They include W Bro J A S Bouverie who owned Delapre Abbey; W Bro H.W.K. Markham, a lawyer and County Under-Sheriff and Lodge Secretary for 40 years; W Bro Sir Ryland Adkins, an MP and Chairman of the County Council, W Bro Harry Manfield, another MP and Grand Treasurer and many others.



In the early days membership of the Lodge was limited to the professional classes. Although this was never a strict rule it became a custom which occasionally called for "interpretation" and "conciliation" - still relevant today. In 1937 the Lodge agreed to sponsor the Old Northamptonian Lodge and in 2005 the new Scout Lodge, thus doing its bit for the development of Freemasonry within the Province. De La Pre Lodge can look forward to the next 125 years with confidence and optimism and we congratulate them on reaching this milestone.

## Even Further Back - Ritual As It Was In 1765

In December members of Pomfret Lodge No.360 were treated to a re-enactment in



period costume of a 1765 initiation as was held in the Union No 1 Lodge St Hellier Jersey. This was done to much acclaim and to a packed lodge room of members and guests.

Trevor Sherman and his team are available should any Lodge wish to organise something similar, contact W Bro Mike Green 01604 890763 for details.



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## Northampton Organ Gets a Rebuild

The organ in the Palmer Temple in Northampton has been a faithful servant for almost 30 years with very little maintenance, but the time came for an overhaul. On examination it was discovered that it was perhaps a little more poorly than first thought, in fact to bring it back to its former glory a complete rebuild was needed.

Generously funded by donations from individuals and most Northampton Lodges and Chapters, the project took place in the closed season

with a strict instruction to the builder to have the job done by the 1st September in time for the Installed Masters Installation meeting when our Provincial Grand Master, RVW Bro Barrie Hall, was due to be installed as Worshipful Master.

Late on the 31st August was not a good time to finish but the job was done and hopefully the organ is now good for another 30 years.



# Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution

As we fast approach the Launch of our 2013 Festival on behalf of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution I have been asked to give an outline of this particular Charity, what it provides and to whom.

As an organisation it offers a comprehensive range of high quality care, support and assistance appropriate to the individual needs of older Freemasons and their dependants. At the same time it is committed to ensuring the individuals' right to dignity, respect, choice and control over their own lives.

The RMBI has been helping older Freemasons and their dependants for over 160 years and is continuously striving to improve those services offered to the Fraternity by employing caring and professional staff. When the Institution was formed in 1842 it was called the Institution for Aged and Decrepit Freemasons and the first Home in 1850 went under the name of an Asylum for Worthy, Aged and Decayed Freemasons. Both these titles evoke a feeling for those austere but nonetheless caring times and have long been replaced by more pleasing ones.

Today the RMBI has 17 Homes across the country many of which are now registered for both residential and nursing care. All the Homes can accommodate people who may be becoming a little confused, but where specialist care for people with mental frailty (Alzheimer's disease, dementia, etc) is needed, special House groups within a Home have been created. Nursing care caters for people with specific medical conditions requiring treatment that needs to be provided under the direction of a Registered Nurse.

As well as providing Nursing and Residential care the RMBI also offers sheltered

accommodation for those people who prefer to live more independently, but with the back up of the Home's facilities and staff. It can also offer short stay breaks. These are particularly helpful for both those living alone who need convalescent or respite care, and for families, who need a little time without the demands of caring for an older relative.

Residency to these Homes is open to Freemasons and their dependants who are 60 years of age or over. There are no financial constraints but entry would be refused to people who are deemed not to need the care provided. Fees charged, like all Residential and Nursing Homes, are based on the individual's income and capital resources.

Besides running the Homes, over 3000 people living in the community receive some form of pastoral care from the RMBI. The Care Advice Team visit annuitants and recipients of a Grand Charity Masonic Relief Grant at least once, and people with particular needs more frequently. Care Advice Visitors are all trained nurses with a wide range of experience and knowledge relating to health and welfare rights and benefits. The Care Advice Team can also advise on services and benefits available from statutory and voluntary agencies that may be appropriate. If considered necessary, Care Advice Visitors are able to undertake home visits with or on behalf of Lodge Almoners.

I hope the above has given you some insight regarding the history and workings of the RMBI but if further information is required do not hesitate to contact me.

W Bro John Partridge PAGDC  
01536 513250



# A Wonderful Surprise And a Bit of Catching Up

In 1973 Tony Norman, a resident of Podington in Bedfordshire, a pretty little village a couple of miles south of Rushden, was initiated into Risdene Lodge No 6532. Two years later, in 1975, one of the items on the agenda at the Installation meeting was the presentation of Bro Tony's Grand Lodge Certificate, but either by oversight or because of a long agenda that evening this was omitted, and for the following 31 years Bro Tony has managed without it!

Also in 1975, the then Bro Barrie Hall, came South from Cheshire to work at nearby Sharnbrook and settled in Podington; he joined Risdene Lodge the following year and he became its WM in 1982. In 1996 Bro Tony proposed and, the by then W Bro Barrie seconded, yet another Podington man, one Mr Ron Ricker, as a candidate for initiation into Risdene Lodge.



The photograph shows the PGM with W Bro Ron Ricker WM of Risdene Lodge and Bro Tony Norman

At Risdene's Installation meeting on October 14th last year Bro Ron Ricker was installed as WM, to his great surprise and delight, by none other than R W Bro Barrie Hall, PGM, who, later in the meeting, also presented his old friend, Bro Tony, with his Grand Lodge Certificate just 31 years later than was originally intended.

## Active In Masonry For 50 Years      Lakelands Hospice Corby

Last year saw, W Bro Frank March, PPrSGW, celebrate 50 active years in Masonry. Seen right is him receiving his Jubilee Certificate from our Past Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Brian Smith. The Presentation was made doubly appropriate since W. Bro Frank followed W. Bro Brian Smith into the Chair at Sulgrave Lodge.



W. Bro Frank has been active in many Masonic Orders and has held Office in the Holy Royal Arch, Mark Master Masons, Royal Ark Mariners, Ancient and Accepted Rite, Royal and Select Masters, Red Cross of Constantine and the Allied Masonic Degrees.

The Lakelands Hospice annual "Light Up a Life Ceremony, of Reflection" on 3rd December 2006 was the venue for the presentation of the annual grant, this year for £500, from the Grand Charity.



The cheque was presented by W.Bro Roddy Paterson PM Thistle and Rose Lodge 6644 and W Bro Bill Rutherford, Group Officer for Corby.

# Grand Mark Ball a Success

Mid November saw the Grand Mark Ball and Draw taking place in Corby, when almost 200 Brethren, Partners and friends attended. The well organised event raised £6700 towards the 2010 Festival, which included £372 donated by Bro John Hitchin from a Lilford Mark Lunch held earlier in the year and £800 raised on the evening in a draw for a fabulous Television donated by Bro Ged Dempsey of the Earl of Euston Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro George Bonham seen right with his Deputy W Bro Richard Turpin thanked all for attending and those who had donated prizes for the Grand Draw. He added that he was very grateful to the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro Barrie Hall for allowing Craft Lodges to sell Draw tickets and help the Mark Degree towards attaining its Festival total. No prizes for guessing the name of the Bandleader in the background who provided the music for what proved a most pleasant evening.



# Northampton Chapter Leads the Way

The Northampton Chapter No. 360 has been in existence for 153 years, so it is a compliment to its Companions that they should still be leading the way. In a fabulous Ceremony, which took place on 23rd November, they revealed a Banner for their Chapter, which is understood to be the first in the Province. The Ceremony started with E Comp David Smith giving a talk on how the idea was conceived and how the Banner was finally produced, there then followed a magnificent Dedication Ceremony lead by the Grand Superintendent E Comp Peter Kitson and supported by all the Provincial Principals, many Supreme Grand Chapter and Provincial Grand Chapter Officers.

The Third Grand Principal E Comp Michael Coleman gave a magnificent oration regarding the importance of Banners throughout History and related some of these to his own experiences, even back to his time as a Scout Banner holder. At this point he referred to his time in shorts and a necker as a young lad of just ten (perish the thought).



The evening concluded with an inspiring address from the Grand Superintendent and the Banner was paraded out with true pageantry and style.

# White Table / Open Evening Events

Membership trends are a constant concern throughout the Craft but, in this Province, numbers have been holding up extremely well over the last year or two. Nonetheless, we cannot afford to be complacent. We still have much to do and sustainability is the key.

Lodges which persistently run at less than 30 subscribing members are constantly in danger of reducing numbers faster than they can realistically recruit. Furthermore, those Lodges with less than 35 subscribing members might also consider future prospects a little uncertain. In both scenarios, we believe that those uncertainties can be reversed in part by a policy of well organised, dedicated White Table events, focusing on recruitment potential.

White Table evenings have been with us for some time and come in all manner of guises ranging from the informal social gathering to a more formal introduction to the Craft, involving a Lodge room presentation on certain aspects of Freemasonry and followed by the formality of a proper Festive Board. They all have a role to play - nothing should be cast in stone. It depends on precisely what the Master and his Committee wish to achieve.

After attending a number of White Table evenings over the last 12 months or so, both within and beyond this Province, we have been able to identify a great deal of "best practice" from which we have been able to formulate a recommended White Table strategy for wider distribution around Province and particularly to guide those Lodges who might be contemplating a White Table event for the first time, focusing on recruitment potential. Copies of these guidelines are now available from Provincial Office on request.

Should the recommended guidelines be followed, we will have available a Provincial team of up to three senior and experienced Brethren who will deliver the presentations in the Lodge room. In addition, and to illustrate Provincial support for a well structured White Table evening, should a member of the Senior Executive not be part of the Provincial team, we will endeavour to ensure that one is also in attendance to help support and promote the occasion; early enquiry with Provincial Office should be made however. The recommended guidelines will also give advice on early preparation, Festive Board procedures, wine-taking, Toasts etc as well as the formalities of the Lodge room. Above all, Brethren must be committed to the cause to ensure its success - responsibility for invitations rests with the majority and not just the few. In terms of recruitment potential, we have seen success rates in excess of 20% of those male non-Masons invited. We have to demonstrate to them in the limited time we have available to address them that we have something to offer and for those who do not subsequently seek membership, at least we will have had the opportunity to enlighten them on the Craft in general and the comfort of knowing that they will leave us much better informed about the principles and tenets of Freemasonry than when they came.

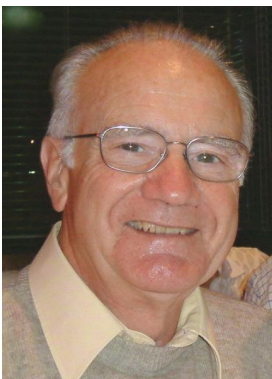
Again we would confirm that our proposed recommendations are not cast in stone - they are there to be adopted and then adapted to suit your particular preferences and circumstances. You amend as you see fit. Province would nonetheless welcome your feedback so that our guidelines can be constantly reviewed and improved as appropriate.

**W Bro Wayne E Williams PSGD AsstPGM - January 2007.**

# NEW INFORMATION OFFICERS APPOINTED

## Stamford

The Provincial Grand Master has been pleased to appoint W Bro Guy Manners as the Information Officer for Peterborough and Stamford. Guy was



initiated in the Horsburgh Lodge No 7533 in 1969.

Born in Co Durham in 1932, his family migrated south in 1935 and completed his education at Woolwich Polytechnic in

1948. His first job was in art studio in Gt Queen Street London. National Service in the RAF beckoned in 1950 - he must have liked it since he continued his career in the RAF until 1995. His service took him to Singapore where, in 1969, he was initiated into the Horsburgh Lodge No 7533 and Chapter Singapore No 7178.

He became a joining member of the Vale of Welland Lodge 8845, and was WM in 1997, and is a Founding Member of Burghley Lodge 9364 serving as its WM in 1998.

Guy is an enthusiastic member of a number of other masonic degrees and was the founding Secretary of Nantahala Lodge.

Beyond Masonry he lists his interests as golf, reading, a little recreational photography and spending time with his wife Nancy who he married in 1950.

## Wellingborough

W Bro Bob Dennis was born and bred in Northern Ireland, where his late father was Rector of Drumcree, a church which has since achieved a certain notoriety.

As a teenager, Bob's family moved to Liverpool. He took an engineering degree at London University, after which he trained as a pilot. He had a 30 year flying career in BOAC/British Airways, flying VC10s, Tristars and 747s as a colleague of the AGM, R W Bro David Williamson, and from 2000 flew 747s for Singapore Airlines until he retired in 2005.

He is an enthusiastic campanologist, and was initiated into the (national) ringers' lodge, Clavis No 8585, which meets at Oxford. He was installed as its WM in 1989, and was DC for five years. He was exalted into the Royal Arch in Wanderers Chapter No 1604 in London in 1980.

Having moved with his family to Higham Ferrers in 1989, he became a joining member of both



Pemberton Lodge and Chapter No 3039. He was installed MEZ of the Chapter in 2002 and WM of the Lodge in 2003 for its centenary year.

Bob is delighted the PGM has given him this opportunity and very much looks forward to enjoying his work with the Provincial Communications Committee.

## THOMAS à BECKET CHAPTER ROSE CROIX - CENTENARY

100 years of the Ancient and Accepted Rite of Freemasonry in Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire was acknowledged when the Thomas à Becket Chapter Rose Croix held its Centenary Celebration at St George's Avenue, Northampton on Tuesday 19th September 2006. Some 120 members and distinguished guests joined in the celebration lead by Most Wise Sovereign, E&PBro Vincent Osborn and their own member V.III Bro.Rev.Tony Avery 33°, Inspector General.

Supreme Council was represented by the Grand Prior, M.III.Bro.Rev. Dr. Michael Morgan 33°, who, in his Oration urged members to 'look around you' alluding to the founders' dream - they had loved Freemasonry sufficiently to establish the Chapter to the glory of God - society's values had changed - ours had not - our duty was to continue that dream in perpetuity. The Chapter was pleased to welcome Inspectors General and/or Records of no less than nine other Districts and in all 21 Districts were represented.

The Chapter was particularly delighted to welcome one of its own members; M.III Bro The Hon The Marquess of Northampton 33° - possibly slightly better known as the Pro Grand Master - who was celebrating an anniversary that night - 27 years to the day since his own Perfection - in a double ceremony with his late friend and mentor Dennis Phipps, to whom he paid tribute.



The MostWise Sovereign presented Centenary Jewels to each member and everyone received a copy of the History of the Chapter which had been so painstakingly researched and written by Ill.Bro Bernard Winkworth 30° - who better to do so than someone who had lived for 88% of its existence?

## New Deputy District Grand Prefect for London



Congratulations to W Bro Simon Mighall (A Huntingdon Group Officer) who has been appointed Deputy District Grand Prefect of the Allied Masonic Degrees for the District of London. The Order is one of the six administered by Mark Masons' Hall and is open to Master Masons who must also be Mark Master Masons and Royal Arch Companions. The Grand Master is M.W. Bro Michael Herbert, who is well known in this Province, not least, as a member of both Old Kimboltonians and Three Counties Lodge.

# MASONS NEAR & FAR

## Bro Frank Golding

In 1952 Bro Golding, whilst serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force, applied to join Masonry in Canada but was posted to North Luffenham in the U.K before he could be initiated. The Canadian Grand Lodge contacted the English Grand Lodge and Bro Golding was put in touch with the Lodge of Merit and duly initiated in that Lodge in November 1952.



**Bro Frank pictured with his wife and Bros Sam Howell and John Price**

Last Summer Bro Golding contacted the Stamford Masonic Centre to ask whether a Pin was presented to Brethren who had been Masons for fifty years as is the custom in Canada. W Bro Norman Pope, after making the appropriate enquiries, arranged for a Certificate to be prepared for presentation in Canada. It was however felt that such a distinguished event warranted something more than the certificate simply being sent through the post and W Bro Sam Howell, as senior Group Officer for Stamford, was privileged to make the journey to Canada to present a 50th Jubilee Certificate as representative of RW Bro Barrie Hall the Provincial Grand Master. W Bro John Price diligent as ever in his duties as Almoner of the Lodge of Merit volunteered to accompany Sam on the trip.

Bro Golding knew he was to receive a certificate but was unaware that it was going to be presented in Lodge. There was concern that at 83 years of age the shock may have been too great for him and the Britannia Lodge arranged a dinner before the Lodge at which Bro's Sam and John were introduced to Bro Frank. His face was a picture to behold when he realised Bro Sam had come all the way from Stamford to present him with the Certificate. Once the Lodge was closed three military veterans including Bro Frank Golding were seated in the west in preparation for the Ceremony of the Empty Chair and to Frank's surprise number two in came his wife, daughter and grandchildren with several friends. The Certificate was duly presented and surprise number three for Frank was John presenting him with a silver salver engraved with his name, date of initiation and best wishes from Lodge of Merit. At that point Bro Frank was almost overcome with emotion but quickly recovered his composure and responded to the presentations.

The finale was the Ceremony of the Empty Chair; a short tribute to military veterans both alive and deceased. This ceremony was led by Bro Frank and closed with the traditional "They shall not grow old ..... we will remember them.



## The Provincial Masonic Male Voice Choir

The Provincial Masonic Male Voice Choir was formed in 1984 at the instigation of the then Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Richard Sandbach, for the express purpose of singing at Consecration Ceremonies, of which sung music forms an important part.

It was founded by W Bro Peter Sproule, then Senior Lay Clerk at Peterborough Cathedral, a brother of unbounded enthusiasm, who soon had it singing at a wide variety of other functions. Peter was a veritable one man band, and when he died suddenly in 1998 we all feared for the survival of the Choir; but everyone rallied round and it has not only survived, but has flourished.

Peter recruited from everywhere, and even attracted some non-masons, most of whom were subsequently initiated into the Craft. Some were experienced singers, but many

were not and have learned this most delightful of the Liberal Arts under the auspices of the Choir. Some have even progressed further, their membership starting them on the road to becoming accomplished soloists.

Recruitment has been a steady trickle over the years, and we have had three new members already this year. Unfortunately it has not kept pace with the Grim Reaper; and recently our losses to the Grand Lodge Above have been heavy. As a direct result our numbers have now reached a critical low, and if the Provincial Choir is to survive, we need to recruit new members as soon as possible. For more information look at the choir's website: <http://www.cyberware.co.uk/~ddm221>

Anyone interested should contact the Secretary: W Bro N Foster, 6 Longfellow Drive, Saxonfields, Kettering, Northants NN16 9XD or by email at [music.in.masonry@cyberware.co.uk](mailto:music.in.masonry@cyberware.co.uk)

## FAGIN IS NOT SO MEAN AFTER ALL.

Many may recall that as part of Freemasonry in the Community Week, Worshipful Brother Steve Marsh, of the Old Northamptonian Lodge, organised a Production of the Musical "Oliver" with two objectives, to give children around the County the opportunity to be part of a big Production and to raise money for Charity.

It was a magnificent event played to packed houses and raised almost £20,000, subsequently given away at a big Masonic Charity evening. This inspired Steve to hold regular events, which included productions of "Annie" and the "Wizard of Oz". Sadly, since then Steve lost his two year old granddaughter who was cared for in the Great Ormond Street Hospital. During time spent at the Hospital, Steve realised that it was not just a place of heartache, but also a place of joy and wonder; somewhere that you can really believe in miracles. Steve pleaded to help the Hospital by raising money to buy 10 fully equipped Paediatric surgical beds. This year he exceeded his goal by supplying 11 and other Lodges have joined in to help his efforts.

In total over the past 5 years W Bro Steve Marsh has raised in excess of £60,000 for Charity, much of which has been given out in the name of Masonry. Steve has recently been engaged in a new Production of "Oliver" at the Northampton Spinney Hill Theatre at which our Provincial Grand Master was guest of honour on Friday 2nd February and played the part of "Fagin" as in the first production; perhaps "Fagin" was not so mean after all.



**H a v e   y o u   a n   a r t i c l e   f o r   t h i s   p a g e ?**

# Provincial Grand Master's Diary 2007

29th January	- Initiates Supper, Northampton
2nd February	- Masonic Command Performance, Northampton
9th February	- Eleanor Cross Lodge No 1764
22nd February	- Samuel Pepys Lodge No 8330 (Installation)
8th March	- Rockingham Forest Lodge No 9491 (Installation)
10th March	- Provincial Grand Charity AGM, Northampton
12th March	- Grand Junction Lodge No 9775 (Installation)
14th March	- Grand Lodge Quarterly Communications, London
16th March	- Lodge of Heritage No 9344
21st March	- Sothius Lodge No 8774 (Installation)
23rd March	- 2013 Festival Launch, Northampton
26th March	- Initiates Supper, Peterborough
30th March	- Dr Oliver Lodge No 3964, Banner Dedication
12th April	- Oxfordshire PGM Installation, Oxford
14th April	- Derbyshire PGL Meeting, Derby
17th April	- Socrates Lodge No 373
19th April	- England's Centre Lodge No 2555
25th April	- Grand Lodge Investiture, London
30th April	- Wilavestone Lodge Consecration, Northampton
3rd May	- Huntingdon Race Night, Huntingdon
4th May	- Nottinghamshire PGL Meeting, Nottingham
5th May	- Lodge of the Oldest Ally No 5524 (Installation)
8th May	- Grand Officers Meeting, Northampton
16th May	- Bedfordshire PGM Installation, Bedford
17th May	- Provincial Grand Lodge, Northampton
19th May	- Lincolnshire PGL Meeting, Cleethorpes
20th May	- LAM's Charity Day, Northampton
21st May	- Acting Provincial Officers Meeting, Northampton
23rd May	- Three Counties Lodge No 9278, Promotions Meeting
1st June	- Suffolk PGL Meeting, Ipswich
13th June	- Grand Lodge Quarterly Communications, London.

## A New Format for Password

It will have not escaped your notice that this edition of Password is dramatically different in size from previous copies. This decision was taken in the light of the increased postal charges that would have been incurred had we stayed with an A4 format. In response to a plea to keep it readable I have retained the same font size as before and, as far as possible, the same style. I hope that it meets with your approval.

**Editor**

## The Rulers Forum Group No 6

The first meeting of the newly formed Rulers Forum Group No 6, under the Chairmanship of our Provincial Grand Master RV Bro Barrie Hall, was held in Northampton early in December.

Avid readers of amendments to the BofC will be aware that Rulers Forum Groups are regional structures from which views are put forward for further discussion and debate at the National Rulers Forum which has replaced the General Council.



Attending this meeting were many leading members from our area, including the PGMs from Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Bedfordshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. Many topics were covered including recruitment, retention, promotions and the well being of Masonry in general. Supporting the PGM as members of the Group were our own Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, W Bros Max Bayes and Wayne Williams, together with the Provincial Senior Grand Warden, W Bro Richard Turpin with the Provincial Grand Secretary W Bro Norman Pope in attendance.

Any Brother or Lodge with matters to raise which they feel could be of wider interest throughout the Craft should contact the Provincial Grand Secretary.



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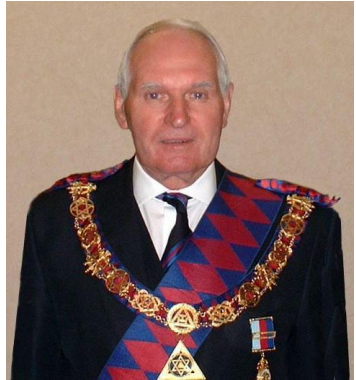
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## E Comp Peter Kitson to Retire as Grand Superintendent

E Comp Peter Kitson has been a member of the Provincial Executive since 1992 and was installed as Grand Superintendent in April 1997 from which post he will retire on 23rd April this year. He has been a wonderful disciple, spreading the doctrine of Royal Arch Masonry with a personal touch that that will undoubtedly prove a challenge to his successors. Always approachable, and continually extending the hand of friendship to Companions throughout the Province, Peter set a benchmark which all would do well to follow. Despite the downward trend experienced over recent years by many other Provinces, Peter has seen his efforts rewarded by a continued growth in membership of the Royal Arch Degree in this Province.



Since 1880 the list of Grand Superintendents of the Province of Northants and Hunts has included many worthies including a Duke, an Earl and a Lord yet no greater contribution to the growth and stature of the Degree of the Holy Royal Arch in this Province can have been made than that of our retiring Grand Superintendent Peter Kitson. He has also made an unsurpassed contribution in expanding our relationship with some 18 other Royal Arch Provinces and has always engendered great support from the other members of the Royal Arch Executive in pursuing this aim.

Doubtless all Brethren within the Province will wish to express their best wishes for a happy retirement and good health to enable Peter and his wife Avril to enjoy life to the full in the coming years. May God's grace be with them both.

## MASONRY LOSES A GOOD FRIEND

It is with sadness that we report the death of Joan Winn, who died on 1st January 2007. Palmer Court in Hatton Avenue, Wellingborough, was set up in 1985 with the help of £30,000 from Grand Lodge to enable this property to be bought with additional help from the Housing Corporation to facilitate these purpose-built flats to be constructed.

A Committee, comprised of representatives from the Wellingborough Lodges, was set up to help run the Home for elderly residents who occupied the flats, but they were unable to find a suitable Secretary. When this was mentioned to the Secretary of the Masonic Housing Association in London, he immediately said "I can find you one". He found Joan Winn from Northampton whose husband was Secretary of Kingsley Lodge and worked for Phipps Northampton Brewery. Joan was appointed and soon had the project up and running efficiently. She interviewed all applicants for the flats, got to know them well, their interests and their financial ability to pay the rent, stipulated by the Masonic Housing Association in London. She organised their entertainment and outings and quickly established a happy atmosphere. In fact, Palmer Court and Joan Winn were synonymous. If there was ever a problem, she sorted it out.

The Home completed 20 years in 2005 and Joan retired soon afterwards. The Committee, under Chairman, W Bro Stan Wilford, will keep it going, but the residents will all shed a tear at her passing, as indeed I will. **RW Bro Peter Palmer**

## District Grand Master Retires

The District Grand Master for the East Midlands District, Royal and Select Masters R III Comp. Michael Richards retired from his office on 20 January 2007, the occasion of his 75th birthday. Since he was first appointed as the Divisional Grand Inspector in January 1996, R III Comp Michael has governed a very happy

District which has seen growth in both membership and numbers of Councils. The Consecration of the Peterborough Council and the Carillon Council in Loughborough have been highlights of his term of office.

His successor as District Grand Master is to be III Comp Michael Jolley, the present Deputy District Grand Master, who is to be installed at the District meeting in June 2007.

## New Grand Superintendent

Congratulations are due to the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Designate, E Comp. Wayne Williams, who will take office from Monday 23 April 2007 and, subject to confirmation by Supreme Grand Chapter, is to be Installed on Thursday 10 May 2007. The Annual Convocation will, again subject confirmation, be brought forward from 28 June 2007 to follow on from the Installation ceremony.

It is recommended that you keep both dates free in your diary.



So it's true, he really is 6'9" tall. Is there no height limit for Freemasons? (Overheard during a courtesy working at The Provincial Stewards Lodge last Autumn)

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## **Obituaries**

### **W Bro John Charles Bennett PAGDC**

John Bennett was a dedicated Christian and Freemason and was Church Warden at All Saints Church, Northampton, for many years. He was initiated into the Lodge of St James No.6838 in 1954, proposed by his father. He was Installed as Master the Lodge of St James in 1965. Following on from this he progressed steadily, joining several other Orders, including the Royal Arch, the Mark/Royal Ark Mariner Degrees, the Knights Templar and Knight Templar Priests Orders, the Ancient and Accepted Rite, the Royal and Select Masters Order and the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine. As well becoming a Grand Officer in the Craft, he achieved Grand Honours in all other Orders that he joined.

He served for several years as Provincial Sub Prior in the Knights Templar Order but his largest contribution to Masonry, at Provincial level, came with his service to the Mark/Royal Ark Mariner Degrees and the Order of Royal and Select Masters. In 1974, he was appointed Provincial Grand Secretary of Mark Province of Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire and Bedfordshire, an Office he held until December 31st 1984.

On March 6th 1985 he was Installed at Northampton, as the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire (newly constituted, prior to the Installation, on the same day).

### **W Bro Sidney George Pickering PPrSGW(CertMerit)**



Sid was born on the 14th August 1922 in Northampton. During the war he served in the RAF with distinction and even found time to marry the love of his life Wyn, they were together for 63 years. Sid worked

for most of his career for the Northampton Borough Council as a very respected photographer.

Sid was initiated into Billingsgate Lodge in 1975, became a joining member of The Lodge of St. George and Master in 1990. Sid was also a member of the Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge, founder member of the Gates of Billing and Hamtune Lodges. He was in numerous other orders where he received high ranks, and received the highest Provincial honour, that of the Provincial Grand Master's Certificate of Merit in 1997.

Sidney was a great character, always full of life and enthusiasm, his contribution to Masonry immense, both here in our Province and also in London. We shall always remember him as a good Mason and a true example of a good man.

### **W Bro Richard Amos PPrSGW.**



Richard Amos, who died on 11th November 2006 age 71, was a much loved Freemason who was initiated into The Lodge of Fidelity No 445 in 1970 and became Worshipful Master in 1982. He was also a member of Lactodorum Lodge, Lodge of the Oldest Ally and other Orders such as The Chapter of Fidelity, Graftonian MMM and Towcester Royal & Select Masters. Richard was a director of the Towcester Masonic Hall Property Co and a County Councillor. His great love and hobby was clocks and he was recently made a member of The Worshipful Company of Clocksmiths of London.

Before retirement Richard was well known throughout the area as the friendly owner, with a dry sense of humour, of the Crossroads Hotel in Weedon. He often brought his family bakery skills to the Festive Board by supplying crusty cottage loaves for the Brethren to eat and provided his famous pork pies for special raffles and auctions.

### **W Bro James (Jim) Donald.**

Bro Jim, who died on the 27th November 2006, was the first initiate in Thistle & Rose Lodge No 6644 when the Lodge was founded in 1948. He received his 50 Years Certificate in 1998 and was subsequently made an Honorary Member of the Lodge. Up to the time his recent ill health prevented him from doing so he regularly attended Lodge meetings. He will be much missed.



## Provincial Honours 2007 - 2008

The Provincial Grand Master has been pleased to make the following appointments as Acting Provincial Officers for the period 2007 - 2008:

PrSGW	J Higham	Chicheley Lodge No 607
PrJGW	R A Dicks	Cumton Lodge No 8869
PrGChap	V Thomas	Vale of Welland Lodge No 8845
PrGSwdB	M A Pusey	Lodge of Fidelity No 445
PrGSuptWks	M C Caseman-Jones	TD Waynflete Lodge No 4452
PrDGDC	W M Caswell	Lodge of Perseverance No 455
PrSGD	R J Briers	De La Pre Lodge No 1911
PrSGD	S D Robinson	Ailwyn Lodge No 3535
PrSGD	B C Rees	John Pyel Lodge No 5195
PrSGD	T B Strickland	Ferraria Lodge No 8489
PrJGD	K E Day	Lodge of St George No 5978
PrJGD	D A Baker	Toseland Lodge No 8837
PrJGD	J Wills	Trinity Lodge No 9165
PrJGD	R S King	Gates of Billing Lodge No 9309
PrAGDC	A P Kersley	P'borough & Counties Lodge No 2996
PrAGDC	I M Stark	Willowbrook Lodge No 7439
PrAGDC	B J Silsby	Heigham Lodge No 8486
PrAGDC	I C Wilson	Cumton Lodge No 8869
PrGOrg	W B Wright	Abington Lodge No 8041
PrGStdB	CT F Reeve	Beneventa Lodge No 2380
PrGStdB	E Eve	St Ivo Lodge No 2684
PrAsstGStd	B D J Buck	Euston Lodge No 2283
PrGStwd	T G Fussell	Socrates Lodge No 373
PrGStwd	M C Aldridge	De La Pre Lodge No 1911
PrGStwd	R J Coombes QGM	St Wilfrid Lodge No 4453
PrGStwd	G R Crawford	Grey Friars Lodge No 4990
PrGStwd	M R Constant	Old Kimboltonians' Lodge No 7204
PrGStwd	M H Lilley	Dr Field Lodge No 8158
PrGStwd	M F Dimmock	Trinity Lodge No 9165
PrGStwd	C J Mullen	Towcestrian Lodge No 9510
PPrGStwd (1st Appt)	A J Capel	Cumton Lodge No 8869
PPrGStwd (1st Appt)	S P Marsh	Old Northamptonian Lodge No 5694

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

W Bros S W Eales as PrGReg, N E Pope as PrGSec, N O Young as PrGDC, J F Clarke as PrDGDC, J E Partridge as PrGAlm, I S Lauder as PrGChStwd, T F Boswell as PrAsstGSec, W Bro D J Smith as PrGPurs and J W Tarry as PrGTyler, whilst W Bro J D Cox is PrGTreas elect. The investiture of the above will take place at the Annual Provincial Grand Lodge meeting at Freemasons' Hall St Georges Avenue Northampton on Thursay 17th May.

# Value Added From Provincial Charity

Collective efforts by the Huntingdon Lodges, with a substantial sum from the Provincial Charity, enabled the PGM to present £16,000 to the MAGPAS organisation whose doctors often perform a vital life-saving service in the event of severe accidents on the roads.

Receiving the cheque from the PGM is Dr James French who leads the Trauma Audit & Research project which is assessing the effectiveness on survival and recovery of action taken at the scene. This unit, relying solely on voluntary funding, is performing a unique local service with far-reaching potential nationally.



The PGM, RW Bro Barrie Hall, as Master of the Lodge of Installed Master, recently had the pleasure of presenting a cheque for £6,010 to Papworth Hospital. This brought the total raised by the Lodge over the past 3 years to over £10,000 thanks largely to the generous efforts of W Bro Francis Margot and Michelle at their Summer garden parties. They were joined for the occasion by W Bro Charles Hubbard who had been Director of Nursing Services (Matron ?) at Papworth until his retirement in 1985.



## Childrens Christmas Party

It has to be said that Masons do like dressing up. On Sunday 17th December Pomfret Lodge No. 360 hosted a fabulous Childrens Christmas Party at the Northampton Masonic Hall. Children from the families of Masons were treated to an afternoon of fun and refreshments and even Father Christmas had time to visit. Bro John Medley and his wife Amanda (seen below) were the main organisers. With help from many others including Santa Bro Andy Wootton SW and his little Elf W Bro Trevor Sherman.



## Macmillan Nurses



Following the Grey Friars 2006 Ladies' Festival three cheques totalling £2,200 were presented to Lady Morton, County Chairman Northamptonshire branch of MacMillan Nurses, who sincerely thanked all who had contributed and assured us that the money would be spent in the County. The money came from Grey Friars Lodge (£1000), St Johns Chapter (£200) and the Provincial Grand Charity (£1000).

## NORTHAMPTON LAMS (Lady Associate Members)

The Northampton LAMs are thriving and are going from strength to strength, their coffee mornings and lunch time events are always well supported and they have many interesting speakers.

Over the years they have been very supportive to the Northampton Masonic Lodges and have contributed significant sums of money to the upkeep of the Masonic Hall. This is only part of their generous giving, below is Chairman, Mrs Marjorie Snedker, presenting a cheque for £1,250 to the NSPCC.

This year they are embarking on an even more ambitious project. On Sunday 20th May they are holding a Grand Charity Gala at the Northampton Masonic Hall, this will include numerous stalls and events, consisting of craft and produce stalls to displays from local organisations and tours of the Lodge rooms. In addition a grand Raffle is to be mounted with some superb prizes. All proceed from the day will go to three Charities, Macmillan Cancer Support, St. John's Home and The Gordon Robinson Trust.



Further details will be available shortly, look out for posters in your Masonic Hall. Any Ladies' wishing to join the LAMs will be made most welcome and should contact **Mrs Jackie Stanton, Secretary, 01604 891307.**

## Teddies Continue Their Good Work

"Most, if not all, Masons in the Province are very familiar with the TLC scheme and have been given feedback about how well it works in practice along with some very heart touching stories of individual cases. However, unless we happen to be A & E staff or the parent of an injured child, we are unlikely to experience the scheme first hand in practice.

One Brother and his wife were recently fortunate enough to witness first hand the joy it brought to a child. Last November, the lady injured her wrist playing golf (no don't ask how - that's apparently a story in its own right). In spite of copious use of ice packs and a sling, the swelling and pain increased during the day so just before

midnight, she and her husband visited Hinchbrook A & E Department. They arrived at the same time as a young girl, accompanied by her mother, who appeared to have suffered a similar injury.

Both patients were seen by the Doctors and then sent for X-rays and it was obvious throughout that the young girl was in some pain and discomfort. Fortunately, as it turned out, her arm was not broken and was treated with strapping and a sling. However her joy was palpable and the distress all but disappeared when, while her arm was being dressed, she was not only offered a teddy but able to choose a colour that matched her own coat. The Brothers wife's big regret? She wasn't even offered a teddy but her wrist was actually broken!!"

# INFORMATION OFFICERS' DETAILS

Christopher Smith	Tel: (01234) 822531	Communications Committee Chairman & Provincial Information Officer
Richard Turpin	Tel: (01480) 456476	Password Editor & Huntingdon, Ramsey, St. Ives & St. Neots
Trevor Boswell	Tel: (01604) 870820	Northampton Lodges 360, 2431, 2555, 5694, 5978, 6838, 8041, 8158 & 8576
Gerry Crawford	Tel: (01604) 831672	Northampton Lodges 1764, 1911, 3972, 4990, 6977, 8844, 9048 & 9740
Andrew Woodward	Tel: (01604) 863710	Brackley, Daventry & Towcester
Gareth Ogden	Tel: (01536) 512054	Kettering
John Hallum	Tel: (01536) 742976	Corby
Bob Dennis	Tel: (01933) 317648	Wellingborough & Rushden
Guy Manners	Tel: (01780) 444724	Stamford
Russell Laxton	Tel: (01733) 237090	Peterborough
Frank Palmer	Tel: (01487) 843051	Publications Advisor
Norman Pope	Tel: (01604) 711746	Provincial Secretary

## The Provincial Communications Committee

The names of the members of the Communications Committee are listed above in response to a suggestion that we should be somewhat less anonymous than some obviously feel we are. Inevitably the listing in the Year Book gets out of date, as members come and go, so it is hoped that by publishing the names here on a fairly regular basis we can encourage members of the Province to provide the relevant area Information Officers with matters for publication.

In last Winter's Password the Provincial Grand Master said "we must find better ways of communicating what we stand for and how much we enjoy membership of our Order" Password is a useful tool in our armoury so please keep the material coming in. Without your input there would be no Password and we would lose a useful channel of communication.

You will note that we actually gained four new members since the last Provincial Grand Lodge meeting and you will find details of two of them, W Bro Guy Manners and Bob Dennis on page 12. Whilst W Bros Russell Laxton and Gerry Crawford are equally welcome on the team it would have involved too much space to give you their biopics in this issue so be patient and all will be revealed in the Summer.

## New Mark Provincial Grand Master for Bedfordshire



The Committee are confident that many members of our own Province would wish to join them in congratulating our Chairman, W Bro Chris Smith, on his appointment as Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Degree for Bedfordshire. He will be supported at his Installation in The Keep Bedford on 31st January by RW Bro George Bonham and a number of senior Mark Masons from the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.